

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

Charlie Chaplin was born in London on 16th April, 1889. His parents worked in the theatre. His father was a comedian and his mother was a singer. They were very poor because it wasn't so easy to get work. Charlie's father died when Charlie was still a child. His mother was often ill. Charlie and his brother Sydney often wandered about the city streets and tried to find enough to eat. Life was very difficult. Charlie lived in a children's home. He was often cold, hungry and miserable there. He hated it. Although his childhood was very hard, he wanted to make people laugh. He first appeared on stage when he was five. At the age of 17 he joined the Karno Troupe. Some years later Charlie Chaplin was very famous. In 1910 he and his brother travelled to America in a small company of actors. In 1913 he accepted an offer from a film company and moved to Hollywood. In 1914 he acted in his first film, *Making a Living*. In the same year (1914) he introduced his famous tramp character and his tramp costume. He played this role in more than seventy films. In 1914 he appeared in thirty-five films, and in 1915 he acted in fourteen more. He earned a lot of money. He formed his own film-making company, and he started to produce and direct his own films. In 1921 he directed his first film, *The Kid*. His most famous pictures date from the 1920s and the 1930s, the time of the silent films. In 1921 he visited Europe and was very popular there. Everyone wanted to meet him. In 1940 he acted in *The Great Dictator*, which was Chaplin's first sound film. In 1943 he married Oona O'Neill, daughter of the American writer Eugene O'Neill. They had three sons and five daughters.