

# MADE IN DAGENHAM

The story is set in the early sixties, a period of capitalism, exploitation of a workforce. The central thread of the film is the fight of women for equal rights at work as well as equal pay.

Rita is chosen for a leader of the protest, and she voluntarily accepts the role. She quickly becomes active in her fight to establish new rights for female workers. She is brave and she controls her language situation very well, because she is familiar with the situation. Her performance is convincing because she is honest. She imposes the demands with all the requirements and limitations and she presents them to the union. But they care just for themselves and they do not strive for the rights of workers. Rita in her role is persistent and determined to reach the goal. She has to overcome many obstacles on her way including sexual and social discrimination.

In a moment of weakness meeting Lisa who comes from the higher social class helps her. Lisa's recognition means a lot to Rita and it gives her strength to continue with her fight. She has support from female workers, at the beginning also from the male workers.

Her husband supported her at first but because of her absence from home he had to take up the housework and he doesn't like his new role very much. With a deeper perception of his wife's efforts he grows into a person with mature perception of the democracy. He eventually realizes that doing the housework is his duty, not privilege.

Rita's superior helps her establish contacts with the upper classes. He gives her recognition for her fight. All these people and their reactions help Rita to persist and to keep on fighting since the results bring equal pay and rights to all women in the Ford auto plant in Dagenham. Men, on the other hand, start looking at their female co-workers from a different perspective.

"You need to stand up for your beliefs!" The faith in Rita is so great because she knows what she is fighting for, namely she is fighting for equality.

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Zgodba je postavljena v čas zgodnjih 60.-let, to je obdobje kapitalizma, izkoriščanja delovne sile. Rdeča nit filma je boj žensk za enakopravno vrednotenje dela v gospodarstvu, ne more pa se izogniti tudi področja zasebnega oz. družinskega življenja.

V začetkih upora je za boj izbrana Rita, ki svojo vlogo prostovoljno sprejme. V kratkem času je dejavna pri vzpostavljanju novih delavskih pravic. Rita je pogumna in izredno dobro obvladuje svoj govorni položaj, saj pozna razmere. Njen nastop je prepričljiv, ker je iskrena. Oblikuje stavkovni program z zahtevami in omejitvami, ki ga je predstavila sindikatom. Ti pa so skrbeli le zase in si niso prizadevali za pravice delavcev. V svoji vlogi je vztrajna in odločena doseči cilj. Na poti se je spopadla z ovirami – šikaniranje zaradi nižjega socialnega položaja in spola.

V trenutku šibkosti ji pomaga naključno srečanje s Liso, ki prihaja iz višjega družbenega sloja. Priznanje nekoga, ki izhaja iz drugih krogov, pomeni Riti potrditev njenega prizadevanja in moč za nadaljnjo delo. Imela je podporo pri sodelavkah in v začetku tudi pri moških delavcih. S strani moža je imela v začetku veliko podpore, zaradi njene pogoste odsotnosti iz gospodinjstva pa je moral prevzemati tudi to vlogo, kar pa je sčasoma vodilo v njegov upor. Z globljim dojetjem ženinega truda je njegova osebnost zrasla v zrelo dojetje demokratičnosti, da je pomoč v gospodinjstvu njegova dolžnost in ne privilegij. Prvi nadrejeni Riti pomaga pri vzpostavitvi stikov z višjim slojem, tako ji na tih način podaja priznanje za njen boj. Vse te osebe in njihove reakcije, so Riti pomagale pri boju. Prav tako pa je ona z svojo dejavnostjo in prizadevnostjo pomagala mnogim ženskam, pa tudi moškim je razširila njihov zorni kot gledanja na ženske.

»Boriti se moraš za to v kar veruješ.« V Riti je bila vera velika, saj je vedela za kaj se bori- za svojo enakopravnost.