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**'Paul McCartney Really Is Dead: The Last Testament of George Harrison' Review - Conspiracy Theory Recounted But Not Researched**

By [Erin Darling](#)

'Paul McCartney Really Is Dead: The Last Testament of George Harrison' is an entertaining romp in **Beatles** lore, recounting the idea that **Paul McCartney** died in a car accident in 1966 and was replaced by a lookalike in order to prevent mass hysteria and fan suicides. A tape recording of what is said to be **George Harrison's** voice narrates the tale from his point of view, explaining what happened and how the three remaining **Beatles** left clues in song lyrics and album covers for their fans since they were closely monitored by British Intelligence to keep the truth a secret.

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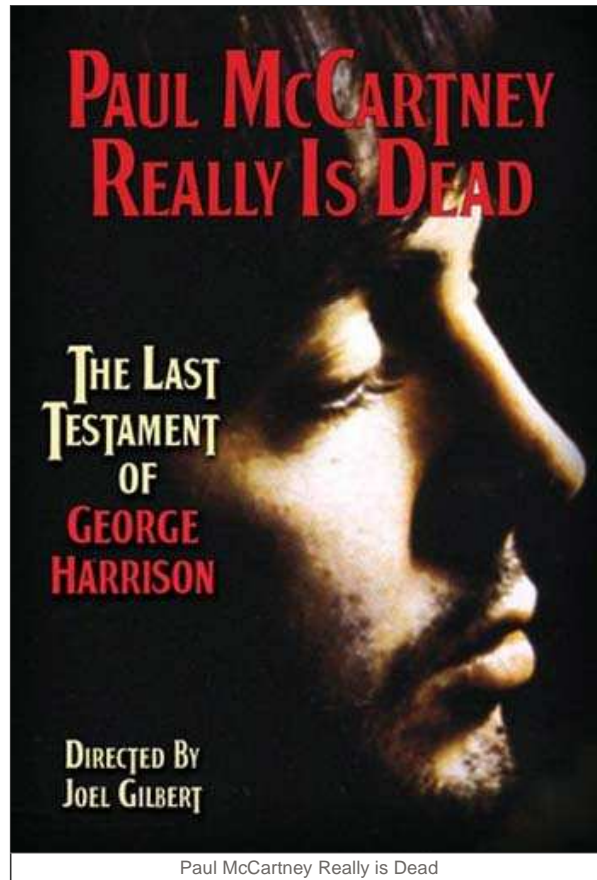
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The origin of the **George Harrison** tapes which tell the tale are just as mysterious as the conspiracy theory itself. In 2005, a package with no return address arrived at the offices of **Highway 61 Entertainment** and fell into the hands of company president, **Joel Gilbert**. "I was absolutely shocked and fascinated at the same time," says Gilbert. "I knew someone had entrusted me with these tapes, so I had to share them some way or somehow, so I chose to make this film, allowing Harrison to narrate himself."

But all good journalists know that one good story, no matter how creepy or deeply rooted in popular culture, does not a documentary make. There are no additional interviews or outside sources of information included in the film, building the case for the weighty claim (that **Paul McCartney** is indeed, dead) completely around the mystery tapes. The film claims that studies were done on tests to try to gain more information on where they came from, but results were inconclusive. Harrison's estate was not contacted in regards to the tape, either. "We did not try to contact his estate because we thought someone within Harrison's close circle may likely have sent them, and did not want to potentially expose that person to any problems," explains Gilbert.

When asked why there were no additional interviews included, Gilbert says, "The cassette tapes we received of **George Harrison's** voice were so compelling, I just wanted to let **George Harrison** tell the story himself. Why talk to others when there is a first person account of the **Paul McCartney** mystery for the first time in history?" The resulting film is a 95 minute voice-over accompanied by graphics, archival video footage, photographs and backward masking audio files.

So although the film surely won't be recognized for it's journalistic integrity or compelling research into the truth of the claims it seems to be making, it serves its purpose of providing an entertaining look into a theory that's probably more eerie than it is believable. "The purpose of the film was to share with the public these mysterious recordings of **George Harrison's** voice confessing to the cover up of **Paul McCartney's** demise, as well as all the clues that were put into the **Beatles** albums in the 1960s," says Gilbert. "Its my hope that this will illuminate the truth about the 'Paul-Is-Dead' urban legend once and for all."

What is the truth Gilbert is referring to? That's for the viewer to decide. "There is no doubt that there are hundreds of clues in the Beatles album art, songs, and lyrics

that indicate that **Paul McCartney** died in 1966," says Gilbert. "The Beatles' denials over the years that they are all a coincidence are simply not credible. So either the Beatles were all in on a massive inside joke for 5 years to place these clues to mess with their fans, or **Paul McCartney** really is dead!"

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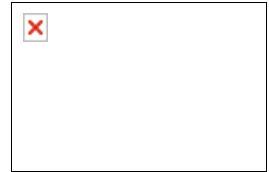
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