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Nota di contenuto	Front Cover -- Title page -- Copyright page -- Table of Contents -- List of Illustrations -- Foreword -- Acknowledgements -- 1 Overture - Across the Bridge -- 2 'Dashing' Eva Lester - The Californian Gem -- 3 Little Lily Harley - Original and Refined -- 4 Kitty Fairdale - The Crème de la Crème of Terpsichorean Serio-Comics -- 5 Charles Chaplin - The Popular Metropolitan Comique -- 6 Arthur West - Topical and Extempore Vocalist -- 7 Leo Dryden - The Kipling of the Halls -- 8 Will Godwin - Doyen of Dramatic Sketch Artists -- 9 The Eight Lancashire Lads - Characteristic and Champion Clog Dancers -- 10 Jessie Macnally - The Dublin Girl -- 11 Casey's Circus - A Ragged Burlesque -- 12 Fred Karno and his Colossal Combination of Comedians -- 13 The Great Calvero - Master of Pantomime and Comic Songs -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	Charlie Chaplin grew up in and around the music hall. His parents, aunt

and their friends all earned their precarious livings on the stage and Chaplin himself started out his career touring music halls with a dance troupe. His experiences of the culture of the music hall were a major influence, shaping his style of acting and the films he made, most famously *Limelight*, which tells the story of a failing variety performer and which evoked painful memories of his own past. Chaplin was horrified to see how performers' lives were ruined when their audience turned against them and he was relieved to exchange the stresses of live performance for screen comedy. Barry Anthony here tells the story of the lives and careers of Chaplin's family and their music-hall circle - from 'dashing' Eva Lester to the great Fred Karno and from Chaplin's parents Hannah Hill and Charles Chaplin to 'The Great Calvero' himself. He reveals the difficult and often-tragic lives of London's variety community in the late-Victorian and Edwardian years, a time of great change in the music hall and entertainment scene, and in doing so sheds important new light on the inspiration behind Chaplin's genius, providing a fascinatingly fresh perspective on this popular cultural icon of the twentieth century.
