

# Labor Movies

## **THE KILLING FLOOR 1985**

An early attempt by oppressed workers to organize the slaughter house industry.

## **LABOR ON THE JOB: DISCUSSION OF THE S.F. NEWSPAPER LITTLE VOICE**

Mark Herman 1998 Life in a working class town in England.

## **LABORS TURNING POINT:**

1934 Minneapolis Teamster Strike Interesting documentary on a crucial labor battle.

## **LA SALAIRE DE LA PEUR (see THE WAGES OF FEAR).**

## **LITTLE THIEVES, BIG THIEVES (Venezuelan)**

1998 attack on the banking industry.

## **LONELINESS OF THE LONG DISTANCE RUNNER**

"Delinquent" youth is pressured into participating in "the system."

## **MAD CITY**

## **MANY FACES OF PAPER**

David Riker 1980's Documents striking Maine Paper Workers..

## **MINUTE OF SILENCE (French) 1998**

Downsizing in coal mining industry.

## **NORTHERN LIGHTS 1978**

Documentary on farmers in N. Dakota facing ruination in 1915-16, organizing Nonpartisan League.

## **ON THE JOB: COLD WAR AGAINST LABOR Labor Video Project 1987.**

## **THE ORGANIZER**

Mario Monicelli 1963 Early unionizing effort in Italy. Positive, exciting and upbeat, with many important organizing lessons.

## **QUE VIVA: LABOR IN EL SALVADOR 1987**

The role of organized labor in bringing about political & social change.

## **RAINING STONES**

Ken Loach 1993 Comedy gives insight into the effect of unemployment on people.

## **RIFF RAFF**

Ken Loach 1992 Homeless men laboring at construction site.

## **ROGER & ME**

1989 A terrific film depicting the impact plant closings have on the community.

## **ROSIE THE RIVETER, THE LIFE AND TIMES OF**

Documentary on the inclusion of women in the work force in WWII.

## **SACCO & VANZETTI 1971.**

## **SIT DOWN AND FIGHT 1992 PBS**

documentary on the Auto Workers Union, and Walter Reuther.

## **SPIES IN STEEL, THE DOLLAR-A-DAY MAN**

Tom Selinski 1997 US Steel Trust's anti-union use of spies in 1928.

**STRIKE Sergei Eisenstien 1924**

The brutally defeated strike under the Czar.

**STRIKE STORY PBS**

documentary on the 1934 West Coast Maritime Workers Union.

**STRUGGLE IN THE HEARTLAND**

Staley strike.

**THE SUMMER OF '34**

Minneapolis Teamster strike.

**THESE HANDS (Tanzania) 1992**

A documentary on women quarry workers in Mozambique.

**THIS FAR BY FAITH**

The struggle and victory of Delta Pride catfish workers.

**UNION MAIDS**

Julia Reichert 1976 Documents lives of 3 Chicago union organizers during the 1930's.

**THE UPRISING OF '34**

G. Stoney, J. Helfand, S. Rostock 1995 Documentary of lives and of strike of cotton mill workers.

**WHERE'S JIMMY HOFFA 1992**

Documentary explaining this legendary albeit corrupt labor leader, and his disappearance.

**THE WILLMAR EIGHT.****WITH BABIES AND BANNERS Lorraine Gray 1978**

The story of the Women's Emergency Brigade, Backbone of 1937 GM Sit-down Strike.

**THE WOBBLIES**

Deborah Shaffer & Stewart Bird 1979 A terrific documentary of the IWW.

**A WORKING WOMAN'S WAY FORWARD (German) 1929****Arsenal (Soviet Union, 1928-29)**

Directed by Alexander Dovzhenko. Based on an actual incident, this is a dramatic account of the Ukraine from the First World War through the February and October Revolutions, to the suppression of a workers' revolt in 1918. Dovzhenko presents harsh, realistic scenes of Czarist brutality and war's destruction, but his juxtapositions of the Russian workers and peasants are both impressionistic and symbolic. 75 min. DVD 8448; VHS 999:2101 (digitally mastered)

**At the River I Stand (US 1993)**

Appleby, Graham, Ross 1993 The Civil Rights Movement and the Labor movement join forces in MLKing Jr.'s last fight.

**La Bataille du Rail (The Battle of the Rails) (France, 1946)**

Directed by René Clement. Cast: Marcel Barnault, Jean Clarieux, Jean Daurand, Tony Laurent, Lucien Desagneaux, François Joux, Pierre Latour. During the occupation of France by Nazi Germany, French railway workers bravely battled the Nazis on many fronts, from transporting forbidden mail to committing acts of sabotage. They became an invaluable part of the French resistance. 85 min. DVD 5097

**Blind Shaft (Mang jing)(China, 2003)**

Directed by Yang Li. Cast: Li Yixiang, Wang Shuangbao, Wang Baoqiang. In modern northwestern China, itinerant coal miners Tang and Song befriend fellow miners, murder them in staged "accidents", then pass their victims off as relatives in order to pocket their employer's hush money. The recruiting of Feng, a naive young farm boy, threatens to drive a wedge between the two killers. 89 min. DVD 9601

**Blue Collar (1978)**

Directed by Paul Schrader. Cast: Richard Pryor, Harvey Keitel, Yaphet Kotto. When Detroit auto workers Jerry, Smokey and Zeke find bills piling up and pressures bearing down, they decide to rob their corrupt union office. In a cruel twist, their small haul becomes a nightmare when the heist goes wrong and their once loyal friendships turn to fear, betrayal and murder. 114 min. 999:2393

**Between a Rock and a Hard Place**

Mineworkers experience.

**The Big One with Michael Moore (1998)**

Comedy which exposes corporate exploitation of workers-fighting the "scum of corporate America" can be fun.

**Bitter Rice (1948)**

Story of Italian migrant workers.

**Bound for Glory (1976)**

Directed by Hal Ashby. Cast: David Carradine, Ronny Cox, Melinda Dillon, Gail Strickland, Randy Quaid. Set against the grim backdrop of depression America, this film joyously celebrates the life of Woody Guthrie, America's great folk balladeer and poet. As he traveled across America his buoyant spirit and soul-rousing music surrounded him with a quiet strength enabling him to do battle with the social injustice which surrounded him. Based on the Woody Guthrie autobiography, c1991. 149 min. 999:1749

**Brassed Off! (UK, 1996)**

Director Mark Herman. Cast: Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald, Ewan McGregor, Jim Carter, Sue Johnston, Stephen Moore, Ken Colley, Grimethorpe Colliery Band. "A small Yorkshire mining town is threatened with being shut down and the only hope for the town's men is to enter their Grimley Colliery Brass Band into a national competition. They believe they have no hope until Gloria (Tara Fitzgerald)

appears carrying her Flugelhorn. At first mocked for being a woman, she soon becomes the only chance for the band to win. In joining the band she puts her relationship with her childhood sweetheart Andy (Ewan McGregor) on the line." [Internet Movie Database] 101 min. DVD 5841

**Bread and Roses (2000)**

Director Ken Loach. Cast: Pilar Padilla, Adrien Brody, Elpidia Carrillo, George Lopez, Alonso Chavez, Monica Rivas. Maya is an illegal alien who has crossed the U.S. border from Mexico to search for her sister Rosa, and to begin a new life. After being reunited, Rosa gets Maya a job with a janitorial service in a large office building. While working, Maya happens upon Sam Shapiro, a muckraking lawyer and union agitator whom the service-workers' union has assigned to bring its "justice for janitors" campaign to the building. Appalled at the work conditions and unfair labor practices, Maya and Sam team up to fight her employer. 110 min. DVD 5453 .

**Cama Adentro. (Argentina, 2004)**

Directed by Jorge Gaggero. Cast: Norma Aleandro, Norma Argentina, Susana Lanteri, Claudia Lapaco, Marcos Mundstock. A wealthy woman and her live-in housekeeper must adjust their entrenched routines and relationship when Buenos Aires is plunged into an economic crisis. 83 min. DVD 6877

**Cellulose (Celuloza)(Poland, 1954)**

Directed by Jerzy Kawalerowicz. Cast: Jozef Nowak, Stanislaw Miłski, Zbigniew Skowronski, Teresa Szmigielowna. A peasant's son in Poland becomes politically radicalized, after moving to the big city to work in a cellulose factory. 120 min. DVD 9913

**Class Dismissed: How TV Frames the Working Class**

Featuring interviews with media analysts and cultural historians, this documentary examines the patterns inherent in TV's disturbing depictions of working class people as either

clowns or social deviants, stereotypical portrayals that reinforce the myth of meritocracy. Directed by Loretta Alper. c2005. 62 min. DVD 4912

### **The Corn is Green(TV, 1979)**

Directed by George Cukor. Cast: Katharine Hepburn, Ian Saynor, Anna Massey, Bill Fraser, Arthro Morris, Dorothea Phillips. Miss Moffat is a spinster schoolteacher who inherits a house in a Welsh mining town. She finds the miners living in squalor and ignorance, and is determined to open a school to teach not only the children but also anybody from the village that is interested in learning. Miss Moffat discovers Morgan Evans, a young man with a brilliant mind who works in the coalmines. In an essay he writes about being in the mines underneath the fields where "the corn is green." Morgan becomes her prize pupil, and Miss Moffat pushes him to try for a scholarship at Oxford. Unfortunately he has an affair with a local girl that will require an additional sacrifice on the part of his teacher in order for them to realize their dream. But when he returns from Oxford and has seen what is out there, he refuses to be sent back to the life he knew in the mines. Based on the play "The corn is green" by Emlyn Williams. 93 min. DVD 7602

### **The Corn is Green(1945)**

Directed by Irving Rapper. Cast: Bette Davis, John Dall, Joan Loring, Nigel Bruce, Rhys Williams. A portrait of a middle-aged Englishwoman who tries to improve the lives of needy, illiterate Welsh coal miners through education and learning. Based on the play "The corn is green" by Emlyn Williams. 115 min. Video/C 999:648

### **Captain Boycott (1947)**

Frank Launder 1947 Farmers join forces and rebel when a landowner evicts them; the origin of the word "boycott."

### **A Corner in Wheat (1909)**

Directed by D.W. Griffith. A greedy tycoon decides, on a whim, to corner the world market in wheat. This doubles the price of bread, forcing the grain's producers into charity lines and further into poverty. The film continues to contrast the ironic differences between the lives of those who work to grow the wheat and the life of the man who dabbles in its sale for profit. 14 min. DVD 1545; also DVD 1399; vhs 999:3391; also vhs 999:594

### **Cradle Will Rock (2000)**

Directed by Tim Robbins. Cast: Hank Azaria, Ruben Blades, Joan Cusack, John Cusack, Cary Elwes, Philip Baker Hall, Cherry Jones, Angus MacFadyen, Bill Murray, Vanessa Redgrave, Susan Sarandon, Jamey Sheridan, John Turturro, Emily Watson. A kaleidoscopic look at the extraordinary events of 1930s America, from high society to life on the streets in Depression-era New York City. Based on the true story of Orson Welles' controversial musical about a steel strike that was closed down by government decree. 134 min. DVD 281

### **Le Crime de Monsieur Lange (Crime of Monsieur Lange) (1936)**

Directed by Jean Renoir. Cast: René Lefevre, Florelle, Jules Berry, Marcel Levesque, Sylvia Bataille, Nadia Sibirskaia. A group of workers take over a publishing house when its crooked owner, Batala, absconds. Batala returns to resume control, but one of the workers, Lange, kills him to save the collective. 89 min. DVD 3494 (PAL); VHS 999:583

### **The Crowd (1928)**

Directed by King Vidor. Cast: James Murray, Eleanor Boardman, Bert Roach. Drama presenting the plight of workaday men and women in New York city at the turn of the century. In his youth John Sims is convinced that he's destined to be a man of importance but twenty seven years later, he is merely one of the faceless crowd, an underpaid clerk in a huge New York office building. 104 min. Video/C 999:3727

**Cry of the Children (Thanouser Studios, 1912)**

Directed by George O. Nicholas An expression of the pre-World War One reform movement concerning child labor. The story contrasts scenes of the mill owner's home life with that of a poor working family. An unsuccessful strike, poverty, death and hardship threaten to tear the poor family apart. 29 min. DVD 5863; vhs 999:2838

**A Day Without a Mexican (USA / Mexico / Spain, 2004)**

Directed by Sergio Arau. Cast: Yarelli Arizmendi, John Getz, Maureen Flannigan, Muse Watson, Fernando Arau, Eduardo Palomo. California awakens one day to discover that one third of its population has vanished. A peculiar pink fog surrounds the state and communication outside its boundaries has completely shut down. As the day progresses, it becomes apparent the sole characteristic linking the missing 14 million is their Hispanic heritage. Special features: the making-of 'A day without a Mexican'; filmmaker commentary; music video "Frijoleros" by Molatov; outtakes; music video "Sin decir adios" by Los Yoguiis; the original short that inspired the film; original theatrical trailers & TV spots. Based on "A day without a Mexican, a mockumentary" by Yarelli Arizmendi and Sergio Arau. 95 min. DVD 3148

**The Deserter (Desertir) (Soviet Union, 1933)**

Directed by Vsevolod Pudovkin. A German shipyard laborer joins a worker's strike in defiance of a corrupt union and regardless of the company's violent reprisals. Starved, beaten and discouraged, he is sent in an envoy to the USSR and is rejuvenated by the spirit of cooperation and optimism of the idyllic workers' state. 100 min. DVD 8554; 999:1690

**The Devil and Miss Jones (1941)**

Directed by Sam Wood. Cast: Jean Arthur, Robert Cummings, Charles Coburn, Edmund Gwenn, S. Z. Sakall, Spring Byington. J.P. Merric, the richest man in the world, a tyrannical department store tycoon, nicknamed "the devil"

by his maltreated employees, meets Miss Jones and becomes a perfect angel. Hoping to root out labor discontent, J.P. goes underground posing as a shoe salesman in his own store. 92 min. 999:3609

**F. I. S. T. (FIST) (1978)**

Directed by Norman Jewison. Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Rod Steiger, Peter Boyle, Melinda Dillon. Closely paralleling history, this film recounts the rise and fall of union leader Johnny Kovak from his beginnings as an idealistic blue collar worker to head of the Federation of Inter-State Truckers. To achieve his dream of justice for the working man, Kovak must accept the muscle of organized crime. Ultimately, it is a story of idealism corrupted and betrayed. 145 min. DVD 6236

**The Golden Age****Germinal (France, 1993)**

Directed by Claude Berri. Cast: Miou-Miou, Renaud, Jean Carmet, Judith Henry, Jean-Roger Milo, Gerard Depardieu. Recreates the gut-wrenching poverty and intense struggles of striking French coal-miners in 1884 at the Voreux mines through the bitter toils of Maheu and his family and Etienne, an organizer for the miner's new union. As conditions in the mines worsen, Etienne convinces Maheu to organize a miner's strike but when the miners finally do strike the owners send in armed soldiers to defend the mines. Based on a novel by Emile Zola. 166 min. 999:3286

**Grapes of Wrath (1940)**

Directed by John Ford. Cast: Henry Fonda, Jane Darwell, John Carradine, Charley Grapewin. The migration of the Joad family to California from their dust-bowl farm in Oklahoma during the Great Depression. c1987. 100 min. DVD 2434; vhs 999:508

**Gung Ho (1986)**

Directed by Ron Howard. Cast: Michael Keaton, Gedde Watanabe, George Wendt, Mimi Rogers, John Turturro. A young

American auto exec persuades a Japanese auto firm to reopen his home town's defunct auto factory, but when the Japanese hire him to enforce their policies among his American co-workers, he goes from hero to zero in seconds flat. 112 min. DVD 1772

### **Harlan County USA (1976)**

1976 Academy award winning documentary of United Mine Workers strike in Kentucky.

### **High Stakes in Morenci**

Explains strike of 13 unions against Phelps-Dodge Company in Arizona.

### **Hoffa (1992)**

Directed by Danny DeVito. Cast: Jack Nicholson, Danny DeVito, Armand Assante, J.T. Walsh, Robert Prosky. Traces Jimmy Hoffa's turbulent career from 1935, when he first solicits truck drivers to join the fledgling International Brotherhood of Teamsters, to his disappearance in 1975. The film traces Hoffa's passionate struggle to shape the nation's most influential labor union, his relationship with the mob, and his subsequent conviction and prison term at the hand of Robert Kennedy. 137 min. DVD 6238

### **How Green Was My Valley (1967)**

Directed by John Ford. Cast: Walter Pidgeon, Maureen O'Hara, Anna Lee, Donald Crisp, Roddy McDowall, John Loder, Sara Allgood, Barry Fitzgerald, Patric Knowles. A man looks back on his life as a boy in a small Welsh mining town. His reminiscences reveal the disintegration of his closely knit family, while capturing the sentiments and issues of their time. 119 min. DVD 306

### **I AM SOMEBODY**

Madeline Anderson 1970 Documentary of successful strike by African American women hospital workers.

### **ILLUSION TRAVELS BY STREETCAR**

Luis Bunuel (Mexican) 1953 Transit workers take condemned streetcar for ride.

### **INTOLERANCE DW**

Griffith 1916 Epic film showing clearcut cases of injustice, although racism is accepted, due perhaps to the film's liberal viewpoint.

KAMERADSCHAFT GW Pabst (German) 1931

Mining accident brings out the best in wartime "enemy" workers.

### **Kameradschaft (Comradeship) (Germany, 1931)**

Director, G.W. Pabst. Based on an actual incident in which German miners crossed the border to go to the assistance of French miners trapped by an explosion. 90 min. 999:151

### **Killer of Sheep (1977)**

Directed, written, produced by Charles Burnett. Cast: Henry Gayle Sanders, Kaycee Moore, Charles Bracy, Angela Burnett, Eugene Cherry, Jack Drummond. This gripping portrait of Stan, a Black man employed in a Los Angeles slaughterhouse, is internationally regarded as a film classic. Stan's grueling work-gutting and cleaning the sheep carcasses-inflicts his entire life, including his relationships with his wife, children and friends. The film hauntingly evokes the physical detail and bittersweet emotions of working class life with compassion and honesty. Declared a National Treasure in 1990. Bonus features on DVD 8738: Charles Burnett's acclaimed short films, Several friends (1969), The horse (1973), and When it rains (1995); Killer of Sheep commentary track with Charles Burnett and Richard Pena, Program Director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center. 79 min. DVD 8738; also DVD 6940; vhs 999:1729

### **The Killing Floor. (1985)**

Directed by Bill Duke. Originally produced as motion picture in 1985 for American Playhouse television program. Cast: Damien Leake, Alfre Woodard, Clarence Felder, Moses Gunn. This story tells of events that led to the Chicago race riots of 1919. A young

black sharecropper leaves the South during World War I and becomes a laborer in the Chicago stockyards, and, along with other little-known stockyard workers of different ethnic backgrounds, he attempts to form an interracial industrial union in the face of growing conflict. 118 min. 999:1178

### **The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit (1956)**

Directed by Nunnally Johnson. Cast: Gregory Peck, Jennifer Jones, Fredric March, Gene Lockhart, Marisa Pavan, Lee J. Cobb, Ann Harding, Keenan Wynn. An veteran of World War II (still haunted by its memories) gets a job in a public relations firm. With added tension at work and increasing personal problems, the rising young executive must decide as his boss did--what is the most important thing in life, family or success? This exceptional drama, acclaimed for its extraordinary realism is a classic commentary on the American Dream. 153 min. DVD 4690; vhs 999:222

### **Matewan(1954)**

Directed by John Sayles. The story of a bitter clash between union and coal company in West Virginia in the 1920's. 100 min. DVD 3720; VHS 999:508

### **Metropolis (Germany, 1926)**

Directed by Fritz Lang. Screenplay, Thea von Harbou; Special effects, Eugen Schufftan; photography, Karl Freund, Gunther Rittau . Cast: GBrigitte Helm, Alfred Abel, Gustave Frohlich, Rudolph Klein-Rogge, Heinrich Georg. The story of a 21st century city run by a "super trustee" and his collaborators who live in a paradise-like garden. Workers are totally enslaved by machines and condemned to live underground. In the midst of this misery, a young woman, Maria, arises and attempts to inspire the workers to throw off their oppressors.

### **Modern Times (1936)**

Directed by Charlie Chaplin, featuring Chaplin, Paulette Goddard, Henry Bergman, Stanley Sandford, Chester Conklin,

Hank Mann, Allan Garcia, Stanley Blystone, Dick Alexander, Cecil Reynolds, Myra McKinney. The Little Tramp is an oppressed assembly-line factory worker who is used as a guinea pig for his employer's test of a new "Automatic Feeding Machine". He battles it out with technology, unemployment, jail, burglars, demanding customers and bosses. In the midst of his tribulations, he meets up with the girl of his dreams, "The Gamin". They win some and lose more but, at the end, they walk undaunted into the sunrise. 103 min. DVD 195; VHS 999:47

### **The Molly Maguires (1970)**

Directed by Martin Ritt. Cast: Richard Harris, Sean Connery, Samantha Eggar, Frank Finlay, Anthony Zerbe, Bethel Leslie, Art Lund. James McParlan is an operative working for the Pinkerton Detective Agency, who is hired by a major coal company to infiltrate and expose an underground terrorist organization, the "Molly Maguires". The Mollies operate within the impoverished mining communities of Pennsylvania and are mostly Irish emigrants. McParlan is selected to infiltrate the organization to pose as a new member, but it quickly becomes apparent that the working conditions are truly wretched. The lawman's loyalties become divided between the law and his fellow countrymen. 123 min. DVD 8445; vhs 999:2353

### **The Navigators (UK / Germany / Spain, 2001)**

Directed by Ken Loach. Cast: Dean Andrews, Tom Craig, Joe Duttine, Sean Glenn, Steve Huison, Venn Tracey, John Aston, Juliet Bates, Charlie Brown. In South Yorkshire, as big business takes hold of the British Rail industry, a local depot gang is forced to either adapt to the new managerial double-talk or take chances with receiving severance pay. Agreements set long ago are suddenly undermined by a new managing director who wipes the slate clean. Tensions mount when the men show up at the depot only to find there is no work for them. 95 min. DVD 5675

### **9 to 5 (Nine to Five) (1980)**

Directed by Colin Higgins. Cast: Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, Dolly Parton, Dabney Coleman, Elizabeth Wilson, Sterling Hayden.

Three female office workers combine forces to kidnap their deceitful, egotistical, and thoroughly chauvinistic boss and raise office efficiency to an all-time high during his absence. 110 min. DVD 949

### **Norma Rae (1979)**

Directed by Martin Ritt; Cast: Sally Field, Ron Leibman, Beau Bridges, Pat Hingle, Barbara Baxley. Norma Rae, a textile worker in a small Southern town discovers that she has a social consciousness when a labor organizer arrives at her mill to establish a union. c1990.

### **North Country (2005)**

Directed by Niki Caro. Cast: Charlize Theron, Elle Peterson, Thomas Curtis, Frances McDormand, Sean Bean, Woody Harrelson, Jeremy Renner, Richard Jenkins, Sissy Spacek. Josey Aimes needs a job and goes to work at a Minnesota steel mine after splitting with her violent husband. But the job proves to be almost as harrowing as her marriage. The male miners are resentful of women taking their jobs, so the men verbally abuse and play humiliating pranks on the female miners. After being physically assaulted by a coworker, Josey tries to fight against the harassment, but none of the other women will join her case for fear that things will only get worse. A dramatization of the first major successful sexual harassment case in the U.S. - Jenson vs. Eveleth Mines, where a woman who endured a range of abuse while working as a miner filed and won a landmark 1984 lawsuit. 123 min. DVD 5207

### **On the Waterfront (1954)**

Directed by Elia Kazan. Cast: Marlon Brando, Karl Malden, Lee J. Cobb, Rod Steiger, Pat Henning, Eva Marie Saint. Mob-connected union boss Johnny Friendly (Lee J. Cobb) rules the waterfront with an iron fist. The police know that he's been responsible for a number of murders, but witnesses play deaf and dumb ("plead D & D"). Washed-up boxer Terry

Malloy (Marlon Brando) has had an errand-boy job because of the influence of his brother Charley, a crooked union lawyer (Rod Steiger). Witnessing one of Friendly's rub-outs, Terry is willing to keep his mouth shut until he meets the dead dockworker's sister Edie (Eva Marie Saint). "Waterfront priest" Father Barry (Karl Malden) tells Terry that Edie's brother was killed because he was going to testify against boss Friendly before the crime commission. Because he could have intervened, but didn't, Terry feels somewhat responsible for the death. When Father Barry receives a beating from Friendly's goons, Terry is persuaded to cooperate with the commission. [description from All-Media Guide]c1985. 108 min. DVD 899; VHS 999:18

### **Our Daily Bread (1934)**

Directed by King Vidor. Cast: Tom Keene, Karen Morley, Barbara Pepper, Addison Richards. Depression movie about a collective farm and its development as a rural community of the unemployed. The unemployed portrayed include a jobless city couple, a Swedish farmer and his family, and other victims of the industrial-financial collapse. 1984. 100 min. DVD 691; vhs 999:65

### **The Pajama Game (1957)**

Directed by George Abbott and Stanley Donen. Cast: Doris Day, John Raitt, Carol Haney, Eddie Foy Jr., Reta Shaw, Barbara Nichols. Labor and management at the Sleepytime Pajama Factory aren't getting much sleep lately: a proposed 7 1/2 cent hourly wage increase is the reason--and a job action just may be the result. But not to worry: negotiating strategies here involve snappy stars, terrific tunes and dynamic dances, all part of one of the most infectiously joyful stage/screen musicals ever. c1990. 102 min. DVD 5723; vhs 999:1996

### **Piffall (Otoshiana)(Japan, 1962)**

Directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara. Cast: Hisashi Igawa, Kunie Tanaka, Hideo Kanze, Kazuo Miyahara, Sumie Sasaki, Kanichi Omiya, Kei Sato, Sen Yano, Ton Shimada, Shigeru Matsuo, Kikuo

Kaneuchi. When a miner leaves his employer and treks out with his young son to become a migrant worker, he finds himself moving from one eerie landscape to another, intermittently followed (and photographed) by an enigmatic man in a clean, white suit, and eventually coming face-to-face with his inescapable destiny. 97 min. DVD DVD 9080

### **The Proud Valley (UK, 1940)**

Director, Pen Tennyson. Cast: Paul Robeson, Edward Chapman, Edward Rigby, Simon Lack, Janet Johnson, Rachel Thomas. Paul Robeson plays a sailor who comes to a Welsh coal mining town and helps re-open the mine at the cost of his life. Special features include a radio interview with Paul Robeson from 1958. 76 min. DVD 7283

### **Ressources Humaines (France / UK, 1999)**

Director, Laurent Cantet. Cast: Jalil Lespert, Jean-Claude Vallod, Didier Emile-Woldemard, Danielle Melador, Lucien Longueville. Frank's dad, a laborer, saved his whole life to give Frank a good education. Now back home with a college degree and a management job at his dad's company, Frank is torn between his old life and new responsibilities. Thinking he understands both sides, he gets in the middle of a union dispute that risks his reputation and his father's future. VHS SECAM format; VHS in French, no subtitles (DVD has subtitles). 100 min. DVD 1845; vhs 999:3519

### **Salt of the Earth (1987)**

Directed by Herbert J. Biberman. A semidocumentary of the year-long struggle by Mexican-American zinc miners in New Mexico. When an injunction is issued against the workers, the wives take up the battle with a fury, leaving the husbands to care for home and children. 1987. 94 min. DVD 682; VHS 999:266

### **Silkwood (1983)**

Directed by Mike Nichols. Cast: Meryl Streep, Kurt Russell, Cher, Craig T. Nelson, Diana Scarwid, Fred Ward, Ron

Silver. Based on a true story. When Karen Silkwood becomes contaminated with plutonium at her job and voices her protest at the indifference and denial of her company, she becomes a threat to the entire nuclear industry and the government agencies that monitor it. 131 min. DVD 8913

### **Smoking Room (Spain, 2002)**

Directed by Roger Gual and Julio D. Wallovits. Cast: Eduard Fernandez, Juan Diego, Antonio Dechent, Chete Lera. Ramirez, an employee of an American company in Spain, is collecting signatures to protest a smoking ban in the office. His colleagues agree with him, and their individualism, selfishness and cowardice surface. Special features (Disc 2): Making of, additional scenes, extra features ; story boards. 92 min. DVD 8635

### **Strike (Stachka) (Soviet Union, 1924)**

Directed by Sergei Eisenstein. The first full-length feature project of pantheon Russian filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein, Strike is a government-commissioned celebration of the unrealized 1905 Bolshevik revolution. The story is set in motion by a series of outrages and humiliations perpetrated on the workers of a metalworks plant. The Czarist regime is unsympathetic to the workers, characteristically helping the plant owners to subjugate the hapless victims. Finally, the workers revolt, staging an all-out strike. Here is where Eisenstein's theory of "the montage of shocks" was given its first major workout. While the notion of juxtaposing short, separate images to heighten tension and excitement was not new, Eisenstein was the first to fully understand the value of using sudden-shock images (a bloody face, a fired weapon, a descending club) to make his dramatic and sociological points. Playing to mixed reviews and small audiences in Russia, Strike proved a success worldwide, assuring Eisenstein complete creative freedom on his next project, the immortal Potemkin. (Hal Erickson, All-Movie Guide).c2000. 80 min. DVD 353; VHS 999:2100 (94 min., digitally mastered); VHS 999:695

**Swing Shift (1984)**

Directed by Jonathan Demme. Cast: Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell, Christine Lahti, Fred Ward, Ed Harris, Holly Hunter. In this vivid look at the wartime conditions during WWII that stood society on its head, Kay Walsh and her neighbor, Hazel, go to work in a factory to help in the war effort. Kay Walsh had never held a wrench before but you're never too pretty to learn. 100 min. DVD 3143

**Take This Job and Shove It (1981)**

Directed by Gus Trikonis. Cast: Robert Hays, Barbara Hershey, Art Carney, David Keith, Tim Thomerson. A man is sent to his home town to reorganize a failing brewery. His old buddies are reluctant to have him for their boss and he can't save them all from severe changes. When he does too good of a job at reorganizing, the owners decide to sell the brewery. 100 min. DVD 2412

**10,000 Black Men Named George (2002)**

Director, Robert Townsend. Cast: Andre Braugher, Karen Eyo, Charles S. Dutton, Mario Van Peebles, Ardon Bess, Carla Brothers, Kedar Brown, Amanda Brugel, Joel Gordon. A dramatization of the true story of the formation of the first black-controlled union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Asa Philip Randolph, a black journalist establishes a voice for the forgotten workers of the Pullman Rail Company, where all black porters were simply named "George", after George Pullman, the first person to employ emancipated slaves. 95 in. DVD 1850

**They Drive by Night (1940)**

Directed by Raoul Walsh. Cast: George Raft, Ann Sheridan, Ida Lupino, Humphrey Bogart, Gale Page, Alan Hale, Roscoe Karns. Paul Fabrini and his brother Joe are wildcat drivers--men who buy their trucks on installment plans and then worry that loan sharks will repossess their trucks. As they drive their truck over rough California roads, night after night, their rough

life gets even tougher when they get involved with murder and the mob. 94 min. DVD 3905; vhs 999:2532

**Tout va Bien (Italy / France, 1966)**

Directed by Jean-Luc Godard. Cast: Yves Montand, Jane Fonda, Vittorio Caprioli, Elizabeth Chauvin, Castel Casti, Eric Chartier, Louis Bugette, Yves Gabrieli, Pierre Duory. The story of a wildcat strike at a sausage factory in France, as witnessed by an American reporter and her has-been New Wave film director husband. Culminates in a free-range assault on consumer capitalism and ineffective leftists. A caustic critique of society, marriage, and revolution in post-1968 France. Special features: "Letter to Jane (1972)", Jean-Luc Godard and Jean-Pierre Gorin's postscript film to 'Tout va bien'; 1972 video interview excerpt with Jean-Luc Godard; new video interview with Jean-Pierre Gorin; includes a booklet including essays by film critics J. Hoberman and Kent Jones and Godard biographer Colin MacCabe and an excerpted interview with Gorin and Godard from 1972. 96 min. DVD 3549

**The Trace of Stones (Spur der Steine)(1966)**

Directed by Frank Beyer. The Party's construction foreman, loved and supported by his workers, is king of the building site. When the new Party Secretary and a young female engineer arrive, the foreman changes his view of life. The hero's swaggering pose is reminiscent of Hollywood's Western heroes. After its release in 1966, this film was banned for 25 years by East Germany. Based on the novel of the same title by Erik Neutsch. 134 min. 999:2540

**Trading Places (1983)**

Directed by John Landis. Cast: Dan Aykroyd, Eddie Murphy, Ralph Bellamy, Don Ameche, Denholm Elliott, Jamie Lee Curtis. The rich Duke Brothers wager on whether a born loser like Billy Ray Valentine, a hustler from the ghetto, can become as successful as Winthorpe, a wealthy investment executive, if put in the proper environment--and would a prig like Winthorpe turn to a life of crime if he were to lose it all. 116 min. DVD 3779