

## Document Citation

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## **ABBA — The Movie** (SWEDISH-AUSTRALIAN- COLOR)

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A Polar Music International AB (Sweden)/Reg Grundy Productions (Australia) production, AB Svensk Film (Stockholm) release. Features entire cast. Directed by Lasse Hallstroem. Original story and script, Lasse Hallstroem, Bob Caswell; camera (Eastmancolor) Jack Churchill, Paul Onorato; producers, Stig Anderson, Reg Grundy; editors, Lasse Hallstroem, Malou Hallstroem, Ulf Neidermar; costume designer, Ing-Marie Nilsson; music, Benny Andersson, Bjoern Ulvaeus, Stig Anderson. Reviewed in Stockholm, Sweden, Dec. 3 '77. Running time, 94 MINS.

### Cast:

ABBA ..... Themselves: Anni-Frid Lyngstad, Agneta Faeltskog, Benny Andersson, Bjoern Ulvaeus  
Station manager ..... Bruce Barry  
Disc Jockey ..... Robert Hughes  
Bodyguard ..... Tom Oliver  
ABBA manager ..... Stig Anderson

"ABBA — The Movie" is a Scandinavian, plus other European territories, saturation-booked release to coincide with EMI's release of the Swedish pop group's latest Polar

Records LP "ABBA — The Record." The record features the four new songs introduced in the film, the latter otherwise mostly using group's established hits as performed on various Australian stages during ABBA's all-time record breaking concert tour Down Under last winter.

Film, of course, also opens immediately in Australia. It will be released worldwide as an English-speaking, English-singing feature, and looms as a winner in ABBA-conscious territories. It should also do nicely in the U.S. if release is timed carefully with ABBA attack on the record market there.

"ABBA — The Movie" is a handsomely-produced, smooth, fast and wittily-edited musical entertainment that, in Lasse Hallstroem's script and direction, is both a bit of a documentary of ABBA's Australian tour and of its four personable performers' background and work methods and a slight but funny story about an Aussie disk-jockey's chasing of the group and being most of the way thwarted in his attempts to do a taped in-depth interview with the Swedes.

The professional Australian actors perform with obvious gusto. So does ABBA as a group whereas Benny Andersson, Bjoern Ulvaeus, Anni-Frid Lyngstad and Agnetha Faeltskog have not wished to attempt any acting. Apart from glimpses of them in dressing rooms, on balconies and at airports receiving adoring crowds of fans, they are seen mostly doing their stage work.

ABBA, of course, stands for easy on the ear pop music of rock deriviation, carefully-honed arrangements, catchy lyrics of no great substance and a stage presentation that has audiences on their feet and cheering loudly. The two girls do a lot of hip-wriggling and bottom-pushing of rich sex appeal, but at the same time remain as cool as any Ziegfeld Girl of the past. The cleanness of ABBA's act and their obvious bourgeois appeal is never in doubt.

Top marks to all technical credits, including Jack Churchill's and Paul Onorato's amazing control of the Panavision filming even in the tightest of spots, and the editing job done collectively by director Hallstroem, his wife Malou and Ulf Neidermar. —Kell.