

MADE IN DAGENHAM

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

Music No. 0: OPENING

Coming up to 7 a.m. in the bedroom of EDDIE and RITA O'GRADY. Spot on the alarm clock clicking down. A ticking beat of music. RITA is making a cup of tea in the kitchen whilst EDDIE is asleep in bed. The alarm clock goes off.

Music No. 1: BUSY WOMAN

RITA
HEY THERE SLEEPY DREAMER
I JUST WANNA SAY
I LOVE YOU LOADS, YA STUPID SOD
WELL HERE GOES – ANOTHER DAY

(Life begins. RITA is the hub, the source of all knowledge, the engine room, the everything.)

SHARON
MUM!!

GRAHAM
MUM!!

EDDIE / SHARON / GRAHAM
WHERE'S MY, WHERE'S MY,
CAN'T FIND MY THINGS
CAN'T FIND MY, WHERE'S IT GONE?
WHY'S IT ALWAYS ME?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH ALL MY THINGS?
MUM!!!
MUM!!!
MUM!!!

(Whatever they're looking for, RITA finds it and hands it to them. She hangs out the washing, makes the breakfast, tidies the house, etc. The

family home, as a well organised machine, but entirely dependent on the knowledge and energy of one person.)

RITA
EVERY MORNING, SAME ROUTINE
WE PLAY OUR LITTLE FAMILY GAME
NO-ONE KNOWS WHERE NOTHING IS
BUT GUESS WHO ALWAYS GETS THE BLAME

SHARON
MUM!!

GRAHAM
MUM!!

RITA
TEETH!!

EDDIE Rita! I can't find my favourite underpants!

RITA I had to shoot 'em.

EDDIE You shot my underpants.

RITA I had to put them out of their misery.

EDDIE What?

RITA In the airing cupboard!

RITA
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE YOU
ASK A BUSY WOMAN
COZ YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME
ASKING A MAN

SHE CAN DO IN ONE HOUR
WHAT HE CAN'T DO IN TEN
IT'S THE BASIC EFFIN' DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN US AND EFFIN' THEM
IF YOU WANT IT DONE
THEN ASK A BUSY WOMAN

SHARON Mum, what do you want for Christmas?

RITA An hour off.

GRAHAM *(To SHARON.)* Biology homework?

(SHARON hands it over.)

RITA What are you doing Graham's homework for?

SHARON A shilling. *(To GRAHAM.) For a shilling.*

(GRAHAM gives her a shilling.)

GRAHAM She wants to be a doctor. Ha, ha!

RITA Girls are nurses, Sharon. That's why we got you that nurse's outfit.

SHARON I want to be a consultant gastroenterologist!

RITA You're just saying that.

EDDIE
WE LOVE YOU DAGENHAM DAGENHAM
WITH YOUR PARKS AND WATERFRONTS
OH DAGENHAM, DAGENHAM
SO GOOD THEY NAMED IT ONCE

RITA *(Laughing.)* Stop it, Eddie – you're making us late.

EDDIE / SHARON / GRAHAM
OH DAGENHAM, DAGENHAM
WITH YOUR ANCIENT BYLAWS

EDDIE
ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY

EDDIE / SHARON / GRAHAM
BUT DAGENHAM DEFINITELY WAS

(On the last line of her song RITA puts a little present into EDDIE's snap tin. This is no ordinary present, but something wrapped, with a ribbon – special.)

EDDIE Cup of tea eh, doll?

RITA Yes please, I'd love a cup of tea. Is life like this everywhere?!

(Chorus enter.)

MOTHER CHORUS (WOMEN)
IF WANT SOMETHING DONE YOU
ASK A BUSY WOMAN
COZ YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME
ASKING A MAN

SHE CAN DO IN ONE HOUR
WHAT HE CAN'T DO IN TEN
IT'S THE BASIC EFFIN' DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN US AND EFFIN THEM
IF YOU WANT IT DONE
THEN ASK A BUSY WOMAN

(RITA spits on her hanky and wipes some grime off SHARON's face.)

SHARON *(Fighting her off.)* Uurgh!

RITA Whatsamatter?

SHARON It's spit!

RITA This ain't spit, this is mother's spit

(The chorus line of mothers spit into hankies, and wipe their children's faces.)

CHORUS
MOTHER'S SPIT!
MOTHER'S SALIVA!
AIN'T NO GERMS
THAT CAN SURVIVE HER!

(With a kiss SHARON is out the door. GRAHAM turns, is about to go.)

RITA Oi! Come here. Show me your hand.

(GRAHAM *shows his hand.*)

He's hit you again ain't he?!

CHORUS (*Sung.*)
BASTARD!

GRAHAM Mum! It don't hurt.

CHORUS (*Sung.*)
BASTARD!

RITA (*To EDDIE*) Eddie, Graham's getting caned at school. Mister Buckton –

CHORUS (*Sung.*)
BASTARD!

RITA He's paid to teach him Latin, not attack him with a stick.

EDDIE He can't treat him any different just cos he's a scholarship boy.

GRAHAM Don't come into school mum!

RITA (*Overly dramatic.*) Oh, you're ashamed of me are you?!

GRAHAM Yes!

SHARON Watch out Dad, Mum's gone into one.

(*And GRAHAM is gone with a slam of the door.*)

RITA Alright, Eddie?

EDDIE Yeah. What?

RITA What's today?

CHORUS
THINK, WHIRR, CLICK, CLICK, WHIRR

EDDIE Tuesday.

RITA Tuesday?

CHORUS
THINK AGAIN, WHIRR, CLICK, CLICK, DURR

EDDIE Innit?

RITA Is it a special Tuesday?

CHORUS
REMEMBER, YOU MEMBER

EDDIE *(Beat.)* Pancake day?

RITA Go to work, you big lump.

EDDIE Love you!

(EDDIE moves in for a kiss. RITA kisses him lightly on the cheek, though he'd offered his lips. He's gone. Out the door.)

RITA
EVERY YEAR, THE SAME ROUTINE
WE PLAY OUR ANNIVERSARY GAME

CHORUS / RITA
HE FORGETS

RITA
AND I REMEMBER
THE DAY I TOOK HIS

CHORUS / RITA
STUPID NAME

CHORUS
SHUT THE DOOR, WERE YOU BORN IN A BARN?
WIPE THOSE BOOTS YOU DON'T LIVE ON A FARM
HOW DID YOUR LAST SERVANT DIE?
WHY? BECAUSE I SAID, THAT'S WHY

EAT YOUR GREENS OR YOU WON'T GROW
THERE'S KIDS STARVING IN AFRICA, YOU KNOW
BEDS AIN'T MADE FOR JUMPING ON

YOU'LL ALL MISS ME WHEN I'M GONE

(Door opens and GRAHAM stands there, hand out, and is given his bus pass.)

RITA Bus Pass!

ALL
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE
ASK A BUSY WOMAN
SHE'S GOT MORE ENERGY
THAN THE SUN
SHE'S ALWAYS THERE NO MATTER WHAT
IF YOU LOSE YOUR KEY OR LOSE THE PLOT
THE STRENGTH OF A RHINO
THE PATIENCE OF A NUN
IT AIN'T NO SPRINT IT'S A MARATHON

EVERY LOVING MINUTE
OF EVERY LOVING DAY
TESTS OUR LOVING NATURE
IN EVERY LOVING WAY
MOTHERS, SISTERS, DAUGHTERS
LOVINGLY WE SAY

WE GOT THIS FEELING
THIS WONDERFUL FEELING
IT'S GONNA BE ANOTHER
KIDDY HUGGING
HEART TUGGING
TEA SLUGGING
EVER LOVING
MOTHER LOVING
WORKING DAY

IF YOU WANT IT DONE THEN ASK A BUSY WOMAN

(RITA is out the door and gone with a slam of the door.)

(End of scene.)

Music No. 2: MADE IN DAGENHAM

MEN

THE SMELL OF SUMP OIL FILLS THE AIR
ONE WEEKS SWARFEGA IN MY HAIR
I JUST CLOCK IN AND DO MY TIME
AT FIVE O'CLOCK MY LIFE IS MINE

A FANBELT, GEARBOX OR A CLUTCH
WE'RE MEN WHO'VE GOT THE MIDAS TOUCH
WE'RE PROUD OF WHAT GOES INTO IT
GIVE IT A KICK IF IT DON'T FIT

BLUE COLLAR CAR MEN
THAT'S WHO WE ARE
SHAME MOST OF US
CAN'T AFFORD A CAR
WHEY!

MADE IN DAGENHAM
LAID IN DAGENHAM
SHAME WE'RE UNDERPAID IN DAGENHAM
MADE IN DAGENHAM
WE ARE DAGENHAM BOYS

SOLO 1
I LOVE MY JOB, IT IS A GIFT

SOLO 5
A LOVELY STINKING EIGHT HOUR SHIFT

EDDIE
SEE HOW THE FAC-TO-RY DOTH SHINE

SOLO 2
FROM EUROPE'S LARGEST NEON SIGN

SOLO 6
WE'RE FAMOUS FOR MISTER HENRY FORD

ALL MEN
FROM WHOM ALL GOODNESS STEMS

SOLO 7
APART FROM THE POLLUTION

SOLO 8
THAT HE DUMPS INTO THE THAMES

SOLO 3
AND OOOOH DUDLEY MOORE
MAN, HE WAS SLICK

SOLO 4
BUT HE GOT A LITTLE FAMOUS

ALL MEN
AND HE FUCKED OFF PRETTY QUICK.

MADE IN DAGENHAM
LAID IN DAGENHAM
LAST YEAR WE HOLIDAYED IN DAGENHAM
MADE IN DAGENHAM
WE ARE DAGENHAM BOYS

SOLO 8
A HALF PINT THERMOS

SOLOS 3, 7, 5
AND MY STEEL CAP BOOTS

SOLOS 8, 2
OUR OVERALLS PROTECTIVE

ALL MEN
IT'S THE WORKING MAN'S SUIT

STATE OF THE ART MACHINERY
HEALTH AND SAFETY GUARANTEE
MAINTAINED DAILY THROUGH AND THROUGH (*Bang!*)
BY ENGINEERING EXPERTS AND SOME SUPER GLUE!

MADE IN DAGENHAM
LAID IN DAGENHAM
COME GET YOUR CAT SPAYED IN DAGENHAM.
MADE IN DAGENHAM
WE ARE DAGENHAM BOYS

ALL (MEN /WOMEN)
PLAYED IN DAGENHAM
STRAYED IN DAGENHAM
LIFE IS READY-MADE IN DAGENHAM
GOD KNOWS WHY WE STAYED IN DAGENHAM
TEMPERS GETTING FRAYED IN DAGENHAM
COZ STILL WE'RE UNDERPAID IN DAGENHAM
WE ARE DAGENHAM GIRLS
BOYS
GIRLS
BOYS
GIRLS
OOOH
WE ARE MADE IN DAGENHAM

SCENE TWO

The River Plant. BERYL (front row) and other girls (back row). Enter RITA who takes a seat at her machine.

BERYL Alright Rita? Are you getting any?

RITA Sex or loving?

BERYL Oh! There's a difference, is there?

(Enter CASS.)

BERYL Alright Cass?

CASS *(Sarcastic.)* Yeah, I love it here.

BERYL Are you getting any?