

Hollywood focuses on JFK killing

By Susan Spillman
USA TODAY

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

They are:

► *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.



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

► *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.

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."

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."

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FILM NEWS & NOTES

YARDENA ARAR

JFK assassination hot topic in movies



Oliver Stone's next film, "JFK," isn't the only project relating to the assassination of the 35th president.

Three others are either in development or already filmed, the entertainment industry information service Baseline reports.

The two in development both relate to various conspiracy theories about the assassination. "Libra," being produced by Lianne Halfon and Dale Pollock for A&M Films, deals with the involvement of Fidel Castro and the CIA. Financing is being sought to produce Alexandra Seros' adaptation of Don DeLillo's best-seller.

"Love Field," in development at Propaganda Films (the folks who brought you "Twin Peaks" and "Wild at Heart"), is a fictionalized account about Jack Ruby, the Dallas saloon owner who killed Lee Harvey Oswald, and his possible involvement in the Kennedy killing. Propaganda spokesman Larry Winokur could not confirm Baseline's report that John MacKenzie, whose credits include "The Fourth Protocol" and "The Long Good Friday," is set to direct.

However Propaganda may decide to pick another name since another film called "Love Field" — the Dallas airfield where Kennedy's body was transferred to Air Force One for transport to Washington, D.C. — is already in the

can and scheduled for a fall release by Orion Pictures.

Orion's "Love Field" relates only peripherally to the assassination. Michelle Pfeiffer stars as a Southern woman who, while on her way to Kennedy's funeral, falls in love with a black man from the North who is on the run after rescuing his abused daughter. Dennis Haysbert co-stars, and the director is Jonathan Kaplan, who guided Jodie Foster to an Oscar in "The Accused."

Stone's "JFK" will star Kevin Costner as Jim Garrison, the former New Orleans district attorney whose efforts to prove that the CIA and the FBI conspirators have Kennedy murdered were squelched by the Warren Commission.

Filming is to begin in Dallas on April 15; Stone is negotiating for permission to film at the book depository where Oswald supposedly fired the fatal shots. Warner Bros. has world-wide distribution rights.