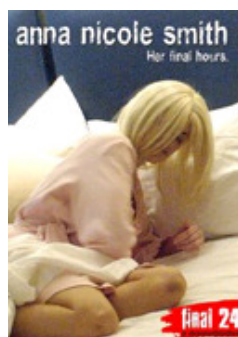


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## Final 24: Anna Nicole Smith

2007

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Every few years the pages of Playboy produces a Playmate that manages to grab the limelight for quite some time before they eventually fade away. Pamela Anderson went from Playmate of the Year to *Baywatch*, then there was the sex video and eventually, the fascination with her began to subside. Hopefully that will be the case with Kendra Wilkinson, one of Playboy's latest bimbo's who has, for whatever reason, managed to grab the attention of many. One Playmate that was never quite out of the limelight before her death was Anna Nicole Smith.

*Final 24* examines the life and death of Anna Nicole Smith and like many Playmates, she was thrust into the limelight thanks to Playboy magazine. This soon put her into movies which didn't do much to keep people interested, but it was more her tabloid appearances that kept some interested. Her marriage to an aged billionaire, the lawsuit that followed, drug abuse, the death of her son, and her own eventual death, that's what would have many fascinated with her.

I've never quite seen the fascination with Anna Nicole Smith but in watching this episode, you do have to have a little bit of respect for her. She dropped out of high school and had only a ninth grade education, she worked in restaurants and other jobs that would be somewhat less than exceptional but no matter what, she was convinced that she would be famous one day and would do anything she could to get the attention that she craved. However, after listening to interview with friends, family, and those close to her, we also see the darker side. In her efforts to reinvent herself Anna spent a great deal of her career fabricating falsehoods about herself and her life, she was prone to excess in virtually everything, and there is also the tabloids taking shots at her though somewhat deservingly much of the time.

Although what we see in this documentary is that the life of Anna Nicole Smith was one that was very tragic, I also feel that she's something of a victim of her own success. Her desire to rise above her former life and become an icon is what I feel inevitably led her to make poor decisions in her life. There are others in her life that fueled this fire and to some extent rode on her coat tails or used her as a means to generate wealth for themselves. This isn't true of everyone that was involved in her life towards the end, but there does seem to be some individuals where this is very true. Unfortunately, this is one person where fame got the best of them even though we hear that Anna herself hoped

that she could duplicate the life, and the death, of her idol Marilyn Monroe.

I'm sure in time to come Anna Nicole Smith might somehow elevate to being the equal of the idol that she so desperately loved, but Smith is in no way another Monroe. *Final 24* paints a very good picture of the final moments of her life but it's one that I'm sad to say I have a great deal of sympathy for unlike others who were taken before their time.

-mike-

Directed by:  
Nadine Pequenezza

Written by:  
Nadine Pequenezza

Narrated by:  
Danny Wallace

DVD Features:  
Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1  
Audio: English Dolby Digital 2.0

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