

Film Review: Sally Hawkins Gives Another Strong Performance in ‘Made in Dagenham’

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on November 24, 2010 - 9:25am

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Rating: **3.5/5.0**

CHICAGO – Nigel Cole’s “Made in Dagenham” works because of the strong, believable performances of its ensemble, even if it doesn’t quite resonate with the same strength as other tales of ordinary people who became revolutionary role models. Sally Hawkins, Miranda Richardson, Rosamund Pike, Bob Hoskins, and a talented group of mostly newcomers rarely hit a false note and characters one can believe in go a long way in a film such as this one.

The film that got such wonderful actors together tells a story that you probably don’t know but that certainly impacted your life in that it changed capitalism and commerce around the world. Monumental change often comes from the most unlikely source; from the right person being in the right place at the right time and having the internal fortitude to do what’s right – “Made in Dagenham” deftly tells the story of such a change.



[Read Brian Tallerico’s full review of “Made in Dagenham” in our reviews section.](#) [13]

The unlikely heroine of history is Rita O’Grady (Hawkins, so great in Mike Leigh’s “Happy-Go-Lucky” and seen earlier this year in “Never Let Me Go”), one of several female workers at the Ford plant in Dagenham in 1968. Rita works as a seamstress and gets paid nowhere near what her male friends and co-workers take home. When they threaten to strike, the women are rarely taken seriously and it’s not really until Rita is brought to what should be a shallow and useless negotiation that it becomes clear that the only way to get what they want is to stand their ground with a complete work stoppage.

With the help of union representative Albert (Bob Hoskins), Rita and her co-workers demand that they be classified as skilled workers, a move that would demand that Ford pay them the same rate as their male counterparts. Naturally, Ford recognizes that if they pay Rita and her co-workers the same, not only will they have to spend a lot more in Dagenham, but that it will be a precedent that will change not just their business but all of them around the world. The luminous Rosamund Pike and great Richard Schiff pop up in effective supporting roles.



[Continue reading for Brian Tallerico’s full “Made in Dagenham” review.](#) [13]

‘Made in Dagenham’ stars Sally Hawkins, Bob Hoskins, Miranda Richardson, Kenneth Cranham, Rosamund Pike, and Richard Schiff. It was written by William Ivory and directed by Nigel Cole. It opens on November 24th, 2010. It is rated R.



Made in Dagenham

Photo credit: Sony Pictures Classics

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