

## Document Citation

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| Title         | <b>Pier Paolo Pasolini: the eyes of a poet</b>                          |
| Author(s)     |   |
| Source        | <i>Larsen Associates</i>  |
| Date          | 1993 Jul 23   |
| Type          | press release   |
| Language      | English   |
| Pagination    |   |
| No. of Pages  | 4   |
| Subjects      | Pasolini, Pier Paolo (1922-1975), Bologna, Emilia-Romagna, Italy        |
| Film Subjects | Uccellacci e uccellini (Hawks and sparrows), Pasolini, Pier Paolo, 1966 |

## PIER PAOLO PASOLINI: THE EYES OF A POET

JULY 23 - AUGUST 5, 1993 CASTRO THEATRE

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESS SCREENINGS

*Please note: These are the only two press screenings in the series*

Castro Theatre, 429 Castro Street, San Francisco RSVP: Larsen Assoc.  
415-957-1205

Thursday, July 8 - 10:00 AM

Running Time: 99 minutes

**PASOLINI'S COMIC EPISODES (1962-1969)** - Four titles rarely seen in this country are included in "Pasolini's Comic Episodes," considered by some to be among his most successful works. In **THE EARTH SEEN FROM THE MOON** (1966) Totó and Ninetto Davoli search for their dead wife/mother with hysterical results. Featuring screen great Silvana Magnano. In **WHERE ARE CLOUDS?** (1967) Totó and Ninetto Davoli play life-sized marionettes of Othello and Iago. Before Desdemona can be murdered, the Shakespearian puppets are murdered by an angry mob. Thrown into a horrible garbage heap, they discover a new world, their paradise. **THE PAPER FLOWER SEQUENCE** (1969) is a satirical religious allegory featuring a young man who tries to ignore the voice of God (spoken with great authority by Bernardo Bertolucci.) **LA RICOTTA** (1962) stars Orson Welles as an arrogant director of Hollywood-style Biblical epics. It was this episode that led to Pasolini's arrest on charges that he insulted the church. (99 minutes)

PLAYDATES: Friday, July 23, 7:00 PM  
Wednesday, July 28, 1:00, 5:00, 9:00 PM

Thursday, July 8 - 12:00 noon

Total Running Time: 97 minutes

**HAWKS AND SPARROWS (1965)** - Neopolitan comic Totó and Ninetto Davoli star as a father and son on a hapless journey to nowhere. Along the way, they meet a talking raven, who joins them. The bird, a tenacious talker, tries to involve his travelling companions in hefty arguments on pressing dialectics. These dialogues evolve into a "parable within a parable"- a re-evocation of a religious adventure circa 1200, involving Saint Francis, an old friar, and his young novice. Journeying back into modernity, the hunger of the two travelers overwhelms, and the raven is killed and roasted, providing the men with a true feast. Bizarre, absurd, and wildly comical, **HAWKS AND SPARROWS** is Pasolini's comic masterpiece. With music by Ennio Morricone. (89 minutes) -plus -

**TOTÓ AT THE CIRCUS (1965)** - The original first episode of **HAWKS AND SPARROWS**, cut from the film in its final edit. (8 minutes)

PLAYDATES: Friday, July 23, 9:00 PM  
Wednesday, July 28, 3:00, 7:00 PM

Presented in collaboration with the Ministero del Turismo e dello Spettacolo, the Ministero degli Affari Esteri, Cinecittà International, and Associazione "Fondo Pier Paolo Pasolini." Sponsored by Alitalia and Mexicana Airlines.



# PIER PAOLO PASOLINI: THE EYES OF A POET

JULY 23 - AUGUST 5, 1993 CASTRO THEATRE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Press Contact: Larsen Associates  
415 957-1205

San Francisco, CA.....Director, screenwriter, novelist, poet, essayist, journalist, film critic, theorist, and political provocateur- all these described the late Pier Paolo Pasolini. His incredible career will be celebrated in an extensive retrospective **PIER PAOLO PASOLINI: THE EYES OF A POET**, featuring over 20 films by the great Italian film poet. This series screens Friday, July 23 through Thursday, August 5 at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro Theatre in San Francisco.

Presented by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in association with the San Francisco Film Society, this two-week retrospective offers a rare opportunity to view Pasolini's early works as well as the classic films that have placed him among the most intriguing and controversial of contemporary directors. The series features restored prints being flown in from Rome for the occasion. Several titles virtually unknown in this country will be shown. They include "Pasolini's Comic Episodes", a collection of 4 shorts comprising of **THE EARTH SEEN FROM THE MOON** (1966), **WHERE ARE CLOUDS?** (1967), both starring Toto and Ninetto Davoli, **THE PAPER FLOWER SEQUENCE** (1969) featuring the voice of Bernardo Bertolucci, and **LA RICOTTA** (1969) starring Orson Welles. Also featured will be the Italian filmmaker's documentary works, including **THE ANGER** (1963), a poetic "act of protest against the unreality of the bourgeois world," **LOVE MEETINGS** (1964), an inquiry into how Italians respond to questions about sex, and **PASOLINI'S NOTES AND DOCUMENTARIES**, three short film essays including **NOTES FOR A FILM ABOUT INDIA** (1968), **NOTES FOR AN AFRICAN ORESTEIA** (1970), and **THE WALLS OF SANA'A** (1971). A rare glimpse of the Italian filmmaker at work is offered in **SEEKING LOCATIONS IN PALESTINE FOR THE FILM 'THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW'** (1964).

-more-

Presented in collaboration with the Ministero del Turismo e dello Spettacolo, the Ministero degli Affari Esteri, Cinecittà International, and Associazione "Fondo Pier Paolo Pasolini." Sponsored by Alitalia and Mexicana Airlines.

## **PIER PAOLO PASOLINI- continued...2**

Deliberately provocative and profoundly sensual, Pasolini delved into the themes of sex, religion, class mythology and religion, remaining cinematically vital until his violent death at the age of 53 in 1975. A published poet at the age of 19, he was an established novelist and essayist by the time he entered Italian films in 1954, collaborating on scripts such films as Fellini's LE NOTTI DI CABIRIA. His directorial debut occurred in 1961 with ACCATTONE, a grim depiction of squalor and prostitution based on his novel UNA VITA VIOLENTA. Since then, he created classic contemporary satires on the one hand and deeply felt, mystical religious allegories on the other. Among the works set in the modern world are: HAWKS AND SPARROWS (1965), Pasolini's comic political masterpiece, starring Toto and Ninetto Davoli; PIGSTY(1969) starring Pierre Clementi; and TEOREMA (1968) featuring Terence Stamp as a mysterious stranger who seduces everyone from a wealthy patriarch to the house maid. His religious and literary reinterpretations include: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (1964), a reverent film version of the life of Christ featuring Pasolini's mother as the Virgin Mary; OEDIPUS REX (1967), set in Fascist Italy; MEDEA (1970) featuring opera great Maria Callas' only screen performance; Pasolini's "Trilogy of Life" including THE DECAMERON (1971), THE CANTERBURY TALES (1972), and THE ARABIAN NIGHTS (1974); and his final film SALO, his unflinching updating of de Sade's 120 DAYS OF SODOM.

Schedule for **PIER PAOLO PASOLINI: THE EYES OF A POET** at the Castro is as follows:

### **Friday, July 23**

7:00 PM

PASOLINI'S COMIC EPISODES- THE EARTH SEEN FROM THE MOON (1966), WHAT ARE CLOUDS? (1967), THE PAPER FLOWER SEQUENCE (1969), LA RICOTTA (1962)

9:00 PM

HAWKS AND SPARROWS (1965) plus TOTO AT THE CIRCUS (1965)

### **Saturday, July 24**

1:20, 5:30, 9:35 PM

PIGSTY (1969)

3:20, 7:30 PM

TEOREMA (1968)

### **Sunday, July 25**

1:40, 5:40, 9:35 PM

SEEKING LOCATIONS IN PALESTINE FOR THE FILM "THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW" (1964)  
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (1964)

3:00, 7:00 PM

### **Monday, July 26**

7:50 PM

THE ANGER (1963)

9:00 PM

ACCATTONE (1961)

-more-



## **PIER PAOLO PASOLINI- continued...3**

### **Tuesday, July 27**

7:10 PM

LOVE MEETINGS (1964)

9:00 PM

ACCATTONE (1961)

### **Wednesday, July 28**

1:00, 5:00, 9:00 PM

PASOLINI'S COMIC EPISODES

3:00, 7:00 PM

HAWKS AND SPARROWS (1965)

### **Thursday, July 29**

7:00 PM

OEDIPUS REX (1967)

9:10 PM

MEDEA (1970)

### **Friday, July 30**

6:00, 10:00 PM

PIGSTY (1969)

8:00 PM

TEOREMA (1968)

### **Saturday, July 31**

1:15, 5:30, 9:45 PM

OEDIPUS REX (1967)

3:20, 7:35

MEDEA (1970)

### **Sunday, August 1**

3:00 PM

THE DECAMERON (1971) plus SET OF SANA'A (1971)

5:15 PM

THE CANTERBURY TALES (1972)

7:45 PM

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS (1974)

### **Monday, August 2**

7:00, 9:30 PM

PASOLINI'S NOTES AND DOCUMENTARIES- NOTES FOR A  
FILM ABOUT INDIA (1968), NOTES FOR AN AFRICAN  
ORESTEA (1970), THE WALLS OF SANA'A (1971)

### **Tuesday, August 3**

7:00, 9:30 PM

THE DECAMERON (1971) plus THE WALLS OF SANA'A (1971)  
and SET OF SANA'A (1971)

### **Wednesday, August 4**

1:35, 7:00 PM

THE CANTERBURY TALES (1972)

3:50, 9:15 PM

THE ARABIAN NIGHTS (1974)

### **Thursday, August 5**

7:00, 9:30 PM

SALO (1975)

Admission is \$6.00 for evening performances and \$3.50 for matinees. Special Discount Passes (5 admissions for \$20.00) are available at the Castro Box Office, or by mail from the San Francisco Film Society. For more information, please call (415) 567-4641 or the Castro Theatre at (415) 621-6120.

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