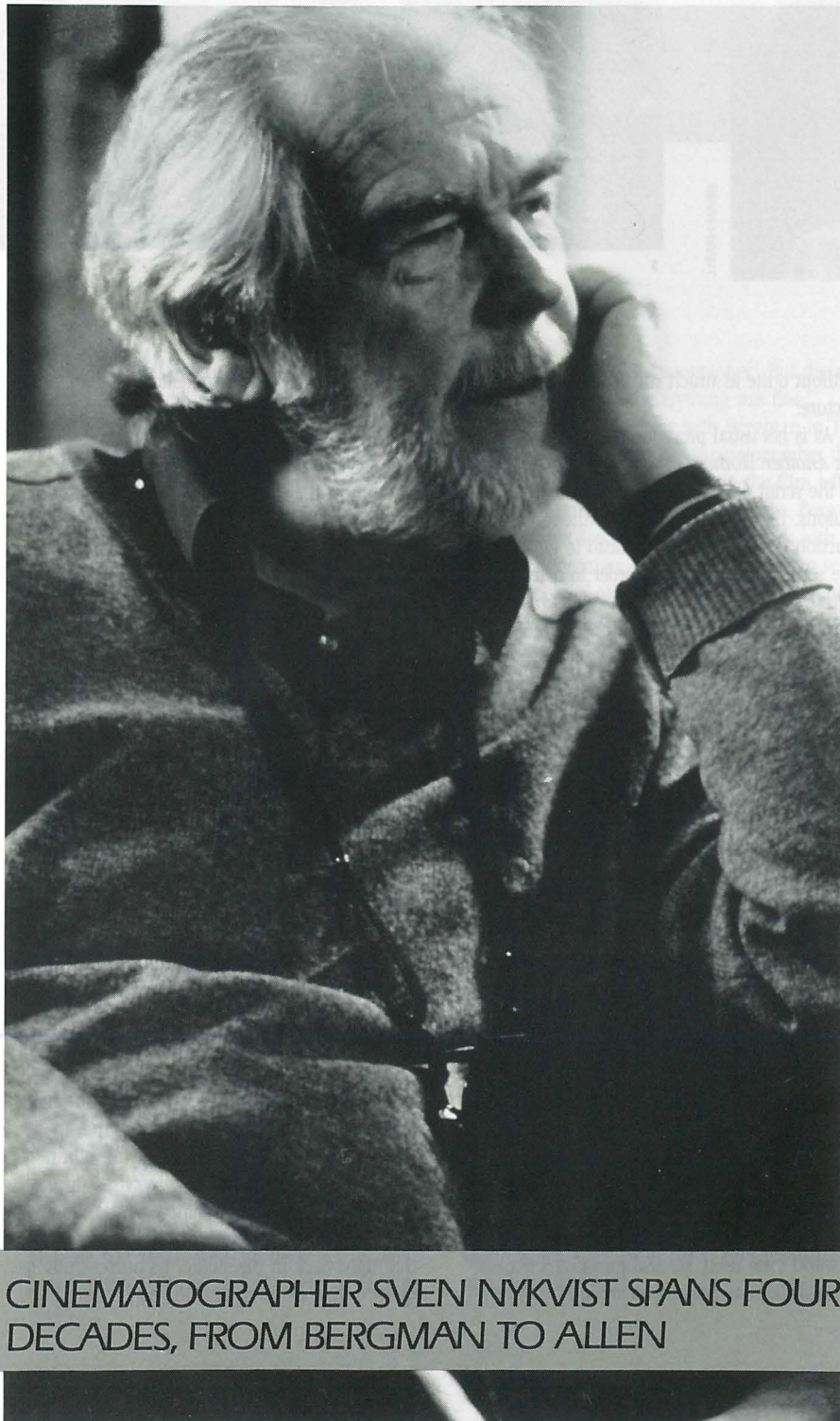


# A Quality of Light

BY MICHAEL S. EDDY



At 65, Sven Nykvist is finding it hard to slow down. He is one of the most honored cinematographers in the world, and yet the only compromise he will make is to cut back from three to two films a year. "The flying is okay when you are young, but the travel takes a lot of strength from you," says Nykvist, who spends little time these days in his native Sweden. "We always tend to forget how old we're getting. Many people ask me how I can go on like this, going from country to country, but I think it is interesting. You learn a lot from every picture, and you learn new possibilities."

In a career that spans four decades, Nykvist has made more than 60 films and has worked with many notable directors—Bob Fosse, Norman Jewison, Bob Rafelson, Andrei Tarkovsky, Philip Kaufman and Louis Malle, to name a few. He is best known, though, for his 30 years of collaboration with Ingmar Bergman, with whom he made 22 films. Two of them, *Cries and Whispers* and *Fanny and Alexander*, garnered Academy Awards for Nykvist.

Nykvist has most recently added Woody Allen to his list of collaborators. He shot the 1988 film, *Another Woman*, the Allen segment of *New York Stories* in 89 and Allen's latest as-yet-unnamed film starring Woody Allen, Mia Farrow, Anjelica Huston, and Alan Alda.

Nykvist enjoys working with Allen, whose working style is similar to that of Bergman's. "They both are interested in the psychology of the human being," he explains, "so they focus on the face, since the eyes are a mirror of the soul." Of utmost importance to Nykvist is the script, to which he is a willing slave. "Of course the main thing for me is to help create the mood and atmosphere that the script is asking for and to help the focus of the story. I don't want to just make every picture exactly the same. I want to change my style for every script. That is my philosophy."

Nykvist had the perfect opportunity to show his different approaches in *New York Stories* and *Another Woman*. "When we started on *New York Stories*, we had just finished *Another Woman*, which is more of a psychological picture, and was therefore lit in a specific way," Nykvist said in a recent *American Cinematographer* interview. "Since *New York Stories* is a much more

CINEMATOGRAPHER SVEN NYKVIST SPANS FOUR DECADES, FROM BERGMAN TO ALLEN