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## metro mixtape

### Half the man he used to be?

by: Pat Healy

September 28, 2010 8:04 PM

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Joel Gilbert, director of "Paul McCartney is Really Dead," says you don't have to believe the title of his new movie to enjoy it.

"This a way to revisit the whole mystery and the fun of the 'Paul is dead' urban legend," he says about the film, which was released on DVD earlier this month. Throughout the discussion, however, he steers away from such lighthearted adjectives and uses more adamant language.

The movie — which is subtitled, "The Last Testament of George Harrison?" — hinges upon an allegation that The Beatles and British secret service covered up Paul McCartney's death by car crash in 1966 by using an lookalike imposter named [William Campbell](#), who learned to speak, sing and play bass like him and underwent plastic surgery to look even more like him.



IAIN MACMILLAN

An outtake of Iain Macmillan's famous "Abbey Road" cover shot. Paul not wearing shoes to some symbolized that the real Paul was dead.



The government allegedly forced the three "remaining" Beatles to go along with the cover-up because they feared revealing the truth would cause worldwide suicides.

Then in 2005, a package arrived at Gilbert's office with tapes confessing as truth what had been urban legend for decades. The voice on the tapes claimed to be Harrison, and according to the Harrison voice, which serves as the narration for the movie, the band felt guilty for deceiving their fans, so they allegedly left the clues about Paul's death in album artwork, lyrics and lyrics that had to be played backwards to decipher hidden meanings.

In this clip, the chorus of the song "All Together Now" supposedly translates into "I buried Paul." A quick YouTube search will reveal dozens of other examples.



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"At first I was quite skeptical," says Gilbert of the voice on the tapes being Harrison's. "But when the voice on the tape put the clues in a chronology and put them together in a way that made a full story that really became almost a thriller, I started to become a believer."

When the supposed clues first came to light in the late '60s, The Beatles denied it. But Gilbert claims it led to the demise of the band.

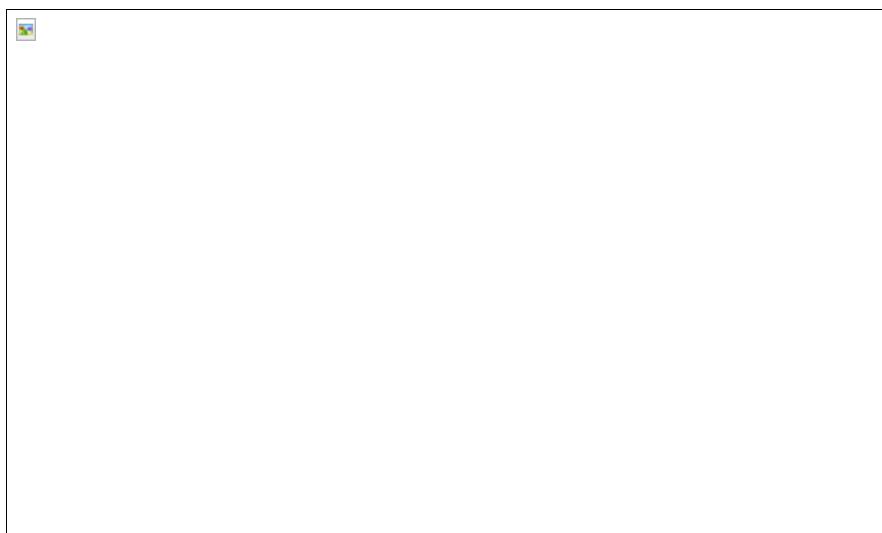
"They denied that they had done any of those clues and that it was all a mere coincidence, which of course is beyond belief that there could be so many obvious, and not-so-obvious clues. They made one more album only, called 'Let it Be,' as in 'let it be, let it go,' to kind of prove that Paul was still alive and they were still a band, and then they disband immediately after that," says Gilbert. "These denials are definitely not credible, so either The Beatles were all in on a massive inside joke that Paul McCartney had died or there's something to it and it could be real."

But the question remains, how could Harrison, who died in 2001, send tapes to the office of Gilbert's Highway 61 Entertainment in Los Angeles?

"I guess it's possible that he'd instructed somebody, 'In about five years time after my death, send this to a filmmaker,' maybe in America, so that it will be out of the reach of British legal issues," says Gilbert.

**That was a hoax, right?**

Chris Farley once took the matter up with McCartney in his ever hard-hitting interview style. Check out 1:55



**Tags:** [Paul McCartney](#), [Beatles](#), [Chris Farley](#), [John Lennon](#), [George Harrison](#), [Ringo Starr](#), [Joel Gilbert](#)

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