

FINANCIAL SHOWS/DOCUMENTARIES THAT ARE WORTH YOUR TIME

1. "Inside Job" (2010)

The Oscar winner for best documentary in 2010, Inside Job takes viewers inside the financial crisis via the voice of Matt Damon. Aside from expecting Jason Bourne to suddenly appear at any given moment, the film is as good of a window into causes of the crisis as we've seen and should be required viewing for MBA students. **(The Most Important & Must Watch)**.

2. The Indian stock market scam

Harshad M Mehta was an Indian stockbroker, well known for his wealth and for having been charged with numerous financial crimes that took place in 1992. Of the 27 criminal charges brought against him, he was only convicted of one, before his death at age 47 in 2001. It was alleged that Mehta engaged in a massive stock manipulation scheme financed by worthless bank receipts, which his firm brokered in "ready forward" transactions between banks. Mehta was convicted by the Bombay High Court and Supreme Court of India for his part in a financial scandal valued at INR49.99 billion (US\$840 million) which took place on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The scandal exposed the loopholes in the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) transaction system and SEBI further introduced new rules to cover those loopholes. He was tried for 9 years, until he died in the late 2001.

3. Enron: The Smartest Guys In The Room

Alex Gibney's documentary examines the largest corporate fraud in U.S. history, interviewing many of the key people involved. The documentary also does a great job explaining exactly what Enron did, how they did it and how they got away with it for so long. **(Must Watch)**

4. The Ascent of Money

This 6 part documentary from author Niall Ferguson chronicles the history of the world's monetary systems and investments, talking about the origins of the debt markets, real estate, stock markets, etc. The book of the same name is a great read as well. **(The Most Important)**

5. Meltdown

The best documentary about the financial crisis. PBS interviews people who were at the heart of the crisis, revisiting just how panicked everybody was back then. They reveal just how close the system came to total collapse. **(The Most Important)**

6.Warning

Sticking with PBS' excellent documentary program Frontline, we have the story about Brooksley Born, the head of a obscure regulatory body who started warning about the financial crisis- in the 1990s. Her story and the clashes she had with Alan Greenspan are legendary.

7.The Crash of 1929

The video is as grainy as those entire World at the crash of 1929 is worth a watch. Notice how many parallels there are to the most recent crash.
(The Most Important)

8."Trader" (1987)

This is a rarely-discussed short documentary film featuring hedge fund legend Paul Tudor Jones. One for the history buffs, market geeks and film aficionados alike.

9.The Fall of Lehman Brothers

To me the very title of this documentary was one of the defining moments of the financial crisis. What was previously unthinkable became reality, and at this moment I believe the greatest shock-wave was sent out across the global financial markets. So if there's any documentary on the financial crisis to watch, I think this one tops the list.

10. America's Bankrupt Banks (Inside the Meltdown)

And of course, before there was Lehman's there was Bear Stearns. Bear Stearns was much closer to the sub-prime crisis and played the game in such a way that it was first to bear the full brunt of the collapse in the housing market. This documentary focuses on the collapse of Bear Stearns.

11. How the Banks Never Lose

This one takes you over the other side of the ocean to get a glimpse at the conditions that led up to the banking crisis in the UK, where a similar story was unfolding alongside the US banking crisis.

12. The Boom & Bust Years (The Age of Risk)

This BBC documentary provides more background on the activity and conditions that lead to the crisis. Of course we are blessed with hindsight, but looking back it is at once appalling, mystifying, and embarrassing what was going on, and it seems to leave little wonder that a crisis was the logical conclusion.

13. Breaking the Bank

We've got Lehman's and Bear Stearns on the list here, but another key bank (which actually survived) that played a pivotal role through the crisis was Bank of America. This documentary follows the actions of Bank of America CEO Ken Lewis, and the events that went on at the Treasury that prevented the collapse of the entire banking system.

14. Maxed Out: Hard Times, Easy Credit and the Era of Predatory Lenders

The list would be incomplete without a close look at consumer credit. The core cause of the crisis was really an unsustainable explosion in the growth of debt and credit. For a time debt was super cheap and super easy to get, so of course asset prices were sent to unsustainable levels, unsustainable industries were propped up, and people borrowed well beyond their means. Of course, because of this the recovery from this crisis has and will continue to be hard because people (and governments) still need to get back to more sustainable levels of borrowing.

15. Debtocracy

The last 3 documentaries on this list are not about the 2008 crisis, but are well worth a look for additional context. This one in particular talks about the Greek debt crisis that has precipitated in the wake of the financial crisis, and which has caused considerable contagion and escalation of economic distress in Europe, and much more water has yet to pass under the bridge.

16. Prisoners of Debt: Inside the Global Banking Crisis

This is not about the banking crisis of 2008, no this is about the 1980's third world debt crisis. It bears stark resemblance to today's banking, and of course Sovereign debt crises. I'm sure most people who watch this documentary will think "why didn't we learn?" The Crash of 1929

17. Rookie Trader

This is one for the beginners, it follows a CNN news anchor as he attempts to learn how to trade. He speaks with some trainers, coaches, and experts in trading to learn the basics e.g. market terminology, risk management, psychology, and basic operations. Informative for the beginners, and likely entertaining for the more advanced traders

18. Quants: The Alchemists of Wall Street

Some traders rely on luck, some on their instincts, some lucky ones use their employer's balance sheet, but another breed of traders takes the psychology and luck aspect out, instead focusing on the more scientific side of making money in the markets. The quants develop sophisticated algorithms and use highly advanced computing and connectivity

technology to exploit statistical anomalies and patterns in the market. This documentary provides one of the best insights into this arcane corner of Wall Street.

19. Trillion Dollar Bet

But market scientists are not infallible; this documentary looks at the rise and fall of Long Term Capital Management, a hedge fund founded by PhDs and Nobel Prize winners; the big names of financial theory. While their meteoric rise and profitability were astounding, equally astounding was the fundamental flaws in their trading thesis and underlying assumptions that lead to their subsequent demise. A fascinating documentary and a good reminder that so-called 'long-tail' events can have a nasty habit of derailing the best laid plans.

20. Tricks With Risk

As anyone who deals with financial markets should know, to make money you have to take on risk. How you manage or package the risk makes a great degree of difference as to how much you will make or lose in various scenarios. Indeed, some say the role of traders is to take on risk from those who do not want to hold the risk themselves; risk is a key stock in trade of a financial market participant. But as this documentary reveals, dealing in risk can get you burnt - and in the worst of times e.g. AIG, mismanaging risk can burn the entire system!

Must Watch Documentaries

21. India Rising - One Billion reasons to care

22. A short documentary on Bombay stock exchange

23. Gafla (Movie)

24. History's Hidden Engine

25. The Midas Formula Stock Market Documentary

26. Global Financial Meltdown

27. Money, Power and Wall Street

28. Too Big To Fail

29. Frontline: The Warning

30. The Flaw

31. Margin Call

32. Melt Down - The Secret History of the Global Financial Collapse.