

The Films of Michelangelo Antonioni

The Films of Michelangelo Antonioni provides an overview of the Italian director's life and work and examines six of his most important and intellectually challenging films. *L'avventura*, *La notte*, and *L'eclisse*, released in the early 1960s, form the trilogy that first brought the director to international attention. *Red Desert* was his first film in color. *Blow-up*, shot in English and set in swinging London, became one of the best-known (and most notorious) films of its era. *The Passenger*, starring Jack Nicholson, is the greatest work of Antonioni's maturity. Rather than emphasizing the angst and alienation of Antonioni's characters, Peter Brunette places the films in the context of the director's ongoing social and political analysis of the Italy of the great postwar economic boom and demonstrates how they depend on painterly abstraction for their expressive effects.

Peter Brunette is Professor of English and Film Studies at George Mason University. He is the author of *Roberto Rossellini* and coeditor of *Deconstruction and the Visual Arts* (Cambridge, 1994) and has written extensively about film for the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Village Voice*, and the webzine Film.com.

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To Ab, Barbara, Gerry, and David
and the pleasures of friendship

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