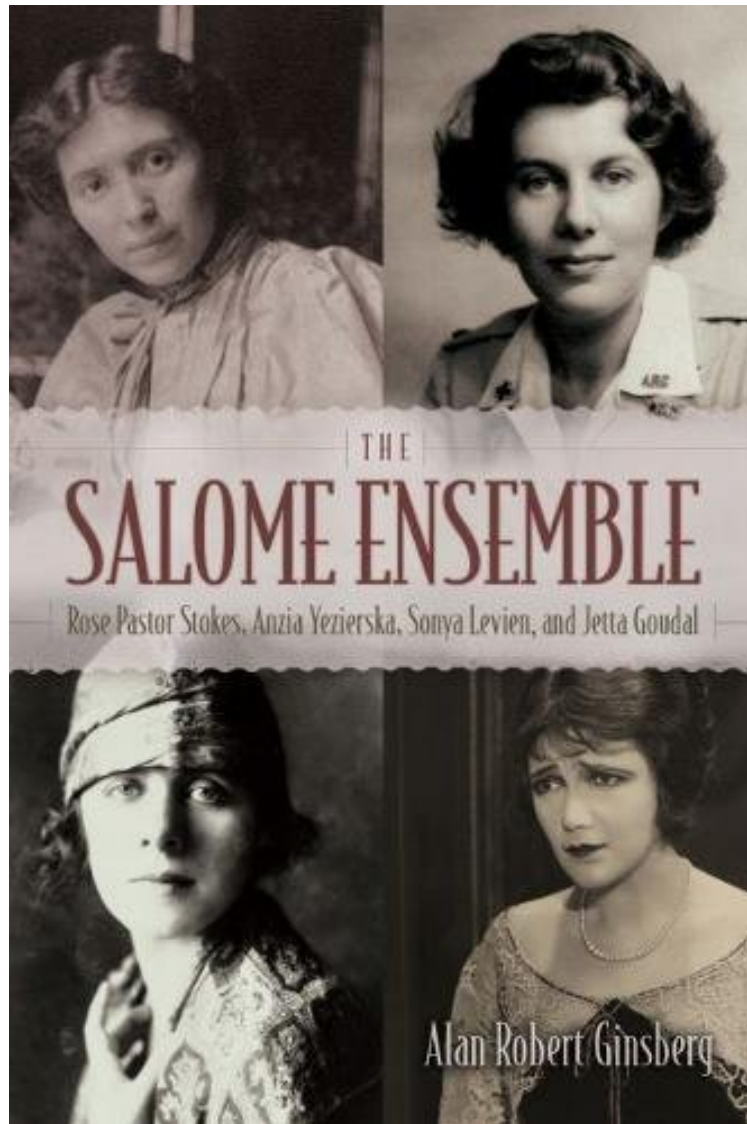


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Alan Robert Ginsberg : The Salome Ensemble: Rose Pastor Stokes, Anzia Yeziarska, Sonya Levien, and Jetta Goudal (New York State Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Salome Ensemble: Rose Pastor Stokes, Anzia Yeziarska, Sonya Levien, and Jetta Goudal (New York State Series):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. This is one of the best books I have ever read for several reasons. By Looking For Dollars This is one of the best books I have ever read for several reasons. 1) It is lucidly, beautifully and passionately written. 2) The four women are each vibrant, fascinating, and provocative. 3) The historical implications of their intersecting lives and interests are reflective of a dynamic period in early 20th century US history. 4) Important sociological, psychological and philosophical issues are raised in new and intriguing ways for our contemplation. Any one interested in women's rights, agency, early 20th century US history, biography-fiction-film, and a just a great read, should get this book. Highly recommended!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Everybody should go out and buy a copy of this book. By Customer Very well written and interesting

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderfully Written Book Celebrating the Strength of Women. By Allison This is a wonderfully written book with an historical perspective. The lives of these formidable women are intertwined and Mr. Ginsberg lays out their connections beautifully while explaining why their lives were extraordinary, within the times in which they lived. It is especially poignant to compare their causes with those of the present. A great read if you are interested in learning more about the early 20th century and these four strong immigrant women living in a time where being a strong woman was not the norm. Their lives are not simply described, but celebrated.

The Salome Ensemble probes the entangled lives, works, and passions of a political activist, a novelist, a screenwriter, and a movie actress who collaborated in 1920s New York City. Together they created the shape-shifting, genre-crossing *Salome of the Tenements*, first a popular novel and then a Hollywood movie. The title character was a combination Cinderella and Salome like the women who conceived her. Rose Pastor Stokes was the role model. Anzia Yezierska wrote the novel. Sonya Levien wrote the screenplay. Jetta Goudal played her on the silver screen. Ginsberg considers the women individually and collectively, exploring how they shaped and reflected their cultural landscape. These European Jewish immigrants pursued their own versions of the American dream, escaped the squalor of sweatshops, knew romance and heartache, and achieved prominence in politics, fashion, journalism, literature, and film.

In four movements, an overture, and a coda, Ginsberg imaginatively blends into a single cultural analysis a novel by Anzia Yezierska, the story of Rose Pastor Stokes, which was one of Yezierska's sources, the playscript by Sonya Levien, and the performance of Jetta Goudal, who acted the part of *Salome of the Tenements* on screen. Based on extensive research and accompanied by portraits, screen shots, and other illustrations, *The Salome Ensemble* retraces versions of an intermarriage story that was, paradoxically, both a *Salome* and a Cinderella tale. (Werner Sollors, author of *The Temptation of Despair: Tales of the 1940s*) *The Salome Ensemble* reads like a novel. Ginsberg has written a thoroughly absorbing work of cultural and feminist history that restores to vivid life the lives and intertwined careers of four compelling and indomitable women. (Ross Posnock, author of *Color and Culture: Black Writers and the Making of the Modern Intellectual*) A fascinating story of four remarkable women who made their way through the bewilderment of the United States at the start of the last century. Rose Pastor Stokes, Anzia Yezierska, Sonya Levien, and Jetta Goudal lived in a country churning with labor agitation, feminism, immigration, experimental literature, and the birth of Hollywood. Experiencing modernity in full, they represented that experience in fiction and film. In the process, they not only forged new identities as independent Jewish American women but also helped redefine what it meant to be an American. (Casey Nelson Blake, director of the Center for American Studies, Columbia University) The premise of *The Salome Ensemble* is both clever and interesting. Ginsberg traces an artistic thread to describe how four immigrant Jewish women joined together to create a novel and a film. This book is both fascinating and important in providing a new way to look at immigrant Jewish women and how women can work together. (Lawrence J. Epstein, author of *At the Edge of a Dream: The Story of Jewish Immigrants on New York's Lower East Side, 1880-1920*) Alan Robert Ginsberg's *The Salome Ensemble* looks at the lives of four extraordinary Jewish women who were linked to the 1925 Paramount film *Salome of the Tenements*. Sadly, the film *Salome of the Tenements* is, like a majority of the films from the silent era, considered lost forever. But Ginsberg has done an admirable job of commemorating the women who created it. (Howard Freedman, director of the Jewish Community Library JWeekly) A study of gender, culture and art and how these elements mix to produce four women who managed to find the real American Dream—self-realization. (Anne Clinard Barnhill Historical Novel Society) *The Salome Ensemble* offers readers a glimpse into the individual and collective lives of four women that is simultaneously sweeping in scope and focused like a jeweler's loupe. (Jana Tigchelaar, Marshall University Edith Wharton) About the Author Alan Robert Ginsberg is a visiting scholar and board member at the Center for American Studies at Columbia University. He has contributed as a freelance writer to periodicals, including the *Columbia Journalism*, worked as a research analyst in financial institutions in New York, Los Angeles, and London, and served as a program director at a United Nations nongovernmental organization promoting women's rights in developing countries.