

Los Angeles Film Noir from hard boiled classics to neo-Noir

Double Indemnity (1944). Billy Wilder directs Barbara Stanwyck as the quintessential femme fatale—her sultry dialog was co-written by Raymond Chandler. <http://ow.ly/AmVLi>

Murder, My Sweet (1944). Written by Raymond Chandler, with Dick Powell as detective Phillip Marlowe. <http://ow.ly/AmVVm>

Mildred Pierce (1945). Joan Crawford plays a woman who, after her husband leaves her, has the courage to start her own business and raise her daughter on her own. <http://ow.ly/AmWaY>

The Big Sleep (1946). With stellar performances by Bogart and Bacall, and a plot so convoluted even filmmakers weren't certain about who killed whom, it's one of the very best. <http://ow.ly/AmVB8>

Criss Cross (1949). Burt Lancaster gets entangled in armed robbery when he tries to rescue his ex-wife, Yvonne De Carlo, from the clutches of the Los Angeles underworld. <http://ow.ly/AmWpy>

White Heat (1949). In one of his best roles, James Cagney plays a ruthless gang leader as he is ultimately betrayed. The film is full of memorable quotes. <http://ow.ly/AmWxW>

D.O.A. (1950). The plot hinges around an intriguing premise: after being poisoned, a man has to solve his own murder. <http://ow.ly/AmWIO>

Gun Crazy (1950). Loosely based on the story of Bonnie and Clyde, the film is about a couple that goes on a criminal rampage. The script was secretly co-written by then black-listed writer Dalton Trumbo. <http://ow.ly/AmWRU>

In a Lonely Place (1950). Nicholas Ray directs Humphrey Bogart as an unstable screenwriter suspected of murder. <http://ow.ly/AmXsc>

Sunset Boulevard (1950). Set in Hollywood, and told by a dead man through a series of flashbacks, *Sunset Boulevard* is the epitome of Los Angeles noir. <http://ow.ly/AmXAY>

Dragnet (1954). This film adaptation of the popular television series follows the cases of two homicide detectives in Los Angeles. <http://ow.ly/AmXU2>

Kiss Me Deadly (1955). Adapted from the Mickey Spillane novel of the same name, this Mike Hammer mystery offers noir with a nuclear age twist. <http://ow.ly/AmY6y>

They Shoot Horses, Don't They? (1969). Sidney Pollack directs Jane Fonda in this heart-wrenching account of a grueling Depression-era dance marathon at the Santa Monica Pier. <http://ow.ly/AmYfN>

The Long Goodbye (1973). Elliott Gould as Phillip Marlowe delivers great lines written by Raymond Chandler. <http://ow.ly/AmYps>

Chinatown (1974). Roman Polanski directs this classic film noir with sunshine. Jack Nicholson is the flawed private detective out of his depth; Faye Dunaway is the femme fatale and John Huston the greedy corrupt villain. <http://ow.ly/AmYyg>

To Live and Die in L.A. (1985). A secret service agent searches for the counterfeiter who killed his partner. <http://ow.ly/AmYSs>

Dead Again (1991). This film noir has a reincarnation twist and lovely performances by Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson. <http://ow.ly/AmZ1r>

L.A. Confidential (1997). Kim Basinger won the Oscar for her role in this award winning film that shows the seedy side of the Hollywood dream. <http://ow.ly/AmZn5>

Devil in a Blue Dress (1995). Based on Walter Mosley's book, and starring Denzel Washington, this noir mystery explores the underbelly of African-American Los Angeles in the 1940s. <http://ow.ly/AmZwh>

Pulp Fiction (1994). Quentin Tarantino's take on film noir replete with femme fatale, wise guys, and great dialogue. <http://ow.ly/AmZKX>

Mulholland Drive (2001). David Lynch directs this neo-noir – original and intriguing. <http://ow.ly/AmZVO>

The Black Dahlia (2006). Based on the James Ellroy novel, it's the story of the real life murder of Elizabeth Short in 1947. <http://ow.ly/An072>

Los Angeles Noir Reads

books and stories that inspired the films

Cain, James M. *Double Indemnity, The Postman Always Rings Twice, Mildred Pierce*. A trio of classics by one of the genre's greatest, these offer noir and hardboiled dialogue without the conventional private detective. <http://ow.ly/AngVL>

Chandler, Raymond. The Phillip Marlowe stories & novels, e.g. *The Long Goodbye, Farewell, My Lovely, The Big Sleep, The Little Sister*, etc. Read the Chandler classics that inspired performances by Humphrey Bogart, James Garner, and Robert Mitchum. <http://ow.ly/AnffA>

Ellroy, James. The L.A Quartet Series: *The Black Dahlia, The Big Nowhere, L.A. Confidential, and White Jazz*. These four gritty crime novels set in 1940s and 50s Los Angeles perfectly capture the noir aesthetic in print. Though storylines are connected and characters recur, each stands perfectly well on its own. <http://ow.ly/AneDp>

Hamilton, Denise (editor). *Los Angeles Noir and Los Angeles Noir II*. Collecting classic and contemporary noir, and including both famous and more obscure works, these excellent volumes are recommended for noir novices and fans alike. <http://ow.ly/Anfnx>

Hughes, Dorothy. *In a Lonely Place*. Though it inspired the 1950 film of the same name, Hughes's novel has a decidedly darker turn of plot that makes this a unique and compelling read. <http://ow.ly/AnfO1>

Mosley, Walter. The Easy Rawlins series, e.g., *Devil in a Blue Dress, Little Scarlet Blonde Faith, Little Green*, etc. In this series, Mosley creates Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins, an iconic hardboiled detective operating in a racially-tinged Los Angeles. Settings from the late 1940s to the Vietnam era are carefully rendered. <http://ow.ly/AneWK>

Sanchez, Thomas. *The Zoot Suit Murders*. Sanchez sets this murder mystery in 1940s Los Angeles during the Zoot Suit Riots. <http://ow.ly/Anhla>

West, Nathanael. *The Day of the Locust*. Set in 1930s Hollywood and with classic noir tone, West's novel is often ranked among the best of the 20th century. <http://ow.ly/AnhwP>