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Paul McCartney

Desperately Seeking Paul McCartney

MVD Visual (MVDV4765)

Grade: ★★★



An example of guerrilla filmmaking gone horribly wrong, "Desperately Seeking Paul McCartney" ineptly follows former teen ABC-TV news reporter Ruth Anson on her quest to reconnect with Paul McCartney, who, offhandedly, "proposed" marriage to Anson in a 1965 interview. Consumed by her unhealthy obsession, Anson — a borderline stalker — shuns loved ones' advice to stop, while director Marc Cushman, seeing the project falling apart, goes the reality TV route, embarrassing Anson — all in the name of entertainment — whenever possible. Crassly, and unapologetically, exploitative, his motives are toxic.

From unsuccessfully crashing the Grammys to a painful intervention scene for Anson, "Desperately Seeking Paul McCartney" is ultimately sad and morally bankrupt. But, along with being uncomfortably funny, it's also a compelling train wreck of a film that exposes, and ridicules, reality TV's ugliness. A shoestring production that brings out the worst in everybody involved, this mockumentary will make you cringe. www.mvdvisual.com

— Peter Lindblad