

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910962406103321
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Titolo	Women and comedy in solo performance : Phyllis Diller, Lily Tomlin, and Roseanne / / Suzanne Lavin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Routledge, 2004
ISBN	1-135-93444-4 1-135-93445-2 1-280-25443-2 9786610254439 0-203-64346-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (155 p.)
Collana	Studies in American popular history and culture
Disciplina	792.7/082/0973
Soggetti	Stand-up comedy - United States Women comedians - United States
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 (p. 133-143) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Half-title; Series Title; Title; Copyright; Contents; Acknowledgements; 1. Overview; 2. Phyllis Diller; 3. Lily Tomlin; 4. Roseanne; 5. Women's Comedy on the Stage; 6. Feminist Humor and Change; 7. Margaret Cho and Ellen DeGeneres; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This work examines the dramatic changes in American women's comedy performance in the years 1955-1995. The study focuses on the stand-up of Phyllis Diller and Roseanne, and on the character comedy of Lily Tomlin.