

The Crash of 1929

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“instructive and timely... It is fitting that the crash be treated as an epic—the way it is treated here—and grippingly.” The Wall Street Journal

“excellent... a winner!” New York Daily News

Today, the economic crisis is sparking a familiar fear and sense of despair across America; one fueled by a nationwide credit crunch, a wave of foreclosures, and an extreme downturn in consumer confidence. Seventy-nine years ago, on October 29, 1929, the Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted, losing more than \$14 billion in value in just one day. The crash would lead Americans through sixteen years of economic turmoil, and today remains the biggest financial crisis of the 20th century.

In 1929, while the US stock market was rising, there were few critics. In America, it was a “New Era” when everyone could get rich. But it was a small group of bankers, brokers and speculators who by manipulating the stock market grew fabulously wealthy. The film captures the unbounded optimism of the age and the shocking consequences when reality finally hit on October 29th.

“There are many parallels between today’s situation and the burst of the 1920s economic bubble,” says AMERICAN EXPERIENCE executive producer Mark Samels. “There’s a lot to learn here about the cyclical nature of the economy.”

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE.

CREDITS

Produced by Ellen Hovde and Muffie Meyfer

Executive Producer: Mark Samels



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