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NEW 35MM PRINT!

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS (IL FIORE DELLE MILLE E UNA NOTTE)

Director: Pier Paolo Pasolini

Italy 1974 129 minutes • Cast: Ninetto Davoli, Franco Citti

To commemorate the very first series presented by Cinematheque Ontario, a complete retrospective of the films of Pier Paolo Pasolini, we are fortunate to have a brand new 35mm print of this sumptuous work from his "Trilogy of Pleasure." Drunk on its own visual splendour and heady sensuality, **THE ARABIAN NIGHTS** illustrates Pasolini's belief that sex is the conduit to the sacred. Shot in the mirrored palaces, labyrinthine streets, the hubbub bazaars and water-cooled cloisters of Yemen, Nepal, Iran, and Ethiopia, **NIGHTS** employs Scheherezade's stories to explore the "idyllic sexuality" Pasolini sought in countries unsullied by European culture. Intoxicating in its eroticism – it fairly gleams with bronzed flesh – **THE ARABIAN NIGHTS** was to be the director's "final elegiac tribute to a force he then considered, along with the redeeming power of art, to be a vital civilizing presence in the modern world" (Peter Bondanella).

Cinematheque History • Pier Paolo Pasolini, 1990; Summer in Italy I, 1994

Thursday, July 27 8:45 p.m.

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS

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