

# **Bergman**

## **A Year in a Life**

Directed by Jane Magnusson  
Sweden 2018, 117 mins, Cert 15  
A BFI release

**With Ingmar Bergman, Liv Ullmann, Gunnel Lindblom, Elliott Gould**



**Opening at selected cinemas UK-wide from 25 January 2019**

8 November 2018 – In ***Bergman – A Year in a Life***, Jane Magnusson directs and narrates a sensitive yet unflinching documentary that exposes the darker, less well-known side of one of the most famous figures in world cinema. Focusing on 1957, a landmark year in which Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman (1918 – 2007) directed two feature films and four plays, Magnusson explores not only the director's work, but also his complex personality, his erratic behaviour and his turbulent private life. Although completed just before the #MeToo movement started, the film raises similar timely and challenging questions.

Following on from the BFI's year-long Bergman centenary activity; a retrospective season at BFI Southbank from January – March 2018 was accompanied by UK-wide cinema and DVD/Blu-ray re-releases, and after its premiere screenings at the Cannes Film Festival and BFI London Film Festival this year, *Bergman – A Year in a Life* will open at selected cinemas UK-wide from **25 January 2019**.

Using a wealth of previously unseen archive material, including Bergman at work and in interviews; contemporary commentators, including people who worked with him, and clips and stills from his vast body of work, this is one of the standout film documentaries of the year. It looks at Ingmar Bergman the great, the insanely prolific genius, but also Bergman the bully, Bergman the Nazi sympathiser, the compulsive liar, the absent father...

... / 2

Swedish director Jane Magnusson, who previously made *Trespassing Bergman* (2013) in which leading filmmakers talk about his influence on them and was invited to make a new film for the centenary, says:

*"During the last three years I have been talking to Bergman's co-workers. From his stars such as Gunnel Lindblom, to his producer and script-girl Katinka Faragó, to sound technicians and assistant directors. They paint a multi-coloured image of a great artist who could be very inspiring, but also terrifying. A man who is super sensitive to sound, light, food, dreams, but not really to other people. A man who worked harder and faster than anyone else in the history of cinema.*

*My ambition is for young people to see this documentary and go: "I have never heard of this strange, great artist before, but now I would like to see some of his films."*

The BFI's Bergman expert Geoff Andrew, who programmed the retrospective at BFI Southbank comments:

*"This centennial portrait of the great Swedish writer-director is perceptive, penetrating and packed with wonderful footage. Magnusson's documentary centres on 1957, a turbulent but miraculously productive year when Bergman, besides unveiling *The Seventh Seal* and *Wild Strawberries* and working extensively in theatre and TV, led a messily complicated domestic life that included a spell in hospital. This focus is merely the springboard for a survey that spirals out to embrace everything from childhood to old age, touching on his many creative achievements, his strengths and failings as a man, and the way his art derived from his life. Illuminating anecdotes are offered by many who knew him – none, however, perhaps quite as revealing as Ingmar's own testimony."*

Among the many interviewees in the film are cast and crew members that worked with Bergman including **Liv Ullmann**, **Elliott Gould** and **Gunnel Lindblom**. Also commenting are **Barbra Streisand**, **Holly Hunter**, **John Landis**, **Lars von Trier**, **Lena Olin**, **Zhang Yimou** and more.

-ends-

**For further information, director interview requests and images please contact:**

Jill Reading, BFI Press Office

E-mail: [jill.reading@bfi.org.uk](mailto:jill.reading@bfi.org.uk)

Tel: 020 7957 4759

More film information and screening venues: [www.bfi.org.uk/releases](http://www.bfi.org.uk/releases)

**About the BFI**

At the BFI we support, nurture and promote the art of film, television and the moving image. A charity, funded by Government and earned income, and a distributor of National Lottery funds, we are at the heart of the UK's fast growing screen industries, protecting the past and shaping their future across the UK. We work in partnership with cultural organisations, government and industry to make this happen. We bring our world-class cultural programmes and unrivalled national collections to audiences everywhere, and promote learning about our art-form and its heritage. We support the future success of film in the UK by nurturing new voices and fresh ideas, enriching independent British film culture, challenging the UK's screen industries to innovate and defining Britain and its storytellers in the 21st century.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.