

G *The*
REYKJAVÍK
GRAPEVINE
AIRWAVES **MINI**

ICELAND
AIRWAVES '10

www.grapevine.is



MORE! MORE! MOOOOAAAR!

Hey! Be sure to check out www.grapevine.is/airwaves for HEAPS of stuff we just couldn't fit into this darn thing. We've got an excellent rundown of the current Icelandic metal scene, super intense interviews with visiting artists (like Vuk, Reptile & Retard, Autodrone, Polipe, The Antlers, Yuni In Taxco, Neon Indian - AND MORE), plus some really nice talks with local bands like the mighty KLINK, Gone Postal AND MORE!

PLUS TIPS, TRIX, NEWS, REVIEWS, PHOTOS AND LOVE

For all you new-to-town-ers, here a little something we put together to hopefully make your stay, eh... make a little more sense. Check out our special Airwaves site, www.grapevine.is/icelandairwaves, for up to date news, info, line-up changes, reviews of EVERY SINGLE BAND PLAYING, freebies, goodies and more during the festival.

AIRWAVES. Five days of music, magic and utter madness at (almost) the top of the world. If this is your first time, prepare to be amazed, bemused, euphoric, exhausted, patient (those pesky queues), hung-over, and all round flabbergasted at the musical explosion that's about to come your way.

BAKKUS BARGE. You'll need to channel your inner Viking to make it through a night unscathed in the shoulder-to-shoulder, grinding, mishmash that is Bakkus on weekends. No room for mild manners here, just get in there, howl at the moon and shake yr. thang!

CLASS. Kiss it goodbye. You're in Iceland. Nobody cares.

DEMONSTRATIONS. Should you wish to partake in this increasingly popular Icelandic activity (it's actually kind of retro now), it's worth noting that the items of choice for hurling at sub-standard politicians (or the house they work at) are eggs and skyr (see: Yoghurt)

ELDUR & ÍS. Located on Skólavörðustígur, this is an ice cream shop, travel and booking service all in one. So you can lick on your ice cream while you choose what part of this magical land you'd like to visit next. Use-

Stuff You Might Want To Know

Some shit the guidebooks mightn't tell you...

By Grapevine Staff

ful, and random, we imagine.

FREE FILMS. With Iceland shorts and documentaries ongoing at the Culture House, hangover movie nights at Prikid on Sundays, and cult classics at Bakkus most Mondays, there's no shortage.

GROUNDHOG DAY? When you start to see the same car driving down Laugavegur over and over, or the same person standing in their doorway at the same time everyday, don't freak out! You're not in a Bill Murray remake; you're just in a small town.

HANGOVER CURE. Open the windows wide and take a hot sulphur-y shower. Next get yourself to Prikid for their rockin' mornings, where a full breakfast comes with a side of aspirin and a shot of Jack Daniel's. Then it's Kókomjól and espresso at regular intervals, until it's beer o' clock again. Repeat as necessary. Sorted.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES. Well, they're illegal. You can probably find some if you really want them – they will be expensive. But don't be an asshole about it.

JÓN GNARR. Reykjavík's mayor - a former anarchist, actor and stand-up comedian - who admits that he knows little about politics and turned up to this year's Gay Pride parade in full drag.

KAFFI AND COFFEE HOUSE CULTURE IN REYKJAVÍK. There are tons to choose from, but try Babalú, Kaffismiðjan, Tíu Dropar and Café Haiti for a chilled afternoon break. Oh, and C is for Cookie who have amazing homemade cakes.

LOPAPEYSA. The proper name for those fuzzy, woolly Icelandic sweaters us foreigners have wanted for years. Best bet is to check out the Kolaportið (flea market) at weekends and haggle your way to a bargain.

MCDONALDS. As in, there isn't one. The fast food giant left Iceland late 2009 when the devaluation of the króna made the cost of importing a kilo of onions equivalent to a bottle of good whiskey. Who cares? Go to Vitabar.

NATURE. You're in it. Right now. If you feel all these small houses and buildings surrounding you are oppressive, just walk any direction for an hour or two (or hitchhike any direction for

fifteen minutes).

ÖL. It's what you call ale (or beer) in Iceland. Impress your friends with your vast linguistic skills by sliding in that scorer. BTW 'Ö' is pronounced: 'uhhhhh'.

PARTY FRIENDS. Icelanders make lots of party friends on a night out. They might have been promising that you'd be pen pals for life, but please don't be offended if they don't return your eager "Hi!" when you pass them on Laugavegur the next day. They're all shy alcoholics.

QUIRKY FASHION. These Icelanders often seem miles ahead when it comes to far out fashion, so if you want to get in with the in crowd, start getting creative. Maybe you can recycle that hiking jacket into a Mundi-esque jumpsuit? The sky's the limit.

RANDOM SEX. Lots of that. It's an island. There's no IMAX theatre or anything. Go figure. But don't be an asshole about it. It's not like you deserve random sex or anything.

SUNDLAUGAR. Swimming pools. Yup, soaking in a hot pot is the most authentic way to de-stress Icelandic style. It's where people go to catch up on the gossip and generally have a muse about their own existence. It's cheap too! Go to Sundhöll Reykjavíkur (Barónsstígur 45a – smack dab in the middle of 101 Reykjavík) – we also hear there's going to be some off venue action at Vesturbæjarlaug!

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY. Rather uniquely, listings go by first name in the telephone book, and everyone is in

there (except for that cute dude you met last night. You'll never find him again). It also has a very informative section on what to do in case of a natural disaster.

UNDERWEAR. As in: your underwear. Strip down to it, and then run down the streets. All the kids are doing it, we hear.

VÍNBUÐIN. Don't get caught out having to cadge booze from fellow friends at house parties (which you will get invited to, unless you're a total douche): they won't be impressed. The 101 Reykjavík branch of Vínbúðin, the state liquor store, closes at 6 pm Mon-Sat and 7 pm on Fridays (if you miss the downtown branch, there's one in Skeifan that's open 'til 8 pm on weekdays). Don't say we didn't warn you!

WEATHER. Never judge what to wear by looking out the window; the weather will have changed dramatically in about fifteen minutes. Be smart, wear layers.

XYLOPHONES. Every band in town seems to require an expert xylophone player at some stage, so if you're looking for a golden pass to rock and roll glory (ehrm, 'twee glory'), get practicing!

YOGHURT. The country is mad for it. The most distinctive is Skyr – a thick, creamy blend that comes in a range of exciting fruit flavours (it's actually more related to cheese, but it's still more reminiscent of yoghurt). It's super healthy and yummy, so stock up while you're here.

ZZZZZ – SLEEP. Get some in before the fun starts all over again.

Iceland Airwaves 2010 Venues

Risið

Tryggvagata 20



Risið is a sports bar and jazz club at the same time, so the regular crowd tends to vary. Generally speaking though, you'll find finger clicking jazz cats sitting around the huge centre bar come evening time. Risið will be home to a mix of lo-fi, pop and acoustic Airwaves sets this year, so if you're looking for a venue where you can chill out for a bit and appreciate things at a slightly gentler pace, this could be your surprise WIN. **EF**

Sódóma

Tryggvagata 22



Sódóma translates to Sodom, but don't be misled; there is no more – nor less – sodomy here than in any other bar in town. Climb the dark stairwell and enter a fairly large dance-floor where you can rock, groove, twist and mosh your way through the eclectic range of acts that grace its stage. Beers are moderately priced and there's a covered smoking balcony for those that are brave enough to try shoving their way in there. A trip to the men's room provides a unique opportunity to piss on the portraits of some banksters, too. **EF**

Venue

Tryggvagata 20



Venue an Airwaves newcomer (although it was once part of the legendary 'Gaukurinn'). Love it or hate it, this place has got energy (AKA drunken debauchery), seeping out of every crevice. It might take a while to get a drink at the bar, and expect to have to jostle your way through the dance floor in order to get downstairs to the toilet (this can be an experience in itself). Things get hectic pretty quick once the place fills up and everything goes pop, but then that's why you came here, eh? **EF**

Amsterdam

Hafnarstræti 5



Kaffi Amsterdam looks set to be the dark horse of Airwaves 2010. With a regular crowd of rough and ready, hard drinking tough guys (and gals), Amsterdam isn't your typical Airwaves venue, and probably all the more fun for it. Cheap beer and plenty of space will make many a mosher happy. Expect gritty, sweaty old school rock outs and, if you're lucky, the odd brawl or three. **EF**

Reykjavík Art Museum

Tryggvagata 17



Once a year the Reykjavík Art Museum is transformed into Airwaves' largest venue. The Museum has seen some of the wildest dancing in town over the years, and its cavernous size and great atmosphere offers you audience-types a real big slice of the Airwaves pie, with a side of posh of course. Drinks are fairly expensive, but after all this is no dingy club and you're partying to some of the biggest bands around, so what the heck. **EF**

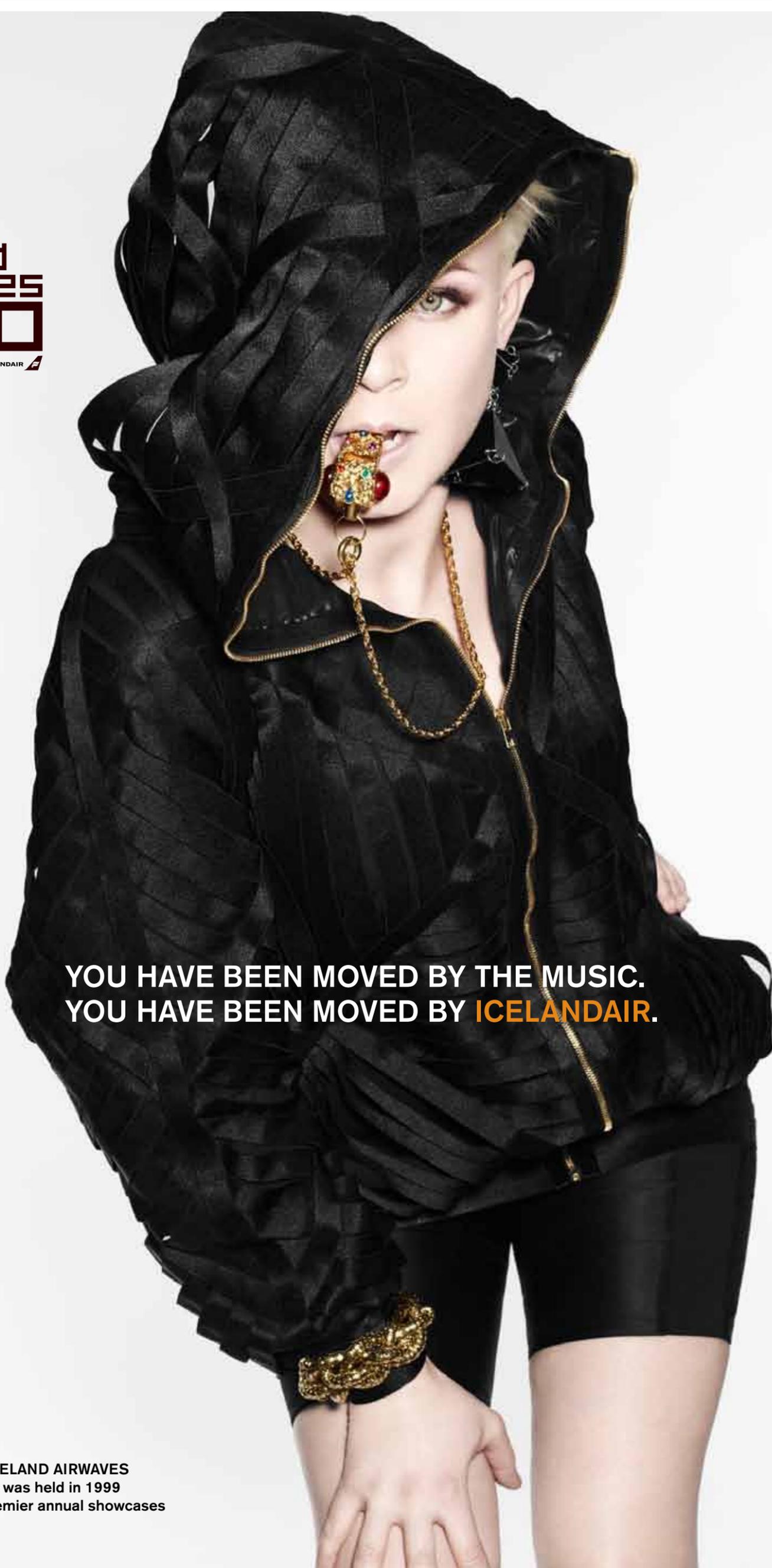
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Opinion | By John Rogers of Brainlove Records

The Importance Of Being Indie

If you run an independent music enterprise, it's probable that at some point you'll realise you've become something of a geek. The music industry is vast and complicated, with so much to learn that a nights-and-weekends project can quickly become an all consuming interest and profession. I myself run an independent record label called Brainlove Records that occupies much of my waking (and sometimes sleeping) thought—from a quite natural enthusiasm for supporting and presenting exciting, creative music came this enterprise that has, over the years, become an activity bordering on an obsession.

Something that nags at me a lot is what it means to be a completely independent one-person label in a field populated by monstrous international companies with office blocks full of people working to make the wheels of the industry turn. It can feel like the larger organisations are running the table, and not producing an awful lot of worth in doing so.

But there's value in what us small independent labels do. Major labels are large business concerns for whom success can be measured in album sales and the resultant gold and platinum discs that line the boardroom walls: awards, chart positions, sold out arena tours. This generally means that the artists they select must have a populist element, and must have, in someone's

eyes, the potential to fulfil these commercial goals. While many people at independent labels would no doubt be happy for such glittering prosperity in their projects, this will rarely be the *raison d'être*.

That might sound obvious, but if these broad differences are accepted, they illustrate a profound difference in attitude to the matter of what music is, and what it is for. From one of these perspectives, music is a commodity, a resource to be tapped and exploited, delivered en masse to a hungry marketplace through a highly developed infrastructure. From the other, music is an art form that needs support structures—musicians to be given time and freedom to develop, with an audience that also develops in a more organic fashion. And most importantly of all, music is seen as something with an intrinsic cultural and artistic value first and foremost.

This isn't to say that independent record labels have no business sense or desire to sell well—at the very least labels need to have money flowing through them from somewhere in order to operate. The people making this good stuff happen have to eat, after all, and the more time they are able to dedicate to their endeavours, the better. If the bands can quit their day jobs, they can concentrate harder on writing, recording, touring, and generally being musicians, and the label guys can con-

centrate harder on directing projects, managing press efforts, making sure the records get into as many shops in as many countries as possible, and all that unglamorous but important stuff. Equally, this isn't to say that everything pouring from the majors is bad. Good music does emerge from those labyrinthine structures sometimes.

Which might suggest that the difference in perception between the majors and the indies is philosophical. But this doesn't make it academic. We can see what starts to happen when the music-as-popular-product mentality runs to its extremes in the "talent" shows on British TV; and even the people at the heart of those shows can't think Gareth Gates or Susan Boyle will be valued for their output in the same way as independent artists like Tom Waits or Björk.

And if, because of this kind of media domination and retail muscle, the major labels are the gatekeepers that decide what music a large proportion of the public discover at all, then their philosophy of what qualities define worthwhile music becomes very important, and the need for independents to participate in the process paramount.

Brainlove Records will host an evening at Iceland Airwaves '10 at Faktory on Friday 15th October, as well as several off-venues. There's more information at <http://www.brainloverecords.com>

Interview | by Haukur S. Magnússon

Endless Yeah, but where's Bedroom Community?

The good people explain their absence



We keep getting e-mails from folks that are upset about Bedroom Community not staging an event at this year's Airwaves bash. We e-mailed Valgeir Sigurðsson, Ben Frost and Nico Muhly to ask them what's up with that.

So, why no BC concert at IA 2010?

Ben Frost: We have been a part of Airwaves in growing incarnations for five years now... I think for practical reasons, as well as creative ones, we all just felt it was a good year to take a breather. There is no sense in doing anything for the sake of it.... We will invade again next year, when we have reason to. No doubt.

Valgeir Sigurðsson: Yeah, exactly. We did of course want to participate this year, but everyone has gotten increasingly busy over the years and our plans get more and more ambitious. It was impossible to pull together what we wanted to present. But we promise fireworks in a year's time. I'm really happy that we were able to bring the Whale Watching Tour to Iceland in May, because we have not been able to play here much this year.

Nico Muhly: It's complicated! Our bedrooms are all over the world, and October is a crazy time. We tried wicked hard to make it make sense, but sometimes things happen. Plus, we've been doing a showcase for the last five years and this year is the first where we don't all have piles of new material. We've had a collaborative year.

Will there be any other chances to fill up on the BC experience this year?

VS: We will be hosting the traditional Bedroom Community off-venue events at Kaffibarinn. A gathering of friends and family, and music. I'm going to play with Una Sveinbjarnardóttir, some of her own music as well as my own, mostly new stuff. Then we will invite some select guests to perform. I'm the only BC artist around this year, so I guess I will have to answer to all the angry and disappointed fans.

NM: We all have tons of albums coming out. I just released one a week ago! WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT FROM ME!!!

What's going on with you guys these days? I understand you've had a very busy year! What did you get up to?

VS: So much! Where to begin... We've recorded on and released some new albums, taken the Whale Watching Tour all over Europe and have a really exciting year coming up – the preparation work is all in full swing. There are records, tours, scores, operas, ballets.... It's incredible how busy things have gotten for everybody since we started the label. We will introduce a new Bedroom Community artist in the early part of 2011, Puzzle Muteson. I'm so excited about that record, it's mind blowing.

Iceland Airwaves 2010 Venues

NASA

Austurvöllur



This music venue/nightclub is steady Airwaves favourite. It gets pretty packed but manages to stay on the sane side of madness. On the downside, drinks are pretty expensive, so unless you want to pay a month's rent in fine wines, best to come prepared (i.e. DRUNK) to this front. The ladies room offers a fair amount of elbow shoving and catfights, which isn't necessarily a bad thing if you're up for some drama. **EF**

Apótekið

Austurstræti 9



Another Airwaves newcomer, Apótekið used to be a posh restaurant, then a posh club, then a not-so posh club. Then it was closed, then it got re-opened, then it probably closed again at some point – with varying degrees of poshness involved. This is pretty much the story of every Reykjavík club. The decorations are really nice, and the line-up this year's sounds great for anyone who wants to shake a leg. So see y'all there! **HSM**

Iðnó

Vonarstræti 3



This historical theatre by the city pond is a small and charming venue with a nice capacity. Its 19th century chic décor is well reflected in the price of drinks, which are towards the high end of high priced, and when its busy, it can take a little bit of patience to get one from the teeny bar. Iðnó can be wonderful to experience live music in, provided the place isn't too crowded, and makes for a very refined Airwaves venue, if refinement is your kind of thing. **EF**

Faktory

Smíðjustígur 6



Formerly known as GRAND ROKK, Faktory is a colourful venue on two floors, well three if you count the courtyard, where there's almost as much drinking and drama going outside as inside. Faktory plays its music loud and proud, and gives reasonable value for money on the all-important ISK to beer ratio. Upstairs doesn't have a huge capacity though, so get there early if you want to get up close and personal with your musical heroes. It gets pretty wild so hang on your hats. **EF**

Tjarnarbió

Tjarnargötu 12



Tjarnarbió is yet another new house of Airwaves, although the venue itself has been used for various artful endeavours for several decades by now. This small and cosy theatre (excellent for chilling out during a hectic programme) was built in 1913, and used for fishing-industry related purposes until 1942. Since then it's acted as a cinema, a theatre and a concert venue. Go there for an intimate environment and a taste of classic Reykjavík. **HSM**

THINK PINK

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Interview | by Anna Margrét Björnsson **Photo** by Jen McManus

*Like Drinking A
Bottle Of Cough
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Vandelles**
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Friday 20:00

lðón



New York rockers The Vandelles are very likely the coolest band to hit Airwaves this year. With their mix of sixties surf, psychedelia and a noise laden wall of sound they've hypnotized crowds with something that has been described as an audio and visual assault.

Your sound has a lot of influences from the past such as Link Wray and The Jesus and Mary Chain. Where do you draw your aesthetics from?

Honey: Nancy Sinatra almost exclusively.

Christo: We draw from a myriad of aesthetics for sure: film noir, surf, noise, psychedelic music and art, shoegaze, girl group, and Spinal Tap.

Do you know some of the other sixties / surf / psychedelic bands? Do you hang out with people like the Warlocks, the Black Angels or the Raveonettes?

Jasno: We've been lucky to have played with some of our biggest influences, like Dick Dale for one. We played The Black Angel's Psych Fest in '09 with Sky Saxon and in '10 headlined the indoor show. We toured with The Warlocks in the summers of '08 and '09. One thing I didn't realise when I first got into playing music was that I'd end up becoming good friends with some of the bands I'd been listening to since I was a teenager. Like in Toronto, we played Spacemen 3s 'Losing Touch With My Mind' WITH Will Carruthers ON BASS while Lisha also played bass at the same time. That was an amazing moment and he was so much fun to hang out with. I also lent my '59 Jazzmaster to Sune from The Raveonettes for several months after all his stuff was stolen. I ended up selling that guitar later that year but it definitely sounded better after I got it back from him. Most of the bands in our community are connected with stories like that—it's pretty cool to know we're a part of a healthy scene that cares about good music.

The terms dark wave or noir rock have been used for your genre of music. How dark and dirty are you really?

Lisha: Someone once described listening to us as like drinking a bottle of cough syrup and taking a walk down the beach on a stormy summer's night. That's probably pretty accurate.

What are the themes in your music, your last album? Did you have a kind of story in mind when you put the songs together?

Christo: The two themes from the last album are definitely opposite of each other. One is clearly a surf theme in the sense that there are lyrics about surfing and the music draws from a lot of conventional surf-rock tricks. The other theme is a kind of film noir theme, which is also reflected in mysterious lyrics and songs like 'Lovely Weather' and 'Going Downtown'.

Which label are you on and how has the label thing worked for you? Or should bands just go with iTunes and self released albums?

Lisha: We mostly do the DIY approach when it comes to recording, producing, and getting the music out there. We do our own artwork and have pretty much entire creative control. Our EP was put out by an indie label, but our full-length album is actually self-released, and so far the response we've received and the feedback has been great. The only problem is the amount of trips I have to make to the post office to mail them out! I'm now on a first-name basis with all the mail carriers in New York.

What's up next for you guys? A new album? A tour?

Lisha: We are currently recording our new album, as Jasno said. We are definitely taking the music in a new direction and it's exciting to be in the midst of that process. After our two shows in Iceland, we will be playing four dates in London, Oct 20-23. This is our first trip as a band to Europe, and I think we all can't wait to run wild over there.

Have any of you been to Iceland before and what are you expecting?

Lisha: This will actually be my fourth trip to Iceland. I've been there once in the summer and two times for New Year's. New Year's was really great with lots of people celebrating in the streets and setting off fireworks. I expect it to be even more exciting and crazy now that we'll be there for Airwaves.

Jasno: A year or two ago I saw this show called Drain the Oceans about the Mid Atlantic Ridge—it's amazing that Iceland is the tip of that underwater mountain system, the bottom of which is thought to be the deepest point on Earth, that's fascinating to me. Sometimes while I'm sitting out on my board off the break near my place in Jersey I think about how deep the water I'm in really gets or that someone in Iceland could be in the same body of water that I am at that very moment.

Are there any Icelandic bands that you like or listen to?

Lisha: I've loved Björk since I was 12 and had actually made a plan to move to Iceland when I was a young lass based on that love. I'm really into múm, Reykjavík, Sin Fang, Singapore Sling, and Peyr. The last time I was in Iceland, I went to 12 Tónar and picked up Go-Go Darkness's record and was completely possessed by it.

Jasno: Of course I love Singapore Sling, and the ever-amazing Björk. I've got my fingers crossed we'll run into her at the pools or Blue Lagoon on Saturday.

What should Airwaves goers expect from a Vandelles concert?

Jasno: We're playing a great venue and we'll be rolling out most of Del Black Aloha for the Icelandic crowd. If we're feeling saucy we may even pull out some new songs as well!

Lisha: Word of advice: Bring earplugs. We're noisy, but the good kind of noise. We're also excited to be playing an off-venue show as well through gogoyoko at Bar 11 on the 16th.

Survival | Sickness and health by Eimear Fitzgerald

The Good Doctor's Guide to Surviving Airwaves

All you need to know to get you through those minor, or major, medical emergencies

While Airwaves is a rather fun and fabulous time for most, it's possible that at one stage or another you, or one of your friends, might find yourselves at the wrong end of a flying elbow or taking a dive after one too many cold ones.

We asked the good doctor Haukur Heiðar Hauksson, of Dikta superfame, for some top tips on how to get through Airwaves safely or what to do should you find yourself in need of some serious TLC.

What are the general injuries the ER receives from festivalgoers?

Mostly knocks to the head and injuries from falling over outside of venues. Some years we have snow and slippery ice, so that leads to sprained ankles, and we've had some broken legs. Sometimes with the amount of alcohol people drink they can fall and get wounds that require stitching. We usually let people sleep the alcohol off in the hospital and send them home in a taxi the next morning.

What are the main ways to avoid injury?

1. Have fun, but do try to be sensible and not get completely drunk.
2. If there's ice or snow about, like there has been previous years, watch your step and try not to slip.
3. If you're at a packed out gig and it all gets a bit crazy, just be aware of yourself and others. Try to avoid getting really squashed, it can get pretty crowded.
4. If it's very cold, don't stand in lines for too long, go see something else, there's always something happening.
5. Don't engage in fights with other people; show love and happiness and hug people if you have any problems.

What you can do if you get injured:

1. There's no clinic open at night-time, so for major injuries you'll have to go to the ER at the main hospital, Landsspítali, just outside of 101 Reykjavík.
2. If you're bleeding profusely, call an ambulance and go to the emergency room.
3. If you suspect a broken limb, again, call an ambulance and go to the emergency room.

4. For bumps and general knocks, if you want to see a doctor then your best call is to take a taxi, or get a friend to give you a lift. Otherwise, see how you are in the morning—if you're still worried, check into a clinic.

5. There is an ER/ambulance fee charged to foreigners, but you can claim this back on your personal medical insurance.

So aside from doing a great job looking after the health of your brethren, you are also member of one of Iceland's most popular and hardworking bands, Dikta. How does that feel?

That feels pretty good. We've been doing quite nice the last year, I mean we've been at this for eleven years now and we've put a lot of work into it, so it feels nice to finally be reaping the rewards for our hard work.

So what can fans expect from Dikta at this year's Airwaves?

Well we're playing twice this year and they're pretty different shows. The first one is in Sódóma, which will be really small and intimate, and then a big show at Listasafn, the Art Museum.

Are you gonna give us something extra-special?

Yeah, we're gonna play a brand new song. We're practicing it at the moment, but our bass player is in China with his other band, Bang Gang, and he gets back the day of the gig so there's gonna be a last-minute crazy practice session when he returns, to finalise the song!

Please note while the good doctor will be happy to help out should he come across any festival patrons with arms or legs hanging off, he will not be available for on-street consultation regarding what one should do about their acne or any other general medical musings. Stay safe kids!

Emergency No/Ambulance. call **112**
Health Centre Vesturgata 7. A doctor's appointment costs 1kr700 (under 16s pay 25%). Call **585 2600**.

Læknavaktin. Non-emergency telephone medical advice between 17:00 and 23:30. Call **1770**

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Lyfja Apótek. Late Night Pharmacy. Lágsmúli 5. Opens 8am-midnight. Call **533 2300**

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TEENAGE RIOT, STAR

AIRWAVES × Vík Prjónsdóttir

Seabear & Sin Fang

Iðnó – Thu – 00:10
Venue – Wed – 00:30

Seabear and Sin Fang are the fabled musical projects of vocalist/multi instrumentalist Sindri Már Sigfússon (pictured on our cover with spouse/Seabear member Ingibjörg, and Seabear guitarist Örn Ingi), who has in the past few years captivated audiences on both sides of the Atlantic with both bands. Considering that most folks have enough problems getting their one band heard, operating two successful ones should be considered no mean feat.

But it's no wonder. Both bands offer adventurous soundscapes, ambitious yet laid-back performances and some really captivating songwriting. The audience connects with Seabear (comprised of the aforementioned Sindri, Ingibjörg, and Örn Ingi along with Guðbjörg Hlín, drummer Kjartan Bragi, bassist Halldór Ragnarsson and Sóley Stefánsdóttir) and Sin Fang (Sindri's solo project, although it features a steady cast of instrumentalists) in equal measures, for similar reasons. "I don't know why people connect to my music. I make it for very selfish reasons," says Sindri over the phone. "I have personal things in mind that I write about – maybe people relate to that. I'm not sure – that's a tough question."

He is more outspoken when it comes to his favourite subject – pizza. "The best one is at Deli Laugavegur. I get a margarita there once a week. I like to keep it simple. Devito's is also good. But Deli is the best."

At the moment, Sindri is mixing Sin Fang's second album. "I'm playing Airwaves on the Wednesday with both bands. It's a shame, because I'm off to America the next day and will thus miss a lot of the stuff I would have liked to see. But I hope you all enjoy it."

Retro Stefson

NASA – Sat – 01:00

As our cover indicates, we count Retro Stefson as one of the bands currently dominating the Icelandic pop-o-sphere. They are truly at the top of their game, and this is definitely quite an achievement for a band of friends in their early twenties. 2010 marks Retro Stefson's fourth time performing at Iceland Airwaves (they started playing in 2005, while most of them were in the Icelandic equivalent of junior high), and it will also see them release their second album – the eagerly awaited 'Kimbabwe'.

Singer/guitarist Unnsteinn Manúel (represented on our cover – other members are Gylfi, Haraldur Ari, Þorbjörg, Ingi, Logi Pedro and Þórður) tells us the new album doesn't have any sort of theme, but its name derives from the artwork.

And how does it sound? "Some of the tracks are ones that didn't make it on our last one, so they keep that disco beat sound. But in general, it's a more powerful record. We aimed at recreating our live sound in the recording session. You could say that if we were university scholars, then this album would be our dissertation of the kick drum."

Retro Stefson have a great kinship with another local band, FM Belfast, which often results in the two bands' live shows melding seamlessly into one big orgy of dancing fun. Last year's Airwaves session was legendary. "We won't be doing it this year," Unnsteinn tells us. The show will still probably be great.

Amiina

Art Museum – Thu – 20:30

A quick googling for information about Icelandic music will reveal the fact that Amiina are one of its current flagbearers, and a lot of people's favourite Icelandic band. There is something about their music that easily translates to an international audience – in fact, many of the people that correspond with Grapevine post-their trip to Iceland feel inclined to add that the sound of their tunes can instantly evoke their favourite memories of travelling the Icelandic countryside.

Aside from all that, Amiina make some very engaging and accomplished music. It's no wonder they're as renowned as they are, and there is no doubt that they will continue to add to their following for the foreseeable future. This is confirmed in no small part by their excellent new album, 'puzzle'. That album sees the former Sigur Rós string quartet (Hildur, Sólrún, María Huld, and Edda Rún) expand their line-up by two members (the new ones: drummer Magnús Tryggvason and electro genius Kippi Kanínus) and explore previously uncharted terrain.

Hildur (FUN FACT: she is joined on our cover by her spouse Örn Ingi of the band Seabear) tells us that they started working with Magnús as a touring drummer in 2007, while Kippi Kanínus was added as a result of the 2008 Reykjavík Art Festival. "We really wanted to do a collaboration with him, and our performance at festival proved the perfect occasion. We found we really liked working together, so we kind of kept doing that since. It wasn't a decision so much as an organic thing. It's been really fun, having those guys aboard."

Any special plans for Airwaves? A collaboration with Efterklang, perhaps? "This is like, our third time playing Airwaves, so we're really looking forward to it. Indeed we are playing just before Efterklang. They're old friends, who are kind of responsible for the start of Amiina, actually. They played at this small festival in the countryside a few years ago and it was up to each band playing to invite another band. So they invited us and, that was one of our first gigs. Collaborations? Hmmm... we haven't talked about that, but you never know..."



Endless Dark

Sódóma – Friday – 22:30

Endless Dark are one of the many young Icelandic bands performing at Iceland Airwaves for the first time this year. Lots of things set them apart from your 'typical' Icelandic Airwaves act: they hail from tiny Snæfellsbær in the Icelandic countryside instead of 101 Reykjavík, they take inspiration from MySpace emo such as Attack Attack! (!) rather than glacial landscapes or elves, and while this is their first time at the festival, they've already scored a manager and begun embarking upon international tours.

And, as guitarist Gummi tells us, Endless Dark's members prefer to play in only ONE band. "A lot of Reykjavík musicians play in three or four bands. We are always been in the same band, which makes it unique, I guess," he says when asked if forming a band is different when you live outside of Reykjavík. Gummi and his fellow band members (Egill on keyboard, Keli on bass, Atli on guitar, Daniel on drums and singer/screamer Viktor) play modest when asked about the tours. "Oh, we did some shows abroad, for example in the UK. That was really amazing; we felt proud to be invited there. And we are definitely planning on expanding our success – we're mixing a new record and we plan on playing lots of shows."

They might not be your typical Icelandic band (then again, what is), they might not even be to your liking, but these hard working youngsters betray bucketloads of honesty, determination, ambition and vision. Kudos to them!

HAM

NASA – Thu – 00:00

If there ever was a legendary Icelandic band, then that band is HAM. In fact,

HAM (comprised of Sigurjón Kjartansson on vocals/guitar, Óttarr Proppé on vocals, drummer Arnar Geir Ómarsson and guitarist Flosi Þorgeirsson) are one of Iceland's greatest rock bands ever, period. Ask anyone. We dare you.

HAM started playing in 1988 and kept playing for six years before burning up in a blaze of glory. After their 1994 farewell concert in Reykjavík, Icelanders collectively scratched their heads, asking: "What do we do now?"

Fortunately for all of us, they occasionally rear their evil heads every now and again, play a scorching show and remind us all why we're so into this 'music' thing. And now they're playing Airwaves. This is very exciting, but what does it mean for the other bands?

Says bassist (and Best Party chairman) S. Björn Blöndal (who represents the band on our cover): "I wouldn't want to be them, that's for sure. But everyone will try their best, I'm sure."

When asked if he has an opinion on the current state of Icelandic metal, Björn says he hasn't really heard any of it. "I've only seen photos of these current metal bands. They are very pretty. Especially Endless Dark. And Sólstafr. Those two in particular. But I don't think I've ever heard them."

-Will there be more HAM albums?

"Yes."

-When?

When the immortal masterpiece 'Svik, harmur og dauði' ("Betrayal, sorrow and death") will be released.

When will it be released?

"I cannot answer that."

Any advice for young Icelandic musicians?

"No. Stay out of politics."

Hjaltalín

NASA – Fri – 22:30

Hjaltalín are without doubt one of the most popular bands currently operating in Iceland today. Their two records, 'Sleepdrunk Seasons' and 'Terminal' have sold in vast numbers, their live shows pretty much always sell out and the critics can't get enough. They also tour the world a lot, and are one of the few Icelandic bands that manage to make somewhat of a living off their music.

And they don't exactly play the easiest, poppiest music, either. The band contains several classically trained musicians and a renowned composer (singer/guitarist Högni. Other members are bassist Guðmundur Óskar (representing them on our cover), drummer Axel, keyboardist Hjörtur Ingvi, bassoonist Rebekka Bryndís, singer Sigga and violinist Viktor) and they play an ambitious sort of chamber-pop that is as hard to classify as it is to resist.

We asked Guðmundur Óskar (pictured) whether the band felt pressure from all their success. He says they're not: "No, I mean, we're not the kind of band that gets nervous about making hits, we don't really make our music with the idea of making hits. Some songs have become hits, and it's good to get radio play, of course. But we're not losing any sleep."

Guðmundur Óskar attributes Hjaltalín's success mainly to their sound. "The collaborations we make with acoustic instruments and other arrangements. We have a fairly unique sound for an Icelandic band. Another factor is that we don't tend to release music unless it is very well thought over, so we put a lot of work and effort into everything we do."

And they are looking forward to Airwaves. "Of course! We're not gonna do the same show as last year, maybe rock something out with Apparat and see how it goes."

Pascal Pinon

Risið – Thu – 20:20

Pascal Pinon are truly something. Comprised of twin sisters Jófríður Ákadóttir and Ásthildur Ákadóttir, these girls have been writing and performing sweet, soothing, melodic and incredibly ambitious music since they were at the tender age of fifteen.

That was last year, by the way.

And in that short space of time, they've managed to record and self-release an entire album, play countless shows and... sign with the very excellent Morr Music label. The girls are modest and straightforward, as teenagers are wont. "We saw on their website that you could send them a CD and they would listen to it, so we did," Jófríður tells us when asked about their new deal. "Then Thomas Morr contacted us and said he and Morr Music wanted to be involved, so that was great news! And yes, we are really excited, this is a great opportunity and we are very thankful for getting this experience so young."

It's damn near impossible to mention their young age when talking about Pascal Pinon, but they'd rather you not. "We're just being sincere by playing music we like, and I think it has nothing to do with our age whatsoever."

Don't ask them about the economic collapse either. As they say elsewhere in this pullout: "We are so young, we can't answer [such] questions and be taken seriously."

So don't ask, just listen.

Apparat Organ Quartet

NASA – Sat – 23:00

Apparat Organ Quartet (here represented in the form of organist Hörður Bragason – other members are organists Úlfur Eldjárn, (the) Jóhann Jóhannsson, Sighvatur Ómar Kristinnsson and drummer Arnar Geir Ómarsson) are arguably one of the greatest Icelandic bands to have operated in the last two decades or so. This may be confirmed by listening to their excellent and only record, the self-titled Apparat Organ Quartet (12 Tónar, 2002) or by asking anyone who's ever attended a show by these monsters of organ-based rock.

After a long bout of inactivity, the Quartet are finally releasing a second album and playing Iceland Airwaves again! As any Airwaves buff will tell you, their festival appearances have all become instant classics; they are considered a must-see, and rightfully so.

"I hope so," organist Úlfur Eldjárn said when asked if Apparat's forthcoming LP will kick as much ass as their last one. "Of course, it's a totally different album, and a lot of time has passed. I think it's maybe a bit like mouldy cheese: it gets better and better with every year that passes, but at the same time it gets more and more mouldy. Some people just can't stand the smell of that."

Úlfur says their biggest inspiration is their common passion for old electronic organs and analogue synthesizers. "The instruments themselves create a lot of the music by themselves. We are also inspired by airports and hanging out in airport cafeterias. We especially like to write lyrics in airports – we have notebooks full of airport poetry. As a band, we've also been very influenced by Alfred Lothar Wegener's theory of Pangaea and continental drift. We think it's fascinating that the all the continents were once the same country: Pangaea. And we think it's sad that they drifted apart." "We dream of reuniting the continents in a single continent where all the different nations of the world can live together in peace."



Interview | by Bob Cluness Photo by Tyrone LeBon

The Lovely Crooked World Of Mount Kimbie

Saturday 22:00

NASA



In the big bad world of dubstep, there are followers and there are leaders. Mount Kimbie belong to the latter camp, for sure.

Comprised of two guys, Dom Maker and Kai Campos, their debut album 'Crooks and Lovers' has been heralded as the best post-dubstep around this year. We managed to catch up with Kai for a few words about what was happening in Mount Kimbie's world...

Can you tell us how Mount Kimbie started?

We both met at University in London in 2006. I'd been making electronic music for a while and Dom was interested in the hardware side of it. I was helping Dom build a little home studio and showing him what I knew, we just started writing tunes from there.

From there you gravitated towards the dubstep scene that was emerging at the time. What was it about the scene that interested you?

It just seemed like everything we came to London for. Dubstep is quite a physical form of music and can be quite a shock when you first hear it live. It was a very exciting scene and there were DJs like Skream and Kode 9 who were establishing themselves and doing very different things.

You then got signed to the dubstep label Hotflush. How did that happen?

It all happened really quickly. After we finished our first tunes, we posted them online and put a link on the dubstep forum. We then got a call from Paul Rose, Hotflush's owner, asking if we wanted to put our tunes out on release. And those tunes became our first ever release.

Now, while dubstep can be thought of as urban, claustrophobic and harsh, your music is pretty much the opposite. In fact you could call what you do 'anti-dubstep' couldn't you?

I think so. People have even said that our music has no real relevance to the genre. I think we're just making music

in a certain place and certain time on a certain label and it got tagged that way. But it was a good thing, as it got us noticed very quickly by the music press who were getting more interested in dubstep in general. I think we'd be lying if we said that we were from some concrete jungle in Croydon or something. We're both from the countryside and all we ever aimed to do was to make something that reflected ourselves. Your debut album contains a lot of different styles such as ambient, R&B and even post-rock guitars. Was it difficult taking so many genres and trying to blend them into a coherent sound? It was a worry. With the two of us, it's always been more instinctive about working out what sounds work. We were just trying lots of different things to see what would work. We went through a lot of track listings before we were happy with the result.

And how has the reception been since it was released?

It's been unbelievable! It's our first proper record and we've pushed hard to promote it, but the response from people has been excellent. When we first finished the album, I wasn't 100% sold on it, but I've gradually listened to the record more and more and now I'm really comfortable with what we made.

Another Airwaves artist is James Blake, who you've collaborated with many times before. How did you two get together?

James was running a club night at the University of Goldsmiths at the time. He came round to our place and played a record of him singing that we thought was amazingly good. So when we started doing our live set, we thought it would be beneficial to have someone else on board with us, and James seemed a natural fit.

Do you think we'll see you two playing together live during Airwaves?

Maybe, we were going to do it last night but alas it didn't quite work out. You never know.

Interview | by Rebecca Louder Photo by Devon Deimler

Having A Jaw Session With Experimental Fun-master Dan Deacon

Sunday 22:00

NASA



Dan Deacon is best known for two things: a profanity laden viral video and bleep-bloopy dance music that hipsters really, really love.

The Baltimore resident is actually a conservatory trained musician with a degree in electro-acoustic and computer music composition who can bust out all kinds of fancy terms typically reserved for musicology dissertations. After two highly successful indie charted albums that were declared 'Best New Music' by Pitchfork ('Spiderman Of The Rings' and 'Bromst'), and a minor setback from a back injury late last year, Dan is back on the road and ready to fly into Airwaves. We called him up at home to talk soundscapes and rumours.

You're really prolific in producing material and each of your albums stands out as a distinct piece of work from the others. Are they deliberate concepts or is it pure experimentation?

I think each album represents my musical focus at the time or a reflection of where I'm at at the time. I tend to delve into these areas and explore something else once I feel I'm done exploring that. My next album, whenever that will eventually be released, will be a departure from the last one but it probably won't be completely unrecognisable.

I started off writing a lot of electronic music, focusing on using the different textures and timbres of sound, which is different from a rock band which has a sound but can change instrumentation and all that. The basis of what I do is trying to make new timbres and work within that realm. I do try to explore a lot, but I guess my compositional style does stay the same in some ways. I am really interested in scalar motion and density, for example.

You had some pretty interesting instrumentation on your last album, like the player piano. How did you get your hands on one?

I've been a big fan for a while. A few years ago I got really into this composer, Conlon Nancarrow, who composed a lot of pieces for the player

piano, music completely unplayable for humans. He got me interested in them and I've always wanted to work with one, but they're really expensive and hard to come by. I was in the studio in Whitefish, Montana and they had a reproducing piano. It's actually a computer program than hooks up to the studio piano and controls the hammers. I hooked up my laptop to it and with it I wrote the piano parts for three songs on the album.

Any other obscure or antiquated instruments you plan or hope to use someday?

Yeah, all of them! I'm talking to this band called LEMUR. They are wizards of mechanical instruments so I'm going to get together with them and try out some stuff.

I have to ask about the 'Drinking Out Of Cups' viral video. How did it happen? What's with the acid rumour?

I figured that was going to come up eventually. I honestly don't know where that rumour got started. I never even heard it until someone asked me in an interview and I was like "What!" It was written under the video on YouTube. I had to email the guy and ask him to remove that. I guess it takes some of the fun out of it, but really I was just watching TV on mute and speaking in a Long Island accent. That's pretty much all it was.

How did Liam get involved?

He just found it and made the video. I mean, this was back in the Kazaa and Limewire days. Music blogs didn't really exist so much then. I think it was posted on comedy message board. Liam made the video first and then contacted me, being like "Hey man, can I make a video for this?" He sent it to me and I was like "Ah ha!" Like, now I've hit the big time! It blows my mind how many people find it appealing. It's this weird other dimension of my existence. Liam and I have actually never met, only emailed.

Would you like to meet and work on something else with him?

Yeah, I would love to. I've been a fan of his for a long time. I've been working on another ranting monologue that maybe he could do something for.

Why do you perform on the floor with the audience in your solo shows? Do you have stage-hate?

[Laughs] I've never heard of 'stage-hate' before! I don't think I have it. The show isn't really about watching me. It's more about a feedback loop of the audience watching the audience. The first places I played didn't have stages. I was always on the ground and they were just dance parties. They just would have been watching me turn knobs and sing.

The stage does make sense when you play in front of five thousand people at a festival. It changes a lot if you're seventy-five or a hundred yards away from someone who's playing on the ground, and you're in the thick of it. I'd rather play on a stage at a festival. I wish there were more bands that would experiment with the way they perform. There's no reason why the only option is the stage or the floor.

So have you been to Iceland before? What have you heard and what are you expecting?

No, I've never been, but it's somewhere I've wanted to for a long time! I'm coming with my dad and we're going to travel around for a few days after my show. I'd like to do some touristy stuff. Maybe go whale watching, see some waterfalls and volcanoes.

You know that volcano is a has-been by now...

Oh really? Maybe that's for the best then.

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Off Venue Concerts

Wednesday 13/10

16:00 Skúli mennski
17:00 Moses Hightower
18:00 Funkanansie
19:00 Sóley Stefánsdóttir

Thursday 14/10

15:00 Snorri Helgason
16:00 Nóra
17:00 Útidúr
18:00 Moddi (NO)
19:00 Murder (DK)
20:00 Sykur

Friday 15/10

15:00 Nolo
17:00 Orphic Oxta
18:00 Reptile & Retard (DK)
19:00 Lára Rúnars
20:00 Valdimar

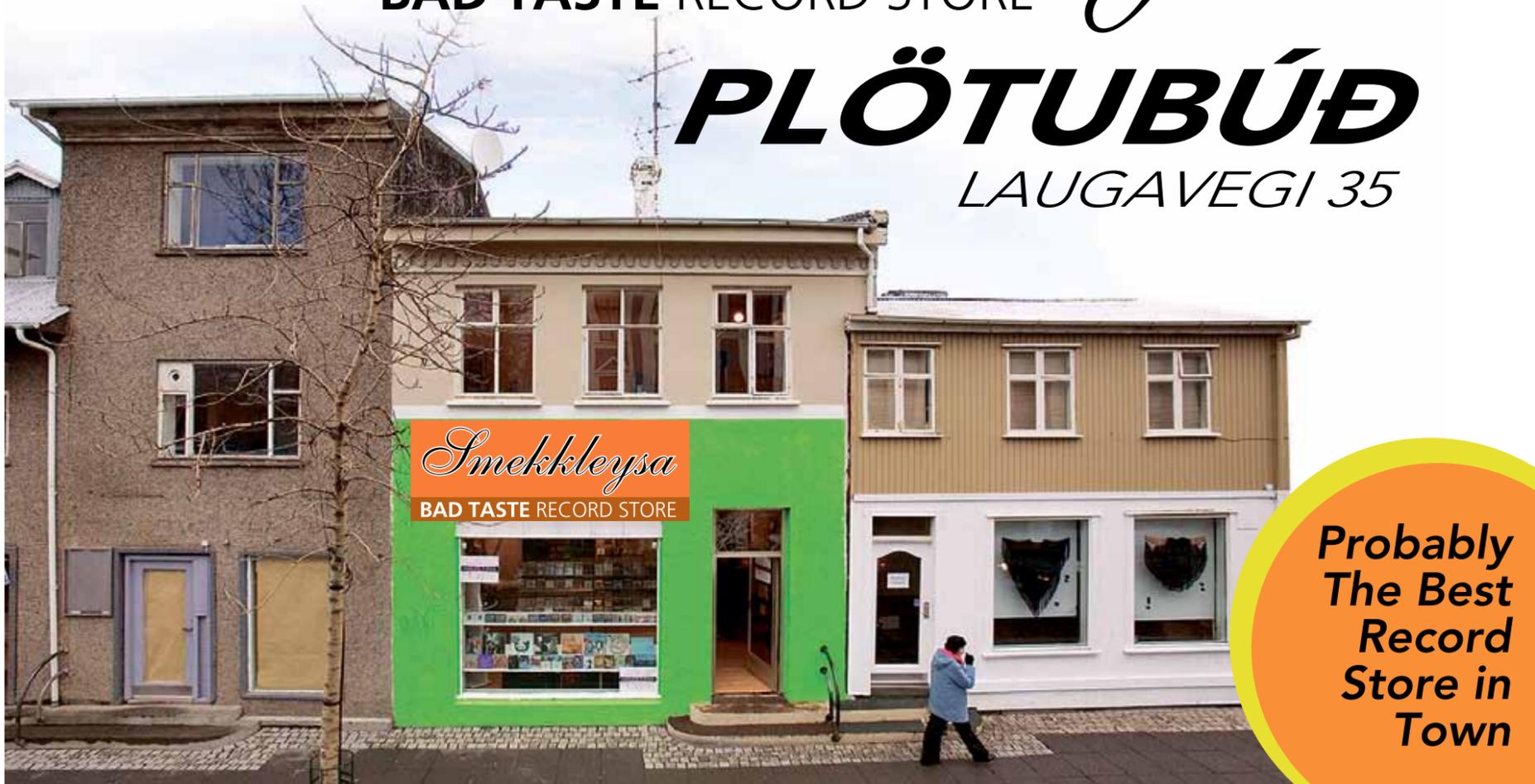
Saturday 16/10

15:00 Of Monsters & Men
16:00 Klassart
17:00 Save Public
18:00 Prinspóló
19:00 Angel Deradoorian (US)

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LE CORPS MINCE DE FRANCOISE

(Pop / Electronic)



Thursday, Oct 14th
22.00 at Sódóma

"It may be way too early to declare this, but Le Corps Mince de Françoise is my new favorite band."
- Big Stereo

JAAKKO & JAY

(Folk / Punk)



Thursday, Oct 14th
23.40 at Amsterdam

"Probably the best thing I saw at Eurosonic this year."
- Huw Stephens, BBC1

VUK

(Folk / Indie)



Thursday, Oct 14th
22.00 at Hemmi & Valdi
Friday, Oct 15th
22.30 at Risið
Saturday, Oct 16th
19.00 at Reykjavík Downtown Hostel

"[Her vocals are] beautifully fragile and beautifully taunting and, in general, always straight-up powerful."
- Brandon Stosuy, Stereogum

Interviews | by Haukur S Magnússon

QUESTIONS? ANSWERS? WE'VE GOT IT ALL!

A bunch of Airwaves bands answer a bunch of our questions – 2010 EDITION!

There are many, many local bands playing Iceland Airwaves this year. We love 'em all, and we're pretty sure you might love them too, if given the chance. So go see their shows, visit their MySpaces (you could 'post' on their 'walls' for fun), buy their albums and show them some love.

To help y'all prepare for all those bands, we thought we'd help you get to know some of them. So we e-mailed a bunch of them the following questions. Ten of them replied with answers, and you can read excerpts from some of those answers below. Log on to www.grapevine.is/airwaves to read the full interviews (and much, much more!), and stay warm.

1) Who are you? What can we expect from your Airwaves appearance, and what can we expect of you in general?

2) What are some of the acts you want to see at this festival, and why?

3) Are there any acts missing from the bill that you'd like to see on there?

4) Wow. There are, like, one million 'international' acts on this year's schedule. Have you heard of any of them? Are you excited to see any of them? Do you believe having all these visiting acts changes anything for the festival in general, and its spirit?

5) Looking back, do you have a favourite edition of Iceland Airwaves? And if so, why?

6) A lot of our readers are first time Airwaves-visitors. Do you have any tips for them? What to see, what to do, what to avoid, etc? Where to buy records? Or a good place to grab a bite or get away from it all for a while?

7) Given that most Airwaves-visitors won't have a lot of time in their schedule to see the Icelandic countryside, are there any nature-havens close by that you'd recommend?

8) Has a lot changed in the Icelandic music scene since Airwaves 2009? How about Airwaves 2002?

9) Who are your favourite Icelandic acts these days?

10) A lot of international journalists like to ask: "How has kreppa affected the Icelandic music scene." Do you think the question is valid? Do you have a preferred way of answering that?



The Go-Go Darkness

Thursday 22:00 Amsterdam

"This is our premier show at the Airwaves. We'll be playing songs from our record. It's been floating in the air for a while so it will be good to throw it out there, live. You can expect more music, as we don't really have time to waste."

5) Dried fish and Brennivín. Go to Einar Jónsson's Museum. There are also some nice art shows at Gallery Crymo and Kling & Bang. Swimming pools all around town. 12 Tónar, Smekkleysa and Havarí are all good independent record shops. Icelandic Fish & Chips is a good place to eat, the Guinness is good at Celtic Cross and Danski Barinn are good for drinks. We are anti-social, so we don't get too caught up in the fashionised Icelandic happenings. If everyone says something is good, it isn't, so avoid it.

10) We live on Mars so we wouldn't know. Justice for all.



My Summer as a Salvation Soldier

Saturday 01:00 Risið

"You can expect me to be knowledgeable about punk rock, eating pizza, reading books and talking about cinema."

4) Well yes, I try to keep up with what's going on in the music world so I have heard quite a lot of them and look forward to seeing some of them. I think Airwaves would be a very different festival (for good or worse) if they'd stop booking international bands all together. It would be less diverse from year to year obviously and make it a lot less interesting for the Icelandic concertgoers I think.

10) Well I suppose it's as valid as any other questions that require you to make generalisations about the Icelandic music scene. It has definitely affected it. But I think it has mostly affected the boring business/economic

side of it. Not so much the creative part of it. The scene here has always been very active and creative and that certainly hasn't changed at all.



For a Minor Reflection

Friday 22:30 Iðnó

"You can expect a very energetic performance and lots of fun!"

6) Just don't sleep your day away, get up even though you're hungover as fuck. Enjoy the day and see all the million bands that are playing both on- and off-venue.



Bang Gang

Saturday 20:20 Listasafn

"I look at many of the Icelandic bands as international acts, and many of the international acts as local acts. I want to see Robyn & Autodrone."

6) Go and see all the good bands and skip the bad concerts. Remember to eat and drink. Buy all the records you can and stay away from your bed.

7) Just buy a postcard of a glacier and use Photoshop to put yourself in the landscape. Iceland in general is "the countryside" even Reykjavík.



Krummi of Mínus/LEGEND

Mínus: Saturday 01:50 Sódóma

LEGEND: Friday 21:00 Apótekið

"I always do my art with my heart in my hands."

1) I'm an Icelandic musician/artist who plays in different bands, like Mínus, Esja and my new pet project LEGEND, who are playing at Airwaves for the first time this year. You can expect only

new material from Mínus. We have just finished our fifth studio album with our new and improved line up so this will be very exciting for us and hopefully for others as well. The LEGEND show at Airwaves will be something different, so come and see.

7) I recommend renting a bicycle and cycling around Seltjarnanes stopping at the lighthouse at Grótta to bask in the ambiance. And it's nice riding close to the Icelandic shore. I also strongly recommend hiking up the mountain Keilir if you have time and stamina. It's real good if you're hung over.



Ghostigital

Saturday 00:00 Tjarnarbíó

"Just stick around for joy, and joy will find you."

2) The acts we are going to see definitely are the acts we have curated to appear on our bill, Í Tómu Tjóni.

7) Bah! Reykjavík rocks. That is enough. Have a look at Esja.

10) Bah, we need more bass to rock the city.



Pascal Pinon

Thursday 20:20 Risið

"Our Iceland Airwaves appearance will be a little bit special because we have a guest visiting us on stage for a few songs, which we are really looking forward to! So be there or be a chair!"

4) Yes, yes, we've heard of them and are really excited. It's probably a different spirit especially for the Icelanders who rarely get so many foreign bands to their country. That's one of the things we most appreciate about this festival.

10) We are so young we can't answer this question and be taken seriously.



Retro Stefson

Saturday 01:00 NASA

"Our main goal is to enjoy what we do and make people dance."

2) Looking forward to seeing Hercules & Love Affair, Moderat, Moses Hightower and of course a lot more. It is also interesting to bump into some event you know nothing about.

9) There is a lot to choose from so I'll just mention my favourite new Icelandic band, Moses Hightower.

10) I think the music scene in Iceland has benefited a bit from the Kreppa. You concentrate on working with what you have and people help each other a lot, of course it is harder to play in other countries because we live on an island.



Sudden Weather Change

Friday 00:10 Faktörý

"We are Sudden Weather Change, wardens of the temple of Positik, Gods of feedback and keepers of the shitty effect pedals that still make that awesome unexpected noise that makes you wanna ram an eighteen-wheeler into a freight-train full of missiles."

4) A lot of the acts sound familiar, heard of a handful of them and the ones we've checked out sound really awesome. I think the festival runs to a certain degree on the notion that you don't necessarily know even half the bands that are playing but you can always be pretty sure that most of the acts at the festival are really interesting.

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SCHEDULE at BIÓ PARADÍS

WED 13TH Oct
17:00

THU 14TH Oct
17:00

FRI 15TH Oct
17:00 FOLLOWED BY
SPECIAL KRAUMUR
& BACKYARD CONCERT.

SAT 16TH Oct
15:00 FOLLOWED BY
DISCUSSIONS+RECEPTION.
17:00

SUN 17TH Oct
15:00
17:00



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Interview | By Bob Cluness

The Band That Came In From The Köld... Sólstafir keep coming on strong

Friday 23:20

Sódóma



Ever since their debut EP 'Til Vahal-lar' was released in 1996, Sólstafir have been mainstays of the Icelandic metal community. But the re-release of their 2009 Album 'Köld' and heavy touring in Europe have seen them achieve significant success among the European metal scene.

More and more folks are getting to know about them. We sat down for a pint with singer Aðalbjörn and drummer Gummi to ask them about their steadily growing notoriety.

You guys have been pretty busy since Köld was released?

Aðalbjörn: Yeah, it's been practically a full time job since April. A lot of travel, a lot of touring and driving around Europe. And of course there have been a lot of beers that needed drinking. We always say: never a beer left behind.

That sounds pretty tiring...

Gummi: The touring itself isn't really tiring. Last fall we did a thirty-date tour and we were a little tired at the end, but I could have gone on for another month or two easy. The really tiring bit is getting home and realising that you don't have anything to do. It's a self-discipline thing. You've got a sense of purpose on

tour, knowing where you go next, when to wake up, when to perform.

Any particular highlights?

A: There wasn't anything that you'd call a massive highlight. We played the likes of Roskilde and Wacken in Germany, big exciting festivals, but we were only there for twelve hours and we didn't see anything! We did the Summerbreeze festival in Germany, which was a small festival, only 50,000 people. We spent two and a half days there. The weather was great, we made lots of new friends, signed autographs and the just had a great time in general.

Sólstafir have been around for nearly fifteen years. How does it feel being considered now as the "elder statesmen" of the Icelandic metal scene?

G: It feels kinda strange. Bands that we used to look up to way back then now look up to us in a way. It's good but I don't know...

A: I don't really think in those terms. We're still the same band after all this time and there are people in the scene that you could say are our peers, but we still look up to them. Bands like HAM for example. No matter how big we could ever get, I always think those

are the guys who will be our idols. But we've never felt any such burden. We've never been the flavour of the week, the month or really much of the decade. Some bands have had that burden of being the main attraction but we've never had that to be honest.

G: I mean look at us. We're too old to be the new hope!

A: Yeah we're more like the new old fucks of Iceland metal! And the only change has been that we've started getting some girls to like us now.

After all this time how does the group dynamic work? Are you close friends outside the band?

G: It's kind of like having a girlfriend you know. It's nice to spend a lot of quality time with her, but you definitely need your own personal pace. I mean, after we recorded 'Köld' we really didn't speak much to each other for about three months.

But it's so important that we're friends. I was talking to the friend in another band that had broken up. He said that he felt that they had all forgotten how to be friends with each other. They were just colleagues. I wouldn't want to be in a band where that would happen. I couldn't handle it.

I was listening to your early stuff and it's interesting to hear how the band's sound has changed so much from those early days. How do you look back upon that time?

G: I like the early stuff and I still listen to it occasionally. Obviously there is nothing we've released that we're ashamed of. But we were sixteen when we started the band. Now we're in our thirties and obviously our musical tastes have changed. I wouldn't want to be playing the same music now as when I was sixteen. I mean we were just screaming like crazy fucks back then.

You're playing at Iceland Airwaves again. How do you think the festival has changed over time?

A: Well in the past, Airwaves have given the metal community shit. It really has. They'd get some token metal bands from Iceland and the odd flavour of the week band from abroad, and put them here in this little corner so they could continue with the festival and the bands they really wanted to deal with.

G: Now they're under new management, however, and we're quite excited about the Metal Hammer night they're having, so perhaps this will change. I do hope that we are seeing a new and better festival now.

What's happening after Airwaves? Is there any new material in the pipeline?

We actually have about half the new album done. We haven't discussed yet how we're going to release it though.

How do you go about writing the music?

A: Well one rule is that we never drink during rehearsal. We drink water, smoke lots of cigarettes and when we've played the same riff for about three hours and everybody has forgotten themselves, and we're not sick of it, then it's a good riff and we'll use it.

TOP 5 AFTER-HOURS HANGOUTS

by Sigurður Kjartan Kristinsson

It's an acknowledged and loathed snag, the confusion that takes over during Iceland Airwaves when the concert schedule has been concluded and you're all too sweaty, horny and psyched up to call it a night. It's even so common that the carnival frenzy on the streets of downtown Reykjavík post-3AM stems chiefly from baffled festivalgoers that simply don't know where to go. Or what to do. And that's what this list is aimed to clear up, don't matter if you wanna bone someone, hunt down a doobie or just observe the madness—you should find something to your tastes along the way. And mind that the recitation is put forth in a timely sense. So number five is not the least-best, but rather the one you should check out first, taking closing time and other as relevant things into consideration.

5. LIVE PUB

After hours and hours of gazing at talented performers we suggest that the first pit-stop should be this magnificent karaoke bar. If you'd convinced yourself you could just as much be on the stage as every other Icelandic hipster you've witnessed earlier that night— you can see if the crowd agrees with you.

4. BOSTON

This is the hipster den. If things worked out according to plan at the Thai run karaoke bar you can go there and mingle with the coolcats. Maybe tell them about your musical triumph or scrutinise tonight's gigs. But keep in mind that most people in Iceland are extremely musically talented (ehrm) so you might not score a record deal. Maybe a drink though, if you're lucky. Uhummm.

3. BAKKUS

This is the hot-spot in Reykjavík today. Don't matter if you're an up'n'comin artist or Jim Jarmusch—this is where you party. And most of the time, this watering hole lives up to its standards. Whatever your aim is—hunting for illegal substances, conquering a beauty or getting completely sloshed—you can fulfil it here.

2. STRAWBERRIES

I'm guessing that the bulk of you all have dropped out of the circuit by now—so mighty is Bakkus' allure—but for the ones remaining, Strawberries is a must. The party never stops there. Really, never. So buckle your seatbelt, 'cause this is gonna be a ride. Don't mind the tough looking East-European bouncers, they're real sweethearts. Once you've reached for your wallet.

1. N1

Some people go here for a bite after partying their wits away, given its 24/7 opening hours, but most people are unaware of that this is actually a party place. The demography consists mostly of teenagers under 18, but everybody knows those guys can party. So to end a night of mayhem, this is the place.

Eating | By Ólafur Arnalds

The Young Composer's Guide To Reykjavík Dining

Why the respectable Reykjavík Grapevine magazine would ask a non-eating, 58kg workaholic who would go for the pill—if there was one to replace all food consumption—to write a guide on Reykjavík dining baffles me. This request came, however, at 4am at Kaffibarinn, so I went for the "hell yes!" (this fact would also explain why the request came in the first place). Having not cooked at home since February, I really should know something on the subject

of 'dining out' after all. This is not the case though.

I usually try to get by on my breakfast until 7 pm or so by drinking a lot of water, but at some point the coffee shakes will take over and I have to find some food before I pass out. When you haven't eaten all day and have had too much coffee, you usually don't want to sit down and have a 'light meal'. All you want at this point is something fat to stuff in your face, which later will make

you feel very sick.

The best pizza place in Reykjavík is obviously Pizza King. This is a well-known fact. Their pizza has too much cheese and is frequently over-cooked (these are compliments). Pizza Pronto is much closer to my studio though, and they have the option of margarita slices (good option for vegetarians such as myself), so I go there more frequently. However, their pizzas are absolutely horrible and can only be eaten by piling

on all the 10 kinds of spices they have. This, in fact, makes them quite delicious.

Quite a good newcomer is Gamla Smiðjan. They are a bit overpriced though, and I find that it doesn't matter whether I order a 9" or a 12" pizza, I'll always get exactly the same size.



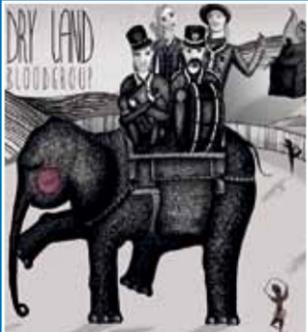
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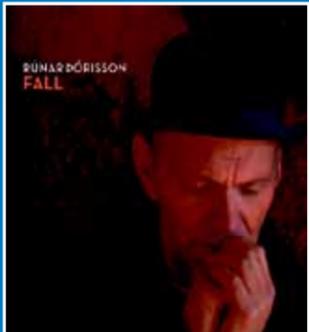
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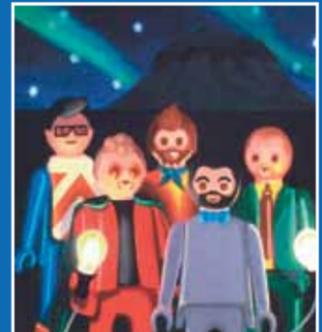
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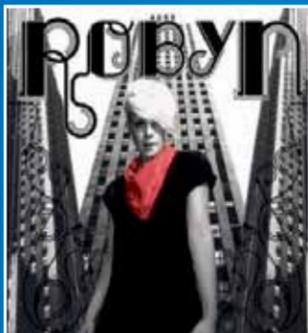
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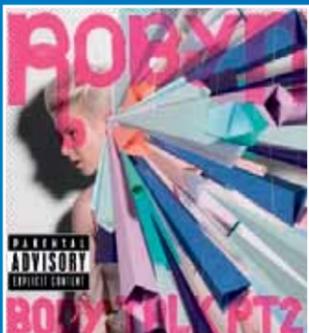
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Karkari



CD Apparat Organ Quartet
Apparat Organ Quartet



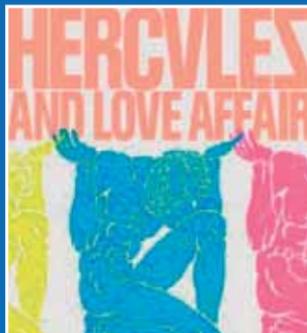
CD Robyn
Robyn



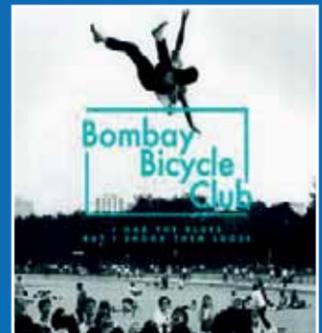
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Body Talk Pt 1



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Body Talk Pt 2



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Hercules & Love Affair



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CD Bombay Bicycle Club
Flaws



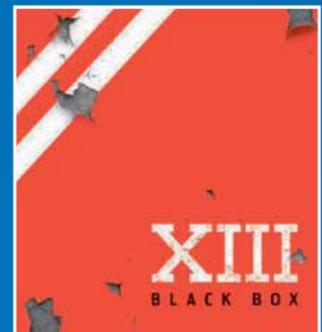
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What Was Our Can't Be...



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Happiness



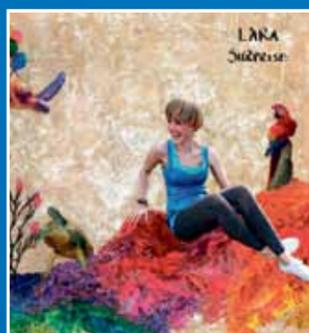
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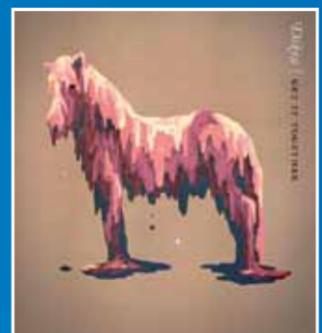
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