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### My Breakfast With Blassie

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## Dir. Johnny Legend

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By [Ben T. Levy](#)

Canonized in song by R.E.M. in "Man on the Moon" and portrayed by Jim Carrey in a film of the same name, Andy Kaufman has retained a passionate cult following through the decades. Part primetime tagline hero and part Dadaist comedy deconstructor, Kaufman did for performance art what Duchamp did for visual art. In short, while making people laugh, he made them question what 'funny' is. With *My Breakfast with Blassie*, just released on DVD, most will be doing more questioning than laughing, to be sure -- just the way Andy liked it. Originally released in 1983, only one year before Kaufman's untimely death, the film is a loose parody of *My Dinner with Andre* that documents a mealtime meeting of Kaufman and 'Classy' Freddie Blassie, professional wrestler and self-anointed 'King of Men.' Kaufman, of course was no stranger to the wrestling world, as he famously battled Jerry "The King" Lawler on a episode of "Late Night With David Letterman" and went on to fight women in an inter-gender wrestling league. During their breakfast, the two discuss everything from low-carb diets, herpes, and wet-naps, to autograph signing and wrestling. The mostly improvised film ultimately plays like a prolonged study in awkwardness, as Blassie seems mostly unsure of what to say or how to act as a bizarre narrative unfolds around him. That narrative, which involves a table of persistent fans fishing for autographs, is what really drags the movie down; the banter between the two diners is far more intriguing and believable. By the time the movie climaxes with a man from a nearby booth (played by Kaufman's partner-in-crime Bob Zmuda) pulling two napkins out of his nose and vomiting on the table, Blassie seems about as fed up with the project as audiences likely were, and the whole thing sputters to a confused finish. Andy's child-like glee at the whole affair is what elevates the punchline-free movie above complete tedium; he was a bona fide celebrity by this point, and he seemed determined to toy with that status, even if he destroyed it in the process.



The bonus features on the DVD should actually be worthwhile for those that find the film itself worthwhile. They include some featurettes with weirdo director Johnny Legend, some extra footage from the breakfast, and some other archival reels of Kaufman being Kaufman.

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