Ingmar Bergman’s closest friend and collaborator writes about the joy, tension, silence, and love that permeated their relationship.

Let the Show Begin …

by Erland Josephson

The first tentative steps of Bergman the writer, Bergman the theater director, and then Bergman the film director as he learns his trade.

Torment
Crisis
It Rains on Our Love
A Ship to India
Music in Darkness
Port of Call
Prison
Thirst
To Joy
This Can’t Happen Here

Bergman once referred to theater as his wife and film as his mistress. In the early 1950s, he was in complete control of both.

Summer Interlude
Waiting Women
Summer with Monika
Sawdust and Tinsel
A Lesson in Love
Dreams
Smiles of a Summer Night

The Seventh Seal brought Bergman international recognition and a large international audience, which he never lost, even though most of his films dealt with death and morality.

The Seventh Seal
Wild Strawberries
Brink of Life
The Face
The Virgin Spring
The Devil’s Eye

Bergman made his famous film trilogy, about faith in the modern world, and was then asked to run the Royal Dramatic Theater, Stockholm, the highest honor a Swedish man of the theater can receive.

Through a Glass Darkly
Winter Light
The Silence

Having achieved everything that was expected of him in film and theater, Bergman falters, collapses and becomes ill. He then completely reinvents his film work with Persona and from this moment onwards only makes the films he wants to. Not all of them are successful, but they are wholly his own.

All These Women
Persona
Shame
The Ritual
A Passion
The Touch
Cries and Whispers
Scenes from a Marriage
The Magic Flute
Face to Face

After being falsely arrested for tax fraud, Bergman begins a period of self-exile in Munich to work on film and theater. At the end of this period he completes his last film, the masterpiece Fanny and Alexander, which many consider his best work.

The Serpent’s Egg
Autumn Sonata
From the Life of the Marionettes
Fanny and Alexander
The Image Makers
After the Rehearsal
The Blessed Ones
In the Presence of a Clown
The Magic Mask

66-year-old Bergman returns to Sweden triumphant. For 18 years his theater productions dominate the Royal Dramatic Theater and tour the world. Bergman writes autobiographical film scripts, directs TV films, and becomes recognized as a major author.

After being legally declared dead in Israel, Bergman compiles a scrapbook in his studio to ensure that all his life’s work is cataloged and handed over to his many children.

Biography 1918—2007
Contributors & Bibliography
Image Credits
Acknowledgements
Three Questions
Interview with Ingmar Bergman

Note: The text is presented as an oral narrative about the creation of Ingmar Bergman’s work using quotes from many sources. The text sources, indicated by a superscript number, are listed on pages 446–448.