

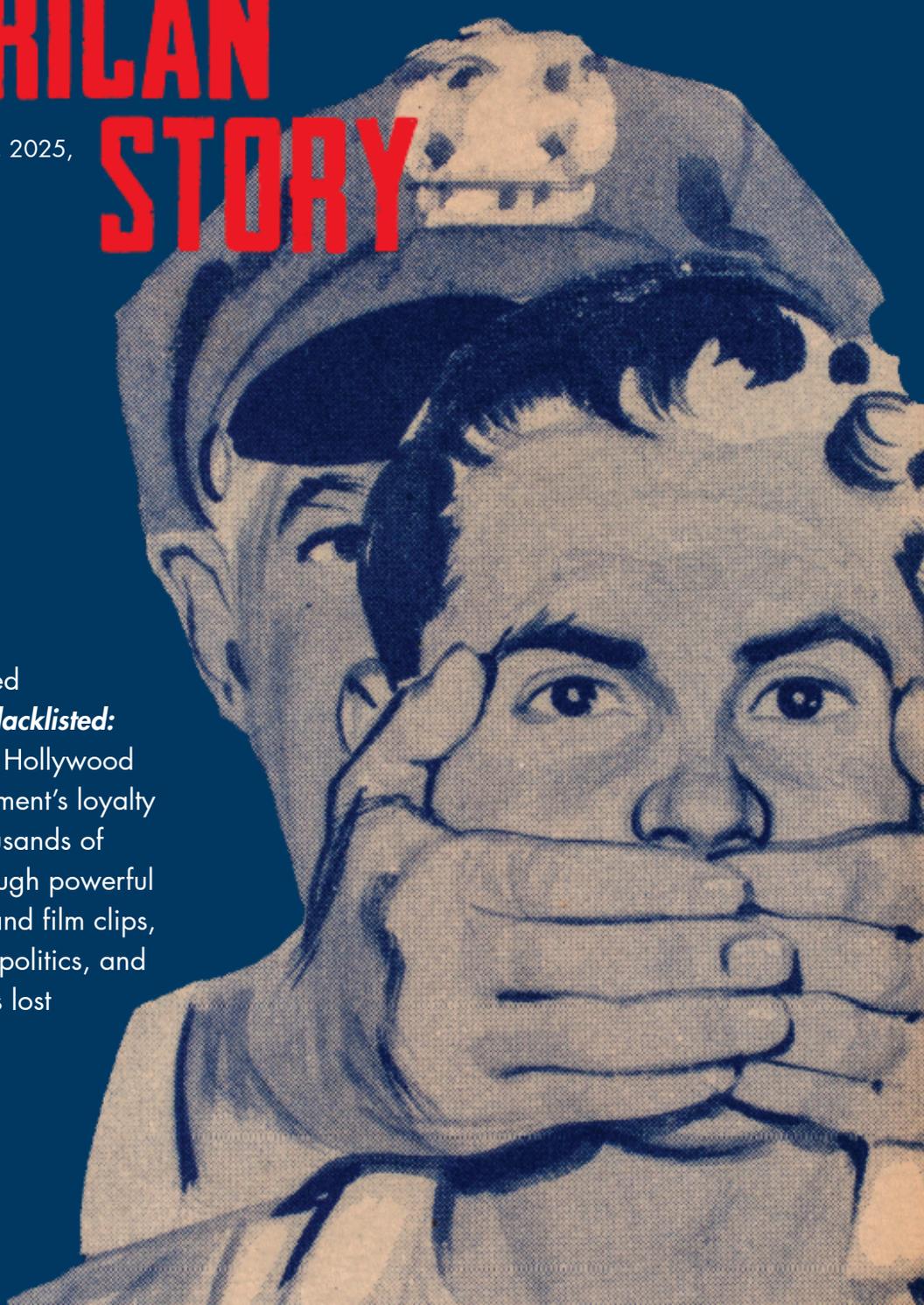
■■■■ LILLIAN AND ALBERT SMALL CAPITAL JEWISH MUSEUM

# BLACKLISTED

## AN AMERICAN STORY

A special exhibition opening March 6, 2025,  
at the Capital Jewish Museum.

Step into one of the most charged moments in American history. **Blacklisted: An American Story** explores the Hollywood blacklist and the federal government's loyalty investigations that upended thousands of lives during the Red Scare. Through powerful personal stories, rare artifacts, and film clips, the exhibition reveals how fear, politics, and identity collided—and what was lost when dissent was silenced.



# BLACKLISTED

## AN AMERICAN STORY

Hollywood celebrities arrive in Washington for the House Committee on Un-American Activities, 1947.  
Courtesy of the Jewish Museum Milwaukee.



***Blacklisted: An American Story*** explores the intersections of politics, antisemitism, freedom of speech, and national security during the Red Scare of the 1950s. With the rise of the cold war and global communism, anxiety over Soviet infiltration fanned fears in the United States.

Numerous industries, including Hollywood and the federal government, purged those accused or suspected of being Communists – many of whom were Jews. In fact, “Jewish” often served as a stand-in for “Communist.”

From the late 1940s through the 1950s, all three branches of government—executive, legislative, and judicial—sacrificed First Amendment rights in the name of security. Freedoms of speech, association, and assembly—all protected by the US Constitution—came under fire. Hundreds of people lost their jobs, thousands resigned under duress, and many more stood by quietly, afraid of repercussions for their real or imagined political participation.

***Blacklisted: An American Story***, on loan from Jewish Museum Milwaukee, incorporates film, personal narratives, objects, costume, and photography to examine the shifting definition of what it meant then—and what it means now—to be a patriotic American, and who gets to decide.

### KEY THEMES AND HIGHLIGHTS:

- The rise of the Hollywood Ten and the entertainment industry’s role in shaping public opinion.
- The federal employee loyalty program, which scrutinized and dismissed thousands of civil servants.
- Jewish Americans’ experiences navigating accusation and identity during a time of fear and antisemitism.
- The courage of individuals who resisted conformity—from screenwriters and teachers to government clerks and lawyers.
- Archival materials, film clips, and oral histories that connect past debates about loyalty and dissent to those we face today.

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*“It’s such a meticulous rendering of the events of that time, but with daggers pointing to the threats that [we] face today.”*

**–Samuel Norich,**  
President of The Forward

