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My Breakfast with Blassie

One of comedian **Andy Kaufman's** less endearing qualities was a refusal to recognize when a gag had gone on too long or a character had overstayed his welcome. Kaufman was at the height of his popularity, playing Latka Gravas on **Taxi**, when he embarked on a separate career as a professional wrestler. Thin as a rail, but wiry, Kaufman wrestled hundreds of women before engaging **Jerry Lawler** in a well-publicized feud. The hour-long, mostly improvised **My Breakfast With Blassie** was a takeoff on the surprise arthouse hit, **My Dinner With Andre**, albeit one transferred to a Sambo's restaurant in downtown Los Angeles.

Kaufman and the champion wrestler, **Fred Blassie**, while away their time together chatting about the wrestling scene, personal hygiene and Asian women, before engaging customers in increasingly nasty conversations. Today, a quarter-century later, the sketch remains far more amusing in concept than in execution. Blassie is an interesting guy, but not much of an improviser. Kaufman is wildly inventive and undeniably funny, but, by staying in character for the full 60 minutes, he demands too much of viewers. The director's chair was filled by three people, so it's possible that Kaufman and Blassie were just along for the ride, which would explain the monotony. Even so, it's great to see Kaufman in action, again. Bonus material includes **Lost Footage: Andy in the Raw**, a making-of featurette, home movies, a photo gallery and premiere footage. - Gary Dretzka