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Der Sjunde Inseglet
(The Seventh Seal)
(SWEDISH)

Cannes, May 21.

AB Svensk Filmindustri release and production. Stars Nils Poppe; features Bibi Anderson, Gunnar Bjornstrand, Inga Gill, Bengt Ekerot. Directed and written by Ingmar Bergman. Camera, Gunnar Fischer; editor, Lennart Wallen; sets and costumes, P. A. Lundgren; music, Erik Nordgren. At Cannes Film Fest. Running time, 100 MINS.

Jof Nils Poppe
Valet Gunnar Bjornstrand
Mia Bibi Anderson
Lisa - Inga Gill
Wife Inga Landgre
Death Bengt Ekerot

Director-writer Ingmar Bergman has a morality play in this tale of returning crusader in the 14th century who keeps Death at bay, via a chess game, while he tries to find out the meaning of life. Superior technical narrative, impressive lensing and thesping makes this a definite U.S. art house possibility. It would be chancey for more general situations.

The knight comes back to his home which is in the grip of the black plague. The re-creation of medieval times is evocative in its bawdiness, superstition, cruelty and humanity. It spreads out an awesome canvas of human cupidity and purity. Characters abound with vitality and Bergman wraps this into an absorbing film.

The chess game with Death is interspersed with his meeting with a family of itinerant mountebanks whom he feels are worth saving, and even Death seems to coincide with this thought as all fall before his coming except them. Mosk.

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