

On April 16th, 1889, a boy was born in London England. His name was Charles Spencer Chaplin. Charlie's parents were both actors. His father was a versatile vocalist and an actor. His mother was a singer and an actor who was known by her stage name, Lily Harley. Charlie also had a brother named Sydney and they were very close.

After the death of his parents, Charlie and his brother Sydney were left to fend for themselves. Given Charlie and his brother's talent, they took to the stage as the only option for work. Around the age of 12, he got to perform in his first legitimate stage show where he played Billy the page boy in Sherlock Holmes. After he stopped performing in Sherlock Holmes he became a comedian in vaudeville and later joined the Fred Karno Repertoire Company. Eventually, his career took him to the United States. He hit it off with American audience right away. In 1912 he was offered a motion picture contract. However, he did not accept until after his commitments with vaudeville had expired in 1913. Charlie worked with a couple different companies including Keystone Film company where his salary was 150 dollars a week.

Once his contract with Mutual, another American film company, had expired in 1917 he decided to go independent. Chaplin wanted more freedom to produce his own films. He began building his own studios in the heart of residential Hollywood on La Brea Avenue. He then went on to produce over 20 films.

On the boat to the London premiere of his film, *Limelight* Chaplin learned that his re-entry pass to the United States had been revoked due to claims about his morals and politics. So for a while, he settled with his family in Switzerland. He and his wife had four more children making a total of eight.

With the creation of his film, *A King in New York* Chaplin was one of the first filmmakers to dare incorporate satire and ridicule into his films. Drawing from the paranoia and political intolerance the United States was facing during the cold war.

Chaplin's films were against the grain. For him to take up filmmaking again even in exile was crazy. He had lost his crew and private studios. But nothing would stop him from creating. Films used to be bland and uninteresting, actors would get the point across with little to no emotions. Comedies were nothing but men hitting each other over the head. Charlie Chaplin saw possibilities and opportunities for the film industry and went out and changed it. He brought

situational comedy and the art of stage plays to film. Nothing stopped him from creating films, even when he wasn't allowed in Hollywood. Despite the adversity that he faced throughout his life, Charlie Chaplin changed the entire film industry and the art of acting. We can still his influences in modern film today.