

Manda Björling as Miss Julie

I try to conjure with all the cards in my illustrious erratic Strindberg deck that holds both aces, kings, queens, and low cards.

The highest value in my deck has a card depicting the actress Manda Björling. No one trumps her.

Manda Björling is The Intimate theatre's true prima donna and its artistic engine through all time. Strindberg and Falck can take a hike! Manda Björling is Sweden's answer to Sarah Bernhard! Our first Miss Julie who, with her naturalistic playing style, makes the chief of police in Halmstad rush onto the stage to stop the scandalous performance. It is the same Manda Björling who makes Strindberg cry in the salon in 1908. And the visiting author George Bernhard Shaw to realize that he has just been part of something exceptionally Swedish without having understood a single word.

The small ensemble at Norra bantorget in Stockholm trusted Mrs. Björling fully and firmly considering her as the unifying force of the Intimate theatre. Both on and off stage. She cared about the private circumstances and love troubles of the young actors. She was the Intimate theatre's actual director who did necessary analyses of Strindberg's newly written chamber plays.

Ture Rangström, former director of Strindberg's Intima theatre