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6.00 NFT2

Director: Ingmar Bergman

Production Company: Cinematograph/Swedish Film Institute

Screenplay: Ingmar Bergman

Photography (Colour): Arne Carlsson

Export Agent: Swedish Film Institute, Box 27126, 1025 2 Stockholm

Leading Players: Ingmar Bergman and the cast and crew of *Fanny and Alexander*

Running Time: 110 mins

Festivals: Berlin, Cannes

Last year's LFF presented a portrait of a great director in Chris Marker's *A.K.*; this year's equivalent is Bergman's reportage on the making of his *Fanny and Alexander*. Extremely detailed in its examination of individual scenes (like the opening Christmas party), its main surprise is the portrait of Bergman himself as ringmaster – relaxed, often very funny, playing with the children and making pertinent comments on the film's conception as it develops. And yet, when deeper concentration is necessary, he changes the tone immediately, as in the rapt and tense sequence surrounding the shooting of Allan Edwall's death-bed scene or the rather sadistic way he forces the late Gunnar Björnstrand to rehearse his Shakespeare song again and again. The overall tone is elucidatory in the best sense: we see many sides of the Bergman persona as well as watching how he organises camera and decor (the dialogues between Bergman and Nykvist are particularly revealing). Bergman has always maintained that *Fanny and Alexander* was one of his most joyous experiences and this film communicates that feeling to the audience. –*John Gillett.*