



The One Percent

Director: Jamie Johnson, USA, 2008, 60 minutes

In an earlier film, *Born Rich*, Jamie Johnson profiled several young people born into wealth, who spoke frankly about a 'taboo' subject they'd been scrupulously taught to avoid: their family's money. In his new film, *The One Percent*, he exposes this taboo to deeper scrutiny. The film focuses on the growing wealth gap in America, as seen through the youthful eyes of filmmaker Johnson, a twenty-seven-year-old heir to the Johnson & Johnson pharmaceutical fortune. Utilizing his family's name and connections, Jamie sets his sights on exploring the political, moral, and emotional rationale that enables a tiny percentage of Americans, the one percent, to control nearly half the wealth of the entire United States. Concerned about the widening chasm between the rich and everyone else, Johnson tracks down several icons of capitalism, pressing them to elaborate on their beliefs.

Featuring an all-star cast including a presidential candidate, a Nobel laureate, a photocopying tycoon, an infamous arms merchant, and a wiener empire heir, the story sheds light on the absurd sense of entitlement that drives megalomaniacs to amass their fortunes. The film also gives voice to those born into wealth who question the fairness of a system that benefits them, often with startling repercussions from their families. Throughout the making of the documentary, Jamie's father and his financial advisors pressure the budding filmmaker to stop working on projects that could be damaging to the company that feeds them. A shocking, yet unceremonious, scene reveals that Warren Buffet actually ex-communicated

his granddaughter for simply participating in this film. In the end, the Johnson clan is portrayed as quite tolerant of their sometimes naive but well-intentioned filmmaking kin, narrowly averting a 'poor trustafarian' sentiment. One of the funniest moments in the film is when Jamie gets his comeuppance from Milton Freedman for taking a laissez-faire approach to his research and interviews. This film offers a rare and unique glimpse into a part of society that works hard to keep us out.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Jamie Johnson is a 27-year-old heir to the Johnson & Johnson pharmaceutical fortune. Johnson, who cut his film teeth at NYU and made the Emmy-nominated 2003 HBO documentary *Born Rich*, recently made the follow-up film, *The One Percent*, exploring the political, moral and emotional rationale that enables a tiny percentage of Americans — the one percent — to control nearly half the wealth of the entire United States.

SCREENING PARTNER



COMMUNITY PARTNER

