

Gärde's Directorial Debut in Malmö

When actress Saga Gärde from the TV series *Spung* and *Playa del Sol* made her directing debut, she did it with a movie that takes place in Malmö.

One of the main characters in her film is a veteran - Guldbagge award winner Alexandra Dahlström from *Show Me Love* who is also making her directorial debut this fall.

- My first short film is being backed by people I trust, says Saga Gärde.



For her directorial debut *Babysister*, Saga Gärde has gathered people she knows and believes in.

Along with the press, photographer Anders Widlund, production designer Tora Åsling and Alexandra Dahlström, she celebrates with cake and coffee that the filming of *Babysister* is done. They are laughing, joking and talking with each other - more like a group of friends who sit drinking coffee in the morning sun than a film crew.

In *Babysister*, Ingrid (Alexandra Dahlström) visits her big sister Greta (Cecilia Häll) in Malmö. During the visit, things the sisters would rather not talk about surface.

- If you spend time with your family you might be forced to deal with things you do not want to think about otherwise, says Alexandra Dahlström.

For about year, she lived in Rome where she is learning Italian. She compares the Italian way of being with family with the Swedish. The Italians have a closeness that has both advantages and disadvantages.

- I have friends who are 31 and who seriously go home to mom and get their shirts ironed, she says.

Saga Gärde and Alexandra Dahlström discuss the frightening silence that can be found in a Swedish family.

- You don't say exactly how you feel, you hide it, says Alexandra Dahlström.



It's in this climate that *Babysister* unfolds. Saga Gärde has worked with the unsaid and let the pictures speak for themselves.

- It's what they don't say that drives the movie, she says.

She also wants to show the importance of family and says that the film's sisters really have a very strong need for each other.

- I'm trying to zero in on the incredible opportunities we have with siblings, says Saga Gärde.

Many of those who worked on *Babysister* are friends and colleagues from her past. Alexandra Dahlström and Saga Gärde formed a new relationship with each other, although their circles of friends brushed against each other for a while. They have obvious similarities in the way they think about film, acting and careers, that both are a sometimes bumpy road where urge and spark are the guiding light. Above all, one should go in the direction of determination.

- If you are not experienced in another person's life, you can never be really good, says Alexandra Dahlström about the acting profession.

She has worked in films since the age of 12, but then continued school and later University which took up most of her time.

During her time in Italy, she returned periodically to work. She has auditioned in Italy and will appear in the production company Dansk Skalle's next feature film. She has also appeared in a Dutch television series that she compares to both *Rederiet* and *Dallas* but with "great actors". Soon, she debuts as a director and producer of the short film *Lacrimosa*, a story in which the protagonist reflects on unrequited love during a walk through Rome.

Alexandra Dahlström hopes **Lacrimosa** may appear in the Swedish film festivals this year and next. In October, she moved back to Sweden and has new challenges as an actress.

Saga Gärde made her move from Stockholm to Malmö two years ago. In her early 20's, she worked intensively in film and television. This fall she will complete her studies at Lund and write two feature screenplays, one with Filippa Freijd.

- I wanted to get some rest and reflect. One must stick to that which gives oxygen, she says.

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