



Production notes

The making of the Emma Goldman film biography was a five-year process, beginning with a research and development grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting that took producer Mel Bucklin to libraries and archives throughout the world, and to the doorsteps of people who had something interesting to say about Emma Goldman, including a very few elderly people who knew Goldman or heard her speak.

The idea for the film began in 1996 when Bucklin, a producer at Nebraska Public Television in Lincoln, was co-producing a documentary for AMERICAN EXPERIENCE on the pioneering journalist Nellie Bly. While conducting research, Bucklin found Bly's sympathetic profile of Goldman written in 1893, when she was serving a one-year sentence in the Women's Prison at Blackwell's Island for "incitement to riot."

Bly's column awakened Bucklin's memory of first encountering Goldman in a college course in feminist politics, then later as a character in E. L. Doctrow's *Ragtime* and in Warren Beatty's film *Reds*.

Principled, defiant, unyielding, self-aggrandizing, Goldman was also oddly likeable, funny, and perversely vulnerable and romantic ("If I can't dance I won't be part of your revolution," political buttons of the 1960s famously misquoted her). Above all, she was a uniquely iconographic American—an immigrant, a woman, a Jew, and a militant who inveighed against injustice, authoritarianism, and tested the principles of free speech more adamantly, perhaps, than anyone else of her time. To Bucklin it was clear that Goldman deserved a film, but it took a year of research work for the idea to become a reality.

Grants for scripting and production from the National Endowment for the Humanities enabled Bucklin to begin production of the film. What followed were two intense years of production:

- **Interviews** in Los Angeles, Berkeley, Ann Arbor, Chicago, New York, Woodstock, Ithaca, Boston, Philadelphia, and London.
- **Location shooting** at Ellis Island (the first film crew allowed to shoot on the long-closed buildings on the island's south side), at Chumley's bar in New York (once a speakeasy and the haunt of Manhattan literati), at the former site of Zum Groben Michel (a bar much favored by the Autonomie group of anarchists including Goldman and her partner Alexander Berkman), at Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia (the twin of Western State Penitentiary where Berkman spent fourteen years for attempted manslaughter), at The Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer in Grand Island, Nebraska (where a perfectly preserved banker's office became the location for Berkman's attempted assassination of Industrialist

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Henry Clay Frick and Henry Fonda's childhood home became Goldman's New York apartment), in the clammy limestone-walled cellar of a pizza parlor in Lincoln, Nebraska (where a re-enactment of Goldman and Berkman's attempt to assemble a bomb was filmed); and many more.

Bucklin, who wrote, produced, and directed the film, and cinematographer Eddie Marritz captained a crew of camera operators, lighting specialists, set designers and actors for the recreation scenes. Marritz also shot the interviews for the film. The thirty-three shooting days resulted in some fifty hours of interviews shot on high-definition video, and about ten hours of re-enactments shot at low frame-rates on Super 16mm and Super 8mm film.

In addition, Bucklin and her associate producer Liz Renner assembled more than five hundred high-resolution scans (and researched thousands of additional images) from more than forty archives around the world, and collected hundreds of original documents, newspapers, and other period artifacts and ephemera from on-line auctions and private collectors.

Editing began in September of 2002. Shooting was completed in early spring 2003. Original music by composer Brian Keane was recorded in midsummer. And two versions of the film (one for the PBS series AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, the other for world distribution by Alliance Atlantis of Toronto) were finally completed in October 2003.

CREDITS

A Nebraska ETV Network production
for AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Written, produced, and directed by Mel Bucklin
Associate producer: Liz Renner
Editor: Ralph Hammack, Jr.
Director of photography: Eddie Marritz
Original music by Brian Keane
Narrator: Blair Brown

Major funding for *Emma Goldman* is provided by
the National Endowment for the Humanities.

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE is a production of WGBH Boston.
Mark Samels, executive producer
Margaret Drain, vice president, National Programming

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Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. National corporate funding
provided by The Scotts Company and Liberty Mutual.
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ACCESSIBILITY

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE is 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

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, television's most-watched history
series, is a leading producer of historical documentaries,
related Web sites, and DVDs. The pioneer of quality
historical programming for public television audiences,
AMERICAN EXPERIENCE has won every prestigious
broadcast award and enjoys consistent widespread
support from television critics and viewers alike.

ABOUT WGBH BOSTON

WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public
broadcasting producer. 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.

PRESS CONTACTS

Daphne B. Noyes
WGBH Boston
617-300-5344
daphne_noyes@wgbh.org

Johanna Baker
WGBH New York
212-661-9445
johanna_baker@wgbh.org

Leslie Sepuka
WGBH Boston
617-300-5329
leslie_sepuka@wgbh.org

**PHOTOGRAPHY
CONTACT**

Olivia Wong
WGBH Boston
617-300-5349
olivia_wong@wgbh.org



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