



0. Chicago: The Movie - Story Preface

1. CHICAGO IN THE TWENTIES
2. THE REAL ROXIE HART
3. WE BOTH REACHED FOR THE GUN
4. THE REAL VELMA KELLY
5. CHICAGO, THE PLAY
6. THE REST OF THE STORY

This photo provides an aerial view of Chicago, the place where the film (and the play and the book of the same name) takes place. Image online, courtesy Chicago History Museum.

It was 1924. The Great War—"The War to End All Wars"—was over. Five years before, men were dying in European trenches, but "The Roaring Twenties" had ushered in a new era. It was time for fun. For music and radio. For fashion and celebrity.

The music people loved most, at the time, was jazz. Flappers (girls with short skirts and wavy, bobbed hair) tossed out their mother's staid fashions, danced "The Charleston" and generally drove their parents crazy.

Vaudeville acts were at the height of their popularity. And ... there was a new form of entertainment - talking movies - about to emerge (in 1927) with Al Jolson starring in the world's first talkie: The Jazz Singer.

Life was good:

- Illiteracy in America had reached a new low of 6%.
- There were 387,000 miles of paved roads in the country, although it took about thirteen days to travel between New York and California.
- Women were changing their appearance, starting to drive cars and already living longer, on average, than men: 54.6 compared to 53.6 years.

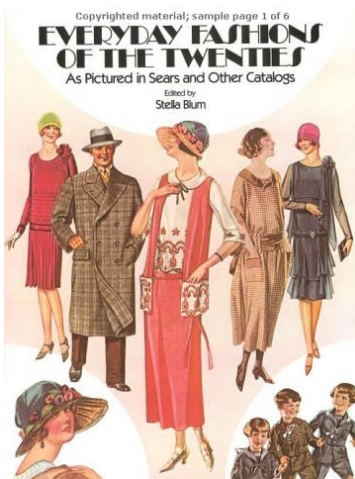
No one had a clue the stock market would crash at the end of the decade, ushering in "The Great Depression." And no soldier, who fought in World War I, could have imagined that confessed killers would walk away from courtroom trials—acquitted by all-male juries—just because the defendant was a celebrity.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Chicago-The-Movie>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Chicago-The-Movie>

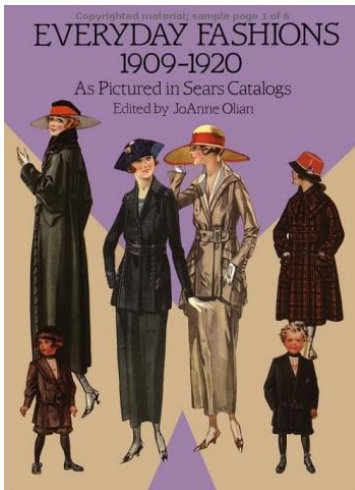


Everyday Fashion of the Twenties - by Stella Blum

Image online, courtesy amazon.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Everyday-Fashion-of-the-Twenties-by-Stella-Blum>



Sears Catalog Fashions of the Twenties

Image online, courtesy amazon.com website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Sears-Catalog-Fashions-of-the-Twenties>



Hats from the Roaring Twenties

Image of roaring-twenties-era advertisement, online courtesy Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Hats-from-the-Roaring-Twenties>



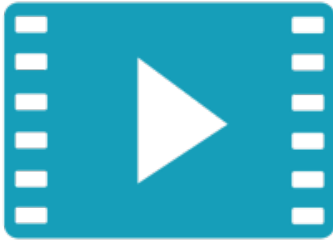
Crowds Form to See First Talking Film

Image online, courtesy History Department at the University of San Diego. There the source indicates there is no-known copyright restrictions:

Research has not established who took the original photograph and for what employer or purchasing publication - there is no evidence of any claim of copyright on the image.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Crowds-Form-to-See-First-Talking-Film>



Jazz - Excerpts from the Ken Burns Documentary

Clip, online courtesy PBS channel at YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Jazz-Excerpts-from-the-Ken-Burns-Documentary>



The Jazz Singer - First "Talkie" Film

Clip from *The Jazz Singer*

Premiere: October 6, 1927 - in New York City

Directed by Alan Crosland

Play written by Samson Raphaelson

Adapted for the screen by Alfred A. Cohn

Warner Brothers

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Jazz-Singer-First-Talkie-Film1>



The Charleston - Popular Dance of the Roaring 20s

Video clip online, courtesy [British Pathé](#).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Charleston-Popular-Dance-of-the-Roaring-20s>