

PEOPLE

MARILYN BECK and STACY JENEL SMITH

Aiello turns down 'J.F.K.' for 'Ruby'



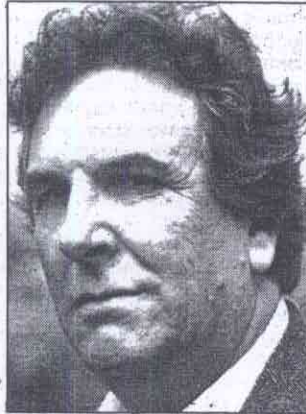
Danny Aiello has turned down Oliver Stone's invite to play an agent investigating the assassination of Jack Kennedy in "J.F.K." The role would take at least 10 weeks — and come June 6 he'll be busy playing Jack Ruby in the big-screen "Ruby."

The latter project, for Propaganda Films, with "Twin Peaks" co-star Sherilyn Fenn playing stripper Candy Barr, is set for shooting in Puerto Rico, Las Vegas, Los Angeles — and Dallas, where a painful chapter of that city's past is currently being re-taped for the "J.F.K." cameras, much to the consternation of some of the locals.

Aiello sees no competition between the two projects, and notes that Stone's movie (in which Kevin Costner stars) deals with the conspiracy-to-kill-Kennedy theory of former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. "Ruby" tells the story of the man who shot Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.

"Ruby was a very mysterious sort of individual," Aiello said. "He was a tough son of a gun, an ex-bouncer, a big fan of Kennedy's, said to be on the fringe of the mobsters — and, according to the script, was working with the FBI."

The actor who played Cher's fiance in "Moonstruck" and the pizza-shop owner in "Do the Right Thing" — and who will be profiled on "20/20" in late May — said he's been sent photos of Ruby to study. "The physical resemblance between us is amazing. He had less hair, but when I plaster mine down, the difference won't seem like anything. He was also shorter, but you'll never notice that on screen — they'll just put tall actors all around me."



Danny Aiello To play Oswald's killer

Tuttle's Rahe Photo

USA TODAY 5/23/91

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TYPE CAST: It's going to be like déjà vu all over again in Dallas when the former Texas School Depository building is again returned to its 1963 appearance to star in another movie about the JFK assassination. Oliver Stone's film crews are repainting the building in its 1991 colors and dismantling the 1963 facade built for the film, JFK, starring Kevin Costner. In August, Lava Films of Hollywood again will recreate the building's old look for its film, Ruby. "How many times can we repaint those windows before we have to strip them and start over?" County Commissioner Jim Jackson complained.