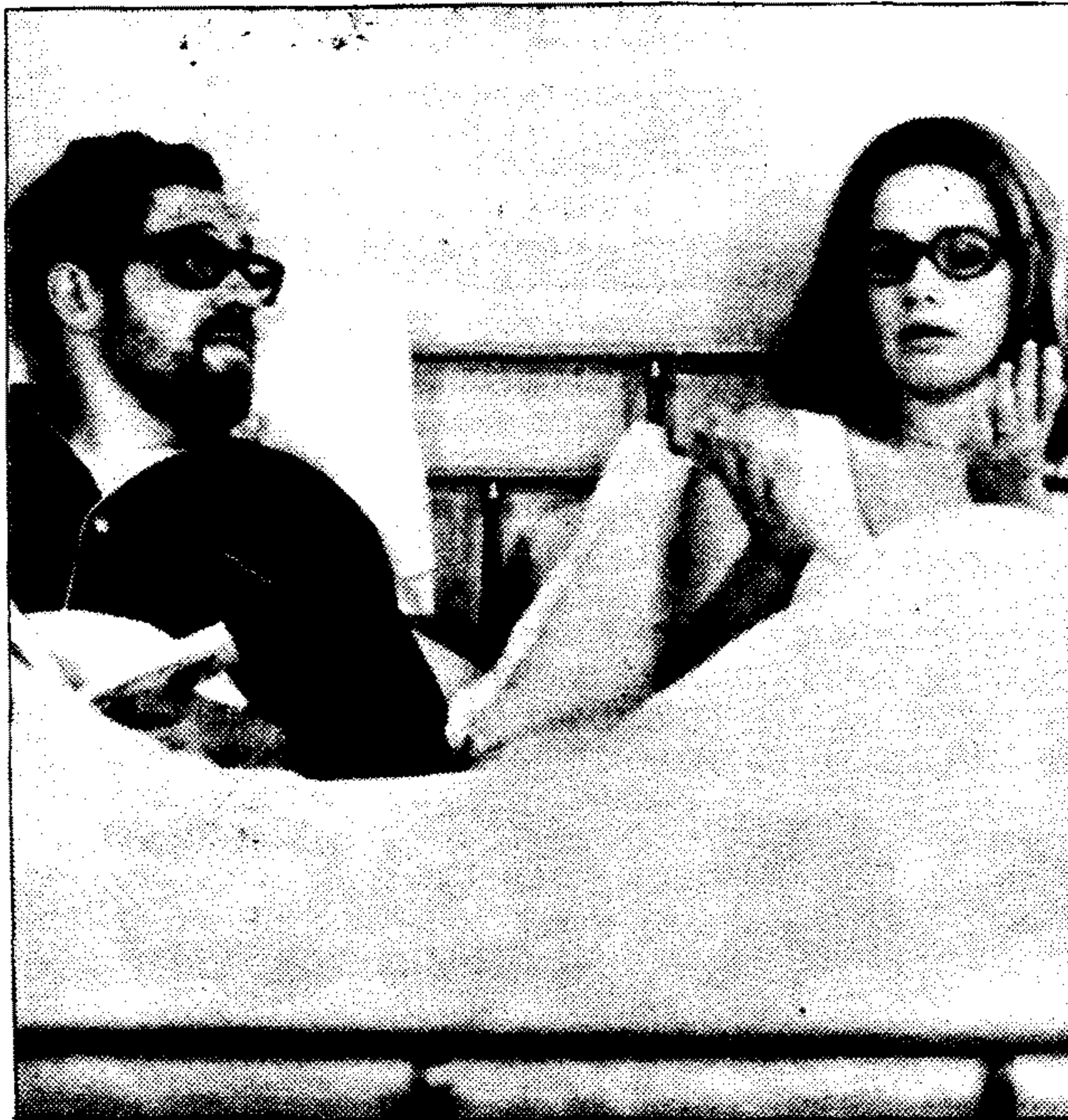


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Sunday

Ingmar Bergman's *Scenes from a Marriage* (1974), from his screenplay, with Liv Ullmann, Erland Josephson, Bibi Andersson, and Gunnel Lindblom, was originally an extremely popular six-part adult soap opera on Swedish television. Bergman himself prepared this intense, intimate, 168-minute theatrical version,



***Scenes from a Marriage*: maximum character intimacy, minimum cinematic technique**

which aims for maximum character intimacy with minimal cinematic technique. Ullmann and Josephson, the quintessential actors of Bergman's three decades of experience with various troupes, portray a deferential wife who learns to flower expansively and an overinflated husband who collapses into self-pity. Their extraordinarily subtle and emotionally complex duet begins on the starting point of a fraudulently happy *Doll's House*, progresses through a Strindbergian sexual battle of seesawing control, and concludes in a compromise which offers little hope for marriage as an institution but considerable optimism for the individuals themselves. In the introduction to the printed script, Bergman forewarns that the film is likely "to annoy all artistically sensitive people, who, disgusted by this quite understandable work, will be aesthetically sick after the very first scene." This very special psychodrama, beginning with its conception as populist TV fare, thus seems to reveal Bergman at his most guileless, communicating directly, cozily, and without affectation to his middle-aged, middle-class peers. **Thalia: 3, 6, 9. Voice**

Sarkis / Allen 7.30.85
Monday