

LAWEEKLY®

DEC 19 - 25, 2025 | VOL. 48 | NO. 07 | LAWEEKLY.COM

Jonathan Nolan:

HOLLYWOOD IS TURNING A CORNER

BY ERIK GLODE AND MICHELE STUEVEN



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CULTURE

NEW REVELATIONS ON THE ROBERT F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION FROM AUTHOR MARK SHAW IN 'ABUSE OF POWER'

BY MICHELE STUEVEN



Robert F. Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel with wife Ethel at his side June 5, 1968.

DAVID HUME KENNERLY/GETTY IMAGES

In his explosive new book, *Abuse of Power*, former criminal defense attorney and TV network legal analyst **Mark Shaw** has unearthed new information he says confirms that Sirhan Sirhan was not accountable for the 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy.

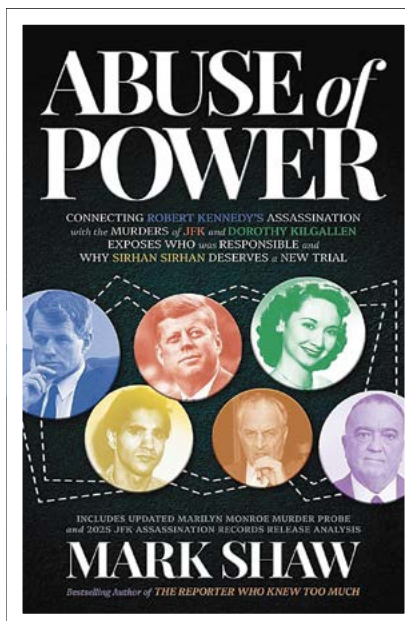
The bestselling author refutes Robert Kennedy Jr.'s theory that his father's murder was linked to the CIA, but based on new evidence he's uncovered, says the real mastermind and the one with the strongest motive to want RFK dead was New Orleans mafia don Carlos Marcello. Furthermore, the author suggests that Sirhan was recruited as a patsy to divert suspicions of Marcello's involvement.

The result: for nearly 60 years, Sirhan has languished in a prison cell because, Shaw believes, he was denied justice from the moment he was arrested. While a parole board granted him parole in 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom reversed the

decision in January 2022, citing that he still poses a threat to public safety.

"There are three true crime murder mysteries here that weren't really mysteries at all," Shaw tells *LA Weekly* in a phone call. "President John F. Kennedy, journalist Dorothy Kilgallen, and Robert Kennedy. It's the first time anybody has put those in context. You've got JFK in '63, Dorothy dying in '65, and Bobby Kennedy in '68. By doing so, you gain a different perspective on what happened, as they are all interconnected. Dorothy's death was kind of the lynchpin between the two Kennedys."

Based on Shaw's nearly 15 years of extensive research, the book exposes, for the first time, the connection between the assassinations of the Kennedy brothers and the mysterious death of the famous journalist and close Kennedy friend Dorothy Kilgallen, with Marcello as the culprit for each.



Book: "Abuse of Power" by Mark Shaw

Shaw goes on to say that the Louisiana mafia don used patsies to cover his complicity, a pattern that had never been revealed before. For Shaw, the key to this conclusion is an [FBI file transcript](#) of an audiotaped confession Marcello made to a fellow inmate at a Texas federal prison on December 15, 1985. While expressing his intense dislike of the former president, Marcello confided, “Yeah, I had the son of a bitch killed. I’m glad I did it. I’m sorry I couldn’t have done it myself.”

The book takes a detailed dive into the 24-year-old Sirhan’s life leading up to the assassination.

“I began by looking at Sirhan more than anything,” Shaw says. “I was able to find information about him, what he was doing at the time, and a year before the assassination. My aha moment was finding this videotaped interview with [John Shear](#), a paddock captain at Santa Anita racetrack, who hired Sirhan Sirhan when he came in looking for a job. This small man came in looking for work, and the only thing he had was for a hot walker, somebody who walks the horses after the race and pays \$200 a month. He said he’d take it. Shear said he got to know Sirhan Sirhan, who was easily manipulated. He was a hard worker and a very meek individual. He had some gambling debts. He wanted to be a jockey, but he was too big.

“Just before Bobby Kennedy was killed in 1968, Sirhan Sirhan happened to be across town at the Hollywood Park race track wearing a brand new suit and looking like he had come into money,” Shaw continues. “He had two, what were described by Shear as hom- bres or underworld characters, on each



Sirhan Sirhan is led away from the Ambassador Hotel after shooting Robert F. Kennedy.

BETTMANN/GETTY

side of him, guiding him along. That bothered him, because it didn’t seem like he was under his own power.”

On the day RFK was killed, Shear saw Sirhan’s mugshot on TV, asking if anyone knew him; they were still trying to figure out who he was. At the urging of his wife, he called the authorities at Hollywood Park and told them the whole story about Sirhan, and gave him the impression that they would pass it along to the LAPD and the FBI and get back in touch with him. While John Shear has passed, his brother Michael has been a direct source to the author.

And that’s where Shaw says the abuse of power started.



Two full-length mug shots of Sirhan Sirhan.

HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

“They never contacted him, but the kicker there was that for about the next year, every time Shear or his wife picked up the telephone, they’d hear a click. They knew their phones had been tapped. I found a verifiable local

article that stated that LA mobster Mickey Cohen would host gambling poker parties at the Ambassador Hotel and knew the workings and the layout of the hotel. So he would know exactly what Robert Kennedy was going to do that day he won the California primary and where he would be. Sirhan had four \$100 bills in his pocket when he was arrested. The man was destitute. Where did that come from? Then they got him a mafia lawyer. He never got adequate representation.”

One of Shaw’s goals in the book is to get Sirhan out of prison. He delivered a letter this week to RFK Jr. and has been in touch with Sirhan’s representative.

“There’s a verified account that he went to the prison and hugged Sirhan and said, ‘I know you didn’t kill my father,’ says Shaw, who has written numerous books on the JFK assassination. “He’s gone out on a limb and said I don’t want the wrong man convicted. I’m going to test him by sending this letter and see if he can steer the president of the United States into providing Sirhan Sirhan with a pardon. And this is a pardon that makes sense. We have new ballistics tests in the book. The bullets go into the shoulder and back of Robert Kennedy. There are a lot of discrepancies.”



Carlos Marcello (center) with a team of attorneys in 1970.

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COMEDY Q&A: JAY LONDON IS THE BEST DRESSED COMEDIAN IN LOS ANGELES

BY MARK STEFANOS

Jay London has notebooks filled with jokes, and a lot are the very best word-play and puns in the game. But if you tried to sneak a peak and steal one you'd be SOL, because all his scribbles are entirely indecipherable.

London's whole look is sort of an indecipherable scribble — long scraggly hair, a face beat up from years of boxing, stocky body, all wrapped up in vests and cute little hats. "I model irregular clothing," he's joked. But taken as a whole, his impressionist aesthetic makes him one of the most well put-together comedians, with a wardrobe that would shame any GRWM TikTok.

The 59-year old started comedy in his native New York, but it was here in LA where he got his breakthrough on seasons 2 and 3 of "Last Comic Standing," becoming a fan favorite for his endless wit and self-deprecation. He's been a regular pretty much everywhere, and opened for Louis CK for his 2015 special *Live at the Comedy Store*. Crowds love him and he should be on any standup show's lineup.

We sat down with the word wonder at Griffith Park to get the comedy low down and figure out where he shops:

LA Weekly: Does this feel comfortable?

Jay London: It feels great. I feel like I'm in San Quentin in an exercise yard.

What brought you to LA?

I knew of a shaman, Cherokee shaman, and he told me my dreams were in the West, you know, through chanting and drums or whatever. And I came out here and here I am. And then I got lucky with "Last Comic Standing," Jay Leno, "King of Queens."

The shaman said to me that my medicine was bear medicine and all your dreams in the West and your goals are met in the West.

Do you go back to New York often?

No, everybody's DEAD.

Were you a class clown?

I was Jerry Lewis on steroids. You know, always trying to please or trying to be funny. But it was done in such a strange way. I'm a strange person. I'm so sorry to tell this in the beginning of the interview. I'm a little strange there.



PHOTOS BY MARK STEFANOS

What's your family like?

Family. They're all gone. You know, it's just amazing. The reduction of a family within so many years, whatever. I'm fang-dangled by death. I felt so fang-dangled that I just came back from a sympathy card convention. Did I tell you? And words can't explain.

Who's the funniest person in your family?

My sister, Melanie. Better than Rickles. I went to her house, she lives alone. So I said, can I do my wash? "What man goes to someone's house and asks to do a wash? Is there something wrong with you?!" Everything I do, she's always putting me down. She is — wow, what talent.

I got interviewed from doing "Last Comic Standing." She happened to be there. She tells the guy: "He had his chance already, give others a chance!" In other words, the camera shouldn't be on me. She's wearing sunglasses and it's just

Guys call me 'homeboy,' that's because I'm afraid to leave my house." I had the audacity. I had to run out of that place.

Do you have a favorite place to do comedy?

I did a tour, I don't know how many cities. And Tampa was really nice. If they get you, it's great. If they don't get you — I performed in Alabama in a theater, *oyn*. The word is "oyn." Could you write that? O-Y-N. O-Y-N. Yeah. So, you know, everybody tells me I killed all the time. They had nosebleeds. Every night I do so well, they bang their head from laughing. Sociopathic nuts.

I once said, I want to do a one-man show, but I'm afraid somebody else is going to show up.

Do you remember any of your first jokes?

One of my first jokes, I said, "One Christmas, my father bought me a train set with a third rail."

How's your health?

How's my health? I should be in a nursing home in about a year.

What's your favorite internet trend?

What is that?

You got a favorite swear word?

You know, it's a great, great word. Larry David uses it in his show, "Curb Your Enthusiasm." And it's, I don't know if it's from German, from German to whatever, you know, translated language wise. Sometimes, when I get mad, I really, someone gives me a hard time, not a hard time where it leads to anything else, but I yell to myself, A C****NT!!!

Where do you get your style?

I go to Out of the Closet sometimes because they have some fashionable people that gave away their clothes. What's on the rack? This, right? [He points to his leather vest.] How much is that, "Oh, that's \$15?" I say to myself, nah, maybe I don't have enough. I come back tomorrow, I'm looking at the rack and here it is again. Take it off the shelf, go in the pocket. It was \$15, \$15 in the pocket. Are you believing what I'm saying here? So here it is. Beautiful.

Follow Jay London at jaylondonlive.com, and read the full interview on LAWeekly.com. [Q]

hysterical. So rotten.

You started doing comedy in New York?

Yeah New York. I hold the record at Showtime at the Apollo, getting bood off. Had to be about 4.5, six seconds. I started out in minority clubs in New York. Walk, rub the tree and you go out and tell your act. And if they don't like it right away, then Sandman comes down and sweeps you off the stage.

I said, "I live in a black neighborhood.

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ENTERTAINMENT

JONATHAN NOLAN: HOLLYWOOD IS TURNING A CORNER

BY ERIK GLODE AND MICHELE STUEVEN

The second season of Amazon MGM Studios and Kilter Films' critically acclaimed hit series *Fallout* premieres today globally on Prime Video, masterfully and meticulously shot on film and produced by one of the new Hollywood guards, Jonathan Nolan.

Based on one of the most popular video game series of all time that originally came out in 1997, *Fallout* is the story of haves and have-nots in a world in which there's almost nothing left to have. Two hundred years after the apocalypse, survivors of luxury fallout shelters are forced to return to the irradiated hellscape their ancestors left behind.

The show stars Ella Purnell (*Yellowjackets*, *Sweetpea*), Aaron Moten (*Emancipation*, *Father Stu*), Walton Goggins (*The White Lotus*), Kyle MacLachlan (*Twin Peaks*), Moisés Arias (*The King of Staten Island*), and Frances Turner (*The Boys*).

The new season will pick up in the aftermath of season one's finale and take audiences along for a journey through the wasteland of the Mojave to the post-apocalyptic city of New Vegas. The highly anticipated eight-episode season will premiere today, with one episode rolling out weekly until the season finale on February 4, 2026, exclusively on Prime Video.

As our media diet becomes more diverse, blending gaming with streaming content and social media, the success of the show is yet another example of how the Hollywood landscape is changing and how gamers are helping to resuscitate the business.

And despite the continuous negative chatter on sets around town, Nolan, brother to Academy Award-winning movie wunderkind Christopher, firmly believes that Los Angeles will always remain the epicenter of the film industry.

"What I discovered 26 years ago when I first moved to LA was the power, efficiency, and grandeur of working with a Hollywood film crew," the London-born Nolan, who is known to friends and family as Jonah, tells *LA Weekly*.



Jonah Nolan directing.

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Stills from the new season of "Fallout"

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Nolan behind the scenes

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"You can do anything," he says. "You can create whatever genre or reality you want. There are a lot of places where you can find incredible economic incentives, but you show up, and there's no crew or resources. Honestly, I can watch a movie or a show, and within about three or four minutes, I'll know where it was shot. You can tell immediately by the quality. You talk to people all the time who shoot in places where they got the best rebate, but the dolly grip doesn't know how to operate the dolly and just checked 'dolly' on the resume because they had experience moving furniture. That's what happens when you don't shoot in Los Angeles."

Runaway production was already part of the conversation when Jonah came to LA and shot *Memento* with his brother Christopher. Just as he arrived, everyone was leaving the party.

Since then, he and a grassroots coalition of filmmakers, showrunners, crew members, actors, and others in the Hollywood community launched the Stay in LA movement to help keep production and jobs in Los Angeles and support the collateral businesses.

"Look, I get it," says Jonah, who, like his brother, prefers to shoot the more costly film process over digital because they both feel it's the best image capture system, resulting in more beautiful images and flesh tones.

"Everyone's trying to do what they can to get their project made," he says. "Making movies and shows is incredibly difficult and challenging. But participating in a system in which where you shoot doesn't matter and it's just about the bottom line and how much money you can make is counterproductive."

Jonah believes the revamped tax credit is a huge step in the right direction, and permitting, streamlining approvals, and cutting red tape across the city will also help. Recently, the *Baywatch* reboot secured a significant 40% tax credit from California's Film Commission to shoot in Los Angeles, bringing the show back

to its original location after filming elsewhere previously.

"I think, and I hope that we've rounded a corner now," says Jonah, whose next TV project will be based on one of the most historic video games of all time, Wolfenstein.

"We all gripe about Sacramento, but I spent some time with those legislators who actually came to our set at an incredibly challenging moment and listened," he says. "They passed some really smart legislation that is going to help turn the fortunes around in Los Angeles."

The Emmy Award winner also admits that producers play a role in taming runaway production.

"It's going to require producers like me to actually take responsibility for the decisions they make," he says. "It's not good enough to just save some massive corporate entity money. And on a qualitative level, you can tell in a couple of minutes when someone has gone for the money instead of the expertise. It impacts their ratings and reception. When you go for the lowest bidder, you get what you pay for.

"LA will never be the cheapest place in the world to shoot," he says. "But it will remain the best place in the world to shoot. It's up to individual producers and the heads of production at all the studios to think a little bit about the impact their decisions have on their community."

Jonah credits other contemporaries like Ryan Murphy, who is famous for making use of some of California's great locations, like the King Gillette Ranch in Calabasas and historic LA restaurants. You can't take the city out of Quentin Tarantino either.

"One of the bittersweet things for us with the revamped tax incentive is we will be competing for that great crew and those great locations," says Jonah. "It might make life a little less easy for us producers but a lot better for our community."

Fallout season 2 is streaming now on Amazon Prime Video. [L]



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