



Made in Dagenham



Synopsis

In 1968 Britain, female union workers at a Ford plant in the city of Dagenham begin a lengthy fight for what they believe is right: equal pay for women and men. Led by Rita O'Grady the group never stops in their efforts to pursue justice and fairness.

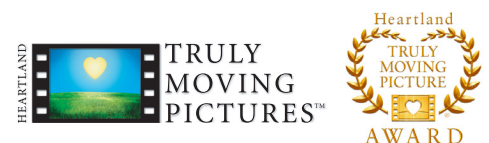
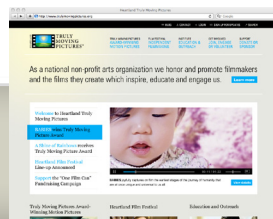
Discussion Questions

- Most of the men at the plant were supportive of the women's strike to get equal pay. However, when the men's jobs were affected many of them were no longer supportive of the cause. How do you feel about this? Do you feel that there would have been a similar reaction if the women's jobs had been impacted by a men's strike?
- Equal pay was a wage issue during the 1960s and 1970s in the United Kingdom and the United States. We still have wage issues today. What are some issues that involve wages in this country? What is the debate? What are your thoughts on this debate?
- Rita O'Grady was an inspiring character and leader. Have you ever been inspired by someone you knew who took action around a specific cause? What about this person inspired you?
- Rita was a very reluctant hero. Do you believe that she was eager to have the spotlight in this fight? Think about what Rita had to go through publicly and at home. Would you have done the same thing, with the same consequences Rita faced?



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Do Your Research

- Research the history of labor unions in your country. What was the reason for the start of unions? What were the different types of unions? What is the current state of labor unions today?
- It might seem strange in today's world that only a few decades ago women made so much less than men just because they were women. Women earned the right to vote in America less than 100 years ago. Interview the oldest woman you know to learn what life was like for them when they were growing up. What were the expectations for women at that time? What was the role of women in the home and in the workplace? How have things changed? What remains the same?
- Although there are now laws to protect women from making less money than men for performing the same job, women still make less than men overall. One reason for this gap is the type of jobs held by the majority of women and those held by the majority of men. For instance, what occupation do you perceive to be primarily held by women? What is one occupation you understand to be primarily held by men? Do some research to find the average pay for these two occupations. Is there a pay gap between these occupations? Do you think that one job is worth more pay than the other? Why? Think about this in the context of the jobs held by the autoworkers portrayed in the film.



Get Involved

- Despite the hurdles we have already overcome in this country, a wage gap still exists. Visit the website for the National Committee on Pay Equity, www.pay-equity.org, to learn about current problems and find ideas on what you can do to make a difference.
- Write a letter to your state or national congressional representatives to let them know where you stand on current wage issues that are taking shape right now.

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