

## **"Girls kiss better than guys."**

Alexandra Dahlström became "Elin" with the Swedish people when it turned out that *Show Me Love* was the best youth film ever made in Sweden.

Marie Birde met her on a normal day after school.

- We just had woodwork. Actually, I am good at school, but woodwork is maybe not my best subject. It's fun anyways... I'm working on a kind of shelf that I do not really know what to do with. Maybe I'll paint it pink.
- I stood and sniffed a bit of silver paint too.

**What do you mean "did you do drugs?"**

- Aaaaa, I can recognize myself so very much in that scene. Sometimes everything is so boring that you just want to do something, even if it's stupid.

**You are surprised when you meet Alexandra Dahlström because she is so determined, it is very important that everything is done right her way. It is impressive that she is so good at saying what she wants and likes and not bothered to question things that she likes that seems strange. But it's hard to get answers to the questions, there is so much else to talk about: school, parties in the evening, the guy with the brown hair and really anything, except the questions.**

- Actually you should play me into science lessons for when they say funny things. It tends to be mass psychosis there sometimes. And you can get scared, like when someone told me that everything you have in your head is only memories. Or I should start recording myself when I talk to my mom, instead of keeping a diary, it would be cool. It's easier to talk than to write.

**Yeah, okay, but how does it feel to be "Elin" with the Swedish people?**

- There you go, Elin is not quite like me, and yet I have to live up to her... Now I'm talking about her as if she is a real person, but she's not, it's me who portrays



**"Guys my age are extremely uninteresting."**

her. The girl who plays Jessica (Erica Carlsson), my sister, was so damn good. She held up the entire film and has received far too little credit for it.

- By the way, I am much better than Elin because I'm smarter.

**How does it feel to be the youth spokesperson that you have become?**

- Am I really? If so, then I think it's embarrassing, because I'm not - the young people are. Furthermore, I can't say what people want to do, everyone wants different things. I feel bad about that one generalization that young people are herded together into a strange, homogeneous group. Just because I'm 14, I cannot stand up and speak for all 14-year-olds, we don't act in a certain way, everyone's different.

**One thing that is fascinating about you is that you are so precocious...**

- There's some brain damage... But I think very well. You can combine it with a lot of school. School is so very underrated.

**And you dare to stand up for yourself and express your views in such a good way. How do you and how do you dare?**

- I do not. But it does not bother me. Sometimes I succeed and then I do not care too much what others think of me. But what bothers me? I'm actually not as strong as I might seem. Sometimes I'm there, but other times I become weak and cannot be bothered at all. I cannot say exactly why I dare. But I hate the notion that one should always be "just right" and blend in and have to do things just because others do it and society requires.

**Could it have to do with your upbringing? Did you have extremely good parents?**

- My mom has always been extremely good, but it is not easy. There are times in life when I have felt very bad, but then I measure up incredibly well too. I hate being 14-years-old. Everyone believes it's so much fun, it's a wonderful age.

**Yes, people glamorize that age quite a bit, especially the older ones.**

- Yes, but really they don't. It's more those who are as old as I am saying "now we have to go out all the time, we have to go to parties and we have to do a lot of things."

**One should always have as much fun as possible and may never find out that it might actually be quite a hassle too, right?**

- Well, I think I have found out a little bit, because I spend time with my 20-something friends, it seems their lives are so amazing. Not that they're perfect, but at least better than it is for me today.

**So you think it will get better?**

- Yes, I hope so anyways. The people begin to accept each other more, that it's okay to have different clothes...

**You bought a Lady Soul jacket that you have slandered by the way!**

- No, it's one of those long coats that is grey. I hate it more than anything, first because it's grey and I vomit on everything that's grey, and also because it makes me look like a clone.
- But anyway, Lukas Moodysson for example, he is 29 and so wonderful, it's not because he has age anxiety. Do you have age anxiety?

**No, but I had it when I was around 20.**

- It's actually society's fault. We have this age segregation in Sweden which means you have to divide the ages. You can be 14 and up to 15 if you're going to hang out with each other. Even the 14 and 16-year-olds may be taboo because there are some who think it's too big an age difference. You see the age before the person and it makes me so incredibly annoyed. We walk around with blinders on so you cannot see the individual. All I see of you is the surface, how old you are, what gender you are, and I judge you for it. No wonder there are prejudices.
- But I'm probably a double standard on the way I think, I may be on teen celebrations and have a blast... Then I can make out with everyone and everything and kissing my girlfriend just to provoke others.

**But girls are usually much better at kissing**

too.

- Yes, it's them sometimes, guys have such big mouths. And a good way to pick on the guys. For a while, I kept getting a cheap wool replica I had, "but I kiss guys too." Though I do not care to have a boyfriend, it is not the main objective.

**Why do you think guys are so disgusting?**

- But they're not. Not all. Did I say that?

**Yes.**

- I say a lot of strange things and then I repent. However, I think the guys my age are incredibly uninteresting and you can't be with older guys.

**So all my friends and all the older guys who think you're wonderful stand a chance?**

- They can make out with me if they are good looking, but might not get along with me.

**Why do we always fall for pigs?**

- Because we're so damn manipulated, "you have to have a boyfriend otherwise you're ugly and wrong." Because I like confidence, that is to say, I like it even though they surely are the best people who get the worst reputation as they get older. Kill the pigs and that will exude some strength.
- But now, this boyfriend - anxiety subsided and I have begun to see through this "shit, how cruel I am" on the surface and see the shit scared guys behind. So now I do not want to be with anyone at all.

**Love is actually quite sick. Called the kiss or mess it up anyways?**

- We discussed it before we recorded Show Me Love. Before recording, I would have said that I mess around with someone, but in the film, we said 'kiss' so then I continue on with it. Did you know that I was playing hockey and broke my finger last summer by the way?

**No. But I wondered if you are appearance obsessed.**

- I was before, but it has pretty much gone. Now I do not disguise myself as soon as I'm going somewhere. I've always been more mature than my classmates, when they were



eleven and ready *Frida*, I was an eleven year-old who was reading *VeckoRevyn*.  
*VeckoRevyn* has ruined my life.

**How so?**

- I believed what they said and tried to diet and stuff, though I was too young. I was also totally looks fixated and got low self-esteem.
- Do you know that you actually do not exist?

**Eh, yes, I am sure!**

- Actually, you are just a concoction of your mom, dad, culture, friends, media and everything. And remember that every atom in your body is replaced. And you are so impressionable that you must have a religion. All people must have a religion and believe in things. It doesn't have to be traditional religion; it could be exhaustion, appearance fixation, violence fixation, science... Mass media is a kind of religion that people abide by.

**Do people really do that?**

- Yes, but it sucks up everything without questioning it. Man believes in the Big Bang and stuff though there is such a thing, you do not know has happened really... Or I don't know, I haven't really finished the reasoning in my own head, but everyone must believe in something, or else you are crazy.

**Alright. I have heard that your mother is Russian. Have you been there at some point?**

- Yes, I've been there quite a few times. In Moscow and the Black Sea where we have relatives.
- You know what I fear? That no one will like me but just think I'm an old trite Robinson-Åsa. One of those cheesy celebrities that I used to despise. That is everywhere and makes me sick.

**And your 15 minutes is up or what?**

- Yeah, right. One thing that is strange is when people ask "How does it feel to be famous?" So you reply with something stereotypical and cliché à la Jenny Ulving: "No, but I'm still down to earth, I stand with both feet firmly on the ground and



**Archive Alexandra Dahlström**

**Name:** Alexandra Dahlström

**Age:** 14

**Zodiac Sign:** Aquarius. But why do you write such things? It's boring.

**Lives:** In a suburb near Stockholm.

**Family:** Small but pretty Russian.

**Smoker:** No.

**Drink:** Water.

**Eats:** Billy's pan pizza, but without joy.

**Reads:** 1984 by George Orwell.

**Eyes:** Grey-Blue-Green

have the same friends as I did before." But there's a nice sort of celebrity status too, and one of those is Robinson Herman.

**But you cannot lie to me. I have read the book Show Me Love and you have a hang up on sour cream. What is that?**

- Do you mean sour cream as in food? I have the worst child taste when it comes to spices and stuff and during filming; I used to always eat an Aztek pizza which was really strong. Then I always had to have sour cream on it.

**Which children's book character would you want to execute?**

- Karlsson on the Roof, he is so rude.

**Is there anything you regret?**

- I regret a bit that I'm not a punk. I feel so boring, lame and mainstream and I am almost going to throw up on myself. Especially when I'm with my punk friends.
- I think that punk is the finest culture because it is kind. I was really afraid of punks from the start and thought they were aggressive. All rivets and leather jackets make you afraid, but it shouldn't.

**No, and you do not have to be afraid that Alexandra will be one of the crowd of "child stars" either. There is something in the way she says: "If PJ Harvey, Jennifer Aniston and Nina Persson mated, then it would be me! Or my hair."**

**It is star quality.**

Photo: Sara Ringström

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Marie Birde

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**Listening to:** Bad Cash Quartet. There are a thousand things I want to listen to, but not purchased. It's anxiety.

**Watches:** Far too little television.

**Laughing at:** Myself when I do strange things.

**Hates:** People that let me wait for hours without apologizing.

**Interests:** No. Fixed it, I have a lot. But I do not know.

**Role you would like to play:** Someone in Lars Von Trier's "The Idiots".

**Believe in:** Social criticism.

**Allergy:** Salt. I get a red rash.

**Funny fact:** Walked around with a fish bone in my throat for two days.

**Serves:** That's an adult thing.

**Future:** Ooooohhh

**Career:** *Truth or Dare, St Mikael, Show Me Love.*