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John Belushi - Final 24: His Final Hours



"Final 24" is a TV show to which I am addicted. It is a great, well-researched dramatization of the last 24 hours of famous people – sorry, at times I can be product of our beloved morbid culture. And I have to say that I was expecting the release of the episode about John Belushi's death. I don't know why, and I can't explain it, but the tragic demise of this gifted actor for some reason stands out over most of the other known names that died before

their time. "John Belushi - Final 24: His Final Hours" delivers and shades light on some unknown facts about this talented comedian's last moments on earth.

As in other episodes of the series, this one describes, step by step, as much as possible, all the activity that Belushi engaged at before his death. At the same time, the filmmakers take us back and forth with segments of the actor's life. This particular episode begins in Los Angeles, California, on March 4, 1982, at a "power" meeting between Belushi, Paramount studio chief Michael Eisner, and Bernie Brillstein, Belushi's manager. Eisner was trying to convince the actor to star in "The Joy of Sex," which Belushi did not agree to do. However, the comedian asked Brillstein for \$1,800, because he wanted to buy a guitar. Once he left the meeting, John began his road to self-destruction, using the money instead to party and buy drugs. We follow him to Cathy Smith's apartment, where he bought the drugs, then to the Roxy, a popular nightclub, where Smith injected Belushi – apparently at his request - with "speedballs" (mixture of Cocaine and Heroine), and then to the Chateau Marmont, the famous hotel in which one of its bungalows he was found dead. Of course, the narrators include segments of John's days as a struggling actor in Illinois, his relationship with his wife Judy, his tenure at Second City and Saturday Night Live (SNL), as well as his movies.

"John Belushi - Final 24: His Final Hours" has the participation of Judy Belushi-Pisano, John's widow, and actor and friend Dan Ackroyd -- both presences give the show credibility. In addition, Anne Beatts (SNL writer), Smokey Wendell (John's bodyguard), Thomas Noguchi (famous Los Angeles Forensic expert), Drew Pinsky (addiction expert), and others were also interviewed.

John Belushi died on March 5, 1983, at 33, of an acute cocaine and heroine overdose. He was talented and funny, and it would have been great to see more of him. But, as Aykroyd said, John "had an insatiable appetite for everything." And that appetite, sadly, included copious

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