

**EXHIBIT H TO RANAHAH DECLARATION IN
SUPPORT OF OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION
FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

A **mockumentary** (a [portmanteau](#) of mock and documentary) or **docucomedy** is a [type](#) of film or television show in which fictional events are presented in documentary style to create a [parody](#).^[1] These productions are often used to analyze or comment on [current events](#) and issues by using a fictional setting, or to parody the documentary form itself.^[2] They may be either [comedic](#) or dramatic in form, although comedic mockumentaries are more common. A dramatic mockumentary (sometimes referred to as [docufiction](#)) should not be confused with [docudrama](#), a fictional [genre](#) in which dramatic techniques are combined with documentary elements to depict real events.

Mockumentaries are often presented as historical documentaries, with [B roll](#) and talking heads discussing past events, or as [cinéma vérité](#) pieces following people as they go through various events. Examples emerged during the 1950s when archival film footage became relatively easy to locate.^[2] A very early example was a short piece on the "[Swiss Spaghetti Harvest](#)" that appeared as an [April fools'](#) joke on the British television program *[Panorama](#)* in 1957.

The term "mockumentary", which originated in the 1960s, was popularized in the mid-1980s when *[This Is Spinal Tap](#)* director [Rob Reiner](#) used it in interviews to describe that film.^{[3][4][5]}

Mockumentaries are often partly or wholly [improvised](#), as an unscripted style of acting helps to maintain the pretense of reality. Comedic mockumentaries rarely have [laugh tracks](#), also to sustain the atmosphere, although exceptions exist.

Early examples

Early work, including [Luis Buñuel](#)'s 1933 *[Land Without Bread](#)*, [Orson Welles](#)'s 1938 radio broadcast of *[The War of the Worlds](#)*, various April Fool's Day news reports, and *vérité*-style film and television during the 1960s and '70s, served as precursor to the genre.^[3]

Early examples of mock-documentaries include *[A Hard Day's Night](#)*, 1964, (written by [Alun Owen](#), purporting to describe several days in the lives of [The Beatles](#), that would be the first feature-length mockumentary), *[David Holzman's Diary](#)*, 1967, *[Pat Paulsen for President](#)* , 1968, *[Take the Money and Run](#)*, 1969, *[The Clowns](#)*, 1970, by [Federico Fellini](#)

(a peculiar [hybrid of documentary and fiction](#), a docufiction), and *All You Need Is Cash*, 1978. [Albert Brooks](#) was also an early popularizer of the mockumentary style with his film *Real Life*, 1979, a spoof of a [PBS](#) documentary.

[Woody Allen](#)'s *Take the Money and Run* is presented in documentary-style with Allen playing a fictional criminal, Virgil Starkwell, whose crime exploits are "explored" throughout the film.^[1] [Jackson Beck](#), who used to narrate documentaries in the 1940s, provides the voice-over narration. Fictional interviews are interspersed throughout, especially those of Starkwell's parents who wear [Groucho Marx](#) noses and mustaches. The style of this film was widely appropriated by others and revisited by Allen himself in films such as *Zelig* (1983) and *Sweet and Lowdown* (1999).^[1]

Early use of the mockumentary format in television comedy may be seen in several sketches from *Monty Python's Flying Circus* (1969–1974), such as "Hell's Grannies", "Piranha Brothers", and "The Funniest Joke in the World". *The Hart and Lorne Terrific Hour* (1970–1971) also featured mockumentary pieces which interspersed both scripted and real-life man-in-the-street interviews, the most famous likely being "The Puck Crisis" in which hockey pucks were claimed to have become infected with a form of [Dutch elm disease](#).

Since 1980

In film

Since the beginning of the 1980s, the mockumentary format has enjoyed considerable attention.

The 1980 [South African](#) film *The Gods Must be Crazy* (along with its [1989 sequel](#)) is presented in the manner of a [nature documentary](#), with documentary narrator [Paddy O'Byrne](#) describing the events of the film in the manner of a biologist or anthropologist presenting scientific knowledge to viewers.

Woody Allen's 1983 film *Zelig* stars Allen as a curiously nondescript enigma who is discovered for his remarkable ability to transform himself to resemble anyone he is near, and Allen is edited into historical archive footage.^[1]

In 1984, [Christopher Guest](#) co-wrote and starred in the mockumentary *This is Spinal Tap*, directed by Rob Reiner, and went on cowriting and directing himself a series of films in the same genre. Films such as *Waiting for Guffman*, *Best in Show*, and *A Mighty Wind*, all written with costar [Eugene Levy](#), were critical successes.^[1]

Man Bites Dog is a 1992 [Belgian black comedy](#) crime mockumentary written, produced, and directed by [Rémy Belvaux](#), [André Bonzel](#), and [Benoît Poelvoorde](#).

In 1995, directed by [Peter Jackson](#) and [Costa Botes](#), *Forgotten Silver* claimed [New Zealand](#) "director" Colin McKenzie to be a pioneer in filmmaking.^[6] When the film was later revealed to be a mockumentary, Jackson received criticism for tricking viewers.^[7]

In 1999, *Drop Dead Gorgeous* by [Michael Patrick Jann](#) used the mockumentary style to narrate a fictional small-town beauty pageant as a way to satirize [Middle America](#).

Dark Side of the Moon is a 2002 French mockumentary by director [William Karel](#). The premise for the film is the theory that the television footage from the [Apollo 11](#) Moon landing was faked and actually recorded in a studio by the [CIA](#) with help from director [Stanley Kubrick](#).

FUBAR is a 2002 Canadian mockumentary film, directed by [Michael Dowse](#), based on the lives of two lifelong friends and head-bangers living out their lives, constantly drinking beer.

C.S.A.: The Confederate States of America is a 2004 mockumentary presenting an [alternative history](#) in which the [Confederacy](#) won the [American Civil War](#).

First on the Moon (Russian: Первые на Луне, *Pervye na Lune*) is a 2005 Russian mockumentary about a fictional 1930s Soviet landing on the Moon.

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan is a highly controversial yet successful film from 2006 which uses this style, as does *Brüno*, a similar film from 2009.

On the Ropes is a 2011 mockumentary film written and directed by [Mark Noyce](#). The film follows a fictional martial-arts instructor and his rivalry with a local boxing gym.

What We Do In The Shadows is a 2014 horror/comedy mockumentary film directed and written by [Taika Waititi](#) and [Jemaine Clement](#); the aforementioned directors also star in the production. The film is centered on vampire flat mates living in [Wellington](#).

Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping is a 2016 mockumentary musical comedy starring [Andy Samberg](#) as Connor4Real, an over-the-top parody of Justin Bieber. It is filmed in the style of a typical concert documentary such as *[Katy Perry: Part of Me](#)* and *[Justin Bieber: Never Say Never](#)*.

In television

The 1983 *[The Comic Strip Presents...](#)* film *[Bad News Tour](#)* was a spoof [rockumentary](#) about a British [heavy metal](#) band. It preceded *[Spinal Tap](#)* by a year, but is not known to have been an influence on the U.S. film. The film led to LPs being released and the band really touring, and was followed by a sequel, *[More Bad News](#)* in 1987.^[8] *[Stella Street](#)* was a mockumentary which ran on the BBC from 1997 to 2001. It was written by [Phil Cornwell](#), [John Sessions](#), and [Peter Richardson](#), and featured Cornwell and Sessions playing all the characters between them. The series was shot on handheld [camcorders](#).^[9] *[Operation Good Guys](#)*, another low-budget BBC sitcom, ran for three series starting in 1997.

In television, the most notable mockumentaries in the 2000s have been: [ABC Australia's *The Games*](#) (1998–2000), Canadian series *[Trailer Park Boys](#)* (2001–present), the British shows *[Marion and Geoff](#)* (2000), *[Twenty Twelve](#)* (2011–2012) (which follows the fictional Olympic Deliverance Commission in the run-up to the [2012 Summer Olympic Games](#)) and [W1A](#), which follows the main characters of *[Twenty Twelve](#)* as they start work at the BBC, *[The Office](#)* (2001) and its [many international offshoots](#), *[Come Fly with Me](#)* (2010), which follows the activity at a fictional airport and its variety of staff and passengers. British comedy duo [Jennifer Saunders](#) and [Dawn French](#) often presented short mockumentaries as extended sketches in their TV show *[French & Saunders](#)*. Discovery Channel opened its annual Shark Week on 4 Aug 2013 with *[Megalodon: The Monster Shark Lives](#)*, a mockumentary about the survival of the [megalodon](#). Notable popular examples include sitcoms *[Arrested Development](#)* (2003-2013), *[The Office \(U.S.\)](#)* (2005–2013), *[Parks and Recreation](#)* (2009–2015), and *[Modern Family](#)* (2009–present); the American improv comedy *[Reno 911!](#)* (2003–2009); the Canadian sitcom *[Trailer Park Boys](#)* and its films; the comedy series *[The Muppets](#)* (2015); the UK streaming sitcom *[Derek](#)* (2012–2014); the

Australian Chris Lilley shows *Angry Boys*, *Summer Heights High*, *We Can Be Heroes: Finding The Australian of the Year*, *Ja'mie: Private School Girl*, and *Jonah from Tonga*.

One of India's digital mockumentary is *Not Fit* (2015-2016), which was created by **Pocket Aces**.

On radio

The BBC series *People Like Us* was first produced for radio in 1995 before a television version was made in 1999.

See also

- [Docudrama](#) - a dramatized documentary
- [Documentary comedy](#)
- [Found footage \(pseudo-documentary\)](#)
- [List of mockumentaries](#)
- [Mockbuster](#)
- [Pseudo-documentary](#) - a fake documentary, often presented as real

References

- [^] ^a ^b ^c ^d ^e Romanski, Philippe; Sy-Wonyu, Aïssatou (2002). *Trompe (-)l'oeil: Imitation & Falsification* . Publications de l'Université de Rouen. **324**. University of Le Havre Press. p. 343. ISBN 2877753344.
- [^] ^a ^b Campbell, Miranda (2007). "The mocking mockumentary and the ethics of irony" (PDF). *Taboo: The Journal of Culture and Education*. **11** (1): 53–62. Retrieved 26 July 2010.
- [^] ^a ^b Roscoe, Jane; Craig Hight (2001). *Faking it: Mock-documentary and the Subversion of Factuality*. Manchester University Press. ISBN 0-7190-5641-1.
- [^] "mockumentary, *n.*" . *Oxford Dictionary*. Oxford University Press. 2010. Retrieved 1 June 2013.

5. [^] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IT-ONdy2ck&t=1m>
6. [^] [Colin McKenzie](#)
7. [^] Hight, Craig; Roscoe, Jane (2006). "Forgotten Silver: A New Zealand Television Hoax and Its Audience". In [Alexandra Juhasz](#) and [Jesse Lerner](#). *F Is for Phony: Fake Documentary And Truth's Undoing* . Visible Evidence. **17**. U of Minnesota Press. pp. 171–173. ISBN 0816642516.
8. [^] "Bad News – the Spoof Heavy Metal Band" . *BBC h2g2*. BBC. Retrieved 8 December 2011.
9. [^] "Stella Street" . *BBC Comedy*. BBC. Retrieved 7 December 2011.

Further reading

- Hight, Craig 2008: *Mockumentary: A Call to Play*," in [Thomas Austin](#) and [Wilma de Jong](#) (ed.), *Rethinking Documentary: New Perspectives, New Practices*. *Berkshire: Open University Press*.
- Hight, Craig 2010: *Television mockumentary. Reflexivity, satire and a call to play*. Manchester: Manchester Univ. Press.
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External links

- [Fake and Mock Documentaries \(list\)](#) at the Media Resources Center of the UC Berkeley Library
- [Mockumentary – Reflexivity, satire and a call to play](#) at The University of Waikato, New Zealand

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