



COMING
NOVEMBER 3
2013

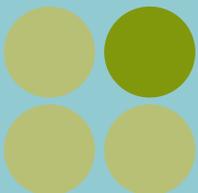


JFK | THE SMOKING GUN

JFK: The Smoking Gun is a docudrama based on the work of veteran police detective Colin McLaren who spent four years on the forensic cold case investigation of JFK's assassination. What he had, and other investigators did not, was modern technology and access to all the evidence, facts and eye-witness testimony. He managed to solve a crime that is every bit as shocking and incredible today as it was when it happened 50 years ago. McLaren believes he has found the "smoking gun" that killed JFK. McLaren's findings are a far cry from the fanciful conspiracy theories that surround the world's most famous assassination. His case is methodically constructed from simple logic and available evidence using time-tested investigative techniques to solve the crime including key archival photographic evidence, medical reports and bullet science. McLaren also built on the research done by ballistics expert Howard Donahue, who spent 20 years studying the JFK assassination using evidence available at the time. Donahue's work is detailed in Bonar Menninger's book *Mortal Error: The Shot That Killed JFK*—a key source of information which McLaren relied upon.

This two hour special with dramatic recreations takes audiences back to that tragic day in Dallas at Dealey Plaza where the shooting took place, to Parkland Hospital where the President was pronounced dead, to the Bethesda Naval Hospital where the autopsy was conducted and to the witness testimonies and proceedings at the Warren Commission that have remained controversial to this day. Ballistic experiments, CGI and 3D animation are also used to enhance the viewers' understanding and experience.

The docudrama is a Canada-Australia co-production and is produced by Muse Entertainment (*The Kennedys*) and Cordell/Jigsaw/Zapruder (*Go Back Where You Came From*) for Discovery Canada, SBS Australia and REELZChannel in the U.S. It is written by Steve Lucas (*Exhibit A: Secrets of Forensic Science*), directed by Malcolm McDonald (*The Extraordinary Tale of William Buckley*) and produced by Jesse Prupas (*March to the Top*) and Michael Cordell (*Anatomy of a Massacre*). Executive Producers are Michael Prupas (*The Kennedys*) and Simon Egan (*The King's Speech*). ❖❖



A circular portrait of Colin McLaren, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a light blue checkered shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a brick building and an American flag.

Colin McLaren is a retired police detective who served in Australia's most elite crime squads solving Australia's most horrendous crimes of the 1980s and 1990s. Part of the 14,000 strong Victoria Police department, he investigated, charged and jailed many underworld figures during those 20 years. He served on four nationally important task forces into homicides and organized crime—the longest of any serving detective sergeant or team leader of his time. He sent Australia's Mafia godfather to jail (and 10 others) by going undercover and leading the country's largest covert operation. McLaren's life and crime solving have inspired multiple documentaries, a movie and a TV series.

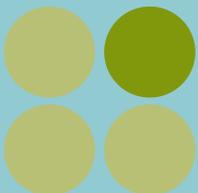
A small decorative icon consisting of four green circles arranged in a 2x2 grid.

COLIN McLAREN
Retired Police Detective
Author of *JFK: The Smoking Gun*

At the end of his police career, McLaren lectured police officers and newly qualified detectives at the prestigious Detective Training School within the Victoria Police Academy. His expertise was (and is) “crime scene principles & procedures.” Colin also wrote the course notes for *Field Investigations* for budding detectives, a crime scene management guide which is still in use today.

When he retired from the force he turned to writing crime novels and became a successful published author. His first book, *Infiltration*, is still the largest selling crime genre book in Australia of the past 10 years. His fifth book, *JFK: The Smoking Gun*, to be released in Fall 2013, is the inspiration for the *JFK: The Smoking Gun* documentary. McLaren's book is a cold case investigation – 50 years later - of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

As Colin states, “For a retired detective, the assassination of JFK is the Holy Grail of cold case crimes, the ultimate whodunit, which was aching for a thorough forensic analysis.” McLaren became hooked on JFK's killing after reading Bonar Menninger's *Mortal Error: The Shot That Killed JFK* in 1992 which detailed the work of a ballistics expert, Howard Donahue, who spent 20 years studying the evidence available at the time. Donahue concluded that while the actual assassin was Harvey Lee Oswald, there was a second gunman on the scene who fired the fatal bullet into Kennedy's head – and that the kill shot was an accident. There was never a conspiracy to kill Kennedy, Donahue determined, but there was a colossal cover-up.





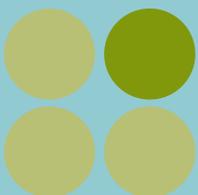
Mortal Error: The Shot That Killed JFK prompted McLaren to want to personally investigate the assassination, and finally in 2009 he fired up his computer and began reading. “It was a crazy notion, because I didn’t realize how vast the work would be. I thought it would take six months, it took four and a half years!” It took him one year just to read the 10,000 pages of documents from the Warren Commission, the FBI files, the Dallas Sheriff’s Department files, the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) and media reports. Then he read the material all over again and took notes, beginning his forensic analysis of “every word, almost 15 million words,” he says.

“A cold case study is a study of documents, each word, in context, and all testimony – but it’s like finding a needle in a haystack,” he declares. “It’s been 50 years since the crime happened in Dealey Plaza, Dallas. Since then, millions of cars have rolled over the road and as many tourists and pedestrians have walked the streets, forever changing the feel and look of the crime scene. It’s gone, even though it’s still there.

“But what isn’t gone is the testimony. What isn’t gone is the verbatim comments given by the witnesses who were there, who raised the Bible and gave sworn evidence, or who were grabbed by the police and signed up, or who were reported in the daily newspapers of the time. Testimony is invaluable, and that’s what you look for first and foremost in a cold case study. There’s an enormous wealth of information to pour through. I analyzed every statement, every affidavit, every page, and found the needles in my haystack: so many needles, ignored, until now.

“There were 556 Warren Commission witnesses and one dozen more un-heard witnesses that were ignored. Pouring through their stories was a massive task, but I pulled more than 30 needles from my haystack. The needles all started to stack up along each other, and become what we call corroborative, similar in fact. In the end, I had a critical mass – which pointed to a solid outcome that is very different to what the Warren Commission tried to sell a naïve public 50 years ago.

“It was totally different. And said out loud that absolutely there was a second shooter, and a second weapon involved. And two very different types of ammunition in play in that six seconds in history. The testimonies, the affidavits and statements from 50 years ago, are invaluable. They are the voices of old witnesses who have been (for many) heard for the first time or re-heard in context with so many like-minded witnesses. Good people, standing in the sun, hearing and seeing the most talked about tragedy in history,” McLaren says. “For a detective, the outcome is compelling!” ❄️

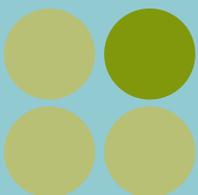




❖ **BONAR MENNINGER**

*Author of **Mortal Error: The Shot That Killed Kennedy***

Bonar Menninger is a native of Topeka, Kansas and author of *Mortal Error: The Shot That Killed Kennedy*, published by St. Martin's Press in 1992. He is also the author of *And Hell Followed With It: Life and Death in a Kansas Tornado*, published by Emerald Book Group in 2010. Menninger earned a degree in journalism from the University of Kansas. He has worked for a range of publications and organizations, both on staff and as a freelancer, since 1984. He's done investigative reporting for the Kansas City Business Journal and Washington D.C. Business Journal and also has covered general business and health for numerous online and print publications. Menninger lives in Kansas City with his wife and daughter. ❖





MICHAEL PRUPAS

Executive Producer of *JFK: The Smoking Gun*

Emmy Award®-nominated Michael Prupas is a 33-year veteran of the Canadian and international film and television industries. A former entertainment attorney and senior partner at the law firm Heenan Blaikie, Mr. Prupas launched Muse Entertainment Enterprises in June 1998 and Muse Distribution International in 2000. Muse Entertainment has become a major international production company, known around the world for its high-quality, award-winning television programs.

An expert in international co-productions, Mr. Prupas most recently executive produced *The Kennedys*, as well as *The Pillars of the Earth*, both 8-episode event television miniseries. He also executive produced *Ben Hur* and *The Phantom*, both event miniseries as well as the television movie *Cyberbully* and the TV series *Being Human* (Seasons I, II, III) and *Bomb Girls* (Seasons I, II).

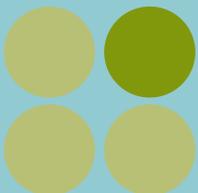
He executive produced the crime series *Durham County* (Seasons I, II, III), the television movies *Wild Girl*, *Unstable* and *The Night Before the Night Before Christmas*, as well as the documentary feature film *Rocksteady: The Roots of Reggae* and Muse Entertainment's first animated series for children, *The Mysteries of Alfred Hedgehog*.

Mr. Prupas' other television series credits include *Family Biz*, *Crusoe*, *This is Wonderland* (Seasons I, II, III), *Twice in a Lifetime* (Seasons I, II), *Largo Winch*, *Doc* (Season 1) and *Tales from the Neverending Story*.

His miniseries credits include *Impact*, *The Last Templar*, *The Flood*, *Killer Wave*, *Answered by Fire* and *Human Trafficking*.

His numerous other TV movie credits include *Reviving Ophelia*, *The Party Never Stops*, *House Next Door*, *Tipping Point*, *House Sitter*, *Proof of Lies*, *Murder in the Hamptons*, *Mind over Murder*, *Black Widower*, *Plain Truth*, *Ice Bound*, *The Clinic*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Sign of Four*, *The Royal Scandal*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *The Investigation*, *Chasing Cain II: Face and Silent Night*.

Mr. Prupas established the first entertainment law course at McGill University, which he taught from 1997-2002. He coached a minor league baseball team, served on the Board of Trustees of the Banff Television Festival and sits on the finance committee of the Association des producteurs de film et de télévision du Québec. 





JESSIE PRUPAS

Producer / Line Producer of *JFK: The Smoking Gun*

In the summer of 2011, Jesse Prupas was engaged by Fox 2000 Pictures as the Montreal Line Producer for the Ang Lee directed feature *Life of Pi*. When Ang Lee returned to Montreal for reshoots on *Life of Pi* in the summer of 2012, Jesse was once again retained by Fox to provide his line producing service to the production.

Jesse Prupas produced his first series in 2008, the live-action comedy *Family Biz*. In 2009 he produced Muse's first animated television project, a mystery series for six-nine year-olds entitled *The Mysteries of Alfred Hedgehog* and in 2010 he followed this animation project with a new action/adventure animated series called *Gawayn*. In 2011, Prupas produced the action/comedy series *Bullet in the Face*. This past year Prupas has started production on a new primetime animated series *Bounty Hunters* which stars Jeff Foxworthy, Larry the Cable Guy, Lisa Lampanelli, Bill Engvall, Samantha Bee and Jason Jones.

Prupas produced the highly-acclaimed TV movie *Cyberbully* in 2011 that explored the issues of online bullying and which won a Prism Award for its teen star Emily Osment. Prupas' previous TV movie experiences include the four TV movies he produced in 2007: *The Watch*, *Too Young To Marry*, *I Me Wed* and *Girl's Best Friend*; the three TV movies he produced in 2006: *Proof of Lies*, *House Sitter* and *Tipping Point*; and the first two TV movie he ever produced in 2005: *Mind Over Murder* and *Black Widower*.

Prupas is currently developing an app to accompany his animated series *Bounty Hunters* that will be deployed at the same time that the series is launched in 2013. In 2011 and 2012 he produced an interactive gaming app to accompany his animated series *Gawayn*, which was deployed on iTunes and Google Play in the fall of 2012. In 2010, Prupas produced two interactive gaming projects, *The Alfred Hedgehog Mystery Club* based on the animated series and *Race to Rome* an interactive chariot-racing game based on the miniseries *Ben Hur*.

Prupas is currently developing a new slate of dramatic and comedy series, kids and teen series, TV movies, miniseries and feature films for Canadian, US and international markets.

Jesse Prupas got his break in the industry in the late 90s as a writer on the animated series *Mona the Vampire* and as a unit department intern on the teen series *Student Bodies*. Prupas is a graduate of Columbia College at Columbia University in New York City; Ecole Science-Po at La Sorbonne in Paris, France; The United World College of the Atlantic in Cardiff, Wales; and Lower Canada College in Montreal, Canada. He is an avid computer gamer, swimmer, skier and yoga practitioner. 

