



*Excerpts from an interview with director David Modigliani on Huffingtonpost.com*

1. Did the filmmaker have to keep coming back to Crawford year after year? If so, how many years did the project require to film?

It took Modigliani and his crew three years to interview residents and make the film.

2. Did the director change the story following the suicide of one of the interviewees?

The story was a compilation of Crawford residents' viewpoints, so it remained unchanged even after one of the resident's suicide. Though Modigliani refers to the experience as "shocking and deeply upsetting" and admits that he needed to break from filming, he believed that finishing the film had a therapeutic effect on him.

3. Did the attitudes of the Crawford people change over the course of filming?

Yes, the attitudes of the residents changed over the course of filming. In an interview with Brad Listi of the Huffington Post, Modigliani states the town's affection for the president waned after his two terms were finished. "Bush's ascendancy in 2000 was thrilling for the people of Crawford," said Modigliani. "By now, most of the people in Crawford feel a bit used; they were put at the center of a story that's gone wrong, and they're ready to move on. Bush's popularity has plummeted there, just as it has across the country."

It can also be said that the attitudes of the Crawford residents had changed before the filmmakers arrived, after Bush bought the ranch and when the media arrived to report on the president.

4. Was there a different point-of-view before filming began that was either confirmed or denied?

Though Modigliani's first mission was to tell the story of Crawford through its people, he does admit in the same interview that he harbored stereotypes for the "Red State America" prior to meeting and speaking with the Crawford residents.

After following the political journey of these people for three years, Modigliani realized that people from "Red State America" are "warm, hospitable, bright, and funny." He's also come to acknowledge America as a "purple country" rather than a country of divided red and blue states.

Modigliani's second mission was to remain out of the documentary's narrative and instead let the Crawford residents narrate the film for him through their perspectives. "I knew the politics from both sides would filter through it I could just tell the story of the town itself," he said in an interview.

5. What was his original point or purpose in making the film?

The original purpose of Crawford was to "indict" Bush for using Crawford—a small, Texas town—as the setting for the small town values and attitudes of his campaign. Modigliani was disappointed that Bush led people to believe that he was a Crawford-native and then used the town to further that lie. He was curious about to learn more about Crawford.