



Dahlström: We were out on a big adventure

The documentary *All We Have Is Now* is about the band Vulkano. But the director did not want to do a standard rock documentary. It was a movie about female friendship.

Bjorn's Garden is a small park at Götgatan Södermalm which includes a playground, skate ramp and a café. There we meet actress and director Alexandra Dahlström on a bleak autumn morning in Stockholm. A few blocks away, at Slussen, the band Vulkano had their first gig a few years ago. In the audience was Alexandra Dahlström.

- **I thought** it was one of the best bands I had ever seen and I wanted to make a film about them. But I didn't want to do a classic rock documentary which glorifies the band. I wanted to have a conflict, a theme. For the film, it wasn't the success factor that was the most important.

Lisa Pyk Wirström had previously had a role in a short film Alexandra Dahlström had done so she knew the director previously. The others in the band, she would get to know more closely. In a year and a

half, she followed the band with camera in hand. When it was time to edit, she had around 90 hours of film.

LISA PYK Wirström, Rebekah Rolfart and Cissi Efraimsson broke through as teenagers in the band Those Dancing Days. It went well, a recording contract, foreign tours, P3 Guld. But the demand was too great and the band took a break. The three girls formed Vulkano instead – a band where they could do as they pleased.

Getting an early breakthrough is something that Alexandra Dahlström has experience with. She was only 14 when she played a leading role in Lukas Moodysson's Show Me Love.

- I couldn't recognize myself on an intuitive level, I felt throughout my body that this was important. Our generation is so marked by the idea of a breakthrough. But that fluff is not important. What counts is the joy of creating with others.

- These three broke through early and I think they are so cool and brave beginning to just do something that they think is fun, says Alexandra Dahlström.

How was it to shoot the film?

- It was really lovely. We probably forgot quite often that we were working, we were just out on a great adventure.

Halfway into the movie one of the band members quits.

- It was a major turning point in the movie, but I can't say that I cheered when the conflict appeared. But life looks after all that, you grow apart. I was sad, it was like a family had shattered.

The friendship of the band remains despite Rebekah Rolfart quitting. Although Alexandra Dahlström was not thinking along those lines originally, female friendship has become a strong theme in the film.

- It's the most important message. It's like we've been brainwashed to believe that life is a competition, but it only leads to loneliness. The more divided we are, the easier it is to keep us in check. Why should we compare ourselves to each other when we can instead give each other so much strength? It's a real waste.

Lately, Alexandra Dahlström has been mostly behind the camera and right now she is working with a new film project, but she has not taken acting off the shelf.

- I'm an actor, but I prioritize good stories, I say no to roles that are not interesting. But I long to act in the theater.

Alexandra Dahlström

Born: 1984

Lives: Stockholm

Family: Mom, dad, sister, boyfriend

Dream Role: Natalya Petrovna in A Month in the Country by Turgenev

Listening to: Caribou, a lot of dance music and Skrammelpop

Reads: Caitlin Moran: How to be a Woman, Stephen King

Last Film Seen: Terry Gilliam's The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus

Hidden Talent: Can wag her ears

Vulkano is currently recording their second album.

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Ulla Sundstrom, GP

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Translated by: <http://alexandra-dahlstrom.net>