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Final 24 Hours Series (Anna Nicole Smith/David Koresh/Gianni Versace/John Belushi/Janis Joplin/Keith Moon/Nicole Brown Simpson/Sid Vicious/MVD Visual DVDs)

Picture: C+ Sound: C+ Extras: D
Film: C+

So called "reality TV" is so tired that sooner or later, someone doing a show would not hide their tabloid and quasi-sleazy approach. The Final 24 "final hours" series is a cheesy new series of wacky biographies, as long as it is the last day anyone popular died. Screaming "tabloid" and wanting to be hip (it indirectly wants to be the TV hit 24, down to the corny use of a countdown clock), it is pretty bad and the covers of each of the first eight titles we cover here usually have purposely bad photos to match. Photoshop never looked so bad.

Figures as diverse as Anna Nicole Smith (victim), David Koresh (terrorist), Gianni Versace (genius), John Belushi (genius), Janis Joplin (genius), Keith Moon (genius), Nicole Brown Simpson (innocent victim never avenged) and Sid Vicious (genius) are the first batch, so there is no moral standard for who to cover. Just as long as there is enough to dig up and fill in empty spaces with no-name re-enactors.

This is not to be taken seriously, but too many will. The shows are also a bit dumbed down, as you can tell where the commercial breaks are from that goofy clock and how simple items are repeated over and over again. Yes, you get treated like an idiot, even when the shows are not always stupid.

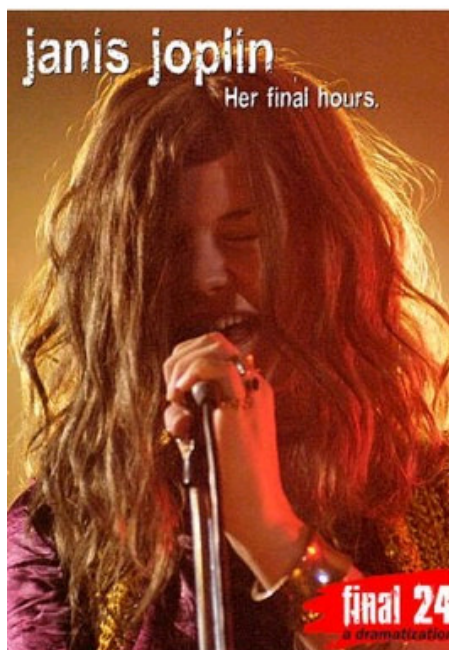
However, the best way to show the limits is in the **Sid Vicious** installment, which concludes like the recent and superior **Who Killed Nancy?** documentary that Vicious may not have killed Nancy Spungen after all. This episode on it handles it in a cold, distant manner, while the earlier documentary is invested and smart throughout, as you can see at this link:

[http://www.fulvuedrive-in.com/review/9725/Who+Killed+Nancy+\(2007/Region+Zer](http://www.fulvuedrive-in.com/review/9725/Who+Killed+Nancy+(2007/Region+Zer)

Except as a time killer or if you *really* must watch, this is trash TV, unashamed of it and only for the curious.

The anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 image originates on digital video (maybe older High Definition) with the occasional older clip or still, so it is uneven like a documentary, but worse like reality TV with its purposely blurred images and other dumb visual clichés. The Dolby Digital 2.0 sound is barely stereo and often flat or compressed, then it can also be harsh, so don't expect much from the sound either, as all of it is done on the cheap and hacked together. None of these DVDs have any extras either, proving they are quitting while they are ahead.

- Nicholas Sheffo



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