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"A sinister cabal of superior writers."

DVD Review: John Belushi – His Final Hours

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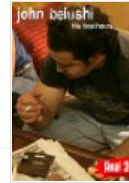
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Author: [Miss Bob Etier](#) — Published: Jul 25, 2010 at 3:30 pm

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John Belushi was a physical comedy genius. Scratch that; John Belushi was a comedy genius. He was a master character actor who could assume any nationality or personality type. He could make us laugh with the arch of an eyebrow. As John "Bluto" Blutarsky in *Animal House*, he set high standards for low comedy; as "Joliet" Jake Blues, a founding *Blues Brother*, he introduced catchphrases and concepts that would live on for generations. Unfortunately, John Belushi died 28 years ago.



Like [Anna Nicole Smith](#), another subject of *Final 24*, the series for which *John Belushi – His Final Hours* was originally produced, Belushi had enormous appetites that eventually lead to his demise. Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi's best friend and fellow *Blues Brother*, describes Belushi as "sensitive" and "vulnerable" and admits Belushi had "insatiable appetites for everything...from motorcycle speed to three pieces of cherry pie."



In addition to Aykroyd, *John Belushi – His Final Hours* features appearances by Belushi's wife Judy Belushi Pisano, Bill Murray ("John...was a good man but a bad boy."), his manager Bernie Brillstein, addiction specialist Dr. Drew Pinsky ("John Belushi was an addict, from A to Z."), bodyguard Smokey Wendell, coroner Thomas Noguchi, Belushi's high school drama teacher, and a variety of people he worked with after he started with Chicago's *Second City*.

Belushi started using cocaine when he was working on *Saturday Night Live*. At that time, according to Brillstein, "Everyone thought [cocaine] was the hippest thing in the world and no one thought they would die from it. No one."

Belushi died from bingeing on cocaine and heroin; his final twenty-four hours were fueled by his desire for drugs. Years before he died, he knew he had a problem with cocaine; he hired bodyguard Smokey Wendell to help him stay off drugs, and he managed to get clean. It didn't last.



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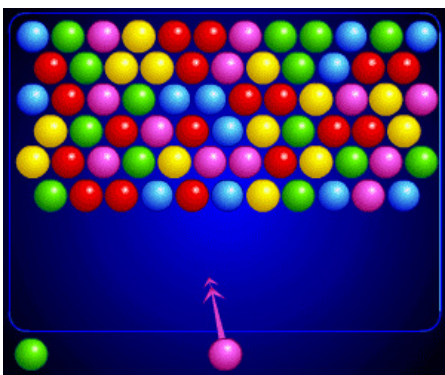
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