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Bonham Carter Tells

Actress' new direction as JFK assassin's wife

BY IVOR DAVIS

THIS is not another story about the JFK assassination. This is a love story and a story about the mother of two young daughters who became a pariah — one of the most hated women in the world — because her husband was named as the man who killed John Kennedy."

British actress Helena Bonham Carter is sitting on a park bench in downtown Dallas. She is barely recognizable as the beautiful English rose from films such as "Hamlet" (1990) and "Howards End" (1992).

A cheap print scarf covers her

"Fatal Deception" airs at 9 p.m. tomorrow on Channels 4, 3 and 8.

blond wig. Her tiny frame is encased in a formless brown check dress. She is in Texas to star in the made-for-TV movie "Fatal Deception: Mrs. Lee Harvey Oswald," which will air tomorrow on NBC.

It is being filmed in the same working-class neighborhood where Marina Oswald and her husband lived, literally a stone's throw from Dealey Plaza, where Kennedy was shot 30 years ago this month.

The scene she is filming is a heart-rending one: The new widow is dragging her young baby and her 2-year-old daughter from house to house, desperately looking for a room to rent. She keeps getting turned away.

Carter, 27, is the great-granddaughter of Lord Herbert As-

Oswald Story



**Helena
Bonham
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Oswald: The
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quith, a former British Liberal Party prime minister.

With her pedigree, she seems an unlikely choice for the role of the Russian-born, fish-out-of-water alien widow of the man who

cut short Kennedy's life on Nov. 22, 1963.

For the actress with the "period" face and the upper-class accent — which have brought her international stardom in a series

of "Masterpiece Theater"-type films — this role represents both a career leap and a considerable gamble.

Bernard Sofronski, one of the executive producers of "Fatal Deception," says what inspired him to pursue the story was seeing a photograph five years ago of Marina hanging wash on a line.

"I could not identify, being a father myself, with what it would be like to be the wife or the daughter of an assassin of the president of the United States. I wanted to know what that was like — and what happened."

In the flood of Kennedy films and documentaries that have been made up until now, Marina definitely has been a walk-on part. She gets only passing mention in Frontline's documentary "Who Was Lee Harvey Oswald?" (which will air at 9 p.m. Tuesday on Channel 9). In "Fatal Deception," which co-stars Frank Whaley as Oswald, Marina is up front.

"It's a story about a woman trying to find herself, trying to deal with the guilt and trying to stay alive," Carter says. "And that story has not been told. On Nov.