

Two Female Role Models

Rebecca on...

Alexandra

- We are not best friends but there isn't anything unusual about that. The age difference is, of course, quite large.
- She is horrible like I was when I was 14. Though she is probably a bit wilder... The best thing about Alexandra is that she is quite good; the worst is that she is silly sometimes. But that can be good too...

Music

- I like variety from day to day. Today I've listened to the Beatles all day long, but we have a pretty big record collection at home, so it depends on what mood I'm in.

The Sisters Graaf

- Maybe it's good in a way with the Sisters Graaf. Obviously, it's bad with bad role models. But nowadays it's easier for anyone to become a celebrity and in the end maybe it means that the hype surrounding the celebrity world has dampened a bit.

Rebecca Liljeberg shows up without makeup and completely relaxed. Despite the smash success of the film and exposure of herself, she seems very unconcerned and is not the least bit bothered. She is not particularly impressed by the "celebrity world", but says that she and her partner get lots of invitations to premieres and parties but they almost never go to anything.

- If there is a good reason we will go. In a few days, Colin Nutley's new movie is premiering so we will go.

Do you think your friends have been different now after the success of the movie?

- No, I have a few friends that know exactly who I am. There are many that I did not socialize with that much which I've begun to hear from now and want to meet more often.

It can be a hassle with the media when you feel pressure to take on more things than you want, she says.

- I don't want to go for many interviews and I choose them myself, but the film company would of course prefer that I take on everything. I do not believe that all publicity is good publicity. And it's hard to know when people start to get bored with you.

The actual filming, she says, just like Alexandra, it was not something difficult. The worst part was that it was filmed so far from home, in Trollhättan.

- The fun thing was getting to know so many new people, and they worked so closely together so that it became a very good attachment.
- When I see the movie now, I remember so much happening around me that you do not get to see.

Rebecca thinks about the drama and intrigue and smiles when she thinks back.

- It was almost all just fun things, she says.
- We'll see if we can have a party and get everyone together again when the movie is celebrating half a million viewers. I think that will be soon, because the other day it reached 450,000 viewers.

Alexandra was protesting when I asked about a **Show Me Love** sequel becoming a reality.

- No, I don't think Moodysson has that in mind, she says.

Rebecca dropped out of high school when she was filming **Show Me Love**, but she intends to go back to school after the summer, preferably into adult education.

In the future she wants to be a pediatrician. She feels that her advantage is that she is smart and a quick learner.

- This is a huge advantage for me; otherwise I would have probably gotten tired of school a long time ago.
- My worst quality is that I'm bad at keeping in touch with people, answering letters, calls, and showing that I like people. Though I think of them. But that's why I have so few friends, I cannot keep up with more.

Much of her spare time goes into making a website with her boyfriend, who is also her partner.

- It takes a little time and I'm not at all ready, she says, but looks as if she is happy.
- When I have time I hang out with my siblings or my friends.

Any person that you admire?

- My mom, smiles Rebecca. If you mean as an actor, it's probably Mary Lagerkrantz. She has a good attitude to the profession, that one is not better than another just because you are an actor.

Do you have a dream role?

- It would be more than one in this case. Absolutely crazy for example. It's not like I go and dream of Ophelia or stuff like that, she laughs.
- I could be in a TV movie too if I thought it was good.

What advice would you give to others who suddenly become famous like you?

- You shouldn't be too dependent on the attention you get, it won't always be around. This belief is a problem for many celebrities.

Alexandra on...

Rebecca

- She's a little more reserved than me. She is very professional. If we'd worked together when I was eleven we probably would not have hung out together alone.

Music

- There are so many records I would like to have... People can go after things that seem cool. E-Type is perhaps underrated; it's more deep music you can listen to. More sad as well.
 - Though I dislike E-Type anyways, she adds.

PJ Harvey, Miles Davis & Marilyn Manson are examples of what Alexandra listens to.

VeckoRevyn

- I said no to the interview in VeckoRevyn four times now. I don't like the views of the women in the magazine, but it's still not the magazine's fault that it is as it is, it's a product of a sick society.

- It's strange that when Rebecca and I will hang out we'll either look like BFFs, or as if we are in love. We are neither, says Alexandra Dahlström objectively.

They don't socialize with each other in private. As Alexandra says there's a big difference between being 14 and 17-years-old.

We meet her and have lunch together just outside her school near Odenplan. She is in the ninth grade and is a bit stressed out by all the tests she has to study for.

I wonder how it was that she got the role of Elin in **Show Me Love** and she says that people came to her school when she was in seventh grade and looked for suitable actors.

- Everyone got to try out. I hung out with some friends and got to say "My name is Alexandra and I like playing basketball in my free time." Then they called me later on and said I got the part.

Is it fun to be an actress?

- I don't even call myself an actress. It's not so much of a role performance I do. I mean, I tried hard but did not directly feel deeper emotions and I have not sat and studied other people's expressions and facial expressions. It just happened as well. I just did what people said, she says while she chews on her sandwich.

But it was a very good result...

- Elin is so much like me. Plus it's the world's best screenplay and the best director. It's not surprising that it went so well.

Alexandra does not seem overly interested in continuing as an actor.

But what if you get a good script in your hand again?

- Yeah, maybe. If I have the time.

She is most focused on school and will soon select a program in high school.

- I don't know which one yet. I want a broad education so that I learn a lot.

I wonder if she will come to Uppsala to go to University, but she hasn't planned that far ahead.

- But I know I am so ambitious that I could do it.

The hardest scene for Alexandra was the bridge scene when it was 11 degrees outside and they were very lightly dressed.

- They had to blow dry the railing before I could lean against it...
- We had a blast in Trollhättan where it was filmed, she says.

What was the funniest thing that happened?

- The funniest thing I won't tell you! Alexandra says happily.
- Do not write that I said that because then everyone will wonder.

Are you as wild as Elin?

- Sometimes... but she is much more naïve than I am. I might think a little more, I hope, anyway.

Some schoolmates throw snowballs at her and she cries when 018 photograph her. She thinks it's embarrassing that everyone sees and she laughs a little annoyed at them. I ask if her school mates are very different to her now after the movie.

- This is still Vasastan. Many have lived next door to Anders Glenmark, Orup, or the like, and it's normal. Possibly more screaming from people in the suburbs for me.
- Am I racist now? She laughs.

A guy at school often asks if they should lock themselves in the bathroom and then come out and tell everyone that they love each other.

- I then say no, we shall not!

She says she gets a lot of fan mail. Among other things, from a guy who had seen **Show Me Love** and was really in love.

- He wrote that he thought about committing suicide. Put it down or I mean, take it easy! She says, shaking her head.
- Maybe I have become a bit more confident after the movie..., she reflects.
- You can of course with so much attention.
- Sometimes I wonder if those who actually see me think "Oh, how ugly she is!" because I do not usually go around wearing makeup or tiny skirts like in the movie.

What do you like to do when you are not in school?

- Now, I have recently received a lot of books that I can read. Also, I've got about 4000 CDs of my sister's that I should listen

to. Among other things, a punk band called Dom lyckliga kompisarna. But this doesn't sound fun; she says when she thinks for a while.

- I go out a lot too, though only on weekends.

Alexandra says she was invited to Café Opera one night but she couldn't go.

- I went with a friend to Wallmans instead and laughed at the geeky guys and their perfumed wives who followed them and watched what they did.

What are your good and bad qualities?

- The bad is that I'm hysterical. For example, I bite my nails before a test. I'm bad at listening; I like to talk to myself. I am kind. Although, I'm pretty nasty at times when I can't be bothered to be nice. I'm smart. Or... but not always. A bad thing is that I do not just accept things without questioning everything.

Someone you admire?

- Erica Carlson, who plays my sister in **Show Me Love**.

Is she as nice as she was in the movie?

- Yes, almost nicer! That's why you get so surprised.

When I asked Alexandra if she likes the Graaf Sisters as female role models, she becomes annoyed because so many people ask her that question.

- I don't care about them, they are pretty uninteresting! They're not female role models. I hope not anyway. One needs to take a step back and try to see the reason why things are as they are instead and always think about why you do what you do.
- Yesterday when I used a toner, I thought "oh well, I've been manipulated!" But it doesn't help to bash stuff anyways. I mean, if you see the whole problem as if it were a human, it's just like cutting your nails. One has to go deeper than that.

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