

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910461650603321
Titolo	Historical comedy on screen [[electronic resource] ] : subverting history with humour / / edited by Hannu Salmi
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bristol [England] ; ; Chicago, : Intellect, 2011
ISBN	1-283-16280-6 9786613162809 1-84150-522-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (210 p.)
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Disciplina	822.3
Soggetti	Comedy films Historical films Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	pt. 1. Comedians and comic representation -- pt. 2. No laughing matter.
Sommario/riassunto	In 1893, Friedrich Engels branded history 'the cruelest goddess of all.' This sorrowful vision of the past is deeply rooted in the Western imagination, and history is thus presented as a joyless playground of inevitability rather than a droll world of possibilities. There are few places this is more evident than in historical cinema which tends to portray the past in a somber manner. Historical Comedy on Screen examines this tendency paying particular attention to the themes most difficult to laugh at and exploring the place where comical and historical storytelling intersect. The first scholar