

Facts: Alexandra Dahlström

Age: 16 years.

Lives: In Alvik in Stockholm.

Family: Mother who is from Russia, Dad "working with data-something", and a half-sister.

Likes: Music, pretty pictures, math, languages (fluent in Russian), social issues, writing and reading.

Fave Movie: A French film called *Pierrot Leou*.

Miscellaneous: Playing discs at parties sometimes and going to same school as one of the guys in *A-TEENS*.



Photo: Niklas Maupoix

Alexandra Now She Wants a Regular Job

- I feel like Drew Barrymore sometimes: I became an alcoholic when I was nine, junkie when I was twelve, jokes Alexandra Dahlström, 16, and refers to her early fame.

Alexandra Dahlström has had big success with *Show Me Love*, acted in *In Bed With Santa*, and at the Royal Dramatic Theatre. She's also travelled to various film festivals. So when I meet her in a café in Stockholm, there was not much else to talk about besides Alexandra.

She is small. Cute. Has a bright red jacket and trendy jeans. Her hair is brown, shoulder-length with a short fringe.

- You have to have your tricks, says Alexandra on her hair colour. There are many who don't notice that it's me.

I imagine that Elin in *Show Me Love* is quite close to Alexandra in reality. They are almost the same person. Besides the fact that Alexandra lives in Stockholm and is heterosexual.

- When I read the script - before I got the role - I got the feeling, says Alexandra. I know I could make Elin so darn good. I wanted to get the role so much. If someone else got it, I would have been pissed.

She has now seen the movie six times.

- And I'm so damn good looking! she cries and I get that she's referring to Elin in **Show Me Love**.
- It's funny, she continues. It may not be what I will be most proud of when I show it to my grandchildren.

And I realize that it was Alexandra who said that.

First, we determine that we should go to the gallery to view the Picture of the Year exhibition.

Alexandra must do a school project on such a visit. But she repents. She has seen a booth in the subway with little angels and other fine things that she would rather write about.

Alexandra is in her first year of the society program.

- Education is important, she says.
- I have always had good grades in class. Talked a lot and wanted to know a lot. And I actually have good grades even though I worked a lot while I was in school.

But it's film she wants to work with.

- Yes, but I don't know. Working as an actor is a bit like sitting and waiting to be asked to dance. Someone has to come up with a good role. I could be more active in my search, go to auditions and stuff. But maybe I will do that once I'm finished school.

She seems to take it pretty easy. She has had a busy couple of years behind her. Now she has applied for a job in a record store.

- I want to see how it is to have a regular job. They have my number so I hope they call!

What do you do in the evenings?

- I like to hang out with my friends, eat good food and watch movies. I don't go out very often. Either I get in because they recognize me or I won't get in because they know who I am and how old I am, she says with a sigh.

Is it boring to be 16?

- Yes, sometimes. But I don't believe in all the nagging about enjoying your youth... I think it's important to have it be a little boring too.

Do you get bullshit from jealous girls?

- No, but there are those who don't think about anything besides make-up, clothes, and Z-TV. They might be mean sometimes. Though lately, they have realized that: Okay, she's harmless, I've seen a pimple on her face.
- In recent months, I have shied away from interviews and such. I have no desire to be famous for being famous. But sometimes I go to celebrity parties, otherwise I would be stupid. You get free food and drinks.

She also received "gay status", she says. She's been featured on the lists in gay magazines and thinks it's fun.

- But I was on *Slitz* list of sexiest girls in Sweden as well, she says, frowning.
- I don't know what place, but a few guys in my school got really annoyed. Why are you on that? They didn't think I should have been.

But neither *Slitz* nor other similar magazines wanted to have her as a cover girl.

- Apparently, but I wouldn't run on anything like that.

She alternates between discussion with her eloquent language and quick exclamations of opinions. Working with adults and being a public figure has left its mark. Alexandra is a professional and she agrees that she has matured in many ways.

She's actually not like many sixteen year old girls everywhere. And while she seems intellectual and radical she is also funny and easy-going.

She doesn't have a boyfriend. Happy single, I'm kidding but then Alexandra's teeth come out.

- God, that's such an ugly expression!

And I feel a little stupid.

Do you have it harder with guys because you are famous?

- Aren't relationships hard for everyone? But I get to neck with more, she admits cheerfully.

I wonder if she has become rich from the movies. Because who doesn't want to be 16 and have nice clothes, be able to go for coffee or to the movies when you feel like it.

- I'm not a millionaire, responds Alexandra. I saved most of it. But some, such as the money from the Royal Dramatic Theatre, I have burned. Me, my mother and a friend went to Mexico for two weeks.

There she had it good and was taught to hate Americans.

- It sounds horrible but so be it. They got there and said Mexico was their country retreat and were upset when the Mexicans didn't take the US dollars.
- Mom speaks fluent Spanish so I don't think the Mexicans saw us as Western tourists. It was wonderful.

She's often described as a "sassy teenage girl." To that she says:

- I'm young and I have opinions. Also, I am known because others hear my opinions. It can be good with provocations. But everything will be calmer with age.

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Annah Björk

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