

Oliver Stone Slams 'Conservative' NYT, WSJ, WaPo For Russia Hysteria

By Brian McKim

Oscar-winning filmmaker Oliver Stone shocked an audience of international film industry figures last weekend when he characterized major U.S. newspapers as “conservative” and said their reporting “is as bad as I’ve ever seen it,” according to Variety.

Stone made the pronouncements during a question-and-answer session at the Sarajevo Film Festival in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Stone said that The Washington Post, The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal set the agenda for U.S. television news operations and that they’ve become “extremist in their anti-Russian fervor.”

Stone was in Sarajevo promoting his latest project, *The Putin Interviews*, a four-part series assembled from several interviews with the Russian leader over a period of two years.

The documentary is offered by Showtime, which touts the series as “the most detailed portrait of Putin ever granted to a Western interviewer.”

When asked about President Donald Trump’s response to the Aug. 12 riots in Charlottesville, Stone said, “You are all trying to get to Trump every day, but there is a bigger problem.”

Stone cited “a deep state, a military-industrial security state” and a “system that has to be challenged” as deserving of more concern, and added that he thinks the president “is part of that system.”

“A lot of people believe the deep state is stronger than any president,” he told ScreenDaily.

“The degree of control that the military has over the fate of the United States – we never talk about that.”

Trump, Stone said, “can’t do anything about where we’re going.” He said the president is “beating the war drum because that’s more popular.”

“It could be a disaster,” he warned.

Stone said that America is inching closer to the world depicted in George Orwell’s *1984*.

“The only thing they have not yet done is to erase history ... There are still people who remember things,” he said.

Stone’s next project is a drama about the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, used since 2002 to house unlawful combatants captured in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere.