

A Note on the nature of collaborative, improvisational street theater “scripts”:

The contents of this script and performance were intended to be shifting and impermanent, in part to allow participants flexibility to join the collaboration at differing stages in the process; the script catalogued here is the latest recorded version of the script, which continued to change and grow and be improvised (and cut) up until and throughout the performances.

OAKLAND, 1946!

A community street performance collectively conceived, researched, written, and performed by The Oakland 46ers in December of 2008

Location:

Oakland, California. Latham Square, a small triangle of concrete where Telegraph Avenue and Broadway intersect, in downtown Oakland (near 14th Street). The “square” is home to a big abandoned fountain and not much else; in 1946, Kahn’s and Hastings department stores occupied facing storefronts on opposite sides of Latham Square.

Principal performers:

Edith – Retail worker who is not very involved in the union campaign, but becomes active through the general strike. Leads Broadway Picket Line.

Lorraine – Retail worker who is a leader in the union campaign. Leads Telegraph Picket Line.

Newsie – Distributes newspaper and acts as sometime narrator

Boss – Gives boss perspective and tries to convince audience to not support strike. Leads Scabs and Police.

Secondary performers:

Bob Ash – Leader of Alameda Central Labor Council. MC of mass meeting.

Harry Lundberg – Secretary-Treasurer of the Sailors’ Union of the Pacific. Speaks at mass meeting. Same performer may play:

Trolley Driver – leader of passengers in beginning of general strike, shop steward for Carmen’s Union, Division 192

Lady Shopper – Tries to shop, but is convinced to join picket line.

CIO Leader – Speaks at mass meeting.

Ensemble: *In an effort to allow participants to “plug in” with minimal time commitment, the ensemble members are directed in the style of “affinity groups.” During the performance, each affinity group is assisted by its respective leaders in order to accomplish necessary blocking, line readings, etc.*

Passengers (minimum 3) – led by the Trolley Driver

Strikers (minimum 3 Broadway picket line) – led by Edith

Strikers (minimum 3 Telegraph picket line) – led by Lorraine

Scabs and Police (minimum 3) – led by The Boss

*Throughout the show, the **ensemble** is on and around the performing area and actively supporting the action. The style of the piece is old-timey, almost a silent movie era style of performance with the ensemble (and audience, hopefully) hissing at the bad guys, making funny asides to the audience, etc – performers should feel free to be transparent about the performance and its contents.*

Scene 1

*Picket lines start on sidewalks of Broadway and Telegraph. **Edith** leads Broadway line and **Lorraine** leads Telegraph line. Both lines are chanting and have picket signs. **Newsie** comes to the stage from behind the fountain with newspapers and start speaking to the audience.*

Newsie: EXTRA EXTRA Read All About it! LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, step right up! Have I got a story for you! Get your Oakland Tribune, right here, right now, December 1st, 1946, hot off the presses. RETAIL WORKERS CONTINUE STRIKE! DOWNTOWN OAKLAND CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS! SHOP GIRLS GO ON STRIKE!

***Boss** comes to the stage from behind the fountain.*

Boss: Hey kid, I’ll take one of those.

***Boss** flips the **Newsie** a coin and **Newsie** hands him a paper. **Boss** starts looking through the paper.*

[Here and with the picketers in the rest of this scene, the newsie is kind of an agitator/trickster, playing each side and then getting away with great headlines. Maybe he changes his hat, pretends to be a journalist with the boss, a striker with Edith and Lorraine, etc...]

Newsie: Hey, Mister, aren’t you the guy from the Kahn’s department store?

Boss: Why, yes son, yes I am, I'm actually the man at the top, the big cheese as they say.

Newsie: Oh wow it's great to meet you sir, but I gotta wonder, what's going on with this situation [*gestures to picket lines*] with your workers over here.

Boss: Listen kid, don't worry about it. A few lazy workers. They think they can complain and I'll ease up on 'em. The riff raff down at Hasting's department store are striking, too. Ridiculous.

Newsie: [*acting like a reporter*] But, I uh heard your stores shelves are totally empty since this here strike started. Truckers won't deliver the goods, eh?

Boss: Well, son I know you're in the rumor business, but you can remind your bosses that these trouble makers won't stop our fair city's engine of progress ... and sense of style!

Boss turns to audience and starts giving his sales pitch and advertisements/flyers to audience. Edith and Lorraine see this action and start to lead their picket lines through the crosswalk and into Latham Square.

Boss (cont.): Have we got a deal for you folks! At Kahn's and Hasting's we have the latest in fashion for the executive man and the sophisticated lady, and with Christmas just around the corner, step right in for the best deals in town, take care of all all your holiday shopping all under one roof, right here in downtown Oakland...

Edith and Lorraine and their picketers arrive to the front of the stage from along the sides of the audience, some strikers try to take boss flyers from audience.

A Lady Shopper breaks loose from the audience, heads towards the picket lines to go to Kahn's on Broadway. The Boss encourages her.

Boss: Come on in to Kahn's world-famous department store! Better selection than Macy's! Better prices than Hastings! Don't let these lazy socialists intimidate you, fine goods to purchase here, welcome ma'am!...

Newsie breaks out of the crowd, notices the lady being enticed by the boss.

Newsie: Hey whattya doin lady?

Lady: I've just got to get a new tie for my husband for Christmas...

Newsie: These stores is *closed!* Ain't no stuff to buy in there. And besides,

Strikers (unison): You can't cross a picket line!

Boss (aside): Oh go ahead and cross it! [*to audience, selling again*] Steep discounts right this waaay...

Lady (to **Newsie**): I'm sure I don't know what you're talking about...

Newsie: Well, do you see these people here on the streets, holding these signs? That's a picket line.

Lady: Well yes but I just need to pick up a few—

Strikers: YOU CAN'T CROSS A PICKET LINE.

Lorraine: Look lady, it don't matter if you're in a union or not— respecting a picket line shows that you want employees to be treated fairly.

Boss: —but if you want a good deal on menswear, that's a different story....

Edith: —a picket line says, hard working people are here and they are demanding their rights...

Boss: —Picket lines don't work! *Workers* work! Picket lines are just those big time unions coming in and trying to sabotage the relationship between me and my employees — they don't actually *do* anything...

Lorraine: Picket lines do have an effect - How many customers did *you* have today, huh?

Boss: Special today, one day only, two for one on the finest of ties for the business man in your life...

Lorraine (to the **Lady**): Listen, sister, we're all just trying to get these big store owners to treat us fairly. They make a song off our hard work and we can't even pay our bills.

Boss: Look, unions may have been a good thing years ago when things were really bad, but now, everything is fine. (*happy about it, angling for Lorraine*) And I can fire whoever I want, whenever I want...

Newsie: Do you wanna be helping him out, or do you want to help these people get treated fair?

Strikers: WE NEED THESE JOBS!
...AND BETTER WAGES FOR OUR FAMILIES!
...AND PROTECTION WITH THE UNION!

Edith ushers the lady into her group of picketers, who (quietly) convince the Lady to join them and give her a picket sign.

Boss: (to audience) oh, pay no attention to them, they're just a few disgruntled women... have I shown you all the special today we have on the new food processor? it'll be a lady's best friend in the kitchen...

Newsie: Extra Extra, Read all about it, Hastings and Kahns are open for business despite strike!

Lorraine (to Boss and Newsie): Hey, what are you two doing here anyway? You got no business telling these people lies about us! *(to audience)* My name is Lorriane and I work over there at Hastings, and this is Edith--

Edith: Oh, hi, yes, I work just over there at Kahn's...

Lorraine: *[still to audience]* And it all happened right here...

Edith: In Latham Square, Oakland...

Newsie: December 1st 1946, get today's paper...

Boss: Here, there, wherever, nothing's really going on here, the important thing is, let's get back to the holidays and some good ol' American shopping!

During the following scene, the Trolley comes from behind the flatiron building and pauses, watches.

Lorraine: Nothing, you call this nothing? We've been on strike for over a month and I'll tell you what nothing is, I've got nothing to feed my kids.

Boss: Look I'd love for you to come back to work... so why don't you just drop that union thing and you all can work again?...

Lorraine: We can't come back to work – we don't make enough money there to get by!

Boss: Oh, come on honey, why don't you come on back and I'll take care of that, how about a special raise just for the two of you fine ladies...

Edith: Really? That could be great, I mean I haven't seen a paycheck in so long....

Lorraine: Hey, Edith, don't believe this guy's baloney. You know that the ladies who are part of the union at other department stores are making double what we make? [*sarcastically to boss*] No thank you "sir", we'll stick with the union!

Boss: Alright ladies, have it your way, (*to the audience*) I'll see you all down at the store, just tell them I sent you and then I'll give you and your family quite a deal, (*flips Newsie a coin, and says to Newsie*) and kid, keep an eye on these dames, we got to keep the streets of Oakland safe...

Boss exits. [During the entire show, the Boss lurks on the sidelines of the action, trying to recruit scabs or pitch his wares to the audience, and popping back into the action when necessary]

Edith: I don't know if you should be talking to the Boss man like that, Lorraine, I mean, you know, he's the *boss* and all.

Lorraine: Look, Edith, I know it can be scary, but I'm tired of waiting for someone to stand up for me. I'm doing it myself.

Edith: Well, I mean, yes, but, well... if we don't work there, someone else will. I mean everyone says the economy is a boom, but it seems like there's more people than jobs since the war. And with Jimmy injured and...

Lorraine: ...Yes, you're right, it's hard times for everybody. But you got to remember, Edith, just because there's hard times doesn't mean they can treat us like dirt! Like, you remember, last month when they made you wait in the basement all day just sittin' around to see if there was *maybe* a shift for you to work?

Edith: Yeah, Jimmy wasn't too pleased when I came home with no bread.

Lorraine: Hey there's our train...

Edith and Lorraine cross through the audience to get on the trolley.

Look Edith, all I'm saying is, what choice do we have -- we keep working for pennies, with no regular hours -- or stand out here on strike with our sisters and brothers? Either way, we ain't getting paid, and I'd rather be speaking up than sitting here just waitin' to get cut from the pay roll.

Edith: Yeah I guess, I guess that's true Lorraine. I've just really got to get paid soon. But I can't sell us all out to that awful man.

Trolley Driver: Good afternoon, ladies.

Edith and Lorraine: Afternoon, sir.

Trolley Driver: How's the picket line today? Nice work there standing up to that boss, ma'am. You know all us guys driving the trolleys are rooting for you. We'll be there with you whenever you need our support.

Edith: Oh, thanks, mister. That means so much, and we're so glad having you all boys back safe and sound from the war

Lorraine: Yeah, that means a lot, I mean *anyone* who wants to go *anywhere* in Oakland has to ride on one of your trolley cars here...

[Ensemble is aware of foreshadowing and pauses, turns to audience...]

Trolley Driver: Well, I think you got those bosses, just where you want them, keep it going through Christmas!

The trolley drives around the corner with the ladies onboard.

Scene 2

Newsie comes on stage from behind fountain with newspaper

Edith and Lorraine start a picket line across the front of the audience (in front of fountain), while Boss is on the side of the audience

Newsie: EXTRA EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT! GET YOUR DECEMBER 2ND, 1946 PAPER HOT OFF THE PRESSES... STRIKE SYMPATHY GROWS! CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS HONOR PICKET LINE, SALES ARE SLOW IN OAKTOWN THIS YEAR...

Boss: *(at a "desk" made by a worker kneeling, with another worker holding up a "phone" to boss' ear)* Listen, mayor, with all due respect, I don't want to tell you how to run the city, but you got to do something about these strikes in our stores, we are losing money everyday...

Newsie: ...TRADESMEN WALK OFF THE JOB IN SUPPORT, BUILDING MAINTENANCE AT KAHN'S HALTED...

Boss: ...Ah ha, yes, I know, but mayor you have to understand it's already December... and our shelves are bare yes, ah ha, my point exactly, sir, yes... yes...

Newsie: ...TEAMSTERS VOTE FOR SOLIDARITY- NO DELIVERIES TO OAKLAND STORES!

Boss: Ah ha, sure, yes, that would be possible, I can find some truck drivers from that non-union company in LA, but I would definitely need, how can I say this, *support* from the city...

Newsie: ...LABOR COUNCIL SUPPORTS STRIKERS, DOZENS OF UNIONS DONATE TO STRIKE FUND, CITY OFFICIALS MUM ON THE ISSUE...

Boss: ..yes, that would be great, 400 cops? Heavily armed? Perfect, sir. Thank you mayor, I'm glad we can see eye to eye on this... it's a deal then! We'll have merchandise on the shelves in the morning and we can finally be through with this ridiculous strike.

Boss goes to back of audience and gets truck with Scabs (dressed as clowns) and police. Boss, Scabs, and Police start walking toward picket line talking to each other and then pause.

Edith: Hey, who are they?

Lorraine: The boss has brought police to break our picket line and scab workers to deliver to the stores.

Strikers and Edith (popcorn style): Watch out! Don't let them through! Don't let them break the picket line!

Lorraine: Scabs side with the boss instead of with their fellow workers! There is nothing worse than being a scab!

Boss, Police, Scabs move forward. Boss throws Scabs at picket line and they do the "Scab roll" choreography along the picket line and then back.

Police Man: This is the Oakland Police speaking. You dirty reds aren't going to stop Christmas! I order you to let these scabby deliveries through...

Police Man knocks a female striker on the head, and strikers fall into each other domino effect to the other side.

Lorraine: YOU DIRTY SCABS! DIDN'T YOUR MOMMA RAISE YOU BETTER?

Edith: FINE! BRING IN THE MERCHANDISE. STILL AIN'T NO ONE GONNA BUY IT!

Striker 1: DIRTY COPS! MY TAXES PAY YOUR SALARY!

Boss, Scabs, & police go through picket line and behind fountain.

Trolley with passengers pulls into the square, is on a collision course with the scattered picketers.

Trolley Driver: SAAAAAAAAAY!

Silences the strikers. Trolley squeals to a halt.

Trolley Driver: This looks like a picket line, right across my tracks!

Lorraine: Sure is.

Edith: The Boss is teaming up with the police and scab workers to break our strike.

Trolley Driver: Well, I know what to do when I see a picket line. *Exaggerated motion of stopping train (pulling out his controls). Speaks into a bullhorn:* THIS HERE IS YOUR STEWARD OF THE LOCAL CARMEN'S UNION, DIVISION 192. Passengers, you'd best get off this train and join these strikers – solidarity's the only thing moving through Oakland today!

Passengers spill out into Latham Square, and are quickly absorbed in joining a picket line, which re-forms in a half circle around the audience. Newsie enters.

Newsie: EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT, 100,000 PEOPLE ARE IN DOWNTOWN AND ARE REFUSING TO GO TO WORK.... CRAZED RED MOB TAKES OVER OUR FAIR CITY.....
UNION DEVILS WANT YOUR CHILDREN

Lorraine & Trolley Driver begin climbing on top of fountain.

Edith: Hey, shoo, get outta here!

Newsie: This here is a free country, and I've got a right to –

Edith: You don't got a right to break our strike with lies. That's how they busted the general strike in San Francisco back in '34!

Lorraine: Well not this time. We're sending picket teams down to every paper in town and we're gonna shut you scab-lovin papers down!

Strikers push Newsie off of the stage.

Lorraine: I can't believe it -- Look at all these people. We have everybody's support. That's right, it's not just the retail workers' strike anymore, nobody goes to work to today – this here is a *general strike!*

Lorraine & Trolley Driver: When workers in Oakland are under attack, What do we do?

Strikers & Passengers: Stand up! Fight back!

Lorraine & Trolley Driver: When workers in Oakland are under attack, What do we do?

Strikers & Passengers: Stand up! Fight back!

Lorraine: Listen everybody, we're going to have a mass meeting tomorrow at the Auditorium! Spread the word...

Passengers, Strikers, and Trolley driver organize audience into sitting down facing the fountain, for the mass meeting, "hurry, sit down, the meeting's starting", etc.

Scene 3

Newsie comes on stage with a picket sign that says on one side "December 3, 1946" and then turns around and the other side says "No newspapers printed in Oakland today!"

Performers place large cutouts of people around the side of the audience to create a feeling of more people being there for the meeting. Bob Ash MCs the meeting through a bullhorn.

Bob Ash: Good evening everybody... I said good evening everybody!

Audience says "good evening"

Bob: I'm Bob Ash, and I'm with your Alameda Central Labor Council. Today the city used our own police force to break a picket line. Well we're here to tell all the big cheeses that they're not in charge! These retail workers are on strike, so we're ALL on strike. We're shutting this town down! [*cheers*] NOBODY in Oakland is going to work today, tomorrow, or the next day until the city agrees to no interfere in labor issues in our town. This is a union town, sisters and brothers, and we stand up for one another!

Audience cheers

Bob: Thank you, thank you. Now remember, I want you all to speak up, because in addition to the 15,000 of you here in this Civic Auditorium, there are another 10,000 people outside in the rain listening through a loud speaker!

Audience cheers

Lorraine takes the bullhorn

Lorraine: I'm Lorraine with the retail workers at Hastings. Thank you all for supporting us. We've been on strike at the department stores for over a month now, and all we've been askin' for is the right to a fair contract, and the city's gonna use cops to take that

right away from me?! This isn't just about our jobs - it's about freedom, that little thing our boys fought for in the war [audience cheers]. So, please, I implore you all to stick with us, because together we can all have a living wage and the respect that we all deserve. Thank you.

Audience cheers

CIO Speaker: I am here from the Congress of Industrial Organizations in Alameda, and I am honored to be with you tonight. We stand with you in this general strike. In fact, I am here to announce that unless the city of Oakland ends this abuse of workers by the police and big business, all of our workers throughout the county will cut off all essential services.. We're talking no electricity, no gas, no water or telephones! [audience cheers] When workers in Oakland are under attack // What do we do?

Audience: Stand up! Fight Back!

CIO Speaker: When workers in Oakland are under attack // What do we do?

Audience: Stand up! Fight Back!

Harry: Good evening my fellow union brothers and sisters. My name is Harry Lundberg, I'm the Secretary-Treasurer of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, and I'm here to promise you that while this strike is on, no ship out of the port of Oakland will get a crew to sail. Nobody comes into the Bay, and nobody leaves! [*audience goes wild*] Because when you good folks in Oakland stand up for the retail workers, you not only stand up for them, but you stand up for yourself, you stand up for the sailors of my union, you stand up for the trolley workers, the restaurant workers, the factory workers, the office clerks, you stand up for our community -- and for everyone who comes after us. [*audience cheers*] You know, the scabs and the cops, they're just your average finks -- but the superfinks here are the city administration of Oakland, using our own police to tear us down -- this is fascism in America! But I tell you one thing my fellow union brothers and sisters, even these superfinks can't beat us, because we've got something they never will -- we have our labor and we WILL refuse to use it. Your fight is our fight, and we will win.

Edith approaches fountain stage and whispers in Lorraine's ear

Lorraine: Hey, I just heard that now they're talking about calling in the state militia -- let's remind those bosses that when they called in the cops, we shut down the city! If you keep trying to stop us, we're gonna take this all the way to City Hall! It's time for us not to lie down, but to dig in and fight!

Scene 4

Striker comes on stage with a picket sign that says on one side "December 4, 1946" and then turns around and the other side says "No newspapers printed in Oakland today, Again!"

Edith and Lorraine and Strikers bring picket signs out to all of the audience members and get everyone marching in one big circle picket around Latham Square. The following dialogue is in overlapping style, amid the commotion of the strike...

Strikers and Passengers bring a juke box into the circle.

Striker 1: We told the bars up the block that they can stay open...

Passenger 1: but only if they only serve beer and wine...

Striker 1: no hard liquor!

Passenger 1: ...and they bring their jukeboxes out on to the streets...

Striker 1: so, we can dance!

Striker 1 turns on the jukebox. And Striker 1 and Passenger 1 start dancing, Lorraine yells "snowball," then couples split off and get another partner to dance. Lorraine yells "snowball," then couples split off and get another partner to dance. Lorraine yells "snowball," then couples split off and get another partner to dance.

During the festivities, the scabs/clowns try to sneak back in the scene and dance with Lorraine and Edith, but the strikers chase them away.

Cook comes into the circle with cupcakes

Cook: Hey everybody, us boys at the cook's union, have brought food for everyone to share. Enjoy. (*distributes food*)

Newsie: (*gets up on a pedestal*) EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!
EXTRA EXTRA

Lorraine: (*gets up on pedestal*) Hey there kid. I thought we told you, no biased outside coverage of this general strike.

Newsie: But it's over, Lady. GENERAL STRIKE IS ENDED!

The ensemble freezes, shocked. They help quiet the audience down.

Edith: (*gets up on a pedestal*) SHHH! Don't you go saying that.

Newsie: But it's the truth. Read it right here in black and white in the Oakland Tribune, here's the December 5th edition: GENERAL STRIKE IS OFFICIALLY OVER. CITY SAYS IT WON'T USE COPS IN LABOR DISPUTES. KAHN'S and HASTING'S WORKER'S DEMANDS ARE STILL NOT MET. It's finished, lady.

Lorraine: Finished? Does this look finished to you?

Boss has been lurking on sidelines, perks up

Boss: (gets on a pedestal) Oh thank god. Please go home! Everybody, let's get back to our regular holiday shopping frenzy...

Lorraine grabs a newspaper from the Newsie.

Lorraine: What? I can't believe this.

Edith: What happened Lorraine? What does it say?

Lorraine: *[skimming the paper]* "AFL union in Alameda County voted to...call off the general (strike) this morning at 10:45 and to go back to work with the assurance (our) rights as citizens were going to be restored." Bob Ash says, "This is a clear cut victory for the AFL."

Edith: But us retail workers still don't have a union contract -- how is that a victory?

Lorraine: Oh wow, look: "last night Dave Beck of Seattle, international vice-president of the Teamsters" ordered everyone back to work, a move totally unprecedented by a national union leader. he said the general strike was "the first move in a revolution that could lead to an overthrow of government."

Edith: Well, if that's what it takes to get a decent wage for me and my family, what's wrong with that?

Lorraine: How could this happen? We were finally winning... and now what? Come on, Edith, let's get out of here, no use hanging out in the street now...

Edith: Wait, Lorraine, we can't just leave, after all we've done. Don't you remember what you told me, if we don't fight for ourselves, nobody will?!

Lorraine: Oh, whatever, Edith, it's out of our hands. Nothing's ever gonna change in this town... We've been fighting so long, and look at where it's gotten us?

Edith: Yes, exactly, look at where it's gotten us -- things have changed. We been running this town for almost three days! We marched. We danced. We showed those bosses and the cops and the city that they can't scare us. We stood together, and it *is* for something.

Lorraine: Yeah... Yes!

Edith: I mean, this general strike got ended, but us retail clerks still don't have a contract. We gotta keep picketing because, I mean, at some point I gotta get a fair shake. I can't go back to the way things were.

Lorraine: Yeah! Yeah okay Edith. Alright. we got a lot of work to do, let's get goin' -- start making the phone calls and get the picket lines ready for tomorrow.

Newsie lifts a picket sign/easel with flip pages on it. As the ladies and a couple straggling extras start picketing again, Newsie flips his sign to say "1 month later"; "2 months later"; 3 months" etc., until "8 months later."

Newsie: EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT, RETAIL WORKERS FINALLY WIN A CONTRACT WITH DEPARTMENT STORES

Audience Cheers; Boss is not happy

Lorraine: Now I can get guaranteed hours! Finally a raise, we deserve it.

Edith: ...and Union protection so we can stand up to the Boss when he mistreats us.

Lorraine: (*sobering up, to audience*) You know, the truth is this contract isn't the greatest, it's got a lot missing. But I guess it's not only for us. It's for the workers who come after us...

Boss: [*not loving the concept*] For all the future workers in Oakland?

Edith: Yeah! We win some and we lose some, but the real people who live in our city will always need our support! Now, in 1946, and always!

Lorraine: This year had the most strikes ever in a single year in this country.

Boss: [*happy about it*] But in 1947, our fine federal government passed the Taft-Hartley Act, which means that these no good lazy workers can't strike in solidarity with other workers. It ain't nobody's business but ours!

Lorraine: But labor power kept growing-- by the early 1950's, almost a third of all people who worked were part of a union and wages and working conditions were really improving!

Boss: (*happy about it*) Ah, but then the good times for us Bosses really started rolling again. Those unions kept getting' smaller and smaller in the 60s and the 70s, and by the fabulous greedy 1980s we didn't have to listen to those good for nothing workers at all, and we finally started getting their wages to actually go down!

Newsie: EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT. In 1981. 1981. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS GO ON STRIKE - NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT RONALD

REAGAN FIRES ALL THE STRIKERS, BREAKS THE UNIONS, USHERS IN A
NEW ERA OF PROFIT OVER PEOPLE

Edith: But in the new millenium, workers are standing up for ourselves again...

Lorraine: In 2006, on May 1st , May Day, International Workers Day, millions of people marched in cities all over the country for immigrant workers' rights.

Edith: Just last month, Barack Obama was elected president, and he has committed to sign the Employee Free Choice Act, which would give workers greater rights to form unions and to fight for better wages and benefits.

Newsie: EXTRA EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT! Today, December of 2008, a coalition of the truck drivers at the port of Oakland and West Oakland community groups are organizing cleaner ports for the community fair working conditions for the truckers. Manuel Rivera here is one of those drivers and he is here to tell us a little bit about it:

Manuel, a Port Truck Driver, speaks to the crowd. (Provide Spanish/English translation if necessary.)

Newsie: EXTRA EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT! Today, December, 2008, Hotel Workers are still fighting for a fair shake. They're organizing right now, right here in the Bay Area for a fair contract with decent wages. [WORKER NAME] Is one of those hotel workers and he/she is here to tell us what's going on:

Present-day Hotel Worker speaks to the crowd.

Edith & Lorraine: When workers in Oakland are under attack, what do we do?

Audience: Stand up! Fight Back!

Edith & Lorraine: When workers in Oakland are under attack, what do we do?

Audience: Stand up! Fight Back!

—END—