

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996248274103316
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Titolo	Starring Madame Modjeska : on tour in Poland and America // Beth Holmgren
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bloomington, : Indiana University Press, 2012
ISBN	1-280-12426-1 9786613528124 0-253-00519-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (427 p.)
Disciplina	792.02/8092 B
Soggetti	Actors - Poland Actors - United States Shakespearean actors and actresses - 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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Debut -- The making of a Polish actress -- Warsaw's state of the stars -- A colonial party and the California dream -- On the American road -- The roles of Madame Modjeska -- The Polish Modjeska -- Farewell tour -- Epilogue: finding Modjeska today.
Sommario/riassunto	In 1876, Poland's leading actress, Helena Modrzejewska, accompanied by family and friends, emigrated to southern California to establish a utopian commune that soon failed. Within a year Modrzejewska made her debut in the title role of Adrienne Lecouvreur at San Francisco's California Theatre. She changed her name to Modjeska and quickly became a leading star on the American stage, where she reigned for the next 30 years. During this time, she established herself as America's most esteemed Shakespearean actress, playing opposite such celebrated actors as Edwin Booth and Maurice Barrymore. S