

Thursday, 18 August 2011

By Peter Covino

Sometimes famous people just don't stay dead.

Jesse James was reportedly alive, many years after his shooting death and John Wilkes Booth supposedly faked his death in that fire nearly 150 years ago.

Even Elvis has been seen in Kissimmee just about every week of the year.

And then there is the strange case of Andy Kaufman.

Filmmaker Christopher Maloney takes on one of the great celebrity mysteries of the past 20 years in **The Death of Andy Kaufman**, now available on DVD.

Was it the greatest hoax of all time, as it asks on the cover of the DVD, or is the creative and elusive comic really dead and has been since 1984.

Maloney interviews friends, families and professionals in his personal search to find out the truth about Kaufman's death.

There is a lot of reason for speculation. According to some of those closest to Kaufman, he often talked about faking his death, so much so that he was obsessed with the idea. Kaufman loved to role play, and prank, so his telling the world he was dead and then showing up later, seems quite fitting.

Maloney explores all the possibilities on the DVD, the rareness of the lung disease he died of (Kaufman did not smoke), the "Tony Clifton" performances after his death (Clifton was one of many of Kaufman's characters) and the eyewitness sightings of Kaufman in Taos, N.M. and other places.

The DVD also features several vintage Kaufman performances .

It is a nice look back and one of the most interesting celebrities of the 20th century.

So is Kaufman really dead, and what does Maloney think?

Check out the DVD available at SeeofSound.com. The DVD is also available online at Amazon.com, Best Buy and Wal-Mart.