

Million Dollar American Princesses

4 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Queens of the Screen

At the beginning of the 20th century, a glamorous new industry emerges – the movies. The women of the silver screen become just as alluring and intriguing as the daughters of the robber barons a generation earlier. Famous and titled men from across Europe court them and several become princesses for real. But, having become the first women to forge their own independent careers – and given form to the aspirations and desires of women across the world – can these screen princesses ever find happiness as the wives of aristocrats and monarchs?

2. Queens of Culture

From the end of the 19th Century well into the 20th, American heiresses are among the most significant patrons of the greatest and most revolutionary artists of the day. These women are not simply muses - recipients of male adoration - but active commissioners of music, active purchasers of canvases and sculptures and active builders of museums and foundations. Their tastes are progressive and radical - including their sexual preferences and appetites. Who knows what geniuses may have withered and died without the support of these Queens of Culture?

3. Beautiful and Doomed

As we move into the 20th century, a new type of heiress begins to defy convention, no longer willing to let others dictate her life. This stronger brand of dollar princess grabs headlines around the world. However, many of them come to be defined by the men they marry – frequently against strong social and family resistance and often with tragic results.

4. Leading Ladies

This episode begins at a time when married women have no property rights and are entirely subservient to their husbands. By the time it concludes, women have experienced an economic, political and sexual revolution. The Game Changers are American Princesses who help drive through these major shifts. They support and influence women's suffrage, they seek political power and they encourage emancipation through taking up careers and by the sheer vitality and freedom with which they live their extraordinary lives.