

Matt S - English 119

Clockwatchers Response

There is more than one message that the viewer can get from watching *Clockwatchers*, but the overall theme is on the corporate lifestyle. Four girls are working as temporary employees at Global Credit. They all want something bigger and better than this job. At the beginning of the film, the newest addition to the company is Iris, who completes the group of four temps. She is waiting to start her work assignment in the office just a little before nine o'clock. The receptionist is there but doesn't notice her until the clock hits nine o'clock exactly because he isn't scheduled to start until nine o'clock. This is an example of how inhuman some of the employees can be in this kind of setting. Iris is also ignored for two hours in the office complex. She is to wait until someone tells her to do something. This is an example of how temps can be made to feel like they are at the lowest end of the corporate ladder. Iris gets to know Margaret early in the film. Margaret is another one of the temps. The message that there is insufficient work for the four girls is enforced as Margaret has the time to extensively show Iris around the office building. Margaret shows Iris how the work that is to be done may not be that important. An example is how Margaret tells Iris how to handle phone calls. Margaret tells Iris, just hang up and if it is important enough, they will call back. I don't think that this is how it really is in the real world. I think that this scene was put in to exaggerate the office lifestyle and make it seem a bit comical. Another message that the film gives the viewer is how a temporary employee can get fired easily. In the film, an unknown thief is apparently stealing various items in the office workplace. Margaret is blamed for the crimes but without solid evidence. She is fired on the spot and escorted out the door. I am going to rate this film an eight out of ten. I would give it a higher rating if it was more accurate in mirroring the office lifestyle. I don't have much experience with the office life and therefore I am not able to know what was exaggerated and what was not. An example of this is the sequence of how Iris has to wait two hours before actually going to work. Without reading a book

about employment or a commentary of the film it is difficult to tell how realistic this sequence is. I think that this film could be shown to future classes if there is a discussion about the film and if information is given as to what scenes are realistic and what scenes are not realistic. If this is done then it would be good to show the film. My attitude towards the corporate setting is that it is a lifestyle that boxes a person into a small space. An example is the strict dress code. In addition, temporary positions don't usually give benefits to the employee. However, the office life does offer income for someone and that may be an important element to someone's life.