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THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE (DU SKAL AERE DIN HUSTRU) 1925. Directed by Carl Th. Dreyer. Screenplay by Carl Th. Dreyer and Svend Rindom, from Rindom's play ("Fall of a Tyrant"). Photographed by George Scneervoigt. With Johannes Meyer, Astrid Holm, Karin Nell mose, and Mathilde Nielsen.

In the publication FILMS BY AND/OR ABOUT WOMEN, Laura X writes: "Dreyer comes closer than any other male filmmaker, including Bergman, to illuminating women's soul on the screen". Certainly, in THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE, he addresses the question of domestic oppression of women more squarely than in any of his other films. The above-mentioned catalog sums up the film as follows: "a film about a man who treats his wife as a slave, and two women who conspire to teach him a lesson and go about chnaging his thinking and behaviour."

In terms of Dreyer's cinema, MASTER OF THE HOUSE has been overshadowed by PASSION OF JOAN OF ARC and the later sound films: it deserves far wider circulation and appreciation. In Sight and Sound, Tom Milne wrote of it: "This is my own personal favorite among Dreyer's films, and its golden simplicity almost defies description... Dreyer fashioned a richly detailed film which is charming, funny and intensely moving in roughly equal proportions. Dreyer's control of mood is masterly. The whole film is illuminated by a rich vein of humour, which centers mainly on the character of the ferociously devoted old nanny (a wonderfully scathing performance by Mathilde Nielsen)..Emotion in this film wells from a deep fund of observation..."

Another view of MASTER OF THE HOUSE has been stated by Jonas Mekas, who wrote: "The film is full of the most precise and most beautiful details from the daily life at the beginning of the century. All the little things that people do at home, in their living rooms, in their kitchens, you can almost smell and touch every smallest activity, detail. In a sense one could look at it as an ethnographic film, if one wants--there is so much on the level of reality."

SHORT: THE DANISH VILLAGE CHURCH. 1947. Directed by Carl Th. Dreyer.

A documentary on the development of the architectural styles in Danish country churches over the last eight hundred years.