

## From Åmål to Miss Sweden



Alexandra Dahlström describes her character in *Miss Sweden* as a broken little girl who heals.

Photo: Magnus Hallgren

**She became nationally famous as Elin in *Show Me Love*. Now Alexandra Dahlström has a major new role in Tova Magnusson-Norling's feature film debut *Miss Sweden* which will premiere on September 4<sup>th</sup>.**

It's been six years since *Show Me Love* took Sweden by storm. A film about school anxiety which also had a lesbian theme. Alexandra Dahlström played the smart and cool Elin. - "I hate my life!"

In the movie *Miss Sweden* she plays Moa who is a completely different type of girl. Living in a small town. Working at a factory. Hanging out in a large group of animal rights activists who want to "crush US imperialism." She lives in a small cottage by the woods and falls for guys who are jerks. Except one that she doesn't realize is good until the end. The guy who says, "I'm not good - I'm a coward. I'm a bastard too."

- For a long time I thought we'd made a romantic comedy, but when I saw the film, I realized that it's a new genre: an adorable-little-movie. I had to hug Tova (Magnusson-Norling) very tight. There is a raw power in the movie that I like. It's not fine print subtle, but very meaty in every way.

Alexandra Dahlström is twenty years old, which means she has no trouble talking about herself and everything she likes is "nice".

Like Moa, her character in the film, she is "fine".

- We are not completely equal. I would never cling to someone like she does. I'm not so rough in around the edges and don't have the same problem channelling my strength like she does. I would never waste so much energy on stuff that is so fucking wrong. But she is brave. She is a broken little girl who heals and is the finest available.

At the start of filming she didn't like Moa at all. The love came later. Three months later she dreams of Moa.

- That's when it clicked to "Well, that's how she is." I like her a lot. It's like having a clingy annoying sister - to defend her honour, even if you don't like everything she does.

In the credits there is a "thank you" to Mr. & Mrs. Moodysson, who she befriended during the filming of **Show Me Love**.

- They are great at supporting me. I had no intention to audition for **Miss Sweden**, but they pushed me and made sure I put on my glasses and took the subway there. "It's completely idiotic if you don't, you are so good," they said.

She still doesn't know if she wants to continue acting and get serious about it. First, she says that it's been her job for eight years, and she wants to write a script and direct. Then she says she really wants to become an interpreter and so she studies Italian at the University.

- Maybe because I'm a coward, but especially out of self-preservation. I love to act.

Since **Show Me Love**, she has been featured in several films and theater productions, including Kjell Sundvall's comedy **In Bed With Santa**, the theater Galeasen's set of **A Beautiful World**. In both **Show Me Love** and **Miss Sweden** she plays characters just a bit older than herself.

- It's crazy to do things that have not yet happened to me and that maybe will happen in the coming year. But in a way it's nice to do that stuff that I haven't yet experienced.

2004-08-24

Elin Bäckström

Source: <http://www.dn.se/kultur-noje/fran-amal-till-froken-sverige/?brs=d>

Translated by: <http://alexandra-dahlstrom.net>