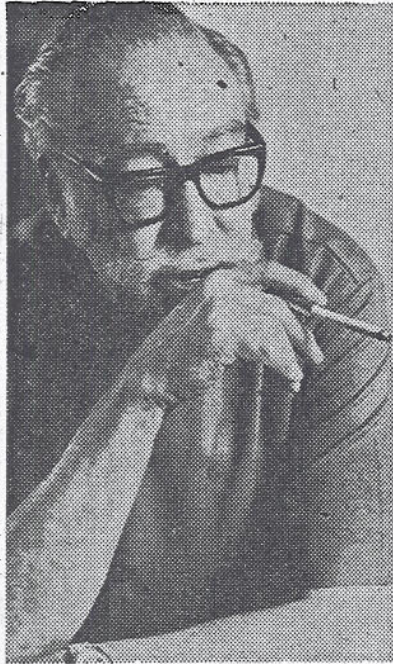


# Trumbo, Blacklisted for 10 Years By the Film Industry, Dies at 70

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Bruce McBroom  
Dalton Trumbo

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 10 — Dalton Trumbo, the Hollywood screen writer who was perhaps the most famous member of the blacklisted film industry authors called "the Hollywood Ten," died of a heart attack early today at his home here. He was 70 years old.

Mr. Trumbo, who was awarded an Oscar for a screenplay written under a pseudonym during his years of forced exile from work in films, underwent surgery for lung cancer in 1973.

Although he served one year in Federal prison for his refusal to provide the House Un-American Activities Committee with any information about his political leanings, he was able in later years to recall with sardonic humor his Communist association.

"I joined the Communist Party in 1943 and left it in 1948 on the ground that in the future I should be far too busy to attend its meetings, which were, in any event, dull beyond description, about as revolutionary in purpose as Wednesday-evening testimonial services in the Christian Science Church," he said in 1970.

"I never considered the working class anything other than something to get out of," he remarked at another time.

## A Highly Paid Writer

The only member of the Hollywood Ten to come from a working-class background, Mr. Trumbo, until his blacklisting, had been one of the highest-paid screen writers in the film capital, earning as much as \$4,000 a week while assigned to a script.

His screen credits in the preblacklisting era include "Kitty Foyle," "A Guy Named Joe" and "Thirty Seconds over Tokyo." He was also the author of the 1939 war novel "Johnny Got His Gun," which won the National Book Award that year and which Mr. Trumbo later worked into a screenplay for the 1971 film of the same name. The film was awarded the International Critics Award at the Cannes Film Festival.

His screenplay credits after the 10-year blacklist was broken by a Hollywood largely shamed by the hysteria associated with the search for Communists during the late 1940's and early 1950's include: "Spartacus," "Exodus," "Lonely Are the Brave," "The Sandpiper," "Hawaii," "Papillon" and "The Fixer."

The blacklist period after his year in prison was a time of hardship for Mr. Trumbo. Unable to find work at home, he sold his ranch and moved his family to Mexico, grinding out scripts under a pseudonym for low-budget films. He com-

pleted 18 screenplays in a two-year period at an average fee of \$1,750 for each full-length feature. "None was very good," he later acknowledged.

But, unlike some other members of the Hollywood Ten, Mr. Trumbo kept active, and maintained his equilibrium during those trying years, even finding some humor in the time he spent in the Federal prison in Ashland, Ky., for refusing to cooperate with the investigators of the Un-American Activities Committee.

"It was a place of quality," Mr. Trumbo later said of the correctional facility at Ashland, "as evidenced by the fact that the head librarian was a Congressman there for a felony called taking a bribe,

whereas I was there for a misdemeanor called contempt of Congress. Try as I might I could not repent of the crime of contempt for an idiotic Congress."

He was assigned to work as a clerk in a storeroom at the prison, and discovered that he had a typewriter at his disposal for the entire year. He completed a screenplay, which he later sold on the black market.

In later years, he also delighted in recounting the fact that one of his Congressional inquisitors, J. Parnell Thomas, who was convicted of defrauding the Government, had served a sentence at a prison with two other members of the Hollywood Ten.

Mr. Trumbo briefly rejoined the Communist Party during the blacklist in 1954 as a gesture of support for 14 Communist officials in California convicted under the Smith Act, but severed his ties again after these convictions were reversed and the defendants freed.

## Oscar for a Pseudonym

In 1956, the Academy Award for best screenplay went to Robert Rich, the name listed on the credits of the film "The Brave Bulls," but it was discovered, much to the embarrassment of some in the industry who still feared political reprisals, that Mr. Rich was, in fact, Mr. Trumbo, working under one of many names he used to sell his work. The Oscar was finally presented to Mr. Trumbo last year.

Kirk Douglas, the star of "Spartacus," reportedly wanted to publicize Mr. Trumbo's participation in that film in 1960, but it was Otto Preminger, the director, who broke the blacklist months later by publicly announcing that he had hired Mr. Trumbo to do the screenplay for "Exodus," a move that went relatively unopposed in the film community after years of pressures and handwringing.

Mr. Trumbo is survived by his wife, Cleo; a son, and two daughters. His will provides that his body will be donated to the Medical Center of the University of California at Los Angeles. Arrangements for a memorial service are incomplete.