

= Lina Leandersson =

Lina Leandersson ( born 27 September 1995 ) is a Swedish actress . She played the lead role of Eli in the 2008 Swedish romantic vampire film *Let the Right One In* , based on the novel by the same name . Born in Falun , Leandersson started performing at an early age . She acted in local amateur theatre performances , and had a few brief television appearances in 2006 . At the age of eleven , Leandersson was cast to play one of the two leads in Tomas Alfredson 's film , *Let the Right One In* , after applying for the role through a web @-@ based casting service . The film was an international success , and Leandersson 's performance as the vampire Eli brought her widespread critical acclaim as well as several awards and nominations . She has stated that she wants to continue acting .

= = Early life and career = =

Lina Leandersson was born in Falun , Sweden . She took an interest in performing from an early age , acting in amateur theatre performances , attending drama courses , and performing street- and jazz dance . One of her first roles was in amateur theatre performance , playing the mother of a spoiled girl wanting new jeans . In 2006 she appeared as a jury member in the Swedish song competition *Lilla Melodifestivalen* . The same year , she was selected as one out of five , from a total of five hundred applicants , to participate in Nickelodeon 's *programledarskola* , which was televised in October 2006 .

= = Let the Right One In = =

Leandersson applied for the role in *Let the Right One In* through a web @-@ based casting service . After being contacted by child casting director Maggie Widstrand , she auditioned for the role three times before finally being cast . She was unaware that the role she was auditioning for was that of a vampire . " I was shocked " , she later told *Expressen* ; " I thought it was a more usual role . " But as soon as she grew accustomed to the idea , " it became even more fun . I wanted to be a vampire when I was little " , she said .

In the film , she plays Eli , a child vampire who develops a friendship with the main character , 12 @-@ year @-@ old Oskar ( played by Kåre Hedebrant ) . Oskar is frequently tormented by bullies . Eli initially tells Oskar to fight back , and rescues him in the end , killing three of the bullies in process . Because Eli is supposed to be an androgynous character in the film , director Tomas Alfredson decided to overdub Leandersson 's voice with a less feminine one . " Lina 's voice is beautiful , but I thought it was too high in pitch " , he said . Eli 's voice throughout the whole film was provided by Elif Ceylan . In an interview with *Dagens Nyheter* , Leandersson laughingly commented that " it was actually nice to be dubbed , my voice sounds weird " .

Leandersson and Hedebrant were never allowed to read the script . Instead , the director would read their lines aloud to them before every scene . According to Leandersson , " Tomas is a good teller . I listened very carefully . " She identified the most difficult parts as the ones where she was supposed to be angry , and the transitioning between being normal and " crazy " . In an interview , Leandersson recalled how she went totally into her role , to the point of " becoming " the character Eli , but affirmed that there are few similarities between herself and her character , describing Eli as more mature and contemplative . While she found it uncomfortable to film outdoor scenes in temperatures down to ? 30 ° C , she described her experience as " the most fun [ she ] has ever had . "

When asked about the biggest challenge in making the film , Alfredson mentioned the fact that people already would have a perception of the characters and the surroundings from the novel . He especially felt that the depiction of Eli was difficult , but stated that he was " very happy about Lina " . On another occasion , he again commented positively on Leandersson 's appearance , stating that " [ w ] e hardly used makeup or anything in post @-@ production to make her like this , she is simply damn good . She 's also a very special girl , which I think shows in the film . " He has frequently

commended Leandersson for her intelligence , often comparing her to " an 80 @-@ year @-@ old woman , very wise and very quiet . "

= = = Reception = = =

Let the Right One In was an international success . Critics lauded the performances of the young leads , often highlighting Leandersson for particular acclaim . According to Karen Durbin of Elle , she " evokes Eli 's radical apartness with an air of watchful caution and a contained stillness of body that not only belies her childish appearance ( ... ) " , and " In a performance devoid of sentimentality she perfectly captures the awful solitude of a creature who exists outside time " . James Berardinelli also praised Leandersson for " crafting an individual who is both mysterious and compelling " , while Justin Lowe of The Hollywood Reporter wrote : " The youthful actors imbue even the most emotional and disturbing scenes with remarkable complexity . Leandersson is particularly impressive as the conflicted young vampire who wants nothing more than to be an ordinary girl again " . Luke Y. Thompson of LA Weekly compared her performance favorably to that of Kirsten Dunst as the child vampire Claudia in Interview with the Vampire . He concluded that , while Dunst " used to be the gold standard ; in Leandersson , I think we have a new champion . " The Oregonian called Leandersson 's performance " incredible " , and expressed doubt that any actress in the American remake could top it . While Swedish reviewers generally made positive comments about the two leads , Emma Engström of Göteborgs @-@ Posten felt that Leandersson 's character was lacking in depth .

Leandersson received several awards and award nominations for her performance in the film .

= = Future projects = =

In 2012 , Lina filmed for Estonian director Kadri Kousaar 's movie The Arbiter and Swedish director Sofia Norlin 's feature debut Tenderness .

= = Personal life = =

Leandersson lives in Falun with her mother , stepfather , and two younger sisters . She is of Swedish and Iranian descent . Leandersson has always liked to dance and play theatre . Though there are several athletes in her family , she is not particularly fond of sports . " I was on a football team when I was in third grade . But I was so bad that I wasn 't allowed to play in a match " , she recalled . She has stated on several occasions that she wants to continue acting , and has indicated that she would like to try different types of roles to challenge herself . Leandersson was a student at Gruvrissskolan . In an interview , she identified history as her favorite subject , because she finds it " interesting to know how people lived and died in the past " . She does not see school as a hindrance to continue acting , saying that she " will just have to work harder than everyone else . But school isn 't that difficult , it 's quite easy . " She is a fan of the Twilight film series She is studying theatre at Kultutama , a school for performing arts in Stockholm , Sweden .

= = Awards = =