

Film: 'Second Gun,' Documentary on Killing of Robert Kennedy

Some seeds of doubt that Sirhan B. Sirhan was the sole assassin of Robert F. Kennedy that terrible day in 1968 have been developed into an arbor of testimony, allegations and accusations in "The Second Gun," which opened on Sunday at the Trans-Lux East. And, if Theodore Charach and Gerard Alcan, producers of this feature-length compilation of color and black-and-white interviews, re-enactments, newsreels and photographs, are not conclusive in their contentions, their insistent presentation does accentuate those doubts.

The Program
 THE SECOND GUN, a documentary adapted and directed by Gerard Alcan, based on the investigation by Theodore Charach; produced and edited by Mr. Alcan; music, Travis E. Pike; produced by Mr. Charach and Mr. Alcan; released by National General Pictures, 110 Avenue of the Americas, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th minutes. This film has not been classified.

gun directly at Mr. Kennedy, facing him. But the bulk of their material strongly suggests that a second gunman behind the Senator fired the bullet that actually killed him.

While the slayer is not named, an array of witnesses and researchers contribute to their implication that justice still needs to be done. Thane Cesar, a private security guard behind Mr. Kennedy, admits drawing his gun, for example. And William W. Harper, a ballistics expert, and Dr. Thomas F. Noguchi, the coroner, among others,

indicate that not one but two guns were involved.

In addition, the Los Angeles police, its ballistics man and legal and Federal agents who participated in the investigations leading to the ultimate conviction of Sirhan are criticized for, among other matters, alleged irregularities in testimony and suppression of evidence. But it must be noted that some members of the participating establishment are permitted to state countervailing views too.

"The Second Gun" evolves as serious and generally low-keyed pleading for further investigation and fuller explanations of the tragedy. But it gives the effect of sifting through a lengthy, diffuse, often static trial that tends to confuse, rather than prove, the case argued by the obviously dedicated producers. A viewer is still left

with the feeling that the alleged evidence here is not nearly enough proof beyond a reasonable doubt that justice was blind.

A. H. WEILLER
 "Day for Night" also

opened Sunday at the Arts Theater, 58th Street between Park and Avenues. A r Sept. 29 ing p