

Ingrid Bergman in Her Own Words

Cert PG Sweden etc 2015 110 mins

Crew

Director	Stig Björkman
Screenplay	Stig Björkman, Stina Gardell & Dominika Daubenbuchel
Cinematography	Malin Korkeasalo & Eva Dahlgren
Original music	Michael Nyman Eva Dahlgren

Cast

Alicia Vikander	Ingrid Bergman (voice)
Jeanine Basinger	Herself
Pia Lindström	Herself
Fiorella Mariani	Herself
Ingrid Rossellini	Herself
Isabella Rossellini	Herself
Roberto Ingmar Rossellini	Himself
Liv Ullmann	Herself

Synopsis

Spring 2011. Director Stig Björkman meets Ingrid Bergman's daughter Isabella Rossellini, who suggests that he "make a film about Mama". With the help of Isabella and her siblings, and never before seen private footage, notes, letters and diaries, Stig is able to tell Ingrid's story through her own words and images.



Booking Information

Distributor: Soda Pictures

DVD bookings: contact Hannah Roeg
0207 377 1407

hannahr@soda pictures.com
www.sodapictures.com

Available: Now



Reviews

With numerous excerpts from her private diaries, myriad family photographs and significant home-movie footage (much of it shot by the lady herself), this is very much an access-all-areas feature-length tribute to Ingrid Bergman.

Past experience of TV arts docs has taught us that the opening up of an artist's family archive often comes at an editorial price, too often resulting in bland legacy management rather than genuine revisionist insight. All credit, then, to veteran Swedish critic and filmmaker Stig Björkman for surmounting the usual scissors-and-paste expectations and delivering an intimate, involving portrait of a remarkable woman who blazed her own independent path in love and on screen - a bio-doc with the complexity and texture of a drama to add to its fascinating mosaic of cherished memories and archive titbits.

...Björkman is relatively sparing with actual movie clips, but anyone who's watched Bergman's films over the years will be familiar with the sense that she's captivating on screen not just for that open-air beauty and confidence within her own stately frame, but precisely because she's so much her own woman - innocent yet carnal, troubled yet with a self-preserving intelligence. As such, she's actually quite hard to read, and we're drawn to her even more because of it.

With so much reference material at his disposal, Björkman can't pierce that mystery entirely, but what he does do quite elegantly is explore the mixed feelings of her four surviving children, all of whom make clear how much fun she was to be with and yet - without any sense of 'Mommie Dearest' recrimination - also give vent to their feelings of being left behind when she was away filming, or indeed when she had moved cities to be with a new partner.

Michael Nyman's chamber-scaled score, in part a reworking of his affecting soundtrack for 1999's *Wonderland*, provides a tellingly poignant undertow to the family's to-and-fro of enduring affection and unrequited longing, all of which adds considerably to our understanding of one of the screen's indelible icons.

Trevor Johnston, Sight and Sound, September 2016

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film premiered at the Cannes Film Festival 2015, where it won a Special Mention in the Golden Eye Best Documentary competition.
- ☆ Swedish actress Alicia Vikander, who provides the voice-over for Ingrid Bergman, will be well know to audiences for her lead roles in such films as *Testament of Youth*, *A Royal Affair* and *The Danish Girl*.