Charlie Chaplin
16 April 1889 - 25 December 1977
English actor, filmmaker and composer

Private life
* from a very poor family
* parents = music hall performers
* was sent to a workhouse twice (mother sent to mental asylum)
* married 4 times - 11 children

Career:
• began performing as a child (music hall, comedian)
• 1908 : moved to America
• developed the Tramp persona and became very popular
• 1919 : co-founded the distribution company United Artists
• 1940s : forced to leave the USA, because of suspicions of communist sympathies
• Settled in Switzerland

What to remember of his career?
# one of the most important figures of the film industry, especially in the silent era
* wrote, directed, produced, starred in and composed the music for most of his films
& major works: The Kid (1921), The Gold Rush (1925), City Lights (1931), Modern Times (1936), The Dictator (1940): Chaplin satirized Hitler and attacked fascism
* many of his films contain social and political themes as well as autobiographical elements