

# Jack Ruby's Brother Says Film

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The movie "Ruby" is an inaccurate portrayal of the Dallas nightclub owner who killed accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby's brother said this week.

"There are so many stories and incidents that relate to him that are absolutely outright lies," Earl Ruby said in a telephone interview from his Detroit-area home.

"It makes out my brother to be a hit man for organized crime," Ruby said. "Jack was never a part of organized crime."

The House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded in 1979 that Jack Ruby had contact with criminals and underworld figures but was not a participant in "organized criminal activity."

## Plotted Against Castro

The film, which opens today, paints Jack Ruby as a Mafia hit man who ran drugs and killed an underworld crime figure in Cuba, was a police informant and had ties to the FBI and CIA. Under Mafia orders, Ruby plotted an assassination attempt on Fidel Castro, then watched in horror as the hit was switched from the Cuban revolutionary to President Kennedy, the movie contends.

"My sister Eva . . . is distraught completely. Her health has deteriorated because of this and the 'JFK' movie also," Ruby said.

Ruby, who saw the film Tuesday, is contemplating legal action against the film's producers, who he said never contacted him or other family members.

The movie implies that Oswald was on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository on Nov. 22, 1963, but didn't fire the fatal shots. Instead, the movie suggests he stood next to a rifleman who fired at the presidential motorcade, as did shooters at other points in Dealey Plaza.

The "triangulated fire" theory is similar to one in "JFK," which contends that Kennedy was the victim of a plot by elements of organized crime, intelligence agencies and the military.

Stephen Davis, the British playwright who spent two years researching Ruby and the Kennedy assassination before writing the "Ruby" screenplay, said Earl Ruby's objections are beside the point.

"I'm not trying to write a non-fiction biography for the Ruby

family of their brother. I would like to think their brother became public property the day he shot Oswald," he said in a telephone interview from his Hollywood office.

## Imagination Exercised

Davis said he combined research, interviews and "the rights of dramatists to exercise their imaginations" in creating the movie.

"I'm certainly not a journalist here trying to sign off on the final conspiracy theory," he said.

## Has 'Lies'

Instead, Davis said, he used the Ruby character as a prism to view the assassination and the chaos it spawned.

"I chose Ruby to be my vehicle through this landscape, and I hope I treated him honorably, the way a writer treats a character honestly."

Jack Ruby was convicted of murdering Oswald and sentenced to death in 1964. The conviction was overturned and he died in 1967 of cancer while awaiting a second trial. He was 55.