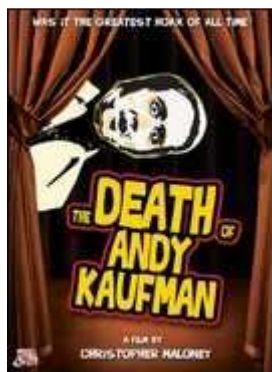



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Case Number 21864: Small Claims Court



The Death Of Andy Kaufman

[MVD Visual](#) // 2008 // 120 Minutes // Not Rated
 Reviewed by Judge Alice Nelson // July 26th, 2011

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4

All Rise...

Judge Alice Nelson used to think "Latka Gravas" was a fancy German pastry served with whipped cream.



The Charge

What if someone thought you faked your own death and made a really lousy documentary about it? You might remain fake dead.

Opening Statement

Andy Kaufman was not my kind of funny, I think the only thing he did that was even remotely amusing was Latka Gravas from the seventies sit-com [Taxi](#). Filmmaker Christopher Maloney however, has something of a the comedian and has put this love into the documentary **The Death of Andy Kaufman**, a meandering doc that's steeped in conspiracy but short on proof.

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On May 16, 1984, comedian Andy Kaufman died at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles from a rare form of or did he? Soon after, stories began to surface about a plan Kaufman had to fake his own death, disappear and then resurface, accomplishing—in his mind—the greatest hoax ever. In **The Death of Andy Kaufman**, director Christopher Maloney uses photos and public domain performances to explore the short but strange life of Andy Kaufman, and sets out to prove whether or not this 'man in the moon' is indeed alive and well here earth.

The Evidence

The Death of Andy Kaufman is a tale of two movies; one, a fascinating study of Kaufman's early life and other a dull, fruitless tale of rumors and conspiracies. In the first half of the film, Maloney gives us a glimpse life as a child, his loving relationship with his parents and close ties to his younger brother Michael. We also of some of his earliest performances including one where Kaufman, with a group of unsuspecting audience r syncs to the kid's classic "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," a homage of sorts to the children's shows he loved to he was younger and which influenced him greatly in his career. Not one word is spoken as the skit continues of the obviously uncomfortable spectators who were now part of the act. Kaufman never breaks character a blurring the lines between the real 'Andy' and the characters he portrayed would be a common theme in his Kaufman's routines seemed to purposely bring about the discomfort of people, a trait Maloney presents as a part of the comedian's artistry. However it was often hard to tell if this was just Kaufman's quirky performan was simply just a big jerk.

Once Maloney shifted to the controversy surrounding Kaufman's death, the film ground to a halt. What was the genesis of a performer became a tedious exercise in futility, with unfounded rumors of sightings of Kauf death, bizarre accusations that his parents knew he was still alive and even a convoluted theory that Kaufma aid of a dying cancer patient named Nathan McCoy, whose diagnosis Kaufman used as his own. The worst p **Death of Andy Kaufman** was the bizarre interview between Maloney and Andy's younger brother Michael. final 20 minutes of the movie and those few minutes felt like hours, as the two chatted as if it were a private being recorded, where nothing particularly interesting was being said. This interview was so powerful a seda really should not drive or operate heavy machinery for hours after watching it.

In the end, this documentary is nothing more than Christopher Maloney paying tribute to a man whose taler greatly. Unfortunately, for the rest of us, it's a promising idea with no payoff.

The Rebuttal Witnesses

The Death of Andy Kaufman was Christopher Maloney's first movie out of film school and he managed to partially interesting biography of a very complex man. Had he focused only on the tangible aspects of Kaufm not veered off into speculation and fantasy, it might've been a touching tribute to a misunderstood entertain Maloney was able to show Andy Kaufman in an empathetic manner and I think his ability to do that to a figu as Kaufman will serve Maloney well in his future as a filmmaker.

Closing Statement

I enjoyed **The Death of Andy Kaufman** most when Maloney dealt with Kaufman's early life and the bizarr made him famous. From the chauvinist who wrestled women, to the lounge singing, over the hill entertainer audiences never knew what they were going to get with the man. He could sit at a table for his entire act an

that to this day still inhabits the hearts of many of his fans.

Recommended

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The Verdict

Guilty, but Maloney is credited with time already served.

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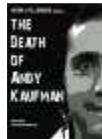
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