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Tim Cain



An awful hoax of a documentary

By Tim Cain

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I love a conspiracy story as much as the next guy. Kennedy assassinations, Jim Morrison, Elvis Presley, gas prices, 9/11 – they're all great stories, attempting to explain in the inexplicable, to make sense out of chaos.

Of course, I don't really believe a lick of most of them, especially the death of Paul McCartney.

As the story goes, McCartney died in a car crash in 1966, and the remaining Beatles covered up the death, but left clues on their album covers and in their music. (Here are a couple of Web sites – 1, 2 – that go into a little more detail about the story. Don't consider those links endorsements for anything available for purchase at the sites.)

A "documentary" from last year added to the legend in idiotic fashion, and is a classic case of buyer (or viewer) beware, and an even more classic case of, to quote the band, "I should have known better."

"Paul McCartney Really Is Dead: The Last Testament of George Harrison" recently came to home video, and I was

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stupid enough to waste time streaming it on Netflix. I'd read about its awfulness, but thought the reviewer had to have some kind of grudge. Instead, he was too polite.

The film's conceit is Harrison in 1999 recorded two cassette tapes while in the hospital recovering from an attack in his home. The cassettes detailed Harrison and the other Beatles' complicity in the McCartney cover-up. Harrison died in 2001. The tapes in 2005 were mailed to a small Los Angeles-based video company.

It all, of course, is a pile of hooley.

I'll start with the voice. Harrison's voice is probably the easiest of all of The Beatles to mimic. My accents stink, which is kind of one of the points of the video below, but I still do a better George Harrison here than whoever mocks the man's voice in the film. (That's Annie Getsinger from our staff doing the McCartney voice. I also do John Lennon, even more poorly.)

The film's (and the conspiracy's) time line places McCartney's death in November of 1966. But the films insists on pointing out "clues" The Beatles put on the albums and in the songs lyrics of "Rubber Soul" (released Dec. 1965), "Yesterday" ... and Today" (released June 1966) and "Revolver" (released Aug. 1966).

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At least a conspiracy should be consistent with its own time line.

Worst of all, the narration is done with the language of someone reading a book report. "Harrison" goes to the trouble of giving us The Beatles' backstory, which would seem the least important thing when you're talking about a conspiracy that involves at least four people already dead (as detailed in the film) and alleging their deaths came at the hands of British military intelligence unit the MI5.

The images come from public domain sources, and are as embarrassing as you'd expect.


Honestly, gang, if my friend Jayson Albright and I couldn't put together a more entertaining film than this, I think we'd stop altogether doing video work (in Jayson's case) and writing (both of us). This is an insult to the intelligence of anyone with a frontal lobe. I gave it zero stars in my "365 Days of Cinema" project because I can't figure out a way to score it lower.

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Tags: Beatles, movies

Posted on Wednesday, March 9th, 2011 at 2:00 am

In **Tim Cain**

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One Comment

1. **Terri:**

March 10th, 2011 at 2:33 pm

No... what's insulting to the intelligence of anyone with a frontal lobe is that anyone took this film seriously to begin with! I, too, ordered and viewed this film, but before I did so, I looked at

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the promotional site. It was fairly obvious that the film was not meant to be taken seriously, (see “Reviews,” especially the last three). That said, it’s okay for what it is...fiction based on traditional PID clues ala “The Blair Witch” genre. I agree, however, that the voice of “George” could have been done better.

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