

# Verne Troyer Dead at 49



**Verne Troyer** – best known for playing Mini-Me in the ‘Austin Powers’ comedies, and for being one of the shortest men in the world – has died.

Verne died Saturday, according to a statement from his family. We’d been told he was on some form of life support since being **taken to the hospital** earlier this month after cops got a report he was drunk and suicidal, and was treated for possible alcohol poisoning.

Verne’s family says during the recent adversity, “he was baptized while surrounded by his family.”

He also **struggled with alcoholism** for years and had been to rehab many times.

Troyer was born with the genetic disorder known as achondroplasia dwarfism, but said growing up on a farm in Michigan he was never treated differently by his parents than his average-sized siblings.

Verne began his Hollywood career in 1994 as a stunt double for Baby Bink in the film "Baby's Day Out." He then landed small roles in "Men in Black" and "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" ... before making it big as Mini-Me in 1999's "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me."

He continued to land bit roles in comedies and appeared on many popular reality shows over the years ... like "Celebrity Juice," "Celebrity Wife Swap," and "The Surreal Life."

Verne was 49.

*TMZ*