

LEVEL 1 - 72 OF 115 STORIES

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SECTION: LIFE; Pg. 6D

LENGTH: 277 words

HEADLINE: Hollywood focuses on JFK killing

BYLINE: Susan Spillman

DATELINE: LOS ANGELES

BODY:

The 1963 assassination of President Kennedy is pivotal in the plots of four movies in development.

They are:

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- JFK, from The Doors director Oliver Stone. Beginning production next month, it stars Kevin Costner as New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison. The film focuses on Garrison's 1969 attempt to prove a CIA-FBI conspiracy behind the death. It's due from Warner Bros. by early 1992.

- Love Field, starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Dennis Haysbert. An interracial love story about a white woman, obsessed with the Kennedy family, who falls in love with a black man en route to JFK's funeral. Due from Orion Pictures later this year.

- Love Field, another project named after the Dallas Airport where Kennedy's body was transported, is in development at Propaganda Films. This is a fictionalized story about Jack Ruby's platonic relationship with a stripper and how the two possibly became enmeshed in the assassination. Danny Aiello is set to star as Ruby; John Mackenzie (The Fourth Protocol) will direct. Production is planned to begin by May; no release date is set.

- Libra, based on Don DeLillo's best seller and in development at A&M Films. This fictionalized account centers on the involvement of Fidel Castro and the CIA. Cast and a production start not set.

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Behind the Kennedy craze: "It's like the Vietnam War," says Lynn Weimer of Propaganda Films. "People didn't want to deal with it because it hurt too much, but now enough time has passed."

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Also, many filmmakers are "hitting our 40s, a reflective time," says Sarah Pillsbury, producer of Orion's Love Field. "This was a big turning point in the history of our country."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO; b/w

CUTLINE: COSTNER: He'll investigate the assassination in ' JFK. '

TYPE: Show

SUBJECT: CELEBRITY; MOTION PICTURE; PRESIDENCY; DEATH

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