

**Marie Dressler – Vaudeville
and silent film actress and
her black chow**

HER COMPANION



Here is Marie Dressler, lovable motion picture star, and her black chow dog, which is not as ferocious as he looks.

I discovered this photo in a 1933 newspaper, and while I

couldn't get the black chow to come up any clearer, it is still a nice record of Marie Dressler having owned a chow.

This snippet below from a Google search mentions Marie Dressler visiting a friend who had a litter of chow puppies in their bathtub. I wonder if this is how she acquired this dog?

The Legendary Mizners - Google Books Result

<https://books.google.fr/books?isbn=1466807989>

Alva Johnston - 2003 - Biography & Autobiography

Marie Dressler, who became a house guest of Addison's, once found her bathtub occupied by a chow and half a dozen newborn puppies. Addison's best-known ...

Marie Dressler (November 9, 1868 – July 28, 1934) was a Canadian American stage and screen actress, comedian and early silent film and Depression-era film star.^{[2][3]} Successful on stage in vaudeville and comic operas, she was also successful in film. In 1914, she was in the first full-length film comedy and later won the Academy Award for Best Actress in 1931.

Leaving home at the age of fourteen, Dressler built a career on stage in traveling theatre troupes. While not conventionally beautiful, she learned early to appreciate her talent in making people laugh. In 1892, she started a career on Broadway that lasted into the 1920s, performing comedic roles that allowed her to improvise to get laughs. From one of her successful Broadway roles, she played the titular role in the first full-length screen comedy, 1914's *Tillie's Punctured Romance*, opposite Charles Chaplin and Mabel Normand. She would make several shorts but mostly worked in New York City on stage. During World War I, along with other celebrities, she helped sell Liberty Bonds. In 1919, she helped organize the first union for stage chorus players.

Her career declined in the 1920s and Dressler was reduced to living on her savings while sharing an apartment with a friend. In 1927, she returned to films at the age of 59 and experienced a remarkable string of successes. She won the Academy Award for Best Actress in 1930–31 for *Min and Bill* and was named the top film star for 1932 and 1933. She died of cancer in 1934.

**Tillie's Punctured Romance (1914) –
World's 1st Feature-Length Comedy Film
starring Marie Dressler and Charlie
Chaplin**