How America Responded to an Era of FEAR

Jewish Museum

A Program of Milwaukee Jewish Federation
"Blacklist: The Hollywood Red Scare is a beautifully conceived, curated, and designed exhibition on a timely topic. This exhibition will travel and reach audiences far beyond the walls of Jewish Federation Building in which the museum is located."

- Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, chief curator of the Core Exhibition at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

"The committee is more un-American than the activities it is investigating."

- President Harry S. Truman

"The Hollywood Blacklist exhibit of the Jewish Museum Milwaukee shines a bright light on one the darker and lesser-known periods in modern American history. It is painstakingly researched, highly informative and, at the same time, very entertaining—the perfect way to introduce this important era both to students and the general public."

- Glenn Frankel, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of High Noon: The Hollywood Blacklist and the Making of an American Classic
In October 1947, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) called Hollywood figures to testify about allegations of communist propaganda in American films. Although the committee never found evidence of Communist propaganda, ten of the writers and directors called to testify were held in contempt of Congress, fined and sentenced to prison. Hollywood’s power players responded to the proceedings by creating a self-imposed blacklist of those “Hollywood Ten” and others implicated in the proceedings. With that, the film industry became the first mass-employer to adopt a blacklist as a policy to be used against employees whose political beliefs ran counter to prevailing orthodoxies. Blacklist: Hollywood’s Red Scare sparks reflection, conversation and engagement regarding civil liberties and patriotism in the 21st Century using the counterpoint of a time in which art, artistic expression and speech were no longer protected.

Blacklist: The Hollywood Red Scare is a multi-sensory exhibit that explores the intersection of politics, art, economics, and the social dynamics that impacted the American First Amendment rights of speech, religion, and assembly during Hollywood’s Red Scare. Through personal narratives of those who were blacklisted, members of House Un-American Activities Committee or HUAC, and film executives, Blacklist examines the shifting definition of what it meant and means to be a patriotic American.

Blacklist: The Hollywood Red Scare is originally curated by Jewish Museum Milwaukee.

"Utilizing a creative mix of graphics, illustrations, and historical documents, the Jewish Museum Milwaukee’s curators have provided viewers with a compact, illuminating perspective on the motion-picture blacklist and its historical importance. Each section highlights a key element of the era, and the viewer leaves the exhibit feeling very well educated about the blacklist and its era."

-Larry Ceplair, curator of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences exhibit on the blacklist, 2002

"It’s such a meticulous rendering of the events of that time, but with daggers pointing to the threats that media face today."

-Samuel Norich, president of The Forward
EXHIBIT COMPONENTS

- 1 Blacklist Marquee Sign
- 2 Red Velour Stage Curtains with Gold Rope Pullbacks
- 16 Didactic Graphic Panels
- 8 Biographical Panels
- 4 Large Scale Window Scrims (can be resized and printed)
- 10 Flip Film Poster Cabinets with FBI Files Inside
- 9 Object Wall Cases with Artifacts
- 5 Hanging Graphic Banners (on Sintra) with Hardware
- 5 Cut-Out Silhouette Figures with Bases
- 1 Minority Report Book
- Files for 4 Largescala Vinyl Backdrops
- Files for 2 Applied Vinyl Lettering
- Files for 5 Artifact Labels
- Files for 3 Instructional Labels

Supporting Materials:
- Introductory Film “Prying Eyes: A Prelude to the Hollywood Blacklist” (7:13 minutes)
- Response Station White Board
- Docent Training Materials
- School Curriculum
- Web-based Activities

ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS

Artifacts: (venue provides base and vitrine)
- What Makes Sammy Run (Book)
- 4 Pamphlets
- Period Magazines
- John Garfield’s Letter to Dore Schary
- Labels for all Artifacts
- Gene Kelly Non-Communist Affidavit
- Red Channels: The Report of Communist Influence in Radio and Television
- 100 Things You Should Know About Communism Pamphlet by HUAC

Electronics:
- 2 27” Touch Screen Monitors (diagonal) with mounting hardware
- 1 40” Monitor (diagonal) with mounting hardware
- 3 Sound Showers
- 2 Mini PCs

RENTAL INFORMATION

Cost: $18,000 for 3 Month Rental
Standard Rental Length: 3 Months (negotiable)
Shipping Costs: Roundtrip transit or a pro-rated amount based on rental schedule
Square Footage: Can Be Customized for 1,000 - 2,000 sq ft

For more information on the exhibit, rental schedule, or to inquire about renting the exhibit, please contact Jewish Museum Milwaukee at 414-390-5730.