



Oswald, the troubled child

TV review

'Who Was Oswald?'

By Laurence Vittes

There is no way the three-hour BBBC documentary "Who Was Lee Harvey Oswald?" about the life of JFK's assassin can fail to attract and hold a large audience. The questions that remain concerning Oswald's enigmatic personality, the riddles surrounding the shooting itself, how many gunmen participated and whether a conspiracy existed have never been adequately resolved for many people.

When the documentary is not only well done, but is based on an exhaustive re-examination of available evidence yielding exciting new finds the only limit on the excitement it can generate lies in its method and how interested the American public remains in the subject.

Based on a rough cut, the enter-
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'Oswald'

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tainment value will be greatest to those who savor the methodical method of a sober true-crime approach. After a terse, grippingly paced prologue, the three hours stretch into the night under Will Lyman's flat narration, combining photographs and film clips of Oswald plus riveting contemporary newsreels of the tragedy itself, shots of the places in Oswald's life and interviews with a wide variety of experts and authorities including authors, politicians and several of the Texas lawmen who accompanied Oswald during his last days, providing more information about the assassin than most people will ever want to know.

Viewers who stay tuned for the three hours will be rewarded by the last 15-minute segment (subject to revision in the final cut) in which the accumulated evidence is summarized in a sequence so horrible that midnight may seem a relief.

Hard to believe Oswald was only 24. Hard to believe the event is now 30 years in the nation's past.