

Interview with OKEJ Magazine

Finally a movie that has touched hundreds of thousands of young hearts. But does this mean a sequel of **Show Me Love**?

- I don't believe so, says director Lukas Moodysson, 29, who is instead making a TV series on refugees while neither Rebecca "Agnes" Liljeberg, 17, or Alexandra "Elin" Dahlström, 14, want to become actors.

It was long ago that the Swedish filmmaker knew what it was like to be young, but now Lukas Moodysson has certainly captured it with his debut film **Show Me Love**. Imagine getting it right on the first try. To capture the feelings of how painful it can be to be unhappy in love, but also how wonderful it can be when love is returned.

Lesbian love that is blazoned without becoming contrived or unrealistic.

- Luuk has really listened to us. That's probably why it was so good. We've had a lot to say, explains Alexandra Dahlström who plays the tough Elin who is bored to the point of desperation.

The movie is set in Åmål but is really filmed in Trollhättan but that has no meaning, says Rebecca Liljeberg, lovelorn poet Agnes in the film.

- I think the film fits into any city. I grew up in Nynashamn and it was the same there. You really feel at home.

Neither Alexandra nor Rebecca say they had trouble making the film's sensitive scenes.

- We got to read the script before we auditioned. Luuk wanted to know if we could imagine playing lesbians or not. If we didn't want to, there was no point in trying out. The scenes might have been awkward to film but weren't because we felt safe. Luuk gave us a lot of confidence, they say.
- I had friends who discouraged me from playing a lesbian, continues Alexandra. They said that I would suffer for it after the movie came out. But there have not been any problems.
- My mother was shocked to see how Agnes tried to kill herself, because I've had it a bit like Agnes has had it, says Rebecca.

Neither of the girls comes from an acting family. Despite this, Rebecca Liljeberg is well qualified for her role in the advent calendar **Sunes Jul**, fall's TV hit **Långtans Blåa Blomma** and the upcoming biofilm **Sherdi**. The film is half directed by her boyfriend David Flamholc, 24.

Rebecca still says repeatedly that she does not want to become an actor.

- It's fun, but I'd rather be a doctor.

She dropped out of high school last spring. She didn't have enough time. She worked as an assistant when Flamholc made **Lithivm** and acts in the evenings in the Stockholm City Theater play **Casa Balkans**. She will get back to her studies in adult education next fall.

All the while Rebecca gets questioned about what it's like to be coupled with the seven years older David Flamholc, who is best known for his debut film **Vackert Väder** from 1995.

- I don't think the age difference is that big. Many parents have the same age difference. We met a year and a half ago at an audition. It was love at first sight.
- But sometimes the age difference causes problems. Like when I'm with David and his buddies and I can't go with them into the tavern.

"THE FILM WORLD IS SHALLOW"

Alexandra Dahlström who previously played the tough but deep down insecure Fanny in the Guldbagge awarded **Truth or Dare**, doesn't really know what she wants to focus on.

- It was great to shoot the film, but in a way the world seems a little shallow. I just know that I shouldn't limit myself to one thing to the exclusion of everything else. I would love a job where you travel and meet people, she says, and she starts high school next year.

With the actors' natural gifts, it doesn't seem like any of the youngsters in **Show Me Love** are acting. They are so fantastically convincing. The film has a rather documentary feel, which is added to by the poor lighting and the film's roughness.

Lukas Moodysson can calmly put away any doubts he uttered during the filming with the two young girls.

- Sometimes I feel that I have given myself something I have not mastered. I am after all just too old - and the wrong sex.

The road is open for a sequel. For the film leaves viewers with an undeniable range of issues.

1. Is it enough to have found the great love with Elin, or will jer hatred of Åmål continue?
2. How will others treat Elin and Agnes now that they have come forward with their lesbian orientation - and how will they handle their relationship?
3. Will the partygoer Elin think that Agnes, who doesn't have a single friend, is boring in the long run?

But there are no plans for a sequel, says Moodysson who instead is working with Peter Birro (Hammarkullen) on a TV series about two refugees.

- I don't believe in a sequel. Maybe if you came upon a very fun thing that Elin and Agnes did together. A trip to Mallis. Or, as in the film **Reine & Mimmi**. Elin and Agnes in the mountains, haha!

Or perhaps a film that concentrates on the two guys, moped jerk Johan (for which Mathias Rust, 16, should be awarded the Guldbagge nomination for Best Supporting Actor) and cell phone talking half-idiot Markus (played by Stefan Hörberg, 17).

Can the two figure out that deep down they are gay? Would the audience think it was just as cute for two gay guys to be in an Åmål movie?

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