



On August 16 2007, 70,000 Elvis fans came to Graceland, the Presley family home in Memphis. They were to mark the the 30th anniversary of the King of Rock and Roll.

But a small minority of devoted Elvis fans did not travel to Tennessee. 'It's not his anniversary,' they insist, 'because he's not dead.'

Suspicious

The official story is that Elvis Presley died in the bathroom of his Graceland home from 'heart failure'. From the beginning there were questions. What had caused heart failure in an apparently healthy 42 year-old man? At the time Elvis's history of prescription drug abuse and over-eating were not widely known.

Suspicion increased when an autopsy report mysteriously disappeared. And many pointed to something Elvis often said in his final concerts: 'I don't look very good now, but I will look good in my coffin.' Was he trying to tell his fans something?

Theories

There have been several theories about this supposed 'fake death'. One is that Elvis escaped his fame and returned to a simple life. Or he was hiding from the Mafia in a FBI witness protection programme.

Or working as an undercover drugs agent for the government. Or as a CIA spy.

Some even suggested extra-terrestrial involvement: 'Aliens Kidnap The King.'

Colonel Parker

The most believable theory involved Presley's manager 'Colonel' Tom Parker. Parker had a history of faking things - including the story of his own life. 'I come from West Virginia,' the Dutch illegal immigrant told the press. 'I ran away from home to join my Uncle's circus.'

None of this was true.

Parker had brilliantly stage-managed his star's career. The Colonel reinvented Elvis several times: from wild rock & roller to film star to Las Vegas cabaret act. Did he fake the death of Presley to improve record sales?

Not according to a close Presley friend and pallbearer at the funeral. 'That was Elvis in the coffin,' he said.

The King serving burgers?

So why all the Elvis reported sightings of Elvis in burger bars and gas stations over the years? Perhaps it's because there are a lot of Elvis Presleys around.

There are 85,000 official Elvis Presley impersonators & countless unofficial ones. In Hong Kong, for example, Presley fans could mark the 30th anniversary of his death with two Kings: Elvis Ishikawa, from Japan, and the 'Hong Kong Elvis', Johnny Ma.

Elvis Presley died in 1977. His music lives on.