



FILM

ALEXANDRA DAHLSTRÖM

UNDER THE VOLCANO

Right now Alexandra Dahlström is reading Stephen King's book "On Writing."

- He says that when you get a hold of a story, it's like finding a fossil that you should dig up as best as possible. Sometimes it's just a tiny snail and sometimes it's a Tyrannosaurus Rex.

With the group Vulkano, Alexandra Dahlström found something big to tell, and after several short films she is now debuting her feature film as a documentary. That she chose this format for the debut was not a carefully calculated strategy.

"It's magic, we had found the dinosaur"

- I was so excited to tell a story that in what way, in what form and what it would be called was not that important to me, says Dahlström.

The thing that drew her to the story was music. She explains that in her short films, where she experimented a lot, it is always the interplay between the music and mood of the film that was the most important.

- I have found that I am a musician, but I use very complicated instruments to make my music.

She came in contact with the band Vulkano in an unusual way.

- Me and Cissi's group met when we climbed onto a freeway sign at the Way Out West festival, and that's how Rebekah and Lisa auditioned for my movie "Because the Night," so everything took off there in Stockholm's music and club world.

At the same time that she met the trio from Vulkano, Alexandra Dahlström followed another musician with her camera, Kleerup, who made the soundtrack for "Because the Night." At one point she felt bad for the band because even though she received so much fantastic material, it's difficult to get it into a movie.

- Lisa hinted as with maximum clarity that "you should film female musicians instead..."

During a year and a half, she followed the band to gigs, in the rehearsal room, in Sweden, in the woods and in the United States, which resulted in 100 hours of material. Editor Britta Norrell worked with the material for one month.

- She is a magician. When me and my producer Göran Olsson saw the first cut of the film, we sat and wept.

Alexandra Dahlström will continue to mix directing and acting. As most people know she started off as an actor in Lukas Moodysson's breakthrough film "Show Me Love", in 1998. They have continued to keep in close contact.

Is that why Lukas Moodysson's latest film, "We Are The Best" was also about three girls who start a band?

- When I first saw the scene where Bobo, Klara and Hedvig are catching snowflakes in their mouths, I got goosebumps. I had filmed a similar scene before Luke wrote his script. Luke said that we probably just happened to be interested in the same things. I mean it's magic, we had found the dinosaur.

"All We Have Is Now" had its theatrical release on October 24th. The article is published in the 207th issue of Situation Sthlm.

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Henrik Emilson, Situation Sthlm

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