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**Agaton Sax Och  
Bykoeblings Gaestabud**  
(~~Agaton Sax and the Bykoebing~~  
Village Festival)

(SWEDISH-ANIMATED-COLOR)

*Variety* 12-5-76  
Malmoe, Dec. 7.

A Team Film/Svensk Filmindustri AB/Swedish Film Institute production, Svensk Filmindustri AB release. Based on Nils-Olaf Franzen novel. Written and directed by Stig Lasseby. Chief designer Jann Gissberg; camera (color), Eberhard Fehmers; special effects, Hans-Walter Kramski; music, Charles Redland; executive producer, Bengt Forslund. Voices: Olof Thunberg, Stig Grybe, Per Sjostrand, Leif Liljeroth, Stig Lasseby. Singer, Annika Risberg. Reviewed at Palladium, Malmoe, Sweden, Nov. 30, '76. Running time, 77 MINS.

Where cartoon features are enough in demand (for mixed young and adult audiences) to rate the costs of local dubbing, Stig Lasseby's "Agaton Sax and the Bykoebing Village Festival" will be given a nice welcome even though this ambitious work has several obvious shortcomings.

Based on Nils-Olaf Franzen's renowned children's books about Agaton Sax, the Hercule Poirot-inspired detective-cum-newspaper editor in a remote Swedish village, Lasseby has woven a plot pattern that is too intricate for small children to follow and slightly boring for their adult companions (who will have a lot of explaining to do during showings):

Two major criminals escape from a London prison and operate at large while their two innocent look-alike citizens keep being arrested by the police. Everybody repairs to the village of Bykoebing where the two innocent men seek master detective Agaton Sax's protection while the two criminals seek to take over the computer into which Sax for the past 10 years has fed all known information about world-wide crime and criminals. During a village festival much chasing around is done, no real suspense generated and only few chuckles provoked.

Film's humor is mostly of the whimsical kind. A few old-fashioned Disney-like sight gags pop up here and there, but mostly the inspiration of Lasseby and his team (chief designer Jann Gissberg attempts no personal style at all) is the UPA line of "Mr. Magoo" days. Some social satire is vaguely suggested, but nowhere does the film come anywhere near the zany energy of a Ralph Bakshi work. —Kell.