Kinison, Sam (1953-1992) Encyclopedia Article

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Sam Kinison is remembered as the innovator of "rage comedy," a style defined by the punctuation of a comedy routine with seemingly out-of-control fits of screaming and howling. Kinison began his "performance" career as a Pentecostal minister, but soon drifted into comedy clubs where he caught the attention of Rodney Dangerfield. Dangerfield provided Kinison with showcase bookings in his own nightclub and a role in his movie *Back to School* (1986). The comedian also appeared on *Saturday Night Live,* an HBO special, and the short-lived TV sitcom *Charlie Hoover.* Ironically, Kinison had recently completed successful treatment for his well-documented substance abuse when he was accidentally killed by a teenage drunk driver who professed to having been one of his fans.

Further Reading:

Kinison, Bill, and Steve Delsohn. *Brother Sam: The Short, Spectacular Life of Sam Kinison.* New York, William Morrow, 1994.