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Stone Feels a Little Paranoid

NEW YORK—"Before he was killed, Bobby Kennedy said that if elected President, he would reopen the investigation into his brother's assassination," says Oliver Stone.

Is it a flash that the director's next movie will boast a chief protagonist who is a woman? I think so. It sure gave me a *frisson* of surprise when I lunched last week with the director of "JFK." He said he's abandoned the idea of doing the Harvey Milk story. "No, can't do another assassination right now," said Oliver.

He didn't want to tell me anything more about his next project, saying, "When I let anything out, it just causes other people to try to beat me to the draw and put the subject on television."

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Since "JFK" bowed in the midst of argument and controversy, Stone has often appeared in public looking beleaguered and acting slightly paranoid. But at our meeting he was almost serene. He said, "Of course I'm calm; I've always been calm. But it did get wearing to always have to deal with those for whom the Warren Commission findings don't even allow debate. If I am paranoid, I have reason to be. The script for 'JFK' was stolen during the filming—and portions of it, ideas and theories, were leaked. Conclusions were given away in advance: I have been compared to Hitler, Goebbels and Sen. Joseph McCarthy."

We talked about Stone's defense of his movie vision. "Well, when 'Born on the Fourth of July' came out, I was convinced not to answer anybody back. This time, I decided I wasn't going to stand still and not respond. You know, I have had four letters in the New York Times. Each one was a struggle. The Times hasn't wanted to print any of my letters. Every single time, we had to threaten that we'd take an ad and print the letters before the Times would use them."

Oliver Stone is just back from Ireland, where he had a tremendous reception with "JFK." "It's still Kennedy country there. They went wild with motorcycles and crowds; it was the opening movie of the Dublin Film Festival. Now I am going to Japan and Korea.

"I am just hoping the movie will create real results and we'll get a re-investigation. Maybe it can happen."

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Bryan Adams will perform his mega-hit song "Everything I Do (I Do It for You)" on the March 30 Oscar telecast—the first time he's done it live on TV.

One more footnote: This song, the theme from "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" was the one most requested at weddings in 1991. And to think that just a couple of years ago, people were asking, "Whatever happened to Bryan Adams?"