

SERIES OUTLINE

Titanic Sinks Tonight | BBC | 4 x 60 minute episodes | Directed by Hugh Ballantyne

This series relives the sinking of the RMS Titanic in real time, through the experiences of those who were there.

From the crucial seconds just before the ship hits the iceberg to the moment the hull sinks beneath the waves, this four-part box set series pieces together the events, minute by minute, to reveal exactly what happened to the 2,240 passengers and crew on 14 and 15 April 1912.

Having unearthed a vast archive of eyewitness testimony, we cast actors who resemble survivors to re-create the telling of their stories. Nothing is invented, there are no 'composite characters', just the real words and memories of real Titanic passengers and crew.

We conducted exhaustive research into hundreds of survivor accounts, cross-referenced to create a timeline of all the different perspectives. Insights were gleaned from letters, telegrams, newspaper interviews, radio interviews, memoirs and the US and UK public inquiries into the disaster. These vivid first-hand accounts put us in the moment, revealing what individuals throughout the ship saw, felt and did that night.

This is a painstaking, comprehensive and highly emotional examination of the final moments of the Titanic's maiden voyage, with audiences experiencing the disaster through the eyes and in the words of the passengers and crew, exactly as it happened. We unpack the anatomy of the disaster and identify the critical decisions that dictated the fate of those on board.

We start the clock shortly after 11pm when the Titanic's radio operators in the Marconi room receive – and ignore – the sixth and final iceberg warning of the night. We reveal the chain of events in the seconds, minutes and hours after the iceberg is struck at 11:40pm. And we stop the clock at just after 2:20am the next day, when the final part of the ship disappears on its descent to the sea floor.

The result is a complete picture, and a new understanding, of the most famous 160 minutes in maritime history.

