

# The Cinema of Scandinavia

Nordia House

Fall, 2019

Instructor: Thomas Birnie, Ph.D.

Film production in the Nordic region has historically drawn from diverse cultural sources, each of which has left its unique mark on this transnational art form. This workshop will provide an introduction to the origins and development of Scandinavian film covering the past 95 years. The focus will be to acquaint participants with the major director, themes and narrative styles of this broad and rich subject.

We will see that Scandinavian cinema has been characterized by a high degree of experimentation which has, in turn, provided impetus for directors working outside this region: Ingmar Bergman had a profound influence on the works of Woody Allen, and the Danish director, Carl Theodor Dreyer, has inspired such names as Sergio Leone, Martin Scorsese, and Paul Schrader. The visual style of Danish director Lars von Trier and his pioneering Dogme 95 Movement are reflected in several modern film classics; a few examples are *Saving Private Ryan* (1999) and *Traffic* (2000).

If you have questions, comments or suggestions, feel free to contact me at 503 228 1941. E-mails are also always welcome: [thbirn@earthlink.net](mailto:thbirn@earthlink.net).

Our course will be conducted as a series of workshop sessions in which we learn about, savor and discuss the works below:

September 23

*Mikael* (1924); Carl Theodor Dreyer, director.  
Danish/German.

September 30	<i>Derailed</i> (1942); Bodil Ipsen, director. Danish.
October 7	<i>Death is a Caress</i> (1949); Edith Carlmar, director. Norwegian.
October 14	<i>The Word</i> (1955); Carl Theodor Dreyer, director. Danish.
October 21	<i>The Seventh Seal</i> (1957); Ingmar Bergman, director. Swedish.
October 28	<i>Insomnia</i> (1997); Erik Skjoldbjærg, director. Norwegian/Swedish.
November 4	<i>The Celebration</i> (1998); Thomas Vinterberg, director. Danish.
November 11	<i>Lights in the Dusk</i> (2006); Aki Kaurismäki, director. Finnish.
November 18	<i>Melancholia</i> (2011); Lars von Trier, director. Danish.