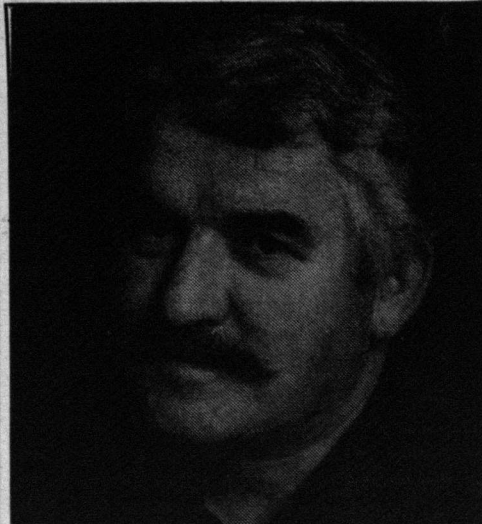


# ENTERTAINMENT

## Sweden: its films and its people



Hans Alfredson, director of *The Simple-Minded Murderer*.

**The New Swedish Cinema**  
N.F.T./Siedler Hall  
through Feb. 16

by Alasdair Deans

A cultural exchange between Canada and Sweden brings a series of seven recent Swedish films to Edmonton. This series is sponsored by the National Film Institutes of both countries.

Although inevitably haunted by Hollywood (surprisingly not dubbed-over, but in sub-title only) Sweden's national film industry thrives. Swedish producers seem to be striving for a sharper human focus, due in part to a national consciousness which wants to listen and view Swedish society, along with escapist Hollywood drivel. Nationalism is quite an essential issue in such a cultural exchange, and especially when we recognize the American influence dominant in Canada (have the Swedes consumed 17 zillion burgers?)

The Swedish film industry was internationally recognized by the 1920's: Hollywood's lure imported handfuls of Sweden's finest cinematic artists to direct unknowns such as Greta Garbo. During cinema's boom years, Sweden produced around 40 films per year. Today only 20 or so are produced—the omnipresent idiot-box's decimation of the performing arts includes Sweden in its global theatre.

Intriguingly, since 1968, the astute Swedes have cornered 10 percent of all movie receipts, which then become the working funds of the film institute. When a major

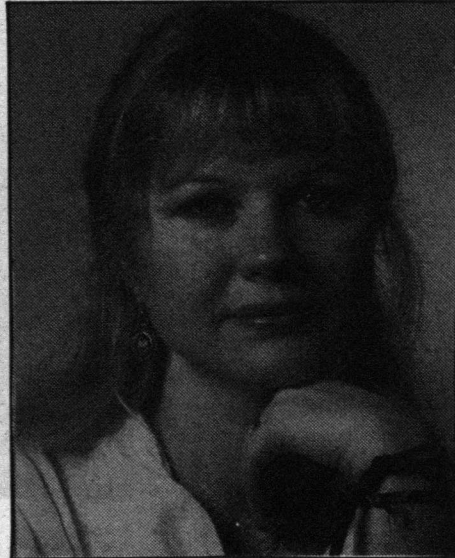
Hollywood production happens along, the Swedish film industry benefits handsomely from its 10 percent. These funds are competed for annually by both aspiring and established artists.

Individuality is the fruit of the Swedish system, and is indeed a motif that describes visiting directors Mr. Hans Alfredson and Ms. Agneta Elers-Jarleman. Mr. Alfredson wrote, produced, directed and acted in both of his films showing during the NFT series. *The Simple-Minded Murderer* (1982) promises to be anything but simple, as *Paradise Lost* seems to meet *Clockwork Orange*. However, *P&B* (1983) assumes a lighter tone, following the surrealist adventures of two unique misfits, Petterson and Bender.

Mr. Alfredson is a wealth of artistic outlets: novelist, journalist, art director, opera director. All this and elected Sweden's funniest man of the 1960's.

While talking of his new project titled *False as Water* (title from *Othello*, V, ii) Hans said "I want to really scare, I hope to have half the audience shit their pants. Let's hope not half," he continued, "maybe one or two. We could print the tickets on toilet paper." If the movies are half as interesting as the man, the film exchange will be heavily one-sided.

*Beyond Sorrow, Beyond Pain* (1983) is Agneta Elers-Jarleman's first feature film. Intent on personal perspective in all aspects of the film, Agneta the writer, director and editor, found objectivity lost in her film: she is her film.



Agneta Elers Jarleman, writer/director of *Beyond Sorrow/Beyond Pain*.

Agneta explores her life after a car accident leaves her co-worker and lover without hearing, sight or speech. This harrowing time in their lives is transferred to film by Agneta.

Her approach to the industry seems very fresh: "I found the discrepancy between reality and the rules of film too big."

Touching on Ingmar Bergman she says "In the 1970's, we wanted to move away from the Bergman stereotype while everyone else was still looking for the new Bergman." Agneta's insights are golden "Sweden imposes on Bergman, not Bergman imposing on Sweden."

As the above insights reveal, the new Swedish films must indeed be well worth a Krona or two.

### The New Swedish Cinema Series

*The Simple-Minded Murderer*  
7:30, Wednesday, 23 January

*Beyond Sorrow, Beyond Pain*  
9:15, Wednesday 23 January

*Nature's Revenge*  
7:15, Saturday 26 Jan.

*P & B*  
7:15, Wednesday 30 Jan.

*Children's Island*  
9:00, Saturday 2 February

*Our Life is Noon*  
9:30, Wednesday 6 February

*The Second Dance*  
7:15, Friday 8 February

*After the Rehearsal*  
7:30, Saturday 15 February and,  
9:15, Sunday 16 February

All films at Zeidler Hall, Citadel Theatre.



Scenes from *The Simple-Minded Murderer* which Hans Alfredson wrote, directed and acts in.

## ENTERTAINMENT

by Don Teplyske

It's that time again. Time for you to challenge your memory. Our prize this week is, as of now, undetermined. But, if someone does answer most of the questions correctly, I'm sure we could find something for them. Answers can be dropped off at the Gateway office, Room 282 SUB, before next Wednesday.

### TELEVISION

This week: *The Brady Bunch*

1. What was the name of the Brady kid's rock band?
2. What was Alice's boyfriend's occupation?
3. What football superstar guested as Bobby's friend?

### HOCKEY

4. On what goalie did Wayne Gretzky score his first WHA goal?
5. Which NHL team was Glen Sather's last?

### MUSIC

7. What band is a spinoff of the original Human League?
8. Who sings about "... a cat named Kalamazoo...?"
9. What was the title of the Ramones first album?

### Answers to last week's questions

1. Barbara Stanwyck
2. George Segal
3. Joan Collins
4. Jackie Wilson
5. Dave Edmunds
6. Brenda Lee
7. Rachel Sweet
8. Warren Coolidge
9. Fess Parker
10. Max Smart

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