

## WGA News

### Blacklisted Writers Receive Credit

#### WGA Corrects Screen Credits For An Unprecedented 24 Films

**April 2, 1997** -- The Board of Directors of the Writers Guild of America, west has unanimously voted to officially correct the writing credits of 24 films written or co-written by writers who were blacklisted during the so-called "McCarthy Era" (1947- 1960s).

"On behalf of the writers and their families we are gratified by the ongoing interest generated by these credit changes," said Brian Walton, Executive Director of the WGAw. "We will immediately begin the research necessary to identify the current rights holders of the films and are very pleased that the industry has indicated a definite interest to work with us to find an industry-wide approach to rectify these sad and unfortunate actions of the past."

The films, with their corrected credits are as follows:

- **Adventures of Robinson Crusoe** - Screenplay by Hugo Butler and Luis Bunuel. This film was produced in 1952 by Ultramar Films, Producciones Tepeyac, Olmeca. Original credit reads "Screenplay by Philip Ansell Roll and Luis Bunuel." Philip Ansell Roll was a pseudonym for Hugo Butler.
- **Autumn Leaves** - Written by Jean Rouveral & Hugo Butler and Lewis Meltzer and Robert Brees. This film was produced in 1955 by Columbia. Original credit reads "Written by Jack Jevne and Lewis Meltzer and Robert Brees."
- **Born Free** - Screenplay by Lester Cole. This film was produced in 1966 by Columbia. Original credit reads "Screenplay by Gerald L.C. Copley."
- **The Case Against Brooklyn** - Screenplay by Bernard Gordon. Screen Story by Daniel B. Ullman. Based on "I Broke the Brooklyn Graft Scandal" by Ed Reid. This film was produced in 1958 by Morningside Films/Columbia. Original credit reads, "Screenplay by Raymond T. Marcus. Screen Story by Daniel B. Ullman. Based on 'I Broke the Brooklyn Graft Scandal' by Ed Reid. "
- **Chicago Confidential** - Screenplay and Screen Story by Bernard Gordon. Based on the book by Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer. This film was produced in 1957 by United Artists. Original credit reads, "Screenplay and Screen Story by Raymond T. Marcus. Based on the book by Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer."
- **Circus World** - Screenplay by Ben Hecht and Julian Zimet and James Edward Grant. Story by Philip Yordan and Nicholas Ray. This film was produced in 1964 by Paramount. Original credit reads "Screenplay by Ben Hecht and Julian Halevy and James Edward Grant. Story by Philip Yordan and Nicholas Ray."
- **Conspiracy of Hearts** - Screenplay by Robert Presnell. Story by Adrian Scott. This film was produced in 1960 by Paramount. Original credit reads "Screenplay by Robert Presnell. Story by Dale Pitt." Dale Pitt acted as a front for Adrian Scott which Dale Pitt has confirmed in writing. Although there was initially some indication that Presnell fronted for Dalton Trumbo on the screenplay this turned out not to be true.

- **Crack in the World** - Screenplay by Jon Manchip White and Julian Zimet. Story by Jon Manchip White. This film was produced in 1965 by Paramount. Original credit reads "Screenplay by Jon Manchip White and Julian Halevy. Story by Jon Manchip White."
- **Custer of the West** - Written by Bernard Gordon and Julian Zimet. This film was produced in 1968 by Security Pictures/Cinerama. Original credit reads "Written by Bernard Gordon and Julian Halevy."
- **Earth vs. the Flying Saucers** - Screenplay by George Worthing Yates and Bernard Gordon. Screen Story by Curt Siodmak. Based on "Flying Saucers from Outer Space" by Major Donald E. Keyhoe. This film was produced in 1956 by Columbia. Original credit reads, "Screenplay by George Worthing Yates and Raymond T. Marcus. Screen Story by Curt Siodmak. Based on "Flying Saucers from Outer Space" by Major Donald E. Keyhoe."
- **Escape from San Quentin** - Written by Bernard Gordon. This film was produced in 1957 by Columbia. Original credit reads, "Written by Raymond T. Marcus."
- **Hellcats of the Navy** - Screenplay by David Lang and Bernard Gordon. Screen story by David Lang. Based on "Hellcats of the Sea", a book by Charles A. Lockwood and Hans Christian. This film was produced in 1957 by Columbia. Original credit reads, "Screenplay by David Lang and Raymond T. Marcus. Screen Story by David Lang. Based on 'Hellcats of the Sea', a book by Charles A. Lockwood and Hans Christian."
- **Inherit the Wind** - Screenplay by Nedrick Young and Harold Jacob Smith. Based on the play by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee. This film was produced in 1960 by Stanley Kramer Productions/United Artists. Original credit reads "Screenplay by Nathan E. Douglas and Harold Jacob Smith. Based on the play by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee."
- **Little Giants** - Written for the Screen by Hugo Butler and Edward Huebsch. This film was produced in 1958 by Producciones Olmeca. Original credit reads "Written for the Screen by Hugo Mozo and Eduardo Bueno."
- **The Man Who Turned to Stone** - Written by Bernard Gordon. This film was produced in 1957 by Columbia. Original credit reads, "Written by Raymond T. Marcus."
- **The Misadventures of Merlin Jones** - Screenplay by Alfred Lewis Levitt & Helen Levitt. Screen Story by Bill Walsh. This film was produced in 1964 by Buena Vista. Original credit reads "Screenplay by Tom and Helen August. Screen story by Bill Walsh."
- **The Monkey's Uncle** - Written by Alfred Lewis Levitt & Helen Levitt. This film was produced in 1965 by Buena Vista. Original credit reads "Written by Tom and Helen August."
- **Pancho Villa** - Screenplay by Julian Zimet. Story by Gene Martin. This film was produced in 1971 by Scotia International. Original credit reads "Screenplay by Julian Halevy. Story by Gene Martin."
- **A Place for Lovers** - Screenplay by Julian Zimet & Peter Baldwin and Ennio de Concini and Tonino Guerra & Cesare Zavattini. Story by Brunello Rondi. This film was produced in 1969 by Carlo Ponti-Arthur Cohn/MGM. Original credit reads "Screenplay by Julian Halevy & Peter Baldwin and Ennio de Concini and Tonino Guerra & Cesare Zavattini. Story by Brunello Rondi."
- **Psyche 59** - Screenplay by Julian Zimet. Based on the novel by Françoise des Ligneris. This film was produced in 1965 by Columbia. Original credit reads "Screenplay by Julian Halevy. Based on the novel by Françoise des Ligneris."

- **The Robe** - Screenplay by Albert Maltz and Philip Dunne - Adaptation by Gina Kaus. Based on the novel by Lloyd C. Douglas. This film was produced in 1953 by 20th Century Fox. Original credit reads "Screenplay by Philip Dunne - Adaptation by Gina Kaus. Based on the novel by Lloyd C. Douglas."
- **Torero** - Adapted for film by Hugo Butler and Carlos Velo. This film was produced in 1956 by Producciones Olmea. Original credit reads "Adapted for film by Hugo Mozo and Carlos Velo".
- **The Young One** (aka **Island of Shame**) - Written for the Screen by Hugo Butler and Luis Bunuel. Inspired by Peter Matthiessen's story "Travelin' Man". This film was produced in 1960 by Producciones Olmea. Original credit reads "Written for the screen by H.B. Addis and Luis Bunuel. Inspired by Peter Matthiessen's story "Travelin' Man".
- **Zombies of Mara Tau** - Screenplay by Bernard Gordon. Story by George Plympton. This film was produced in 1957 by Columbia. Original credit reads, "Screenplay by Raymond T. Marcus. Story by George Plympton."

Most of the credit changes involve replacing a pseudonym with the writer's actual name. Such changes are recommended when there is sufficient information to identify a writer with a pseudonym and confirm that the writer used the pseudonym because of the blacklist. Since there was no official end to the blacklist, some blacklisted writers continued to use a pseudonym in the 1960s and '70s.

On the films *Autumn Leaves* and *Conspiracy of Hearts* where someone acted as a front for another writer, the guild relied on first hand information and documentation to support its action to change the credits.

In the case of *The Robe* there was an extraordinary amount of information gathered to indicate that Maltz was entitled to shared screenplay credit. In addition, Philip Dunne did not believe he deserved sole screenplay credit but it was not until many years later that he learned that a blacklisted writer had worked on the project. Amanda Dunne, Philip's widow, confirms that Philip would have been happy to share screenplay credit with Maltz.

The Hollywood Blacklist began in 1947. The now infamous House UnAmerican Activities Committee (HUAC) hearings called writers, directors, actors, producers and agents before the committee to testify as to whether they were communists. Individuals found themselves on the "blacklist" for refusing to testify or because they had attended political meetings or due to the testimony of others regarding their political beliefs. The efforts of Senator Joe McCarthy--after whom the so-called "McCarthy Era" was named--only served to further exacerbate the climate of paranoia during the period. The communist scare of that era destroyed the careers and lives of numerous Americans working in government, the teaching profession, artists, unions and others. Although some of the many writers that were blacklisted were able to continue to work utilizing "fronts," others left the country, both to protect their families from the effects of the blacklist and find work.

The Writers Guild initiated a program in 1968 to begin to correct the numerous credits on films and television of that era that carry incorrect credits. The guild has recently appointed a new committee to review credits of that time and recommend corrections. The committee is comprised of George Kirgo and Del Reisman, both former Presidents of the guild and Paul Jarrico, himself a blacklisted writer and producer.

In addition to the 24 films announced today, the WGA has corrected the credits on the following films:

- **The Bridge On the River Kwai** --Screenplay by Carl Foreman and Michael Wilson, Based on the novel by Pierre Boulle.
- **Broken Arrow** --Screenplay by Albert Maltz, Based on the novel Blood Brother by Elliott Arnold.
- **Roman Holiday** --Screenplay by Ian McLellan Hunter and John Dighton, Story by Dalton Trumbo.
- **The Brave One** --Screenplay by Harry Franklin and Merrill G. White, Story by Dalton Trumbo.
- **Deadly is the Female (Gun Crazy)** --Screenplay by MacKinlay Kantor and Dalton Trumbo, Based on a Saturday Evening Post story Gun Crazy by MacKinlay Kantor.
- **The Defiant Ones** --Written by Nedrick Young and Harold Jacob Smith.
- **Lawrence of Arabia** --Screenplay by Robert Bolt and [Michael Wilson](#), Based on the life and writings of Colonel T.E. Lawrence.
- **Friendly Persuasion** -- Screenplay by Michael Wilson, Based on the Novel by Jessamyn West.
- **Odds Against Tomorrow** (1958) -- Screenplay by Abraham Polonsky and Nelson Gidding, Based on the Novel by William P. McGivern
- **The Day of the Triffids** -- Screenplay by Bernard Gordon, Based on the Novel by John Wyndham.

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**RELATED STORY:** [Blacklisted Michael Wilson posthumously shares writing credit for Lawrence of Arabia](#)