

Dalton Trumbo, 70, Dies; Blacklisted Screenwriter

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By Martin Weil
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Dalton Trumbo, 70, the screenwriter who was blacklisted and sent to prison for refusing in 1947 to tell a congressional committee whether he was a Communist, died yesterday in his Hollywood home.

Mr. Trumbo, who wrote more than 60 screenplays and the powerful anti-war novel "Johnny Got His Gun," died of heart failure. One of his lungs had been removed in an earlier cancer operation.

While on the Hollywood blacklist, Mr. Trumbo won an Academy Award in 1957 for the screenplay of "The Brave One," which he wrote under the name Robert Rich. It was not until last year that Mr. Trumbo received his Oscar statuette.

Before the blacklist, Mr. Trumbo was the author of screenplays for such films as "A Guy Named Joe," "A Man to Remember" and "Thirty Seconds over Tokyo." In 1960, he began gaining recognition under his own name and worked on films such as "Exodus," "Spartacus" and "Papillon."

Along with nine other Hollywood figures who in 1947 defied the House Un-American Activities Committee, Mr. Trumbo became known as a member of the "Hollywood Ten."

They have come to be regarded as among the most prominent victims of the wave of concern about possible Communist infiltration that swept the nation in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

In addition, their appearances before the committee and the appearances of other figures, who did offer information and make accusations, left deep and lasting scars in the film world.

Mr. Trumbo was born Dec. 9, 1905, in Montrose, Colo., in an apartment occupied by his parents in the rear of

a library. Both parents traced their roots to the colonial period.

After the family moved to California, Mr. Trumbo stayed behind to study at the University of Colorado. But, after the death of his father, he joined his family in Los Angeles, and went to work as a bread-wraper on the night shift at a major bakery.

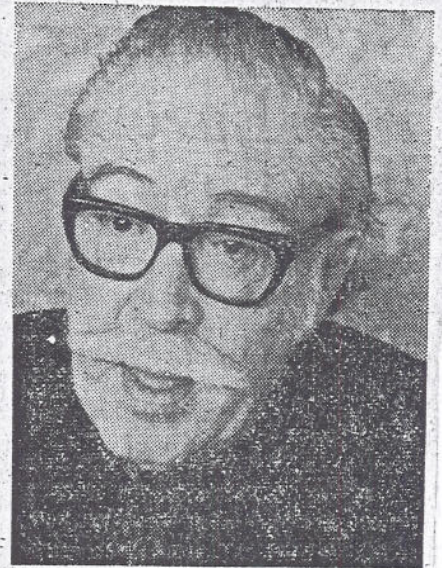
While spending nine years in the bakery, he did various other jobs, reviewed movies for a trade magazine, attended the University of Southern California and wrote 88 short stories and six novels. All were rejected.

Finally, Vanity Fair, The Forum and other magazines began publishing his stories and essays, enabling him to quit his bakery job. In 1934, he became managing editor of the Hollywood Spectator and then joined the Warner Brothers movie studio as a reader in the story department.

Soon he was writing scripts. He also published two novels, "Eclipse" and "Washington Jitters" in 1935 and 1936. In 1939, he won the National Book Award with "Johnny Got His Gun."

Moving and sometimes painfully poignant, it is the story of Joe Bonham, who has lost his arms, legs, sight, hearing, mouth—almost everything but his brain—in the explosion of an artillery shell during World War I.

An angry and often bitter book, reportedly banned from Army camps



DALTON TRUMBO

during World War II, it was filmed by Mr. Trumbo in 1971 and won the Grand Prix in the foreign films section of the next year's Japanese Art Festival.