

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Gunning to play role of Jack Ruby



"It's one of the greatest roles I have ever seen," Danny Aiello began saying about his decision to play Jack Ruby in

Propaganda Films' "Ruby," which starts shooting in Los Angeles Thursday. "He is a very complex character."

Ruby, a shadowy Dallas nightclub owner with mob connections, became famous when he shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, who only two days earlier had assassinated President John F. Kennedy.

In a brief moment, Ruby penetrated police lines while Oswald was being transferred from a Dallas police station to the county jail and shot Kennedy's killer in the abdomen. It was seen on live television on that day, Nov. 24, 1963.

Ruby, who ran a Dallas strip-tease parlor, the Carousel Club, expected to become an instant hero. He never was, and he was convicted of the killing. Over the years, there have been allegations that Ruby killed Oswald to silence Kennedy's assassin. Ruby, according to government investigations of the Kennedy slaying, had been in contact with mobsters all across the country in the days prior to and following Kennedy's assassination.

"Ruby," which will be filmed in Pasadena and Dallas, is the second film this year that will touch upon the Kennedy assassination.

Oscar-winning director **Oliver Stone** is on location in New Orleans, where he is filming, "JFK," starring **Kevin Costner**.

"Jack Ruby is a historical character, and I care for him," Aiello said. "He parallels my life. He was a street kid, and I was a street kid."

Aiello doesn't pull any punches when asked about "Hudson Hawk," in which he co-stars with **Bruce Willis**. The only positive note in this cinematic bomb is the chemistry between Willis and Aiello.

"It's too bad this didn't carry through for the rest of the film," Aiello said. "It might have been a success. I am sad about what happened. There was tremendous pressure on Bruce. He's very talented and he was willing to take a chance."

If there is one man who made a difference in Aiello's career it is **Woody Allen**, who gave him his first role in a film, "The Front" (which, ironically, Allen neither wrote nor directed). Then came others, including "The Purple Rose of Cairo" and "Radio Days."

"As much as any human being could, Woody made it possible for me," said Aiello.

After "Ruby," Aiello will star in "The Pickle" for director **Paul Mazursky**. It is the story of an expatriot "Jewish American filmmaker who goes to France," said Aiello, and who struggles for his



Danny Aiello
Ready to shoot

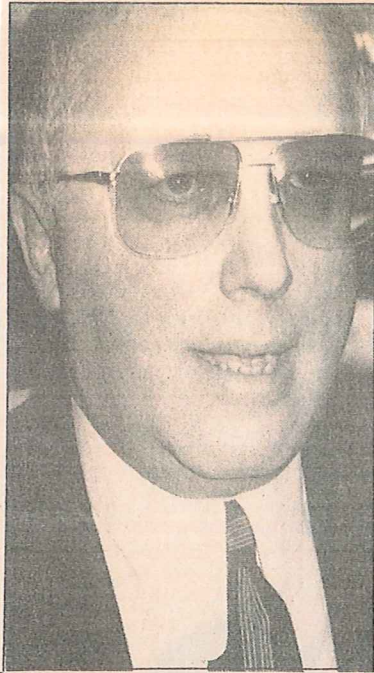
art, only to find success when he is forced to make a commercial film to survive.

Chip shots

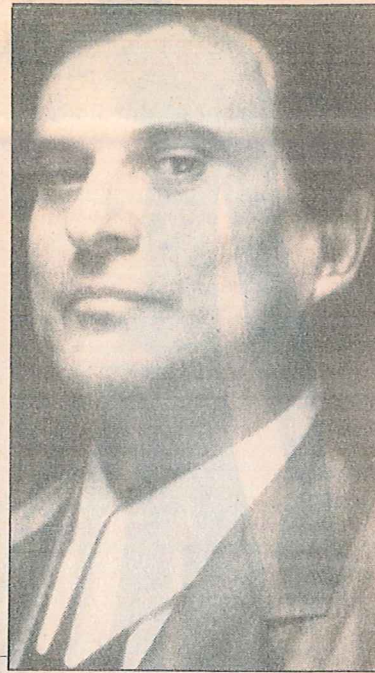
Jane Seymour, who usually takes her children with her on location, made a lucky decision not to take them during the filming of **Sidney Sheldon's** miniseries, "Memories of Midnight" in Zagreb. Yugoslavia is being hit by anti-Communist protests, but Seymour is telling friends in Hollywood that she sees no violence, only celebrations for the end of communism. . . .

Fashion plate

When Hollywood Freeway bumped into **Sonny Girard**, the former Mafia wise guy turned novelist at a party for his first no-



Sonny Girard
Rounded wise-guy collar



Joe Pesci
Pointed wise-guy collar

vel, "Blood of Our Fathers," we couldn't help noticing the especially long collar on his white-on-white shirt. It was the same style collar sported by the wise guys in the film "GoodFellas." The suit, as the saying goes, doesn't make the man, but, in the case of these long-collared shirts, the shirts indeed make the man, Girard explained.

"They are wise-guy collars," Girard said. "It's a tradition for guys in the mob. A guy on the street sees another guy on the street and they immediately know who they are. I went into a shop on Madison to buy some clothes and the owner says to me, 'You know, where I grew up only a certain kind of guy wore those col-

lars.' 'Well,' I told him, 'I am one of those guys.'"

Rounded, as Girard's are, or pointed, as the ones worn in "GoodFellas," these extra-long collars are not found in the local department store. They are custom tailored. In his youth, a pal of Girard's told him that he should get some of these shirts. But Girard told his crony that he had no money for them. Not to worry, the buddy said, and the two went off and ordered a bunch of shirts.

"We burglarized the place and we took everyone's shirts. When we got back home, we gave them away free. We were heroes in the neighborhood."

And dapper wise guys.