Elisabeth and Gudrun—both over 40 and divorced—meet. They are long-time friends. Elisabeth, a gynecologist, is sexy and confident. She leads the friendship grows between the two. Elisabeth, a gynecologist, is sexy and confident. She leads the shy Gudrun through the dangerous waters of single life, but as they cavort through the dance floors and bars of Stockholm’s nightlife, they are led to a deeper examination of relationships with men. (106 minutes)

6 February
Best Intentions (Den Goda Viljan) 1992
Directed by Bille August
Ingmar Bergman wrote this semi-autobiographical story of his parents’ relationship and enlisted Bille August to direct the film. It’s 1909 and theology student Henrik Bergman and Anna Åkerblom—the daughter of a wealthy family in Uppsala—marry despite their families’ disapproval. After the wedding, they move to northern Sweden where Henrik becomes a priest for a small, rural parish. But they struggle as Anna tries to cope with the loss of her father—has recently broken off her engagement, but is attracted to one of the servants, Jean. They spend the midsummer night together, telling memories of their dreams to each other. Realizing that an affair between “a man of the people” and an aristocrat is impossible, they plan to escape to Switzerland. (90 minutes)

13 February
The Slingshot (Kådisbellan) 1993
Directed by Åke Sandgren
It’s Stockholm in the 1930s. Young Roland lives with his socialist father, Jewish mother, and an older brother who is a boxer. His mother sells condoms illegally, and from them, Roland makes slingshots which he sells to his schoolmates. His rebellious ways earn him the attention of his teacher, who makes sure that Roland is punished. (102 minutes)

20 February
(No film this week)

27 February
Good Evening, Mr. Wallenberg (God Afton, Herr Wallenberg) 1990
Directed by Kjell Grede
The story of Raoul Wallenberg, a Swede who, with the support of the Swedish Embassy, moved from Sweden to Budapest in late 1944 to help protect Jews from Adolph Eichmann’s Sonderkommando. By issuing Swedish passports and brazenly intimidating German officials, he succeeded in helping hundreds of Jews flee, or be placed in protective housing. Wallenberg was taken prisoner in 1945 by the Russian army a month after he saved the lives of 65,000 Jews in the Budapest ghetto, and was never seen again. (90 minutes)
6 March

Cops (Kopps) 2003
Directed by Josef Fares

The police station in the sleepy town of Högboträsk is threatened with closing because of too little crime—aside from the occasional wandering cow. The town’s four cops liven up their less-than-exciting days by eating waffles or, in Benny’s case, daydreaming of American-cop-style shootouts. It’s a life the police officers love and one that will change forever with the threatened closing of their beloved police station. So the station decides to quietly create some crime of its own, with chaotic and very unpredictable results. (90 minutes)

13 March

The Last Dance (Sista Dansen) 1993
Directed by Colin Nutley

This tale of two sophisticated couples—Claes and Tove and their best friends Lennart and Liselott—recounts their roller coaster relationship and their shared obsession with ballroom dancing competitions. Claes and Tove have a rocky, childless marriage and envy their friends’ seemingly passionate relationship. In reality, however, Lennart is tired of his idle, loud-mouthed wife and secretly yearns for Tove, to whom he was once engaged. Just before the European dance finals, Liselott’s body is found in the wet sand beneath the pier of the Blackpool, England ballroom. A series of flashbacks raises the question: Was it an accident, or was it murder? (109 minutes)

This film series is organized and hosted by Whitey Lueck.

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