

# as it is in heaven dvd

As It Is in Heaven DVD is more than just a film; it is a profound exploration of the human spirit, woven into a beautifully crafted narrative that touches on themes of love, loss, and redemption. Directed by Kay Pollak, this Swedish drama, released in 2004, invites viewers into the world of a renowned conductor who returns to his small hometown to find solace and healing. The film's heartfelt storytelling, coupled with its stunning cinematography, has resonated with audiences worldwide, making the As It Is in Heaven DVD a must-have for film enthusiasts and collectors alike.

## Overview of the Film

As It Is in Heaven follows the journey of Daniel Dareus, a successful conductor who, after experiencing a heart attack, retreats to his childhood village in Sweden. His return is marked by a mixture of nostalgia and discomfort, as he grapples with his past and the memories that haunt him. As Daniel begins to engage with the local community, he discovers the power of music to unite people and heal wounds. The film beautifully portrays the transformative effect of art and the profound connections that can form through shared experiences.

## Plot Summary

- Daniel's Return: The film opens with Daniel in the bustling world of music and performance, where he collapses during a concert. This incident prompts him to reevaluate his life, leading him back to his roots.
- The Village: Upon arriving in the village, Daniel confronts the realities of small-town life, where he is both an outsider and a long-lost son. He encounters various townsfolk, each with their own struggles and dreams.
- Music as Healing: Daniel's love for music becomes a central theme as he decides to start a choir in the village. Through this initiative, he brings together a diverse group of individuals, fostering both personal growth and community spirit.
- Romantic Undertones: As Daniel connects with the villagers, he develops a deep bond with a local woman named Lena. Their relationship adds depth to the narrative, showcasing the complexities of love and vulnerability.
- Climactic Moments: The choir's journey culminates in a powerful performance that not only showcases their talents but also serves as a cathartic moment for Daniel and the community.

## Thematic Elements

As It Is in Heaven is rich in thematic elements that resonate with audiences on multiple levels. The film delves into various motifs, including:

- Redemption: Daniel's journey is one of seeking forgiveness and coming to terms with his past mistakes. His return to the village symbolizes a chance for rebirth and a fresh start.
- The Power of Music: Music serves as a universal language in the film, transcending barriers and connecting individuals from different walks of life. The choir becomes a metaphor for harmony and collective strength.
- Community and Belonging: The film highlights the importance of community, showcasing how individuals can come together to support one another in times of need.
- Love and Vulnerability: Daniel's relationship with Lena explores the delicate balance of love, trust, and the fear of emotional exposure.

## Character Analysis

- Daniel Dareus: The protagonist, portrayed by Michael Nyqvist, is a complex character marked by his fame and personal demons. His evolution throughout the film reflects a journey from isolation to connection.
- Lena: Played by Frida Hallgren, Lena represents hope and the possibility of new beginnings. Her character embodies resilience and the strength of the human spirit.
- Supporting Characters: The villagers, including the choir members, each bring unique perspectives and stories, enriching the narrative and emphasizing the film's communal themes.

## Cinematography and Direction

Kay Pollak's direction and the film's cinematography are pivotal in creating the emotional landscape of *As It Is in Heaven*. The visuals play a crucial role in conveying the film's themes and enhancing the viewer's experience.

- Visual Aesthetics: The film is characterized by breathtaking landscapes and intimate close-ups that draw viewers into the characters' emotional world. The use of natural light and scenic backdrops adds to the film's authenticity.
- Musical Integration: The incorporation of music into the narrative is seamless, with performances that evoke a range of emotions. The choir scenes are particularly impactful, showcasing the transformative power of collective music-making.

## Critical Reception

*As It Is in Heaven* received widespread acclaim from critics and audiences alike. The film was praised for its poignant storytelling, strong performances, and beautiful cinematography. Key points of reception include:

- Awards and Nominations: The film garnered several accolades, including an Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Language Film. It won the Guldbaggen Award for Best Director and was celebrated at various international film festivals.

- Audience Impact: Viewers have reported a strong emotional connection to the film, often citing it as a source of inspiration and reflection on their own lives. The themes of hope and healing resonate deeply, making it a memorable cinematic experience.

## **The DVD Experience**

The As It Is in Heaven DVD offers a comprehensive viewing experience for fans and newcomers alike. The DVD includes several features that enhance the film's impact:

- Special Features: Many DVDs come with behind-the-scenes footage, interviews with the cast and crew, and commentary from the director. These extras provide insight into the filmmaking process and the creative choices that shaped the final product.

- Subtitles and Language Options: The DVD typically includes subtitles in multiple languages, making it accessible to a broader audience and allowing non-Swedish speakers to appreciate the film's dialogue and nuances.

- Collector's Edition: Some editions of the As It Is in Heaven DVD may come as part of a collector's set, featuring exclusive artwork, booklets, and memorabilia that celebrate the film's legacy.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the As It Is in Heaven DVD is more than just a film; it is a heartfelt journey that encapsulates the essence of human experience through the lens of music, love, and community. With its powerful themes, compelling characters, and stunning visuals, it serves as a reminder of the beauty that can emerge from vulnerability and connection. For those seeking a film that inspires and uplifts, As It Is in Heaven is a timeless choice that will leave a lasting impression on the hearts of its viewers. Whether you are a lifelong fan or a first-time viewer, this film is sure to resonate deeply and invite reflection on the profound nature of life and art.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is 'As It Is in Heaven' about?**

'As It Is in Heaven' is a film that explores themes of love, faith, and self-discovery, focusing on a successful conductor who returns to his hometown and confronts his past while engaging with a local choir.

## **Is 'As It Is in Heaven' available on DVD?**

Yes, 'As It Is in Heaven' is available on DVD through various online retailers and may also be found in local stores that sell movies.

## **Who directed 'As It Is in Heaven'?**

The film was directed by Kay Pollak, who is known for his ability to weave emotional narratives with strong character development.

## **What are the main themes explored in 'As It Is in Heaven'?**

The film delves into themes of redemption, the power of music, and the complexities of human relationships, showcasing how music can be a form of healing.

## **Can I find 'As It Is in Heaven' streaming online?**

Yes, 'As It Is in Heaven' may be available on various streaming platforms, but availability can vary by region, so it's best to check popular services like Amazon Prime, Netflix, or Hulu.

## **What is the reception of 'As It Is in Heaven' among audiences?**

The film has received positive reviews for its heartfelt storytelling and strong performances, particularly praising the emotional impact it has on viewers.

## **Are there any special features included in the 'As It Is in Heaven' DVD?**

The DVD may include special features such as behind-the-scenes footage, interviews with the cast and crew, and commentary that provides deeper insight into the film's creation.

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