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"A sinister cabal of superior writers."

## DVD Review: *River Phoenix - His Final Hours*

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Author: [Miss Bob Etier](#) — Published: Aug 30, 2010 at 2:44 pm

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*Final 24* describes itself as "a fresh and revealing alternative biography series that unlocks the hidden secrets, psychological flaws and trigger events that led to the tragic deaths of eight global icons." Each episode is an hour-by-hour narrative detailing the last 24 hours of a celebrity's life, and includes background information about the celeb's earlier life. The episodes include interviews with friends, relatives, business connections and confidantes, and reenactments.

The "countdown to death" that is *Final 24*'s format can be eerie and creepy. Knowing that what you are watching will end with the death of its star can be unsettling.

A massive drug overdose caused the October 31, 1993, death of young, handsome, talented River Phoenix. He had speedballed heroin and cocaine and his body was found to have a cocaine level eight times that which is lethal. Phoenix was regarded as "Hollywood's golden boy—vegan, ethically minded, squeaky clean." Few outside his circle of family and close friends knew of the struggles with drugs he had been going through for two years. He would get straight for a few months, then binge, and he did everything from pills to heroin.

On the last day of his life, he was wrapping up his fourteenth film, *Dark Blood*. The movie had been a difficult shoot for him—his co-star had given him a hard time throughout the two-month shoot. During that time he had been clean, but the night before the last day of filming he had turned to drugs. (It has been reported elsewhere that when he died, three weeks of filming was yet to be done.)



River Phoenix had a passion for music, and believed—on the evening of October 30, 1993—that he would be joining his friend, Flea, onstage for a jam session with other musicians. Instead he was informed there were too many musicians and he wouldn't be able to join them. Having refrained from drugs that day because he wanted to play at the Viper Club, he was deeply disappointed and turned that frustration into a search for drugs, which was successful.

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Like most freelance writers, there is something about her that isn't quite right. Read her stuff and find out what.

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Phoenix, River - Final 24: His Final Hours
Release date: 2010-08-24
Running time: 60 minutes
Publisher: CINEFLIX

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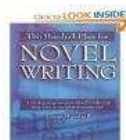
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