

Kennedy specials: A window in time

By Brian Donlon 11/17/88
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NEW YORK — "A tremendous hit to the heart and gut."

With tears welling in his eyes, CBS anchor Dan Rather offers this description of the effect the assassination of President John F. Kennedy had on the USA.

The images that kept viewers riveted to TV sets 25 years ago are repeated at 9 tonight on CBS' two-hour special, *Four Days in November: The Assassination of President Kennedy*.

Anchored by Rather, who was the first reporter to con-

firm Kennedy's death, the special is a retrospective.

CBS and cable's Arts & Entertainment network — which will air NBC's actual coverage of the assassination on Nov. 22 — provide a window on a time that was a turning point for the USA and the TV industry.

"I think it was these four days that was the beginning of the television age," says Rather. "It was at this moment that people understood what TV meant to society and what it was going to mean to society."

These programs are among several on tap this month — the 25th anniversary of Kenne-

dy's death:

▶ *The CBS Evening News* and *CBS This Morning* continue their respective eight- and seven-part series.

▶ *JFK — A Time Remembered*, PBS, 9 p.m. Monday (times may vary).

▶ ABC's *Good Morning America* devotes a half-hour Monday.

▶ NBC's *Today* devotes all two hours on Tuesday.

▶ *JFK: That Day in November*, NBC, Tuesday, 10 p.m.

▶ *The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald*, syndicated, Tuesday and Wednesday.

▶ *The Day the Nation Cried*,

syndicated, through Nov. 27.

Five videotapes on Kennedy also are available. As rentals, the tapes "are not doing that well," says Ron Castell, vice president of Erol's, the USA's largest video store chain.

Erol's is stocking 90 copies of *Four Days in November* but only one copy has been rented in the last 30 days. Sales, however, are another matter.

John F. Kennedy: The Commemorative Video Album (\$19.95) has already sold 420 copies and the industry buzz is that the just released *Life In Camelot* will be a big seller. Erol's has ordered 500 copies.