

The Video Monitor

'JFK': The 17 Lost Minutes

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Horde of Directors

Call it revisionist revisionism. This time last year, Oliver Stone's "JFK" occasioned a fresh look at decades' worth of conspiracy theories on the John F. Kennedy assassination that dominated bestseller lists, newsstands and multiplexes for months. Now we can get a fresh look at Stone's fresh look when Warner Home Video releases the "director's cut" of "JFK" next month.

Included in Stone's latest version of the story are 17 minutes of footage not included in the film's initial theatrical and home video releases. Billing the scenes depicted in the restored footage as "thought-provoking speculation," Warner has taken the unusual step of detailing several of the film's new sequences, which include dramatizations of such conspiracy-theory standbys as mysterious sightings (Lee Harvey Oswald with alleged conspirators David Ferrie and Clay Shaw; a "second Oswald" shopping for cars in Dallas at the time of the crime), attempted character assassination (an airport men's room setup designed to frame Jim Garrison as a homosexual) and information suppression (a popular late-night talk-show host rebuffing Garrison's attempt to show provocative evidence on the air).

"JFK: The Director's Cut" is due in stores on Inauguration Day priced at \$24.98. On the same day, Warner will also release "Beyond JFK: The Question of Conspiracy," a new 90-minute documentary by Danny Schechter and Barbara Kopple (the latter an Academy Award winner for "Harlan County, USA" and "American Dream"). In addition to interviews with a pair of grassy knoll witnesses, a woman who claims to have been LBJ's mistress, and Jim Garrison in his last known interview, "Beyond Conspiracy" also presents the clip from a 1969 Walter Cronkite interview of Lyndon Johnson in which the for-

mer president acknowledges the possibility of a conspiracy in JFK's death—a quote that Cronkite claims was excised from the broadcast at LBJ's behest. "Beyond Conspiracy" is priced at \$19.98; a three-tape gift set, with both the documentary and the two-tape "JFK," is priced at \$39.98.

The "director's cut" phenomenon—which allows Hollywood's top directors the occasional opportunity to revisit and fine-tune their films after the initial release—is one way the home video industry has sought to win the support of directors, who have tended to complain about video's penchant for shrinking, slicing and colorizing their images.

The folks at MGM/UA have come up with another way of honoring directors—at least those from overseas. Next month brings the second installment in MGM/UA's "International Directors Collection," which brings foreign-language films from some of the world's finest directors to the home video audience for the first time. Among the eight films making their video debuts next month are four from Ingmar Bergman (1969's "The Passion of Anna," 1966's "Persona" and 1968's "Hour of the Wolf" and "The Shama"), two from Francois Truffaut (1977's "The Man Who Loved Women" and 1978's "The Green Room"), as well as Diane Kurys's "Entre Nous" (1983) and Paolo and Vittorio Taviani's "Kaos" (1986). All are presented in their original languages with English subtitles, and are priced (with the exception of the \$29.98 double-cassette "Kaos") at \$19.98 each.

Di-Vision

The subject of no fewer than three recent best-selling books and countless current magazine cover stories is about to be served up as a double dose of home video as well. Diana, queen of the newsstands, is the focus of a pair of 50-minute home video profiles on their way next month.

"Diana: A Portrait" focuses on the private life and marital problems of the princess of Wales and includes an interview with biographer Andrew Morton, whose No. 1 blockbuster "Diana: Her True Story" is regarded as the definitive Diana book (this year at least). "Diana: A Model Princess" looks at the public Diana—the royal trips, state functions and official visits—as well as her life before she moved into the palace and the ensuing image transformation. Produced this year for British television and never before seen in the United States, the tapes come from Pacific Arts Video and are priced at \$14.95 each.