

## Who Was Charlie Chaplin

□ Charlie Chaplin the actor is universally synonymous with his beloved Tramp character. Chaplin the director is considered one of the great auteurs and innovators of cinema history. Less well known is Chaplin the composer, whose instrumental theme for *Modern Times* (1936) later became the popular standard "Smile," a Billboard hit for Nat "King" Cole in 1954. Chaplin was prolific yet could not read or write music. It took a rotating cast of talented musicians to translate his unorthodox humming, off-key singing, and amateur piano and violin playing into the singular orchestral vision he heard in his head. Drawing on numerous transcriptions from 60 years of original scores, this comprehensive study reveals the untold story of Chaplin the composer and the string of famous (and not-so-famous) musicians he employed, giving fresh insight into his films and shedding new light on the man behind the icon. Details Hale's long and close relationship with the famous comedian.

Richard Carr's *Charlie Chaplin* places politics at the centre of the filmmaker's life as it looks beyond Chaplin's role as a comedic figure to his constant political engagement both on and off the screen. Drawing from a wealth of archival sources from across the globe, Carr provides an in-depth examination of Chaplin's life as he made his way from Lambeth to Los Angeles. From his experiences in the workhouse to his controversial romantic relationships and his connections with some of the leading political figures of his day, this book sheds new light on Chaplin's private life and introduces him as a key social commentator of the time. Whether interested in Hollywood and Hitler or communism and celebrity, *Charlie Chaplin* is essential reading for all students of twentieth-century history.

A definitive collection of interviews with Charlie Chaplin offers long, contemplative analyses of the man's life and work, as well as his thoughts on the craft of filmmaking, his methods of making movies, the characters he created, and more. Simultaneous.

Charlie Chaplin, King of Tragedy

The Genesis of a Misunderstood Masterpiece

Chaplin, the Funniest Man in the World

Charlie Chaplin's Red Letter Days

The Search for Charlie Chaplin

*Charlie Chaplin Charlie Chaplin is most famously known for his "tramp" character—the homeless hobo that can be seen hopping from trains and lining up in the soup kitchens of the Great Depression. At a time when the whole world was struggling from economic meltdown, Charlie Chaplin made "destitute" a term of endearment. We may laugh when we see Charlie Chaplin so broke that he has to boil his shoes and eat them, but during the worst parts of the economic collapse of the 1920s and 1930s, some people had to do just that. So, at the time, even though many would laugh at the crazy tramp's antics, they could also relate and identify with them. And the fact that Charlie Chaplin's tramp character could be completely broke with his pockets turned out, sitting in a gutter with the rain pouring down, yet still be happy, gave people quite a bit of encouragement. People thought that if the homeless, wandering tramp portrayed in Chaplin's films could get through such rough times and be alright, maybe they could too. Inside you will read about... - From the Poorhouse to the Stage- Coming to America- Unhappily Married- The Silent Film Hush Money- He Doesn't Talkie- Socialist Leanings- Exile from the United States And much more! As goofy as some of Chaplin's slapstick comedic moments are in his films, it was the way he just kept trundling along, even in the face of great adversity, that empowered so many. It was this tantalizing glimpse of hope, more than anything else, that kept them coming back for more.*

*"I remain just one thing, and one thing only – and that is a clown. It places me on a far higher plane than any politician." - Charlie Chaplin Only a select few actors become international stars in their time, but none had as unique a career as Charlie Chaplin. Chaplin was the first true film star, and he managed to do so even when films were still silent. He has been honored with too many awards to count, and the fact that his name remains instantly recognizable nearly a century after his first film is a testament to his influence. Even today, Chaplin's films are arguably more recognizable than those of perhaps any other actor or director; everyone is familiar with the famous "Tramp" costume and persona, and even the casual film enthusiast has likely seen films such as *City Lights* (1931) and *Modern Times* (1936). Chaplin is known for the singular blend of pathos and humor evinced by his films, and it is not uncommon for audiences to laugh and cry at alternate points of a Chaplin film, a trait that continues to endear audiences even to this day. For this reason, in his review of Stephen Weissman's biography of Chaplin, Martin Sieff noted, "It is doubtful any individual has every given more entertainment, pleasure, and relief to so many human beings when they needed it most." As Sieff's comment suggests, Chaplin's career coincided with the two World Wars and the Great Depression, but while Chaplin the actor was popular, Chaplin the person became controversial in the final decades of his life. In fact, there is a wide*

discrepancy between the almost uniformly enthusiastic praise of Chaplin today and the subversive identity he cultivated toward the latter part of his career. Although accusations of being a communist sympathizer and Chaplin's confrontation with the House Committee on Un-American Activities have mostly become a footnote in the storied career of a man best remembered as an acting pioneer, it forced Chaplin to spend the last 15 years of his career working as an artist in exile, and the shifting viewpoints of Chaplin were instrumental in forcing people to evaluate the way in which they viewed celebrities, as well as what it means to be entertained. Indeed, it is impossible to substantiate the belief that Chaplin's later films are poorer in quality than his earlier ones, yet the public largely rejected his later directorial efforts. In the end, it must be acknowledged that, more than any other figure who had come before him, the public was aware of Chaplin's personal life in ways that were often upsetting and inconsistent with the persona effected through his films. Due to the way Chaplin was vilified, relatively little is known about the final chapter of Chaplin's life, and one of the prevailing tensions concerning Chaplin is the way in which he is incredibly famous on the one hand but also a particularly mysterious and even unknown figure on the other hand. After Chaplin's body was stolen from his grave, Kenneth Schuyler Lynn pointed out that "the image of his empty gravesite came to symbolize his historic elusiveness, as a person no less than as a performer."

"The best autobiography ever written by an actor. An astonishing work." —Chicago Tribune  
Chaplin's heartfelt and hilarious autobiography tells the story of his childhood, the challenge of identifying and perfecting his talent, his subsequent film career and worldwide celebrity. In this, one of the very first celebrity memoirs, Chaplin displays all the charms, peculiarities and deeply-held beliefs that made him such an endearing and lasting character. Re-issued as part of Melville House's Neversink Library, *My Autobiography* offers dedicated Chaplin fans and casual admirers alike an astonishing glimpse into the the heart and the mind of Hollywood's original genius maverick. Take this unforgettable journey with the man George Bernard Shaw called "the only genius to come out of the movie industry" as he moves from his impoverished South London childhood to the heights of Hollywood wealth and fame; from the McCarthy-era investigations to his founding of United Artists to his "reverse migration" back to Europe, *My Autobiography* is a reading experience not to be missed.

An award-winning author and a Caldecott Medalist take a creative look at the early life of comedic genius Charlie Chaplin. Once there was a little slip of a boy who roamed the streets of London, hungry for life (and maybe a bit of bread). His dad long gone and his actress mother ailing, five-year-old Charlie found himself onstage one day taking his mum's place, singing and drawing laughs amid a shower of coins. There were times in the poorhouse and times spent sitting in the window at home with Mum, making up funny stories about passersby. And when Charlie described a wobbly old man he saw in baggy clothes, with turned-out feet and a crooked cane, his mother found it sad, but Charlie knew that funny and sad go hand in hand. With a lyrical text and exquisite collage imagery, Gary Golio and Ed Young interpret Charlie Chaplin's path from his childhood through his beginnings in silent film and the creation of his iconic Little Tramp. Keen-eyed readers will notice a silhouette of the Little Tramp throughout the book that becomes animated with a flip of the pages. An afterword fills in facts about the beloved performer who became one of the most famous entertainers of all time.

*The Life and Times of Charlie Chaplin*

*Smile: How Young Charlie Chaplin Taught the World to Laugh (and Cry)*

*Pocket Bios: Charlie Chaplin*

*Charlie Chaplin, Director*

*The Charlie Chaplin Book*

In the world of film collecting, the claim "find of the century" may sound an unpardonable exaggeration. But what discovery can equal it?1 Collectors had hailed the discovery of the occasional lost Keystone comedy in which Chaplin played, but nobody had the slightest idea that somewhere in England, somewhere in France, and somewhere in the United States lay three separate treasure troves of silent film which would, for the first time, reveal the working methods of the greatest single figure of the cinema. It was a treasure hunt involving innocence and guile, accident and coincidence. A treasure hunt which took us to Switzerland, France and the United States. The treasure, when it was uncovered, revealed information as precious as the film itself. From the material, we compiled a television series called *Unknown Chaplin*, three hour-long documentaries produced for Thames Television. Apart from the experience of making the series, we learned so much about Chaplin we could not squeeze into the commentary we decided to preserve it in the form of a book.

Charlie Chaplin made an amazing seventy-one films by the time he was only thirty-three years old. He was known not only as the world's first international movie star, but as a comedian, a film director, and a man ripe with scandal, accused of plagiarism, communism, pacifism, liberalism, and anti-Americanism. He seduced young women, marrying four different times, each time to a woman younger than the last. In this animated biography of Chaplin, Joyce Milton reveals to us a life riddled with gossip and a struggle to rise from an impoverished London childhood to the life of a successful American film star. Milton shows us how the creation of his famous character—the Tramp, the Little Fellow—was both rewarding and then devastating as he became obsolete with the changes of time. Tramp is a perceptive, clever, and captivating biography of a talented and complicated man whose life was filled with scandal, politics, and art.

A penetrating psychological perspective on the life of Charlie Chaplin.

Examining the legendary actor's life, art, and controversial politics within the context of their times, Lynn presents a fresh and definitive portrait of Chaplin.

Charlie Chaplin at Keystone and Essanay

Charlie Chaplin: Footlights with the World of Limelight

The Life of Charlie Chaplin

The Music of Charlie Chaplin

My Life in Pictures

Many remember Charlie Chaplin's comic masterpiece, *The Gold Rush*, as the finest blend of comedy and farce ever brought to the screen. Far fewer remember its heroine, Georgia Hale (1900-1985). Seventy years after the film's appearance, Heather Kiernan brings Georgia Hale back to life in this edition of her hitherto unpublished memoirs. Research work embodied in her perceptive introduction clears up many uncertainties about Hale's life and provides an outline of her most significant years. Hale's own chief purpose was to describe her long and close relationship with Chaplin and his dual personality, which made the relationship at times a love-hate one. As Chaplin's constant companion during the years 1928-1931, she became a part of his social circle, meeting people as diverse as Marion Davies, Sergei Eisenstein, Ralph Barton, and Albert Einstein. The memoir effectively ends with Chaplin's marriage in June 1943 to Oona O'Neill. This unique book contains illustrations from the Chaplin archive, most of which are published here for the first time.

Sir Charles "Charlie" Spencer Chaplin, KBE, born on 16th April 1889, Walworth, London, England, UK, was a comic actor, director, editor, screenwriter, producer and composer who rose to fame in the era of silent film. Chaplin became a worldwide icon through his screen persona "the Tramp", being considered one of the most important figures in the history of the film industry. His career spanned more than 75 years, from childhood in the Victorian era until a year before his death in 1977, having encompassed both adulation and controversy.

Chaplin's origins date back to London at the tail end of the 19th Century and a childhood that was fragmented with hardship and sorrow. He was denied the foundation of a stable family environment and was forced to eke out a living from a very early age by whatever means he could... whether that was in his preferred environment of the theatre or in more conservative and traditional surroundings. His elder brother Sydney was at his side throughout his formative years and the two were extremely close throughout their lives. Despite this inauspicious start, Charlie triumphed over adversity and landed in America determined to make his own fame and fortune. This he achieved in a few short years having accidentally stumbled upon a character that would take the world by storm while preparing for his second cinematic engagement. Randomly picking an outfit that included big shoes, a hat that was too small, baggy trousers and a walking cane thrown in as an afterthought, "The Tramp" had arrived on stage and the silver screen. Chaplin topped off the persona he manifested with a unique "toothbrush" moustache and an enduring legend was born. He was all set to take Hollywood and the rest of the world by storm and he didn't disappoint. It didn't take long for Chaplin to add writing and directing to his already impressive resumé and he soon became Hollywood's most prominent star. Even when contracts were due to expire, he never failed to find an alternative employer – such was the clamour for his talents. The 1910s and 1920s were a very prolific period in the silent movie industry, so much so that – despite slowing down as age advanced – Charlie Chaplin's career list of films tops the 80 mark. Even though some of his films were not well received at the time of their release, looking back most will concede that each and every one is worthy of praise – some perhaps more than others – and provide a suitable legacy to the life and career of the one and only Sir Charlie Chaplin...

A biography of the actor who was born in a London slum and went on to become one of the greatest comedic geniuses of all time.

A Life

The Charlie Chaplin Archives

A Comedian Sees the World

Charlie Chaplin and A Woman of Paris

Charlie Chaplin's Own Story

*By the end of 1914, Charlie Chaplin had become the most popular actor in films, and reporters were clamoring for interviews with the comedy sensation. But no reporter had more access than Fred Goodwins. A British actor who joined Chaplin's stock company in early 1915, Goodwins began writing short accounts of life at the studio and submitted them to publications. In February 1916 the British magazine Red Letter published the first of what became a series of more than thirty-five of Goodwins's articles. Written in breezy prose, the articles cover a two-year period during which Chaplin's popularity and creativity reached new heights. Only one copy of the complete series is known to exist, and its recent rediscovery marks a significant find for Chaplin fans. Charlie Chaplin's Red Letter Days: At Work with the Comic Genius is a vivid account of the ebb and flow of life at the Chaplin studio.*

*Goodwins was an astute observer who deepens our understanding of Chaplin's artistry and sheds new light on his personality. He also provides charming and revealing portraits of Chaplin's unsung collaborators, such as his beloved costar Edna Purviance, his burly nemesis Eric Campbell, and other familiar faces that populate his films. Goodwins depicts Chaplin in the white heat of artistic creation, an indefatigable imp entertaining and inspiring the company on the set. He also describes gloomy, agonizing periods when Chaplin was paralyzed with indecision or exhaustion, or simply frustrated that it was raining and they couldn't shoot. Reproduced here for the first time, the articles have been edited by film historian David James and annotated by Chaplin expert Dan Kamin to highlight their revelations. Illustrated with a selection of rare images that reflect the Chaplin craze, including posters, sheet music, and magazine covers, Charlie Chaplin's Red Letter Days provides a fascinating excursion into the private world of the iconic superstar whose films move and delight audiences to this day. It will appeal to movie fans, comedy buffs, and anyone who wants to know what really went on behind the scenes with Chaplin and his crew.*

*Expert novelizations of ten early Chaplin films include The Bank, A Woman, Work, The Champion, His New Job, By the Sea, A Night Out, The Tramp, In the Park, and A Jitney Elopement.*

*He was the very first icon of the silver screen, and is one of the most recognisable faces in Hollywood, even a hundred years on from his first film. But what of the man behind the moustache? The director holding the camera as well as acting in front of it? Peter Ackroyd's new biography turns the spotlight on Chaplin's life as well as his work, from his humble theatrical beginnings in music halls to winning an honorary Academy Award. Everything is here, from the glamour of his golden age to the murky scandals of the 1940s and eventual exile to Switzerland.*

*The entire Chaplin life history in words and pictures 900 images including many previously unseen stills, onset photos, memos, documents, storyboards, posters, and designs, plus scripts and images for unmade films. An oral history, told from the point of view of Chaplin himself, drawing upon his extensive writings, many of which have never been reprinted before. Supplementary interviews with some of his closest collaborators. Material from over 150 books of press clippings in Chaplin's archives, which range from his early days in music halls to his death Chaplin's short films, from Making a Living (1914) to The Pilgrim (1923), as well as all of his feature-length movies, from The Kid (1921) to A Countess from Hong Kong (1967).*

*Tramp*

*Artistry in Motion*

*The Dictator and the Tramp*

*Charlie Chaplin and His Times*

*The Comedy of Charlie Chaplin*

*No Marketing Blurb*

See him? That little tramp twitching a postage stamp of a mustache, politely lifting his bowler hat, and leaning on a bamboo cane with the confidence of a gentleman? A slapstick comedian, he blazed forth as the brightest movie star in the Hollywood heavens. Everyone knew Charlie—Charlie Chaplin. When he was five years old he was pulled onstage for the first time, and he didn't step off again for almost three-quarters of a century. Escaping the London slums of his tragic childhood, he took Hollywood like a conquistador with a Cockney accent. With his gift for pantomime in films that had not yet acquired vocal cords, he was soon rubbing elbows with royalty and dining on gold plates in his own Beverly Hills mansion. He was the most famous man on earth—and he was regarded as the funniest. Still is. . . . He comes to life in these pages. It's an astonishing rags-to-riches saga of an irrepressible kid whose childhood was dealt from the bottom of the deck. Abundantly illustrated.

Born into a theatrical family, Chaplin's father died of drink while his mother, unable to bear the poverty, suffered from bouts of insanity, Chaplin embarked on a film-making career which won him immeasurable success, as well as intense controversy. His extraordinary autobiography was first published in 1964 and was written almost entirely without reference to documentation - simply as an astonishing feat of memory by a 75 year old man. It is an incomparably vivid reconstruction of a poor London childhood, the music hall and then his prodigious life in the movies.

Introduces the life and career of Charlie Chaplin, who sang on a London stage for the first time at the age of five, and for whom performing proved to be his salvation, providing a way out of a life of hardship and poverty.

Ten Stories Adapted from Classic Shorts

Interviews

My Autobiography

A Life from Beginning to End

A Political Biography from Victorian Britain to Modern America

Charlie Chaplin was one of the cinema's consummate comic performers, yet he has long been criticized as a lackluster film director. In this groundbreaking work—the first to analyze Chaplin's directorial style—Donna Kornhaber radically recasts his status as a filmmaker. Spanning Chaplin's career, Kornhaber discovers a sophisticated "Chaplinesque" visual style that draws from early cinema and slapstick and stands markedly apart from later, "classical" stylistic conventions. His is a manner of filmmaking that values space over time and simultaneity over sequence, crafting narrative and meaning through careful arrangement within the frame rather than cuts between frames. Opening up aesthetic possibilities beyond the typical boundaries of the classical Hollywood film, Chaplin's filmmaking would profoundly influence directors from Fellini to Truffaut. To view Chaplin seriously as a director is to re-understand him as an artist and to reconsider the nature and breadth of his legacy.

Charlie Chaplin's *A Woman of Paris* (1923) was a groundbreaking film which was neither a simple recycling of Peggy Hopkins Joyce's story, nor quickly forgotten. Through heavily-documented "period research," this book lands several bombshells, including *Paris* is deeply rooted in Chaplin's previous films and his relationship with Edna Purviance, *Paris* was not rejected by heartland America, Chaplin did "romantic research" (especially with Pola Negri), and *Paris'* many ongoing influences have never been fully appreciated. These are just a few of the mistakes about *Paris*.

Film star Charlie Chaplin spent February 1931 through June 1932 touring Europe, during which time he wrote a travel memoir entitled "A Comedian Sees the World." This memoir was published as a set of five articles in *Women's Home Companion* from September 1933 to January 1934 but until now had never been published as a book in the U.S. In presenting the first edition of Chaplin's full memoir, Lisa Stein Haven provides her own introduction and notes to supplement Chaplin's writing and enhance the narrative. Haven's research revealed that "A Comedian Sees the World" may very well have been Chaplin's first published composition, and that it was definitely the beginning of his writing career. It also marked a transition into becoming more vocally political for Chaplin, as his subsequent writings and films started to take on more noticeably political stances following his European tour. During his tour, Chaplin spent time with numerous politicians, celebrities, and world leaders, ranging from Winston Churchill and Mahatma Gandhi to Albert Einstein and many others, all of whom inspired his next feature films, *Modern Times* (1936), *The Great Dictator* (1940), *Monsieur Verdoux* (1947), and *A King in New York* (1957). His excellent depiction of his experiences, coupled with Haven's added insights, makes for a brilliant account of Chaplin's travels and shows another side to the man whom most know only from his roles on the silver screen. Historians, travelers, and those with any bit of curiosity about one of America's most beloved celebrities will all want to have *A Comedian Sees the World* in their collections. Available only in the USA and Canada. A colorfully illustrated, pocket-size picture book biography of actor and silent film legend Charlie Chaplin. Charlie Chaplin, renowned comic silent film icon, enjoyed a successful seventy-five year career as an actor, filmmaker, and composer. Born into a life of poverty and hardship in London, he began working before he was nine years old and rose quickly to fame for his persona "the Tramp." One of the best known figures in the world during his heyday, Chaplin is still famous today for his myriad of iconic silent film roles. Pocket Bios are full of personality, introducing readers to fascinating figures from history with simple storytelling and cheerful illustrations. Titles include men and women from history, exploration, the sciences, the arts, the ancient world, and more.

Intimate Close-Ups

The films of Charlie Chaplin

Who Was Charlie Chaplin?

Chaplin

Biography of Charlie Chaplin Unauthorized biography of Charlie Chaplin, with documents obtained from his Japanese secretary, Kono.

Charlie Chaplin is universally hailed as the greatest comedic talent in the history of motion pictures. And yet Chaplin's early efforts—which account for more than half of his total output—are often overlooked in favor of his later films. In 1914 Chaplin appeared in a total of 35 films for the Keystone Film Company; the following year he signed with the Essanay Film Manufacturing Company, where he wrote, directed and starred in more than a dozen short comedies. Though the resulting pictures were frequently crude and erratic, they reveal the emergence of a formidable comic genius. "Charlie Chaplin at Keystone and Essanay: Dawn of the Tramp" is a film-by-film examination of this period in Chaplin's career, tracing the birth of his beloved "Tramp" character and his evolution as an actor and filmmaker. Also discussed are

how these movies have been re-edited, recopied, reissued and retitled over the years, with a special section that matches pseudonym titles to their original source film. "Charlie Chaplin at Keystone and Essanay: Dawn of the Tramp" is a fascinating look at the first celluloid steps taken by this legendary laughmaker, and is a must for all Chaplin fans, old and new.

A noted film historian and expert on silent film comedy presents an in-depth, richly illustrated account of the life and career of the immortal Charlie Chaplin, drawing on material from the Chaplin family archives and tracing the life and career of the legendary actor in five hundred photographs that capture Chaplin's seven decades of creative accomplishments.

Charlie Chaplin, the universal comic icon, who with his lovable portrayal of a "tramp" made and still makes the world laugh, continues to live in popular memory. The Hitler's toothbrush moustache, the bowler or derby hat, the coat a size or two too small, the baggy trousers, the floppy shoes and the cane made him the most unforgettable character. The mere mention of his name conjures a picture of him as the tramp. One of the most pivotal stars of the early silent era of Hollywood, Charlie Chaplin's films made everyone laugh and cry at the same time. The world cinema is indebted to him for films like "The Kid", "The Gold Rush", "The Circus", "City Light", "Modern Times" and "The Great Dictator". An enigma to the world, people have vast curiosity about his life and his body of work. This book is an attempt to unravel the various aspects of his life and his struggles. The happiness and the despair, the controversies and the acclaim are all revealed in this authentic biography of this great legend.

Charlie Chaplin & Gandhi

Charlie Chaplin

His Life And Art

At Work with the Comic Genius

Sir Charlie

*Who Was Charlie Chaplin? Penguin*

*Long before becoming one of the masterpieces of Charlie Chaplin's artistic maturity, and even before existing as a screenplay, Limelight was conceived by its author as a 34,000-word novella. After remaining virtually unknown for more than 60 years after its completion, Footlights is now published by Cineteca di Bologna in this volume for the very first time. Chaplin's vivid, idiosyncratic style, unadulterated by editors, moves freely from the baldly colloquial to moments of rich imagery and Dickensian description. For a setting, he looked back to London and the music halls of his first professional years, an enchanted period in which he had broken out of the deprivations of his childhood to discover, progressively, his unique gifts as entertainer and communicator. But this retrospect also recalled the painful insecurity of an uneducated, uncultured boy launched into the world of success. David Robinson, Chaplin's most eminent biographer, traces the long yet logical evolution of the story, from its unlikely origin in Chaplin's 1916 meeting with Nijinsky. The succeeding commentary recounts the making of the film, and traces the real-life sources of Chaplin's memories: the people and theaters of London's Soho, and the unique ballet tradition of the two great theaters of Leicester Square, the Empire and the Alhambra, commemorated in Limelight for the first and only time on film. The book is illustrated with a great wealth of previously unpublished documents and photographs from the Chaplin archives, historic pictures of the theatrical world of Chaplin's youth and images from the author's private collection.*

*This excursion into the enchanted comic world of Charlie Chaplin will appeal not just to Chaplin fans but to anyone who loves comedy. Dan Kamin brings a unique insider's perspective to the subject. An internationally acclaimed comic performing artist himself, he trained Robert Downey, Jr. for his Oscar-nominated portrayal in Chaplin, and created Johnny Depp's physical comedy scenes in Benny and Joon. The Comedy of Charlie Chaplin: Artistry in Motion reveals the inner workings of Chaplin's mesmerizing art as never before. Kamin illuminates the comedian's incredibly sophisticated visual comedy in disarmingly direct prose, providing new insights into how Chaplin achieved his legendary rapport with audiences and demonstrating why comedy created nearly a century ago remains fresh today. He then presents provocative new interpretations of each of the comedian's sound films, showing how Chaplin remained true to his silent comedy roots even as he kept reinventing his art for changing times. The book is lavishly illustrated with many never-before-published images of the comedian.*

*David Robinson's definitive and monumental biography of Charlie Chaplin, the greatest icon in the history of cinema, who lived one of the most dramatic rags to riches stories ever told. Chaplin's life was marked by extraordinary contrasts: the child of London slums who became a multimillionaire; the on-screen clown who was a driven perfectionist behind the camera; the adulated star who publicly fell from grace after personal and political scandal. This engrossing and definitive work, written with full access to Chaplin's archives, tells the whole story of a brilliant, complex man. David Robinson is a celebrated film critic and historian who wrote for The Times and the Financial Times for several decades. His many books include World Cinema, Hollywood in the Twenties and Buster Keaton. 'A marvellous book . . . unlikely ever to be surpassed' Spectator 'I cannot imagine how anyone could write a better book on the great complex subject . . . movingly entertaining, awesomely thorough and profoundly respectful' Sunday Telegraph 'One of the great cinema books; a labour of love and a splendid achievement' Variety 'One of those addictive biographies in which you start by looking in the index for items that interest you . . . and as dawn breaks you're reading the book from cover to cover' Financial Times*

*Genius Of The Cinema*

*Dawn of the Tramp*

*Essential Hollywood*