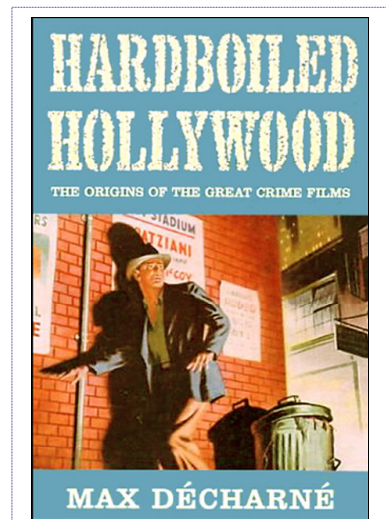



# HARDBOILED HOLLYWOOD

Max Décharné



<b>Pub Date:</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2005	<b>BIC code:</b> ATK
<b>Extent:</b> 240pp + 8pp b&w/colour photos	<b>Report Code:</b> NP
<b>Format:</b> B (198 x 129mm) paperback	<b>ean:</b> 9-781842-431191
<b>price:</b> £9.99	<b>isbn:</b> 1-84243-119-6
<b>Rights:</b> World	 9 781842 431191
<b>Market Restrictions:</b> none	

## the origins of the great crime films

*Kiss Me Deadly*, *Bonnie & Clyde*, *Get Carter*, *Little Caesar*, *Goodfellas* – behind each of these classic films there's a little-known story waiting to be told, and pulp novels, real-life bank robbers and twisted serial killers have all played a part in shaping the high-points of crime cinema. After Hollywood had cheerfully thrown these elements into the mincer, together with the various demands of film censors and financial backers – to say nothing of the frequently rampant egos of the stars and directors – the finished film sometimes owed little except a title to its source material. Thanks to Hollywood, runty little failed bank-robbers Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow are forever fixed in the popular imagination as a handsome young couple with toothpaste grins and an upbeat bluegrass soundtrack, and hell, those bullets don't really hurt so much in slow motion. Similarly, middle-aged Wisconsin ghoul Ed Gein (few people's idea of a dream date) mutates into handsome young matinee idol Anthony Perkins for the purposes of Hitchcock's *Psycho*. Jim Thompson's pulp classic *Pop 1280* was filmed as *Coup de Torchon* but the location was shifted from the American Deep South to pre-war Colonial French West Africa, yet survived the transition remarkably well. By contrast, when Sam Peckinpah filmed Thompson's *The Getaway*, the pessimistic ending of the original had to be completely changed to suit the demands of the glittering Hollywood couple playing the starring roles – Steve McQueen and Ali McGraw. The films themselves may be well known, but their origins are often far less familiar. This book provides a chance to compare the sources with the finished films, placing them in the context of the times in which they were made and the studio system that produced them.

From *The Big Sleep* to *Point Blank*, and from *The Godfather* to *LA Confidential*, *Hardboiled Hollywood* takes you behind the scenes at the scene of the crime. It's an offer you can't refuse.

### review coverage:

"... Décharné ploughs through dozens of tattered pulp novels to trace classic flicks including *Get Carter*, *LA Confidential*, *Point Blank*, *Psycho*, etc back to their gritty source...." - Phelim O'Neill, *The Guardian*

"...*Hardboiled Hollywood* is, truly, a treasure trove..." - Kevin Sampson, *Word Magazine*

"...Anyone with an interest in hardboiled fiction needs this book on his shelf...." - *Time Out*

**Max Décharné** was born in England, and can still speak English when his business demands it. During the past fifteen years he has flung various books and records at the public, and travelled to a variety of countries - firstly as a member of Gallon Drunk, then since 1995 as the singer with The Flaming Stars - spreading peace, goodwill and partial deafness among the youth of the world. He divides his drinking time between London and Berlin.

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Distribution UK: **Turnaround**, 3 Olympia Trading Estate, Coburg Rd, London N22 6TZ

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