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Om flickor
(About Seven Girls)
(SWEDISH-COLOR)

Stockholm, Jan. 18.

An AB Svensk Filmindustri production and release. Screenplay, Seth, based on Erik Torstensson's book. Directed by Carl-Eric Seth. Hans Dahlberg-Features List Lotte Nilsson; editor. Jan Persson; camera (Eastmancolor). Bertil Rosengren; music. Lars Faernloef, song by Tommy Koerberg. Reviewed at Spegeln, Stockholm, Jan. 16, '74. Running Time: 92 MINS.

Young wayward girls fighting, scratching, biting, vomiting and body-exposing themselves during nights and days at some institution, and after that who needs a story line? The subject is always good for a thrill, cheap or otherwise, but fortunately directors Hans Dahlberg and Carl-Johan Seth have employed both taste, pity and cool heads in their documentary-styled feature film, based on writer Erik Torstensson's diaries from his period as a warden at one of the welfare state's home for the described kind of girls.

Film hits hard, but is commendably free of preachy tones and pointing fingers. It seems to be an acknowledged fact today that all are mad to some degree and that society and surroundings, families or particular events may or may not be the main shapers of our degrees of madness. But there we are, some less mad than others and thus the former the keepers of the latter who quite naturally must be in revolt.

"About Seven Girls" was adapted for the stage before it was turned into a film, and the stage version was a huge hit which will probably also, in Sweden at least, be the case of the film. Lise Lotte Nilsson is particularly good in the important role of the girl Barbro, but all of the cast's rather untried names perform well. Art houses outside Sweden and the festival round should be well served with this strong "slice of life" film. —*Kell.*