

YOU MUST CONSTANTLY PROVE THAT YOU CAN



Picture: Emma Larsson

Film. Three years ago when Alexandra Dahlström met the pop punks in Vulkano, a mutual love arose. The result was the documentary film “All We Have Is Now.”

- It's a movie about female friendship, Dahlström says about her directorial debut.

How do you get started after early success in life? And how do you get along in a male-dominated industry?

We ask Alexandra Dahlström and Vulkano.

Dahlström got a big breakthrough as an actress at 14-years old in Lukas Moodysson's “Show Me Love” (1998). She has had many film roles since then, but nothing that had the same impact.

Rebekah Rolfart (guitar), Cissi Efraimsson (vocals/drums) and Lisa Pyk Wirström (keyboards) also broke through as teenagers, as members of the successful Those Dancing Days. The band broke up in 2011. When we meet the trio at the beginning of “All We Have Is Now” they're back to square one in the rehearsal studio with their new band, Vulkano, far from rock festivals and the P3 Gold awards.

- It's hard to be young and break through, and then you have to start over. We are probably just as fucked up, says Dahlström and Rolfart agrees with a laugh.

When Sydsvenskan meets Dahlström and Rolfart at a café in Malmö the chemistry between them is palpable. They sometimes finish each others sentences. For three years they have been talking, filming, laughing and crying together.

- Actually, I thought about making a film about Andreas Kleerup, but as a friend said to me: why not a film about female musicians?, says Dahlström.
- I saw Vulkano, and it was as if a raw energy was shaking all over. They had hoods on and they looked like magicians. What a sick way to express themselves! They were human beauty. I went backstage and it was like we “got together.” The first evening they had already told me very personal things.

Dahlström describes it as a “revelation” to see three childhood friends who struggle together. She has been a lone wolf in the last decade living and working extensively overseas, including Italy and Brazil, and going on auditions for movie roles.

- I was alone, alone, racing, racing, girl on girl on screen tests. And so I met this three-headed beast who has managed to turn performance anxiety into playfulness, adventure and strength. They do not compete, and it was a life lesson for me. I made this movie for girls who are trapped in all the requirements they have of themselves.

Dahlström and Rolfart talk about how difficult it can be to be a woman in male-dominated industries such as music and film.

- Our manager is a woman, but producers and sound engineers are always men. We have grown up with it. You must constantly prove that you can, says Rolfart.
- We live in a strange world where people can ask “What is it like being a girl and playing in a band?” Oh, and how is it to be the guy and do it then?

“All We Have Is Now” depicts the band's ups and downs, and we get to go on gigs in London and in Los Angeles. Through the film Rolfart is thinking if she instead will focus on her art. Eventually she dropped out of the band, but has returned with her own music project, The Hanged Man. Vulkano has continued on as a duo.

- I cried like my parents had divorced when Rebekah dropped out. I wanted them to be together forever, says Dahlström.
- But a group of people developing all the time are just in the moment. That's why the movie is called “All We Have Is Now.” It's beautiful and a bit painful.

It's hard not to think of the three punk girls in Lukas Moodysson's “We Are The Best!”

- Yes, it's crazy. But I started filming before him. There are even scenes that are the same – like

when they catch snowflakes in their mouth – and Luuk has not seen my movie yet. It's like if you start believing in Carl Jung's theory of the subconscious.

“All We Have Is Now” appears in a collaboration between the Nordic Panorama and Doc Lounge, at Babel in Malmö on Monday night. After the screening there will be a Q & A with Alexandra Dahlström and a concert with Vulkano. The film is scheduled for theatrical release on October 24th.

Vulkano has transformed performance anxiety for playfulness, says Alexandra Dahlström, who now makes her directorial debut.

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Mattias Oscarsson, Sydsvenskan

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