

The Finger to Old Man Mentality

When Alexandra Dahlström was shut down by Loa Falkman at the movie awards, there were many people who saw the way males control our society. "Though the worst was the fucking hags in *Se & Hör* who wrote ironically about my cleavage," says Alexandra Dahlström.

In ***Show Me Love*** she gives the middle finger to kill the crowd that controls her life of hockey practices and moped rides.

- Elin rebels against the whole man-standard of society. She provokes the guys because she stops caring what they think. And besides, she's a lesbian! says Alexandra Dahlström.

After her successful role, she has not only become a 15-year-old movie heroine but she also gave a face to young feminists.

- My friends and I have become braver and did more "Elin things" after filming. Before, I was a well-adjusted Filippa K girl with a Kookai watch and full kit. After ***Show Me Love***, I care less about what people think.
- The reason that men must grab themselves and constantly show their power and be little boys screaming "whore" is because they are afraid. And the girls are afraid to speak up. But I hope that ***Show Me Love*** gives people the courage to do as they please.

Alexandra Dahlström pulls down her hood with the text "VVS-Mälarrör" and a bulky winter coat to her white Batgirl shirt and digs into a slice of cheesecake.

But she has not played Batgirl or any female superheroes. She admits that she had a crush on Blur's lead singer Damon Albarn in middle school, but otherwise she has never had any real heroes. As a child, she was too busy dressing up her Barbie dolls to save Pippi Longstocking. But Pippi would certainly have been impressed that Alexandra asks for a warm goat cheese sandwich with honey for dessert.

- Well, I played with Barbie dolls, she sighs, much like the super frustrated Elin who has become a Swedish movie classic.
- Aaaaahhh, how pointless! Barbie is a very tragic upbringing. If I ever have female children, they won't ever get such disgusting toys: dolls that can't even stand on their own. The only thing we did with them was change their clothes.



Alexandra Dahlström

She recognizes herself in Expressen's depiction of how girls and boys are treated differently in kindergarten in the recent series ***The Men's World***.

- I screamed a lot and was totally fearless. But most girls were cautious and it was always the active guys who all got praise.

In school, it's hardly any better, she thinks: school books are not just "biased" and parodic war romance - the school encourages the stiff facts at the expense of emotional intelligence.

- School should be more about emotions, love and life in general rather than simply reciting verbs and memorizing the periodic table in chemistry. Society should be softer and warmer. Unfortunately, school stimulates only the right hemisphere of the brain, says Alexandra Dahlström.
- But it's as if the old men with power have set up invisible barbed wire fences of boring words, textbooks, ties and trade jargon to protect themselves. In this society, it's considered more intelligent to make weapons than helping a person out of a difficult crisis.

Though, those who help always win in the end, she smiles.

Ideally, she would like to abolish gender roles entirely.

- Men and women are very similar; however, we need to change behaviour. Sexism begins at birth. Instead of saying "It's a girl" or "it's a boy" we should say "it's a person."

But as long as equality is a utopia for feminists then that's "the most important thing", says Alexandra Dahlström. She calls herself a liberal feminist and likes young feminist people like Karin Ekman, Linda Norrman Skugge and Nina Björk.

- I have just read Nina Björk's book *Under the Pink Quilt* and agree with everything in it, but find it unnecessarily difficult to read. It's too college level.

Alexandra Dahlström got into feminism after reading Gerd Brantenberg's *Egalias Döttar* in eighth grade.

- I don't want feminism to be some serious sect that is against men. I find it hard for unique feminists, older feminist and young feminists. It's sad that those writing *VeckoRevyn* call themselves feminists and run their breast specials and cellulite reports according to the men's conditions.

While she admits that she was infected by the appearance obsession at one time. Dahlström explains that she used to pluck her eyebrows and look for microscopic pimples on her face.

- It's ridiculous! She laughs so hard that her eyes become as narrow as dashes.

Girls act in order to be accepted in a man's world but when it comes down to it, you still have to put on a suit for people to listen, she says.

- Loa Falkman never would have silenced me at the Guldbagge Gala if I were a guy. And he definitely would not have said "little girl" if it were Mathias Rust from *Show Me Love* standing at the front of the stage.
- The worst are the hags at *Se & Hör* who wrote ironically about my cleavage and how I was dressed. Do they think I'm lying about the fixation with appearance and sexism? It made me really surprised; suddenly I was questioned. But it's possible to be a feminist even in something low-cut.

Alexandra Dahlström has just returned from the Berlin Film Festival where she had to answer questions like "What was it like to do the lesbian scenes". Soon, she will begin filming Kjell Sundvall's *comedy In Bed With Santa* where she'll play yet another saucy teenage girl. Even if it goes well, she doesn't know if she wants to continue to be an actress.

- Though, it has a lot to do with female roles. I watched *Heat* on TV yesterday and thought that the women had boring roles.

But Alexandra Dahlström doesn't see any real solution to gender roles. Her real goal is "intellectual equality".

- If you want to change something you have to get into people's brains, not protest outside porn stores. Gender quotas, equal pay and to share the household work would be good, but it doesn't change anything as long as it's forced. It's only when the older men start listening to girls in the same way they listen to guys from *Handels* that mentality is changing.

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