

Swedish Film Series

Winter, 2009; 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. 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 1951 and 2006. All nine 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., food, geography, language) as well as a brief introduction to the film itself. At the conclusion of the film, audience members who wish to stay for another 10-15 minutes are 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.

9 January

As It Is in Heaven (Så som i Himmelen) 2004

Directed by Kay Pollak

A successful international conductor suddenly interrupts his career and returns alone to his childhood village in Norrland, in Sweden's far north. It doesn't take long before he is asked to come and listen to the fragment of a church choir, which practices every Thursday in the parish hall—"Just come along and give a little bit of good advice...." He can't say no, and from that moment, nothing in the village is the same again. The choir develops and grows. He makes both friends and enemies, and he finds love. (132 minutes)

16 January

Miss Julie (Fröken Julie) 1951

Directed by Alf Sjöberg

This film is an adaptation of Strindberg's play concerning social and sexual domination; it is set in the late 1800s. The young Miss Julie—who lives in a mansion with 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)



23 January

Elvira Madigan 1967

Directed by Bo Widerberg

Based on the true story of a handsome young Swedish army officer who in 1889 falls in love with a beautiful Danish circus performer. He gives up everything—his family, his career, and his social standing—to flee to Denmark and embark on a passionate, summer-long affair. Then, as the money runs out, the atmosphere changes. The film's sumptuous photography is accompanied throughout by Mozart's lovely Piano Concerto No. 21 in C major. (91 minutes)

30 January

Heartbreak Hotel 2006

Directed by Colin Nutley

Elisabeth and Gudrun—both over 40 and divorced—meet

when Elisabeth parks her car in a loading zone and is ticketed by Gudrun. Despite this shaky start, a 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 without the luxuries and the social life to which she is accustomed. (182 minutes, with 10-minute intermission)

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)

(please turn)

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)

Best Intentions (Den Goda Viljan) 1992



This film series is organized and hosted by Whitey Lueck.

Supported 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!
Swedish Film Series
Fridays at 7pm • January 9th to March 13th

THE
FILM
SWEDISH
The Fourth Annual
S E R I E S