

SANDRA You didn't need a speech in Liverpool.

BERYL No, you made it up.

CLARE And you was you know, fing!

CASS Come on girl, you're on!

RITA I can't do it. I can't . . .

BERYL Rita O'Grady! Get your fucking ^{bleeding} arse up there. You're letting
Connie Riley down.

 (RITA *pauses.*)

RITA Alright. I'm ready.

 (They all leave. End of scene.)

Music No. 19a: INTO T. U. C.

SCENE THIRTEEN

The TUC. The auditorium. TOOLEY and HOPKINS leave.

TANNOY Next composite number five, Equal Pay. Rita O'Grady of the
NUVB.

 (RITA *amateurishly taps the microphone.*)

RITA Hello. Is this thing on?

 (*Taps microphone. Whiney feedback.*)

 So yeah we went on strike because you know, you gotta do
something, ain't ya. What Connie woulda said was we are the
working classes, men and women and we women have been
earning less, sometimes, half – what you men earn, doing the same
job, side by side. And that ain't fair, is it?

And none of us are working for pin money, I got enough pins, thank you very much. We women are working to pay the rent, and to feed and clothe our kids.

We're not from out of space, you know. We're your wives, your sisters, your daughters, in some cases your mothers, still working at sixty, sixty five. I saw a woman, she must've been seventy, waiting on tables at the Wimpy bar up the road here. Broke my heart, it did. Look, it started off with C grade, that's all we wanted, but it turned into Equal Pay. We deserve that, and we're not ashamed to ask for it.

I'm not perfect. Me own daughter, I bought her a nurse's uniform and laughed at her when she said she wanted to be a doctor. That nurse's uniform is the only thing in her wardrobe that ain't pink. What's that all about? Why can't she be a bloody doctor?

Music No. 20a: STAND UP

RITA
 EVER GET THE FEELING
 YOU'VE BEEN CHEATED FOR SO LONG?
 YOU KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT
 BUT YET THEY MAKE YOU FEEL IT'S WRONG

SECOND AT THE TABLE
 PICKING UP THE CRUMBS
 CHANGE IS ALWAYS PROMISED
 BUT SOMEHOW NEVER COMES
 STAND UP
 STAND UP

In the war women worked as doctors, bus drivers, land girls. Ergo, we won that war together and yet women are still being asked to make do, to wait until tomorrow. Well when is tomorrow? Ten years? Twenty years? Fifty years?

STAND UP
 STAND UP
 IF YOU'RE WITH ME
 THEN PUT YOUR HAND UP

We women have always supported you men, every time you needed us we've been there and you never had to ask. So we've come here to today because we need you to vote for this Equal Pay Amendment.

THE FIRST STEP IS THAT YOU PUT YOUR HAND UP
THEN YOU CAN MAKE A STAND FOR EVERYONE

We're a family, the TUC, Brothers and Sisters, Comrades, everyone. Them's your words not mine. You men, are you happy that your daughters will grow up to be second class citizens? Your daughters. You can change this, you can, cos nothing changes if it isn't challenged. So stand up for women's rights because, you know, if not now, when?

STAND UP
STAND UP
STAND UP

THE WORLD RIDES ON OUR SHOULDERS
WHILE THEY TAKE US FOR A RIDE
WE'RE IN THE HEART OF EVERYTHING
BUT KEPT ON THE OUTSIDE

RITA / WOMEN
SO I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP
AND I KNOW THAT MONEY'S TIGHT

RITA
BUT WE NEED YOU STANDING BY OUR SIDE
AND DOING WHAT IS RIGHT, OH . . .

RITA / WOMEN
STAND UP
STAND UP
IF YOU'RE WITH ME
THEN PUT YOUR HAND UP
YOU GOT TO TURN AROUND AND FACE THE FIGHT
GOT TO LEARN TO PUT THINGS RIGHT
ONLY WAY TO LIVE YOUR LIFE
COME ON,

STAND UP
STAND UP
THE FIRST STEP IS THAT YOU PUT YOUR HAND UP
AND THEN YOU MAKE A STAND FOR EVERYONE
THEN THE BATTLE WILL BE WON
STAND UP

RITA
WE WON'T RUN AND WE WON'T HIDE
SO DON'T PASS BY ON THE OTHER SIDE
MEN, WOMEN WE ARE ONE
WE ARE THE UNION

WOMEN
OOOH (*etc.*)

YOU MIGHT THINK
THAT WE JUST CAN'T WIN
BUT I TELL YOU THIS FOR NOTHING
WE AIN'T GIVING IN
WHAT I WANT TO SAY
IS THAT TODAY COULD BE THE DAY

WOMEN / MEN
OOOH (*etc.*)

RITA / MEN
STAND UP
STAND UP
IF YOU'RE WITH ME
THEN COME ON PUT YOUR HAND UP
YOU'VE GOT TO TURN AROUND AND FACE THE FIGHT
GOT TO LEARN TO PUT THINGS RIGHT
ONLY WAY TO LIVE YOUR LIFE
COME ON,

STAND UP
STAND UP
THE FIRST STEP IS THAT YOU PUT YOUR HAND UP
MAKE A STAND FOR EVERYONE
THEN THE BATTLE WILL BE WON
COME ON,

RITA / WOMEN / MEN
STAND UP
STAND UP

THE FIRST STEP IS THAT YOU PUT YOUR HAND UP
 AND THEN YOU MAKE A STAND FOR EVERYONE
 THEN THE BATTLE WILL BE WON
 STAND UP NOW

PRESIDENT Equal Pay Amendment is carried. Equal Pay is now TUC policy!

STAND UP NOW
 STAND UP

EDDIE
 STAND UP
 STAND UP
 I'M WITH YOU
 SO I CAN HOLD MY HAND UP
 I WAS WRONG AND YOU WERE RIGHT
 SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE FOR YOUR FIGHT
 YOU'RE THE LIGHT THAT LIGHTS MY LIFE

EDDIE Wow! You look amazing.

RITA I only borrowed it.

EDDIE I'm sorry Rite. I let you down. I let myself down. I don't suppose you'll have me back, but I love you Rita O'Grady. It's amazing what you've done. Amazing.

RITA Eddie, you big lump.

BARBARA Emmeline Pankhurst won the vote for women, and is rightly esteemed by history. The women of Ford Dagenham have changed the world today, and history should place these ordinary working women alongside the suffragettes for having achieved Equal Pay, which is yet another step forward in the continuing story of women *standing up* for their rights.

RITA / WOMEN / MEN
 STAND UP
 STAND UP

IF YOU'RE WITH ME
 THEN COME ON PUT YOUR HAND UP
 YOU'VE GOT TO TURN AROUND AND FACE THE FIGHT
 GOT TO LEARN TO PUT THINGS RIGHT
 ONLY WAY TO LIVE OUR LIVES
 COME ON,

STAND UP
 STAND UP
 THE FIRST STEP IS THAT YOU PUT YOUR HAND UP
 WELL YOU CAN MAKE A STAND FOR EVERYONE
 THEN THE BATTLE WILL BE WON
 STAND UP NOW!
 WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US, COME ON
 STAND UP NOW!
 WE NEED YOUR HELP SO COME ON
 STAND UP NOW!
 NOW, NOW!
 NOW, NOW!

(The End.)

Music No. 21: BOWS

COMPANY
 MADE IN DAGENHAM
 LAID IN DAGENHAM
 NOW WE'RE EQUAL PAID IN DAGENHAM
 MADE IN DAGENHAM
 WE ARE DAGENHAM GIRLS / BOYS (*etc.*)
 WE ARE MADE IN DAGENHAM

Music No. 22: PLAY OUT