

## Everlasting Moments

This is a period piece from Sweden which depicts, with authentic, scathing realism, the down-and-never-quite-out family of young Maria Larsson (the humble and touching Maria Heiskanen) in the early part of the century, and how she survives a brutalizing marriage through discovering her hidden talent for taking photographs.

Maria lives a paltry, grubby life in a port city with her many kids and her coarse dockworker husband, Sigfrid, (Mikael Persbrandt), a drunk and a womanizer. Then, in a contest, she wins a box camera, which she tentatively begins to use. The more or less accidental discovery of her photographic gift also introduces her to the one sympathetic adult in her life, the decent local photographer (Jesper Christensen), who recognizes her talent where her husband sees only frivolity.

Nothing Maria does comes easily; her talent is revealed gingerly, never as a dramatic revelation, and she must ever suffer at the hands of her hubby and her impoverished state. Her only joy and sense of purpose comes when she is asked by her neighbors to begin photographing them.

Made by veteran Swedish filmmaker Jan Troell (*The Immigrants* and *The New Land*), *Everlasting Moments* sticks to a firm documentary realism (often shot in a sepia-like tone like photography of the period) that reminds one of muckraker Jacob Riis's working class imagery. Earnest and well-made, *Everlasting Moments* is a work to appreciate but hard to love.

*(The film is not rated, but probably merits at least a "PG-13" for sordid surroundings and spousal abuse.)*

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