

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910953235503321
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Titolo	The death of comedy // Erich Segal
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : Harvard University Press, 2001
ISBN	9780674043411 0674043413
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (608 p.) : ill
Disciplina	809.2/523
Soggetti	Comedy - History and criticism
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 ([459]-576) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preface 1. Etymologies: Getting to the Root of It 2. The Song of the Komos 3. The Lyre and the Phallus 4. Aristophanes: The One and Only? 5. Failure and Success 6. The Birds : The Uncensored Fantasy 7. Requiem for a Genre? 8. The Comic Catastrophe 9. O Menander! O Life! 10. Plautus Makes an Entrance 11. A Plautine Problem Play 12. Terence: The African Connection 13. The Mother-in-Law of Modern Comedy 14. Machiavelli: The Comedy of Evil 15. Marlowe: Schade and Freude 16. Shakespeare: Errors and Eros 17. Twelfth Night : Dark Clouds over Illyria 18. Moliere: The Class of '68 19. The Fox, the Fops, and the Factotum 20. Comedy Explodes 21. Beckett: The Death of Comedy Coda Notes Index
Sommario/riassunto	In a grand tour of comic theatre over the centuries, Erich Segal traces the evolution of the classical form from its early origins in a misogynistic quip by the 6th-century BC Susarion, through countless weddings and happy endings, to the exasperated monosyllables of Samuel Beckett.