

Alexandra the Great

Have you wondered what Alexandra Dahlström has been up to since **Show Me Love**? We did. So we found out.

- **I have to give** approval on the article before it goes to print! And they must not put the headline anywhere! Can I choose the pictures too? Alexandra Dahlström is determined when it comes to interviews.

The notion that she is determined and has opinions about most things is common and can be read in interviews with Alexandra. So I understand if she is fussy about how she wants it, she must be one of the most media savvy 16-year-olds and she knows how it feels to see yourself on a poster.

When Alexandra was 14 she was featured in the film **Show Me Love** in which she played one of the two main characters - the tough Elin. A success story, over 850,000 Swedes and even more overseas have seen the film which is directed by Lukas Moodysson. Certainly even more Swedes also heard her speak about the Guldbagge Gala when Alexandra got interrupted at the microphone by Loa Falkman in the middle of the live broadcast. An angry Alexandra responded to him, "Go reduce me!" before the cameras went out. Then a media storm started and Alexandra was everywhere.

It was forgotten about as well that she and Rebecka Liljeberg - who plays Agnes, the second main role in Show Me Love - were two young talented girls who had just won a split Guldbagge Award as the year's best actress. Alexandra says she just slipped into acting by chance.

- A talent scout came to our school, then they called me and I had a role in the movie **Truth or Dare**. After that there was **Show Me Love** and everything has moved on. It sounds so simple for Alexandra! But until you meet her in real life you are surprised, because she is special.

My mom said I should email Emma Hamberg

She tries not to stand out or be noticed. Maybe it's because she's part Russian and quite un-Swedish - or has charisma. Or is it both. The first time I met her, I became a cliché and was surprised at how short she was, then we talked and were like best friends at once. Maybe mostly because Alexandra is always there asking questions about things no one else asks about.

- I think it would be more normal to live with and have siblings closer to your own age. I have a half-sister, Jenny who is 28, but I've never lived with her, when I talk to her I wonder how it is that I so often see her hanging out with adults, I never did when I was 16.
- I hang out a lot with my parents, they are my friends. I understand how fiction works and I think it's fun to talk to those who are older than me. It has stopped mattering to me what age people are.

I hate that whole thing with the Guldbagge Gala and being such a big part of it

Right now Alexandra is in a theatre group called Darling Desperados.

- We have started working on a play called **Blood**. It's like a creepy action movie, but it's about everyone who is born good, she says and continues to talk about Darling Desperados.
- Before we did the demo, we read the books, ran and wrestled, that way we would have time to be as good as possible. There are few jobs that are more physical than this, it takes tremendous fitness and also brains. We presented **Blood** five times to friends, family and my school librarians in large circus tent which stood at Gärdet in Stockholm. I thought I was a terrorist. It was cold in the tent, so we were worried that the audience would freeze, but they all liked it!

You've refused to interviews with VeckoRevyn before. Why?

- It's interesting to think about why people in general accept interviews. Will others really find it useful to read about me? It's so horrible to see famous people who only do interviews in magazines to continue to be famous. You should have something to say as well and be a role model, but it's really hard!

How does it feel now?

- It feels good. Mum was so thrilled that Miss Sweden was removed and she said I should email Emma Hamberg.

Are your friends jealous of you?

- No! They are not! I don't have those kind of friends! My friends aren't jerks, they're cool.

What about with the uproar over *Show Me Love* and the Guldbagge...

- When I was like dead famous?

Well, how was it with the jealousy then?

- No, it wasn't so bad... or... yeah, the geeks who did other bad things were annoying. But not the cool people (laughs). Now it sounds as if I think that there are only two kinds of people, geeks and cool people (laughs)! And I'm with the cool!

How did you deal with the jerks?

- Well, I didn't realize that people cared. I was bombed with Russian culture from my mother when I was little, and didn't know when to be quiet and not to brag. I'm very boastful! Sometimes I stand in the playground and say "and so I was at the party and then told that person." But most of it is a funny story people want to hear.



If I stood up and boasted, a lot of people would perceive me as very self-centered, but you were famous! So you don't have an ego anymore, you are a diva.

- I've heard quite a few times that I am a diva. But hey! It's a nice word! It means *miracle* in Russian, and in Latin it means *goddess*. So okay!

Do you call yourself a role model instead then?

Alexandra Dahlström

Age: 16-years-old

Lives: In the Stockholm area.

Wishing to stay: "If I moved tomorrow I would move to Moscow... or Paris... or Italy."

Family: Nuclear family with mixed nationalities.

Current: *Phobie** by Alante Alfandari and *Blood* by Sergi Belbel with theatre group Darling Desperados. After long negotiations with the acidic Stockholm bureaucrats are cleared,

- I've received this question many, many times, sometimes I don't feel responsible when young people look up to me.

you can see them at Södra Teatern, and Kägelbanan this spring.

- And sometimes I've answered "yes, I work on development and the role I try to portray," other times I've answered "I don't care, why should I take that responsibility?" Oh! That can be distinguished most often, the fame can accomplish great things, but that person can still be both good and bad.

Can people distinguish Alexandra from your character Elin then?

- Mmm. As the characters in *Show Me Love* we enjoyed ourselves. But even if Elin is the present image, I don't think people should take me for Elin! I have much more serious clothes! And I say serious things!

How does it feel to have been a lesbian icon?

It feels good! It's tough! I signed autographs on a girl's stomach in the gay bar TipTop once! And when I was at the film festival in Madrid last autumn a Spanish, lesbian girl came up to me and she told me she would go to Stockholm afterwards and she wanted to go to Åmål! Isn't that fantastic?

Do you find it boring to have to be "just right"?

- I think that being "just right" is a very good concept as extremities are dangerous. Stuck in time can be the same as being afraid, and it gets boring when you do not dare to try.

What's the bravest thing you have done in your life? I think what you did at the Guldbagge Gala was brave.

- I have not done the bravest thing of my life yet, eventually I will do it! It's courageous to defend or save any person. And I hate that thing with the Guldbagge Gala and being such a big part of it all! Luuk's wife Coco has a theory about why it was so big. It was on TV and for me it was a small thing, but it was grotesquely magnified when it was on TV. Because TV seems to be such a big part of everyone's life.

I have my own theory. What you showed was real star quality! We have not had anything like it on television since Per Oscarsson stripped in Hylands Corner and Carola sang in the Eurovision Song Contest for the first time.

- When we made **Show Me Love** and talked about it, we realized we had little rock star complexes when we made the film. I was walking around on the set with a pair of large sunglasses and pretending we were recording the video for **Beastie Boys Sabotage**. It was more fun than work sometimes. When we were at the premiere of the film in Trollhättan we joked about doing something dumb like to embed the hotel TV in the hotel bed. Some who saw the film said it gave them the same experience like being at a rock concert.

I'm not an actress. Putting aside my weakness for a good script, I'm actually a student.

And then you went on the whole rock star thing at the Guldbagge Gala?

- Yes, Carola and Per Oscarsson rock! The entire show was in that spirit. It wasn't because there were more cameras and celebrities around.

What have you done for *Show Me Love*?

- I have done just about everything you can't do! I have said no to starring roles in big Swedish telefilms because they weren't interesting. There is so much other stuff that's fun to do. I am not willing to die to become an actress, I want to read books. Then become a biologist and serve on an ethics committee for gene manipulation! I'm not an actress. Acting is too fun to be completely excluded. Putting aside my weakness for a good script, I'm actually a student.

You were a young girl when you acted at the Royal Dramatic Theatre, how was it?

- I don't know what others thought, but I didn't care that I was a girl and young. I'm very proud of it. But the first time I was there I was dead scared. If you're 15 and never played theater in the past and people have a media image of you as being provocative, the Royal Dramatic Theater is the least logical place to be. The other actors in **Kranes** are professional foxes but they turned out to be very kind. Micke who played Borghild's brother Jorgen and I were invited to mid daylight in a barn where the rest of the ensemble used to tell incredible stories.

You made your big theater debut at the Royal Dramatic Theatre?

- Mmm. It's a fun change going from the Royal Dramatic Theatre to a free theatre such as Darling Desperados, they are narrow and underground.

Do you have any advice for other young girls who want to act?

- I think you should study instead (laughs)! You become strong by reading books, so it's good to study.

You are taking the humanities line in school. I know you are interested in languages, but why?

- I want to be able to many languages, because then you can talk to many people. You understand how the world works and it's fun to travel. Therefore, I read Russian, Swedish, English, French, Spanish and Latin. If you know that a word has more than one meaning you understand everything better.

Do you have any exciting projects going on now?

- In addition to Darling Desperados and our play I was in a short film in Paris. It's about a group of young people who in their free time engage in advanced cooking. One evening, they want to cook a carp and while they prepare the ingredients, the carp is swimming in the bathtub. When they accidentally drop the carp, it disappears! There will be power cuts to my character Béatrice because she can exploit the situation to explain something to others..

It sounds very surrealistic and underground! It's one of those movies you will be able to buy a shitty video copy of over the internet after you become a big Hollywood star.

- Yes, sometimes I think I'm Anita Eckberg.

But Alexandra, we have been talking for a long time now without bringing up my favourite topics. Love, relationships, sex and guys...

- I'm kind of in love with seven guys at the same time! I fall in love with someone I just talked to for two minutes on the phone or saw on the subway. My loves end quickly, because I fall in love with so many new people that they can't all fit.

Do you not have a guy then? Tell me now!

- But! What is the interesting read in the magazine? Aha! Is it because this is VeckoRevyn and it's for girls? Aha! Yes, but I will not tell.

Why?

- No! I must be a little secret too. It's awesome.

Filmography

Little Red Riding Hood in information film on ZTV by Jocke Åhlund, *Truth or Dare*, *Kranes Konditori* at the Royal Dramatic Theatre, music video for the group **Babalou Smith**, *Show Me Love*, *In Bed with Santa*.

* *Phobie* seems to have been a working title for the short film that later became known as *La Carpe*.

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Sandra Löv

Source: <http://alexandra-dahlstrom.com>

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