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Sansoni i en Spegel
(Through a Glass, Darkly)
(SWEDISH)

Stockholm, Dec. 26.

Swedish Filmindustri production and release. Stars Harriet Andersson, Gunnar Bjornstrand, Max von Sydow, Lars Passgard. Directed by Ingmar Bergman. Screenplay by Ingmar Bergman; camera, Sven Nykvist; music, J. N. Bach; editor, Ulla Rygho. At Roda Kvarn, Stockholm. Running time, 89 MINS.

Karin Harriet Andersson
David Gunnar Bjornstrand
Martin Max von Sydow
Fredrik Lars Passgard

Ingmar Bergman in "Through a Glass, Darkly," tells a story that is in many ways reminiscent of "Long Day's Journey Into Night." Pic deals with four members of a family who are estranged from one another through their inability to express feelings for each other. The action is limited to 24 hours in the lives of the four. The time is the nightless Scandinavian summer and the setting is an isolated island in the Baltic. Not a pleasant film, it is a great one.

Main character is Karin, portrayed by Harriet Andersson, who is suffering from a mental ailment. Released from a mental institution, she seeks the security of her childhood, the love of her father (Gunnar Bjornstrand) and her 17-year-old brother (Lars Passgard). She turns more and more away from her husband Martin (Max von Sydow), a doctor and instructor at a medical school.

Martin has been told that she will probably get a release and there is little hope of her being cured. Martin sincerely loves her and wants to help, but she is no longer attracted to him. Her father, David, is a popular novelist who has never had any critical success. Younger brother, Fredrik, (Lars Passgard), is at the age when sexual inquisitiveness is awakening.

During the night after the family reunion, voices from Karin's mad world call her. She goes off to an abandoned room in the primitive house to have her mad meeting with the voices from another world. Afterwards she goes to her father's room for the protection of childhood. Her father is working on his latest novel and she soon falls asleep. When she wakes up, her father has gone out and she looks in his diary where she reads that her condition is hopeless. Also that her father is driven by an irresistible desire to study her deterioration in a boat for a day of fishing. Karin and her brother confide inner secrets to one another. The day of youthful fun-making comes to a tragic end when Karin madly seduces her brother. Later, Karin only wants the peace of life in her world of unreality. The Bergman message comes at the end when David speaks personally to his son that he believes: "God exists in love, in every sort of love, maybe God is love."

Jan. 3, '62.