

## **Ireland Democracy in Film**

We were given the Romanian film to review but as we did not have details of this film until late in October it was not possible for the Comenius class to watch the film or review it – we have a week off for mid-term and do not return to school until November 7. We decided to watch and review the English film 'Made in Dagenham' as we had been given a copy of this film in Spain.

### **Student comments on this film**

- Funny and inspiring
- Democracy rules – in the end
- Against all the odds the female workers showed that if you really believe in something and you fight for it then you can achieve anything
- Gives a really good insight in to the lives of real women in the 1960's in England
- Loved the clothes and music!
- Shows how a quiet unassuming worker like Rita O'Grady becomes empowered by the support of her fellow workers and her husband
- While the female workers fought against the power of male-dominated unions, Ford and the established order they had two great allies in their helpful male shop steward (who sympathised with them as he had been raised by his mother who struggled to survive on poor wages) and the female Employment Secretary in the Labour government
- The women machinists stood up for what was right and in the end democracy rules
- Despite hardships and difficulties the women did not give up – I think that if you really believe in something then it is worth fighting for
- I am really surprised to learn that prior to 1970 women were not entitled to equal pay for equal work – this is so recent!
- This is a film about the exploitation of women in the developed world – while it was expected that women worked for less money than men it was also expected that they would look after the housework and be grateful for their lot!
- This fight for equal pay in the Dagenham Ford factory led to improvements for women throughout the developed world.
- Cannot believe that even if women had a college degree it was still expected that they would not voice an opinion on matters of a commercial or political nature