

# Hollow laughter resounds in Bergman film comedy

By BOB QUARTERONI of the Collegian Staff  
After the failure, both popular and critical, of "The Naked Night," Ingmar Bergman was desperate. Everyone was saying, "Bergman is finished." Desperation's result was a sudden shift to comedy, resulting in "A Lesson in Love," "Dreams" and "Smiles of a Summer Night." Originally released in 1955, and starring Ulla Jacobsson as Anne, Eva Dahlbeck as

century, focuses on four men and four women who spend a midsummer weekend at a Swedish country house, whiling away the time playing revolving partners, and performing an elaborate masque. It is "Mating: Swedish Style," where, like its American progeny, men and women manipulate each other, albeit humorously.

Stylistically, Bergman makes no attempt at creating the past naturalistically, as he did with circus life in "The Naked Night." Instead, he dresses modern characters in period costume and views them from a discrete camera distance, relying on irony, dialogue and humor to make his points.

Within the microcosm of the guest house (with overtones of "A Midsummer's Night Dream" and "Miss Julie"), Bergman addresses two themes: the customs of society, and the inevitable compromise of passions to

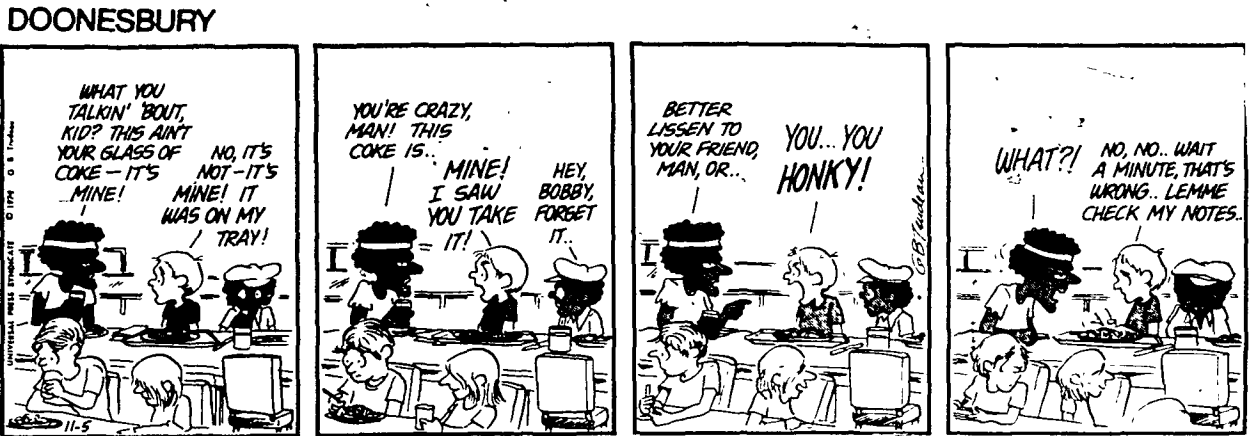
social conventions. Hence, Bergman is dealing with the same themes as Jean Renoir's 1939 "Rules of the Game" and Luis Bunel's recent "The Discrete Charm of the Bourgeoisie." But, where the irascible Bunel gleefully dismembered everything middle-class, and Renoir openly satirized capitalism and the bourgeoisie, Bergman, the 50's Bergman anyhow, seems almost nostalgic for the "good old days" of aristocracy and privilege.

Bergman also questions eros, and cupid: the lusts under the frock coats and hooped dresses, across the social spectrum. At one extreme, Bergman shows Frid, a groom, and Petra prancing in a park (to the sound of whinnying) and rolling, literally, in the hay, causing Frid to exclaim, exultantly, "There isn't a better life than this."

Contrasting this honest, open humanity, are the

staunchly civilized, the honest burghers (and burghettes?) who conceal their passions — are caught up in self-pity and intrigues — and try and maintain respectability at any price. Exemplifying this is Egerman, a lawyer who is the apotheosis of civility. Egerman, too hedged in by his pedantic dignity to indulge his fancies, suffers the fate of all Bergman heroes who cannot yield to instinct: constant humiliation, here handled as pratfalls and verbal jibes.

All this occurs in an atmosphere that is hedonistic in tone, and Rabelaisian in dialogue and incident. "I will remain faithful to you for at least seven eternities of pleasure, 18 false smiles and 57 enamored whisperings without meaning. I will be faithful to you until the big yawn separates us..." "Smiles" will be shown at the University Auditorium 8:30 tonight.



## 'Lemon Sky' to preview tonight

Lanford Wilson, author of "The Hot L Baltimore," is one of America's fastest rising playwrights. "Lemon Sky," a more recent work, is being produced by the University Theatre as its final show of Fall Term. "Lemon Sky" is the drama of a father and his son, and their attempts to know each other. A preview performance of the play will be presented at 8 tonight in

the Pavilion Theatre. Preview tickets go on sale 1 p.m. today at the Playhouse box office for 50 cents. The show opens its regular run tomorrow night and will continue through Saturday and then from next Tuesday to next Friday. Jerry James, an MFA candidate in directing, is directing "Lemon Sky" as his thesis project.

The cast for the University Theatre production includes Ralph Allred as the father and Patrick Clear as the son. Irene O'Brien, Mia Dillon, Kathleen McGrath, Alan Finney and Larry Avey round out the cast.

Ticket reservations may be made by calling 865-1884 between 1 and 6 p.m. daily.

### Review

Desiree and Harriet Anderson as Petra, "Smiles of a Summer Night" is a comedy, but a resolutely Bergman comedy. If life is wifly and gay, it is only so for a few hours, for a midsummer's night — it is not wifly's lot. People laugh, but the laughter is hollow. "Smiles," a stylized social comedy set at the turn of the

### Fraternities to compete in blood drive

Fraternity brothers will compete for the American Red Cross Blood Donation Plaque at the blood drive 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today and tomorrow in the HUB Ballroom.

At the end of the drive, sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity and Gamma Sigma Sigma service sorority, the award is presented to the fraternity with the largest percentage of brothers donating blood.

Tau Phi Delta fraternity has won the plaque for the past 20 drives. Registration is not necessary to donate blood.

### Parachute club to sponsor jump

The Penn State Parachute Club will sponsor a skydiving demonstration jump, 3:30 p.m. today in the field between East Halls and Beaver Stadium. The club will hold a meeting for all people interested in joining 7 tonight in 361 Willard.

The State College Tenants Union will meet 7:30 tonight in the HUB Assembly Room.

The Association for Residence Hall Students will meet 7:30 tonight in Pollock lounge.

The Penn State Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws will meet 7 tonight in 265 Willard.

Thomas M. Hellman, corporate manager for air and water pollution control of the Allied Chemical Corporation, will speak on "Industrial Odor: Its Measurement and Control" 2:20 p.m. today in 140 Fenske Lab.

Tom Rogers will speak on "Patrolling the Frontiers: An Analysis of Catch 22" at the Comparative Literature

Luncheon 12:15 p.m. today in the Presidential Room of the Corner Room.

The Association of Student Architectural Committees will meet 10 tonight in 318 Sackett.

The Orthodox Christian Fellowship will sponsor

### Collegian notes

Eastern Orthodox Vespers 7:30 tonight in the Eisenhower Chapel.

The Ukrainian Club will meet 7 tonight in 173 Willard. Officers will be elected.

The PSU Society of Student Social Workers will meet 7:30 tonight in 258 Willard. Representatives from Maryland and West Virginia will speak on graduate school programs.

The Undergraduate Philosophy Club will hold an organizational meeting today in 13 Sparks.

Arnold Miller, dean of admissions at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, will meet today with students interested in the study of law. For appointments, call the political science department, 865-7515.

The planning committee for

the Women's Center will meet 7:30 tonight in 151 Willard.

The Pinochle Club will meet 8 tonight in the HUB card room.

The Penn State Veterans Organization will meet 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Vet House, 227 E. Nittany Ave.

Tickets for the Sunday night performance of "Pleasure and Repentance" by the Royal Shakespeare Company will be sold at tonight's showing of Ingmar Bergman's film "Smiles of a Summer Night" at the University Auditorium. Tickets will be sold starting at 7:30 p.m.

A few tickets may be available for the company's Saturday performance of "The Hollow Crown." For information, call the University Auditorium box office at 865-2242.

The Penn State Astronomy Club will meet 7 p.m. Wednesday in 445 Davey Lab.

The Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, will hold a formal initiation Dec. 14. Anyone third term or above intending to work in any aspect of journalism may join. See John Foltz, 117 Carnegie, by Dec. 6.

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