

but one viewing of this will make it obvious he's legit. – **JH**



The Beatles

Desperately Seeking Paul McCartney



Magical Mystery Tour Memories

MVD Visual

Ostensibly a joke within a joke about former entertainment reporter Ruth Anson's brush with the Beatles during their second American tour, *Desperately Seeking Paul McCartney* is everything the Beatles were not – a mean-spirited, slow-moving exercise in exploitation (both of the Beatles and Anson) and its premise, to turn Anson's original idea of a follow up on McCartney's facetious marriage proposal to her 40 years ago into a joke on the clueless Anson herself, is cruel and the results unwatchable.

Magical Mystery Tour Memories is everything *Desperately Seeking* isn't – good-natured, entertaining, and watchable. Except for the music, of course, *Mystery Tour*, the film, was one of the Beatles' few real, albeit magnificent, failures. There is no actual Beatles music here – the soundtrack consists of Beatle-esque instrumental re-creations – and "the lads" are mostly silent in the home movies of the day trip that was the excuse for the film or vice versa. But there are charming anecdotes from Beatle insiders including McCartney's brother, the former Mike McGear, long-time fan club president Frieda Kelly and Bonzo Dog (Doo Dah) Band and Rutles founder Neil Innes. Actor/raconteur Victor Spinetti, the harried choreographer in *A Hard Day's Night* and Professor Foot, the mad scientist in *Help*, narrates, and reminisces as do the "regular folk" encountered along the way. The Beatles come across as lovable as ever, and even those who were close witness to their faults have deeply affectionate memories.

Sure, only a fan could appreciate the tale and feel the pain 40 years on of the poor lad who had the Polaroid of himself with the group snatched from his hand by a zealous teenaged girl minutes after all four Beatles had signed it. For non-fans, Lennon, as usual, said it best. "You should'a been there." – **RA VG**