

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## SVEN NYKVIST: CINEMATOGRAPHER

October 1 - 8, 1988

Swedish cinematographer Sven Nykvist is the focus of a week-long film series at The Museum of Modern Art from October 1 through 8, 1988. SVEN NYKVIST: CINEMATOGRAPHER includes a selection of his work with film directors Ingmar Bergman, Andrei Tarkovsky, Louis Malle, Bob Rafelson, and Philip Kaufman. The exhibition is part of Sweden '88, a nationwide celebration commemorating the 350th anniversary of the first Swedish colony in America.

Sven Nykvist will introduce the series with Ingmar Bergman's Cries and Whispers (1973) on Saturday, October 1, at 5:30 p.m. Other films to be shown at the Museum include Bergman's Fanny and Alexander (1983), for which Nykvist won an Academy award, Tarkovsky's The Sacrifice (1986), Kaufman's The Unbearable Lightness of Being (1988), Malle's Pretty Baby (1978), and Rafelson's The Postman Always Rings Twice (1981). Other directors who have called upon Nykvist's talents include Roman Polanski, Woody Allen, Norman Jewison, Paul Mazursky, John Huston, and Alan J. Pakula.

Nykvist believes the filmic image must convey a mood that expresses a film's message. To bring out the emotional truth in a scene, Nykvist shuns gloss or high-tech effects and integrates lighting, composition, and camera movement with the tone of the film. With a style that is passionate and dramatic, he uses stark classical lighting to create striking painterly compositions with expressive simplicity. Drawn to films with intense human drama, Nykvist has said "I'm not interested in doing pictures with action or violence. I couldn't."

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Born in Sweden in 1924 to Lutheran missionaries, Nykvist spent his childhood boarding with relatives near Stockholm while his parents were in Africa. He studied at The Stockholm Municipal School for Photographers, worked from 1941 to 1959 as assistant photographer at the Sandrew movie studios, and also practiced as a photographer at Cinecittà in Rome. Nykvist had filmed nearly forty feature-length movies and several documentaries in Africa by the time he became Bergman's director of photography in 1960. Since then he has filmed over thirty-five features and directed three pictures of his own.

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For further information please contact Sarah Eaton, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.