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Ingmar Bergman's *Persona*

Long held to be among the world's greatest filmmakers, Ingmar Bergman shaped international art cinema from the 1950s to the 1980s. Among his many works, *Persona* is often considered to be his masterpiece and is described as one of the central works of modernism. Bergman himself claimed that this film "touched wordless secrets only the cinema can discover." The essays collected in this volume, published for the first time anywhere, use a variety of methodologies to explore topics such as acting technique, genre, and dramaturgy. It also includes translations of Bergman's early writings that have never before been available in English, as well as an updated filmography and bibliography that cover the filmmaker's most recent work.

Lloyd Michaels is Professor of English and Dean of the College at Allegheny College, Pennsylvania. Editor of *Film Criticism*, he is also the author of *Elia Kazan: A Guide to References and Resources* and *The Phantom of the Cinema: Character in Modern Film*.

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*In memory of my parents,
Maybelle and Jack P. Michaels*

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Finally, and perhaps gratuitously, I would like to acknowledge the enduring work of Ingmar Bergman, whose films inspired my earliest interest in the aesthetic potential of the cinema. Artists of his talent, discipline, and achievement should never be taken for granted.

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