

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE



AMERICAN EXPERIENCE and FRONTLINE profile Mormon faith
Monday, February 11 and Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at 9pm ET on PBS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is one of America's fastest-growing religions, and relative to its size, one of the richest. Church membership is twelve million people worldwide, a credit to late LDS President Gordon Hinckley, who died on January 27, 2008. Hinckley traveled the world in an effort to establish Mormonism in the mainstream, even appearing on late-night talk shows to do so. In less than one century, the Mormon Church has transformed itself from a fringe sect into a thriving religion that embraces common-held American values. Its members include university Presidents, corporate leaders, and prominent politicians, including 2008 presidential hopeful Mitt Romney.

Mormons have always had a peculiar hold on the American imagination, but few know who the Mormons actually are, or who they claim to be, and their story is one of the great neglected American narratives.

This February, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE and FRONTLINE, two of PBS's most acclaimed series, join forces for an encore presentation of *The Mormons*, a documentary series about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In two, two-hour episodes, filmmaker Helen Whitney (*John Paul II: The Millennial Pope*; *Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero*) explores both the history and the present reality of the Mormon faith. Whitney gained unusual access to Mormon archives and Church leaders, including the late Gordon Hinckley, as well as dissident exiles, historians, and scholars both within and outside the faith. "Through this film, I hope to take the viewer inside one of the most compelling and misunderstood religions of our time," says Whitney. The two-part film airs Monday, February 11, and Tuesday, February 12 at 9 P.M. ET on PBS (check local listings).

The Mormons is a FRONTLINE and AMERICAN EXPERIENCE co-production with Helen Whitney Productions. The producer and director is Helen Whitney. The writers are Helen Whitney and Jane Barnes. The editor is Ted Winterburn. The FRONTLINE executive producer of special projects is Michael Sullivan. The executive producer of FRONTLINE is David Fanning. The series producer for AMERICAN EXPERIENCE is Sharon Grimberg. The executive producer for AMERICAN EXPERIENCE is Mark Samels.

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AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

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ACCESSIBILITY

FRONTLINE and AMERICAN EXPERIENCE are closed captioned for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers, and described for people who are blind or visually impaired by the Media Access Group at WGBH. The descriptive narration is available on the SAP channel of stereo TVs and VCRs.

ABOUT AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Television's most-watched history series, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE has been hailed as "peerless" (Wall Street Journal), "the most consistently enriching program on television" (Chicago Tribune), and "a beacon of intelligence and purpose" (Houston Chronicle). On air and online, the series brings to life the incredible characters and epic stories that have shaped America's past and present. Acclaimed by viewers and critics alike, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE documentaries have been honored with every major broadcast award, including twenty-four Emmy Awards, four duPont-Columbia Awards, and fourteen George Foster Peabody Awards, one most recently for Two Days in October.

ABOUT WGBH BOSTON

WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcasting producer. More than one-third of PBS's prime-time lineup and companion Web content as well as many public radio favorites are produced by WGBH. The station also is a pioneer in educational multimedia and in access technologies for people with disabilities. For more information visit wgbh.org.

Promotional photography can be downloaded from pbs.org/pressroom and pressroom.wgbh.org.

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