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Assassins, Addicts And Spooks

BYLINE: By CARYN JAMES

BODY:

Though "**Blowback**" is set in Florida, the characters in this political satire exist in that border zone where real life meets its lunatic fringe. A government agent, an Oliver North manqué, runs an Iran-contra type operation. A Cuban emigre has the goods on the conspirators who assassinated John F. Kennedy. A former drug addict named Nancy, born at the very moment of President Kennedy's death, becomes entangled with both men and eventually they all have something to do with Dr. Krack, a mad, drug-producing scientist on the Government's secret payroll.

This is potentially rich material. But "**Blowback**," which opens today at the Quad Cinema, demonstrates that it is easier to be inspired by political dirty dealings than to create a coherent film out of them. Written, directed and produced by Marc **Levin**, the film strains to be both pointed and outrageous, but comes much closer to gibberish. It has the flat look and pedestrian pace of amateur films.

Mr. **Levin** has been a television documentary producer for many years, and has worked with Bill Moyers on "The Secret Government," a special about the Iran-contra scandal. Truth is not always stranger than fiction, but in this case it is a lot more watchable.

Blowback

Directed and written by Marc **Levin**; director of photography, Mark Benjamin; edited by Tim Squyres; music by Wendy Blackstone; production designer, Kosmo Vinyl; produced by Mr. **Levin**; released by **Blowback** Productions. At the Quad Cinema, 34 West 13th Street, Manhattan. Running time: 105 minutes. This film has no rating.

Owen Monroe . . . Bruce McCarty
Nancy Jones . . . Jane Hamper
Emilio De Leon . . . Eddie Figueroa
Dr. Krack . . . Craig Smith
Paul . . . Matt Mitler
Dick Jones . . . Don Cairns

GRAPHIC: Photo: Craig Smith as Dr. Krack. (Northern Arts
Entertainment Inc.)

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