The Swedish Picture

The Song of the Red Flower

SÅNGEN OM DEN ELDRÖDA BLOMMAN

EASTMANN COLOR AGASCOPE
JARL KULLE (below) was born in Skåne, the southernmost part of Sweden, and when quite young he came to Stockholm to become an actor. While taking lessons he earned his living by doing odd jobs. After a time he was ready to sit for the entrance exam to the training school of the Royal Dramatic Theatre. He became the most prominent pupil of his year. He has been able to maintain that position and today none of the younger male stage artists can rival him.

Thanks to his unusual talent and good looks Jarl Kulle has been given increasingly important film parts. His performance in Ingmar Bergman's «Smiles of a Summer Night» met with great approval and he gained the appreciation of both the public and the critics for his excellent presentation of the bold timber floater Olaf Koskela in «The Song of the Red Flower».

ANITA BJÖRK's name immediately brings to mind Strindberg's «Miss Julie», for it was her interpretation of this young Swedish noblewoman in Alf Sjöberg's film that established her reputation far beyond the boundaries of Sweden. The film won the Grand Prix at Cannes in 1951.

She was born at Tällberg, a small place in Dalecarlia. After visiting the Ecole Francaise and High School in Stockholm, she received a stage education first at a private training school and subsequently at the Royal Dramatic Theatre. Her first great success on the stage was in Jean Genet's «Les Bonnes» in 1948.

Since «Miss Julie» she has appeared in a number of films. Her latest is «The Song of the Red Flower», in which she has the leading female part as Kylilikki, the proud daughter of a proud farmer.

Anita Björk has also worked abroad in several films and had the leading female rôle in «Nightpeople» playing opposite Gregory Peck.

ULLA JACOBSSON, playing the rôle of Ell in «The Song of the Red Flower», is at present undoubtedly the best known and the most highly appreciated Swedish film actress outside her own country.

It can be said that she became world famous overnight thanks to her brilliant acting in the Swedish film «One Summer of Happiness», which enjoyed a worldwide success.

Ulla Jacobsson was born in Göteborg and worked for a few years in local theatres before being given her first part in this very film «One Summer of Happiness». Since then she has appeared in many Swedish films and earned international praise for her performance in Ingmar Bergman's «Smiles of a Summer Night», which recently competed a record first-run of 21 weeks in Paris. She has also appeared in several German films and has just finished working in France on a new version of «Crime and Punishment».

As a personality Ulla Jacobsson is a modest and shy young woman with charming manners. Her considerable success has left her unspoilt and there is no doubt that a great future awaits her in the film world.

ANN-MARIE GYLLENSPETZ had never even seen a film camera when, in the spring of 1953, she had a film test for the rôle of Imber in the SF color film «No Man's Wife». But that did not prevent her from proving that she was an unusually talented young actress, and she was given the part. Lars-Eric Kjellgren, the director, had long been «scouting» for the right girl to play young Imber. He heard about Ann-Marie when passing through Göteborg, where she worked in a small theatre together with a number of other budding artists. He contacted her and asked her to come to his hotel. At the appointed time Kjellgren went down to the lobby and in the midst of the lively crowd he saw a fair, pretty girl with exactly the looks he had imagined Imber should have. He went up to her with but a faint hope that this would be Ann-Marie Gyllenspetz. But indeed it was — and everything was soon settled.

Ann-Marie, only 22 years old, was born in Göteborg and after leaving school she attended a theatrical school in her home town. She performed in several plays at the «Atelier» theatre in Göteborg before being discovered for the film. In Stockholm she has appeared in two or three plays and has had several successes as a screen artist. Ann-Marie Gyllenspetz, who plays Annika in «The Song of the Red Flower», is at present considered to be one of Sweden's most promising young actresses.
A thrilling and dramatic picture of a young man's many romances filmed in some of Sweden's most beautiful natural surroundings.

He breaks the hearts of many women. In so doing he discovers his true love and learns to understand the real meaning of life.

A beautiful and appealing film full of adventure and romance. The scenes depicting the shooting of the rapids have never been filmed before and are breathtaking and unforgettable.

PHOTOGRAPHED WITH THE WONDERFUL AGASCOPE ANAMORPHIC LENSE FOR WIDESCREEN PROJECTION
The Song of The Red Flower

Production: AB Svensk Filmindustri, Stockholm
Producer: Allan Ekelund
Manuscript: Rune Lindström, after a novel by Johannes Linnankoski
Director: Gustaf Molander Camera: Ake Dahlqvist
Art director: P. A. Lundgren Music: Erland von Koch
Song: »The Song Of The Red Flower« — Lyrics: Rune Lindström,
music: Håkan Norlén
Colour: Eastmancolor Technique: Agascope

CAST:

Olof Koskela .......... Jarl Kulle  Rosa ..................... Fylgia Zadig
Kyllikki ................ Anita Björk  Britta ................... Monica Nielsen
Elli .................... Ulla Jacobsson  Malm ............... Edwin Adolphson
Annika ........ Ann-Marie Gyllenspetz  Väinö ................ Axel Slangs
Maria ............... Marianne Bengtsson  Kaleb .......... Olof Bergström
Olof’s mother ....... Linnea Hillberg  Olof’s father ...... Erik Berglund
Kerstin ........... Gunnel Lindblom  Falk .............. Ingvar Kjellson
The fireman .... Szven-Eric Gamble
Olof Koskela is the son of a rich farmer. When the film opens we see him working in the forest on a beautiful day in early summer when Annika, who is in love with Olof, comes to see him.

On his way home he meets another girl, Elli, who is going to the Koskela farm to be the new servant. He is immediately attracted by her obvious charms. When on Saturday night the young people of the village meet to dance and play, Olof soon disappears with Elli. He spends the night with her in her room. When Olof's father discovers his son's relations with Elli, there is a heated argument and Olof is turned out of the house.

He obtains a job with a gang of timber floaters and in a village on the river he meets beautiful dark-eyed Maria and has a passionate affair with her, but urged on once again by forces stronger than himself, he meets in another village further down the river Kylicikki, daughter of a rich farmer.

To gain her favour he challenges Kylicikki's fiancé to a daring race through the rapids on a log: rapids which already have been responsible for the deaths of five men. Kylicikki falls in love with Olof but when he asks her father for her hand in marriage he is disdainfully turned away. He continues on his way signing on as a sailor and stays away from home for four years.

Returning at last to a port near his home town, he meets a prostitute and goes to her lodgings. There he meets Elli who has taken up this way of life since Olof left her; in the morning Olof discovers Elli, overcome by emotion at seeing him again, has committed suicide.

Greatly affected by this he decides to return to his parents' farm. He finds that his father has already died and his mother dying. As a result of his experiences, Olof now decides to make good and works hard to put the farm in order.

Later, he again asks Kylicikki's father for his daughter's hand and this time the old man agrees to the marriage, having learnt that Olof is now a land-owner himself.

Olof marries Kylicikki and at last his years of hardship and wandering are at an end.