

JFK: The assassination being explored through film, book

mystery, controversy still

By KAREN GARDNER
Assistant Entertainment Editor

There's a movie, a book, and a lot of talk about an event that happened nearly 30 years ago, but is still fresh in the minds of many of us, and fresh in the history books of those who don't remember.

That event, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, has stirred up the memories, the questions. Did Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, kill Kennedy?

The movie is "JFK." The book is "Plausible Denial," by Mark Lane, the author of "Rush to Judgment," a 1966 best seller that brought to public debate the Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald acted alone to kill Kennedy.

"All I said then was that the evidence showed that the conclusion of the Warren Commission was not soundly based," Mr. Lane said at a book signing at Waldenbooks in Francis Scott Key Mall Monday evening.

His new book gives details of a little-known trial five years ago. In that trial, he defended a magazine that carried a story linking several CIA officials with the Kennedy assassination. Oswald, he's convinced, never even pulled the trigger of the gun that killed Kennedy, much less engineered the President's assassination.

"The evidence proved the CIA killed Kennedy, and the jurors found for us," he said. "This was the first verdict ever on the question."
To get his evidence, he requested

Plausible Denial
Was the CIA Involved in the Assassination of JFK?
Bestselling Author of Rush to Judgment

"Plausible Denial" by Mark Lane and the movie "JFK" are drawing renewed interest in the 1963 Kennedy assassination.

CIA documents under the Freedom of Information Act. He reviewed tens of thousands of documents. The federal agencies involved were rarely willing to release them. In most cases, he sought and won court orders.

The 384-page book reviews these documents and his conclusions.

The book is already in its fifth printing, having sold out its first press run with almost no advance

publicity, and Mr. Lane makes no bones about why.

"I think (Oliver) Stone's film ("JFK") will help place this on the agenda," he said. Massive advance publicity of the movie "JFK" revived the debate in the public forum.

"He's liberal with the facts; nevertheless, it did get people talking about it." The early sales of his book show the interest, he added.

Mr. Lane's problems with the movie lie in the fictionalization of many events. "The truth was dramatic enough," he said. "They didn't have to fictionalize anything." The assassination is too much in question, and too fresh in people's minds, to present half-truths and fiction in a mass-market movie, he said.

Still, he added, the hard evidence is well presented.

Ida Vanaman, manager of the cinemas at Frederick Towne Mall, said the movie drew large crowds during the Christmas holiday season.

"It's a movie that opens your mind and makes you do a lot of thinking," she said.

A group of people from Gettysburg, Pa., stood outside the movie theater for quite a while after an evening showing and discussed it, she said.

"We're getting all kinds of feedback. It really affects people."

Many college students, who weren't even born when Kennedy was assassinated, are seeing the movie. Others who see the movie remember their questions at the

time, Ms. Vanaman said.

"It's all coming back," she said. "I remember I was loading the car to go to Wilmington, Del., for Thanksgiving."

A viewer at a recent showing, Paul Hubbard, said after seeing the film, "I thought it was a great movie." A Texan at the time of the shooting, he said he didn't think the reports were completely factual.

"I definitely think there was a conspiracy," he said.

Ron Ringle, another viewer, said, "It opens a gaping hole." Things might have been different if the assassination had happened today, he said. "With today's intellect and technology, more questions would have been asked."

He called it, "probably the most important movie I'll see in a long time."

Another viewer saw the movie as a personal experience. "I'd rather keep my thoughts to myself," he said.

At the book signing, people were crowding around Mr. Lane. Judith Siegel, a Frederick resident who does mass marketing and direct mail, offered her services for free to Mr. Lane.

"I think what you're doing is so important," she said, handing him her card. "I find it compelling probably because I lived through the assassination as a young mother. There were too many coincidences."

That's not an unusual reaction, Mr. Lane said. "I've never gotten

because Ladd was a very busy actor. He did many B films at first — things like "Come On, Leathernecks" and "Gangs of Chicago" — then was in some fine films in the '40s. You surely must remember "This Gun For Hire" or "The Glass Key" or "The Great Gatsby." And, don't forget, he had a small part in "Citizen Kane," too.

Q. I am requesting information on Glen Campbell, the country and western singer. Did he get his start with The Beatles? Or did he sing and play with other country bands first? Was he once married to June Carter Cash, and was she the mother of his children? — B.H., Vicksburg, Mo.

A. Campbell began with western bands, then went to Los Angeles, where he was a top studio musician for years. During that period in his career, he backed up such singers as Presley, Sinatra and The Beach Boys. His first wife, Billie Jean Nunley, was the mother of his four children.

Q. Is it true that Adam Rich, the little boy from "Eight Is Enough," is in serious trouble? — T.E., Rome, Ga.

A. Fairly serious. Rich, now 22, was arrested last April 6 in Van Nuys, Calif., for allegedly breaking into a pharmacy to obtain painkillers. He was also arrested last year for shoplifting and charged with stealing a drug-filled syringe from a hospital. He had previously been convicted of drunken driving.

(Send your questions to: Ask Dick Kleiner, c/o Newspaper Enterprise Association, 200 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10166. Due to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.)

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The Middletown High School Chamber Choir has also received high ratings at various adjudications and often performs at community events. In addition, the group has performed at Kings Dominion, Busch Gardens, and the Liberty Bell Festival in Philadelphia.

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown. To begin at 3 p.m., the program is open to the public.

Ms. McDonald will play a varied repertoire for the Mavin J. Hamilton Memorial Recital which is held annually to honor Mrs. William T. Hamilton Jr., the first president of

MSO concerts next weekend

Maestro Barry Tuckwell will conduct the Maryland Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 19, 3 p.m., at Hagerstown's Maryland Theater. Call the Maryland Symphony at 797-4000 for tickets.

Pianist Daniel Blumenthal is the featured soloist for the MSO's Jan. 18 and 19 concerts. He will play Liszt's "Dance of Death" and Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

JFK

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the mail I've gotten since mid-November," he said. "People walk up to me and give me material, and every question is, 'What can we do now?' It's just the most amazing thing."

What the movie and his book will do, Mr. Lane said, is reopen the case. "The next step is to get a special prosecutor," he said. He's convinced that will happen.

Morel and then play "Fantasia" by the 16th-century Spanish composer and (violinist) Alonso de Mudarra. Other selections will include "Variations on a Bavarian Folksong" by the Italian guitar virtuoso Mauro Giuliani (1781-1829), "Recuerdos de la Alhambra" by Francisco Tarrega, and "Chau Paris" by Astor Piazzola.

The musician has performed throughout the United States, South America and Europe, including at the Salzburg Summer Festival in Austria. She is a past president of the Houston Classic Guitar Society and serves on the board of directors for this group and formerly was on the board of the Houston Harpichord Society. Ms. McDonald is a member of the faculty at the High School for Performing and Visual Arts in Houston.

For further information on the concert or other events, call the museum at (301) 739-5727.

AUDITIONS

The Fredericktowne Players announce auditions for the next show of the 1991-1992 "Season of Paradoxes," the British "bedroom" farce "No Sex Please, We're British," by Marriott & Foot.

Director Kitty Barrow advises that 11 adult roles are required: four women ranging in age from mid-20s to the 60s; seven men ranging in age from early 20s and older. All characters must be able to perform with a good British accent or be willing to learn such an accent rapidly.

Those interested in the technical aspects of this show (lights, sound, set dressing, set construction, props, makeup, hair, costumes, etc.) should call Terry Warfield at 662-2662.

The auditions will be held at the FTP Studio, 13 E. Patrick St., Frederick. Audition dates are Friday, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 12, at 2 p.m.; and Monday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. For more information, call 694-6658.

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The movie "JFK" attracted large crowds at its local showing during the holiday season. It's still playing at the Frederick Towne Mall, being seen by those who remember their questions at

the time of the assassination, as well as students who weren't even born then.

Staff photo by Mark Crummelt