

bluestocking



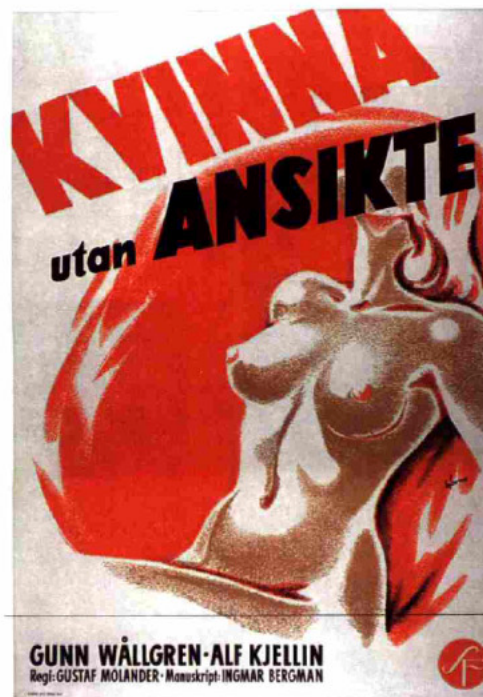
THE INGMAR BERGMAN ARCHIVES

"It was after Bergman picked out volumes on Antonioni, Fellini, Kubrick and Hitchcock that he said, 'Where the hell is the book on me?'" laughs Taschen editor Paul Duncan, who was making a delivery to Bergman's home on the island of Faro in the Baltic Sea. The legendary Swedish director—responsible for making the existential crisis erotic—was about to send Duncan on an epic journey of cinematic proportions to create Taschen's *The Ingmar Bergman Archives*.

With a career spanning over six decades, Bergman's lens offers a glimpse of an unseen world governing the mundane. Who else could reveal the secrets of life in a mere game of chess? Rivalled only by fellow luminaries Fellini and Kurosawa, he was followed by Jean-Luc Godard, who adored *Summer Interlude*, and other French New Wave directors who found inspiration in *Summer with Monika*. Indeed, the somber and often-spoofed cinema god is often haunted by his own legendary imagery, such as that of *The Seventh Seal* which is recreated with affectionate humor in Woody Allen's ultimate Bergman tribute: *Love and Death*.

With images and photography that mirror the stark and forbidding landscapes of Sweden, the volume offers an intense snapshot into the director's working life. But readers also find themselves peering into the dark corners of his private life. A dark, abusive childhood is unveiled and keen observers immediately note that, chronologically, his films often reflect his whirlwind of emotions and experiences.

Bergman once said, "No art passes our conscience in the way film does, and goes directly to our feelings, deep down into the dark rooms of our souls." *The Ingmar Bergman Archives* is a provocative journey through Bergman's many "rooms," an immense journey for those who recognize the beauty and courage of true cinematic genius ■ *Jessica E. Pilot, The Ingmar Bergman Archives, edited by Paul Duncan, hardcover, Taschen, taschen.com*



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