

## Press Reference for Reporting on the Star Garden Unionization Campaign

### Subject names:

The dancers at Star Garden perform under stage names. At Equity, all of our members enroll in the union under a name of their choosing that may or may not be their legal name, and this will apply to these workers as well. We ask that reporters refer to these individuals as they refer to themselves and not ask about legal names. This is to protect the privacy and agency of these workers.

We also ask that reporters confirm the pronouns of any interview subjects, and not presume all these workers use she/her.

### Terminology tips:

**Stripper** is a direct term for this occupation, one that the Star Garden workers prefer.

**Dancer** is also an appropriate way to refer to these workers.

**Sex worker** is an umbrella term that can refer to anyone operating professionally in the sex trade. Some strippers identify as sex workers, and others do not. For the case of the dancers at Star Garden, sex worker is appropriate unless a particular subject expresses otherwise.

### Terms to avoid:

**Exotic dancer** is a term with a racist history and connotations.

**Burlesque performer** is a different profession than stripper.

**Girl** is a term often used to describe strippers, but is generally considered offensive.

Further reading:

[A guide to respectful reporting and writing on sex work | openDemocracy](#)