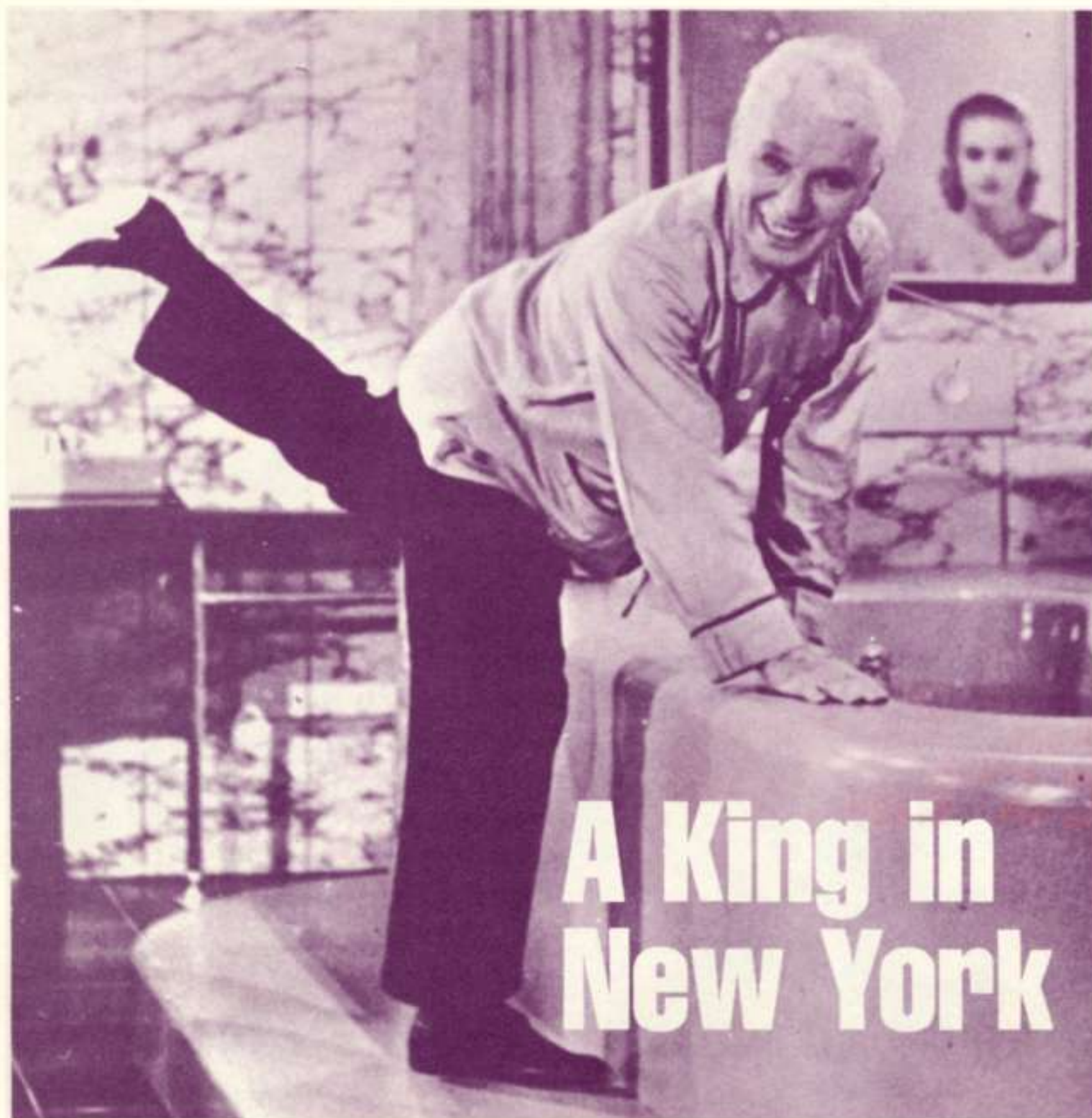


Document Citation

Title	A king in New York
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Surf Theatres</i>
Date	
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	Chaplin, Charlie (1889-1977), Walworth, London, Great Britain
Film Subjects	A king in New York, Chaplin, Charlie, 1957



Clay April 25-May 5
Charles Chaplin

A King in New York

Made in England five years after his self-imposed exile from his adopted country, "A King in New York," never before released, turns out to be not so much the vicious and vengeful diatribe against McCarthyism and the whole HUAC state of mind that was expected but a surprisingly gentle satire on the U.S. as a society gone slightly mad.

Chaplin plays King Shadhov, deposed monarch of a mythical mini-kingdom who, arriving in New York penniless, is tricked by a manipulative young advertising woman (Dawn Addams) into making TV commercials and becomes a celebrity. A chance encounter with a young boy (Michael Chaplin), whose Marxist parents are in trouble with HUAC, leads to Shadhov's being subpoenaed by the Committee, which the royal witness thoroughly douses with a fire hose after being

cleared of charges against him.

As political satire, "A King in New York" is somewhat feeble and dated; it's considerably more effective as a cultural satire on film violence, wide screens, Fifties rock and roll, TV commercialism and such. Had it been made by anyone else, the film would be ludicrous: archaic film technique, cheap and tacky production, poor direction, bad acting. Chaplin's work was always Chaplin-centered and theatre-oriented. For all that, Chaplin's last film has a number of brilliant comic strokes and is essential viewing for anyone even remotely interested in one of the very greatest figures in screen history.

"Must be seen by anyone interested in Chaplin, which is to say anyone interested in film or, for that matter, in the 20th century . . . If you admire the first towering genius of a new art, you must of course see his last work."—Stanley Kauffman, *New Republic*.

"The last will and testament of the brightest comic star of the universe."—Andrew Sarris, *Village Voice*.

England/1957

Written, produced, directed by Charles Chaplin
and

Four Clowns

The most recent of the Robert Youngson compilation films of the silent film comedians, including early clips of Laurel and Hardy, and Charley Chase. The ifnal section, however—a condensed version of Buster Keaton's "Seven Chances"—is the real highlight. (1970)