

Hollywood et les gauches (1933-1957)

Hollywood and the Left (1933-1957)

Bibliographie proposée par
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→ **The hearings were recorded, video excerpts and transcripts are available online:**

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Selection of “friendly witnesses”

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- **Walt Disney, *Testimony Before HUAC*, Oct. 24, 1947.**

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- **Ronald Reagan, *Testimony Before HUAC*, Oct. 23, 1947.**

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III. Filmography

Below is a non-exhaustive list of films, documentaries and fictions, sorted by decade. The selection from the 1930s (Depression-era films) illustrates the progressive, left-wing approach adopted by many directors influenced by New Deal policies and principles, such as collective labor, resilience, tolerance and the uplifting of the working class, often expressed through criticism of ruthless capitalism or social injustice; support for the Spanish resistance was also part of Hollywood's progressive stance. The 1940s list continues with socially engaged films and film noirs written and directed by individuals who were later blacklisted (e.g. *Crossfire*), as well as World War II propaganda films that were then scrutinized by HUAC (e.g. *Mission to Moscow*). This decade also includes examples of anti-communist films and others addressing antisemitism. The 1950s selection reflects the dichotomy between pro- and anti-communist films, including allegorical films that indirectly address McCarthyism.

While these films **do not constitute a formal corpus** and no specific film analysis is required, candidates are expected to be able to reference and discuss some of them. This list is intended to provide examples of how Hollywood employees (directors, writers, actors) and studio owners conveyed political ideas on screen before and during the Red Scare; some had strong left-wing views, resisted anti-communist pressure, and circumvented censorship, and some supported HUAC or reluctantly submitted.

More titles are available on the University of Washington's website:

<https://guides.lib.uw.edu/c.php?g=341346&p=2303736>

➤ 1930s

I Am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang (LeRoy, 1932)

The Gold Diggers of 1933 (LeRoy, Berkeley, 1933)

Our Daily Bread (King Vidor, 1934)

Black Fury (Curtiz, 1935)

The Spanish Earth (Ivens, 1937) [documentary on the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), narrated by Ernest Hemingway, Orson Welles, and Jean Renoir later judged “prematurely antifascist”]

[*Modern Times*](#) (Chaplin, 1936)

My Man Godfrey (La Cava, 1936)

Riffraff (Ruben, 1936)

They Won't Forget (LeRoy, 1937)

➤ 1940s

The Grapes of Wrath (Ford, 1940)

Power and the Land (Ivens, 1940) [documentary]

Native Land (Hurwitz & Strand, 1942) [semi-documentary about the attacks led against labor organizations during the Great Depression, narrated by Paul Robeson]

Mission to Moscow (Curtiz, 1943)

Tender Comrade (Dmytryk, 1943) [screenplay by Dalton Trumbo]

It's A Wonderful Life (Capra, 1946) [an all-time classic later targeted by HUAC]

Gentleman's Agreement (Kazan, 1947)

Body and Soul (Rossen, 1947 film) [Screenplay by A. Polonsky]

Crossfire (Dmytryk, 1947) [condemning antisemitism and later deemed contrary to “Americanism”]

Force of Evil (Polonsky, 1948)

[*All the King's Men*](#) (Rossen, 1949)

Home of the Brave (Robson, 1949)

I Married a Communist (*The Woman on Pier 13*) (Stevenson, 1949)

➤ 1950s

I Was a Communist for the FBI (Douglas, 1951)

No Way Out (Mankiewicz, 1950)

The Lawless (Losey, 1950) [a “film gris” (Andersen 1985) a film noir with more progressive ideas]

Big Jim McLain (Ludwig, 1952) [anti-communist, illustrative of the climate]

My Son John (McCarey, 1952) [anti-communist]

High Noon (Zinnemann, 1952) [allegorical]

[*Salt of the Earth*](#) (Biberman, 1954)

[*On the Waterfront*](#) (Kazan, 1954)

Johnny Guitar (Ray, 1954) [allegorical]

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (Siegel, 1956) [allegorical]

Storm Center (Taradash, 1956)

Edge of the City (Ritt, 1957)

Documentaries/ Podcast

- *Blacklist: Hollywood on Trial* (Helpern Jr., 1976)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jbYed_DkD4]

- *Red Hollywood* (Andersen, Burch, 1996) [film-essay]

- *Trumbo* (Askin, 2007) [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnhjMqLFEqk>]

- “You Must Remember This” is a website dedicated to “the secret and/or forgotten histories of Hollywood’s first century.” Season 6, “The Blacklist Archive” (2016), offers 16 well-referenced episodes (with a bibliography).

[<https://www.youmustrememberthispodcast.com/episodes/2016/06/21/blacklistarchive>]