

Stålhättor (aka) The Steel-iron-grey-sky
written, directed & produced by Christina Olofson

About the joy of work, and how it is to be the worker in Sweden in 2012. Steel is warmth, strength, magnetic – steel is women.

Kerstin Bäck started working at Järnverket in 1972. Time has passed. Initially she was a pioneer, now her successors are following in her footsteps shaping new traditions. *The steel-iron-grey-sky* is a film about Swedish industry. Meet the women in a world of steel.

The movie is about Sofia Käck, Carina Ähdel-Franzén and Annelie Ähdel-Franzén, three young women who have chosen steel. Twins Carina and Annelie are combining their studies to take a Master of Metallurgy at KTH Royal Institute of Technology with work at the steel company.

The company is based in the city of Borlänge, Dalarna, Sweden. What today makes young women interested in industrial work? What is desirable about working with steel?

“It’s important to me that women are joining the industry... Women and men have different ways of looking at things... Women make observations with fresh eyes and see different things...” says Sofia.

Along with their stories we simultaneously listen to the story of ex-crane operator Kerstin Bäck, who recently retired. I met Kerstin Bäck mid 70’s, when she operated cranes at the steel company and we, Birgitta Bergmark and I filmed the documentary *I feel that I’m important* in which Kerstin participated. That year 1975 was UN’s International Women’s Year, and our documentary was included in a season of programmes on that subject.

During the years I’ve kept in contact with Kerstin, and when Göran du Rees and I were shooting the movie *The Tent – Who Owns the World?*, in 1978 she was still working at the steel company. We filmed her for a second time operating cranes. The centre of Kerstin’s life and her identity lies within the steel company, and even though she has long since developed other interests she still returns, teaching temporary staff employed during the summer holidays.

“The labour movement is a house of cards that is about to collapse”, says Kerstin and worries about how the future will be for young workers who today join the steel company.

This delightful and joyous documentary depicts what work at the steel company is all about.



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