

Paul McCartney Really is Dead: The Last Testament of George Harrison (Highway 61 Entertainment)

Car accidents.  
Secret agents.  
Secret messages.  
Plastic surgery.  
Walruses!

It's all here in this grotesquely grabbing new faux-cumentary by award-winning director and Bob Dylan fanboy Joel Gilbert.

Allegedly based on a series of tapes that "mysteriously" arrived at Gilbert's Hollywood offices postmarked from England, this feature-length film tells the twisted story of the "real" story behind the infamous "Paul is Dead" rumors and the years of conspiracy theories that have gone along with them, all as allegedly told by George Harriosn himself. According to Gilbert, these tapes were tested by three forensic scientists (apparently, L.L. Cool J was not available) and, though the evidence proved "inconclusive," the odd Oak Ridge boy errs on the side of shameful stupidity when he asks viewers and fans to suspend their disbelief that a man who drops his "h's" is actually the late (H)arrison. As Gilbert himself is known for his impersonations of Bob Dylan, it is little surprise to learn that he has found someone who kinda sorta sounds like Harrison (maybe if you play the DVD backwards...). What makes no sense is why any music fan (or human being of any stripe) would take such pains to put a truly dead and dearly missed man through such pain. Alleging that both Harrison and John Lennon were attacked (one fatally) by fans because they were about to reveal the secret and that McCartney's tragic second wife Heather Mills was really the new incarnation of a woman named Rita who was with Paul when he "died" (and who was later immortalized in the song "Lovely Rita") – going so far as to suggest that Mills' loss of a leg was set up by British secrets agents in an attempt to keep her quiet even decades later, Gilbert offers interesting insights into the "clues" the band left on their albums and covers, but takes it all way too far.

I taken as entertainment, the film may be enjoyable and may even allow some fans to better understand the frenzy these so-called "clues" encouraged when they were first revelead. Unfortunately, as many Beatle fans are still a bit frenzied, this film may be taken the wrong way- As if there were any good way to play tricks on the dead.

- Matt Robinson

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