



It Can Did Happen Here

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Throughout the years, the Hollywood blacklist and its effects have been covered in many documentaries and feature films. This resource list is provided to keep the issues raised during that period alive.

Documentaries

Blacklist: Hollywood on Trial (1996). Ninety-minute documentary produced for American Movie Classics by Christopher Koch, son of blacklisted writer Howard Koch, featuring interviews with blacklisted writers and surviving members of the Hollywood Ten.

A Crime to Fit the Punishment (1982). Documentary about the making of *Salt of the Earth* (see below) by blacklisted writers and performers.

Darkness at High Noon: The Carl Foreman Documents (2002), written and directed by Lionel Chetwynd. Scheduled to be aired on PBS in Summer 2002. Two-hour documentary about Carl Foreman and the creation of *High Noon*, which spotlights the importance of receiving credit for one's work.

Elia Kazan: A Director's Journey (1998), written and directed by Richard Schickel. A profile of the Hollywood Ten director who first was sent to jail by Congress as an unfriendly witness and then named names, salvaging his career.

Hollywood on Trial (1976), written by Arnie Reisman. Featuring archival footage of friendly and unfriendly witnesses who testified before HUAC, as well as later interviews with those involved.

The Hollywood Ten (1951), written and directed by John Berry, who was blacklisted himself after making this documentary in support of the Hollywood Ten.

Legacy of the Hollywood Blacklist (1987), written by Judy Chaikin and Eve Goldberg. Documentary made for television. Narrated by Burt Lancaster, featuring interviews with blacklisted writers and performers, including Sylvia Jarrico, Evelyn Keyes, Becca Wilson, and Jane Wyatt.

A Letter From Dalton Trumbo (2001), based on letters by Dalton Trumbo. Narrated by Richard Dreyfuss. This mini-documentary was produced for Turner Classic Movies and aired during a Trumbo film series in October 2001.

Paul Robeson: Tribute to an Artist (1979), written and directed by Saul J. Turrell. A profile of blacklisted singer/actor/activist Paul Robeson.

Scandalize My Name: Stories from the Blacklist (1998), written and directed by Alexandra Isles. Documentary describing how the blacklist affected African-Americans. Featuring interviews with Harry Belafonte, Ossie Davis, Thurgood Marshall, and Rosetta LeNoire.

The Weavers: Wasn't That a Time (1982), written by Lee Hays, a member of the Weavers, the renowned and blacklisted folk-singing quartet, which included Pete Seeger.

Films and Television Movies:

Citizen Cohn (1992), written by David Franzoni, directed by Frank Pierson. Made for HBO and based on the biography by Nicholas von Hoffman, this film, starring James Woods, looks at the life of Roy Cohn, legal advisor to Sen. Joseph McCarthy in his hunt for communism in the U. S.

The Crucible (1996), written by Arthur Miller. Miller adapted his own play about the Salem witch trials, which he fashioned as an allegory for the communist witch-hunts of the 1950s. The script was nominated for an Academy Award.

Dash and Lilly (1999), written by Jerry Ludwig. Television movie about blacklisted writers Dashiell Hammett and Lillian Hellman. Starring Sam Shepard and Judy Davis. The script received a Writers Guild Award.

Fear on Trial (1977), written by David W. Rintels based on a book by John Henry Faulk. This Writers Guild Award- and Emmy-winning drama stars William Devane as Faulk, who sued the group that blacklisted him and ultimately won, a victory that helped end the blacklist era.

The Front (1976), written by Walter Bernstein. The ultimate blacklist movie stars Woody Allen as the front who begins to think he's really a writer. Be sure to watch the credits. Nominated for both Writers Guild and Academy awards.

Guilty By Suspicion (1991), written and directed by Irwin Winkler. Starring Robert DeNiro (above) as a director who refuses to name names before HUAC. Actor Sam Wanamaker, himself blacklisted, has a featured role.

The House on Carroll Street (1987), written by Walter Bernstein. Thriller about a woman who loses her job after being blacklisted and finds Nazis in the U.S. government.

The Majestic (2001), written by Michael Sloane. A blacklisted writer, played by Jim Carrey, gets amnesia and starts a new life in a small town.

Murrow (1986), written by Ernest Kinoy. Made-for-television movie about television journalist Edward R. Murrow, who challenged Sen. Joseph McCarthy on the air, almost single-handedly ending McCarthy's hunt for communists in America.

Paris nous appartient (1960), written by Jean Gruault and Jacques Rivette. One of the main characters is an expatriate American fleeing the blacklist.

Tail Gunner Joe (1976), written by Lane Slate. Television movie about Sen. Joseph McCarthy, who rode the blacklist to political power and was ultimately brought down by his own ego and the power of television.

The Way We Were (1973), written by Arthur Laurents. Barbra Streisand stars as a young communist pacifist who falls in love with a writer, played by Robert Redford. Their romance is thwarted by the blacklist. The screenplay received Writers Guild and Academy award nominations.

[A Category of Its Own:](#)

Salt of the Earth (1954), written by Michael Wilson. A group of blacklisted writers and performers attempted to work outside the Hollywood system, creating an independent film about a labor strike among downtrodden farm workers. After the film was completed, under difficult circumstances, it was all but banned in the United States.

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