

BREAKFAST WITH ALEXANDRA DAHLSTRÖM



NO FAN OF CONSUMPTION. "Money is really secondary," says Alexandra Dahlström.

Foto: Joey Abrait

She broke through in *Show Me Love*. Now it's Alexandra Dahlström's feature film directorial debut, a documentary about a girl punk band.

***All We Have Is Now* follows three former members of pop band Those Dancing Days who formed the punk band Vulkano and who are dreaming of Los Angeles. What's so special about them?**

"There are not many bands like this, and not many girls who related to each other in this way. I think it's revolutionary to see people who do not backstab and compete. They have such a unique history, and I noticed it at once. I felt like I was sitting on a trump card."

What's the film about?

"You've seen it. You tell me."

There's no hidden message?

"I wanted to tell the viewers about giant dreams and life-long friendships. It's very seldom you get to see girls who want to take over the world in that way. Who are not afraid. It's not a rare occurrence, but it's seen very little on film."

How does it feel that Lukas Moodysson has already made a film about a girl punk band? (*We Are The Best!*, 2013)

"It feels like we seem to have fallen into the same collective subconscious. And my film will be very

different. My film is for real. I saw *We Are The Best!* and got goosebumps. I thought, wow, what's happening, how could this have happened at the same time?"

In your film one of the characters, Rebekah, speaks about her relationship to money. What is your outlook?

"I think it's a bit too private to answer."

Have you been able to monetize your artistry?

"I have earned a lot more than my peers very early on. God, I think this is a little awkward. So what? It's like asking someone if they are rich."

It's not dangerous?

"So here, I have a very special relationship to consumption. I don't think you can replace churches with shopping centers, but it's about what people do on Sundays. They are fine and so are all those things. I think that money is really secondary. I also think that people who consume a lot are trying to fill a hole of some kind."

"I had a vision in New York. I had just been to a flea market and sold lots of things, and it was with the money that I bought a camera which I then made the documentary with. When I was in the store I thought of all the thousands of dollars I have spent on clothing that I will throw away. Girl's economy gets a little bled of consumption that many think they need. When, instead, it should be about expressing themselves. It's really about a shift from being the object to being the subject. You are not the one watching – you create someone to watch. I got the world's intoxication when I thought so. It was a wonderful feeling of power. I was really excited to shoot, and I did so. And so it was this."

"But my relationship with money... I have a little anxiety about what I've earned. Though I've invested it in a life."

What are you doing now?

"Looking for balance. I want to be commercial in the right way. I know I'm a brand, but it's nice to find my own expression without having to perform, bill or to give a lot of interviews for it. Since I write my own scripts, I have the time to really explore it. To make a long explanation short: I study, write a script in one year. I know I will continue on to produce and direct the film."

How much are you drawn with *Show Me Love* today?

"Moderately. I play discs quite a lot and it's nice when the girls arrive. They can say that they have dared to come out thanks to the film. That's wonderful. It's also about daring to follow your heart. I have begun to see that there is a Chekhov theme in my life. That most of what I do involves some kind of longing for something that is out of reach. In this film, it's Los Angeles. In *Show Me Love*, it's Stockholm."

What is your Stockholm?

“Moscow. I'm half Russian and love anything that glitters. But it's also a mental space, to continue doing this.”

FACTS:

Name: Alexandra Dahlström

Age: 30 years old

Lives: Södermalm, Stockholm

Family: Boyfriend

Background: Broke through 18 years ago in Lukas Moodysson's *Show Me Love* and later appeared in *Blondie*. She has also directed short films and music videos.

Current Project: *All We Have Is Now*, a documentary about three girls in the punk band Vulkano which has its theatrical release today.

Breakfast: Green tea and a croissant at Wood Stockholm! at Moses Hill in Stockholm.

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