

Film explores child's view

By Sean Axmaker
Of the Emerald

Vibeke Lokkeberg's "Kamilla" is an emotionally powerful look at the disintegration of a marriage as seen through the eyes of the 7-year-old daughter.

The setting is Bergen, a small coastal town in Norway, just after World War II. Kamilla's father runs a shoe repair shop and her mother (played by writer-director Lokkeberg) a laundry. As the film begins we become aware of the problems in the marriage, but the cleft that develops is in the form of the sexy blonde Siri, whom father has hired to run the counter in front.

Across the street from the family lives Kamilla's best friend Svein, whose father has run out on the family. His mother attempts to hold the family together despite interference from self-righteous neighbors and the state welfare board.

Caught in between these battles are Kamilla and Svein, innocent young children who observe the ensuing anarchy but are unable to understand why it is occurring. In one of the film's most powerful moments the children try to create their own "ideal" love that becomes the only pure relationship in the story.

Nina Knapskog is perfect as Kamilla; her range of emotion is extraordinary for a child her age. She captures the pain and anger of a helpless child while still preserving the essential innocence and curiosity that makes Kamilla come alive. Even when her father leaves the family and moves into the shop with mistress Siri, Kamilla attempts to console herself with her picture book and her friendship with Svein.

Lokkeberg's vision is a miserable, depressing one. The numerous point-of-view shots let us view the world from Kamilla's helpless position, a small girl in a towering world. The shame the family lives under for allegedly dealing with the Nazis during the war, the English lessons the father undergoes (so he can become a lumberjack

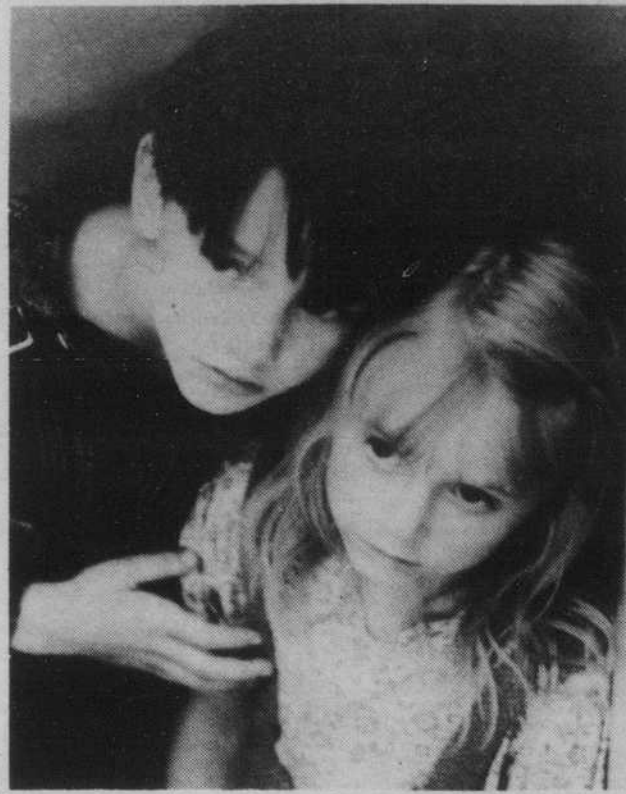


Photo courtesy New Line Cinema

in Canada), and the American sailors that wander in and out of the plot are all carefully calculated elements that seem to reinforce the corruption of society and family that World War II has brought on.

The beauty of the town and the visual splendor of the film are in sharp contrast to the hopelessness of life. The only hope offered is in innocent Kamilla, who futilely attempts to reconcile her parents' marriage. Beautiful and sad, "Kamilla" is a powerful film with the sharpest portrayal of a child's attempts to cope with a marital breakup I've ever seen.

Norwegian with English subtitles.
Starts Friday at Cinema 7.

Folk duo to play Eugene

Jim Ringer and Mary McCaslin, folk and country-western singers, will return to Eugene for a Friday concert at the W.O.W. Hall.

McCaslin sings a curious blend of cowgirl laments and Motown pop hits from the 1960s, while Ringer rumbles out ballads of "drinking, dashed hopes and death." Together, the San Bernardino, Calif. couple have perfected an appealing close-harmony style of singing, as evidenced on their album, "Bramble and the Rose," of a few years ago.

They have released a dozen

solo or duo albums, mostly on the Philo or Flying Fish labels, including McCaslin's "Prairie in the Sky" and "Way out West" and Ringer's recent album, "Endangered species."

Ringer has a rugged charisma that lends total credibility to his singing, but he uses that gruff exterior to make his warm-hearted, touching songs take you that much more by surprise. "I used to be a logger and a construction worker until I found out I could make a living doing this and having fun," he said.

Many of McCaslin's songs take a wistful look at the West, and what might have been. She moved to the Los Angeles area from Indianapolis when she was a young girl and was disappointed at finding more sequins there than sagebrush.

Friday's concert will begin at 8:30 p.m., with the doors opening at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 the day of the show, and are available at Earth River Records, EMU Main Desk, Balladeer Music, House of Record, Literary Lion and the W.O.W. Hall, at Eighth Avenue and Lincoln Street.

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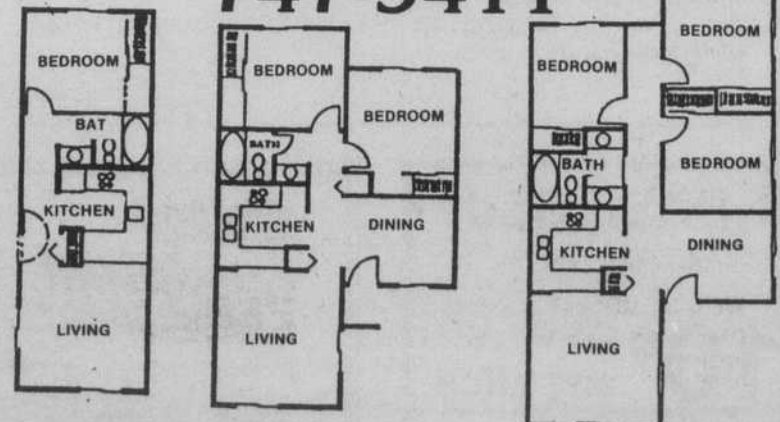


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