**Dark Side of The Moon, April 1, 2003 - Mockumentary, NOT documentary**

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0344160/usercomments

**The mockumentary, The Dark side of the Moon, was first screened by SBS TV in Australia on April 1, 2003.**, 8 October 2005

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#### Director:

[William Karel](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0439137/)

#### Stars:

[Stanley Kubrick](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000040/), [Richard Nixon](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0633271/) and [Buzz Aldrin](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0004696/)

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### Company Credits

#### Production Co:

[Arte France](http://www.imdb.com/company/co0181546/), [Centre National de la Cinématographie (CNC)](http://www.imdb.com/company/co0090290/), [Point du Jour](http://www.imdb.com/company/co0068835/)

Show detailed [company contact information](http://www.imdb.com/r/tt_details_contact/title/tt0344160/companycredits) on [IMDbPro](http://www.imdb.com/r/tt_details_contact/) »

## Fun Facts

## [Dark Side of the Moon](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0344160/) ([2002](http://www.imdb.com/year/2002/)) (TV) [More at ****IMDbPro****](http://pro.imdb.com/rg/trivia-title/tconst-pro-header-link/title/tt0344160/) »Opération lune *(original title)*

The origin of the fictitious characters' names: - Jack Torrance - from [The Shining](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0081505/) (1980) - David Bowman - from [2001: A Space Odyssey](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0062622/) (1968) - Dimitri Muffley - from [Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0057012/) (1964) (a combination of the names of the two presidents) - Eve Kendall - from [North by Northwest](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0053125/) (1959) - Marla Vargas - from [The Barefoot Contessa](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0046754/) (1954) - Ambrose Chapel - centre of the spies' activity in [The Man Who Knew Too Much](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0049470/) (1956) - W.A. Koenigsberg - a play on [Woody Allen](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000095/)'s (W.A.) real name, Allen Stuart Koenigsberg. George Kaplan - from [North by Northwest](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0053125/) (1959)   
[Link this trivia](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0344160/trivia?tr0630599)

Awards: Award for Excellence in TV or Film and Best Film on Science (Go Figure Festival, Montreal, 2003)   
[Link this trivia](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0344160/trivia?tr1364026)

This films contains clips from the following documentaries: - Australie, route de Tanami, directed by H. Rébillon and A. Mansir - L'archipel des savants, directed by L. Graffin and F. Landesman - La vallée des rizières éternelles, directed by P. Boitet - Païlin, le refuge des criminels, directed by H. Dubois - Chine, union furtive, directed by W. Fanghi - Laos, les montagnards de l'opium, directed by F. Pierrot

#### Connections

References [Capricorn One](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0077294/) (1977) [See more](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0344160/movieconnections) »

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Author: [Tonyvdb](http://www.imdb.com/user/ur1490065/comments) from Kortrijk, Belgium

As I began to watch this film, I did not know what it was about.  
  
The further this documentary proceeded however, the further my mouth fell open ! During this documentary, I kept thinking :"Why didn't I know about this? Why hadn't I, a big Kubrick and space-fan, never heard of this before?". I watched it almost the same way I would watch the landing of a flying saucer.  
  
I will not reveal any "plot"-details, but this one thing I can tell : before you watch : try not to know what it is about. Let yourself be carried away and watch it until the very end (and do not forget the end titles!)

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Author: [alveni](http://www.imdb.com/user/ur4458571/comments) from Germany

**\*\*\* This review may contain spoilers \*\*\***

If you feel angry or confused after watching it, that's good. That's the point, IMHO. I would give it 15 out of 10 if it was possible.  
  
I didn't know what it really was about. And I missed the first few minutes, so I don't even know if German ARTE channel put any comment to this documentary as they aired it for the first time. I was totally unprepared for the shock.  
  
I've always thought I'm a skeptic and hard to impress. Even more, few days before I've had a look at one of those "Moonlanding-was-a-fake" discussions, and knowing enough about astronomy, physics and photography, I was able to discredit most of the arguments right away. But... jeez, they had Haig and Rumsfeld and Armstrong... saying things that made my whole world fall apart. Actually, my world fell apart twice this evening. First time as I started to believe in this incredible conspiration, second time after the credits, as I realized how easily I threw away all my reason and knowledge because of EXPERTS saying I was wrong. I remember being so fooled, that for a while I refused to believe in what they were showing in the credit part!  
  
Rewatching the documentary I just could't believe I've bought the whole story! If you know, you can clearly see how it is built, starting with innocent details and then getting more obscure and ridiculous toward the end, when the audience is brainwashed enough to believe everything. The experts' statements are nothing more than meaningless pieces cut out of context. Karel could talk about fox hunting with those people, what they really say contains not a single bit of information. Makes you wonder about history books and daily news... I couldn't watch ANYTHING in TV without suspicion for weeks after that.   
  
I do agree with people saying the final message in the credits might not be clear enough. But I also can imagine it was done by purpose, and Karel is laughing his butt off while watching conspiration theorists using his movie as an argument. If the film was meant as a sociological experiment it has fully succeed.   
  
I think it's a shame that Dark Side of The Moon was never released on DVD, together with comments and some additional information. I would like to know which parts are true (at least what Karel THINKS is true), without doing a huge research by myself. Kubrick getting that Zeiss lens from NASA seems to be true -> http://www.visual-memory.co.uk/amk/doc/interview.bl.html IMHO watching it should be obligatory in every school -- for me it was the most valuable lesson I ever learned from TV.   
  
I have no doubts that media are using the same manipulation techniques every day. I know that Michael Moore did it at least once in "Bowling for Columbine", but without giving us any hint in the final credits. Which I think is sad, because many people are using Moore's movies as arguments too, and he is much more popular than Karel.  
  
In a time of computer effects only our common sense and our knowledge about the world make us able to distinguish between fiction and reality. But what do we know about reality? Mostly we just rely on second hand information, taking things for true because we are told they are true. One could check the sources, research arguments, try to look under the surface... but in the end all we get is someone's statement that can be manipulated or pictures that can be fake... or did you ever see with your own eyes that the Earth is round? :P Yes, it IS scary, much more scary than Matrix.

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Author: [Jean Paul Ceulemans](http://www.imdb.com/user/ur0858358/comments) from Antwerp

**\*\*\* This review may contain spoilers \*\*\***

We choose to go to the Moon, and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard.  
  
With these historical words of the late JFK, the race to the moon was officially started.  
  
Almost seven years later, this race was decided when the whole world witnessed how Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on another world. But was everything really the way it looked?  
  
This documentary starts from a simple premise: when Stanley Kubrick wanted to shoot the candle light scenes for Barry Lyndon, he needed a special lens that costs several millions of dollars and only one such lens existed and was owned by NASA, and they used it for tracking satellites in complete darkness.  
  
The ease with which the NASA was ready to borrow this piece of espionage equipment to Kubrick set the researcher on a hunt for the truth behind the moon landing and the part that Kubrick had played in it. Exposing fact after fact, the director William Karel explains the viewer how the evidence that was right there all along under our noses proves that the moon landing was actually staged in a studio and that the original plan of Nixon, who was president at that time, was to make everyone who participated in this staging, disappear. He shows testimonies of Buzz Aldrin, Richard Nixon, Stanley Kubrick, Henry Kissinger and even Donald Rumsfeld to prove his theory.  
  
\*\*\*\*MAJOR SPOILER\*\*\*\* If you want to enjoy this documentary to fullest, then please watch it first before you read on.  
  
OK you are either stubborn or you have watched it already. The topic is of course not very original, the movie Capricorn One already covered a staged Mars landing, and there is a lot of literature that tries to prove that the NASA moon landing happened in the studio. And this one is of course a mockumentary but the clever thing about it is that it gradually feeds the viewer with inconsistencies and absurdities which get more and more noticeable as the story unfolds. It starts with subtle things like a view of an ordinary 28-85mm Carl Zeiss lens costing less than 1000$, a French speaking head of the CIA and a mission control team member named David Bowman ending in such ridiculous claims that in order to eliminate the 4 remaining witnesses, an army force far greater than that used in the first Gulf war was deployed. And for the intellectually challenged viewer, at the end some bloopers are shown between the end credits that show that certain parts were played by actors.  
  
Still, by using a clever mix of real footage, excepts of interviews with famous people and fake interviews with fictional key figures played by actors, Karel manages to keep many less informed viewers unaware for a while that they are watching a hoax.  
  
And depending on how keen and sceptical you are, the time for you to expose this hoax will be shorter. And once you realize that you were being fooled, it suddenly turns into a very funny joke. Even if you decided to read the spoiler, you will still be entertained by the absurdities near the end.  
  
\*\*\*\* END SPOILER \*\*\*\*  
  
I advise you to watch it with a few friends and I am certain that you will equally enjoy their reactions as much as you will enjoy this documentary. It is certainly worth a second view in order to capture all the details.

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Author: [imdb-14312](http://www.imdb.com/user/ur10990527/comments) from Australia

**\*\*\* This review may contain spoilers \*\*\***

Some of the comments here just prove precisely what the director was trying to say.  
  
One of the reasons the show was so good was that it wasn't obvious it was a "mockumentary" until you were well and truly in it. The director just kept sliding up the "mock volume" throughout the entire show. Basically, when all your friends are around and talk about it, you say something like "hey, when did you figure it out?" and one person will say, "I was sucked in. I didn't figure it out until the (obviously American) CIA troops went in under cover and left McDonalds wrappers floating about - about two thirds in", and someone else says they didn't get it till close to then end. Someone else says they sussed it out very early on.  
  
But the point is, they all get it sometime. The director keeps hamming it up until he finally goes obvious towards the end. And if you still don't get it, then you probably believe in Santa Claus!!  
  
I will say, however, that I can understand English-as-a-second-language-ers not "getting" it because it plays a lot on language cues for satire and they may not be so obvious to someone not fluent in English. I think a lot of the 1/10 people are in this category.  
  
One of the best TV shows I've ever seen. 10/10 easily. The only other show that scores 10/10 for me was the TV series The Singing Detective. Somewhat different, mind.

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Author: [uffesteenberg](http://www.imdb.com/user/ur12516424/comments) from Denmark

**\*\*\* This review may contain spoilers \*\*\***

Remember seeing this on TV a few years back. Look, I study history and believe myself to be skeptical and not easy to fool, but this "documentary" had me fooled big time. OK, I mean, we all want to believe the conspiracy theories a little bit, don't we? :-) What fooled was that they got Kissinger and all the big shots to take part in the production. But i really hate myself for being fooled.. if it was all true, wouldn't we have read about it in the papers and seen it on the news before the programme aired??  
  
Anyway, this would be excellent to show younger students and people who just buy into any conspiracy theories.  
  
I will definitely be trying to get it somehow. Please mention similar productions if you know any :-)  
  
-Uffe Steenberg (Denmark)

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Author: [aidanhell](http://www.imdb.com/user/ur1150357/comments)

incredibly clever documentary about the ease with which we are manipulated by the media, and how the media is in turn used as a tool of manipulation. really worth seeing and, watch for clues!

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Author: [wild-817-727929](http://www.imdb.com/user/ur23710860/comments) from Switzerland

Ever wanna see Kubrick's widow, Buzz "man-on-the-moon" Aldrin and other real life conspirators like Lawrence Eagleburger, Alexander Haig, Richard Helms, Henry Kissinger & Donald Rumsfeld together in a movie talking about the obviously faked moon landing and other great conspiracies as JFKs assassination? (google for the names if your are absolutely clueless & innocent.)  
  
This is the one and only real Dokyou have to see to believe how the Illuminati rule the world and even the hole universe. ... and after all, this is an excellent film about how "documentaries" are made of and work.   
  
If ever the word "conspiracy" was in your treasury of words, this Dokyou is a must!

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Author: [queerever](http://www.imdb.com/user/ur22447510/comments) from Brazil

It is brilliant in one sense. But then, why bother. People like Kissinger or Rumsfield are the most evil, sinister, worse than the devil, nation building, murderous, imperialists. They were and are. Even though that sounds like some "socialist" student rant - should not be easily discounted even where the student may turn into an old man even more conservative than the media's most evil man, Rupert Murdoch.  
  
Evil is a bad word, sullied by biblical, fictitious illusions. I am sick of how, in this world, there are men who force an evil agenda, far worse than imagined in the bible, and they get off scot free, even celebrated - going where all the Bourgeois hang out (and make docos together), as if "everything is everything", and we are all friends and it's all a laugh. IF war were over, I wouldn't make this rant. In that case, forgiveness could start.  
  
Innocent people die, still, while war criminals are treated as heroes and make jokes about fooling everybody, or not. One obvious step further; the main reason those innocent people die is so that some other people pillage the resources to make sick jokes on very expensive film. And here some of them are, having fun at mocking the idea of a conspiracy.  
  
Hence I use words like the devil or evil, as understatements.  
  
WAKE UP WORLD. I have been saying this for a long time now. The biggest problem with conspiracy theories is that fact is already more shocking! Kissinger, Rumsfield, et al, are directly guilty for leading, sending men to kill many other men FOR A PARANOIA (WITH FAR LESS BASIS FOR IT) THAN YOUR AVERAGE CONSPIRACY THEORY/IST.  
  
And here is this Documentary maker, allowing them more fame and the arrogant position to mock. Kissinger didn't feel as though he had enough Vietnamese killed, so why not take part in a mockumentary that uses them as bit parts. They may be kidding, however, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Korea, Iraq, etc, etc, etc. the tens of millions murdered, are no joke.  
  
Certainly an interesting documentary, just as Hitler's men made some interesting experiments on people too.  
  
A very strange co-incidence for me, that I saw this so very soon after 'Exit Through The Gift Shop' - (apparently NOT a hoax, but I still dilly-dally on that). Said documentary or elaborate hoax is far more interesting and incomparably funnier. Jeez I hate Donald Rumsfield, with politicians like him you can bring back Stalin or Saddam any day.

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Author: [gisele-11](http://www.imdb.com/user/ur7474566/comments) from Australia

**\*\*\* This review may contain spoilers \*\*\***

The mockumentary The Dark side of the Moon was first screened by SBS TV in Australia on April 1, 2003. And yes, some of the segments were over-the-top, but I think this was done deliberately to discredit the Moon landing hoax. Unfortunately, despite the added clue of the screening date here, many people still believed it was a real revelation that the Moon landing had been faked. Although I fully share sarastro7's lament that there are so many people who do not believe the Moon landings really happened, and I agree that it is a pity that the documentary gave credence to the conspiracy peddlers, I still think it is an exceptionally clever production. The fact that viewers found it hard to sort out the facts from the fabrications, indeed even wonder if it was a US government counter-hoax, underscores William Karel's point. I only saw it once, but as I understand it, the non-actor interviewees, including Donald Rumsfeld, were not actually part of the farce. If viewers listen carefully, the real key players interviewed do not refer specifically to the Apollo 11 mission in their comments denying it happened. Rather, the documentary maker inserted clips of real interviews with these personages, but in most cases they were speaking about unrelated matters. The viewer merely draws inference from the words and clips from the context of the documentary. The key players were then asked for their consent to include the clips, and the end segment captures their surprised reaction.

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END