

Her Eye for Female Friendship



"I will dig even more where I stand." Alexandra Dahlström explores as both a film director and actor, the world is hers.

Alexandra Dahlström broke through as a 14-year-old in **Show Me Love**. Today she is both a director and an actor, with friendship and music as recurring themes.

Alexandra Dahlström has a lot going on. Her latest short film **Fågel Fenix** premiered at the Stockholm Film Festival before Christmas. Now she is script training, while she cuts her first feature film.

- It's too early to talk about it, but it's a punk movie about female friendship, and it has the world's best music, she says.

The fact that music is important is not surprising - Alexandra Dahlström has been a DJ for many years and has directed music videos and short films. She has collaborated with musicians like Andreas Kleerup and the German techno composer Frank Wiedemann.

Friendship is a theme she returns to, especially female ones.

- There is a raw, primeval power of female friendship that I think many people have not discovered because girls are so often played off against each other in different situations. Instead of

finding the strengths of each other, they compete, and I think it makes us very alone.

She describes how she once dropped everything to coach a friend prior to applying to an actor's training course. Then she got herself three starring roles in one summer and was on the film set in Rio when her friend called her up and told her she got into the program. Alexandra is convinced that the incidents are linked.

- The more you give, the more you get, she says.

Her big break came in 1998 with Lukas Moodysson's feature debut **Show Me Love**, which was an international success and earned her a Guldbagge award. Alexandra was, however, quickly tiring of being associated with the role she played as a 14-year-old. The extreme media coverage led her to study harder.

- School was the most fun thing I knew for the simple reason that I could sharpen my skills. I knew that intelligence is stronger than external confirmation.

The film's success also opened doors for roles in films like **Miss Sweden**, **Blondie** and artist Fia-Stina Sandlund's **Miss Julie** project. Now she has also found friends and contexts that are safe and provide creativity and joy.

- I have been looking all my life. I was much more by myself before, she says.

She talks about the image of success that there's distortion among many young people who think it's all about galas, goodie bags and having a "celebrity" profession. Instead the focus should be on the joy of achieving something good.

- If you don't find the joy, there is no point in keeping on. My biggest realization has been that hard work is leading up to something important.



"It's when you share that it will be interesting for real,"
Says Alexandra Dahlström who often explores friendships
in her own films.

FACTS

Currently: Turns 30-years-old on February 12.

Job: Actor and director.

Lives: In Stockholm.

Family: Big sister, mom, dad, boyfriend and a lot of amazing friends.

Celebrating My Birthday: Sweden, or perhaps the world's best band **Vulkano** will play at Marie Laveau in Stockholm on February 21 and then I will gather my friends and have a party there.

On Turning 30: You start realizing that even if the path you've chosen is squiggly and weird, it's just one's own path. It's only when you go on this giant weird path that you realize it doesn't matter where you go.. you have to stop thinking: Should I have done this when I was 22?

Recent Cultural Experience: *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* by Joseph Campbell, a book about the mythology of storytelling.

Things That Bother Me About Others:

Greed and avarice. I don't like when people achieving success by walking over other people.

It Makes Me Happy: Beautiful experiences, it's snowing and I'm almost finished my first feature film that I've been doing for so long.

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