

PIER PAOLO PASOLINI
Contemporary Perspectives

Pier Paolo Pasolini is one of the most important cultural figures in postwar Italy; his influence continues to be felt in Europe and North America. A new generation of scholars has grasped Pasolini's speculative power and understood the integrity of his art, an art that usually stood in sharp opposition to the opinion of his time. *Pasolini: Contemporary Perspectives* is an anthology of new essays by several noted Pasolini scholars from North America and Europe. It is a re-examination of his life and work as poet, novelist, filmmaker, journalist, and cultural theorist.

Pasolini began his career as an award-winning poet and novelist in the 1940s and 1950s with *The Ashes of Gramsci*, *Ragazzi di vita*, and *A Violent Life*. After working as a scriptwriter for film directors like Fellini and Bolognini, he began to direct his own productions. With films such as *Accattone*, *The Gospel According to St. Matthew*, *Teorema*, *Salò*, and the *Trilogy of Life*, Pasolini's reputation spread beyond the national borders of Italy and on to the international scene. His films, articles, and fiction were an excoriating critique of an eroticized consumer culture; he was an artist always in fiery opposition.

This anthology reflects new developments in semiotics, poststructuralist theory, and historical research on Italian literature and film. Pasolini himself anticipated many of these ideas. Included are two important but previously untranslated essays by him, 'Manifesto for a New Theatre' and 'Tetis,' a late and prophetic essay on modern sexuality.

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CONTEMPORARY
PERSPECTIVES

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS
Toronto Buffalo London

www.utppublishing.com

© University of Toronto Press Incorporated 1994
Toronto Buffalo London
Printed in Canada

ISBN 0-8020-2966-3 (cloth)

ISBN 0-8020-77374 (paper)



Printed on acid-free paper

Toronto Italian Studies: Major Italian Authors

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under title:

Pier Paolo Pasolini: contemporary perspectives

(Toronto Italian studies. Major Italian authors)

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 0-8020-2966-3 (bound) ISBN 0-8020-7737-4 (pbk.)

1. Pasolini, Pier Paolo, 1922-1975 – Criticism
and interpretation. I. Rumble, Patrick Allen,
1963- . II. Testa, Bart. III. Series.

PQ4835.A48Z83 1993

858'.91409

C93-095395-9

Unless otherwise indicated, illustrations are from the
Museum of Modern Art Film Stills Archive.

University of Toronto Press acknowledges the financial
assistance to its publishing program of the Canada Council
and the Ontario Arts Council.