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## ARTICLE

## Paul McCartney Really is Dead Claims Docu-Director Gilbert and the Ghost of George Harrison

DVD Review: Paul McCartney Really is Dead: The Last Testament of George Harrison

 by [R.J. Carter](#)

Published: June 29, 2010

The first book I published was a pastiche on Lewis Carroll's work, and written as authentically as I could pull off because I wanted it to look as though it *could* have been written by him. I didn't expect anyone to actually believe it, of course, as it was all obviously (or so I thought) a fiction. But I've had to explain on more than one occasion that, no, it's not really his manuscript with my annotations, and that if there really *had* been such a discovery, I wouldn't even be mentioned in discussions about who would be brought in to look over the manuscript.

My point? If [George Harrison](#) really wanted to tell the world, posthumously, that [Paul McCartney](#) really died in November of 1966, wouldn't his confession have made its way to CNN, or even VH1, rather than an independent production company specializing in Bob Dylan biographies?

Director Joel Gilbert opens this film, "Paul McCartney Really is Dead: The Last Testament of George Harrison," by displaying the mysterious envelope that came into his possession -- with no return address and a Great Britain postmark. The contents? A microcassette player and two tapes, containing what is purportedly an audio confession from George Harrison (which Gilbert tells us cannot be accurately 100% confirmed -- conveniently), created in 1999 from the Royal Berkshire Hospital the day after a deranged fan attacked Harrison and his wife in their home. As the narrator is given to using the word "Faul" to refer to the allegedly fake McCartney, I shall -- simply for safety's sake -- follow suit and henceforth refer to the potentially fake George Harrison as "Farrison."

One thing is immediately clear as soon as the narration begins: this is not an extemporaneous audio confession, as it professes to be. There are no pauses, no false starts, no verbal stumbling of any kind. Rather, the narrator inflects, emotes, gives voices to dialogue, and otherwise continues on as blithely as Jim Dale reading a middle chapter for a Harry Potter audiobook. In short, Farrison is a *storyteller*, and the story he tells is one with which most Beatles conspiracy theorists are intimately familiar: that Paul McCartney died in a car crash on November 9, 1966, on a late rainy night after arguing with John Lennon over lyrics.

According to Farrison, the remaining Beatles were contacted by an officer identified only as "Maxwell" (Bang Bang? Did he have a silver hammer?) to come and confirm that the corpse was McCartney's. Despite being decapitated, semi de-oculated, and dentally damaged to the point that his two remaining teeth jutted through his cheeks ("Looks rather like a walrus, doesn't he?" Maxwell reputedly says), and burned, he is nonetheless easily recognizable as McCartney.

Beatlemania being as popular as it was, the Queen herself was worried that the news of McCartney's death would have prompted a rash of suicides among distraught young girls. MI-5 -- for whom Maxwell worked -- decided to find a lookalike McCartney and fix him up surgically to be a dead ringer. In Farrison's story, they found William Campbell through a contest sponsored by *Tiger Beat* magazine and *American Bandstand*. Lennon took to calling the new guy "False Paul," or "Faul" for short. And because MI-5 was involved, no one could say anything about the cover-up under penalty of death.

From this point forward, viewers get a history of Beatles' music, seen through the kaleidoscope eyes of the conspiracy theorist. All the album cover clues, the hidden meaning of lyrics, the backward-masked phrases -- all of which were attributed as Lennon's idea, for which he sometimes paid with a beating from Maxwell's goons -- are covered in excruciating detail, right down to why the *White Album* was white and yet still contained a visual clue, and pointing out William Campbell's passport photo in the liner notes.

If Gilbert -- or Farrison -- is having the viewer on for a lark, they never come out at the end and say so. In fact, despite the liner notes claiming that Highway 61 Entertainment "has corroborated most of George Harrison's account of the conspiracy," there's nothing from Gilbert aside from the introduction

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 Rating: **NOT RATED**

 Country: **USA**

Release Date: September 1, 2010

Distributor: Highway 61 Entertainment

Director:

- Joel Gilbert

Related Sites:

- [Official Site](#)

 Grade: **B**

## CONTESTS



### DVD Giveaway: Best of Tracy Morgan and Will Ferrell

Ends Jul 18, 2010

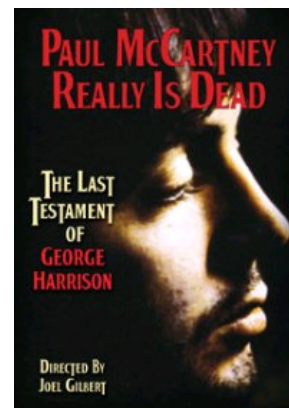
Live from The-Trades, it's a pair of Saturday Night Live DVDs!



### CD Giveaway - Tristan Prettyman, "Hello...x"

Ends Jul 18, 2010

Her breakup with Jason Mraz provides much of the fodder for the album, as she finger-picks her way through the emotional minefield and hones her songwriting skills to get past the failed relationship.



to reaffirm what little new information is revealed.

And yes, there are a few new pieces added to the puzzle -- the most appalling being the continued story of Rita, the woman in the light blue dress who was legendarily present at (and, indeed, the cause for) McCartney's accident. Rita had been bought off by MI-5, and given a new life via plastic surgery. According to Farrison, however, Rita wanted more, and contacted Faul after the breakup of the Beatles, with an attempt to blackmail him into divorcing Linda Eastman (herself reputedly his wife by means of blackmail) and marrying her. The sensational story here is that Faul told Maxwell, who had MI-5 attempt to assassinate Rita -- by running her over with a motorcycle. The attempt failed, but Rita was still injured to the point that required the amputation of her leg, six inches below the knee. Yes, Highway 61 Entertainment and/or Farrison purport that the fabled witness to Paul McCartney's death is none other than the ex-Mrs. McCartney and former *Dancing with the Stars* contestant, [Heather Mills!](#)

Farrison says he's leaving this testament after being attacked, because he feared being killed by MI-5. He had just told Faul that he planned on coming forward, and a few days later he was attacked by a madman. It was, he claimed, history repeating itself: John Lennon had told Faul much same thing twenty years ago, before being assassinated by Mark David Chapman.

"Paul McCartney Really is Dead: The Last Testament of George Harrison" does serve the useful purpose of collecting all the Dead McCartney conspiracy clues into one place, and serving them up with a cohesive narrative. It's as entertaining as it is absurd, and it makes for a great conversation starter at parties. But it's certainly not to be taken seriously. My grade for this film is purely based on its comedic entertainment value, not for its accuracy of reporting.

Bonus features on this release include a ten-minute short film, "Bob Dylan Meets the Beatles" and a DVD-ROM folder of MP3 tracks containing the soundtrack for the documentary (minus any Beatles tunes).