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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 228-243) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Book Cover; Title; Contents; List of illustrations; Acknowledgements; Introduction; LES THEATRES SECONDAIRES; EQUESTRIANS AND ACROBATS; AWAY FROM THE CENTRE; THE SUBURBS AND THE PROVINCES; 'FORAINS' AND FIT-UPS; AUDIENCES; ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS; CENSORSHIP; THE VAUDEVILLE; PANTOMIME; THE FEERIE; THE EARLY MELODRAMA; THE SOCIAL MELODRAMA; POPULAR FICTION AND THE THEATRE; Conclusion; Notes; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This is the only book to provide an account of how popular theatre developed from the fairground booths of the eighteenth century to become a vehicle of mass entertainment in the following century. Whereas other studies offer a traditional approach to the theatres of high culture, John McCormick takes the role of impartial historian, uncovering the popular theatres of the boulevards, suburbs and fairgrounds. He focuses on the social and economic context in which vaudevilles, pantomimes and melodramas were performed, and explores the audiences who enjoyed them.