

Annotated Bibliography

PRIMARY SOURCES

1. **New-York Tribune, August 13, 1919: "Chorus Forms Union to back Actors' Strike":**
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1919-08-13/ed-1/sq-1/>

A historical newspaper front-page article published during the 1919 actors' strike, detailing the formation of the chorus union. It provided primary historical evidence to back up the website's thesis that performers could stand together as labor. It helped illustrate the real-time public reaction to the strike. It is a digitized primary source from the Library of Congress's Chronicling America database, making it a highly credible historical artifact.

2. **Dressler, Marie. The Life Story of an Ugly Duckling (autobiography):**
search HathiTrust or archive.org

Marie Dressler's autobiography, offering a firsthand account of her life and career. It was used to give a personal voice to Marie Dressler on the website, helping to contextualize her motivations for becoming the founding President of Chorus Equity and fighting for fair pay. As a primary autobiography, it is the most direct source for Dressler's own thoughts and experiences, even though it might also reflect her subjective personal viewpoint.

3. **1919 Strike Resolution text, quoted in Gotham Center:**
<https://www.gothamcenter.org/blog/one-hundred-years-of-equity-strikes-and-labor-solidarity>

The exact text of the resolution passed by actors deciding to go on strike in 1919. It was used to show the specific demands and language of the workers, highlighting exactly what Dressler and her peers were fighting for. The Gotham Center for New York City History is a reputable academic research center based at the City University of New York (CUNY).

4. **NYU Special Collections, Actors' Equity Association Records finding aid:** https://findingaids.library.nyu.edu/tamwag/wag_011/

A detailed index and guide to the physical archival records of the Actors' Equity Association held at New York University. It helped structure the historical timeline

on the website by showing the breadth of primary documents available regarding the union's formation. It is an official academic finding from a major university library archive.

5. **Actors' Equity Association, "History" (the union's own account of its founding, exploitation, the 1919 strike, and Chorus Equity):**

<https://www.actorsequity.org/aboutequity/history/>

The modern union's official retrospective on its founding, the exploitation of early actors, the 1919 strike, and the creation of Chorus Equity. It served as a foundational overview to build the website's narrative about the working conditions that necessitated Dressler's leadership. It is the official historical account maintained by the very labor union that was formed during these events.

SECONDARY SOURCES

1. **Wikipedia, "1919 Actors' Equity Association Strike":**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1919_Actors%27_Equity_Association_strike
2. **Wikipedia, "Chorus Equity Association":**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chorus_Equity_Association
3. **Wikipedia, "Marie Dressler":**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie_Dressler

All 3 encyclopedia entries covering the strike, the union, and Dressler's biography. These were used for initial background research to build the website's basic timeline and gather dates regarding Dressler's time on the picket lines. It is a useful starting point for general facts and finding other citations, information gathered was cross-referenced with other materials.

4. **Britannica, "Marie Dressler":**
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Marie-Dressler>

A professionally edited encyclopedia entry that provides a verified, concise biographical sketch of Marie Dressler's life and career. It provided an introduction to her life and career before exploring her labor activism. Britannica is viewed as a highly respected, peer-reviewed reference.

5. **American Theatre magazine, "When Actors' Equity Staged Its First Strike":**

<https://www.americantheatre.org/2013/03/01/when-actors-equity-staged-its-first-strike/>

A widely respected national publication by the Theatre Communications Group (TCG). It covers everything from contemporary stage trends to historical retrospectives. It helped outline the narrative details of the strike on the website. American Theatre is a premier, widely respected publication covering the U.S. professional theatre industry.

6. **Backstage, "12 Things You Didn't Know About Actors' Equity Association":**

<https://www.backstage.com/magazine/article/things-know-actors-equity-association-12490/>

A trivia and history article aimed at working actors, detailing facts about their union. It provided facts about the union's legacy to make the website's content more appealing to modern performers. Backstage is a long-running, industry-standard trade publication for actors and performers.

7. **San Francisco Silent Film Festival, "Marie Dressler":**

<https://silentfilm.org/marie-dressler/>

8. **Cobourg and District Historical Society, "Marie Dressler":**

<https://cdhs.ca/marie-dressler/>

Biographical profiles focusing on Dressler's film career and her Canadian roots. These provided context on her life story, star power, which was crucial to explain why her support as a prominent figure on the 1919 picket line was so impactful for the labor advocacy movement. Both are preservation organizations focusing on historical accuracy.

9. **Columbia Women Film Pioneers Project (WFPP), "Marie Dressler":**

<https://wfpp.columbia.edu/pioneer/ccp-marie-dressler/>

An academic profile exploring Dressler's early contributions to cinema, contextualizing her subsequent evolution into an influential industry figure and a prominent labor activist within the entertainment sector. The WFPP is a peer-reviewed academic resource published by Columbia University Libraries.

10. **People's World, "Today in Labor History: Ziegfeld Follies Chorus Girls Form Union":**
<https://www.peoplesworld.org/article/today-in-labor-history-zeigfield-follies-chorus-girls-form-union-2/>

This article focuses specifically on the labor history of the Ziegfeld Follies chorus girls and their integration into the union movement. This article details Dressler's pivotal role as the founding President of Chorus Equity. It shapes the website's sections on chorus workers, drawing from a publication specifically dedicated to labor history and workers' rights.

11. **American Heritage, "The Actors' Revolt":**
<https://www.americanheritage.com/actors-revolt>

This historical essay details the broader context of the 1919 actors' strike, establishing a strong narrative for the website's historical overview. American Heritage is a respected magazine dedicated to rigorous historical study.

12. **Half-Hour Blog, "Actors Equity Association and the Growth of Theatre":** <https://itshalfhour.blog/actors-equity-association/>

A theater blog post summarizing how the union impacted the growth of the industry. It was used to understand how modern theater performers view the legacy of the strike, helping to frame the website's conclusion. While blogs are generally opinion-based, it was cross-checked with primary sources.

13. **Northumberland 89.7 FM, "Marie Dressler House Honours Canada's Women Film Pioneers":**
<https://northumberland897.ca/news/2019/9/11/marie-dressler-house-honours-canadas-women-film-pioneers>

A local news report about a heritage house honoring Dressler and other Canadian film pioneers. It was used to show her lasting modern legacy and how she is remembered today as a historical figure. It is a standard piece of local journalism covering a real historical site.

14. **Broadway World, "Broadway Actors and Musicians Prepare for a Strike":**
<https://www.broadwayworld.com/article/Broadway-Actors-and-Musicians-Prepare-for-a-Strike-Negotiations-Set-to-Continue-Next-Week-2025-1010>

A contemporary news article discussing a modern-day threat of a strike in the Broadway industry. It was used on the website to connect Marie Dressler's 1919 labor fight to modern, ongoing struggles for fair pay in the theatre industry today. Broadway World is one of the largest and most widely read news sources for the theater industry.