

FAQ 71

(July 5, 2008)

71.1

Q: Did the Raymond Chandler movie, *The Blue Dahlia* come out before or after the murder of Elizabeth Short?

Before. The film starring Alan Ladd and Veronica Lake opened in July, 1946 and played through the summer and fall. It was showing in theatres when Elizabeth Short arrived in Long Beach in July '46.

"BLUE DAHLIA" is the name of a bar in the film, not a person.

Below is an L.A. Times advertisement for July 4, 1946, showing the film opening at Hollywood's Paramount. (The Paramount was one of L.A.'s finest theatres. In 1941 it held the world premiere of CITIZEN KANE.) In the 1980s, DISNEY STUDIOS purchased and completely remodeled and renamed it- THE EL CAPITAN THEATRE. It is located on Hollywood Bl., near Highland Ave. (6838 Hollywood Blvd, across the street from the KODAK THEATRE.)

LA Times July 4, 1946

'Blue Dahlia' Opens Today

Alan Ladd, Veronica Lake and William Bendix are starred in "The Blue Dahlia," murder-mystery which opens today at Paramount Hollywood and Downtown theaters.

"The Blue Dahlia," especially written for Paramount by Raymond Chandler, revolves around Ladd, who is wanted for a murder he didn't commit; his war-time buddy, William Bendix, and two beautiful but dangerous women, Veronica Lake and Doris Dowling.



July 1946 "Now Playing" AD for "The Blue Dahlia"



Hollywood Paramount circa 1942
6838 Hollywood Blvd.
(Now known as THE EL CAPITAN THEATRE)

A further irony.

Below Theatre Guide (LA Times 9/20/46) along with the street map show that in Sept/Oct 1946 the film, "The Blue Dahlia" was being shown at the Hunley Theatre, 5115 Hollywood Blvd., directly across the street from where Elizabeth Short was temporarily staying at the Guardian Apartments. Both of these locations were within two blocks of George Hodel's private residence at 5121 Franklin Ave.

This is not to say that one had anything to do with the other—they did not. George Hodel dubbed himself the "Black Dahlia Avenger" only after reading it in the newspapers. Journalists were the ones who "christened" Elizabeth Short "The Black Dahlia." The name first appeared in the papers a few days after her murder, on Jan. 17 or 18, 1947. George Hodel's handwritten note where he first refers to himself as the "Black Dahlia Avenger" and offered to "turn himself in.." wasn't received by the press until- January 26, 1947, some 11 days after the murder.

10	★ LOS ANGELES—DOWNTOWN
11	ARCADE, 334 S. Broadway
12	BROADWAY, 428 S. Broadway
13	CORNER, 308 S. Broadway
14	CENTRAL, 314 S. Broadway
15	COZY, 320 S. Broadway
16	LINDA LEA, First at San Pedro
17	MUSIC, 314 S. Broadway
18	OLYMPIC, 6th and Broadway
19	TOWN, 444 S. Hill St.
20	★ HOLLYWOOD
21	ADMIRAL, Hollywood at Vine
22	CINEMA, Western Santa Monica
23	CINEMA, Western Santa Monica
24	CLINTON, 328 N. Western
25	HATCHING, 984 Hollywood Blvd.
26	HUNLEY, 5115 Hollywood Blvd.
27	LOS FELIZ, Vermont at Franklin
28	MELBA, 6014 Hollywood Blvd.
29	MELBA, 6014 Hollywood Blvd.
30	MONICA, 7734 Santa Monica
31	MUSIC HALL, 8533 Hollywood Blvd.
32	ORIENTAL, 7734 Santa Monica
33	STUDIO, 1715 N. Vermont
34	SUNSET, Western at Sunset
35	VISTA, Sunset at Hollywood
36	★ SANTA MONICA—DOWNTOWN
37	★ SANTA MONICA—DOWNTOWN
38	★ SANTA MONICA—DOWNTOWN
39	★ SANTA MONICA—DOWNTOWN
40	★ SANTA MONICA—DOWNTOWN
41	★ SANTA MONICA—DOWNTOWN
42	★ SANTA MONICA—DOWNTOWN
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46	★ SANTA MONICA—DOWNTOWN
47	★ SANTA MONICA—DOWNTOWN
48	★ SANTA MONICA—DOWNTOWN
49	★ SANTA MONICA—DOWNTOWN
50	★ SANTA MONICA—DOWNTOWN

LA TIMES AD 9/20/1946

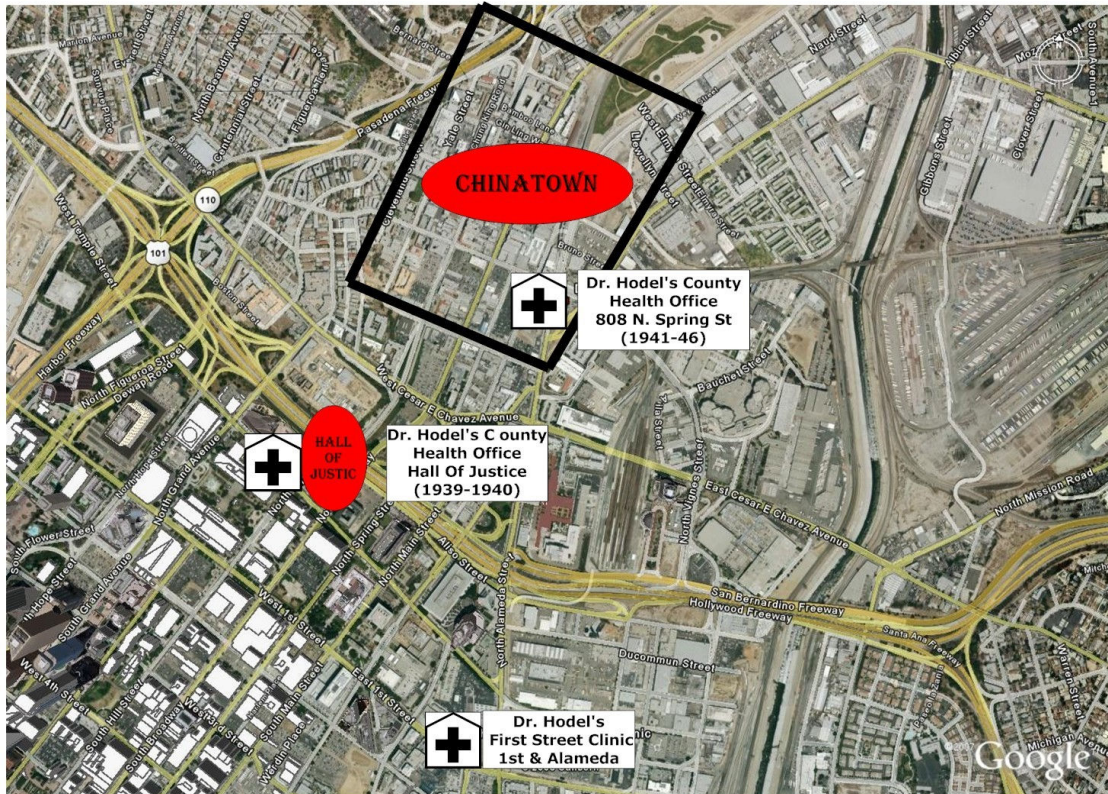


- 1- George Hodel Franklin House, 5121 Franklin Ave
2- Elizabeth Short, Guardian Apts, 5217 Hollywood Blvd. Apt 726.
3- Hunley Theatre, 5115 Hollywood Blvd.

71.2

Q: Where exactly in Chinatown was your father's L.A. County Health Department office, located?

808 N. Spring St. (See map below) Incredibly, prior to moving to that CHINATOWN location in 1941, George Hodel's Health Dept office was at the HALL OF JUSTICE . (Temple & Broadway.) This is the same building that housed the offices of both the Homicide and Gangster Squads as well as the DA investigators. To add to the irony, Elizabeth Short's 1947 autopsy was performed in the basement (Coroner's Office) of this building. In 1949, George Hodel was jailed, arraigned and tried for incest, also in this building. A year later, (1950) he was picked up and temporarily detained at this same Hall of Justice, while DA and LAPD investigator's placed hidden microphones inside his Franklin residence, initiating their investigation of him as the prime suspect in the Black Dahlia murder.



Enclosed rectangle shows approximate historical street boundaries of

LA's CHINATOWN

North- Bernard St

South- Cesar Chavez Ave (formerly Macy St)

East- Main St

West- Yale St

808 N. Spring St in Los Angeles' CHINATOWN
Location of Dr. George Hill Hodel's office 1941-1946
Position- Chief Venereal Disease Control Officer for L.A. County Health Department



808 Spring St with Chinatown in background



HALL OF JUSTICE

Temple & Spring Sts, Los Angeles

1939-1940- Dr. George Hill Hodel's County Health Dept Office on 1st floor

1947- Elizabeth Short's autopsy performed in basement of this building

1949- George Hill Hodel , booked, arraigned for child molestation and incest, and jury trial held, all within the confines of this building

1950- George Hill Hodel brought to this building for "DA interview" while "detained" DA & LAPD detectives secretly installed microphones in walls of his private residence. Bugging occurred for forty days. (Feb 18---Mar 27 1950)

LAPD's Homicide & Gangster Squads and DA's Bureau of Investigation also housed in this building in the 1940s and 1950s.



71.3

Q: I recently saw you on the Discovery Channel MOST EVIL program. Can you tell me what other television shows have been made about your book?

Yes. There have been six (6) one-hour television productions made, along with an update on my investigation by *Anderson Cooper 360-CNN News*. Here is a list of the shows produced since the publication of my book in 2003:

1. ***DATELINE NBC "Black Dahlia" Josh Mankiewicz (2003) 1-hr (20 min seg)***
2. ***COURT TV "Who Killed the Black Dahlia?" Josh Mankiewicz (2003) 1-hr***
3. ***CBS 48-HOURS "Black Dahlia Confidential" (2004) 1-hr***
4. ***A&E Bill Kurtis COLD CASE FILES "Black Dahlia" (2006) 1-hr***
5. ***NBC Universal (France) The Truth About The Black Dahlia (2006) 1-hr***
6. ***CNN Anderson Cooper-360 "Black Dahlia" (2006) 8 mins***
7. ***Discovery Channel "MOST EVIL" (2007) 1-hr***