

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
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## FACT SHEET

**EXHIBITION** PIER PAOLO PASOLINI: THE EYES OF A POET

**DATES** April 27 - May 29, 1990

**ORGANIZATION** Adrienne Mancia, Curator, and Stephen Harvey, Associate Curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, in collaboration with the Fondo Pier Paolo Pasolini.

**SUPPORT** The Ministero del Turismo e dello Spettacolo and the Regione Lazio. Additional assistance was provided by the Ministero degli Affari Esteri and Ente Autonomo Gestione Cinema.

**CONTENT** This retrospective of films by Pier Paolo Pasolini (1922-1975) features all of his directorial work including little-known documentaries and short films, as well as several movies to which he contributed as screenwriter. Among the highlights in this program are Accattone (1961), Pasolini's blistering directorial debut; his masterful The Gospel According to St. Matthew (1964); and four comic episodes featuring such performers as Orson Welles, Silvana Mangano, Laura Betti, and the legendary comedian Toto. The films in this series have been newly subtitled by the distinguished writer and translator, William Weaver.

As a filmmaker, poet, novelist, and political thinker, Pasolini was one of the most complex and influential forces in Italian cultural life from the fifties until his violent death in 1975. The unflinching candor of this passionate and prolific artist provoked controversy at every point on the ideological spectrum. As a filmmaker, Pasolini left a varied body of work which nonetheless reveals a coherent summation of the themes that engaged him. These included excoriating portraits of the latter-day bourgeoisie in Porcile (1969) and Teorema (1968); his modern re-examination of classic fables and legends such as The Decameron (1971), Oedipus Rex (1968), and Medea (1969); and his vibrant, despairing vision of the Roman underclass in Accattone and Mamma Roma (1962).

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For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9750.