

## Document Citation

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INGMAR BERGMAN'S  
**THREE**  
**STRANGE**  
**LOVES**



This is Bergman at his strangest as he tells the story of the intertwining lives and loves of three women. There is an hysterical young wife unable to bear children, a disturbed widow in the hands of a cruel psychiatrist, and a lesbian dancer who sets her sights on the widow. Originally called THIRST (TORST), it is a truly weird journey through the twilight zone of human emotions.

*"Engrossing —  
Beautifully Written —  
Magnificently Acted."*  
CUE MAGAZINE

*"A Film To Be Seen."*  
JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR,  
CINEMA EYE, CINEMA EAR

*"Grade-A Cinema"*  
FILMS IN REVIEW



2p #15982

## STORY

A dancer has an affair with an older man only to be deserted by him when she becomes pregnant. She has an abortion which sterilizes her. She marries a bookkeeper with whom she argues almost constantly during a trip which culminates in a long train ride. The bookkeeper's old mistress, a widow, is at the same time visiting her psychiatrist. He tries to seduce her, and when he fails, he tells her she is incurably insane.

The widow wanders alone and frightened through the city until she meets a girl she had gone to school with. This is a dancer who had once been a girl friend of the first dancer. Since then she has become a lesbian, and she invites the widow up for dinner and drinks. She nearly succeeds in seducing the widow.

The widow escapes to the street, now gay with Midsummer Eve celebrants. She finally drowns herself by the docks.

On the train the wife continues to annoy her husband, now trying to wake him as he sleeps. He hits her with a bottle, believing he has killed her.

In the morning he finds it was only a dream. No matter how terrible life is for them, he says, it is better to be together than alone.

# THREE STRANGE LOVES

## CAST

Rut	Eva Henning
Bertil	Birger Malmsten
Viola	Birgit Tengroth
Dr. Rosengren	Hasse Ekman
Valborg	Mimmi Nelson
Raoul	Bengt Ekland
Miss Henrikson	Naima Wifstrand

## CREDITS

Director	Ingmar Bergman
Scenario	Herbert Grevenius based on a novel by Birgit Tengroth
Photography	Gunnar Fischer
Sets	Nils Svenwall
Editor	Oscar Rosander
Music	Erik Nordgren

A Janus Films Release

A Svensk Film

## COMMENT

"Bergman, by filming it with the utmost clarity and simplicity . . . manages to make (the film) something very different cool, classical, and precise."

John Russell Taylor, CINEMA EYE, CINEMA EAR

"A sort of VOYAGE EN ITALIE revised by Sartre."  
Cinema 58

". . . Relentless and mainly realistic, yet as often tender."  
British Film Institute

"THREE STRANGE LOVES concerns fear of old age and sterility, which in the last analysis is fear of loneliness. It is staged with a cold professional clarity. It deals with people who never have time for love — they are too busy suffering. The possibility of death is always present. The characters in the film lack understanding of their own possibilities. They are, in a transferred meaning, too adult. This state of being grownup, in contrast to a child's openness and sensuality, is the central element in Bergman's artistic world. To be an adult and an intellectual is to lose something of the contact with the world, the strength of intuition. At the same time, the yearning for the child is typically romantic, impossible to realize."

Jorn Donner, THE PERSONAL VISION OF  
INGMAR BERGMAN

84 Minutes. Black and White. Sweden, 1949.

Subtitled.