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CRASH

By

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Inspired by the stories of the Roots&Branches ensemble
as directed by Kirsten Kelly

SCENE: INTRODUCTION

(MUSIC. The ensemble mills busily about the street in front of the stoops of two brownstone buildings. They are engrossed in the news, incredulous and disturbed, reading it aloud from newspapers, magazines, and mobile devices. The denizens of each era share the stories with each other.)

30'S NEWSBOY: Extra! Extra! FOLLOWING STOCK MARKET COLLAPSE, PRESIDENT HOOVER ISSUES A STATEMENT OF REASSURANCE! EXTRA EXTRA!

30'S DENIZEN 1: 9,000 Banks Fail Between Crash of October 1929 and March 1933

MODERN DENIZEN 1: Obama's War on Capital

MODERN DENIZEN 2: Health Care Interests Spend \$5 Million Dollars a Day Lobbying Against Reform Bill

30'S DENIZEN 2: Roosevelt Takes Office 4 Months After Stock Market Crash

MODERN DENIZEN 3: *(reading from iPhone)* Merrill Lynch Former CEO Spends 1.22 Million Redecorating Office;\$1200 Waste Basket

MODERN DENIZEN 1: CEO Bonuses Still Hefty; Layoffs Continue

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30'S NEWSBOY: SECOND BOG CRUSH STUNS WALL STREET!

30'S DENIZEN 3: "It is an unfortunate human failing that a full pocketbook often groans more loudly than an empty stomach." Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

MODERN DENIZEN 4: Bernie Madoff's Secretary Talks (and Talks and Talks)

MODERN DENIZEN 5: *(reading from iPhone)* Big Spending and Easy Money Will Produce a Recovery

MODERN DENIZEN 3: Nation Ready to Be Lied to about the Economy – The Onion

MODERN DENIZEN 6: "October: This is one of the peculiarly dangerous months to speculate in stocks. The others are July, January, September, April, November, May, March, June, December, August and February." Mark Twain.

(30'S DENIZEN 3 opens a window, revealing a period radio.)

30'S DENIZEN 3: Quiet! It's on! Shhh...everyone...it's on!

(SOUND CUE: The following cutting from Roosevelt's inauguration address plays. The 30'S DENIZENS listen with anxious intensity. The MODERN DENIZENS do not hear the radio address, but are quiet as they continue to read news.)

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT: *(over the radio)* I am certain that my fellow Americans expect that on my induction into the Presidency I will address them with a candor and a decision which the present situation of our people impel. This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. No need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

End of FreeView—Now buy the entire play!
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