

Film Clips

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Apparently, the Zucker project was news to Stone too. Sources say Jerry Zucker recently received an angry phone call from the director after he heard about the attempts at a TV production. During later conversations with Stone's agent at Creative Artists Agency, Zucker reportedly suggested that the di-

rector talk to Stadiem about buying his script, but nothing came of it.

Stadiem believes that it was Stone's "brilliant stroke" of casting Kevin Costner in the role of Garrison that made his project viable. "Jim Garrison was considered crazy, a questionable character," Stadiem says. "But when you cast Costner in it, that gives him a dignity as a folk hero." (Except, of course, to vocal critics of Garrison, who have already begun their attacks on Stone's project, now in

production).

Is there any future for Stadiem's script? "You never know," says the screenwriter, adding that his account covers more time than Stone's. "There's still a story that hasn't been told. Maybe Garrison will become a folk hero. Maybe people will want more."

Ironically, Stadiem once suggested Costner for the part. But at that point, he wasn't considered a big-enough star.

—Nina J. Easton

BUT WAIT . . .

And if Real Life Isn't Good Enough

Speaking of J.F.K. projects, "Li-bra," based on the Don DeLillo novel of the same name, is getting a new lease on life. Dale Pollock, president of A&M Films, says actor John Malkovich—who has directed stage plays but not features—will direct an independently financed production early next year. No cast is set yet.

DeLillo's novel places Lee Harvey Oswald at the center of a conspiracy to assassinate J.F.K. by anti-Castro forces. The project, which had looked like it would end up at HBO, fell apart after Stone lined up Costner for "JFK" at Warner Bros. HBO is a Time Warner subsidiary. At the time, Pollock had accused Stone of putting "roadblocks in our way," and Stone had denied the charges.

—Nina J. Easton