

JFK



THE ULTIMATE WHODUNNIT FROM OLIVER STONE



Kevin Costner (top and above, foreground) is New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, the only person who brought a criminal investigation to trial in connection with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963. Kevin Costner stars as New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, the only person who brought a criminal investigation to trial in connection with the murder.

While the film will be taking shots at the Warren Commission report that arrived at a "one man/one gun" conclusion, Stone managed to cause quite the furor well before shooting began when an early draft of the screenplay (based extensively on Garrison's *On the Trail of the Assassins* and *Crossfire* by Jim Marrs) was leaked to a group of conspiracy theorists, eventually finding its way to the press.

On the basis of that script, a number of publications, including *Time* magazine and *The Washington Post*, loudly protested Stone's interpretation of the events, citing factual inaccuracies and dubbing the movie "Dallas in Wonderland." But Stone, who was honored with a tribute at last summer's Montreal World Film Festival, is quick to defend himself.

"I stand by every fact that's listed in the movie," he told the *Montreal Gazette*. "I'm taking this very seriously because there are these conspiracy buffs who are going to be all over my case."

As a result of the uproar, Stone was almost denied permission to shoot footage from the sixth floor of the infamous Texas School Book Depository, also known as the "sniper's perch." Filming of *JFK* took place this past summer on locations in Dallas, New Orleans and Washington, D.C.

In addition to the guaranteed box-office presence of Kevin Costner, the picture features a star-studded cast of hundreds, including Sissy Spacek, Gary Oldman (as Lee Harvey Oswald), Tommy Lee Jones, Kevin Bacon, Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau, John Candy, Joe Pesci, Ed Asner and Garrison himself in a cameo turn as Earl Warren.

In assembling what he refers to as "a vast jigsaw puzzle of facts," Stone will also be delving into Kennedy's colorful private life, including his relationships with wife Jackie, the First Lady, and Marilyn Monroe, a liaison that is also likely to raise eyebrows.

Calling *JFK* the biggest film he's ever tackled, the 45-year-old stockbroker's son is bracing himself for a fresh new round of Stone-tossing.

"It would be much easier not to have to defend myself all the time," he admitted to the *Gazette*. "My films should speak for themselves — but it's almost impossible with all the cacophony and noise surrounding them."

Judging from the din already erupting in anticipation of *JFK*'s December release, Oliver Stone ain't heard nothing yet.

— Michael Rechtshaffen

