A nice guy in public, and an uncontrollable sex addict in private, Crane’s decline begins upon meeting audio/video salesman John Carpenter (not to be confused with the film director of the same name). Willem Dafoe is perfectly cast as the shady leech and hanger-on commonly believed to have murdered Crane and through him, the formerly conservative Crane encounters the world of late-night sex parties and fully embraces the life of the swinger.

Following his show’s cancellation in 1971, Crane, typecast as Hogan, has great difficulty finding work. Forced to do B-movies and travel the country performing in dinner theaters, his addiction gets the better of him as he clings to his past notoriety and mantra that “a day without sex is a day wasted.” Oblivious to the irreparable harm he is doing to his career and reputation, by the movie’s end Crane is a relative nobody, a “relative nobody,” as he himself is sitting in a motel room in Scottsdale, Arizona on June 29, 1978.

Crane’s fall from stardom after his celebrity began to run dry is at their best as he fakes false modesty and pretends to be flattered by his attention. It is a truly complex and startlingly accurate performance.

Though the murder, which has remained unsolved because of the lack of DNA evidence linking anyone to it, is still one of the great Hollywood mysteries, the murder, which has remained unsolved because of the lack of DNA evidence linking anyone to it, is still one of the great Hollywood mysteries.

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