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THIRTEEN's *American Masters* traces journey of Dalton Trumbo from Hollywood success to blacklisted screenwriter to Academy-Award winner in *Trumbo* airing Wednesday, September 2 at 8 p.m. on PBS

Features readings of Trumbo's letters by Joan Allen, Brian Dennehy, Michael Douglas, Paul Giamatti, Nathan Lane, Josh Lucas, Liam Neeson, David Strathairn, and Donald Sutherland.

Interviewees include actors Kirk Douglas and Dustin Hoffman and writers Walter Bernstein and Victor Navasky, among others. Christopher Trumbo and Mitzi Trumbo speak candidly about their father.

Outtakes and interview with director Peter Askin at pbs.org/americanmasters.

Trumbo is the story of screen writer Dalton Trumbo's harrowing descent from Hollywood royalty to blacklisted writer to Academy-Award winner. Focusing on Trumbo's own words, the film, directed by Peter Askin, is adapted from his son Christopher Trumbo's 2003 play and features performances of some of Trumbo's remarkable letters written during the devastation wrought by the 'Red Scare' in mid-20th century, clips from some of his films including *Spartacus* ('60), *Exodus* ('60), and *Papillon* ('73), and archival and contemporary interviews with those who knew him best.

Trumbo is having its broadcast premiere this fall as part of the [*American Masters*](#) series and airs nationally Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at 8 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings).

American Masters is a production of THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG – one of America’s most prolific and respected public media providers.

“At the height of his career, Dalton Trumbo was willing to lose everything for his principles and did,” says Susan Lacy, series creator and executive producer of **American Masters**, a six-time winner of the Emmy Award for Outstanding Primetime Non-Fiction Series. “**Trumbo** is a portrait of a man steadfast in his beliefs.”

An extraordinary cast including Joan Allen, Brian Dennehy, Michael Douglas, Paul Giamatti, Nathan Lane, Josh Lucas, Liam Neeson, David Strathairn, and Donald Sutherland give powerful performances of some of Trumbo’s collected letters. In addition, **Trumbo** features interviews with son Christopher Trumbo, daughter Mitzi Trumbo, actors Kirk Douglas and Dustin Hoffman, and writers Walter Bernstein and Victor Navasky and more.

With credits for *Kitty Foyle* (‘40) and *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo* (‘44) to his name – and the anti-war novel *Johnny Got His Gun* (‘39) – the young Trumbo was one of the highest paid Hollywood writers. Refusing to testify before House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) in ‘47, he was part of the group known as the Hollywood Ten. Convicted for contempt, he spent 11 months in federal prison and lost all right to ply his craft. Writing 30 scripts under pseudonyms, he won an Oscar in ‘56 for *The Brave One* (‘56) as Robert Rich. He was not recognized publicly again until 1960, when Otto Preminger credited him on *Exodus* (‘60) and Kirk Douglas did so on *Spartacus* (‘60) – actions considered to mark the end of the blacklist. As late as 1993, Trumbo was awarded a posthumous Academy-Award for *Roman Holiday* (‘53.)

Trumbo is produced by Trumbo Film LLC. The film is directed by Peter Askin and written by Christopher Trumbo, based on his play. Susan Lacy is the series creator and executive producer of **American Masters**.

American Masters is produced for PBS by THIRTEEN in association with WNET.ORG. To take **American Masters** beyond the television broadcast and further explore the themes, stories, and personalities of masters past and present, the companion Web site (pbs.org/americanmasters) offers interviews, essays, photographs,

outtakes, and other resources. *American Masters* is made possible by the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional funding for *American Masters* is provided by Rosalind P. Walter, The Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation, Jack Rudin, Rolf and Elizabeth Rosenthal, The André and Elizabeth Kertész Foundation, and public television viewers.

About WNET.ORG

New York public media company WNET.ORG is a pioneering provider of television and web content. The parent of THIRTEEN, WLIW21 and Creative News Group, WNET.ORG brings such acclaimed broadcast series and websites as [Worldfocus](#), [Nature](#), [Great Performances](#), [American Masters](#), [Charlie Rose](#), [Wide Angle](#), [Secrets of the Dead](#), [Religion & Ethics Newsweekly](#), [Visions](#), [Consuelo Mack WealthTrack](#), [Wild Chronicles](#), [Miffy and Friends](#), and [Cyberchase](#) to national and international audiences. Through its wide range of channels and platforms, WNET.ORG serves the entire New York City metro area with unique local productions, broadcasts and innovative educational and cultural projects. In all that it does, WNET.ORG pursues a single, overarching goal – to create media experiences of lasting significance for New York, America and the world. For more information, visit www.wnet.org.

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