

Mongrel Media presents

SARABAND

Directed by Ingmar Bergman

with

Liv Ullmann, Erland Josephson, Börje Ahlstedt and Julia Dufvenius

(Sweden, 107 minutes, In Swedish with English subtitles)

Distribution

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Synopsis

In *Saraband*, Marianne and Johan (the couple in *Scenes from a Marriage*) meet again after thirty years without contact, when Marianne suddenly feels a need to see her ex-husband again. She decides to visit Johan at his old summer house in the western province of Dalarna. And so, one beautiful autumn day, there she is, beside his reclining chair, waking him with a light kiss.

Also living at the summer house are Johan's son Henrik and Henrik's daughter Karin. Henrik is giving his daughter cello lessons and already sees her future as staked out. Relations between father and son are very strained, but both are protective of Karin. They are all still mourning Anna, Henrik's much-loved wife, who died two years ago, yet who, in many ways, remains present among them. Marianne soon realizes that things are not all as they should be, and she finds herself unwillingly drawn into a complicated and upsetting power struggle.

“*Saraband* can be seen as a concerto grosso, a concert for full orchestra — only, here, with four soloists,” says Ingmar Bergman. “The drama consists of ten dialogues that follow a particular pattern, and it’s an attempt at analysis of a difficult situation.”

A saraband was an erotic dance for two that was very popular at royal courts in the 17th and 18th centuries. But it was prohibited in Spain as being indecent. *Saraband* was shot at SVT in the autumn of 2002, with the latest HD technology, both in-studio and on location.

Cast

Johan, Professor Emeritus
Marianne, lawyer
Henrik, professor
Karin, cellist
Martha, Marianne's & Johan's daughter

Erland Josephson
Liv Ullmann
Börje Ahlstedt
Julia Dufvenius
Gunnel Fred

Crew

Scriptwriter and director
Assisting Director
Lighting Director
Set Designer
Camera Operators

Costume Designer
Makeup Artist
Editor
Executive Producer

Ingmar Bergman
Torbjörn Ehrnvall
Per Sundin
Göran Wassberg
Raymond Wemmelöv
Sofi Stridh
P.O. Lantto
Inger Elvira Pehrson
Cecilia Drott-Norlén
Sylvia Ingemarsson
Pia Ehrnvall

Saraband was produced by Sveriges Television in collaboration with DR, NRK, YLE1, RAI, ZDF, ARTE and ORF with support from Nordiska TV & Samarbetsfonden ("The Nordic TV & Collaboration Fund") and Nordisk Film & TV fond ("The Nordic Film & TV Fund").

The Director: Ingmar Bergman

One of the world's best-known stage and film directors, Ingmar Bergman began his career in the 1940s as a scriptwriter (*Frenzy*, 1944). He remains incredibly prolific, his fantastic film output alone comprising some forty-odd titles, including such classics as *Wild Strawberries*, *The Silence*, *Cries and Whispers*, *The Magic Flute* and *The Autumn Sonata*.

He has been awarded three Oscars for Best Foreign Film: *The Virgin Spring*, *Through a Glass Darkly* and *Fanny and Alexander*, which also garnered three additional Oscars. In recent years, he has devoted most of his time to his writing and to directing for Sweden's national stage, The Royal Dramatic Theatre. He scripted the film and TV series *Best Intentions* (1992), directed by Bille August, produced by SVT Drama and awarded the Golden Palm at Cannes. He also wrote the screenplays for *Sunday's Child* (1992), directed by Daniel Bergman; *Private Confessions* (1996, also a TV series) and *Faithless* (2000), both directed by Liv Ullmann for SVT. He both wrote and directed the TV production *In the Presence of a Clown* (1997). In 1997, Mr. Bergman was awarded a special prize of honor, "The Golden Palm of Golden Palms", at the fiftieth Cannes Film Festival. His most recent directorial credits for the stage are *Maria Stuart* and *Ghosts* at Stockholm's Royal Dramatic Theatre.

Ingmar Bergman Filmography

2005	<i>Saraband</i>
2000	<i>The Image Makers</i>
1997	<i>In the Presence of a Clown</i>
1996	<i>Harald and Harald</i>
1996	<i>Private Confessions</i> (script: Ingmar Bergman, direction: Liv Ullmann)
1995	<i>The Last Scream</i> (televised stage performance)
1993	<i>The Bacchae</i> (TV version of the opera performance at The Royal Opera, Stockholm)
1992	<i>The Marquise de Sade</i> (the director's noted staging at The Royal Dramatic Theatre, Stockholm)
1991	<i>Best Intentions</i> , four episodes (script: Ingmar Bergman, direction: Bille August)
1986	<i>Karin's Face</i> (A film of still photographs about Bergman's mother Karin)
1986	<i>The Blessed Two</i> (script: Ulla Isaksson)
1984	<i>Fanny and Alexander</i> , four episodes (the TV version of the feature-length film)
1984	<i>After the Rehearsal</i>
1983	<i>The School for Wives</i> (TV adaptation of Alf Sjöberg's Royal Dramatic Theatre staging)
1979	<i>Fårö Document</i> (documentary film)

1976 *Face to Face*, four episodes
1974 *The Misanthrope*
1973 *Scenes from a Marriage*, six episodes
1970 *The Reserve* (subtitled *A Tragedy of Banality*)
1969 *Fårö Document 1969*
1969 *The Rite* (also entitled *The Ritual*)
1963 *A Dream Play*
1960 *Storm*
1958 *The Venetian Woman*
1958 *Rabies*
1957 *Mr. Sleeman Arrives*

Also:

1978 *Headless* (*Rätt ut i luften*, Producer Ingmar Bergman,
Writer and Director Erland Josephson)

The Cast

Liv Ullmann was born in Tokyo to Norwegian parents and was trained as an actress in London. She trained for the theatre in London. She made her stage debut at the Rogaland theatre in Stavanger (Norway) and performed her first film role in 1957. She has appeared in a number of Ingmar Bergman's films, including *Persona*, *Cries and Whispers*, *Scenes from a Marriage* and *The Autumn Sonata*. For her performance in Bergman's *The Shame*, she was awarded a Gold Bug by The Swedish Film Institute. Her performance as Kristina in Jan Troell's *The Emigrants* and *The New Land* got Liv Ullmann a Golden Globe, and launched her internationally, both in film and in the theatre. She has since been nominated for several Oscars for Best Actress, and she won The American Film Critics' Award four years in a row.

On stage, Liv Ullmann has played a number of major roles — in Norway, Sweden, London's West End, Australia, Los Angeles and on Broadway. In regard to her acting, she has been described as a combination of "earthly beauty and artless acting style." Even so, however, she has appeared less and less on stage and screen in recent years, focusing instead on scriptwriting and film-directing.

In 1992, she wrote and directed her first feature-length film, *Sofie*, which was awarded three main prizes at the film festival in Montreal. *Kristin Lavransdatter* was her second feature-length film as director. There, both as screenwriter and director, she transformed Sigrid Undset's famous suite of novels for the film medium. She began her collaboration with SVT Drama in 1996, when she directed *Private Confessions*, from Ingmar Bergman's script. *Private Confessions* has received several international TV and film prizes. In 2000, Ullmann directed *Faithless* — it, too, from a script by Ingmar Bergman.

Liv Ullmann was a UNICEF Good Will Ambassador for twenty years. For an equally long time, she was Vice-Chairman of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), which works on behalf of the refugees of the world. In 1976, she made her debut as an author, with the autobiographical book *Changing*. In 1984, she came out with yet another book: *Choices*. Both books have been translated into over twenty-four languages.

Liv Ullmann Filmography (selected titles)

2005	<i>Saraband</i>
2000	<i>Faithless</i> (director)
2000	<i>Light Keeps me Company</i>
1996	<i>Private Confessions</i> (director)
1995	<i>Kristin Lavransdatter</i> (director)
1994	<i>Zorn</i>
1994	<i>A Dream Play</i>
1992	<i>Sofie</i> (director)
1991	<i>The Ox</i>

1983	<i>Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number</i>
1977	<i>The Autumn Sonata</i>
1977	<i>Serpent's Egg</i>
1975	<i>Face to Face</i>
1974	<i>Zandy's Bride</i>
1973	<i>Scenes from a Marriage</i>
1972	<i>Cries and Whispers</i>
1972	<i>The New Land</i>
1971	<i>The Emigrants</i>
1969	<i>Passion of Anna</i>
1968	<i>The Shame</i>
1968	<i>The Hour of the Wolf</i>
1966	<i>Persona</i>

Erland Josephson is one of Sweden's most respected actors. He has also directed films and TV and stage productions. Mr. Josephson has appeared in such international successes as *The Sacrifice*, *Prospero's Book*, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* and *The Gaze of Odysseus*. He worked with Liv Ullmann (she directing) in the films *Sofie* and *Kristin Lavransdatter*. Other films Josephson has appeared in include *Amorosa* and *Good Evening, Mr. Wallenberg* as well as the Ingmar Bergman films *The Passion of Anna*, *Cries and Whispers*, and *Fanny and Alexander*. Josephson also worked with Ingmar Bergman in the two TV series *Scenes from a Marriage* and *Face to Face*.

Additional results of his collaborations with Bergman have included stagings at The Royal Dramatic Theatre, Stockholm, of *A Doll's House*, *Space and Time*, *Goldberg Variations*, *Yvonne and The Bacchae*. Erland Josephson is also active as a writer. So far, he has published seven novels, five autobiographical books and two collections of poetry in addition to a number of theatrical pieces for the stage, radio and television. For various periods in the 1960s and 1970s, Josephson was Director of The Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm, Chairman of Swedish Equity and Chairman of The Swedish Theatre Association.

On television, he has appeared in such SVT Drama productions as *In the Presence of a Clown*, *As Leaves in Vallombrosa*, *The Tattooed Widow* and *Ivar Kreuger*. His vehicles in recent years have included Ingmar Bergman's stagings of *The Ghost Sonata* and *Maria Stuart* at The Royal Dramatic Theatre.

The year 2002 saw Erland Josephson's play *One Night in The Swedish Summer* fill the house at The Royal Dramatic Theatre. In cinemas, his latest appearance was in *The Magnitist's Fifth Winter* (1999).

Erland Josephson Filmography
(selected titles)

2005	<i>Saraband</i>
1998	<i>From the Life of the Earthworms</i>
1998	<i>The Tattooed Widow</i>
1997	<i>In the Presence of a Clown</i>
1995	<i>Magic Circle</i>
1995	<i>As Leaves in Vallombrosa</i>
1995	<i>Kristin Lavransdatter</i>
1995	<i>The Gaze of Odysseus</i>
1992	<i>Sofie</i>
1991	<i>Rosenbaum</i>
1988	<i>The Unbearable Lightness of Being</i>
1986	<i>The Sacrifice</i>
1984	<i>After the Rehearsal</i>
1982	<i>Fanny and Alexander</i>
1980	<i>The Marmalade Revolution</i> (director and actor)
1973	<i>Scenes from a Marriage</i>
1972	<i>Cries and Whispers</i>
1969	<i>The Passion of Anna</i>

Börje Ahlstedt attended The Royal Dramatic Theatre's acting school from 1962 to 1965. After that, he became a member of that theatre's permanent ensemble, to which he still belongs. At the Royal Dramatic, Mr. Ahlstedt has performed over seventy roles. He has also appeared in numerous television and radio productions as well as in films.

His film breakthrough came in Vilgot Sjöman's *I Am Curious — Yellow* (1967). Since then, he has developed into a versatile character actor with a sense for tragicomic roles. No fewer than four times, he has portrayed Ingmar Bergman's uncle Carl in *Fanny and Alexander* (1982), *Best Intentions* (1992), *Sunday's Child* (1992) and *In the Presence of a Clown* (1997). He is one of Sweden's best-loved actors and has received numerous prizes, including a Gold Beetle from The Swedish Film Institute for his work in *Rabbit Man* (1990).

His television credits include Arthur Miller's *The Death of a Salesman* (1979), directed by Bo Widerberg. At Stockholm's Royal Dramatic Theatre, his roles have included the leading ones in Ingmar Bergman's stagings of both *Peer Gynt* and *Puntilla*— plus *God's Orchid*. In films in recent years, he has appeared in such productions as *The Magnitist's Fifth Winter* (1999) and *The Birthday* (2000) and on television in Ingmar Bergman's *In the Presence of a Clown* (1997), a performance for which he was awarded an Ingmar Bergman Fellowship.

Mr. Ahlstedt's work in recent years has included *Dream of Autumn* and *Woyzeck* on different stages of The Royal Dramatic — and, more lately, the title role in The Royal Dramatic's acclaimed production of *King Lear*.

Börje Ahlstedt Filmography
(selected titles):

2005	<i>Saraband</i>
2000	<i>Herr von Hancken</i>
2000	<i>The Birthday</i>
1997	<i>In the Presence of a Clown</i>
1995	<i>Fall in Paradise - The Source of Happiness 2</i>
1993	<i>Madame Chairman Ingeborg</i>
1992	<i>Sunday's Child</i>
1992 and 1991	<i>Best Intentions</i>
1990	<i>The Rabbit Man</i>
1986	<i>Ronja, the Robber's Daughter</i>
1982	<i>Fanny and Alexander</i>

Julia Dufvenius was born in 1975. Her first appearance as an actress was in Sveriges Television's critically acclaimed television series *Backlash*, produced in Gothenburg in 1998. In it, she played Ella, best friend of Josefin (Katharina Cohen).

Julia Dufvenius received her dramatic training at Theater School in Gothenburg from 1996 to 1999. She served her "apprenticeship" with Stockholm's Stadsteatern/Backstage in Jon Fosse's *The Name* and in Maria Blom's *Rhubarb*. She also appeared in Teaterhögskolan's end productions of *Innermost Lie* and *Party Time in Gothenburg*.

Starting with the year 2000, Miss Dufvenius has played a number of roles on The Royal Dramatic Theatre's different stages. In 2000, Ingmar Bergman staged *Maria Stuart*, in which Dufvenius played two roles: Elizabeth's lady-in-waiting and Maria (Mary) Stuart's chambermaid. In 2001, she did a longer substitution as Helena in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. That same year, she also played Lotta's assistant Martina in Louise Boije af Gennäs's play *Bestseller*. In 2002, she played Mette in The Royal Dramatic Theatre's production of Thomas Vinterberg's *The Celebration*. Also in 2002, and also at The Royal Dramatic, she found time to portray Olivia in *Twelfth Night*. More recent are her appearances in *The Imaginary Invalid* (two roles there) and in *King Lear* opposite Börje Ahlstedt.