

# Rattapallax

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **New Podcast and Play About the Second Lee Harvey Oswald Released on the 60th Anniversary of US President Kennedy's Assassination**

**New York City, 10, November 2023** – A new podcast and play, “The Second Oswald” sheds light on a little known figure in the ongoing mystery of President John F. Kennedy’s assassination in Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963. The series focuses on writer Kerry Thornley who served with Lee Harvey Oswald in the US Marines and wrote a novel about him a year before he killed JFK. Thornley co-authored the mock religion of Discordianism, which spawned the satirical paranoid style of American counter-culture, later co-opted by Q-anon. Kerry Thornley later implicated himself in the conspiracy to assassinate the President and legitimizing the question: *Was Lee Harvey Oswald a “patsy”?* The limited podcast series and play is written by former National Public Radio (NPR) commentator and Peabody award winner Andrei Codrescu. The play will be performed at the Bowery Poetry Club in New York City on November 13, 2023.

What if the blueprint of the JFK assassination was already written by Kerry Thornley *before it* took place? This and other questions are asked by a new podcast series produced by New York City production house – Rattapallax. Writer Andrei Codrescu comments, “the United States is at a critical juncture in its history with unscrupulous forces challenging its democracy using the time-tested style of paranoid conspiracy. Without going down the rabbit holes of many would-be sleuths, the murder of President Kennedy is the greatest unsolved crime of the 20th Century. Kerry Thornley may be the missing piece of the puzzle.” Codrescu further adds, “Kerry Thornley, Oswald and I lived in New Orleans, a city immersed in a unique history of clandestine operations and conspiracies. Provocative denizens of the French Quarter, real and mythical, are major characters in the podcast series.”

Thornley, who denied any part in the JFK assassination to the Warren Commission, later confessed to being involved in the plot. New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison charged Thornley as a possible double for Oswald. Thornley was exonerated, but his involvement was even greater than Garrison suspected. Thornley is played by poet Bob Holman in the performance at the Bowery. Holman says, “I was drawn to Kerry because he is a poet, and founder of an alternative philosophy called Discordianism. His writing and rants are wild, but lucid enough to be taken seriously. To understand modern conspiracies, you just have to read his work.” Andrei Codrescu narrates.

The podcast series features many of Kerry’s friends and rare audio recordings of him. The series is contextualized through analysis and commentary by UC Davis Professor Kathryn Olmsted, who wrote *Real Enemies: Conspiracy Theories and American Democracy*. As well as Jesse Walker, Editor at *Reason* magazine, and author of *The United States of Paranoia* and Steven Beschloss, who wrote *The Gunman and His Mother*. The podcast series is available on all major podcasting platforms.

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