

## What's She Doing Now?



In 1998, two of the cutest little lesbians ever to come out of Sweden stole our hearts in Lukas Moodysson's *Show Me Love* (or *Fucking Åmål* as it was called originally).

The story is one we've seen 100 times already: young, uncool girl (Agnes) has a crush on the popular girl (Elin) who doesn't know she exists; the popular girl is sick of being known as just that and wants more. They meet and, in the words of Rocky, "she's got gaps, I got gaps; together we fill gaps".

This, however, is no Hollywood teen romance. There is no sugar-coating, no perfect people, no good guys and bad guys and no 30-year-olds playing teens. *Show Me Love* is heart-breakingly real. Rebecca Liljeberg as Agnes will rip your heart through your stomach as she goes through all of the agony of being 'different' during those teenage years. Like her loving dad, we know that life will get better but when you're going through it, getting to grips with who you are is an all-encompassing, emotionally exhausting trial and Rebecca nails it.

Alexandra Dahlström has a tough role to play too; one which would have been much easier if this were an American film. Here, her popular Elin is a fully-rounded young woman bored to tears in her tiny home town and desperate to do something offbeat, to be someone else (even if it means trying to get high on vitamins). But when she meets Agnes, who is as different as she wants to be, she is challenged. Does she really have the courage to be an outsider? Can she follow her heart at the risk of losing her friends and standing in the school hierarchy?

The two actresses were just 14 (Alexandra) and 17 (Rebecca) so they knew all about the pains of growing up. But where are they now?

**Rebecca Liljeberg** - After *Show Me Love*, she went back to school to graduate late. It didn't hold her back though and, in 2002, she went on to study medicine at the Karolinska Institute and became a pediatrician. She's also a bit of a geek and worked at a computer firm, Knorka, while studying in college. Her creative side hasn't disappeared, though and she wrote a column for Swedish newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* for a while as well as contributing to UNESCO's *Utrymme* anthology of twenty works from young writers around the world.



Little Agnes is now a mammy too. She now lives in Stockholm with her boyfriend Alexander Skepp with whom she has two children: Harry Theodor, born in June 2002 and Vera, born on January 1, 2005. While she has suggested that

she aims to concentrate on a medical career, Rebecca has not ruled out the prospect of acting in more films if she receives the right offer.



**Alexandra Dahlström** - After Show Me Love, Alexandra did what any sensible 14 year-old would do and went back to school. Once she graduated, she acted as assistant director and Russian translator, for Show Me Love's director Lukas Moodysson, with his film Lilya 4-ever. She continued acting in TV roles and in theatre but also decided to try out DJing. Turns out she quite good and she was the resident DJ on Sweden's most popular late night talk show, Late Night with Luuk. Lately, though, she has moved to

Rome and is getting back into some serious acting. In 2008, she was the lead in Mañana and coming up this year is Jenny ger Igen, in which she gets to exact revenge on a guy who mistreats women.

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