

A portrait of Philip Seymour Hoffman, a man with light blonde hair and a beard, wearing glasses and a dark jacket over a light blue shirt. The background is dark.

Today in History

February 2, 2014

▲ **Philip Seymour Hoffman, one of the finest American actors of his generation, was found dead at his New York home from a drugs overdose, aged 46**

1795: France offered 12,000 francs to anyone who could devise a method to preserve and deliver food to its armies

1943: The remnants of the German 6th Army surrendered to the Soviet army at Stalingrad

1990: South Africa lifted a 30-year ban on the African National Congress

2000: The merger of Britain's Vodafone AirTouch and Germany's Mannesman AG created the world's largest mobile phone company