

**HAVE****HOLLYWOOD FREEWAY**

FRANK SWERTLOW

**Stone previews his version of the truth**

Reporting deals with facts, but facts don't always tell the whole story. Sometimes poets, philosophers and even filmmakers are better equipped to get at the truth.

Tuesday night, at a celebrity-packed screening in Westwood, director **Oliver Stone** displayed his version of the truth about the assassination of President Kennedy.

Most in attendance accepted Stone's contention that the Warren Commission did not reveal the truth about the 1963 shooting of Kennedy in Dallas. This reaction was a marked contrast to recent published criticisms, including this week's Newsweek cover story — "The Twisted Truth of 'JFK,'" — and New York Times columnist **Tom Wicker's** attack Sunday on Stone's fact-gathering.

"This is the most important film of the year," **Sean Penn** said at the post-screening party atop a nearby parking structure. "It is the most important film of the decade."

**Donald Sutherland**, who plays Colonel X, a dirty-tricks operative who explains the military-industrial complex theory in the film, arrived with his son **Kiefer**. "This was a wonderful job (by Stone)," said the elder Sutherland, who years ago had commissioned a script on **Mark Lane's** critical re-

examination of the Warren Commission.

Actor-director **Mario Van Peebles** said: "This film is the reason why I got into the business — to make people think. . . . This is not a movie about Ninja Turtles or some nerds. It made me think."

Stone was thinking about attacks against the film and the issues he has raised. "What's so dangerous?" he asked. "Why is everyone scared? You can walk away from this film. You don't have to accept my theories. But why try to repress this? Why try to destroy this?"

"It didn't change my mind," said **Steven Seagal**, the actor who has claimed that he was an intelligence operative in Southeast Asia.

"Oliver did a good job," he added. Seagal's next film for Warner Bros., "Dreadnought," is about naval intelligence.

**Jack Lemmon**, who has a minor role in the film, said the movie reaffirmed his views that the Warren Commission didn't reveal the truth about the assassination.

"If it makes people think, terrific, instead of accepting. It's not important to buy Oliver's point of view. Anybody with any brains in his head can't believe the findings of the Warren Commission. The Warren Commission is a lie."

Lemmon noted that his film "Missing" drew strong government reaction after it was made. It is the story of an American father whose son was killed in Chile and

## YOU HEARD?



Kevin Costner, left, is District Attorney Jim Garrison in "JFK." Donald Sutherland is Colonel X.

the subsequent investigation of the killing that was covered up and blocked by U.S. authorities.

"The government pooh-poohed it," Lemmon said. "The State Department denounced me and (director) Costa-Gavras, saying it was a pack of lies. The government insisted that it had nothing to do with the fall of (Chilean leader Salvador) Allende. We financed it. It came out we were lying through our teeth. I don't buy that Lee Harvey Oswald did it alone. It had to be a conspiracy. This was a hell of a film."

**Sissy Spacek**, who co-stars in "JFK" as the wife of New Orleans District Attorney **Jim Garrison** and co-starred in "Missing," said Stone changed her mind. "I was one of the many who believed that one person killed Kennedy. Now I think at least two people had to be involved."

**Michael Eisner**, chairman of the Walt Disney Co., called the performances — particularly those by Spacek, **Kevin Costner**, **Tommy Lee Jones** and **Gary Oldham** —

"outstanding, amazing."

Did he accept the message? "I am going to have to go home and let it seep in," he said.

Actor **Ned Beatty** said he thought the film "was a little preachy. I guess it is an important thing to talk about. But I think we had the answer to all this in the late '60s when the American public (dumped) LBJ. . . . It's not a bad piece of filmmaking, but it told me a lot of things I already knew and he preached an awful lot."

Costner said that his emotional summation to the jury as Garrison — a speech the real Garrison never made — was done in one take and that he actually cried, or as he told *Hollywood Freeway*, "My character did."

Action king **Joel Silver** couldn't stop praising the film, and Stone. "Awesome, very strong, very powerful; exciting. It makes you think," he said.

After Stone left, Silver called "JFK" the second-best Christmas-season movie he has seen. His fa-

vorite? "The Last Boy Scout," which, you may have guessed, he produced.

### Chip shots

Costner is still developing a film about **Michael Collins**, one of the founders of the Irish Republican Army. "We are working on the script," he said. . . .

**Hammer** will host ABC's "American Music Awards" Jan. 27 at the Shrine. . . .

**Burt Reynolds** tells "Entertainment Tonight" that he'll be directing an episode of "WKRP in Cincinnati" Friday in which his wife, **Loni Anderson** will drop by as her old character, **Jennifer Marlowe**, the role that made her a TV star. Why is Reynolds not relaxing during his "Evening Shade" hiatus? "Normally I would relish the time off. I could have just sat and ate and pork up or go out and spend a lot of money. So I might as well be working."

*Hollywood Freeway* appears Tuesday through Friday.