COMMENT

"I'd rather tell my own story, rather than play through the exact same Hero's Journey that everyone else does (with all the cognitive dissonance that involves...."

ANSWER

Using the hero's journey doesn't mean you can't tell your own story. All you're doing is using structure to make it effective and (in screenwriting) creating a blueprint that filmmakers can use to make the film.

Best, http://www.clickok.co.uk/index4.html