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 HOLLYWOOD 10/13 HC 1
 ADV FOR AMS TUES OCT. 17
 BY VERNON SCOTT
 UPI HOLLYWOOD CORRESPONDENT
 HOLLYWOOD (UPI)--~~TONY~~ BILL, A HANDSOME NOTRE DAME GRADUATE AND
 ONETIME SINATRA PROTEGE, PUT HIS FUTURE ON THE LINE EARLIER THIS
 YEAR TO PORTRAY LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THE MAN WHO ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT
 KENNEDY.
 ENGLAND'S BBC CAME UP WITH A SCRIPT TITLED "LEE HARVEY OSWALD,
 ASSASSIN," A TWO-HOUR TAPED AND FILMED SPECIAL.
 ALL THE TELEVISION PEOPLE NEEDED WAS AN AMERICAN ACTOR TO
 PLAY THE TITLE ROLE, A TOUCHY PROBLEM.
 THEY APPROACHED TONY WHO GAVE IT SOME THOUGHT. FRIENDS ARGUED
 THAT IT WOULD HURT HIS CAREER, PERHAPS BEYOND REPAIR IN THIS COUNTRY.
 BUT THE SLENDER YOUNG MAN DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH IT.
 "IF AN ACTOR PLAYS A GOOD PART IN A GOOD SHOW I CAN'T SEE HOW
 IT CAN HURT HIM," TONY REFLECTED THE OTHER DAY ON THE SET OF "ICE
 STATION ZEBRA" AT MGM.
 "BEFORE DOING THE SHOW I READ ALMOST EVERYTHING I COULD ON
 OSWALD. WHEN IT CAME TIME TO PLAY THE PART I ASSUMED OSWALD WAD A
 FICTIONAL CHARACTER SO I COULD FE
 "BEFORE DOING THE SHOW I READ ALMOST EVERYTHING I COULD ON
 OSWALD. WHEN IT CAME TIME TO PLAY THE PART I ASSUMED OSWALD WAS A
 FICTIONAL CHARACTER SO I COULD FEEL FREE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF WHAT
 I KNEW ABOUT HIM.
 "ACTUALLY, HE WAS AN ORDINARY HUMAN BEING DURING MOST OF HIS LIFE.
 HE MARRIED, HAD CHILDREN, HELD JOBS. HE WASN'T RUNNING AROUND
 FROTHING AT THE MOUTH.
 "PEOPLE TEND TO OVERLOOK THE FACT HE WAS MADE OF FLESH AND
 BLOOD LIKE EVERYONE ELSE UNTIL THAT FATAL DAY IN DALLAS."
 ACCORDING TO TONY THE SHOW WAS WELL RECEIVED IN BRITAIN. IT
 HAS ALSO BEEN SHOW WITH SUCCESS IN FRAN

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ACCORDING TO TONY THE SHOW WAS WELL RECEIVED IN BRITAIN. IT HAS ALSO BEEN SHOWN WITH SUCCESS IN FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA, HE SAID.

"WHEN I ACCEPTED THE PART I FULLY EXPECTED THE SHOW WOULD BE SEEN ON AMERICAN TELEVISION," HE ADDED. "AND I WAS WILLING TO TAKE MY CHANCES WITH AMERICAN VIEWERS."

"NOW I KNOW IT PROBABLY WILL NEVER BE SEEN IN THIS COUNTRY FOR LEGAL REASONS. THERE WOULD BE DOZENS OF LAW SUITS INVOLVED. ANYWAY, I DON'T KNOW IF A NETWORK COULD FIND A SPONSOR FOR IT."

TONY BILL RESEMBLES OSWALD NOT AT ALL. HE'S TALL, SLENDER, CLEAN-CUT AND A SUCCESSFUL WORKING ACTOR.

"THE BBC WANTED AUTHENTICITY, NOT CONTROVERSY," TONY SAID.

"MOST OF THE SHOW HAD A DOCUMENTARY FLAVOR, AND I PLAYED THE ASSASSINATION SCENE FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW. I ADMIT IT WAS KIND OF CREEPY BECAUSE OF THE REALISM."

"BUT I FOUND REDEEMING CHARACTERISTICS IN OSWALD JUST AS THERE ARE IN ALL PEOPLE. RIGHT OR WRONG HE WAS A COMPLEX PERSON."

"EACH OF US PROBABLY KNOWS TWO OR THREE PERSONS CAPABLE OF IT. SUCH DORMANT QUALITIES EXIST

"EACH OF US PROBABLY KNOWS TWO OR THREE PERSONS CAPABLE OF A TERRIBLE CRIME. I MEAN IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE US, ON SECOND SIGHT AFTER THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED, THAT THE PERSON WAS CAPABLE OF IT. SUCH DORMANT QUALITIES EXIST IN THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS."

"I DON'T THINK OSWALD WAS INHUMAN, AND THAT IS WHY I DECIDED TO PLAY HIM DESPITE THE HORRIBLE THING HE DID."

BIT PARTS: BEAU BRIDGES, LLOYD BRIDGES' SPROUT, HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE CAST OF "FOR LOVE OF IVY," STARRING SIDNEY POITIER...SINGER PETULA CLARK WILL STAR IN HER OWN MUSICAL SPECIAL FOR NBC-TV NEXT APRIL...MADRID, SPAIN, IS HOLDING A ROBERT MITCHUM FILM FESTIVAL WITH NINE RECENT MITCHUM PICTURES...

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