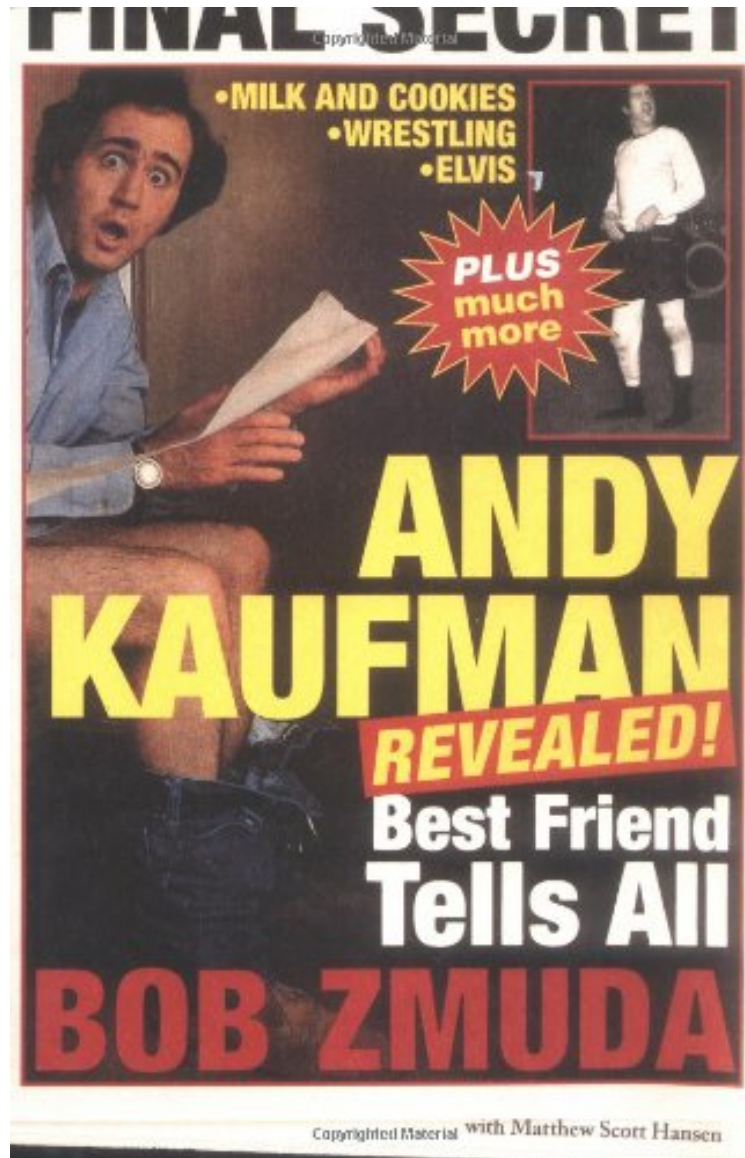


(Download pdf ebook) Andy Kaufman Revealed!: Best Friend Tells All

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Bob Zmuda, Matthew Scott Hansen

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Bob Zmuda, Matthew Scott Hansen : Andy Kaufman Revealed!: Best Friend Tells All before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Andy Kaufman Revealed!: Best Friend Tells All:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Magic of the Alchemist By Doug Brunell Bob Zmuda's book is amazing if only for the insights it offers on Andy Kaufman, a man whose influence on comedy is still with us to this day. Kaufman, however, was no comedian. He was an alchemist ... changing realities of the people with whom he

came into contact. So much so, in fact, that some people to this day believe he faked his death. As a child, I was doing things like Kaufman did before I even knew of him. It was until a little later in my childhood that I saw him on television and realized that I wasn't as weird as I thought, after all. Here was a like-spirit. A man who entertained himself and those who got the magic. Zmuda reveals some of the tricks of their trade (he was Kaufman's friend, writer and business partner), and instead of that taking away some of the allure, it actually adds to it. If you are a fan of Kaufman, comedy or pranks, you need to read this book. Zmuda has written something as accessible as it is funny, and when you get to the end, you may actually find yourself choking up a bit. Not because of Kaufman's death, but because of what the world lost. Some people will never understand or like him, but for those who did, they understand that kind of magic is gone ... and will probably never be seen again.² of 3 people found the following review helpful. a plodding read
By chris romano Don't let the title fool you...this book is as much about Bob Zmuda as Andy Kaufman, if not more so. For someone who's supposedly written for Kaufman, Dangerfield, and others, you'd think his story telling ability would be more compelling...more exciting. But it's not, and I find myself more scanning the book for Andy parts than actually reading it. Zmuda is, dare I say, just feeding off his best friend's success, trying to make us feel that he was truly an integral part of Andy's genius. I woulda believed that before reading the book...but now, well, now I'm completely indifferent. Zmuda's writing is like listening to a long-winded bore at some party you don't really want to be at. In true Kaufman fashion, however, Zmuda has the last laugh. For, no matter how good or bad this book might be, regardless, Bob's got my money. Andy would be proud.⁷ of 9 people found the following review helpful. Great insight and Humor. Mr. X alone is worth the read.
By Rick Spell I read this book in three quick reads and found it very entertaining. The chapter about Mr. X is incredibly funny and almost unbelievable. If anyone knows who he is, I'm dying to know, please email me. Andy was clearly a strange guy marching to a different drummer. It's a fascinating life and worth the read. Zmuda and Kaufman were clearly funnier off screen than on. Previous interviewers were negative on Zmuda talking about himself and this created some trepidation on my part. That was not warranted as he didn't overly talk about himself and frankly, his life is also interesting. The final chapters dealing with death show Zmuda's personal growth and maybe his final maturity to a real adult. I encourage this book for entertainment, particularly if you enjoy Saturday Night Live, Rodney Dangerfield, Jim Carrey or Robin Williams. These men were peers and influences in Andy's life or he in theirs. If you get the chance to see the two Andy Kaufman specials which run on Comedy Central, Comedy and Wrestling, make a point to watch. They serve as a great visual background to this book.

Best known for his sweet-natured character Latka on Taxi, Andy Kaufman was the most influential comic of the generation that produced David Letterman, John Belushi, and Robin Williams. A regular on the early days of Saturday Night Live (where he regularly disrupted planned skits), Kaufman quickly became known for his idiosyncratic roles and for performances that crossed the boundaries of comedy, challenging expectations and shocking audiences. Kaufman's death from lung cancer at age 35 (he never smoked) stunned his fans and the comic community that had come to look to him as its lightning rod and standard bearer. Bob Zmuda, Kaufman's closest friend, producer, writer, and straight man, breaks his twenty-year silence about Kaufman and un masks the man he knew better than anyone. He chronicles Kaufman's meteoric rise, the development of his extraordinary personas, the private man behind the driven actor and comedian, and answers the question most often asked: Did Andy Kaufman fake his own death? A movie about Kaufman starring Jim Carrey, directed by Milos Forman, and co-executive produced by author Bob Zmuda and Danny DeVito's Jersey Films, is scheduled for national release in fall 1999.

.com American comedian Andy Kaufman (1949-1984) was a performer like no other--a rule-breaking iconoclast who blurred the line between performance art and comedy, at times between life and art itself. Misunderstood by the public at large during his lifetime, and embraced by a cult of fans that has consistently grown since his premature death from cancer, Kaufman is the perfect counter-cultural martyr, ripe for a Gap khakis ad. Like Lenny Bruce before him, Kaufman chafed at the reigns of comedy; he didn't always want to make people laugh, in fact he wished to make them uncomfortable. One might consider those notorious French bad-boy playwrights Alfred Jarry and Antonin Artaud (who pushed the envelope of good taste and thoroughly enjoyed confusing their audiences) to be Kaufman's spiritual predecessors, though this might be taking things too seriously. His most well-known routines--the inept stand-up comedian "foreign man," the basis for the character Latka Gravas on the hit sitcom "Taxi"; the grizzled, professional lounge lizard Tony Clifton; and the reigning world champion of inter-gender wrestling--all hinged on making the crowd squirm. Life was a show for Kaufman, who began staging elaborate shows for friends and family at the age of 7; everything was a put-on and yet totally, dead-on serious. Judging by Bob Zmuda's book (released in anticipation of a biographical movie starring Jim Carrey), Kaufman wasn't the easiest guy to be a best friend to. But, as Zmuda tells things, he rose to the challenge--letting Kaufman confide that he had a daughter he'd never seen, keeping his mouth shut at the appropriate times, and otherwise fulfilling best-friend duties with aplomb. Andy Kaufman got the friend he deserved in his lifetime, but this is not the biography he deserves; it is written in a well-meaning though hackneyed and hard-to-digest style. Simple points are made again and again, as if the two(!) authors were attempting to fuse a poorly-written college essay with a USA Today article. And Mr. Zmuda makes the mistake of assuming that his own

history will be of much interest to the reader, who is ostensibly reading a tell-all about Kaufman, not his best friend. There are tremendous anecdotes here; about half the book is filled with glorious tales of artful mischief, hijinks, pranks, and funny stuff that Zmuda and Kaufman pulled on friends, crowds, and strangers. Fans will undoubtedly want to pick this one up, while those with a more casual interest are cautioned to perhaps look elsewhere for a less clumsily written tome. --Mike McConigal

From Publishers Weekly

The brilliantly subversive comedian Andy Kaufman is remembered today not only for his ability to make people laugh but also for his unnerving blend of shock humor and high-concept performance art. Fifteen years after Kaufman's death from lung cancer at the age of 35, his close friend and collaborator Zmuda unveils an intimate portrait of the enigmatic performer. In 1972, Zmuda, then a struggling writer/comedian, first saw Kaufman perform at New York's Improv as Foreign Man, a lovable dork, who, after bombing miserably on stage, would burst into a dead-on impersonation of Elvis Presley. Foreign Man would become Kaufman's signature act, leading to regular appearances on Saturday Night Live and a role as Latka on the TV sitcom Taxi. Yet Kaufman, according to Zmuda, often grew bored with celebrity and constantly pushed the comic envelope: inventing an alter ego, the swaggering, foul-mouthed lounge singer Tony Clifton; taking a Hollywood audience out for milk and cookies (a concept for which Zmuda claims credit); going on tour to wrestle college-age women, an idea apparently dreamed up by Kaufman in order to get women to sleep with him. Kaufman's unpredictability was such that audiences never knew whether or not they were in on the joke; when the comedian succumbed to cancer, many wondered whether he was faking it. Zmuda reveals some long-kept secrets including the truth about the infamous feud with wrestler Jerry Lawler, which landed Kaufman in the hospital. Although Zmuda touches upon Kaufman's obsessive-compulsive behavior and the possibility that he might have exhibited a form of multiple personality disorder, this highly absorbing memoir will be read less for its insights into Kaufman's psyche than for the immediacy with which it recounts his brief but blazing career. (Sept.) FYI: The Andy Kaufman craze continues this fall as Universal Pictures releases the Andy Kaufman biopic, *Man on the Moon*, directed by Milos Forman and starring Jim Carrey. In November, Delacorte will publish *Lost in the Fun House: The Life and Mind of Andy Kaufman* by Bill Zehme. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Booklist

With a movie about Kaufman forthcoming, his manager and friend Zmuda's recollection of the late comedian is timely. Best remembered as English-challenged immigrant Latka Gravas on the '70s sitcom *Taxi*, Kaufman also appeared regularly on Saturday Night Live, did stand-up, and wrestled women. He baited pro wrestling in general and Jerry Lawler in particular, a gambit that, it seemed, eventuated in his own grievous physical harm. His comedy involved a high degree of audience manipulation, never better displayed than in his wrestling-related endeavors. Whether his injury at Lawler's hands was real or a hoax has long been debated. The movie spills the beans, and the book does, too. So Lawler's apparently brutal "pile driver," Kaufman's subsequent neck brace, and the final, violent confrontation on David Letterman's Late Night set--were they just hype? Finding out is just one reason to read this thoroughly entertaining, illuminating showbiz bio. Oh--Jim Carrey contributes a cutely cryptic secret message about understanding Kaufman's humor, but the book is still worthwhile. Mike Tribby