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HEADLINE: Kennedy film crew starts with purpose

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BODY:

DALLAS - Oliver Stone and his moviemakers began shooting his \$40 million movie about the assassination of President Kennedy here yesterday, and there seemed to be as many conspiracy theorists on hand as cameramen.

Throughout the sunny day the filmmakers shot several scenes - including a re-enactment of the tragic motorcade and the fatal shot. The gunshot had to Press Alt-H for Help or Alt-Q to Quit.

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be done several times because an assistant director kept saying there wasn't enough smoke.

Like, enough smoke from the shot that killed the president.

Smoke - not from the rifle of Lee Harvey Oswald in the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, but from the weapon of an unnamed shooter on the infamous "grassy knoll."

The smoke problem - like one assistant's red T-shirt that says "Who Killed Kennedy?" on the front in big white letters, and "Not LHO" on the back - speaks volumes about where this movie is headed.

Mr. Stone has paid for the rights to several conspiracy books and has several other like-minded "investigators" on his research payroll.

From early interviews, it seems clear Mr. Stone does not intend to identify who he thinks killed the president. But from other statements - and his embrace of former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who claims it certainly was not Oswald - it could get fuzzy.

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Mr. Stone is zealously guarding the script. Only those with speaking parts are allowed to study the dialogue, and then only their own parts.

Excitement rippled among the Stone employees. They proclaimed they had a

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purpose.

"We do," said one young woman who had an official "JFK Movie" badge and shot still pictures all day. "We might be able to get this whole thing [assassination investigation] opened up."

Such has been the attitude of most everyone here, from Mr. Stone to the lowest helper. They think they are in on something big - something nobody else in the past 28 years had noticed (except those who they claim covered everything up).

Mr. Stone himself told The Dallas Morning News last week he hoped the film would reopen the case.

"I think it would be great if it reopened the case," he said, "but I doubt that would happen because so much of the evidence has been destroyed, so many witnesses are dead."

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A crowd of more than 200 watched intently from behind barricades half a block away as they filmed the crowd reaction and the motorcade several times.

It looked like 1963 all over again.

Camelot Productions, Mr. Stone's outfit, refurbished many 1962 and 1963 automobiles, right down to the exact colors. The filmmakers expertly charted the positioning of the Dallas policemen and the major part of the motorcade.

The back seats of the car which will eventually carry those who play the Kennedys and Nellie and John Connally, were empty yesterday. Later, the horror of the final seconds of the Nov. 22, 1963, attack will be handled separately - and minutely, the workmen claim.

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