

She Won A Guldbagge at Age 14



Alexandra Dahlström has appeared in several movies and plays but is also a director. Next, she will play a hairdresser in *Mañana*, which premieres in April. Here she is seen with Manuel Concha who made the film.

Alexandra Dahlström became a national celebrity at age 14 for her role as Elin in Lukas Moodysson's *Show Me Love*. Now after ten years, besides being an actress she can also call herself a director, and is already working on her third short film.

The first time she directed was in high school when she and a friend set-up *Medea*. Work on the script took four months, but the play was a success and drew in a lot of money for the upcoming school trip. Then it took a few more years before she resumed the director role. 2007 saw her first movie *Lacrimosa*.

- It was an entirely self-funded short film. Me and a friend who is a cinematographer flew down to Rome with a super 8 camera. The film went directly to the 1km film section of the festival, and I thought that it was absolutely perfect! It was more fun than

anything else I've done in my life, says Alexandra Dahlström, who turns 25 on February 12.

When Alexandra was little she dreamed not of becoming an actor, but she was pretty sure she wanted to do something different. But after receiving a Guldbagge award for her role in *Show Me Love* she has continued on. Now combining her acting with directing she says it works great and she did not want to choose something right away.

- As an actor, you're more someone else's instrument, and as a director, you are involved in the process from the start and have a more comprehensive picture. But I love acting and cannot live without it.

She points out that as a director, it is important to know what to do, but one also needs to be sensitive to their employees. That she has worked in various parts of the industry is a big advantage.

- I think it has given me a different starting point as a director. I've been on so many recordings, so I know when they are good and when they are not so good.

Something that distinguishes Alexandra from many other filmmakers is her insight into how it is to be a teenager today. And she says she is very fond of young people.

- It produces a lot of tenderness when you see them. There is something very unspoiled when you are young. And everything is on a knife's edge. It's that kind of huge emotional roller coaster and it's so lovely.

But she adds that she also likes adulthood.

- There is a totally different weight to it. And as an adult, you can enjoy more of the mountains and landscape.



Jessica Gow/Scanpix

Alexandra Dahlström

Current: Turns 25 years on February 12.

Lives: In Stockholm

Family: Mother, father, sister and boyfriend.

Career highlights: Made her debut at age 12 in *Truth or Dare*, won a Guldbagge in 1999 for her role as Elin in *Show Me Love*. Has appeared in several feature films and also acted at the Royal Dramatic Theater and Theater Galeasen in several plays. Has directed two films, *Lacrimosa* which received an honorary award in 2007, and *Kom Hit!* which won the 1km film scholarship at the Stockholm Film Festival last fall.

Strength: My conviction and my energy.

Weakness: My ambivalence.

Traits she likes in others: Humility, intelligence and humor. And honesty and trustworthiness.

On the future: It looks bright. I keep on searching film schools. I long to immerse myself more in what I love to do.

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