



# JIM HARSHAW JR.

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## *Revealing Failure as the Path to Success*

Success Through Failure Podcast

Action Plan Episode #372

**Steven Pressfield**

If there's someone who understands you and me— the dreamers, people with goals bigger than their eyes, people who know there's more inside of them but just haven't been able to get it out into the world— it's Steven Pressfield.

His writing is clear and it's real. It shines light on the real struggle that is your journey to who and what you are meant to be.

If you're not familiar with his work, Steve is the mind behind the books "Gates of Fire" and "The Legend of Bagger Vance"— the latter having been made into a movie with Matt Damon, Will Smith, and Charlize Theron. He's also written landmark personal development books like "The War of Art" and "Turning Pro."

In this episode, we're talking with Steve about his new book, "Put Your Ass Where Your Heart Wants to Be" and how magic happens when you commit unconditionally to your dream.

This may be his third time on the Success Through Failure podcast, but Steve has so much more wisdom to share to you, so don't miss it!

### **Top Quotes From This Episode**

*"When we're afraid to fail and we don't overcome that fear, then we don't commit. And when we don't commit, magic doesn't happen."*

*"The things you can't control, don't worry about. Only worry about what you can control."*

*"The universe and everything we do tends towards order."*

*"People are very important, but if you're in a solitary craft, like a writer, a songwriter, or a filmmaker, you got to be able to do it yourself, too. Self-reinforcement is a key thing— that when you are alone and have to do it and there's no coach there— to be able to keep going day after day."*

## Show Notes

This episode touches on the following key topics and ideas:

- **Share this episode! (2:36)**: Share the podcast on social media by tagging me and using the hashtag #STFpod:
    - a. Facebook: [@jimharshawjr](#)
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    - c. Instagram: [@jimharshawjr](#)
    - d. LinkedIn: [Jim Harshaw, Jr.](#)
  - **Hey, Siri and Alexa! (2:59)**: You can listen to the Success Through Failure podcast on your smart speakers.
  - **Just do it (3:12)**: The idea behind Steve's latest book, "[Put Your Ass Where Your Heart Wants to Be](#)".
  - **Ass = commitment (5:57)**: Steve on the magic of committing.
  - **The Hero's Journey (7:34)**: What is the "Hero's Journey" and the hero's need to make a commitment?
  - **The universe aligned! (12:41)**: Steve talks about the moment he decided to commit to being a writer.
  - **On self-reinforcement (15:20)**: Steve believes that if you're working in the field of arts, self-reinforcement is more important than talent.
  - **Sergeant Watashi doesn't give a sh\*t (17:43)**: The self-reinforcement trick that Steven learned during his infantry training at Camp Lejeune.
  - **The Big Bang analogy (19:50)**: The law of the universe is that order emerges out of chaos.
  - **Environment of Excellence (23:04)**: The value of learning how to stand on your own feet.
  - **100% commitment (23:55)**: *"The muse doesn't count the hours that you put in. What she counts is commitment."*
  - **Show up and start working (28:27)**: Stop worrying about the things you can't control.
  - **On Resistance (30:37)**: Steve on the negative forces that are trying to sabotage you.
- What's an action item the listener can take in the next 24-48 hours? (32:03)**
- Don't talk, don't think, act.

## **List of Resources Mentioned in the Episode**

[Steven Pressfield's books](#)

Watch:

["The Legend of Bagger Vance"](#)

[Steven Pressfield on Finding Your Calling | SuperSoul Sunday | Oprah Winfrey Network](#)

["Rudy"](#)

["Rudy Ruettiger: The Walk On"](#)

["Star Wars"](#)

["Rocky"](#)

["Traffic"](#)

[Steven Soderbergh winning the Oscar® for Directing](#)

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Want to consider executive life coaching? Claim a spot on Jim's calendar for your free one-time clarity call: [JimHarshawJr.com/APPLY](http://JimHarshawJr.com/APPLY)

Enjoyed the podcast and want to hear more? Head on over [here](#) for more!

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## **Other Episodes Referenced**

[#256 Steven Pressfield: Defeating Resistance and Starting Before You're Ready](#)

[#290 Steven Pressfield on the Warrior Ethos and Winning Your Inner War So That You Can Finally Achieve Your Potential](#)

[#366 The Real Story of Rudy That You Never Knew: Bold Requests, Relationships, and Impossible Dreams](#)

**Guest Website and Social**

**Steven Pressfield**

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