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## DVD review: Is Paul McCartney really dead?

OCTOBER 8, 2010

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One of the great folklores of modern music is that the Beatles' Paul McCartney died in a 1966 car crash and was replaced with a look-alike.

Over the years, this great conspiracy theory made many claims that the Beatles themselves left clues to back the story, such as Paul McCartney appearing as a dead man on the cover of "Abbey Road" to McCartney's photo appearing with a blood red background on the cover of "Let it Be."

In the new DVD "Paul McCartney Really is Dead: The Last Testament of George Harrison," Highway 61 Entertainment claims they were sent an unaddressed package in 2005 that contained cassettes of Beatle George Harrison telling the tale of McCartney's death and the subsequent cover-up. The tapes were said to have been recorded in 1999. Harrison died in 2001.

In the 95-minute documentary, Harrison's voice (never actually confirmed to be his, even after forensic analysis) tells how McCartney died in a car crash but was replaced by a man who won a Beatles look-alike contest. British intelligence forced the band to play along to prevent mass suicide by Beatles fans.

It's all very entertaining and somewhat compelling if you play along (the recorded testimony sounds quite scripted). But really, such a hoax perpetrated for 40 years? And how lucky would the Beatles have been to find a McCartney look-alike who could write, sing and perform? And who's that guy still playing amazing music today?

-- Jason Kellner, Reno Gazette-Journal

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