

INGRID BERGMAN



“We’ll always have Paris” The image of Ingrid Bergman fixed in many cinemagoers’ minds is surely her Ilsa in *Casablanca* (1942) – radiant indeed, with hints of Scandinavian carnality and brittle fragility. If she’d never made another film, she’d still be remembered, yet look beyond Rick’s Café Americain and the totality of her celluloid legacy is perhaps unexpectedly complex and intriguing. The story goes that she was spotted when visiting a friend at a Swedish film studio and signed up by Svensk Film Industries.

What with generation-gap romance in *Intermezzo* (1937), accidental disfigurement in *A Woman’s Face* (1938) and a dark past in *June Night* (1940), film-makers soon leapt on the felicitous combination of her fresh beauty and tremulous anxiety, a template which Hollywood would often follow after **David O. Selznick** put her under contract.

Starring roles for **Michael Curtiz**, **George Cukor** and **Alfred Hitchcock** – most notably in the memorably impassioned tensions of *Notorious* (1946) – represent her best-known work today, but her most accomplished performances came later. Her illicit liaison with **Roberto Rossellini** scandalised the public, but on screen he pushed her towards a newly unadorned emotional authenticity – perhaps even a spiritual dimension – in the remarkable *Europa ’51* (1953) and *Journey to Italy* (1953). When Hollywood welcomed her back in *Anastasia*, she’d clearly developed her craft, matching mature elegance with flashes of persuasive neurosis, yet an expected creative resurgence somehow failed to follow. Her later years more often saw her on stage than screen, but there was one last challenge, returning to the Swedish language for **Ingmar Bergman’s** *Autumn Sonata* (1978). Her role as a famed concert pianist facing the familial aftermath of her own ambitions was tough, unadorned and clearly intended to reflect the actress’s own personal history.

Extended Run: *Notorious* (NEW PRINT)

Fri 16 Jan - Thu 29 Jan

A twisted romance that anticipates the bleak beauty of *Vertigo*, this superbly stylish espionage thriller is arguably Hitchcock’s finest film of the 40s.

Ingrid Bergman is magnificent as Alicia, a beautiful but guilt-ridden alcoholic living in South America who is emotionally blackmailed by US agent Devlin (Grant) into seducing a German expatriate suspected of Nazi affiliations. Besotted by Devlin, she goes along with his plan, and before long all three are entangled in a web of constrained desire and cruel deceit.

USA 1946 Dir Alfred Hitchcock With Cary Grant, Claude Rains, Louis Calhern 101 mins U

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Ingrid Bergman Rarities

This programme of six rarely seen films with Ingrid Bergman (complementing our season tribute) includes unique footage from the shootings of Roberto Rossellini's *Journey to Italy* (1953) and Ingmar Bergman's *Autumn Sonata* (1978), a call for help to US prisoners-of-war commissioned by the Red Cross during WW2, and the short *The Necklace* (1967), her last collaboration with director Gustaf Molander who launched her career in the mid 1930s. The films will be introduced by Jon Wengström, Curator of the Archival Film Collections of the Swedish Film Institute.

Thu 29 Jan 18:10 NFT3

PROGRAMME:

The Count of the Old Town - Munkbrogreven

The fresh-faced, slightly chubby presence of 18-year-old Ingrid Bergman, making her screen debut as a comely hotel maid, enlivens this amiable Swedish comedy, focused on the efforts of Dahlquist's self-styled 'Count' and his freeloading gang to evade the liquor rationing then on the statute books. Reputedly, an off-screen affair with director-star Adolphson helped land her big break, but promise is evident even here.

Sweden 1935. Dir Edvin Adolphson & Sigurd Wallén. With Waldemar Dahlquist, Sigurd Wallén. 83min.

Fri 2 Jan 18:20 NFT2, Thu 8 Jan 20:40 NFT2

Walpurgis Night - Valborgunmässoafton

Workplace melodrama meets public information film in this earnestly Scandinavian investigation of sexual mores.

Stenographer Ingrid Bergman has the hots for married boss Hanson, while her newspaper editor father Sjöström is concerned by the naïveté of his junior staff. Sweden 1935. Dir Gustav Edgren. With Lars Hanson, Victor Sjöström, Karin Kavli. 80min. EST

Sat 3 Jan 18:20 NFT2, Thu 8 Jan 18:20 NFT2

Intermezzo

Bergman is a piano student who accompanies Ekman's distinguished violin virtuoso, and becomes his lover too, but the demands of her future career and his family responsibilities overshadow their happiness.

Sweden 1937. Dir Gustaf Molander. With Gösta Ekman, Inga Tidblad. 93min. EST

Sun 4 Jan 16:10 NFT1, Fri 9 Jan 20:40 NFT2

A Woman's Face - En kvinnas ansikte

Her face disfigured in a childhood accident, Bergman's embittered Anna now leads a blackmailing ring, but the surgeon husband of their latest target restores her beauty, hoping to effect a moral transformation.

Sweden 1938. Dir Gustaf Molander. With Anders Henrikson, Erik Berglund. 104min. EST

Sun 4 Jan 18:00 NFT2, Tue 13 Jan 20:45 NFT2

June Night - Juninatten

Selznick's contract allowed for Bergman to work outside the English language, so she returned from Hollywood for one more Swedish production, highly convincing as a small-town girl scarred by a scandalous affair with a rootless sailor.

Sweden 1940. Dir Per Lindberg. With Gunnar Sjöberg, Marianne Lofgren, Olof Wildgren. 90min. EST

Wed 7 Jan 20:40 NFT2, Wed 14 Jan 20:40 NFT2

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Cast against type, Bergman's the earthy barmaid who excites the protagonist's dark side, sparking some floridly suggestive fantasy sequences.

USA 1941. Dir Victor Fleming. With Spencer Tracy, Lana Turner, Donald Crisp. 122min. 12A

Tue 6 Jan 20:30 NFT2, Sat 10 Jan 17:50 NFT1

Casablanca

Bergman's role in this all-time Hollywood favourite is merely to look like the kind of woman you'd want to run away with, but this miraculous combination of wartime romance and heroism, star charisma, definitive character playing, and effortlessly achieved old-school craft really wouldn't have been the same if Hedy Lamarr had indeed accepted the role of Ilsa. If it's your first time or your hundredth...play it, Sam.

USA 1942. Dir Michael Curtiz. With Humphrey Bogart, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains. 102min. U

Sat 3 Jan 16:15 NFT1*; **Mon 5 Jan 18:20, NFT2**; **Thu 8 Jan 14:30 NFT2**; **Sun 11, Jan 16:10 NFT1**; **Tue 13 Jan 14:30 NFT2**, *Introduction by Trevor Johnston

Gaslight

Bergman won the first of her three Oscars as the vulnerable Victorian wife unaware that scheming husband Boyer is trying to drive her round the twist.

USA 1944. Dir George Cukor. With Charles Boyer, Joseph Cotten, Dame May Whitty. 114min. PG

Sat 10 Jan 15:30 NFT1, Thu 15 Jan 18:20 NFT2

Spellbound

With her steel-rimmed glasses and seemingly glacial manner, Bergman inhabits every cliché about female shrinks as Hitchcock investigates the new-fangled world of psychoanalysis.

USA 1945. Dir Alfred Hitchcock. With Gregory Peck, Leo G Carroll, Michael Chekhov. 111min. PG

Fri 9 Jan 18:20 NFT2; **Tue 13 Jan 18:20, NFT2**; **Wed 14 Jan 18:20 NFT2**; **Fri, 16 Jan 20:45 NFT2**; **Sun 18 Jan 20:45, NFT2**; **Tue 27 Jan 20:40 NFT2**

Stromboli

As a Lithuanian refugee seeking a new post-war life with a soldier on his rugged Mediterranean island home, her character looks and feels out of place, yet the volcanic landscape recasts her destiny in an explosive final reel.

Italy 1949. Dir Roberto Rossellini. With Mario Vitale, Renzo Cesana, Mario Sponzo. 107min. PG

Sat 17 Jan 14:30 NFT1, Wed 28 Jan 18:30 NFT1

Under Capricorn

Uncomfortably cast as an Irish aristo sliding into boozy decline, Bergman puts evident feeling into her role as a woman battling fate and circumstances.

UK 1949. Dir Alfred Hitchcock. With Joseph Cotten, Michael Wilding, Margaret Leighton. 117min. PG

Sat 17 Jan 18:20 NFT2, Thu 22 Jan 20:40 NFT2

Europa '51

Rossellini's story of a bourgeois wife who reacts to the death of her young son by doing good works in the Roman slums is best approached as a modern-day fable, but it's Bergman's extraordinarily affecting embodiment of spiritual good which sets the seal on the film's sincere plea for human engagement.

Italy 1953. Dir Roberto Rossellini. With Alexander Knox, Ettore Giannini, Giulietta Masina. 113min.

Sun 18 Jan 15:50 NFT1*, **Sat 24 Jan 20:45 NFT2** *Introduction by Trevor Johnston

Journey to Italy - Viaggio in Italia

Playing Sanders' apparently rigid reserve against Bergman's tendency to quivering neurosis, this portrait of a marriage hitting the buffers on a tourist trek through Italy is a brilliant meeting of opposites.

Italy 1953. Dir Roberto Rossellini. With George Sanders, Paul Muller, Maria Mauban. 100min. PG

Mon 19 Jan 18:20 NFT1, Sat 24 Jan 18:15 NFT1

Anastasia

Her Hollywood return brought a conciliatory statuette from the Academy, but Bergman was surely worth her trophy, alternately regal in demeanour and frayed to nervous dissolution as the mystery woman who pops up in 1928 Paris and might just be the heir to the Romanovs.

USA 1956. Dir Anatole Litvak. With Yul Brynner, Helen Hayes, Akim Tamiroff. 105min. U

Tue 20 Jan 18:10 NFT3, Fri 23 Jan 20:45 NFT3

Autumn Sonata - Höstsonaten / Herbstsonaten

Understandably, the collaboration of the two Bergmans made quite a stir, but the surprise is the degree to which Ingrid seems right at home in Ingmar's often astringent universe. Looking her sixty-plus years, she bites down hard on the best role of her

later screen career, fierce indeed as the esteemed concert pianist accused of neglecting her family for her career by resentful daughter Ullmann.

Sweden-W Ger-UK 1978. Dir Ingmar Bergman. With Liv Ullmann, Lena Nyman. 92min. EST. 15

Wed 28 Jan 20:50 NFT2, Sat 31 Jan 15:50 NFT2

Elena et les hommes

For an actress who spent so much screen-time in suffering, it's an utter pleasure to see Bergman let her hair down in Renoir's jaunty amalgam of fizzing farce and political intrigue.

France 1956. Dir Jean Renoir. With Mel Ferrer, Jean Marais, Juliette Gréco. 95min. EST. U

Fri 23 Jan 18:10 NFT3, Sat 31 Jan 20:40 NFT2

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The BFI Southbank Ingrid Bergman season runs from 1 to 31 January

Booking information

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £8.60, concs £6.25 Members pay £1 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

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