



**Antonio Pietrangeli, The Director of Women**  
 Feminism and Film Theory in Postwar Italian Cinema  
 By Emma Katherine Van Ness

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**A re-examination of the films of Antonio Pietrangeli from a feminist perspective**

“Along with Antonioni, the lesser-known Antonio Pietrangeli remains Italy’s pioneering director of female subjectivity. Van Ness gives his entire body of work—a dozen films and seminal writings—an extraordinary assessment back to back with the feminist consciousness of our times. The encounter is nothing less than mesmerizing.” —Thomas Harrison, Professor of Italian, University of California at Los Angeles, USA

One of the founding fathers of neorealism in the postwar period in Italy, Antonio Pietrangeli went on to focus his lens upon the female subject. Eight of his ten full-length films feature female protagonists. This study seeks to better understand both his achievements and his failings as a feminist auteur as well as analyse his films by applying new critical and theoretical approaches. Pietrangeli’s representations of women struggling with questions of identity was a revolutionary act in the 1950s and 1960s. The book makes a case why we should recuperate these films today since the standards for representing women in film continue to fall behind the reality of women’s lives off-screen.

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**About the Author**

Dr. Emma Van Ness teaches Italian language, literature, and film at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, New Hampshire.

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