



On October 24th, Alexandra Dahlström's documentary *All We Have Is Now* will premiere. "Working on the film has really enriched what I usually work with," she says.

"A Film Made With Love"

In late October, the actor-director Alexandra Dahlström's first documentary *All We Have Is Now* will premiere. The film is about the punk band Vulkano – but perhaps primarily about female friendship and freedom.

- Grown men have cried after seeing it, says Alexandra Dahlström.

The sky is gloomy when Alexandra Dahlström parks her bike outside the noisy lunch spot where we decide to meet. The clouds are like a pickled blanket over rooftops, hanging tightly over addicts and homeless people who gather daily around the underground decline at Bjorn's Garden in Stockholm. People with low caps hurrying along the sidewalks, beggars crouch under blankets on street corners and SD has recently celebrated its biggest election victory. A truly loving movie about true friendship and freedom feels like a vitamin injection in a time where many will not fit while others bend over themselves to work, eat, sleep and take care of the children.

All We Have Is Now is an intimate documentary about three girls, Cissi Efraimsson, Lisa Pyk Wirström and Rebekah Rolfart leaving the

FACTS

ALL WE HAVE IS NOW

What: Documentary about three young girls from Nacka outside Stockholm who start a punk band, Vulkano. It's Cissi Efraimsson on drums and vocals, Lisa Pyk Wirström on synthesizer and percussion and Rebekah Rolfart on bass.

Theatrical Release: October

successful pop band Those Dancing Days for the freedom to do exactly what they want, unleash the creative kitten in all areas and all cylinders. They start the punk band Vulkano and start writing songs that cause geiger counters to hit the ceilings.

- The idea for the film was born when I saw Vulkano on stage for the first time, it was just wow! I wanted to make a film about the group, and since we knew each other, have similar backgrounds and think the same things are funny, I thought it would be easy, says Alexandra Dahlström.

It was really difficult to determine an end point for the project. For three years she followed the girls in the band from the rehearsal room in a basement in Södermalm to gigs in London and the big trip to Los Angeles.

The band members are the main characters but Alexandra's presence is also seen in the film.

- I'm not like a fly on the wall, still and silent, but my camera is more like a character I created, a fourth invisible presence that occasionally shoots a question, she says.

“Reporters want to know what I'm doing”

Alexandra Dahlström experiences no problems with going from actor and motion picture director to documentary filmmaker.

- Many people, especially journalists, want to know what I'm doing. Are you now an actor or director? But I don't see it that way. There is a story to tell and it's the story that determines the shape, she says.

She cites Stephen King's writing as a source of inspiration. There he tells a story that is like a fossil dug out of the ground.

- You find something, a story. It is not you who creates it, but you'll just be sure to get it as intact as possible. So it was with the film and I think it's the same with music. Ideas circulating in the air until someone is receptive and captures them. I was curious to describe the preparation process for *All We Have Is Now*.

She sees no contradiction between the various professional roles. They cross-fertilize each other.

24, 2014. Sneak premiere was at this year's edition of the music festival Way Out West.

ALEXANDRA DAHLSTRÖM

Born: 1984 in Gävle

Family: Mom, dad and sister

Lives: Stockholm

About: Actress, director and screenwriter. Has appeared in twelve films, has directed four short fiction films and several music videos as well as the documentary *All We Have Is Now*.

On being a self-taught director:

“It's a learning experience to participate in film work. As an actor, I have always preferred to hang out with the photographer and director. This is where I liked to hang out during recordings. I like the technical aspects of film making.”

On making more documentaries:

“No, I've worked with motion picture since I was 12-13 years old, that's my little breath of life. I cannot imagine that there are so many other documentaries where I can slide around in glittery dresses. But you never know!”

Motto: Dare to follow your heart.

- I learned a lot about writing dialogue, and how to create drama in a natural way that one is not going

to gain knowledge of by just making feature films. It has really enriched what I usually work with, she says.

The original idea was to depict the musical creation process, but Rebekah Rolfart has said that you really made a film about female friendship. Do you agree with that?

- Yes, when she said it, I realized that it probably is what the film is all about.

Womens relationships can often have traits of rivalry. How do you see it?

- I see it as a structural problem. The more women are competing and rival with each other, the easier the manipulation to be good consumers. There is a way to divide and rule, says Alexandra.

The film has also been called a film about freedom, something there is too little of today, she says.

- Yes, especially, there is too little of spiritual and creative freedom. You will not find much freedom in a shopping mall.

What is freedom to you?

- Above all, it is to have to worry. For what other people think. Freedom and security are closely related, in the sense that security makes it easier to be free. I do not mean that the sense of security not be challenged without being secure in yourself, and feeling safe in your environment, she says.

“Not a society I want to live in”

Insecurity can have many causes. Sweden Democrats' success has shaken her.

- I'm almost afraid, this is not a society I want to live in. It's really nasty when it's differences are not accepted.

She does not believe in countering racism and fascism with violent demonstrations or political debates. That kind of attention is likely just to give right-wing extremism nutrition, she says.

- I think there needs to be more talk about what needs to be done, what is good for all people, and give it as much positive time, energy and effort as possible. It's so good growing.

All We Have Is Now conveys something good, it's a straight through love film.

- It's a public love letter. People tend to be a little mushy after watching it. It has made grown men cry, while they're a little excited. The movie is just made with love. And pride. How should girls, yes everyone, be against each other in the world.

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Karin Holmberg, ETC

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