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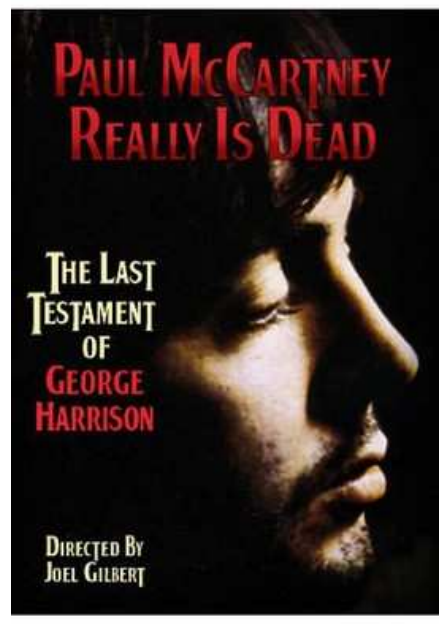
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**Paul McCartney Really Is Dead – The Last Testament Of George Harrison (2010/Highway 61 Entertainment DVD/MVD)**

Picture: C+    Sound: C+  
Extras: D    Main Program: D



Of the many myths surrounding The Beatles, the idea of Paul dying or being dead is one of the most famous and its persistence played on the anxiety of the band possibly breaking up, which they eventually did. Of course, Paul McCartney was almost killed in a 1966 car crash which started the rumors, but like Elvis spottings, some people just can't let things go. **Paul McCartney Really Is Dead – The Last Testament Of George Harrison** is a cynical, exploitive would-be documentary that is so bad, I could not believe what I was watching.

In it, the host claims his company received two audio tapes which supposedly have the late, great George Harrison's voice on them. They claim three tests "failed to confirm" it was him, but anyone who loves his music can tell after listening a while it is absolutely an impostor. The big secret is that in 1966, McCartney was beheaded (yes, you read that correctly, but stay with me for a moment) and MI-5 or MI-6 (British intelligence, who we'll call MI-6 from now on since this supposedly came from the top) was so concerned that they decided to keep it a secret and get a winner of a McCartney look-alike contest to be him, starting with some plastic surgery or mass suicides might become epidemic in England.

However, the remaining band members were threatened with death (Ringo is not addressed much here, but this hack job program has the nerve to claim Lennon was killed by the CIA and MI-6 in 1980 to stop him from telling this "truth", which is a huge insult) so they went along with pretending this new Paul (who this Harrison imitator calls "Faul" as in faux or false) yet tried to let fans know the truth by the clues originally on the albums supporting the earlier myth. This gets to be a bit much, with the Harrison impersonator sounding more like he is narrating the video than just recording audio.

The fake Paul is "identified" by pictures that do not look like him (including supposed scars that are likely McCartney's from the accident) and this torture test has more logic holes in it than most Swiss Cheese slices and cheesy it is. It also expects viewers to not know as much about The Beatles as fans like this writer do.

As for other flaws, what about George Martin, what was his involvement? Brian Epstein, their manager, is never addressed and amazingly, his death

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is never blamed on poor MI-6. Yoko Ono is hardly mentioned or seen, so that is a problem. Then there is this new 1966 model McCartney. He can sing and play like McCartney, sing like McCartney and somehow, moved on to have more hits than any of the other ex-members of the band through his solo work, band Wings and other projects, making this impostor the greatest trickster in music history? Guess MI-6's best surgeons secretly found a way to transplant the talent too.

There is more, but we have wasted enough time demonstrating how bad this is. These tapes were labeled 12/30/99, so why did this dumb DVD take so long? Because they received the tapes late, in 2006? Wow, the audio sure held up well for analog magnetic tape. Oh, and the mean, angry MI-6 spymaster doing the threats is named Maxwell!

Oh and the stabbing of Harrison is supposed to be part of this, but enough lies already.

The anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 image is weak, on videotape and cheap throughout, including laughable animation using actual Beatles album covers, among other things. The Dolby Digital 5.1 mix is weak and lame, like the rest of this disc. The combination is passable at best. Extras include soundtrack MP3s of the phony music and a dumb Beatles/Bob Dylan piece that will not qualify for any serious studies of either anytime soon.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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