

GONE HOLLYWOOD

When is a movie more than a movie? Practically never!

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Americans are astir over the assassination of President John F. Kennedy again. This time it's a movie, "JFK," that is causing the ruckus.

Oliver Stone, the director, apparently thinks the Warren Commission Report was an elaborate cover-up for a conspiracy involving the CIA, the FBI, then Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Mafia, various and sundry Cubans and other assorted Machiavellians, known and unknown.

He combines about every conspiracy theory you have ever heard. It makes for a cracking good story, but it's Hollywood, not history.

Hollywood, which has never let facts stand in the way of a good story, is trying to preen as though creative speculation is as big a contribution to citizenship as investigative journalism. It is not.

Nor is it, as one actor who plays a bit part declares unctuously, "the most important American movie ever made."

It's just a movie. A pretty good one. Enjoy it for what it is, a far-fetched, harum-scarum tale well told by pretentious entertainers who apparently came late to these hoary old stories.

So relax. It's only entertainment. If you miss it, it'll soon be in your local video shop alongside those other historical gems starring Kevin Costner, "Dances with Wolves" and "Robin Hood."