



SWEDEN



**SWEDISH** ACTRESS **MOA MALAN &** DIRECTOR **DENNIS PETERSEN**

*WORD IS SPREADING FAST, SHE IS THE THE NEW SCANDINAVIAN ACTION HEREO. SOME SAY SHE MIGHT BE THE NEW TOMB RAIDER.... MENTIONED AS AN UP AND COMING DIRECTOR IN THE AMERICAN BOOK "THE TOP 100 INDIE FILM MAKERS IN THE WORLD.. MEET ACTRESS MOA MALAN AND DIRECTOR DENNIS PETERSEN*

I have the privilege to enjoy the company of two interesting film pioneers Director Dennis Petersen and Actress Moa Malan, from Sweden. They are talented, good-looking and their work captivates their audiences globally. We are relaxing in the heart of Hollywood at this originally Highland Garden Hotel from the mid fifties. A famous hotel where many celebrities have stayed during decades.

The palm trees are swaying in the breeze by the pool area as well as the California sun is keeping our minds and souls satisfied. On top of that it feels so inspiring to sit down with these accomplished artists. When Dennis Petersen started his career in the film industry as a second assistant cameraman, he had no idea what was waiting for him. He would become a prize winning director. I ask him how he



PHOTO: DAN HOLMQUIST

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-MOA

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manage to break through and how he knew he was on the right track. “I was highly ambitious, when my first short film The Secret became a mega-success and I won awards and prizes globally I knew I had made a home run.”

But Dennis and Moa have literally been fighting for their genre of moviemaking in their homeland where they got nowhere.

However, these two fabulous underdogs from Scandinavia have managed to create something new and the rest of the world applauds them. Why was it so hard to make a Science Fiction movie in Sweden, what was the problem?

“The Scandinavian market lacked all films of Sci-Fi, action-Drama.”

Obviously, I understand that it is a risk to lead the way within a not discovered field and the Swedish mentality is not always easy.

Dennis ads: “Swedish film workers are extremely competent but no one is given the chance to show their skills through this type of film.”

Dennis Petersen and Moa Malan had been friends for years but never created something of their own. Then they got the brilliant idea to make something that had not been done before.

“Dennis called me, excited about an idea he had, I remember and I loved it immediately.” Moa says.

Moa and Dennis explain to me “We had the excitement and enthusiasm of two children staying up all night, we felt that we had something fresh and unique.”

Eventually, their dream project was born. They brought together elements in a way that had not been done before in Scandinavia. In everything from technology to the story with contact fighting, female protagonist, dystopian world, time wraps and all of it based on heavy drama.

However, when nobody wanted to support their ambitions in the field of Sc-Fi drama in their homeland either when it came to acknowledgement of these kind of productions or sponsorships. “I realized pretty quickly that we would have to finance it ourselves” says Dennis. Because all along in Sweden they were turned down with the words “it is not possible in Sweden” or “It is not art house enough, it’s too commercial.”

They certainly deserve headlines for being so remarkable persistent and so incredible talented. Nobody could stop them and eventually they were internationally a success. They even mastered to make their project REDEEM with the small amount of 12,000 dollars to a value of 350 000 dollars and they manage to make it in 2 years.

Inspirationally, they finally reached recognition elsewhere in the world like rising stars. When the film began appearing at festivals it draw attention and interest from production companies. “ We decided to write the feature film script as soon as there was a demand for it.” Dennis says. They began building the film with great emphasis on drama and the female character in which the focus is not on sex but on the hero.



PHOTO: DAN HOLMQVIST

**MOA MALAN**

**FACTS:**

Ht: 5'8"
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Long and Dark Brown
Language: Swedish and English

**TOO KEEP UP WITH THIS RISING STAR YOU CAN FOLLOW MOA MALAN ON HER FACEBOOK**  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Moa-Malan/242657245885433>

**OR IMDB:** <http://www.imdb.me/moamalan>

**WEBB PAGE:** [www.moamalan.com](http://www.moamalan.com)

**“MOA IS THE FIRST SCANDINAVIAN ACTRESS TO BE NOMINATED IN THE CATEGORIES FEMALE ACTION PERFORMER OF THE YEAR AS WELL AS BREAKOUT ACTION STAR”.**

They went for unique ways of working in everything from marketing to preproduction. As a marketing public event they marketed the film with a show in full contact fighting at Scandinavia’s largest shopping center.

Dennis continues: “When the character Ripley from Alien 35 years later, is still regarded as the best female protagonist of all time, we felt that something was missing on the market. He pauses and proudly adds:”Through the short film, we understood that the interest in such a story and character were highly sought after. **And REDEEM is now being developed into a trilogy as well as a TV and computer game.**

How is it for Dennis to be greeted as an up and coming film director in the American book The Top 100 Indie Filmmakers in the world but not in you own home country?

Dennis looks content and says: “When it was tough and our energy sank we went here to Los Angeles where we gained strengths and inspiration from other filmmakers who proved that it’s doable, such as Neil Blomkamp’s Alive which became District 9 (2009) and Whiplash (2014) by Damien Chazelle, short films that became successful feature films.”

So, how does Dennis tick, what makes him uniquely untouched. “I get so focused on my projects that I almost become manic, I can become a relentless perfectionist.” He looks happy gazing at his top notch partner Moa.

Moa Malan is Swedish with South African roots. She graduated from the renewed Prague Film School. Moa says: “ It was tough at first and I went on audition after audition and nothing seemed to come my way.” But destiny was all of a sudden calling when Dennis and Moa started to work together. Yes, the feature film trilogy named REDEEM came a reality.

Amazingly, Moa is carrying the leading role and is also producing the film as well as co-writing the script.” I have always wanted to something cutting edge, something exciting and pioneering, she says enthusiastically. “

Handling the demanding leading role which includes fight sequences in full contact is no minor feat. In order to excel at this she received first class coaching and training by the world champion in the martial art Kali Sikaran for several months. **Moa is the first Scandinavian actress to be nominated in the categories Female Action Performer of the Year as well as Breakout Action Star.**





PHOTO: DAN HOLMQUIST

## DENNIS PETERSEN

### FACTS:

Languages: Swedish, English, French, Arabic

TOO KEEP UP WITH THIS RISING STAR YOU CAN FOLLOW DENNIS PETERSEN ON HIS

MDB: <http://www.imdb.me/dennispetersen>

WEBB PAGE: <http://www.petersendennis.com>

“ I BELIEVE THAT A GREAT FILM IS A REFLECTION OF ONES ABILITY TO PURSUE GREAT DREAMS.”

— DENNIS PETERSEN

Additionally, Moa has featured in 3 films at The Cannes Film Festival and been awarded with 2 nominations for her achievements. Ahead, waits the role as the first female superhero of European film. I try to understand how Moa does it with such an enormous physical strength.

“ I enjoy physical activity and like expressing myself in this way”. She takes a deep breath in the California sunshine and gazes at me sincerely. “ While discussing and working on the project it felt natural that I should handle fights and stunts personally.”

Remarkably, It turns out that Moa excels at martial arts. She has never been involved before in this sport but at this point in time she has already won a bronze medal against others who have practiced martial arts for 5 years or more.

On top of that, Moa now trains and coaches young women in self defense at the club where she practices Kali Sikaran. “Giving others something useful to take with them throughout life is the ultimate joy.”

The project REDEEM has also of course enabled Dennis to demonstrate his unique style and create a proof-of-concept short film. Dennis has attracted considerable amount of attention globally, in the USA as well as elsewhere, thanks to his ability to combine American storytelling with European cinematography. **REDEEM has been nominated**

**in categories such as Best Fight Choreography and Best Action Sequence.**

His power in moviemaking is his ways of directing first class full contact fight sequences. Dennis explains to me: “ I love captivating viewers with my interpretations of the magic of life and present it to them through amazing sagas.”

I ask Dennis Petersen to explain all his incredible attention from everywhere. He looks straight at me and says: “It is probably my obsession with detail. I am so focused on my project that I almost becomes crazed, I become an uncompromising perfectionist. ” **I believe that a great film is a reflection of ones ability to pursue great dreams.”**

Dennis knows his ways and explains to me, while giving me a sharp eye: “ Napoleon Hill said if you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way!”

Finally, with this wonderful statement the interview is over and I wish these fascinating people the best in the world and cracks the chilled Champagne which has been waiting in an ice bucket by our table and pour us all a winning toast for a bright and successful future.

Also, I want all my readers to know to never give up; if your heart loves the things you do then you cannot fail! By Malin HL Forsman.

MANAGED BY MARIA VASCSAK AGENCY - INTERNATIONAL BOUTIQUE AGENCY



MANAGER MARIA VASCSAK

Phone: +46 739 10 59 02

+1 (917) 717 9091

Mail: [maria@vascsak.com](mailto:maria@vascsak.com)

Imdb: <http://www.imdb.me/mariavascsak>

### CLIENTS:

ACTOR / SCRIPT CONSULTANT

SAID WILLIAM LEGUE

ACTRESS ELISE ROVINSKY

ACTRESS MOA MALAN

ACTOR VIKTOR ÅKERBLOM

ACTOR NICOLAS FAGERBERG

WRITER NINA LARSDOTTER

DIRECTOR MARKUS STRÖMQVIST

DIRECTOR DENNIS PETERSEN

ACTRESS / WRITER MALIN HL FORSMAN



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