

“Confessions From the Grassy Knoll” and “I Shot JFK: The Shocking Truth”

From the fringes of conspiracy land come these two recent [documentaries](#) involving a videotaped confession of a convict who says he fired the shot that killed Kennedy. The trail begins with Houston private investigator Joe West, who after three years of digging into the JFK assassination receives a tip in 1992 from a retired FBI agent, Zack Shelton. It leads him to James Earl Files, doing time in state prison in Joliet, Ill. After many visits, West extracts a full confession from Files, but West becomes ill and dies in 1993. In 1998, Shelton goes public and picks up the trail, recording another video confession. Files says he was a mob hitman, had the same CIA handler as Lee Harvey Oswald and was the only shooter from the grassy knoll. Is he credible? Judge for yourself. “Confessions” is 120 minutes. “I Shot JFK” is 90 minutes. [From MVD Visual](#). Released in October.

- Chris Ball | *The Plain Dealer*