

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910496140103321
Autore	Pearson Roberta E.
Titolo	Eloquent Gestures : The Transformation of Performance Style in the Griffith Biograph Films // Roberta Pearson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, California : , : University of California Press, , [1992] ©1992
ISBN	0-585-29940-4 0-520-91104-0
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (x, 184 p.) : ill. ;
Disciplina	791.430973
Soggetti	Silent films - United States - History and criticism Motion picture acting Movement (Acting)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- 1. Introduction -- 2. The Theatrical Heritage -- 3. The Histrionic and Verisimilar Codes in the Biograph Films -- 4. Performance Style and the Interaction of Signifying Practices -- 5. D. W. Griffith and the Biograph Company -- 6. Henry B. Walthall -- 7. Trade Press Discourse -- 8. Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Between 1908 and 1913, D. W. Griffith played a key role in the reformulating of film's narrative techniques, thus contributing to the creation of what we now think of as the classical Hollywood cinema. This book is the only extensive treatment of a critical period in the history of film acting: the emergence of the realistic "verisimilar" style in Griffith's biograph films. Roberta Pearson shows how Griffith gradually abandoned the deliberately affected "histrionic" acting style derived from the nineteenth-century stage. No longer did actors mime distress by raising their arms to heaven or clutching their heads--a subtle facial expression, a slight change in posture would convey a character's extreme emotions instead. Pearson makes detailed comparisons of certain Biograph films and brings a freshness to her analysis by closely examining contemporary journalistic writing, acting

manuals, and the recollections of actors of the time. Her work is important for anyone interested in early cinema and performance, and it will enliven the study of American cultural history and mass communications.
