

"STAND TOGETHER:"



GRUNWICK JULY 11th 1977

A NEW FILM IN COLOUR MADE BY THE NEWSREEL COLLECTIVE
AND MEMBERS OF ACTT AND TGWU (16mm., 52 minutes)

In August 1976, a group of mainly Asian and West Indian women walked out of a film processing factory in North London, in protest against near feudal working conditions. They joined a union and were sacked. That factory was Grunwicks. For over a year the Grunwick strikers have been fighting for union recognition and re-instatement in the company. The management, backed by the right-wing National Association for Freedom, consistently refused their demands.

On July 11, 1977, 20,000 workers demonstrated their solidarity with the Grunwick strikers. This film documents that day. Three film crews cover all the events, starting at dawn when 10,000 pickets assembled to stop 4,000 police getting the scab bus in. The film follows the 20,000 march called by APEX and the TUC, which effectively ended the mass picket and allowed the scab bus in. It explores the politics of mass picketing and why it is necessary. It interviews the Cricklewood

postmen, whose courageous stand against their executive blacked the the Grunwick mail.

From Aberdeen to Brighton, miners, engineers, housewives, dockers, clerical workers, teachers, nurses, building workers, students, textile workers, local government officers tell us why they've given up a day's pay to come and demonstrate their support. They explain why this struggle raises all the basic issues facing the working-class at this time: low pay, the right to organise - particularly of women - and the fight of immigrant workers against racist exploitation from ruthless employers. And they explain too why the whole trade-union movement must stand together to win this struggle.

"I have no faith in the law. There is no law that can bring this Ward to his knees. But I have faith in the workers of this country. They can stop all the services, they can stop the bus, and that's the way we'll win."

Ms. Desai, Strike Committee Treasurer



This film is available for hire
via The Other Cinema,

12-13 Little Newport Street, London W.C.2.
phone 01-734-8508

and is endorsed by the Brent Trades Council
and the TUC South-East Region Action Committee