13 January
Wild Strawberries (Smultronstället) 1956
Directed by Ingmar Bergman
Professor Isak Borg, age 78, is called from his home in Stockholm to the university town of Lund to receive an honorary doctorate for his services to science. Events during the automobile trip to Lund—and several dreams in which he relives his past and is made aware once again of his faults—force Isak to review his life and resolve his terrible bitterness. After the ceremony later that day, he finally seems reconciled with himself and others, and looks forward to sleep, at peace at last with his conscience.

20 January
My Life as a Dog (Matt Liv som Hund) 1987
Directed by Lasse Hallström
To give his terminally-ill mother a rest, 12-year-old Ingmar is shipped off to live with his uncle for the summer, where he finds unexpected adventures with the help of the town’s warmhearted eccentrics. His experiences there give him the inner strength to accept his life and to eventually enjoy childhood.

27 January
The Emigrants (Utvandrarna) 1971
Directed by Jan Troell
Nominated for four Academy Awards in 1972, this film depicts the unbearable conditions which existed in rural Sweden in the mid-1800s. The agony of the ocean voyage, and the promise of a better life in North America. This powerful saga is for many of us a lost part of our family lore: the experiences of our immigrant ancestors.

3 February
House of Angels (Anglagård) 1992
Directed by Colin Nutley
Set in small-town Sweden, this film is about Fanny, a woman from the big city who comes back to claim her ancestral home after the death of her grandfather (whom she never met). The petite blonde arrives the day of the funeral—with her swarthy, bisexual boyfriend, Zac—on a big, black motorcycle, wearing black leather and spike heels. When it becomes clear that Fanny and Zac plan to stay in the house rather than sell it, sparks begin to fly among the local townspeople.

10 February
Elvira Madigan 1967
Directed by Bo Widerberg
Based on the true story of a young Danish tightrope dancer who in 1889 falls passionately in love with a married Swedish army officer. Together, they flee to Denmark where for one short summer they have a marvelous affair. Then, as the money runs out, the atmosphere changes. This film’s photography is both sumptuous and impressionistic and it is beautifully accompanied by Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major.

17 February
Together (Tillsammans) 2000
Directed by Lukas Moodysson
Elisabeth tires of her husband Rolf, so she packs her bags, takes the kids, and moves in with her brother Göran. The year is 1975 and Göran lives in a leftist commune called Tillsammans along with a half-dozen other adults and several children. The events that subsequently unfold affect not only the extended family members, but others as well.....

24 February
(no film)

3 March
Smiles of a Summer Night (Sommarnattens Leende) 1955
Directed by Ingmar Bergman
“A sexy frolic about the sport of love.” Set at the turn of the last century, four men and four women—including lawyer Fredrik Egerman, whose wife of two years is still “untouched” and whose adult son lasts after the family’s maid—display their interests and affections in a setting of cultivated merriment. The sets and costumes are some of the best ever used by Bergman.

10 March
Kitchen Stories (Salmer fra Kjørkkenet) 2003
Directed by Bent Hamer
In this Norwegian-made film, a Swedish efficiency researcher is sent to study and improve a Norwegian farmer’s kitchen habits. The rule that they must not speak to each other is soon broken, however, and the men become fast friends, spending afternoons sipping coffee and telling stories.

17 March
Under the Sun (Under Solen) 1998
Directed by Colin Nutley
It’s 1956. Olof lives alone on his family’s farm after the death of his mother. Unable to read or write, he is dependent on his younger friend Erik who helps him in the afternoons. Olof decides one day to advertise in a local paper for a housekeeper, and Ellen, a middle-class city woman, arrives to take over the house and, as the summer progresses, Olof’s heart and Erik’s desire as well.

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