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Prästänkan (The fourth marriage of Dame Margaret), Dreyer, Carl Theodor, 1920

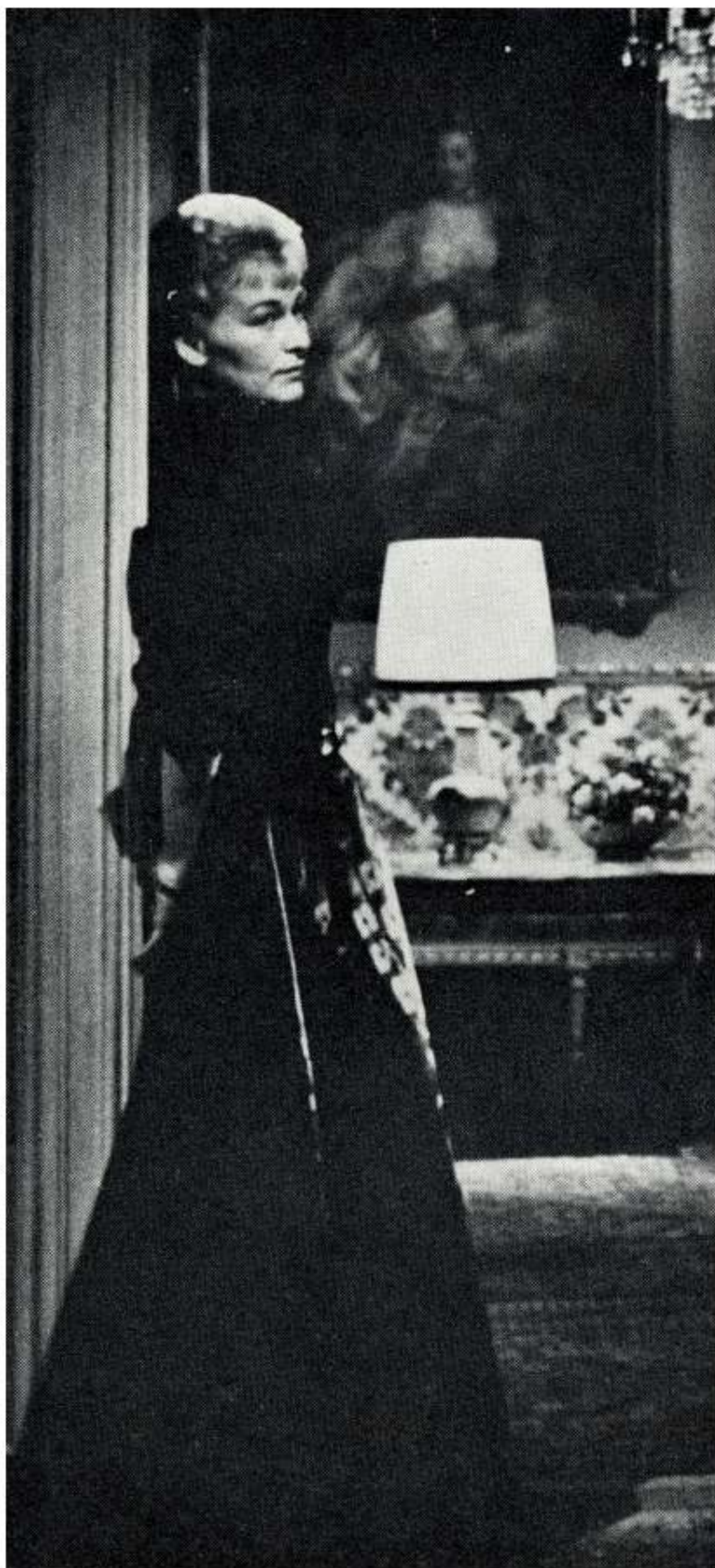
La passion de Jeanne d'Arc (The passion of Joan of Arc), Dreyer, Carl Theodor, 1928

Mikaël (Chained), Dreyer, Carl Theodor, 1924

Du skal ære din hustru (Master of the house), Dreyer, Carl Theodor, 1925

Carl Th. Dreyer
GERTRUD





Sets:

Kai Rasch

Songs:

Grethe Risbjerg Thomsen

Sound:

Knud Kristensen

Editor:

Edith Schlüssel

Music recording:

Peter Willemoes

Lighting:

Ove Hansen

Printing:

Johan Ankerstjerne A/S

Make-up:

Bodil Overbye

Dresser:

Berit Nykjær

Props:

Willy Berg Hansen

Assistants:

Solveig Ersgaard and
Jens Ravn

Stills:

Else Kjær

Carl Th. Dreyer

GERTRUD

from a play by Hjalmar Söderberg

Script: Carl Th. Dreyer

Cast:

NINA PENS RODE *Gertrud*
BENDT ROTHE *Kanning*
EBBE RODE *Gabriel Lidman*
BAARD OWE *Jansson*
AXEL STRØBYE *Nygren*

Karl Gustav Ahlefeldt, Vera Gebuhr, Lars Knutzon,
William Knoblauch, Anna Malberg, Edouard Mielche, and others.

Camera: HENNING BENDTSEN D.F.F.

Music: JØRGEN JERSILD

Received the »Bodil« statuette (the Danish »Oscar«) for being
the best Danish film of the year.

Chosen one of ten best films of the year
in France: »Les Cahiers du Cinéma«, Febr. 1965
in Sweden: »Biografägaren« No 4-5 1965

Production: PALLADIUM, Copenhagen

Sales Rights: OMNIA FILM EXPORT, München

Preface by Carl Th. Dreyer:

In the play »Gertrud« the author Hjalmar Söderberg strikes a triad which will no doubt resound in the hearts of many women.

When the play was performed at Stockholm it appeared that the performances were mainly attended by young ladies, and it was said that most of them had tears in their eyes when they left the theatre.

Now, as to the motion picture, I hope that the young ladies will succeed in persuading their husbands to join them in seeing the film. Maybe it will give the men a little prick of conscience, but such a prick is usually not a bad thing.

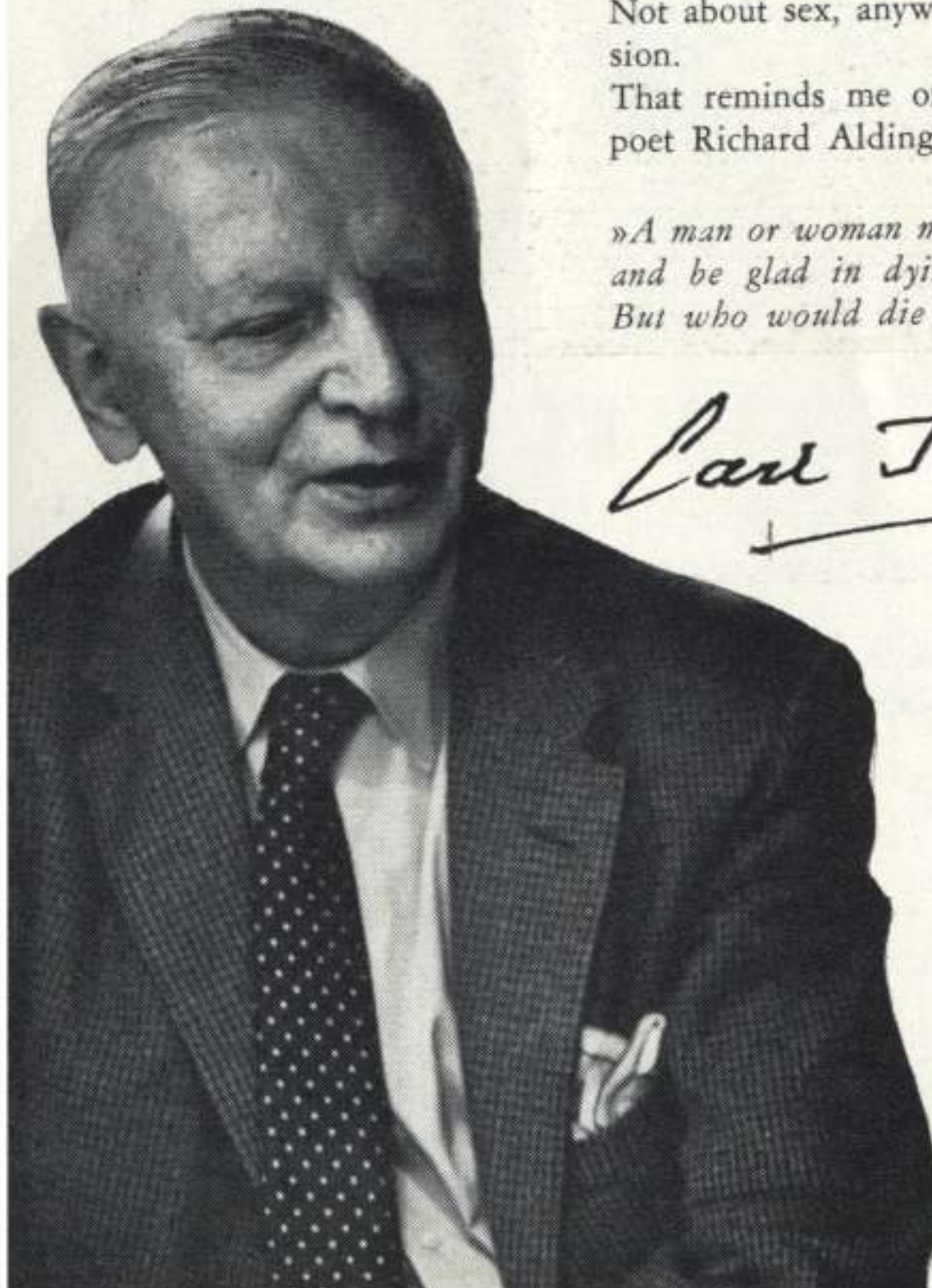
What is the film about, then?

Not about sex, anyway, but about love and – passion.

That reminds me of three verses by the British poet Richard Aldington; they read as follows:

*»A man or woman might die for love
and be glad in dying.
But who would die for sex?«*

Carl Th. Dreyer



The Plot

Gertrud is a young opera singer who owing to her charm and talents won many friends among the Bohemians in Stockholm at the time. For some years intimate relations existed between her and the famous writer Gabriel Lidman whom the university students and all young people admired, considering him the Poet of Love. Then Gertrud broke the connection with Lidman and after some time married Kanning, an advocate of the Supreme Court and an early friend of Lidman.

Gertrud wanted a married life in harmony and she devotes all her time to her husband and her home. Still, she is not happy. She has



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a feeling that Kanning's striving for a political career will make it impossible for him to give her the kind of love that precedes anything else, and she feels more and more lonely in her marriage.

Then she meets a young composer with whom she falls ardently in love. She thinks she has finally found a man who wants love above all, like she does. But she has mistaken him. He unveils himself to her, and when she realizes his true wretched character she understands that he is not worthy of her love.

Gertrud retires from the Society of Stockholm and settles far away in the village where she was born. She has chosen the tragedy of solitude, and she realizes the truth of the words which Gabriel Lidman once wrote:

»I believe in the carnal desire
and in the irremediable loneliness of man.«



Gertrud by Hjalmar Söderberg

GERTRUD is an example of the attempts made by modern playwrights (such as O'Neill) to revive the Greek Tragedy by finding something in our view of life which corresponds to the antique belief in avenging gods and an inevitable fate.

Like the heroines of the classical tragedies, Gertrud is confronted by a conflict between duty and feelings, between her self-respect and her passionate love for a man who in every respect is below her.

Her situation is further complicated because of her unreasonable demands for a perfect love from the man she loves: his love to her must precede everything – even his work! Love is all, claims Gertrud, though she knows perfectly well that love may also cause sufferings and misery.

One of Söderberg's most remarkable traits as to his view of love is his freedom from masculine prejudice. He has an extraordinary profound understanding of the thoughts and feelings contained in the female psyche, a feature he had in common with the great British poet D. H. Lawrence. Another thing he had in common with D. H. Lawrence is the masterly poetry of passion, and it goes for both writers that they felt extremely attracted by energetic, enterprising women of action: Such women can permit themselves to live in free relations with the man they love.

The Films of Carl Th. Dreyer:

PRÆSIDENTEN (The President) Nordisk Films Kompagni, released 1920. From a novel by Karl Emil Franzo. Cast: Halvard Hoff, Elith Pio, Olga Raphael-Linden.

BLADE AF SATANS BOG (Leaves from Satan's Book) Nordisk Films Kompagni 1921. Based on Marie Corelli's novel »Sorrows of Satan«. Cast: Helge Nissen (Satan), Halvard Hoff, Tenna Kraft, Clara Pontoppidan.

PRÄSTÄNKAN (The Fourth Marriage of Dame Margaret) Svensk Filmindustri 1920. Based on Kristofer Janson's short story. Cast: Hildur Carlberg, Einar Rød, Greta Almroth.

DIE GEZEICHNETEN (Love One Another) Primusfilm, Berlin 1922. Based on Aage Madelung's novel. Cast: Polina Piekowska, Vladimir Gajdarow.

DER VAR ENGANG (Once Upon a Time) Prod. by Sophus Madsen, Copenhagen 1922. Based on Holger Drachmann's fairy-tale play. Cast: Clara Pontoppidan, Svend Methling, Peter Jerndorff, H. Ahnfeldt-Rønne, Torben Meyer.

MICHAËL (Chained) Decla Bioscop (Pommer, UFA) Berlin 1924. Based on Herman Bang's novel. Cast: Benjamin Christensen, Walter Slezak, Nora Gregor.

DU SKAL ÆRE DIN HUSTRU (Master of the House) Palladium, Copenhagen 1925. Based on the play »Fall of the Tyrant« by Svend Rindom. Cast: Johannes Meyer, Mathilde Nielsen, Karin Nellemose, Astrid Holm.

GLOMDALSBRUDEN (The Bride of Glomdale) Victoria-Film, Oslo 1926. Based on Jacob Breda Bull's novel. Cast: Tove Tellback, Einar Sissener.

JEANNE D'ARC (The Passion of Joan of Arc) Société Générale de Films, Paris 1928. Camera: Rudolf Maté. Based on the records, in part on Joseph Delteil's novel. With Maria Falconetti.

VAMPYR (The Strange Adventures of David Gray) Prod. Carl Th. Dreyer, Paris and Berlin 1932. Camera: Rudolf Maté. Script: Carl Th. Dreyer and Christen Jul, based in part on Sheridan le Fanu's novel »In a Glass Darkly«. With Henriette Gérard, Sybille Schmitz.

VREDENS DAG (Day of Wrath) Palladium, Copenhagen 1943. Script: Carl Th. Dreyer, Mogens Skot-Hansen and Poul Knudsen. Based on Wiers Jenssen's play »Anne Pedersdotter«. Cast: Lisbeth Movin, Thorkild Roose, Preben Lerdorff, Sigrid Neiiendam, Anna Svierkier.

TVÅ MÄNNISKOR (Two People) Svensk Filmindustri 1945. Written by Carl Th. Dreyer, from W. O. Somin's play »Attentat«. With Georg Rydberg and Wanda Rothgardt.

ORDET (The Word) Palladium, Copenhagen 1955. Script: Carl Th. Dreyer, from Kaj Munk's play. Cast: Preben Lerdorff, Birgitte Federspiel, Emil Hass Christensen, Henrik Malberg.

GERTRUD – Palladium, Copenhagen 1965. From a play by Hjalmar Söderberg. Script: Carl Th. Dreyer. Cast: Nina Pens Rode, Bendt Rothe, Ebbe Rode, Baard Owe, Axel Strøbye.

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