A SUMMER DOSE OF SCANDINAVIAN

By Katie Ashwood

For those of us who are unable to take a summer trip to Scandinavia this year, Los Angeles offers a pseudo-Scandinavian escape in the city of Solvang. Located in Santa Barbara County, this Danish-styled city was founded in 1911 by a group of Danes who had traveled from the midwestern United States.

Solvang, "sunny field" in Danish, features bakeries, restaurants, and markets that offer a taste of traditional Scandinavia. The buildings are also styled to incorporate Danish design and the city features its own Little Mermaid statue, a bust of Hans Christian Andersen, as well as a scaled down version of Copenhagen's Round Tower in the town center. The Elverhøj Museum of History and Art highlights Solvang's Danish heritage and features permanent installations on Vikings and the history of the town.

In September, Solvang celebrates its annual "Danish Days" event. The event, usually held the third weekend of September, includes a procession of floats through downtown Solvang. There are also eating competitions, music, dancing, and a special Sunday morning breakfast featuring medisterpølser and æbleskiver (Danish pork sausage and spherical pancakes).

Check out some of the Scandinavian department’s graduating seniors as they discuss their senior capstone projects and their time at UCLA majoring in Nordic Studies. (left)

Seoyeon Park
Major: Psychology and Nordic Studies
Minor: Comparative Literature

"My capstone project will be portraying how Korean cinema history and Danish cinema history share certain social, historical and cultural similarities and specifically examine how aspects of the Dogme 95 movement is reflected in Korean Cinema. I will also be discussing how the idea Janteloven shares similarities with Korean culture that is heavily influenced by Confucianism.

I love being a Nordic Studies Major because the Scandinavian Department is so supportive and friendly. I am Korean by birth and lived in China for most of my life, and never thought I would be majoring in this field. It all started when I took the Henrik Ibsen class with Professor Lunde and Introduction to Danish Cinema with Professor Tangherlini.

I owe everything to Professor Tangherlini, Professor Ball, Professor Lunde and Professor Shideler, who all helped me and inspired me through this journey and made me fall in love with the major."

Livia Moppel Witteveen
Major: Linguistics in Scandinavian Languages and Nordic Studies

"I was originally just doing the Linguistics major, but because of my focus on Swedish within the Ling major I had to take a bunch of Scandinavian classes. I enjoyed them a lot so I decided to add the Nordic Studies major as well!

I'm doing my capstone project with visiting professor Jenny Björklund who specializes in gender studies. The project is essentially about gender in Scandinavian crime fiction, but I’m focusing on the first two novels by Swedish author Åsa Larsson: Sun Storm and The Blood Spilt. We chose these two novels because there are two female protagonists."
This year marks the 100th birthday of famed Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman. During the course of his career, Bergman directed over 60 films as well as over 170 plays. Bergman retired from filmmaking in 2003, and passed away in 2007 at the age of 89 at his home on the island of Fårö. The majority of his films take place in Sweden and focus on topics concerning death, illness, faith, betrayal, bleakness, and insanity.

In order to celebrate Ingmar Bergman 100 years after his birth, two of his works will be screened at our very own UCLA Film and Television Archive. The archive will be showing "Scenes from a Marriage" (1973) and "Fanny and Alexander" (1982). The films will be available to view on June 9th and June 23rd.

"Scenes from a Marriage" is a Swedish television mini-series that explores the disintegration of a marriage between a divorce lawyer and her husband. Originally released in 6 parts, the series was condensed into a singular theatrical version which received acclaim both in Sweden and internationally. Bergman stated that he drew on his experiences from his own failed marriages as well as memories from his parents' relationship that he witnessed as a child.

"Fanny and Alexander" is a historical period drama that takes place in Uppsala, Sweden in the early 1900s. The project was initially conceived as a tv-series lasting 312 minutes total but was released in entirety as a complete film, making it one of the longest cinematic films in history. The film follows two siblings who are coping with the loss of their father, and abuse from their new step-father who is especially cruel towards Alexander because of his imaginative nature.