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Saraband

Directed by Ingmar Bergman

Ingmar Bergman's blistering sequel to Scenes from a Marriage proves that the veteran filmmaker's formidable talent has not softened with age. Setting longtime collaborators Liv Ullmann and Erland Josephson against one another again, he unveils an autumnal masterpiece of the love lost between a husband and wife, a father and child and of the strange dance that first connects, then separates them all. Still seething after all these years, ex-spouses Marianne and Johan are reunited when Marianne visits the surly old contrarian. Slipping into a half-fond, half-insulting dialogue, the two are soon caught up in the emotional warfare between Johan's 61-year-old son Henrik and Henrik's teenage daughter, Karin. Bergman tunes this troubled foursome like a fine quartet, with each scene gathering in emotional resonance. Purposefully avoiding realism, he places all events on pointedly artificial sets, highlighting the theatricality of the piece and the actors' declarations. Saraband aims for the heights of Strindberg, Ibsen or Chekhov, and achieves them. Cued to the rhythms of Bach and Bruckner and brought to life by Ullmann and Josephson, Saraband is a dance for all those who have felt love, and lost. "This is no old man's sentimental valentine," wrote the New York Film Festival, "but a work of scathing vitality."

Additional Notes

Show Times Sat, Apr 30 • 8:45 pm • Castro • SARA30C

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Country Sweden

Year

2003

Run Time 107 minutes

Cast

Erland Josephson, Liv Ullman, Börje Ahlstedt, Julia Dufvenius, Gunnel Fred

Producer

Pia Ehrnvall Editor

Sylvia Ingemarsson

Music

Cinematographer Raymond Wemmenlöv, Sofi Stridh, P.O. Lantto

Screenwriter Ingmar Bergman

Print Sources

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