

FAQ 22

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Q: Have you seen the Brian De Palma BLACK DAHLIA movie that was just released? What did you think of it?

No, I haven't, and I won't be seeing the De Palma film. It is an adaptation of James Ellroy's twenty-year-old novel and has nothing to do with the actual murder of Elizabeth Short, other than to borrow her name and the location of the crime. Anything remotely connected to the facts of the case-ends there. As Ellroy has always maintained, "it is a story of pure fiction."

My own book has recently been optioned by NEW LINE CINEMA, and a screenplay adapting my book to film is now being written. Hopefully, in the foreseeable future we will be able to present the true story—which is far far stranger than any fiction.

Below is a link to a recent *Playboy Magazine* review of the De Palma film, by Jamie Malanowski, which also includes a review and reference to *Black Dahlia Avenger* and *Exquisite Corpse: Surrealism and the Black Dahlia Murder*.

<http://www.playboy.com/blog/2006/10/the-blah-dahlia.html>

Below is Daily *Variety's* August 26, 2006 announcement of NEW LINE CINEMA option of *Black Dahlia Avenger: A Genius for Murder*:

'Avenger' copped by New Line

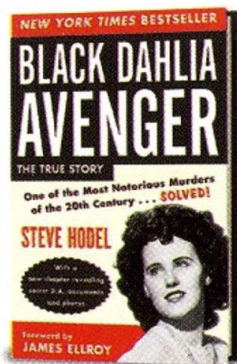
By MICHAEL FLEMING

New Line has acquired screen rights to "Black Dahlia Avenger," a book by ex-L.A. homicide detective Steve Hodel.

The tome details Hodel's investigation into Hollywood's most infamous unsolved crime that led him to finger his own father as the killer.

Ralph Pezzullo is set to write the script; Hodel will be exec producer.

The deal comes two weeks before the release of Brian De Palma's "The Black Dahlia," an adaptation of the James Ellroy novel. Ellroy wrote the intro to Hodel's book and declared that the author had probably correctly identified Dr. George Hodel as the killer.



Turn to page 39

Studio opens 'Black' book

Continued from page 1

After an 18-year career investigating more than 300 murders, Hodel was retired when his father died and he received an album of old photos. He realized two of them were of Elizabeth Short, the aspiring actress found cut in half and posed in a bizarre manner. Hodel, on a quest to discover who his father really was, came up with a picture of a brilliant, charming, Hannibal Lecter-like villain he believes

may have killed a dozen people. "I found out that George Hodel was the prime suspect all along," Hodel said. "The D.A. was days away from arresting him, but the police department was very corrupt. The files were sanitized, the physical evidence disappeared."

Hodel was courted by several directors but made the deal because of the persistence of New Line exec Jeff Katz, a connoisseur of true-crime TV who'd watched Hodel's story.