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Revealed! Paul-Is-Dead Doc IS Horseshit!

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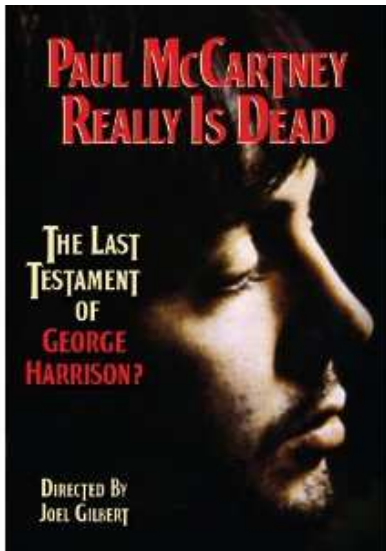
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Released last week, the Paul McCartney Really Is Dead: The Last Testament of George Harrison DVD, on Highway 61/MVD, seeks to revive the controversy via some cassette recordings allegedly made by George Harrison (who, conveniently, is still quite dead himself).

By Lee Zimmerman



Wasn't this crazy controversy settled some 40 years ago? To recap, for anyone who missed it the first time around -- [Paul McCartney is dead](#), he was replaced by a look-alike named Billy Shears and all those so-called clues that graced all the latter Beatles album were clearly clues or an elaborate mind-fuck, depending on your perspective. Apparently, there are those who believe there's money to be made by dredging up this silly affair and recycling it for the sake of sheer exploitation. According to this new twist on the tale, a package was received at the Hollywood office of Highway 61 Entertainment in December 1999 containing two cassette recordings allegedly made by George Harrison. He reveals therein (gasp) that Paul did die in a car crash after all. Apparently the mishap took place in November 1966 after a spat with John Lennon during a recording session at Abbey Road. McCartney stormed off in his sports car, picked up a hitchhiker who distracted him when she began making amorous advances, and totaled the car, decapitating himself in the process. Never mind the fact that Macca lived around the block from the studio and could have walked the short distance; facts are incidental when concocting a whale of a tale.

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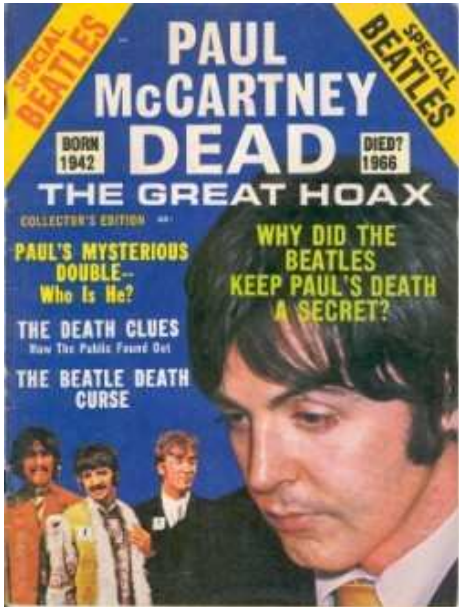
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So why did his band mates wait so long to reveal the truth? According to this nutty narrative, John, George and Ringo were warned not to reveal the truth so as to prevent an unprecedented wave of mass suicides among the Beatles faithful. (Hmmm. John and George's deaths were rather tragic too, but history doesn't record a run on tainted Kool-Aid when they passed.) Presumably the remaining Fabs were so intimidated by the necessity of maintaining the shroud of silence imposed by British Intelligence, they opted to keep the secret for the next 44 years, offering only the ubiquitous clues that were etched on their album covers.

Over the course of just over an hour and a half, producer/director Joel Gilbert guides the gullible through this unlikely scenario by recreating the events surrounding the alleged incident, using Harrison's supposed narrative to tie the trajectory together. Truth be told, the speaker does sound very much like someone trying very hard to imitate the spiritual Beatle. He reveals that John was killed for threatening to come clean and that an attack on George and his wife Olivia was also payback for George's determination to set the record straight. Wait a minute! Didn't George die only a couple of years after making this tape? Coincidence? Yeah... decidedly so.

Of course, there will inevitably be those who will be lured to purchase this disc merely for its novelty. For them, there's some redemption in the accompanying documentary that traces the summit that took place in London between the Beatles and Bob Dylan. As for the rest... keep it away from any sensation-seeking deejay that wants to start the rumors anew.

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Where do you get your main new music fix?

- College radio
- Commercial radio
- Satellite radio
- NPR Music
- MP3 blogs
- Torrent download sites
- Club DJ sets
- Record store aisles
- Grocery store aisles
- Bootleg CDR vendors
- "My friend"
- Those weird channels appearing at the end of your cable TV lineup

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