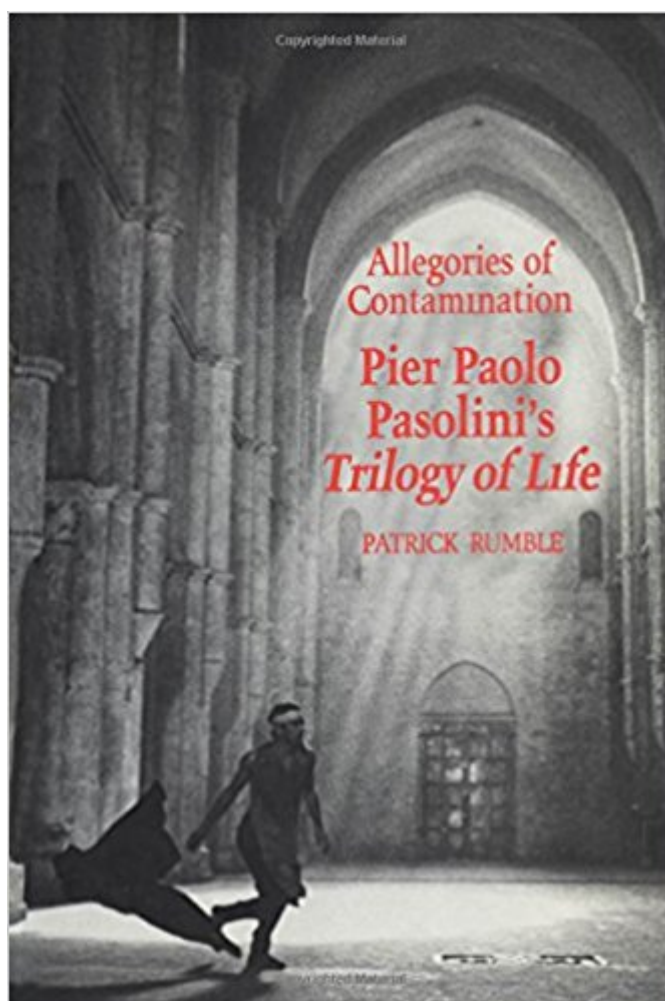


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# Allegories Of Contamination: Pier Paolo Pasolini's Trilogy Of Life (Toronto Italian Studies)



## Synopsis

The Trilogia della vita (Trilogy of Life) is a series of three films that Pier Paolo Pasolini completed before his horrifying assassination in 1975, and it remains among the most controversial of his cinematic works. In *Allegories of Contamination* Patrick Rumble provides an incisive critical and theoretical study of these films and the Marxist filmmaker's complex, original concept of the cinematic medium. With the three films that make up the Trilogy of Life - *The Decameron*, *Canterbury Tales*, and *The Arabian Nights* - Pasolini attempts to recapture the aura surrounding popular, predominantly oral forms of storytelling through a pro-modern vision of innocent, unalienated bodies and pleasures. In these works Pasolini appears to abandon the explicitly political engagement that marked his earlier works - films that led him to be identified with other radical filmmakers such as Bellocchio, Bertolucci, and Godard. However, Pasolini insisted that these were his 'most ideological films,' and his political engagement translates into a mannerist, anti-classical style or what he called a 'cinema of poetry.' Rumble offers a comparative study based on the concept of 'aesthetic contamination,' which is fundamental to the understanding of Pasolini's poetics. Aesthetic contamination concerns the mediation between different cultures and different historical moments. Through stylistic experimentation, the Trilogy of Life presents a genealogy of visual codes, an interrogation of the subjectivity of narrative cinema. In these films Pasolini celebrates life, and perhaps therein lies their simple heresy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Patrick Rumble is a professor in the Department of French and Italian, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

O livro estava em excelentes condições e por um preço bastante acessível, mesmo com as taxas de importação. Estou muito satisfeita com a compra. Parabéns vendedora.

This is not a book for the casual reader or someone looking for a light introduction to Pasolini. The writing style is very academic and unapproachable. This is the first book I've read where I've seriously considered not finishing it half-way through. There are many lengthy quotes in the book and all of them are given in both the original Italian and in an English translation, as if the author doesn't think we'll trust his translations. While this might be good for Film Studies professors, for the average reader, it's just a waste of paper in the book. There are also several short Italian phrases and words that the author uses without translating--he assumes the reader will know what they mean. Chapters include: 1. Pasolini "regista civile" 2. Allegories of Contamination in the "Trilogy of Life" 3. Pasolini's Ironic Recantation: The "Abiura dalla 'Trilogia della vita'" 4. Framing Boccaccio: Pasolini's Adaptation of the "Decameron" 5. Afterword: Homosexualities, the Sacred, and the Paying of Debts If you're just wanting to know more about Pasolini or just have a passing interest in his movies, I'm sure there are better sources out there, this book is strictly for academics and serious students of cinema.

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