

<http://progsheet1.hypermart.net/DVDBOOKReviews.html>

The Death Of Andy Kaufman (Wild Eye / MVD)

Andy Kaufman was most definitely a one-of-a-kind human being. So far out there with his twisted but mostly gentle approach to comedy that he often blurred the line between persona and person. That aspect of Kaufman sets the stage for this film.

Writer / producer / director Christopher Maloney approaches this documentary wondering if, in fact, Andy Kaufman's death in 1984 might just be another of Kaufman's ruses. Maloney manages to not make this seem cruel or ghoulish. In the course of his investigation we get a great sense of Kaufman's life and how he effected those he allowed to get close to him.

It's a loving film at its core. I was especially touched by the interview footage of Michael Kaufman, Andy's brother. You can hear the love in his voice as he recounts tales of his brother. In the end, it's almost irrelevant if we really discover if Kaufman is alive or dead. What we come away with is a deeper appreciation of his talents and the comedic legacy he left generations to come.