

Swedish Film Series

Winter, 2008; Fridays at 7 pm; 177 Lawrence Hall

FREE and open to the public



Probably no other nation of comparable population can match the artistic success of Sweden in the film industry. Come sample a rich variety of wonderful films that were produced over the last half-century. Since last year's series included no films by Ingmar Bergman—and then he died in July—this year's series will feature, in his memory, three films he directed and/or wrote. All ten films are in the original Swedish with subtitles in English.

Each film is preceded by a short presentation about a particular aspect of Swedish culture (e.g., food, language, geography) as well as a brief introduction to the film itself. At the conclusion of the film, the audience is invited 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. Please use the building's south entrance just below the AAA Library, and proceed straight ahead to 177.

11 January

Freud Leaving Home (Freud flyttar hemifrån...) 1991

Directed by Susanne Bier

A 25-year-old woman nicknamed Freud still lives at home with her parents, afraid to pursue love or freedom. But just as her mother's 60th birthday approaches and Freud's siblings fly in for the celebration—her sister an Orthodox Jew from Israel and her brother a gay businessman from Florida—she finally falls in love and attempts to leave the nest. This bittersweet romantic comedy adds a new twist or two to the idea of the “traditional Jewish family.” (110 minutes)

18 January

The Last Dance (Sista Dansen) 1993

Directed by Colin Nutley

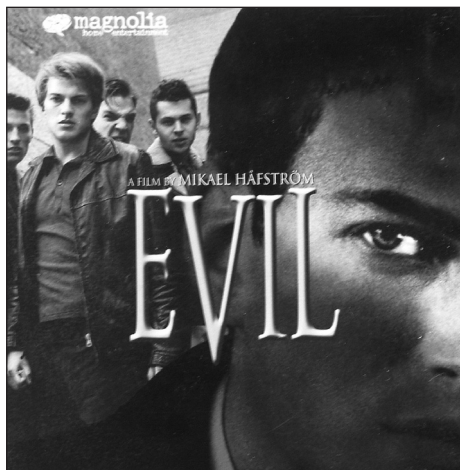
A tale of two sophisticated couples—Claes and Tove and their best friends Lennart and Liselott—that recounts their roller coaster relationship and their shared obsession with ballroom dancing competitions. Claes and Tove have a rocky, childless marriage and envy their friends' seemingly passionate relationship. In reality, however, Lennart is tired of his idle, loud-mouthed wife and secretly yearns for Tove (to whom he was once engaged). When 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)

25 January

Evil (Ondskan) 2003

Directed by Mikael Håfström

Erik is expelled from public school for fighting and ends up in a private boarding school for the sons of Sweden's elites, where the upperclassmen mercilessly bully and beat the underclassmen, especially those who stand out for whatever reason. Erik just wants to be left alone and graduate, but because he is at odds with the school's conventional hierarchy, he is relentlessly harassed and beaten. The film is based on the true story of Jan Guillou, one of Sweden's best-known writers and journalists. *Note: This film includes scenes that, due to their brutality, may be difficult for some viewers to watch.* (115 minutes)



1 February

Summer with Monika (Sommaren med Monika) 1953

Directed by Ingmar Bergman

The tagline for this film—“A picture for wide screens and broad minds”—seems almost laughable to us these days, but the film's arrival in the U.S. created quite a sensation. Harry and Monika—both in their late teens and both working as “entry level” stock-room clerks—fall in love, quit their jobs, and head out by boat into central Sweden's island-studded coast to spend an idyllic summer. But when their money and their food run out, things turn sour. They eventually return to the city where they get married and have to face the harsh realities of making a living and raising a family in less-than-perfect conditions. (96 minutes)

8 February

Autumn Sonata (Höstsonaten) 1978

Directed by Ingmar Bergman (and starring Ingrid Bergman!)

Having neglected her children for many years, world-famous pianist Charlotte visits her introverted daughter, Eva, who lives a quiet life out in the country with her preacher husband Viktor. To Charlotte's surprise, she finds that her severely disabled daughter, Helena, is living there as well, having been taken by Eva from the institution where Charlotte had placed Helena. The tension between Charlotte and Eva, punctuated by outbursts from Helena, builds up slowly during the visit, and finally explodes during a nighttime conversation that releases a lifetime of pent-up anger and feelings of rejection. (99 minutes)

15 February

Private Confessions (Enskilda Samtal) 1996

Written by Ingmar Bergman and directed by his longtime friend and leading actress, Liv Ullman, this film explores Bergman's childhood memory of his parents' turbulent marriage. Structured around five conversations shown out of chronological order, the film examines the isolation and loneliness felt by Anna—the wife of Henrik, a Lutheran minister—who is having an adulterous affair with a young theology student. Anna's conversations and confessions revisit a major Bergman theme: The frustration of a passionate soul unable to escape the strict moral framework of the society in which it lives. (127 minutes)

22 February

My Life as a Dog (Mitt Liv som Hund) 1985

Directed by Lasse Hallström

This award-winning gem is the bright, funny, touching tale of 12-year-old Ingemar who, to give his terminally-ill mother a rest, is shipped off to a rural village for the summer to live with his uncle. Ingemar—who compares himself to Laika, the Russian space dog hurled into the cosmos—finds unexpected adventure with the town's warmhearted eccentrics. (101 minutes)



29 February

Show Me Love (F*ing Åmål) 1998

Directed by Lukas Moodysson

Åmål is a small town where nothing ever happens and where the latest trends are already out-of-date by the time they get there. Sixteen-year-old Agnes has been living in Åmål with her family for almost two years, but still has no friends.

However, she is secretly in love with Elin, a popular girl in her school, and when Elin kisses her on a dare at Agnes’s birthday party, the lives of the two girls begin to change in dramatic ways. (89 minutes)



7 March

Jerusalem (Jerusalem) 1996

Directed by Bille August

Set around 1900, 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. Director August’s re-creation of life in rural Sweden over a century ago is picture-perfect and the photography is breathtaking. (165 minutes, no intermission)

14 March

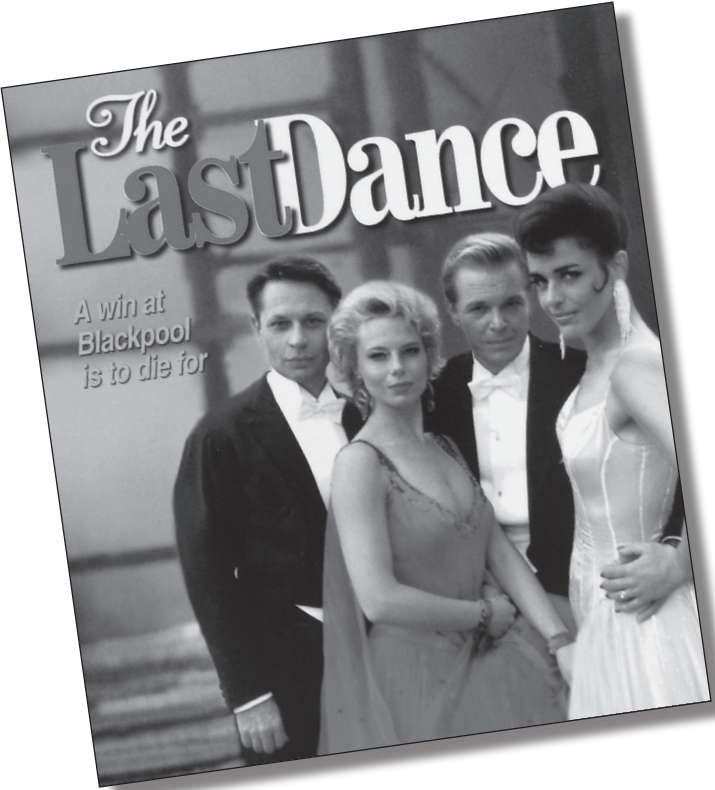
House of Angels (Änglagård) 1992

Directed by Colin Nutley

This lively and popular film set in small-town Sweden is about Fanny, a nightclub singer from the big city, who comes back to claim her ancestral home after the death of her grandfather. The petite blonde arrives the day of the funeral—with her boyfriend, Zac—on a big, black motorcycle, wearing black leather and spike heels. When it becomes clear that “outsiders” Fanny and Zac plan to live in the house rather than sell it, sparks begin to fly among the local townspeople. (127 minutes)

Mark your calendars now!
Swedish Film Series
Fridays at 7pm
January 11th to March 14th

Co-sponsored 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 nation-wide fraternal organization for people of Swedish descent).
Conceived and organized by Whitey Lueck.



The Third Annual
SWEDISH
FILM
SERIES

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