

Document Citation

Title	Sawdust and tinsel
Author(s)	Tom Allen Andrew Sarris Tom Allen Andrew Sarris
Source	<i>Village Voice</i>
Date	1983 Jun 05
Type	review
Language	English English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Gycklarnas afton (Sawdust and tinsel), Bergman, Ingmar, 1953

A. S. T. Allen *Saturday* via 7/5/83

Ingmar Bergman's *Sawdust and Tinsel* (1953, a/k/a *The Naked Night*), from his screenplay, with Harriet Andersson, Ake Grönberg, Hasse Ekman, and Gunnar Björnstrand, is a premature eruption of blatant symbolism in Bergman's career four years before he hit his stride in this '50s cycle with *The Seventh Seal*. As a threadbare circus and a seedy theatrical troupe both hit a small town at the same time, Bergman overloaded his venue with walking metaphors of life and art in a stark entertainment ethos. Bergman's troupe is neither as intense or polished as it will become, and the men especially are physically and psychically grotesque. As for Andersson, the first sight by Americans of her heaving bosom and hairy armpits during a riveting seduction by a second-rate matinee idol made the grown-up Monika a conversation piece on the art-house circuit. The core of the film, however, is Grönberg's bridge to the Germanic expressionism of Emil Jannings as he plays an aging circus owner prophetically fated to be humiliated and

Continued from preceding page

chastised in public. (Co-feature: Bergman's *Brink of Life*) **Public Theater: complete shows at 4:30, 8.**