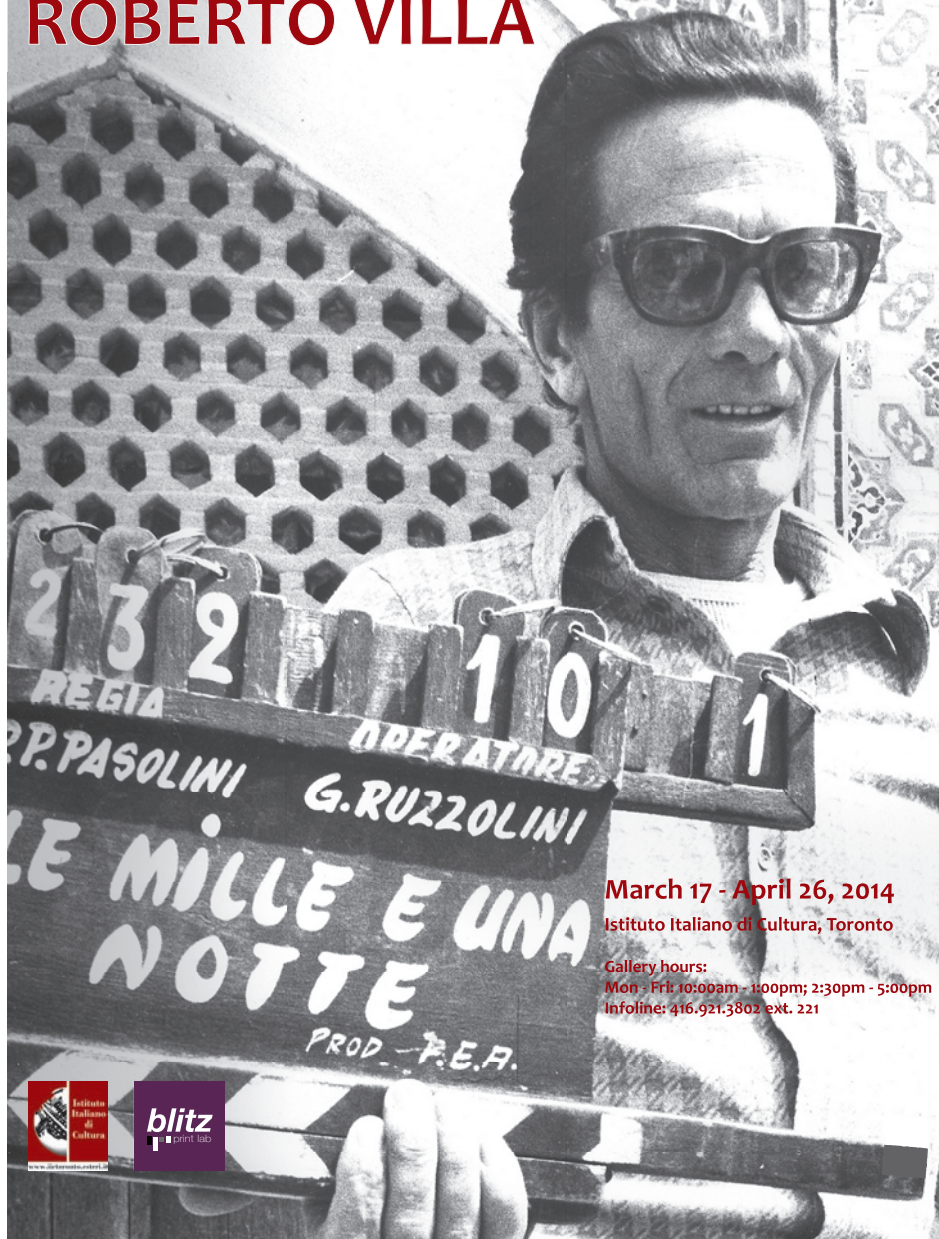


PASOLINI'S L'ORIENTE

Arabian nights through the photographs of

ROBERTO VILLA



March 17 - April 26, 2014

Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Toronto

Gallery hours:

Mon - Fri: 10:00am - 1:00pm; 2:30pm - 5:00pm

Infoline: 416.921.3802 ext. 221



PASOLINI'S L'ORIENTE: ARABIAN NIGHTS THROUGH THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ROBERTO VILLA

March 17 to April 26, 2014

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On the occasion of the retrospective of **Pier Paolo Pasolini** at TIFF Bell Lightbox (Saturday March 8 - Saturday April 12, 2014), the **Istituto Italiano di Cultura** is proud to present ***Pasolini's l'Oriente: Arabian Nights Through the Photographs of Roberto Villa***, a photographic exhibit by Italian photographer **Roberto Villa**. The exhibit features 64 photographs taken by Roberto Villa on the set of *Arabian Nights* in 1974 documenting Pier Paolo Pasolini's work in the Middle East (Yemen and Iran).

The images are a selection of the many more that were shot on the set of the movie and that Roberto Villa generously donated to the Cineteca di Bologna in 2008. Villa's images not only capture some moments of the making of the film but also the faces of the locals, as well as the mystical locations where the poet/director set his version of the Arabic folk tale. Pasolini, as Villa's photos show, was very respectful of the local culture which he wanted to portray before it disappeared.

Arabian Nights – in Italian *Il fiore delle mille e una notte* [i.e. The Flower of One Thousand and One Nights]- was inspired by the magical atmosphere of Sana'a, where Pasolini had shot an episode of *The Decameron*, which was not included in the film as he felt it could be used for another movie. The screenplay was composed in just a fortnight, after Pasolini had re-read the *The Book of One Thousand and One Nights*. Many parts, namely the dialogues of the women, were written by Italian novelist Dacia Maraini. Last of the *Trilogy of Life*, which included *The Decameron* (1971) and *The Canterbury Tales* (1972) it was awarded the Grand Prix Special Prize at 1974 Cannes Film Festival.

Roberto Villa is a photographer, director and a media researcher based in Milan. A forerunner in the use of media technology and digital photography, he founded his photography, design and advertising agency AudioVisualCommunication in 1957. He has served as the technical director of numerous design magazines, and his work has been featured in Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, and National Geographic. In 1973, Pier Paolo Pasolini invited him on the set of *Arabian Nights* as the official film photographer.

We wish to thank Ms Rossella Trebian, curator of *Fondo Roberto Villa*, for her cooperation to the exhibition.

Roberto Villa will present the exhibit:

Monday, March 24, 2014 – 6:30pm

Free admission

Roberto Villa will introduce Pasolini's *Arabian Nights* at TIFF Bell Lightbox on Sunday, March 23, 2014 - 3:30 PM

Exhibition curated by

ISTITUTO ITALIANO DI CULTURA – TORONTO

Acting Director: Adriana Frisenna

Administration and Accounting: Giovanni Bozzo

Bursaries/Library/Web support: Paola Marino

Assistant to the Director: Tiziana Miano

Technical manager/Web support: Carlo Settembrini

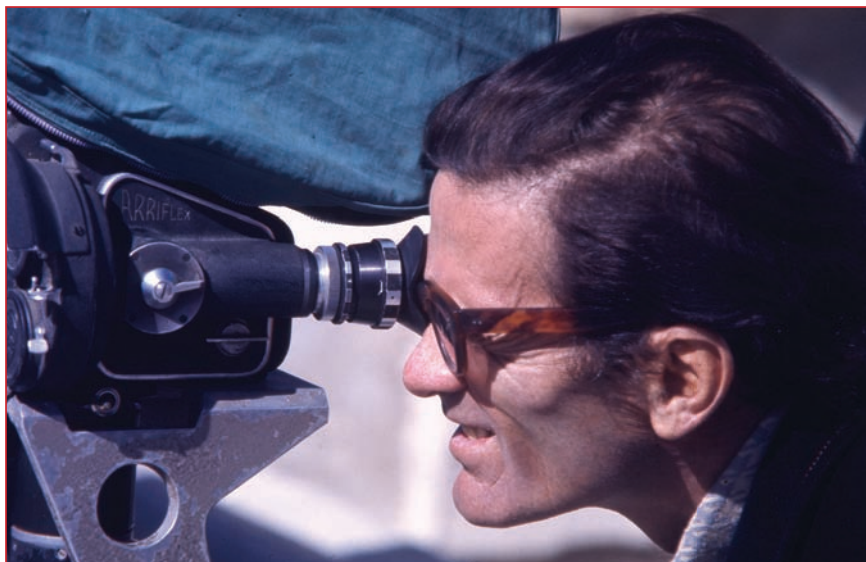
Courses: Giuliana Weiss-Singh

The photographs in this exhibit are an 8 colour Giclée (Inkjet) print, on Velvet fine art archival paper and floatmounted on aluminum board with a hanging wood frame.

Graphic design: Carlo Settembrini

Set up: Darrel Dorsk, An Sangwook, Carlo Settembrini

The exhibition is partly sponsored by BLITZ print lab Toronto



Iran - Isfahan, Mosque



Iran - Isfahan, Mosque
Umberto Angelucci, Assistant Director



Yemen - Hadramaut



Iran - Isfahan, Mosque



Iran - Isfahan, Mosque



Yemen - Sanaa



Iran - Isfahan, Mosque
Zumurrud - Ines Pellegrini



Iran - Isfahan, Mosque
Franco Citti (detail)



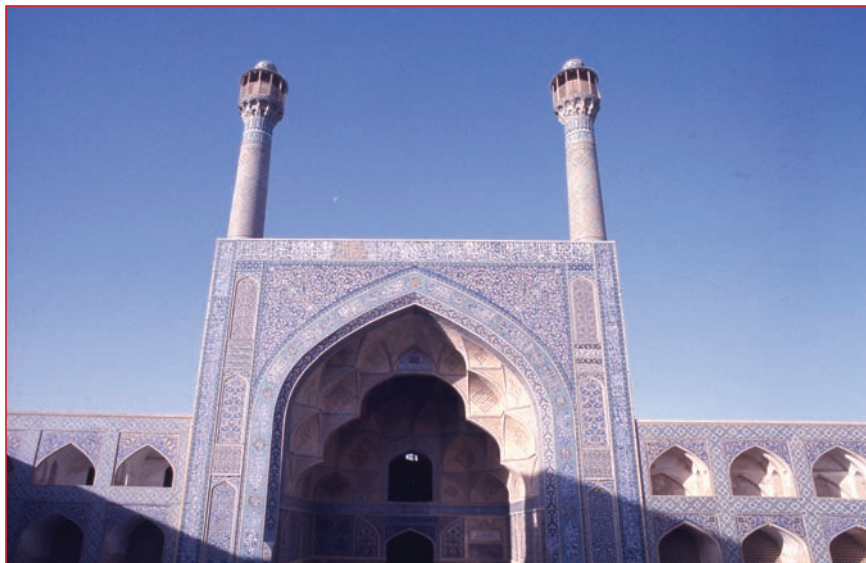
Iran - Isfahan, Mosque



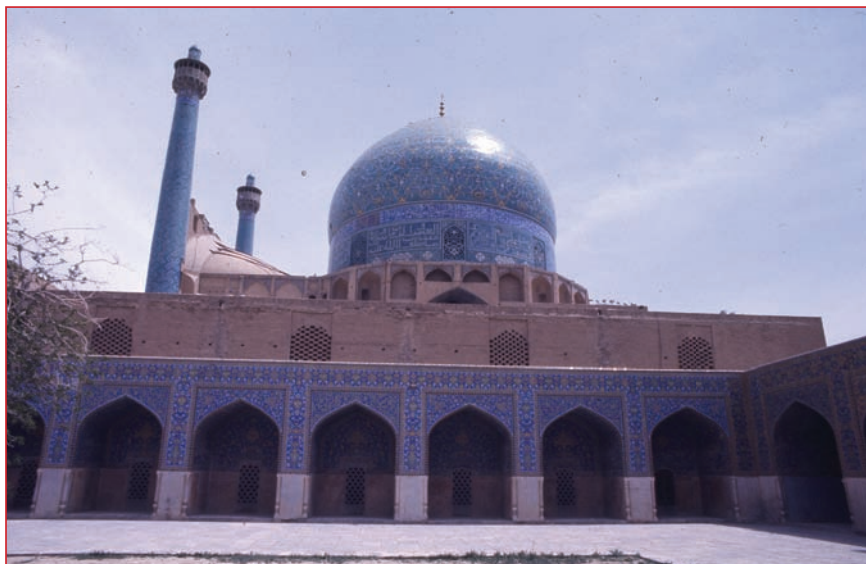
Iran - Isfahan, Mosque



Iran - Isfahan, Mosque



Iran - Isfahan, Mosque



Iran - Isfahan, Mosque



Yemen - Taizz - Suk



Iran - Isfahan, Mosque



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Gallery hours: Monday - Friday:
10am-1pm and 2:30pm-5pm and by appointment