

Swedish Film Series

Winter, 2010; Fridays at 7 pm; 177 Lawrence Hall

FREE and open to the public

Saraband (2003)



Probably no other nation of comparable population can match the artistic success of Sweden in the film industry. Yet few Americans—aside from a small group of Ingmar Bergman fans—could name even one Swedish film. This series aims to change that. Come sample a rich variety of wonderful films made between 1996 and 2008. The films are in Swedish with subtitles in English.

Each film is preceded by a short presentation about a particular aspect of Swedish culture (e.g., holidays, geography, language) as well as a brief introduction to the film itself. At the conclusion of the film, audience members are invited to stay another 10-15 minutes to participate in a short, not-overly-academic discussion of the film.

Lawrence Hall is located in the central part of the University of Oregon campus, about 100 yards north of the intersection of 13th and University.

8 January

Mother of Mine (Äideistä Parhain) 2005

Directed by Klaus Härö

During World War II, more than 70,000 Finnish children were evacuated to neutral Sweden to avoid the conflict. This film tackles that painful patch of history by recounting the story of nine-year-old Eero, a boy who feels abandoned by his Finnish mother and unwelcome by his Swedish surrogate mom who, we find out, lost her own young daughter in a drowning accident not long before Eero's arrival. When Eero is eventually returned to Finland, his confusion intensifies. (105 minutes)

15 January

Patrik, Age 1.5 (Patrik 1,5) 2008

Directed by Ella Lemhagen

Göran and Sven live in a picture-perfect Swedish suburb and want to have a family, so they decide to adopt a child. When word finally comes from the placement agency that a child has been found, their elation turns to disappointment when they learn that—due to a bureaucratic error and a misplaced decimal point—their new son will be not a 1.5-year-old baby, as they'd been led to believe, but a rebellious 15-year-old teenage boy. While the couple houses the boy until the mix-up is resolved, his presence causes them to reassess their lives and ultimately accept him into their family. (103 minutes)

22 January

Saraband (Saraband) 2003

Directed by Ingmar Bergman

Ingmar Bergman's last film—which he directed at age 84—is the acclaimed follow-up to his *Scenes from a Marriage* (1973). Marianne, some 30 years after divorcing Johan, decides to visit her ex-husband at his summer home. She arrives in the middle of a family drama between Johan's hated son, Henrik (from another marriage), and Henrik's 19-year-old daughter, Karin. Henrik, unable to cope with his wife's recent death, expresses his grief through an unhealthy obsession with his teenage daughter. Ignoring his son's protests, Johan offers to send the girl to a prestigious music conservatory, forcing Karin to choose between a promising future as a cellist or caring for her tormented father. (112 minutes)

29 January

Lilya 4-ever (Lilja 4-ever) 2002

Directed by Lukas Moodysson

Based on a true story, this film is a stark, frank, and disturbing account of the international trafficking of sex slaves. Sixteen-year-old Lilya—who lives a dead-end life in a poor town in Estonia—is ecstatic to learn that her mother is moving to the U.S. with her Russian boyfriend. Alas, Lilya ends up being left behind with no money and no family to speak of. She spends

her time smoking, drinking, and having fun with her fellow outcast, Volodya. Then she meets handsome Andrei, a fellow Estonian who speaks of the good life in Sweden, just a short trip across the Baltic, and he arranges a job for her so she can start a new life there. Little does Lilya realize what she's getting into.... (109 minutes)

5 February

Jerusalem (Jerusalem) 1996

Directed by Bille August

Set around 1900 and beautifully photographed, this epic tale is based on the novel by Nobel Prize-winning author Selma Lagerlöf. Young Ingmar is expected to take over the family farm, but his older sister sells the family property at the suggestion of a charismatic preacher who promises salvation to all who sell their belongings and follow him to the Holy Land. A devastated Ingmar is forced to make a terrible choice: Instead of marrying his childhood sweetheart, Gertrud, he marries the daughter of the farm's new owner in order to save the family property. Out of desperation, Gertrud decides to go to Jerusalem with dozens of other community members. (165 minutes, with 15-minute intermission)

12 February

Search (Sök) 2006

Directed by Maria von Heland

"Youthful, sensuous nurse seeks partner." Lisa is an attractive thirty-eight-year-old whose biological clock is ticking—if only she could find Mister Right. Friends suggest that she try Internet dating, and the search begins. But date after date, all she seems to come up with are men—of sometimes questionable repute—who just want to have sex and then move on to their next date. Meanwhile, her closest friends' relationships are crumbling as spouses stray in search of something new. Is Lisa's quest for meaning-filled love a hopeless one? (98 minutes)

19 February

The Falcon's Eye (Falkens Öga) 1998

Directed by Mikael Kristersson

This intrepid documentary follows a pair of European falcons as they go about their daily activities. Two years in the making, the film is shot without any supplementary audio, allowing the two birds to be the sole focal point. As the birds hunt for food and care for their young, viewers are treated to a literal bird's-eye view from the falcons' nest in the steeple of an old church in the small town of Skanör in southernmost Sweden, where the coming and going of humans through the churchyard below may merit at least as much interest as the falcons' activities. (89 minutes)

(please turn)

26 February

Keiller Park (Keillers Park) 2006

Directed by Susanna Edwards

Peter is the successful 30-something son of a wealthy engineer who stands to inherit the family business and who is engaged to Maria, a beautiful concert pianist. Then one day, Peter meets attractive, Algerian-born Nassim in Keiller Park and the two of them begin an erotic love affair. Not surprisingly, Peter's involvement with Nassim affects his work, results in his father disowning him, pushes Maria out of his life, and eventually leaves him unemployed and alone except for Nassim. Based on a true story, the film begins with Peter—in shock, after being brutally removed from his Göteborg apartment and taken to the police station—being interrogated about his relationship with Nassim, who has just been found dead. (90 minutes)

5 March

Under the Sun (Under Solen) 1998

Directed by Colin Nutley

It's 1956. Forty-year-old, never-married Olof lives alone on his family's farm after the death of his mother. Unable to read or

write, he is dependent on his young friend, Erik, who helps him with the business aspects of the farm. 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. Director Nutley's re-creation of life in post-war rural Sweden is picture-perfect and the photography is breathtaking. (130 minutes)

12 March

Everlasting Moments (Maria Larssons Eviga Ögonblick) 2008

Directed by Jan Troell

In strike-torn 1907 Sweden, a working class wife with an alcoholic husband and seven children wins a camera in a raffle. It is a gift that will transform her forever, opening her eyes to a world of unexpected pleasures—including a relationship with a local photographer—and give her the freedom to cherish life's every moment. The drama is based on a manuscript written by Troell's wife, Agneta Ulfsäter-Troell, chronicling the events of her ancestors in the early 1900s. (132 minutes)

Patrik, Age 1.5 (2008)



This film series is organized and hosted by Whitey Lueck.

Supported in part by *Friends of Scandinavian Studies* (a community group that provides financial and other support to the Scandinavian Studies program at the University) and *Vasa Order of America, Odin Lodge* (a nationwide fraternal organization for people of Swedish descent).

Mark your calendars now!

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Fridays at 7pm • January 8th to March 12th

THE
FILM
SWEDISH
The Fifth Annual
SERIES

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