

KRISTINA FRÅN DUVEMÅLA

Kristina Från Duvemåla is the new Swedish musical by Benny and Björn. The musical is based upon the book Utvandrarna by Wilhelm Moberg. They condensed 2096 pages into a musical. Kristina will be the main character in this musical. Her longing to go back to homeland of Duvemåla, Småland, is the major theme. She doesn't want to leave Sweden, but feels forced because of the poor life she and her husband, Karl Oskar, have. "It's like most immigrants in those days.", so said Björn. "We had discussed for many years that we wanted to write a new musical after Chess. I think that we have learned from all the mistakes that we have made. We know that you need a good story for a strong musical." according to Benny. "If we get cold feet, a few weeks before the musical premiere then we can't blame the story because that's great". The English and French people often look towards their own literature for ideas and this is what the boys did too. First they thought about Selam Lagerlöfs Gösta Berling but then their eyes felt on the book by Vilhelm Moberg. This story had the quality" Yes, that they were looking for. It not only sounds and tastes Swedish, but it also is universal drama. "We wanted our text to be as close to Moberg's own, and tried to give it a poetical touch.", so explains Björn.

Folk music will play a big role. This is not new to Benny. As he already played this type of music together with Orsa Spelmän. "It must be like this, when you hear the music, it must remind you of Duvemåla". The stage design will be done by the American Robin Wagner; who just visited Småland to taste the life there. Robin has worked on various Broadway musicals and on the Rolling Stones concert sets.

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From left to right; Björn Ulvaeus, Åsa Bergh, Benny Andersson, Peter Jöback, Helen Sjöholm, Lars Rudolfsson, Anders Ekborg and Carl-John Seth.

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And who are these people who will play the four leading roles ? Let us introduce them to you;



Helen Sjöholm will be playing the leading role of *Kristina*. She was born 24 years ago in *Sundsvall*. She is a singer and has taken part in several Swedish theatre productions. She once performed in the *Chess In Concert* in *Sundsvall*. Helen did tour with "*Just For Fun*", a singing and entertainment group, for two years. She also did some radio and TV performances; doing backing vocals for various artists. She is a talented girl with experience from Jazz to musical theatre.

Anders Ekborg will play the role of *Karl Oskar*. He was born in 1960 and started theatrical school in *Göteborg* in 1984. He has done various theatre shows and has even appeared on television and in a movie. He also has worked on a Swedish music program for television.



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Asa Bergh will perform as **Ulrika**. She was born 1966 in Stockholm. She moved to Säftele when she was 8 years old. In her spare time she could be found at the local theatre. Later she had an assignment for 3 years to study as prompter, scene technician and director assistant. Her first real job was on stage in Stockholm in 1986. She has appeared in several Swedish musicals and plays. She also directed one.



Peter Jöback has the job of **Robert**. He was born in 1971. When he was 10 years old, he went to the music school in Stockholm, followed by a study specializing in Jazz. Thereafter he learned theatre and singing. In 1982 he had his first part as Kurt von Trapp in the Swedish version of Sound Of Music. He appeared at various Swedish theatres and he played in Mio Min Mio. He once was nominated for a "Guldmasken" for the best musical artist of the year. Peter also did the voice of Aladin for the Swedish version of Walt Disney movie by the same name and a voice in the Norwegian version of Junglebook. As a singer, he formed a dance and singing group called "Stage Four", and recorded a solo album. He even performed "More Than A Game", the official song of the European Championship Football in 1992.



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Kristina Från Duvemåla is the musical by Benny Andersson, Björn Ulvaeus and Carl-Johan Seth (libretto). The musical will be directed by Lars Rudolfsson. The opening night will be the 7th October 1995 in Sweden, Malmö music theatre STORAN.

We are sorry but the list of performances dates was not available at the time of printing this magazine. We will have it in our next issue. But we assume it will run almost every day after the premier in Malmö. The ticket sales will start on the 13rd of March 1995. After this date you can make reservations by phone number +46 40 208500 or telefax number +46 40 208479.

