

Show Me Love

Cheers for Åmål. Expressen parties with the actors before the film premiere.

TROLLHÄTTAN

Are there things you'd like to do but you dare not? Watch **Show Me Love**. Afterwards, nothing feels impossible.

There is a saying that goes "There is always something that he said when he came to Åmål." That is what Åmål is for most people - always something, but nothing special. Until now.

Show Me Love (The original title **Fucking Åmål** comes from the reply "Why must we live in fucking cock- Åmål!") is Lukas Moodysson's, 29, first feature film and has put Åmål on the map.

- I've never been to Åmål, I know it's embarrassing to admit, but it's true! Says Alexandra Dahlström, 14.

She's trying to learn to walk in her mother's high-heeled shoes in a large apartment in the Old Town in Trollhättan. She is going to her first world premiere of a film in which she plays the leading role.

One by one, they come to the apartment, young, nervous actors and extras, listening to Bad Cash Quartet's latest single.

- It's so pubertal, says Alexandra drinking a weak cider.

For it's in Trollhättan or "Trollywood" where **Show Me Love** was filmed. Not even the scenes where Elin (Alexandra) and Agnes (Rebecca Liljeberg) hang around the Åmål municipality's welcome sign, recognizable from the movie poster, are filmed in Åmål. They produced an exact copy of the Åmål sign.

There is a continuation in the saying in Åmål. It's Åmål residents themselves who tend to add "... but he said hell no when he came to Säffle."

- The movie should be called Fucking Säffle after the neighboring municipality instead, says Luuk, who wrote the screenplay and also directed.
- I was disappointed when I came to Åmål for the first time, it was idyllic. I looked at all the beautiful wooden villas and thought

- this is a place you can't have any problems. Säffle is a little harder.

But after a visit to the recreation center it was found that Åmål's youth so clearly were not an exception. There were unfortunate ones, couples, they were bored, had fun, longed away, hated everything... All that stuff that Elin and Agnes know. And even those who live in Trollhättan know.

Aside from Alexandra and Rebecca, who are from Stockholm, the film's other roles went to youths from Trollhättan. Mathias Rust, 16, is Johan in the film, and Stefan Höberg plays Markus. Both are born and bred in Trollhättan and **Show Me Love** has actually changed their lives for real, it's no cliché.

There's a scene in the film that gives a picture of the attitude that is so common among young people, especially in small towns. Elin and her sister Jessica are at Markus' hockey practice. Jessica complains about Markus and Elin wonders why they are together at all. After a moment's hesitation, Jessica responds that they are together "because it is just so."

It's much like that when you are young and should have a life. Often doing things on the fly, just because it's "just so". It is easy to choose the path that others, and oneself, expect - rather than look no further and try to achieve their dream.

Stefan went to child and leisure in high school. Today, he's dropped out, partly because of the movie. Now he wants to study drama and move to Stockholm.

- The movie was my dream come true. I never thought I could become an actor before, but I've always dreamed of it.

The same applies to Mathias.

- I was working at the hospital, but now I want to invest [in acting]. It will be hard, there are so many people who are cruel, but it's what I want to do if I get to choose in the world.

Before I went to the apartment in Trollhättan, I asked a friend what he knew about Lukas Moodysson.

- He was hip in Stockholm a few years about, went to DI and made some short films. And then wrote books that girls liked, was the answer.

Luuk smiles when he hears that.

- I also noticed that girls liked my books; I guess it gives them a chance to learn about the guys who are unfortunate ones - sensitive guys, as well.

Alexandra visited Luuk at his home in Malmö recently, and wanted to read his novel *Vitt blod*. Luuk refused to give Alexandra the book, although she lay on the floor and nearly cried. Luuk was fierce.

- But I read it anyway, says Alexandra.
- I don't like my books. I told the actors that if they had to read them, they had to do it after filming. I was afraid they would lose all confidence in me afterwards, says Luuk.

Luuk, in turn, houses a lot of confidence in his young actors, and it shows. The film's "cool gang" Elin's friends in the film are all from Trollhättan. Their world has also grown a bit above the norm going from small town to be a part of **Show Me Love**. They would also like to try acting a little more.

- Did they say that? How fun! Luuk says and looks very, very happy.

Mathias and Stefan are just as sold on Luuk as he is on them.

- Luuk is a friend. That was what was best about the team, there wasn't any grouchiness.

Just after seven the apartment in the Old Town is full of people. Most have been in **Show Me Love** and are nervous. They secretly smoked a lot of cigarettes. The time 19:50 is Luuk's. Actors and extras locate themselves on sofas and clutter the tables and give each other glances across the room giggling.

- Now that everyone is gathered, I thank you all. I'm very nervous about what you'll think, but it's actually... it's actually a very good movie. I hope very much that you'll like it.

Luuk tells us that it is said that Robyn (the film ends with her song **Show Me Love**), has received a video copy of **Show Me Love** and she loves it.

Luuk finally raises his glass.

- Cheers to... Åmål.

Everyone raises their glass of cider and then head to the world premiere of **Show Me Love** in Trollhättan. It's a small premiere to be a world premiere. "Cool girl" gang sits at the back.

Erica Carlson, 17, has a great role as Elin's sister Jessica. After the movie - it's the first time she sees it - she beams with a red rose in hand. She will also soon move from her town to Stockholm or Gothenburg, and Erica also wants to continue with film and theater.

She and her friends are going out tonight, there are a few places to choose from, but of course there aren't enough.

And so they say, what probably most teenagers will have their own version of, depending where they live, when the boredom becomes too great, and after seeing **Show Me Love**.

- Why must we live in fucking cock-Trollhättan?

Show Me Love is about...

- Elin who made out with 70,000 guys and who yearns for something to happen.
- Big sister Jessica who is together with Markus although she fights with him sometimes.
- Johan, who is in love with Elin.
- Agnes who has no friends, and who is so in love with someone, that she is dying for real.

Luuk...

- Dropped out of high school when his first collection of poems, **It Doesn't Matter Where the Lightning Strikes** were adopted. It was 1987, and Luuk was 17-years-old.
- In addition he has published the following books **Och andra dikter** (1988), **Evangelium** (1989), **Vitt blod** (1990), **Kött** (1991) and **Souvenir** (1996).
- Had gone to DI (Dramatic Institute) and has made the short films **Det var en mörk och stormig natt** (1994), **En uppgörelse i den undre världen** (1995) and **Bara prata lite** (1997).
- Directed Broder Daniel's music video for *Work*.
- Has written a series with Peter Birro which will be televised in the near future.

Rebecca...

- Made her first film at nine years old in the advent calendar **Sunes jul**.
- Had a role in **Långtans blå blomma** that appears on TV on Mondays, and is currently acting in the play **Casa Balkans** at the Stockholm City Theater.

- Is dating David Flamholc, who just made **Livithm** with Johan Widerberg.

Alexandra..

- Was discovered by Luuk in the movie **Truth or Dare** where she had a supporting role.
- You can see in a future episode of the new TV series **St. Mikael**.
- Enjoys writing poems.

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