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Nota di contenuto	1. Alternative Comedy Now and Then: An Introduction -- 2. Alternative Comedy Timeline -- 3. The Meccano Club: The Business of Alternative Comedy -- 4. 'A Local Show for Local People: Alternative Cabaret at the Tower Art Centre, Winchester, UK, 1981-1984 -- 5. The Story of Cabaret A Go Go -- 6. Trends with Benefits -- 7. Alternative Cabaret in Conversation -- 8. Pressing for no change? Political Correctness, the defence of the 'mainstream' and class in UK newspaper responses to the emergence of 'Alternative Comedy' -- 9. The Dramatic Script of Alternative Comedy -- 10. Alternative Comedy in Finland: Juhani Nevalainen, Musician Not Comedian -- 11. "Less Dick Jokes": Women-only comedy line-ups, audience expectations and negotiating stereotypes -- 12. New Alternative Comedy: Productive Crises c.2005-Present.
Sommario/riassunto	"Sharon Lockyer and Oliver Double have succeeded in painting a vibrant picture of the raw and energetic origins of the alternative comedy

scene. Drawing from a range of insider and expert perspectives, they place what was happening on the ground in context, highlight alternative comedy's importance and continuing influences, and trace both its legacies and its futures." - Dr Ian Wilkie, Lecturer in Performance and Comedy, University of Salford, UK

Alternative Comedy Now and Then: Critical Perspectives is the first academic collection focusing on the history and legacy of the alternative comedy movement in Britain that began in 1979 and continues to influence contemporary stand-up comedy. The collection examines the contexts, performances and reception of alternative comedy in order to provide a holistic approach to examining the socio-political impact and significance of alternative comedy from its historical roots through to present day performances. As alternative comedy celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2019, critically reflecting on its impact and significance is a timely endeavour. The book adopts a distinctive interdisciplinary approach, synthesizing theory, concepts and methodologies from comedy studies, theatre and performance, communication and media studies, sociology, political sciences and anthropology. This approach is taken in order to fully understand and examine the dynamics and nuances of the alternative comedy movement which would not be possible with a single-discipline approach. Oliver Double is a Reader in Drama at the University of Kent, UK. Before becoming an academic he worked as a stand-up comedian on the national comedy circuit and set up Last Laugh, Sheffield's longest running comedy club. He continues to perform occasionally in his one-man shows and as compere of the Funny Rabbit Comedy Club. Sharon Lockyer is a Reader in Sociology and Communications at Brunel University London, UK. She is the founding director of the Centre for Comedy Studies Research (CCSR) – the first, and only, international research centre devoted to the academic study of comedy. Her research interests include critical comedy studies, identity politics and comic media representations and the sociology of popular culture.
