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# CHRISTMAS MOVIES

## Following The Stars

### It's X-Rated English Lit

**A**N EXCELLENT way to get kids interested in English literature would be to send them to "The Canterbury Tales," the late Pier Paolo Pasolini's adaptation of Geoffrey Chaucer's ribald medieval masterpiece.

Unfortunately, the film is X-rated — in Italy, it was declared obscene and its release delayed for months — so the kids will have to stick with the book.

However, us grown-up (over 18) kids can revel in Pasolini's generous mixture of sex, violence and humor. The Italian director has filmed six out of the 24 tales, as well as the two major prologues, and framed the separate stories by including glimpses of Chaucer himself (played by Pasolini himself). The picture, which is in English, was shot entirely in Great Britain with a predominantly British cast, among them, such distinguished actors as Hugh Griffith, Alan Webb and Tom Baker.

Completed in 1972, "The Canterbury Tales" was one of Pasolini's final films. In 1975, the 53-year-old director, who had led a sort of X-rated life himself, was bludgeoned to death by a 17-year-old boy who claimed Pasolini had made homosexual advances toward him. The kid then ran over the body with the director's own Alfa Romeo. Adding insult to injury, as it were.

**The Canterbury Tales.** The late Pier Paolo Pasolini's version of Chaucer's ribald tales. The kind of Road Picture Bing 'n' Bob could never make. Opens Dec. 21. X. The Screening Room.