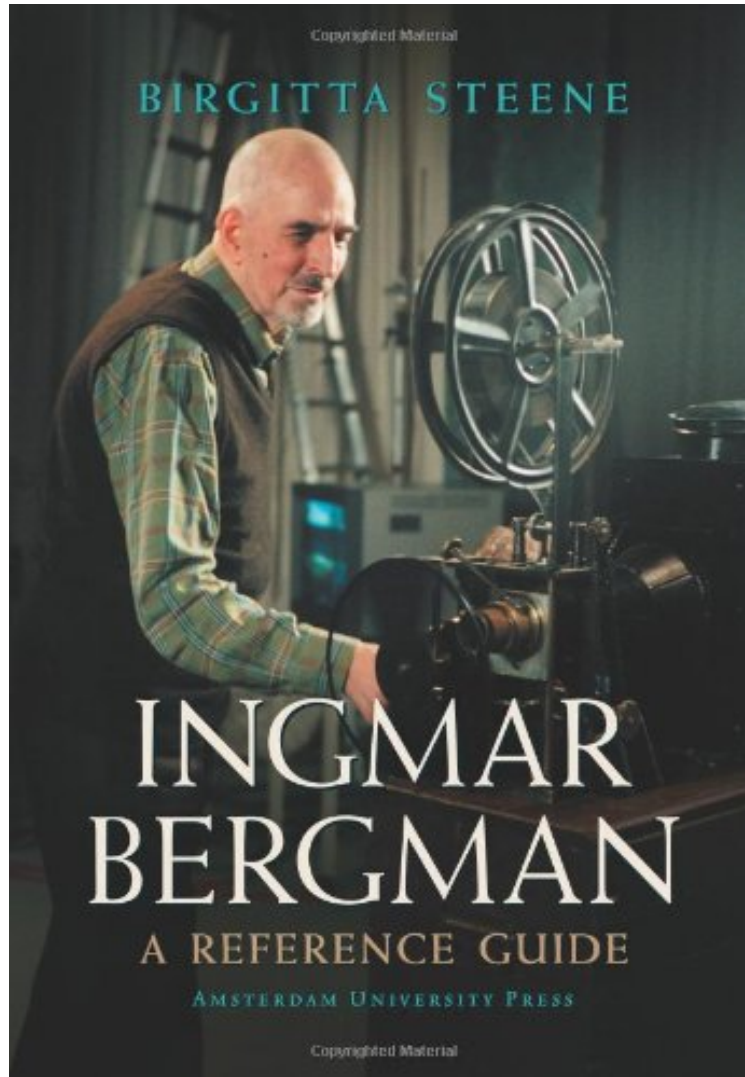


Ingmar Bergman: A Reference Guide

Birgitta Steene

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Birgitta Steene : Ingmar Bergman: A Reference Guide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ingmar Bergman: A Reference Guide:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ingmar Bergman: A Reference GuideBy NRL "Ingmar Bergman: A Reference Guide" is a treasure house of information for lovers of Bergman's films and students of art cinema in general. It may be too specialized for general readers or those wanting a brief biographical or critical introduction, though it does contain a biographical and critical overview which serve that purpose quite adequately. Biritta Steene, a native of Sweden, has been since 1973 Professor of Comparative Literature and Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle. She is a well-known Bergman scholar, and has edited a collection of critical essays on "The

Seventh Seal." The "Reference Guide" is a reworking and expansion of her 1987 book, "Ingmar Bergman: A Guide to References and Resources." The new book follows the original format, but is greatly expanded and updated. I especially liked the summaries of reviews of Bergman's films and also the summaries of important critical studies. The book is an invaluable starting point for exploring Bergman's work, and its approach is often far more judicious and sensitive than those of other more popular biographical studies. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Truly a 'reference guide' By George T. Dempsey An altogether superb compilation, bringing together everything that any student or simple admirer of Bergman could possibly want to have between two covers. My only suggestion would be to have had a summary listing of his films preceding that section of the book, for ready reference.

The films of Swedish director Ingmar Bergman are renowned for their largely spare and stark aesthetic, an existential framework, and plots driven by a fascination with death and the moral torments of the human soul. Birgitta Steene offers here in *Ingmar Bergman: A Reference Guide* an essential and unparalleled resource on the life and work of Bergman. Plumbing the depths of these trademark Bergman themes, Steene traces as well the indelible mark he left on world cinema through his other cinematographic work and writings. Over the decades, Bergman's stature and image have evolved in fascinating ways: an iconoclast of the 1950s, a bourgeois traditionalist of the 1960s, and an icon in the 1980s. This exhaustive compendium considers each phase of his career, exploring his deep and vast oeuvre in all its controversy and complexity, and analyzes his intriguing and unique motifs such as his efforts to expose dead conventions and his portrayals of Woman as the archetype of humanity. As well as providing a detailed account of Bergman's life and chronicling his career as a filmmaker and theater director, including his work for television, Steene offers transcripts of some of the numerous interviews and conversations she conducted with Bergman. Writings by and about Bergman and a detailed chronological survey of his film and theatrical work completes this eminently readable and thoroughly researched volume. A wide-ranging and groundbreaking work of film history, *Ingmar Bergman* is the definitive reference for scholars of the Scandinavian master.

"With her dual cultural background and access to Bergman material in his native language, Birgitta Steene is uniquely qualified to provide both an international and Swedish perspective on the critical reception to his extraordinary output. Her new book offers a comprehensive overview and annotated record of his prolific accomplishments. As Bergman's mighty career draws to a close, this reference guide will serve as the first source as well as the gold standard for a generation of future scholars."