

movies

by Craig J. Weincek

"JFK" is a profoundly disturbing movie. If only some of the controversial theories presented are true, the implications in terms of our nation's history and integrity are deeply troubling.

However, Oliver Stone—the movie's creator as director, producer and co-writer (with Zachary Sklar)—seems to have taken it upon himself to transcend history and go beyond what is proven, and even go beyond what is provable in a masterful attempt to reshape the mythology of a national tragedy.

For most viewers, the question of whether or not this particular film is well made is only partially relevant. The truth is that the picture is so expertly contrived, so cleverly written, so brilliantly edited and so consistently well acted by an impressive cast that many viewers, particularly members of younger generations who have no memory of the actual events, may indeed embrace "JFK" as gospel.

It must be remembered that "JFK" is Stone's vision of what very well may have happened.

The problem is that Stone, as reported in numerous articles and interviews, admits to the use of what some might call artistic license in his attempts to concoct a convincing argument that Kennedy was killed as part of a conspiracy. Rather than accept the questionable findings of the Warren Commission Report that states that Kennedy was the victim of a lone assassin, the enigmatic Lee Harvey Oswald (Gary Oldman), Stone takes three provocative hours to demonstrate that Kennedy was instead killed as part of an elaborate coup d'état perpetrated by unnamed forces representing the military-industrial complex.