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HEADLINE: Oliver Stone's 'JFK' shown to be a sham

BYLINE: Gary Arnold; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BODY:

The movie press began this week indebted to George Lardner Jr. of The Washington Post. Contributing a story called "Dallas in Wonderland" to Sunday's opinion section, Mr. Lardner became the first knowledgeable reporter to heave a monkey wrench into the machinery of historical fiction that Oliver Stone aspires to create with JFK, his all-star glorification of the misbegotten Jim Garrison "investigation" into the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

To the inconvenience of the Stone apparatus, Mr. Lardner was around to report on the real-life legal fiasco that resulted when Mr. Garrison, then district attorney of New Orleans, attempted to make an ill-conceived conspiracy case stick in 1967. In all likelihood, publicity for "JFK" will be Press Alt-H for Help or Alt-Q to Quit.

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predicated on trying to obscure the fact that Mr. Lardner and other informed reporters are still in a position to point out that Mr. Garrison's investigation was a fraud.

Although he was denied a personal audience with the director, Mr. Lardner drew some skeptical conclusions from a perusal of the screenplay. "Since this is Oliver Stone," he wrote, "the 'why' of the assassination should come as no surprise. It's Vietnam, of course."

Kevin Costner, who will place his Oscar-winning prestige in serious jeopardy by playing Mr. Garrison, gets to condemn a "coup d'etat" and trace it "all the way up to and including J. Edgar Hoover and Lyndon Johnson" as

"accomplices after the fact."

Still in production in Dallas under the auspices of Warner Bros., "JFK" includes such unwary co-stars as John Candy, Joe Pesci, Sissy Spacek, Kevin Bacon, Gary Oldman, Tommy Lee Jones, Sally Kirkland, Laurie Metcalf and John Larroquette.

The British movie retrospective at the Library of Congress' Mary Pickford Theater will highlight the work of Noel Coward and David Lean for the next two Press Alt-H for Help or Alt-Q to Quit.

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days. Their association began in 1942 with the stalwart naval saga In Which We Serve, scheduled for the Pickford at 5 p.m. today. Coward and Lean were

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reunited on *Blithe Spirit*, shown last week at the AMC Union Station, and then *This Happy Breed* and *Brief Encounter*, which will be revived tomorrow at the Pickford at 5 and 7, respectively.

A rare showing of *Cavalcade*, a 1933 Oscar-winner derived from Coward's chronicle of several generations of an English family headed by Clive Brook and Diana Wynyard, is the Pickford attraction at 7 tonight.

Screenings are free. For reservations call 202/707-5677.

The American Film Institute Theater continues its showcase of independent, unreleased American features tonight at 6:30 with *Benny Carter: Symphony in Riffs*, a documentary portrait of the great jazz saxophonist.

Little Secrets, a comedy-drama about young women getting on each other's nerves at a 10th annual high-school reunion, gets its first local exposure at 8:30 p.m. Director Mark Sobel is expected to discuss his work with the audience.

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