

Alexandra Dahlström



In 1998 Alexandra Dahlström Fucking Åmål's Elin became known in all of Sweden. Today she is working on Lukas Moodysson's third film *Lilja 4-ever*, where everyone speaks primarily Russian. Alexandra speaks Russian fluently, and was with them working as an interpreter and also as a casting crew member.

Have you been involved since the early stages?

Quite early. I was in Paris working on a French short film, *A la carte**, when Lukas called me. I got the script to read when I came home and decided instantly to be part of it.

Were you in Tallinn for the auditions?

- Yes, that was very fun. They were very sweet and excited, and it was understandable that they were extremely nervous. And so I saw the sister of Sergej Brodov, (Oksana Akinsjina who is playing Lilja is also part of it, remark of the editor), and I said "pick her, she looks like an angel".

Have you been hungry on working as actress yourself?

- No, 'cause I was prepared for what I should do and I was quite tired after the camera work in Paris. So I decided right away to be behind the camera, to help Lukas and use my Russian.

Have you been with the shooting all the time as interpreter?

- At the beginning, but later on I decided that I was actually forced to finish my third year at the senior high school. I started to study last spring, I'm doing social sciences with humanistic direction.

Your mother is Russian and your grandma lives in Russia, are you there a lot?

- Not as often as I would like to be. Grandma lives in Volgograd between the Black Sea and Kazakhstan. It's a long and tough trip to go there.

Do you feel Swedish or Russian when you are there?

- I feel quite split, 'cause I grew up here. I took the subway once and two Russian boys came in, who just started to talk with me without me saying anything, but I believe that I have a bit of a Slavic face. And I have partly the personality I recognize in Russians. They are quite open and sentimental, and a little bit nostalgic.

Would you like to move there?

- Yes, in fact, I have been there often and a long time, except where you are coming from - it's a fantastic land. It is huge and everything

is a lot more intense than in Sweden. The image of Russia is often that that everything is grey, everybody has fur caps and everybody drinks vodka, but that isn't true.

How are you looking now on the role of Elin?

- I talked with Coco (Moodysson, editor's remark) about that yesterday, and we agreed that I relaxed myself, became calmer, that I was more like her when I was young. Now I am adult, haha. But Elin is funny, I like her.

You have had both, film roles and theatre roles at the Dramaten (Kungliga Dramatiska Teatern, kind of national theatre, Jenny's remark) since *Show Me Love*; do you want to continue as an actress?

- Yes, but not because I feel I have to, but 'cause I want to. It may become a little bit less however.

***A la carte** was a working title for the short film **La Carpe**

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[Karoline Eriksson](#)

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