

Appendix A

Synopsis: A live re-enactment, filmed under the direction of Mike Figgis for Artangel Media and Channel 4.

In 1984 the National Union of Mineworkers went on strike. The dispute lasted for over a year and was the most bitterly fought since the general strike of 1926, marking a turning point in the struggle between the government and the trade union movement. On 18 June of that year, the Orgreave coking plant was the site of one of the strike's most violent confrontations. It began in a field near the plant and culminated in a cavalry charge through the village of Orgreave.

The Battle of Orgreave was filmed by Mike Figgis for Artangel Media and Channel 4, and aired on Sunday, 20 October 2002. The film intercuts dramatic photographic stills from the clashes in 1984 with footage of the clashes re-enacted in 2001, together with moving and powerful testimonies, to tease out the complexities of this bitter struggle.

Mac McLoughlin, a former miner and serving policeman on the field that day, reveals details about the build-up within the police force prior to the stand-off; David Douglass (NUM) talks about the meaning of the confrontation in relation to the trade union movement in England; Stephanie Gregory (Womens' Support Group) reminisces about the effects on family life; Tony Benn talks about the media's role in covering up the truth about the strike in 1984; and Jeremy Deller contextualises this event and highlights its contemporary cultural relevance.

Much of the film concerns the re-enactment itself, beginning with how it was organised and the way 800 diverse historical re-enactors and local extras were moulded together into one team, trained (including by real riot police officers) and rehearsed in just one day, followed less than 24 hours later by the re-enactment itself.

Suggested Category "U"