

## Document Citation

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College of William and Mary  
The Festival Film Society

(Bergman's statement, Cont.)

My beings laugh, weep, howl, fear, speak, answer,  
play, suffer, ask, ask. Their terror is the  
plague, Judgment Day, the star whose name is  
Wormwood. Our fear is of another kind but our  
words are the same. + Our question remains.

-- Ingmar Bergman

+ + + + +

"And when he had opened the seventh seal,  
there was silence in heaven about the space of  
half an hour.

And the seven angels which had the seven  
trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

The first angel sounded, and there followed  
hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were  
cast upon the earth; and the third part of trees  
was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

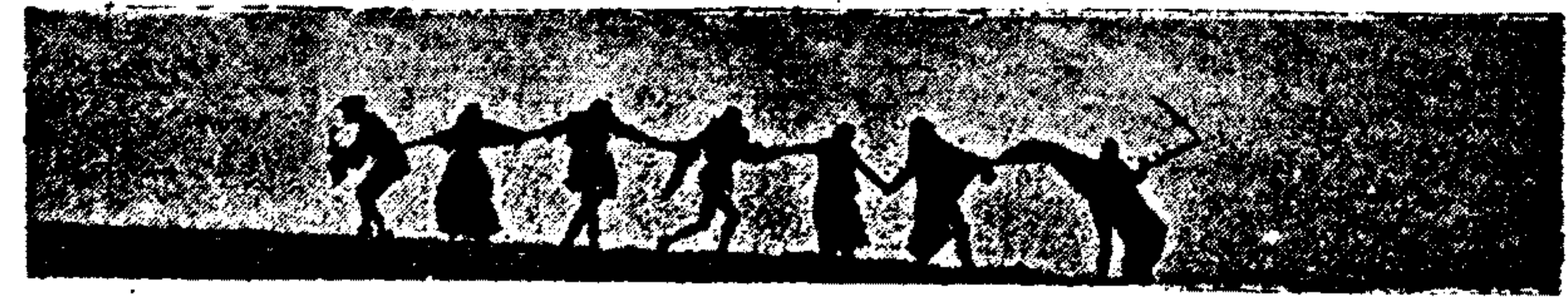
And the second angel sounded, and as it were  
a great mountain burning with fire was cast into  
the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

And the third part of the creatures which were  
in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part  
of the ships were destroyed.

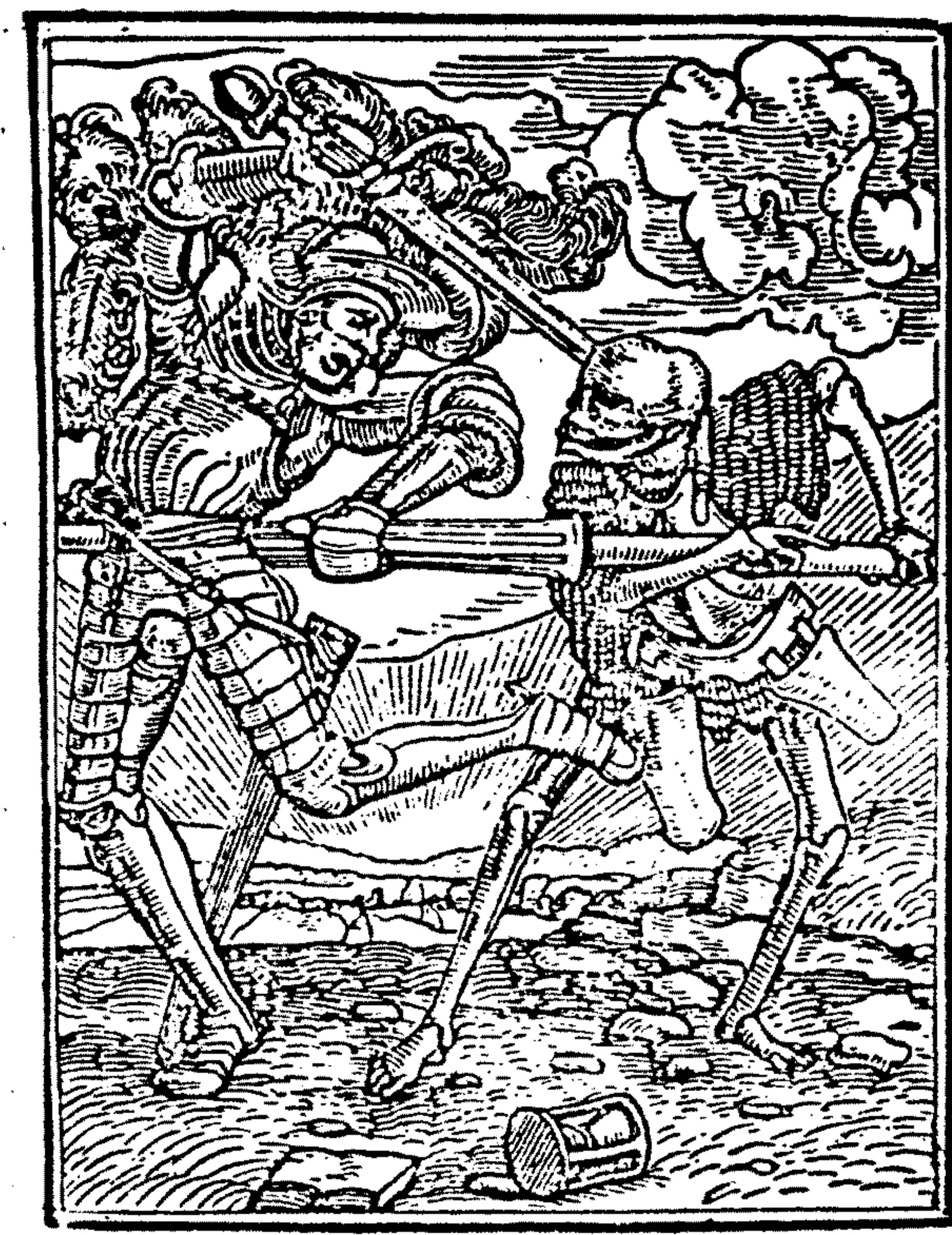
And the third angel sounded, and there fell  
a great star from heaven, burning as it were a  
lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the  
rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

And the name of the star is called Wormwood..."

(Revelation, 8:1, 6-11)



Presents:



THE  
SEVENTH  
SEAL

by Ingmar Bergman

Sunday, 8 p.m.

October 31

## BERGMAN'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE FILM

+ As a child I was sometimes allowed to accompany my father when he travelled about to preach in the small country churches in the vicinity of Stockholm. They were festive journeys, made by bicycle through a spring landscape. My father taught me the names of flowers, trees and birds. We spent the day in each other's company without being disturbed by the harassed world around us. + For a small boy the sermon itself of course is a matter purely for adults. While Father preached away in the pulpit and the congregation prayed, sang or listened, I devoted my interest to the church's mysterious world of low arches, thick walls, the smell of eternity, the colored sunlight quivering above the strangest vegetation of medieval paintings and carved figures on ceiling and walls. There was everything that one's imagination could desire: angels, saints, dragons, prophets, devils, humans. There were very frightened animals: serpents in paradise, Balaam's ass, Jonah's whale, the eagle of the Revelation. All this was surrounded by a heavenly, earthly and subterranean landscape of a strange yet familiar beauty. In a wood sat Death, playing chess with the Crusader. Clutching the branch of a tree was a naked man with staring eyes, while down below stood Death, sawing away to his heart's content. Across gentle hills Death led the final dance towards the dark lands. + But in the other arch the Holy Virgin was walking in a rose-garden, supporting the child's faltering steps, and her hands were those of a peasant woman. Her face was grave and bird's wings fluttered round her head. + The medieval painters had portrayed all this with great tenderness, skill and joy. It moved me in a spontaneous and enticing way, and that world became as real to me as the everyday world with Father, Mother and brothers and sisters. + On the other hand, I defended myself against the dimly sensed drama that was enacted in the crucifixion picture in the chancel. My mind was stunned by the extreme cruelty and the extreme suffering. Not until much later were faith and doubt to become my constant companions. + It has been self-evident and profitable to give shape to the experiences of my childhood. I have been compelled to express the current dilemma. + My intention has been to paint in the same way as the medieval church painter, with the same objective interest, with the same tenderness and joy.

(Continued on back cover)

## The Seventh Seal

Written and directed by *Ingmar Bergman*.

Production: AB SVENSK FILMINDUSTRI.

Supervisor of production: *Allan Ekelund*.

Assistant Director: *Lennart Ohlsson*.

Photography: *Gunnar Fischer*. Architect: *P-A. Lundgren*.

Choreography: *Else Fischer*.

Cutting: *Lennart Wallén*.

Music: *Eric Nordgren*. Conductor: *Sixten Ehrling*.

### The characters:

The squire .....	<i>Gunnar Björnstrand</i>
Death .....	<i>Bengt Ekerot</i>
Jof .....	<i>Nils Poppe</i>
The knight .....	<i>Max von Sydow</i>
Mia .....	<i>Bibi Andersson</i>
Lisa .....	<i>Inga Gill</i>
The witch .....	<i>Maud Hansson</i>
The knight's wife .....	<i>Inga Landgré</i>
The girl .....	<i>Gunnel Lindblom</i>
Raval .....	<i>Bertil Anderberg</i>
The monk .....	<i>Anders Ek</i>
The smith .....	<i>Ake Fridell</i>
The church painter .....	<i>Gunnar Olsson</i>
Skat .....	<i>Erik Strandmark</i>
The merchant .....	<i>Benkt-Ake Benktsson</i>
Woman at the inn .....	<i>Gudrun Brost</i>
Leader of the soldiers .....	<i>Ulf Johansson</i>
The young monk .....	<i>Lars Lind</i>

Running time: 96 minutes

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