



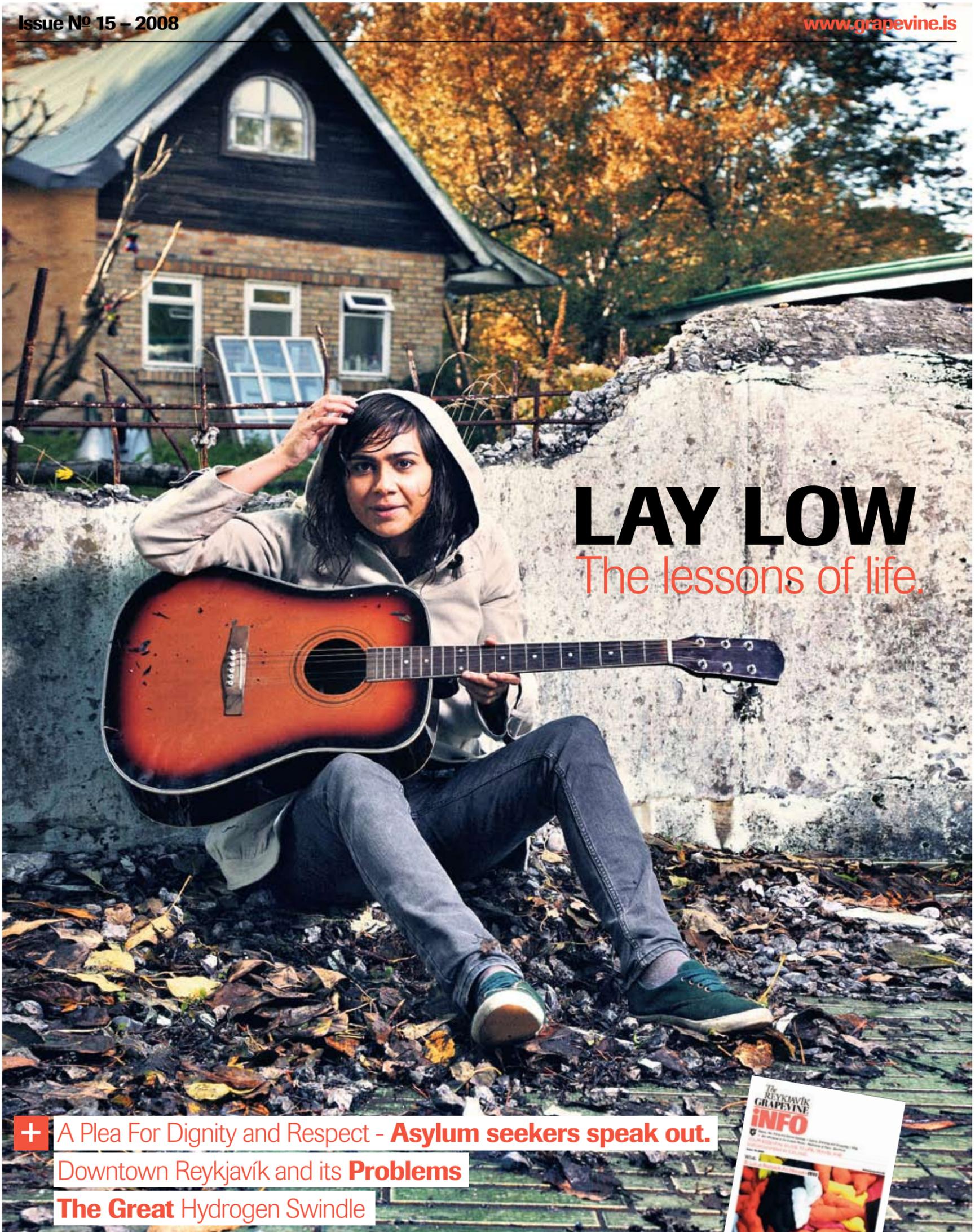
The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

FREE

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Issue Nº 15 – 2008

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LAY LOW

The lessons of life.

+ A Plea For Dignity and Respect - **Asylum seekers speak out.**

Downtown Reykjavík and its **Problems**

The Great Hydrogen Swindle

+ **Airwaves** Artist to Watch
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Articles

- 06 THE PARTY NEEDS TO BE MONITORED**
You just can't teach Icelanders to properly drink all of the sudden
- 06 OPEN LETTER TO THE PIZZA KING**
We love you, man
- 10 THE LIQUID ISLAND**
In captivity of the continental barathrum we degenerate and start fearing water.
- 10 TRAINING FOR A CAGEFIGHT**
A Grapevine intern mixes it up in MMA
- 10 MORE MONSTERS AND MYTHICAL BEINGS**
Porgeirsboli
- 11 8+8=8**
Designers meet manufacturers in Hafnarfjörður
- 11 THE GHOST HYDROGEN STATION**
After 5 years, the world's first public hydrogen station remains hardly used
- 12 NOT QUITE PRISON**
Asylum seekers are kept in limbo at a Reykjanesbær hostel, sometimes for years
- 32 THE SEQUENCES FESTIVAL**
Playing host to the Site-Specific Revolution
- 36 ROCK STARS IN THE MAKING**
Sign concert review
- 37 PUNK IN FAST FORWARD**
Deathmetal Supersquad concert review
- 38 THE CINEMATIC LABORATORY**
Icelandic filmmakers experiment with time
- 40 FOR A MINOR REFLECTION**
Airwaves artist to watch
- 42 THE LIFE AQUATIC: ICELAND STYLE**
Hard core scuba diving
- 43 A JOURNEY WITHOUT A DETERMINED DESTINATION**
Bringing out art out of the galleries

Features

- 14 THE LESSONS OF LIFE**
Lay Low's fortune in the unfortunate

Destinations

- 44 A TRIP TO THE AKRANES MUSEUM CENTRE**
Where sports heroes go to be forgotten
- 45 ROUNDING UP THE SHEEP**
Icelandic customs die hard

EDITORIAL

The recent raid on the living quarters of asylum seekers in Njarðvík has raised a lot of questions regarding the live of asylum seekers in Iceland. Should we perhaps take a step back and look at what the issue really is? The public debate seems to centre around how much it costs the society to maintain asylum seekers while their applications are being processed, or if they actually supplement their 2500 ISK stipend by black market labour, or if there is a black sheep in the group. Really, people?

Iceland is one of the richest countries in the world. At current there are around 40 asylum seekers waiting to be processed in Njarðvík. The past indicates that all of them will be returned to their homes. To this day, Iceland has accepted two political refugees. And Bobby Fischer of course. Two! The richest country in the world!

The people waiting to be processed are kept in Njarðvík, away from everything, living on 2500 ISK and two bags of groceries. They are not allowed to work, they are not allowed to do anything apart from going to the swimming pool and regularly check their email. They are kept in a de-facto prison. This is what the richest country in the world has to offer asylum seekers. Perhaps this should be the centre of public debate regarding asylum seekers in Iceland.

Apart from getting agitated over asylum seekers, this issue we examine the reality of the Shell Hydrogen Station that made headlines around the world when it opened a few years ago. We sit down with musician Lay Low who is releasing the follow up to her successful debut album Please Don't Hate Me. We examine Icelandic dive spots and consider the future of the Pizza King.

Next up: Airwaves.
Party Safe, Kids.

MASTHEAD

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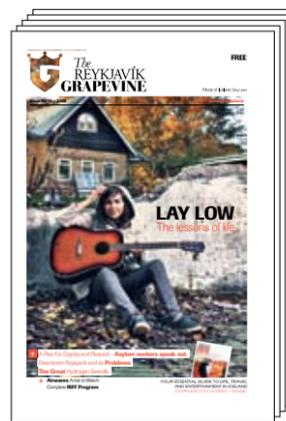
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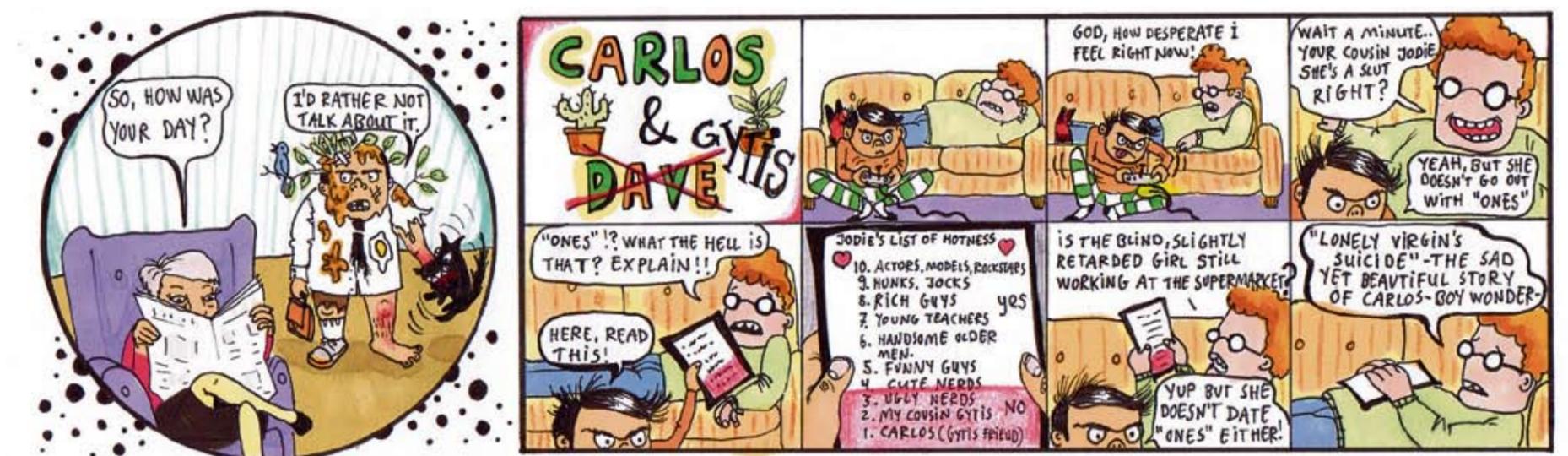
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Helga Sjöfn Kjartansdóttir

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LETTERS

Response from the Red Cross

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Editor's Note

The Secretary General of the Red Cross in Hafnarfjörður sent us this letter for publication regarding the recent developments documented in this issue with Icelandic asylum seekers. We gladly honour their request.

Dear Reykjavík Grapevine,

The police search of the residence of asylum seekers here in Iceland on the 11th September has triggered a debate that has taken place both in the media and within the blog community. Many of the comments made have been misleading and in some cases wrong. As a voice for vulnerable groups in society who do not have many other representatives, the Icelandic Red Cross finds it necessary to state some facts regarding asylum seekers in this Iceland.

To begin with it is vital to underscore that every person has the right to seek refuge in another country. This right is protected both by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948 and by the United Nation 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

Asylum seekers here in Iceland are far from being a homogeneous group. The group consists of very different people that in many cases have little in common except the fact that they have managed to flee their country and have asked for protection in Iceland. Each case must be looked into as a particular case, the case of one person and the Refugee Convention and Protocol applied in handling their cases.

After applying for asylum the asylum seeker must wait. Most of them would want to be able to take care of themselves during that time. To make a living and be independent is a part of keeping our dignity. It is hard for most people not to be in control of their own life, something that most asylum seekers experience.

Until recently, the Icelandic system has not been very flexible regarding work permits for those who wait for their case results. When people have waited for months, and some cases years, their passive existence becomes unbearable. Depression and fear are not uncommon among asylum seekers. Red Cross volunteers have now for two years been visiting asylum seekers once a week to provide social and psychological support during their wait. The volunteers are probably the ones most aware of the fact that the asylum seekers are all different

people who have different stories to tell, and that making comments about such a diverse group as if they are all the same can be harmful and misleading in many cases.

Those who work in different services that handle asylum seekers should be aware of the diversity of the group. It is important, especially for public employees to talk carefully and not to generalize based on few extreme cases. No matter what system we apply, there will always be those few that take advantage of it but the majority should not pay for the wrong doing of these few. The core of our legal system is that a person is innocent until proven guilty.

Many of the misleading comments have lead people to think that asylum seekers live in some kind of luxury, that they have a lot of money and get free cigarettes. The truth is far from it. People applying for asylum in Iceland are indeed normally provided with a room and they do receive food, necessary medical care, access to the library and the swimming pool from the Social Service in Reykjanesháttur. After staying in the country for four weeks they get 2.500 ISK allowance per week.

After few years of working with people who have been forced to flee their homes and seek asylum in another country as refugees we know that most asylum seekers are just normal people that have found themselves in an abnormal situation causing them to flee their homes and leaving behind what every person loves most, their friends and family.

After the police searched the residence of asylum seekers earlier this month, the Red Cross was approached by many who complained about the treatment they were given. Based on these complaints and the media coverage in the aftermath, often misleading and negative, the Red Cross has asked a Reykjavík based legal firm to go through the process of the operation and we are expecting the results, hopefully in few weeks time.

Authors:

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Atli Vidar Thorstensen is a project manager working with refugee and asylum issues at the Red Cross Headquarters in Reykjavík.



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OPINION

Open Letter to the Pizza King

FROM HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON

Dear Pizza King,

First, I would like to thank you for your excellent commitment to serving us, your humble peasants, over the past few years. You have consistently and continually been there for me: in times of trouble, through every trial and tribulation, every drunken binge, each and every case of the munchies, I have always been able to rely on your cheesy, greasy solution to life's mysteries. And I still am. I think I speak for each and every one of us when I say: kudos to you, Pizza King.

That being said, I have a few gripes that I want to send your way. Before you read this, you should remember that I cherish you dearly, and I think your contribution to our young society is a remarkable one: a labour of unfettered love and passion for which we are barely worthy. So my comments should be read as a child's plea to a beloved, alcoholic parent, a prayer to a vengeful God – or Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ', if you will. It is not despite my love for you that I dare bring complaints to the throne room of Pizza King, it is because of it.

Listen, even though your commitment to serving comfort food to a starving public at ludicrous hours of the day is laudable – and even though a specific blend of your oily, greasy, oily garlic oil and surprisingly spicy chilli powder will make just about anything taste pretty good – I still think you need to re-think some of your strategies. Specifically, you need to re-imagine what it takes to make and serve top-notch slices of pizza at prices that can't be beat. You need to look back at where you came from, before you were crowned Pizza King, before you even were Pizza Prince. Seek out your roots; go back to the time when you were just another street-smart, Pizza-nobody with a hunger in your eyes and everything to prove.

Now, let's examine for a minute how you can accomplish this. I have taken the liberty of compiling a list of items that you should consider, and have numbered them for your convenience. Some of them are grievances of friends and acquaintances that I am kindly passing on, whilst others are based on my own observations and thoughts. I would like you to ponder the following points for the next few days, as you seek your roots and reclaim your glory:

1) Always bake a pizza all the way through

This should be obvious, especially when you find yourself eating a half-baked clump of sauce-covered wheat that leaves you feeling like you ate a fucking brick. Us customers won't mind the extra wait.

2) Turn down that crappy music

Nobody crowned you Disco King; we come there to eat.

3) Play music that is less crappy

This should be obvious. If you switch, you could even turn it up a notch.

4) Contrary to popular belief, less isn't always more

No, sometimes more is more – especially if you're making pizza. After a careful, scientific examination, a panel of EU bureaucrats has put the standard pepperoni/slice ratio at 3:1 – and the system works; they are right. That being said, I could sometimes forgive a 2:1 ratio, if the pepperoni in question are especially large, but never a 1:1 ratio like you seem to favour. That's just plain insulting.

5) Throw away stale pizza

The product you've built your kingdom upon is a time sensitive one. If a given slice of pizza has spent over two hours in your heater-box thing, you throw it away and make a new one. THROW IT AWAY. This is not an option: this is a rule. A Pizza King is thus crowned because he is beloved by his people, his people will in turn love him if they can rely on him for good, fresh pizza every single time. I swear, Pizza King, if you serve me one more slice of stale pizza, I will write you an open letter in a widely distributed magazine and deride you for it. Again.

Dear Pizza King. I hope you are not offended at me for writing you this letter, for pointing out what could be better. I sincerely hope I have not incurred the wrath of the Pizza King. Please, do not oust me from your Shangri-La of grease, your Elysian Fields of white wheat, your oily Manna.

I love you, man. 🍕

INTERVIEW BY HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON — PHOTO BY GAS



The Party Needs To Be Monitored

“You just can't teach Icelanders to properly drink all of the sudden”

The Reykjavík Pub-owners' Association is working with officials to improve the situation in 101 Reykjavík. Kormákur Geirharðsson is a founding member.

Tourism propaganda often describes 101 Reykjavík as a sort of decadent-Mecca for the north, an anything goes place where party-hearty squads of drunk Vikings and Valkyries roam sleepless nights in search of hedonistic outings. While the description is inaccurate, downtown Reykjavík does see a lot of drinking on weekends, and that partying often gets loud and rowdy. So rowdy, in fact, that a lot of downtown dwellers express fear of leaving their houses on weekends, lest they be attacked by a modern-day berserker. Many also complain that the partying is loud to the point of disturbing their sleep. These outcries are often followed by demands that city officials “do something about it”, and they in turn respond by forming task forces and committees that suggest everything from earlier closing hours to flat out moving Reykjavík nightlife to suburbia. The Grapevine met up with Kormákur Geirharðsson, spokesperson of the Reykjavík Pub-owners' Association, to get their side of the story.

Who belongs to the Pub-owner's Association? And why is there a need for one?

The pubs downtown are all members, pretty much anyone who sells alcohol in 101 Reykjavík. We have a lot of things we want to work for. Especially after the smoking ban came to effect, we felt wronged by the officials in that whole ordeal. The bars and pubs – the people who actually have to enforce and deal with the smoking ban – at no point did the government approach us for comment or insight on how it would affect our business, our patrons and the nightlife.

This is our main reason for forming the association; we didn't have a single voice in the preparatory committees overseeing the new smoking laws – and there are a whole lot of such decisions being made without consulting those who work in the field and are affected by them. We don't trust the people who get seats on the “nightlife committees”, as most of them don't leave their houses after eight and don't have a clue on what's going on downtown and what people that seek out the nightlife want. Our aim was to create a strong unified voice that could work with city and government officials, that could have an input whenever important decisions that affect the nightlife and our livelihood are made.

Have you made a lot of headway since starting?

Yeah. We now have a presence in all sorts of groups and committees that aim at making the nightlife run more smoothly and downtown Reykjavík a better place. We meet regularly with police and city officials to review the preceding weekends to see if anything can be done better or improved. We also collaborated with city and police officials on a report on how to make downtown Reykjavík a safer place. We discuss everything from graffiti to the smoking ban, city planning and transit; anything we think needs improvement. A lot of the meetings discuss shortening the bars' opening hours, thinking that might improve the downtown situation; we feel there are many things the city and state could improve upon before reverting to such measures.

Such as?

We think that visible police enforcement is a prerequisite in these things, and also steady transportation out of downtown, when some of our patrons need to get home. If these things were in order, downtown would clear earlier and we wouldn't face the situations that sometimes occur.

We've also pointed out that shortening the opening hours would drive dozens of families into bankruptcy, you can't just make such decisions haphazardly. They must be made following a proper discussion. We wouldn't mind closing earlier, but officials have got to realise that such actions have consequences. If you all of the sudden pull three business hours off us, it's going to affect; people won't adjust to coming out earlier at the drop of a hat, it takes one or two years to adjust to such circumstances and by that time the damage is done. If the state were to lower their alcohol tolls, for instance, the damage might be countered. Our research shows that the high alcohol tolls cause Icelandic bars to get the least revenue per liter of alcohol sold in all of Europe, probably the whole world. In Denmark, the pubs need to sell only half the amount of alcohol we do to make the same profit.

Would you say the current situation is intolerable?

I wouldn't say that. Due to my position, I very frequently pass through downtown and I do not find the situation to be intolerable. I will say that there are things that need to be fixed and certain points of stress that need to be resolved, and us in the association are trying our best to fix them. As for downtown violence and disorderly conduct, I really think that a more visible police presence downtown would go a long way in countering that. Drunken people will break their beer bottles on the ground if they sense they can get away with

it. They wouldn't be attacking one another in front of a police officer.

Everyone needs some form of restraint and supervision, especially drunk people. If you're throwing a concert or an open air festival, you are expected to keep security and such things in check. A 10,000 strong outdoor festival will need a whole lot of security to ensure nothing goes wrong, I can't see the situation should be different when 10,000 people convene downtown on weekends. And there have been times when there are maybe ten police officers patrolling downtown, one cop for every thousand citizens. Anyone will tell you that doesn't sum up.

It's like in school, you've got hall monitors to ensure the kids behave. It isn't any different for adults, especially drunk adults. They behave like children, and they need to be monitored as such. Not to say the cops should be carrying weapons or anything of the sort, just that they need to be present in numbers to ensure nothing goes wrong. One of downtown's biggest problems is the people that group every weekend in taxi lines and such. It creates a bad situation, one that would be greatly worsened if all the places started closing at the same time. If we do that, we go back a decade, when all the places closed at 3 AM, a situation of total chaos. Not even the police dared interfere then, the people gathered in such numbers that they could get away with anything, even taunting the cops. That was truly an intolerable situation.

Aren't people just drinking too much?

Well, there's always a part of the population that's bound to drink too much and cause a ruckus, whether you're at a family gathering or an outdoor festival or on a plane to Spain. That's just how people are. Again, I think the only thing that could possibly change that would be if DeCode isolated the drinking gene or something; this isn't anything you can change instantly. 🍷

“IT'S LIKE IN SCHOOL, YOU'VE GOT HALL MONITORS TO ENSURE THE KIDS BEHAVE. IT ISN'T ANY DIFFERENT FOR ADULTS, ESPECIALLY DRUNK ADULTS. THEY BEHAVE LIKE CHILDREN, AND THEY NEED TO BE MONITORED AS SUCH.”



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Dopuszczalna prędkość

Przekraczanie prędkości jest najczęściej popełnianym wykroczeniem na Islandii. Poza obszarem zabudowanym na drodze asfaltowej maksymalna prędkość wynosi 90 km/godz. a 80 km/godz. na drodze szortowej. Na obszarze zabudowanym maksymalna prędkość wynosi 50 km/godz. chyba, że jest inny nakaz. Ten nakaz może być stosowany tylko podczas dobrej pogody.

Mandaty za przekroczenie prędkość

Za przekroczenie prędkości o 30 km mandat wynosi 45 tysięcy koron. Mandat może wynosić nawet 110 tysięcy koron a także inne kary z odebraniem prawa jazdy włącznie.

Zabrania się prowadzenia pojazdu pod wpływem alkoholu

Na Islandii surowo zabrania się prowadzenia pojazdu pod wpływem alkoholu lub środków odurzających. Osoby mające powyżej 0,5 promila alkoholu we krwi otrzymują mandat oraz zawieszenie prawa jazdy.

Kary pieniężne za jazdę pod wpływem alkoholu

Mandaty wynoszą od 70 do 140 tysięcy koron. Osoby prowadzące pod wpływem alkoholu bądź też środków odurzających tracą prawo do otrzymania jakiegokolwiek odszkodowania i wszelkie koszty muszą pokryć same.

Obowiązek zapinania pasów

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- ▶ Obowiązkowo należy mieć włączone światła mijania przez całą dobę.
- ▶ Należy zmniejszyć prędkość podczas zmiany z drogi asfaltowej na szortową.
- ▶ Na Islandii jest wiele wąskich mostów, na których należy zachować szczególną ostrożność.
- ▶ Zabrania się rozmowy przez telefon, chyba że posiadamy zestaw słuchawkowy.

Na stronie internetowej www.drive.is można zobaczyć film "Jak jeździć po Islandii/How to drive in Iceland", który pokazuje jak powinno się jeździć w islandzkich warunkach pogodowych. Film można obejrzeć w języku angielskim, niemieckim, francuskim oraz hiszpańskim.

Что нужно знать водителю, чтобы обеспечить свою безопасность



Строгие наказания за нарушения правил движения

В Исландии за нарушение правил уличного движения можно лишиться водительских прав и подвергнуться очень высокому штрафу. В некоторых случаях автомобиль, ставший причиной аварии, конфискуют, а водителя посылают на специальные курсы, и ему придется снова сдавать экзамен на права.

Максимальная скорость

Наиболее частой причиной серьезных аварий в Исландии является превышение скорости. Вне города на асфальтовой дороге максимальная скорость составляет 90 км/час, а на грунтовой – 80 км/час. Внутри города максимальная скорость равна 50 км/час, если нет специального указателя о другой разрешенной скорости. Эти цифры действительны при самых благоприятных дорожных условиях.

Штраф за превышение скорости

Штраф за превышение скорости на 30 километров составляет 45 тысяч крон. Штраф за превышение скорости может достигать 110 тысяч и более с одновременным лишением водительских прав.

Запрещается вести машину после употребления алкоголя

В Исландии запрещается вести машину после употребления алкоголя или наркотических веществ. Если содержание алкоголя в крови водителя превышает 0,5 промилле, то он подвергается штрафу и лишается водительских прав.

Штраф за езду в нетрезвом состоянии

За езду в нетрезвом состоянии взимается штраф в размере от 70 тысяч до 140 тысяч крон. Водитель, попавший в аварию в состоянии опьянения или под влиянием наркотических средств, не получает страховых выплат и обязан сам оплачивать причиненный ущерб, который может составлять миллионы крон.

Обязательное использование ремня безопасности

Водитель и пассажиры автомобиля на переднем и заднем сидениях обязаны пристегнуть ремни безопасности. Для перевозки детей должно быть специальное автомобильное кресло или другое приспособление, соответствующее росту и весу ребенка.

В дополнение к вышесказанному следует помнить также, что:

- ▶ Необходимо сохранять достаточную дистанцию до движущегося впереди автомобиля, чтобы суметь вовремя остановить машину.
- ▶ Невыспавшийся и усталый водитель очень опасен.
- ▶ Алкоголь часто сохраняется в крови водителя на следующий день после выпивки.
- ▶ Фары автомобиля должны быть включены при езде в любое время суток.
- ▶ Важно замедлить скорость при съезде с асфальта на грунтовую дорогу.
- ▶ В Исландии много однопольных мостов, где нужно соблюдать особую осторожность.
- ▶ Запрещается разговаривать по телефону во время езды без специального устройства, освобождающего руки водителя.

На вебсайте www.drive.is есть видеоролик «Как ездить по Исландии», который посвящен особенностям езды по исландским дорогам. Текст видеоролика на английском, немецком, французском и испанском языках.

Visit www.drive.is and



Important information regarding road safety



Severe punishments for violation of traffic laws

In Iceland, people can expect to lose their driver's licence and receive high fines for violation of traffic laws. In some cases, the car of the guilty party will be confiscated and the driver will have to attend a special course or even take a driver's test again.

Speed limits

Speeding is the most common cause of serious traffic accidents in Iceland. Outside populated areas on paved roads, the speed limit is 90 km/hr., but only 80 km/hr on gravel roads. Within populated areas, the speed limit is 50 km/hr., if not stated otherwise. These speed limits are under optimal conditions.

Penalties for speeding

The penalty for driving at 30 km over the speed limit is 45,000 kr. The penalty for speeding can be up to 110,000 kr, or even more, plus suspension of the driver's licence.

Drinking and driving is strictly forbidden

In Iceland, it is forbidden to drive a car after having consumed alcohol or drugs. Those driving a car with more than the legal blood alcohol limit of 0.5 per mill, have to pay a penalty and suffer suspension of their drivers's licence.

Penalties for drunk driving

The penalties for drunk driving are between 70,000 kr up to 140,000 kr. If driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, you will not be entitled to compensation in case of an accident and will have to bear the total cost of the accident yourself. This can amount to several million krona.

Seat Belt Laws

Drivers as well as all passengers in a car are required to wear a seat belt, both in the front and back seats. Children have to be in a safety seat or use other equipment according to their age and weight.

Please keep the following in mind:

- ▶ Keep a safe distance between you and the car in front of you to enable you to stop your car without any problems.
- ▶ A tired and worn-out driver is very dangerous.
- ▶ Alcohol might still be present in your blood on the day after drinking.
- ▶ You are required to drive with lights on at all hours.
- ▶ It is important to slow down when a paved road turns into a gravel road.
- ▶ In Iceland, there are a large number of single-lane bridges where you have to drive with special care.
- ▶ It is forbidden to use your mobile phone while driving unless you use a special hands free mobile car kit.

On www.drive.is, you can find an instructional video on "How to drive in Iceland" which deals with driving in Icelandic conditions. The video is available in English, German, French and Spanish.

Nauðsynlegt að vita varðandi öryggi þitt



Harðar refsingar við umferðalagabrotum

Á Íslandi getur fólk átt von á að missa ökuréttindi og fá mjög háar sektir vegna umferðalagabrota. Í sumum tilfellum er bíll þess sem brýtur af sér tekinn eignarnámi og ökumaður sendur á sérstakt námskeið, jafnvel þarf sá hinn sami að taka ökuprófið að nýju.

Hámarkshraði

Of mikill hraði er algengasta orsök alvarlegra umferðarslysa á Íslandi. Utan þéttbýlis á bundnu slitlagi er hámarkshraði 90 km/klst. en 80 km/klst. á malarvegum. Í þéttbýli er hámarkshraði 50 km/klst. nema annað sé tekið sérstaklega fram. Þetta miðast við bestu hugsanlegu skilyrði.

Refsing fyrir of hraðan akstur

Fyrir að keyra á 30 km yfir hámarkshraða er sektin 45 þúsund krónur. Sekt fyrir of hraðan akstur getur orðið 110 þúsund krónur og jafnvel meiri auk sviptingar ökuréttinda.

Það er bannað að aka eftir neyslu áfengis

Á Íslandi er bannað að aka bíl eftir að hafa neytt áfengis eða fíkniefna. Þeir sem aka með meira en 0,5 prómill áfengismagns í blóði eru sektaðir og sviptir ökuréttindum.

Refsing fyrir ölvunarakstur

Sektir fyrir ölvunarakstur eru frá 70 þúsund krónum til 140 þúsunda. Sá sem keyrir ölvður eða undir áhrifum fíkniefna fær ekki bætur ef hann lendir í slysi og þarf að bera allan kostnað vegna tjónsins sjálfur. Getur sú upphæð numið milljónum króna.

Skylt að nota bílbelti

Ökumenn eða farþegar í bíl eru skyldugir til að vera með bílbelti spennt, bæði í framsæti og aftursæti. Börn eiga að vera í barnabílstólum eða nota búnað sem hæfir stærð þeirra og þyngd.

Þessu til viðbótar skaltu muna:

- ▶ Að hafa nægjanlegt bíl í næsta bíl svo þú getir stöðvað hindrunarlaust.
- ▶ Að syfjaður og þreyttur ökumaður er mjög hættulegur.
- ▶ Að oft mælist áfengi í blóði ökumanns daginn eftir drykkju.
- ▶ Að það er skylt að hafa ökuljósinn kveikt í akstri allan sólarhringinn.
- ▶ Mikilvægt er að draga úr hraða þegar komið er af vegi með bundnu slitlagi inn á malarveg.
- ▶ Á Íslandi er fjöldi einbreiðra brúa þar sem gæta þarf mikillar varúðar.
- ▶ Það er bannað að tala í síma á meðan á akstri stendur nema notaður sé sérstakur handfrjáls búnaður.

Á heimasíðunni www.drive.is er kynningarmyndin „How to drive in Iceland“ en hún fjallar um akstur við íslenskar aðstæður. Myndin er á ensku, þýsku, frönsku og spænsku.

see how to drive in Iceland



ROAD TRAFFIC DIRECTORATE

The Liquid Island

The sea is rolling – one,
The sea is rolling – two,
The sea is rolling – three.
Sea shape, freeze! Sea shape, move!
(A Russian game)

We are cold in the congealed, browned off scapes of spaceless flatlands, in smeared out cities, in the bowels of the mounted sea bottom. So cold, that in order to feel the beat of life we have to move and alter all the time. We talk on the phone overtaking the speed of sound; we take transatlantic flights competing with the Earth's rotation. We change the climate, citizenships and lovers; we modify our haircuts, bodies and children – and suffer from fear and dullness.

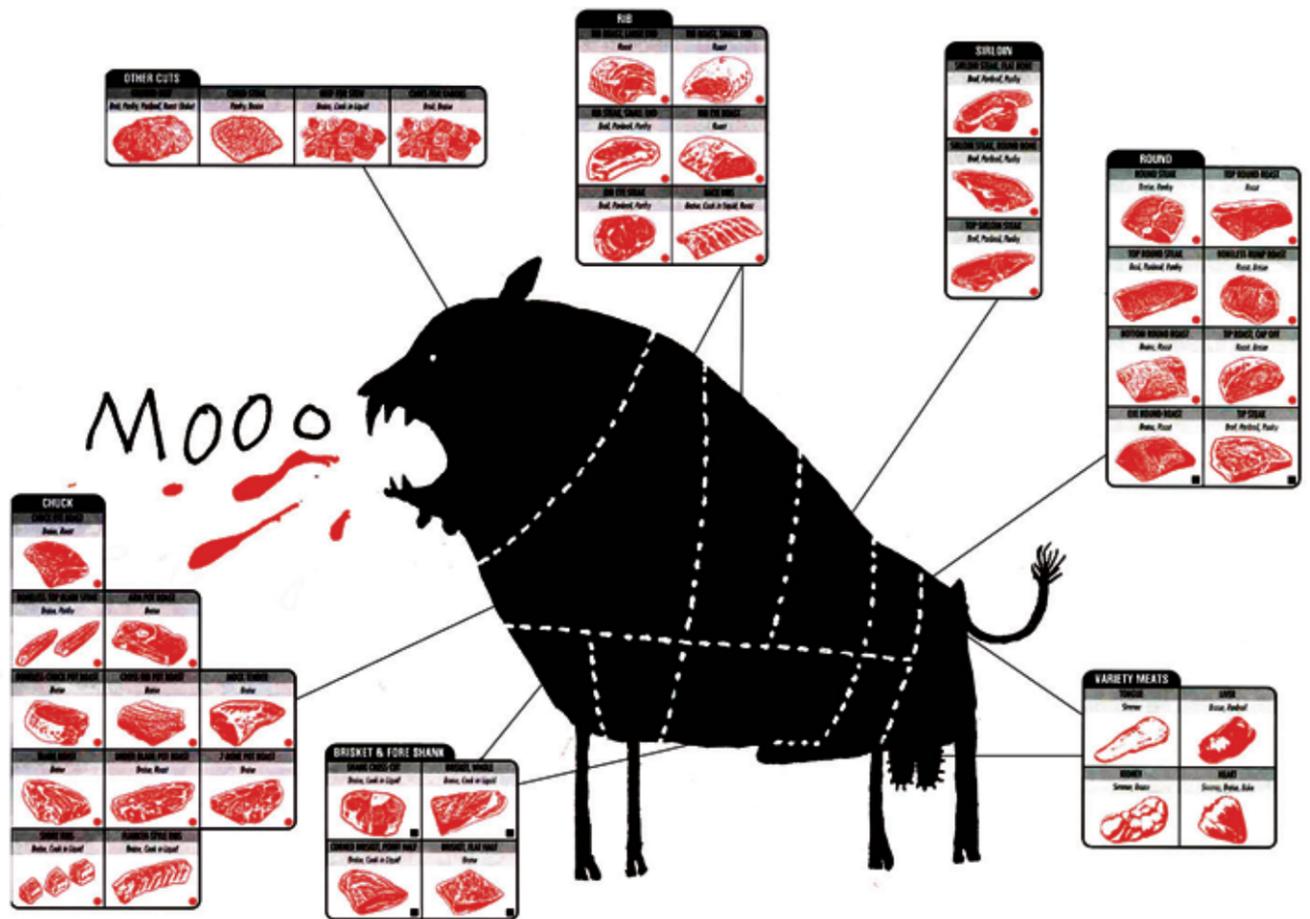
In captivity of the continental barathrums we, like polar bears, go berserk, degenerate and start fearing water. Instead of the seal of life we enjoy a teddy substitute of the Internet. But, same as polar bears, we are lured by our natural habitat – a thin girdle between politically divided land and the global ocean that thrashes towards us through chains of enchained rivers, waterlogged basements and dripping roofs.

Here, along the liquid coast of the ocean, everything is flowing at the same speed as our blood: rolling waves, causeways of waterfalls and rainbows at the elements' edges, sunny spotlights on the slopes of hills, climbing clouds and fog. The ocean reworks both the reflection and the reflected giving us the freedom not to change anything ourselves – and to fear no changes. Washed alive again, stars, triangles, circles, and other sea shapes recuperate and mosaic new pictures of being and consciousness.

The watersheds divide cultures where we stop adjusting reality to ourselves or adjusting ourselves to reality and start sponging the firewater of life. The fetters of dehydration dissolve in the bays of the Greenland Sea, in laving lava fields, in the craters of Hekla and Krafla. Everything changes, but does not change its essence on the liquid, hot island in the very south of the Arctic Ocean.

It rises from the clefts on the shelves of Europe and America, from the coasts of the Lake Baikal, on the Tibetan Plateau, in optical illusions of Sahara, in the light of the liquid star of Venus-Freyja. I can see this island from the windows of a Moscow apartment, from an aircraft ladder in the Charles de Gaulle airport, in the congress-hall of a Kuwaiti hotel. I know that Johannesburg's skyscrapers, black soils of the Russian steppes, Indian jungles and Appalachian ridges also can be liquid, and I warm them with the breath of Iceland.

I wash my face with Drangajökull's ice, I bathe in the columnar faceted basalt of Spákonufellshöfði, I raise the glass of black volcanic sand. Skál! 🇮🇸



More Monsters and Mythical Beings:

Porgeirsboli is a Real Evil Piece of Work

“We’ve got this database of monsters and creatures in our past. A lot of their stories are fascinating, it’s a shame that they’re not used more in modern culture,” remarked comic artist Hugleikur Dagsson in an interview this summer. This prompted the Grapevine to draft Dagsson to illustrate a series of articles on these monsters of yore. For the sixth instalment in the series, Dagsson chose to illustrate “Iceland’s most vicious ghost”, the über-scary ghost-bull PORGEIRSBOLI.

Porgeirsboli is an unholy construct, an abomination in the face of God and nature. Bred of hate and jealousy, Porgeirsboli did its maker’s evil bidings for as long as he lived, remaining loyal to

his clan long after he passed. Or that’s how the story goes.

Most sources say the ghost-bull was created in the mid-1800s by a fellow named Porgeir Stefánsson (others cite him as “Jónsson”), who found himself in a state of satanic frustration when a would-be flame rejected his advances. Not one to easily accept defeat (nor very tactful, apparently), Porgeir decided the best way of dealing with rejection was to manifest an evil spirit to haunt the object of his affection.

Some sources claim Porgeir created his beast by flaying a calf so that it dragged its hide by its tail before adding to the mix elements of dog, man, cat, mouse, bird, air and two sea creatures – thus allowing the evil entity to reach wide and far, taking the form of all these beings. Others say he made the beast by placing a dog’s leg inside a flayed calf’s head and reciting evil poetry over them. Either way, once Porgeirsboli was manifest it immediately started haunting the unfortunate woman who’d turned down its creator, eventually

driving her to an early grave.

After that accomplishment, Porgeirsboli reportedly followed his maker, ensuring that no one who pissed him off got a good night’s sleep. He soon grew infamous; tales of frightful Porgeirsboli encounters are legion in Icelandic folklore. Some say the bull followed its makers’ family for generations, causing an unholy chaos when it saw fit, whether it was looking after his keepers’ best interests or not.

The bull’s presence was often sensed late at night in the countryside, when his dark, devastating moos would rumble the earth. Those who’ve seen him and lived to describe it have reported him appearing as a dog, a cat, and a string of fog, although most see a skeleton-bull dragging his bloody loose skin behind him on its tail. Some say Porgeirsboli is still grazing somewhere in the Icelandic countryside, so steer clear of any stray cattle you may encounter on hikes and camping trips, especially if they give out a demonic, dark, earth-rumbling moo sound. 🇮🇸

Training For a Cagefight

It is raining and cold on this soggy Tuesday, but when entering the Martial Arts school, Mjólnir, at Mýrargata, it is hot! Thirty men and women are doing pull-ups, lifting weights or boxing sandbags. All you hear is some pumping jams and sporadic pained groaning. Tuesday’s course is ‘Combat Conditioning.’ “These are hard classes but they are very functional” says Arnar Freyr Vigfússon, one of the founders of Mjólnir. “You get explosiveness, endurance and power. Useful attributes for every martial art.”

At the school by Reykjavík’s harbour, a wide variety of courses are offered: Brazilian jiu jitsu, kickboxing and wrestling (and their cagefight-combination ‘mixed martial arts’ aka MMA), and also fitness programs like the aforementioned combat conditioning. Mjólnir members do hold all the courses. “We rent the facilities to other groups as well, like a Capoeira group, which is a traditional Brazilian fight dance or a Kettlebell-training group,” Arnar states.

It all began with a seminar held by Matt Thornton, the president of ‘Straight Blast Gym International’, an American MMA association. Arnar and his colleagues, all disciples of traditional martial arts for years, took part and were disappointed at first. “We had to see that all our techniques didn’t work in a real fight.” They decided to form a school for functional instead of fantasy-based martial arts with their hierarchies and rituals. “In our training, your abilities and hard training count, not titles. Also, we always discuss which techniques worked and which didn’t after class.”

James Davis, from Portland, Oregon, tells a similar story: “As a kid, I took Judo. When I wanted to rise to the next level, my sensei gave me a piece of paper with Japanese words I had to learn and proper belt tying techniques. Even as a kid, I asked myself what this had to do with Judo?” Though Davis continued training, he practiced wrestling and boxing as well and joined the Straight Blast Gym in 2004, where he became an instructor. This brought him to Iceland in August. “The guys from Mjólnir came to Portland for six months for training. We became friends and ever since then I wanted to come to Iceland.” Davis is currently the assistant teacher for the next three months until his visa ends. Once that happens though he will return soon. “Everyone is so nice here. And the students are very eager to learn, which makes coaching a lot of fun.” 🇮🇸



ARTICLE

ARTICLE BY JAMES CRUGNALE — PHOTO BY GAS



8 + 8 = 8

BY MARCUS WALSH

8 + 8 is a month long exhibition showcasing eight designers from Iceland and abroad, collaborating with eight manufacturers from Hafnarfjörður to create innovative products. The companies range from electric heating manufacturers to concrete constructionists, creating products from stoves to garden furniture.

"The goal was to create a different view on industry and to create new potential for small companies. A deeper need is to bring more innovation into an industry that is underdeveloped, too few companies are exporting. Design products can have a new complexity. 8+8 is a little experiment to create a different vision," says curator Hrafnkell Birgisson.

A key objective for 8+8 is to enhance Hafnarfjörður's reputation beyond the industrial connotations that it is generally renowned for. However, the town has a long history of aluminium and concrete production that was utilised in the creative process. Katrín Ólína worked with construction company Mest to design concrete garden furniture featuring two benches and a small stool. "I used concrete, a very local and practical material to create a functional sitting area and then incorporated some playfulness into the stool," she explains.

This originality can raise the profile of the town beyond manufacturing sheer units, especially in the eyes of the curator Hrafnkell Birgisson: "Hafnarfjörður has to become known for original products and more than just elves and lava. After all, the project is 'Made In Hafnarfjörður'" Birgisson also points to the need to export 'Icelandic Design' but is wary of the limitations of this used as an umbrella term. "We have to be careful not to define a culture by its design. There is no such national design and this is only good for marketing," he commented.

Icelandic designer Páll Einarsson described the struggle of working with the manufacturer when producing bedroom lights: "I was scared that the tooling was limited to straight lines and thin metals. The company (Flúrlampar) has never entered the domestic design field and has only created industrial sized lamps for shops and warehouses." Einarsson's creative flourish added aesthetic quality to the necessity for illumination: "We closed an aluminium sheet in a mould and fired it with a shotgun. It rips in a beautiful manner and can project the ripple onto a wall. The blast is a decorative feature and not always functional. It is very subtle."

Birgisson also commented on the unity of creativity and practicality as a whole in 8+8: "The mix of aesthetics and function should not be separated. It is important to integrate design more in innovation politics. You can call everything 'innovation'. It is far too seldom combined with pure creativity in design and is too often to do with money making. True development must be explored first." By combining their efforts in this pilot project, the designers can shy away from Scandinavian design assumptions and leave the stereotypes in the local Ikea. 🐱

WHEN

Open daily from 14:00 - 19:00
Weekends from: 12:00 - 17:00
Runs until October 5.

WHERE

Dvergur Gallery
Lækjargata 2
220 Hafnarfjörður



PAY AT THE PUMP - HYDROGEN STATION BY GAS

The Ghost Hydrogen Station

After 5 years, the world's first public hydrogen station remains hardly used

Despite considerable praise and high expectations for this first major step, six years later the hydrogen station at Grjótháls remains relatively empty and underutilised. Iceland's hydrogen economy roadmap is many months behind schedule and commercial hydrogen vehicles are still unavailable for purchase in the country.

On April 24, 2003, Iceland became the very first country in the world to open a public hydrogen filling station: the Shell Hydrogen Station at Grjótháls. At the time, it seemed to be a historically momentous breakthrough for the nation. Headlines like "Iceland launches an energy revolution!" and "Iceland: pioneering the hydrogen economy!" were trumpeted around the globe. The station was built from a conventional gasoline station in the outskirts of Reykjavík with construction costs of \$3.07 million US dollars, according to its impact assessment. With one available pump provided by Norsk Hydro, the station supplies energy to fuel-cell vehicles from electrolysis produced by electrolyzing water. The initial purpose of the station was a two-year trial program to power three hydrogen-powered Strætó city buses manufactured by Daimler Chrysler. The hydrogen bus pilot program concluded in 2007.

"The test time came to a logical end," said María Maack, Environmental Manager of Icelandic New Energy, the company that coordinates the country's hydrogen projects. "Now, the learned lessons are being integrated into the next generation of buses. They should be on the market within 2 years. Then it is the role of bus operators or the city to introduce them in their fleets. Our role as a forerunning tester is over and we have moved on to the next step: the SMART - H2. But the project showed clearly that a hydrogen fuel-system is operable and can only become better."

However, according to Eynar Kristjánsson, marketing director/head of planning and services at Strætó, the trial had its share of disadvantages. "The trial wasn't profitable," said Kristjánsson. "There were some other difficulties. The buses took 30 minutes to be filled and they had to be filled twice a day. We had to do maintenance in another place and that was really expensive; the filling station was out of route. Those were big minuses, but it was clean energy, that was a big

plus." Kristjánsson said the hydrogen buses used for the trial are now being used for spare parts and another is being taken to a museum.

PRESENT DAY USES

Today, 13 vehicles currently use the Hydrogen station at Grjótháls. This figure includes 10 hydrogen Toyota Priuses that last year the US firm Quantum Technologies brought to the country to be used by local energy companies and rental-car provider Hertz. Hertz rents out three of these at a cost of \$300 US dollars a day.

Despite the introduction of these new vehicles to the country, there still is the staggering task of getting the remaining drivers off of fossil fuels. According to Statistics Iceland, excluding hydrogen cars, as of 2007, there are 240,538 presumably gas-powered registered vehicles in country.

At this year's Driving Sustainability conference, there were some signs that hydrogen, originally touted as the solution to the world's energy woes, was now becoming seen by some of the participants as the black sheep of renewable energy. "The battery people are very critical of hydrogen due to little energy efficiency," said Teitur Torkelsson, conference organiser and managing partner for FTO Sustainable Solutions

During the conference, Shell Hydrogen addressed questions about the future of the energy in the country. "After the program ended two years ago, many people were asking, why is the station still here?" said Steven Rouvroy, European Operations Manager for Shell Hydrogen. "Well, hydrogen is a reality in Iceland, and it is important we keep investing."

When asked what the rate of growth the station has been over the years, Rouvroy explained that there still was a lot of work to do. "[Logically], we should have dismantled the station after the bus project was over," said Rouvroy, adding the station was preserved when additional projects were introduced.

Chris Paine, director of Who Killed the Electric Car, asked Rouvroy when he expected Iceland's general populace to be able to buy a hydrogen car. "We don't expect a commercial vehicle to be available to the public until 2015 or 2020," said Rouvroy.

THE FUTURE OF HYDROGEN

With advancements in electric-battery technology, commercial electric cars may beat hydrogen cars to the market in Iceland. At the conference, Iceland announced a new partnership with Mit-

subishi Motors for supplying the country with a fleet of i-MiEV electric cars.

If Iceland New Energy has their way, though, Iceland will be a mixture of both alternative energies. "People tend to forget that the infrastructure for both making hydrogen and electric charge is already in place: the electric grid. Hydrogen plus batteries will be integrated in vehicles to fulfil all the service demands and convenience that we are currently used to," said Maack. "Right now we are also cooperating with Scandinavian markets and together we can bargain for a better price for a hydrogen vehicles. The movements of the large markets is what steers the demand and our development relies on their speed as well." 🐱

THE TROUBLE WITH HYDROGEN

Hydrogen skeptics like the former assistant secretary of the US Department of Energy, Joseph Romm, have shared reasons why hydrogen hasn't caught on in other parts of the world.

- **Inefficiency** — In terms of alternative-fueled vehicles, an electric car can travel three to four times farther on a kilowatt-hour of renewable power than a hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle.
- **Doubts from Car Manufacturers** — According to the Wall Street Journal, top executives from General Motors Corp and Toyota Motor Corp have expressed doubts about the viability of hydrogen fuel cells for mass-market production in the near term and suggested their companies have instead begun investing in electric cars.
- **Environmental negatives** — Popular Mechanics estimates that more than 95% of hydrogen in the United States is made from natural gas; Romm says that as a result, running a car on hydrogen in the US will not reduce net carbon dioxide emissions.
- **Unavailability** — When asked by McClatchy-Tribune when he expected hydrogen cars to become broadly available to consumers, Romm answered, "Not in our lifetime, and very possibly never."

WE SHOULD HAVE DISMANTLED THE STATION AFTER THE BUS PROJECT WAS OVER





ASYLUM SEEKER 99345-349: FARZAD RAHMANIAN

Not Quite Prison

Asylum seekers are kept in limbo at a Reykjanesbær hostel, sometimes for years

There is an up and coming “refugee camp” in Reykjanesbær. You probably haven’t heard about it.

September 11 2008, as morning slowly crept over Reykjanesbær, a total of 58 police officers and an unspecified number of police dogs rushed the living quarters of 42 asylum seekers. During that morning-long raid, the police reportedly broke down doors to the asylum seekers’ rooms, handcuffed some of them, went through their possessions and confiscated IDs, passports and 1.6 million ISK in cash.

Later that day, police officials were quoted in saying that the raid had been a total success, and would help Útlendingastofnun (the Icelandic Directorate of Immigration) quickly close the cases of at least ten of the 42 asylum seekers. They stated that the raid had been spurred by suspicions that certain asylum seekers were involved in illegal activities, and some of them had willingly given out false information as to their purported refugee status.

Meanwhile, several of the asylum seekers went on record stating their treatment at the hands of Icelandic officials stating had been unnecessary, inhumane and degrading. One asylum seeker – 35-year-old Iranian refugee Farzad Rahmanian – went further in protesting the raid and confiscation of his possessions, and sat outside the Keflavik police station in silent demonstration throughout the weekend.

The raid got a lot of media attention in Iceland, and the public discourse around it quickly turned ugly – as it often does lately when matters concerning immigrants or refugees are discussed in public domain. The “illegal immigrants” – international asylum seekers that are made to live under drab conditions at a Njarðvík hostel while their pleas for asylum are in process – were condemned for “abusing the Icelandic welfare system”, amongst other things.

The local authorities did not help when they, in a frankly ludicrous attempt to justify the raid, released statements saying that each asylum seeker cost the state 7.000 ISK per day, that they had “this one time” apprehended an asylum seeker that was wanted for murder (!), and that they had suspected some of them of working in the black market and/or distributing illegal drugs. Sure enough, not all asylum seekers are saints, but the same can be said about any group of humans. It certainly does not warrant the police’s actions that day.

UNDER PROCESS

A week after the raid, the Grapevine met up with three of the asylum seekers to get their seriously under-reported side of the story. Present were the aforementioned Farzad Rahmanian, 27 year old Afghani Elyas Sultani and 50 year old Iranian Mehdi Kavyanpour. Rahmanian and Kavyanpour’s cases have both been “in process” with authorities for an extended period of time, Rahmanian for just over three years and Kavyanpour for almost four. Sultani’s case has been “under process” in Iceland

for five months. All of them live in Njarðvík’s FIT hostel, which houses the male contingent of the 40 or so asylum seekers that are in Iceland at present (women and children are kept at a separate location). The Red Cross supplies the asylum seekers with food, and they each get a stipend of 2.500 ISK per week to spend on anything else. They are not permitted to hold jobs while their asylum pleas are being processed, but they are provided with Internet access and a pass to the local swimming pool for recreation.

Our conversation comes off to a hesitant start. The men are obviously agitated with their situation and they seem to have a lot of their mind, while they treat my questions with an initial suspicion. They tell me about the life at Fit hostel, how they wound up in Iceland and that they would like nothing more than to earn their keep here whilst awaiting resolution of their pleas. They also seem to think that no one in Iceland knows about the makeshift Reykjanesbær refugee camp they call home, and express a great disappointment when I tell them the Grapevine is an English-language magazine.

“We want to tell our story in an Icelandic paper too. The Icelandic people don’t know about the asylum seekers staying at Fit hostel,” says Rahmanian. “Come with me, we’ll ask anyone sitting at this café. No one knows about us or our situation, I want to show you, 90% of the Icelandic people don’t even know where the camp in Iceland is.” I accompany him to several tables and we ask the patrons questions about the asylum seekers and their situation. Surprisingly, many of them have not heard anything about them, or last week’s police raid. Rahmanian seems pleased to have confirmed this as we sit down to further discuss.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE FORWARD *How is life at the Fit hostel?

“Very difficult,” says Kavyanpour, “like a prison. We haven’t got any ID cards, and thus can’t go anywhere or do anything. It is not a good life.” Rahmanian takes the lead. “Nobody invited us here, the Icelandic immigration will say, so if you came by yourself here you are not allowed to do anything you want, OK? We are here for three years, some for four years, they give us food every week, two plastic bags, but we are not allowed to touch anything. Just to sit inside and look at things. I ask you this, as a human being: If I allow you to stay in some house for three years, just watching TV and working with the Internet, eating food, do you want something more? Do you want the opportunity to move forward? To get a job? Exactly. That is what we want; to be able to live the same as other human beings, nothing else.”

We discuss last week’s raid on the Fit hostel. Rahmanian is happy to report that the police have just returned the small sum of cash they confiscated from his room, after they had broken down his door. “I wasn’t there to give them the key,” he says, “and they didn’t ask the owner of the house for it. They just broke down my door and came inside my

room, looking for an ID card and whatever else.”

Sultani continues: “It was around seven o’clock that morning. I was working on the Internet and they barged in and said they wanted to search the house. They had something like 70 people and stayed three or four hours, and brought dogs in some of the rooms searching. They said in the news they had brought a translator and lawyer with them, and it’s not true. We didn’t see a lawyer or translator there. Just the police and the dogs.”

“It was a really bad day, I thought maybe they were going to deport a lot of people from Iceland to other countries, I was very worried.”

*But they are not?

“No. They have the right to search, and they did so that day, September 11. That’s why a lot of people got nervous, because of that operation on that day.”

WHERE IS THE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY FOR US?

Rahmanian draws a deep breath and starts talking. “Even if they are in the right, and even if they aren’t sure about all the asylum seekers or all the people in the Fit hostel, it wasn’t the right way to go about it. Let’s take a look at another country. Let’s go to America, for example. They say they want to bring freedom and democracy to other countries, like my country and Afghanistan and Iraq. They say: “We just want to give people freedom and democracy” and we say, OK you are right. We’ll take it. But where is the freedom and democracy for us? Can you show me?”

“We want to see where this democracy is, where everyone is free and can go wherever they want. We certainly can’t. We can’t go anywhere, do anything. And you are a Schengen country. Why are you not following the same rules as Schengen? It’s not right. It’s not the same. If we were in a country like Sweden or Germany or France or Italy, after a few weeks or months they will allow you to work there and live by your own way. Even if they want to decline your request for asylum. You get a kennitala [identity number]; you are the same as other humans living there. We have a right to ask this question. The 14th article of the human rights charter says that everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. This is not difficult to understand, is it?”

I ASK YOU THIS, AS A HUMAN BEING: IF I ALLOW YOU TO STAY IN SOME HOUSE FOR THREE YEARS, JUST WATCHING TV AND WORKING WITH THE INTERNET, EATING FOOD, DO YOU WANT SOMETHING MORE? DO YOU WANT THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE FORWARD? TO GET A JOB?

The Grapevine asked Atli Viðar Thorstensen, project manager working with refugee and asylum issues at the Red Cross HQ in Reykjavík, to answer some questions regarding asylum seekers.

1) How many individuals have officially sought asylum in Iceland since 2000? How many have been granted asylum?

2000=25, 2001=53, 2002=117, 2003=80, 2004=76, 2005=87, 2006=39, 2007=42, 2008=50

Out of these numbers, two asylum seekers have been granted “refugee status”, and nearly 40 residency permits have been granted for humanitarian reasons, including 5-6 this year.

2) How many asylum seekers are presently in Iceland?

There are currently 40-45 asylum seekers in Iceland.

3) Describe the process that asylum seekers must go through when they arrive in Iceland?

When an asylum seeker arrives in Iceland and requests asylum the police department is usually the first government agency to handle his application. They investigate the travel documents, and take his photo and finger prints. They also book an interview where the individual in question explains the reasons why he is seeking asylum in Iceland as a refugee.

A Red Cross representative is present during the police debriefing and the asylum seeker has a right to confer with him in private before it starts. An interpreter that speaks the asylum seeker’s mother tongue (or other language he is comfortable expressing himself in and understands) is also present. In the police interview, the asylum seeker is made to give detailed information on his background, family and why he fled his home country or previous country of residence.

After the debriefing, his application is sent to the Directorate of Immigration [“Útlendingastofnun” – the government agency that oversees matters of immigrants and asylum seekers] for review. Most of the asylum seekers wait for the Directorate’s response in Reykjanesbær, where they are put up by the agency.

The Directorate usually conducts another interview with those asylum seekers whose cases go under so-called “material review”, i.e. where their cases are resolved in Iceland instead of undergoing the so-called “Dublin-way”, which means that another state within the Dublin-pact could be responsible for handling the individuals plea for asylum.

4) Who makes the decision of whether to grant asylum in specific cases? What rules and regulations are in fact?

The Directorate of Immigration makes the decision. If they refuse the request, an asylum seeker can file a complaint to the Ministry of Justice. The deciding agencies go by Icelandic rules and regulations, as well as the UN charters on Human rights and Refugee matters.

5) Is it right that those who seek asylum in Iceland are in fact “stuck” here until their cases have been processed?

Yes and no. Some bring their own passports and can withdraw their application for asylum and return home if the situation there changes or for other reasons. Many are here without ID, however, and could not leave the country if they wanted. But people are not being kept here by the government. If they are stuck here, it is because of their circumstances rather than the government.

6) Why has the Directorate of Immigration take up to four years to answer some applications?

Some cases are more complicated than others, and it is sometimes hard to verify relevant information and gather what’s missing. The process usually doesn’t take long, it is rather under special circumstances that they do. A long waiting period is bad for everyone, both the government and the asylum seekers, and the Red Cross has emphasised that the process period must be shortened as much as possible, without it affecting the quality of the process. But it’s best to seek answers to questions regarding the processing time with the Directorate of Immigration

7) What factors are taken into consideration when processing an asylum seeker’s application?

Primarily the reasons the asylum seeker cites for his situation. Humanitarian concerns are also taken into consideration when the applications are processed. The UN Refugee Agency has published a guidebook and instructions on how to interpret the UN Refugee treaty, which was translated and published by the Icelandic Human Rights agency and the Red Cross this summer. That guidebook is fundamental in interpreting the refugee “concept”, which is a closed one by nature. The number of asylum seekers that are granted refugee status is probably rarely lower than in Iceland.

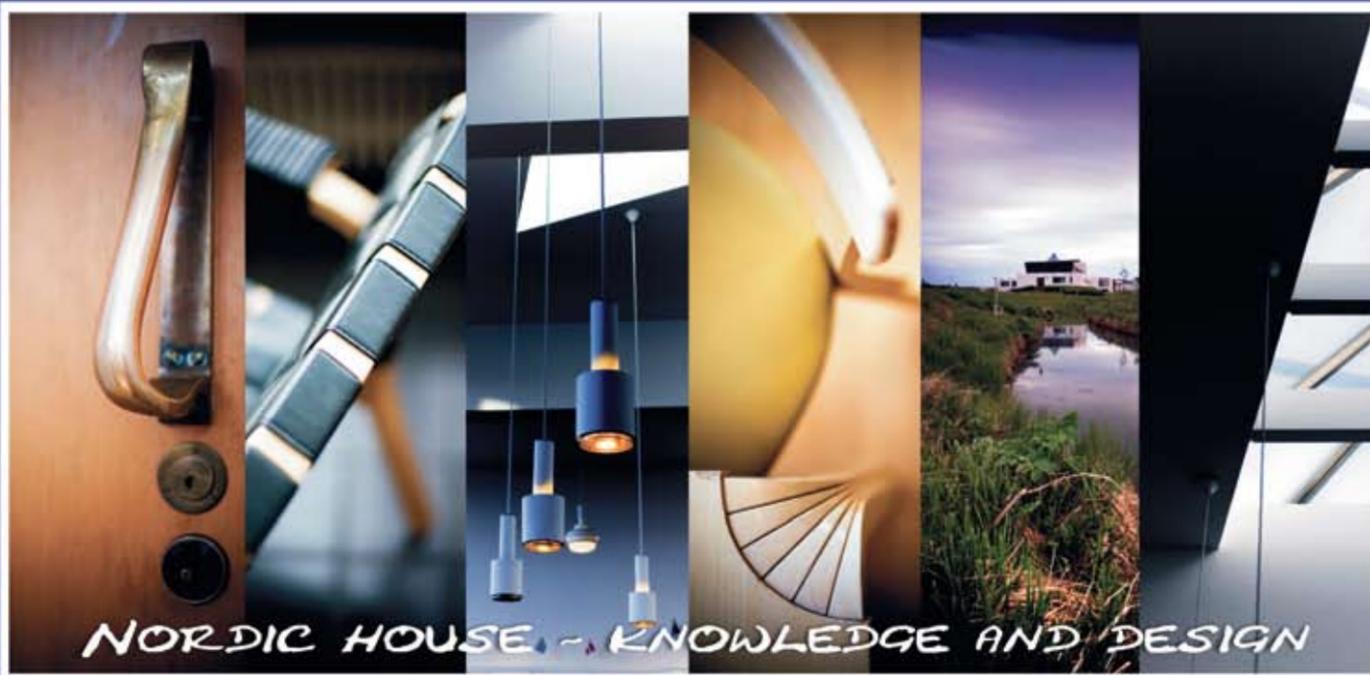
Fire is needed by the newcomer
Whose knees are frozen numb;
Meat and clean linen a man needs
Who has fared across the fells.*

The Icelandic Sheep,
Keeping the people alive since 874 AD.

*From the Hávamál, 1300 AD



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The Lessons of Life

Lay Low's fortune in the unfortunate

At the beginning of 2006, Lovísa Elísabet Sigrúnardóttir was just known as the girl from Benny Crespo's Gang. And even that would be stretching it, since the band was only known by a small group of people who pay attention to the grassroots of the Reykjavík music scene. All that changed when she released her first attempt at solo work under the alias Lay Low on her Myspace page in 2006. It was an instant hit and in a matter of months she had been signed by the Cod Music record label, published her first album, sold 9000 copies and won three categories at the Icelandic Music Awards. By the end of 2006, everyone knew Lay Low. As it turns out, things tend to move fast for Lovísa.

The moniker Lay Low is apt. It hints at the quiet, almost shy and subdued persona that is Lovísa Sigrúnardóttir. And just like Lay Low's music, Lovísa has a very pleasant presence. To get the conversation flowing, I ask her when she first started to play an instrument.

"I started to play the piano when I was ten years old. I don't really count the year I spent learning the flute when I was eight because I was not a very good student. I learned to play the piano for five years, but when I entered my teens, I gave it up. It was no longer cool. That's when I started to play the bass."

For a woman of her relatively small stature, the bass hardly seems like an obvious choice to replace the piano. "No it isn't. I belonged to a church, and there was a band that always played there, young people with electric guitars and drums, and they needed a bass player and asked me if I would learn the bass. That's what started it I guess. It was a lot of fun. I played the bass for many years, and it was my instrument up until I joined Benny Crespo's Gang. That's when I started to play the guitar in a band. I was awful. I could play a little guitar, by myself, but I had no idea how to play in a rock band. I could never keep the beat. Eventually, they had me play synthesizers as well to hide the fact that I wasn't a very good guitar player. But playing in Benny Crespo's Gang was the first time I really started to play the guitar. And think about it as an instrument. I started to write a little myself and it snowballed until I started as a solo artist. That's my musical upbringing."

The church Lovísa refers to is the free church congregation Kefas, which her parents belonged to. Lovísa was an active participator in organised youth operation in the church for many years, which remains somewhat responsible for her musical success. "I played with the church band for a long time. I only learned to play the bass in a music school for a year, a year and a half maybe. Almost everything I learned on the bass, I learned from playing in that band during mass once a week for a long, long time. But I don't play with them anymore."

Are you religious?

"Yes I am. I don't belong to the congregation anymore, but I have my own faith."

ROOTS

Lovísa is born in London to an Icelandic mother and a Sri Lankan father. Her parents divorced when she was three and her mother brought her back to Iceland, first to live in Kópavogur, but they eventually settled in the Laugarnes district of Reykjavík. Her father still lives in London and Lovísa and him still have a strong relationship. But does she have any ties to her Sri Lankan heritage?

"I have a distant family in Sri Lanka. My grandmother's siblings and their families. My

grandfather came to London on a boat as a young man, like so many people at the time. He got a job there and has been living there for a long time. He doesn't even speak the language anymore. Sadly, I've never been there. I am always planning to go. My grandmother and a part of my family in London still goes there often. The situation in Sri Lanka has been very difficult, so it's not the best time to go, but I really hope to go there sometime. You have to know where you come from."

I ask if she does anything special to foster that relationship with her Sri Lankan heritage, cook traditional food for example? "Not really. It is a very special place for me, but most of the time I'm not even aware of it... You know, I am just Icelandic. I don't even notice that I have a darker complexion than most Icelanders. I never even think about it. But because I have a very good relationship with my family in London, I try to pay attention to what is happening there. But I have not really explored those roots."

COUNTRY MUSIC

On Lovísa's debut album, *Please Don't Hate Me*, she plays what could best be described as country & western music, heavily influenced by American blues and roots music. On her new album, out next month, she takes an even more decisive step towards country music. How did a young girl from Laugarnes become fixated on country?

"There were so many different paths for me towards country. I think some of it goes back to my church band. Many songs we played were inspired by gospel, blues and country and that's when I first started to appreciate country music, although I was not deeply interested in it at the time. When I got a little older, I got into country through a good friend of mine and I began to discover a lot of old country. People tend to think of country music and think of cowboys and horses, which is very far from what I am into. Country is such a wide music genre. I really don't like a lot of the new stuff. I am more into the Nashville period, from around 1960. That's really the period that inspired and influenced my new album."

"It didn't hurt that the producer who worked with me on this new album is a big fan of the same period in country music. He wanted to record the whole album with the technique used in that period. The whole album was recorded using analog technique, and all the equipment was old. I even think some of the strings had mould. But it was a lot of fun to do. There is a very different vibe through the whole album just from recording in that environment. You can really hear the difference."

LAY LOW IS BORN

The songs from *Please Don't Hate Me* are characterised by that same low key aura and easy demeanour that surrounds Lovísa. She openly admits that she was very sceptical about her abilities as a singer and had reservations about her music. A part of the charm on *Please Don't Hate Me* is that this tentativeness is almost audible in her recordings. Was it difficult step to take to come out as a solo artist and publish her own material?

"Yes, I often wonder how I got myself into this position where I am today. I am putting out my second album, I have spent the last two months in London recording with experienced professionals, and it all feels very adult. I am still coming to grips with the fact that this could be a professional career for me."

"When I put that one song on my Myspace site. I was really shy about letting people hear me sing. I had done some singing with Benny Crespo's Gang, but it was totally different. I had a whole band behind me, and the singing was completely

different. But all of a sudden I was there, alone with an acoustic guitar, singing by myself. That evolved into an album contract and all of a sudden I had an album to record. I didn't even have enough songs for an album. First I had to write more material for an album. I essentially just released a demo. The songs are just how they came to me originally. There was not a lot of thought put into it."

Despite the album being published as essentially a first draft, the Icelandic public fell in love with it. It sold 9000 copies and won three categories at the Icelandic music awards. In a matter of months Lovísa had gone from being a minor mystique sensation to playing international music festivals and having her songs featured on hit television dramas like *Grey's Anatomy*. It all happened fast.

"The album came out two years ago, and at the time I never thought anyone would buy it. I wasn't even thinking about it, I was just glad to be able to do it. I was really surprised when it started to sell like it did. There were a few people who knew our band, Benny Crespo's Gang, and at first I was just the girl from Benny Crespo's Gang. When the album came out in October, I was working in Skifan record store, and people would come up to me and ask about the album: "who is this?" and asked me to describe the music and if I would recommend it, without even knowing that they had my album in their hands. Just before Christmas I started to notice that people had begun to recognise me, and ask if I was this Lay Low person. That was new for me as well. I have never gotten used to calling myself Lay Low.

How did it all come about?

In 2005 I had access to a rehearsal space through Benny Crespo's Gang had a rehearsal space and some of my friends and I decided to start a band. We were just fooling around with some country songs and soon we had three original songs, but we didn't have a singer. Since I had mostly written of the basis of the songs, I tried to sing some of them myself. It was awful. I used a lot of effects, a lot of overdrive and overload to hide my voice because I was so shy. But my friends liked it and said I sang well. I didn't really believe them. Soon after that, two of them moved abroad to go to school so the band broke up.

"I continued to write and do some singing though, and my first song was *Please Don't Hate Me*, which, again I recorded with a lot of overdrive because I was so shy. I let a friend of mine hear it and she encouraged me to put it on Myspace, which I did for two weeks before taking it out again. In the meantime, people from the Cod Music label had heard it and they asked me to play a gig for them. I had never played live by myself before and I only had 3 songs. That's when the name came. There was no real thought behind it. I just needed a name for the poster because I was playing my first show and I didn't want to be Lovísa, because I thought everyone would relate that to Benny Crespo's Gang, so I wanted it sound like it was maybe a band. My friend suggested Lay Low, it sounded a bit like Lovísa so... Soon people started to call me Lay Low. I never do that myself. I always introduce myself as Lovísa. That's how it started. This was in February 2006 and I had an album out in October."

IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH

But it wasn't always this easy. Before she ever became known as Lay Low, she had to struggle to just be Lovísa. "I was very sick for two years, and for a long time nobody knew what was wrong with me," she tells me. "The first year I was able to work and go to school, but as it progressed I wasn't able to do anything. I couldn't drive, I couldn't talk and I needed help to shower. The second year, I was constantly going through treatments to try to >>>





get better. I was in persistent pain. At last I was discovered to have non-malignant tumour by my pituitary gland. It was extremely difficult because I also had a very rare neurological disease on top of it. Eventually I had an operation and it all got better. That was a new beginning. It was a very special experience.

She says this experience taught her to put things in perspective, and I ask her how this has affected her as a musician. "What I learned from this was to appreciate the smaller things. And your health. I look at this as a second chance at life. Nobody knew what was wrong with me and nobody could say for certain that I would be OK again. I was nineteen and I thought I would spend the rest of my life like this, not be able to do anything. That was not a very uplifting vision for the future."

"Nobody knew if the operation would be a success but it went better than anyone believed it would, so for me it was a second chance. That makes you re-evaluate things. Sometimes I forget it. I can remember it now when I talk about it now. I have to remind myself more often that I am on my second chance so that this was not all for nothing. Sadly, there are a lot of people who are not as lucky as me to be able to stand up again after a difficult struggle so I have to be thankful for that. This is reflected in some of the lyrics on my first album, it was closer to me then. But I think this also changed me a lot as a person. I was so young. I was still in school and I had no idea what to do with my life. You learn from that experience."

Lovísa and fellow band-member from Benny Crespo's Gang, Magnús Öder, had been married, but around the same time she started to make a comeback from her illness, she also got divorced. "We were very young. Just kids really. I think it is kind of cute to think about it afterwards. We are very good friends today, but it wasn't working out as a relationship. I don't think we are any worse off for having tried it. We could have done something a lot more awful. I find it funny to be able to say that I was divorced by the age of 22. Thankfully there were no kids. There is just a dog that goes back and forth between us."

Lovísa and Magnús maintain a very close personal and professional relationship, and apart from playing together in Benny Crespo's Gang, Magnús has been a permanent fixture in her live back-up band, both in Iceland and abroad. "We worked it all out between us. We are just very good friends. We are more like brothers and sister really. I am very glad for that. Not everybody can be such good friends after they break up."

All in all, Lovísa seems to have been rather fortunate through life?

"Yes well..."

Or perhaps, more fortunate in your unfortunate really?

"Yes. A lot of good has come out of the bad things."

Lay Low's new album Farewell to Goodnight's Sleep, is out October 16. That same day, Lay Low will play a release concert in Frikkirkjan and play the Iceland Airwaves festival.

I COULD PLAY A LITTLE GUITAR, BY MYSELF, BUT I HAD NO IDEA HOW TO PLAY IN A ROCK BAND. I COULD NEVER KEEP THE BEAT. EVENTUALLY, THEY HAD ME PLAY SYNTHESISERS AS WELL TO HIDE THE FACT THAT I WASN'T A VERY GOOD GUITAR PLAYER



CD REVIEWS



THE VERDICT
No newbies on EP but new versions compensate for this

LISTEN
www.myspace.com/
brianjonestownmassacre

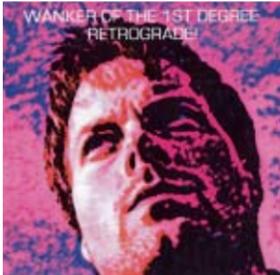
THE BRIAN JONESTOWN MASSACRE

Just Like Kicking Jesus



REVIEWED BY MARCUS WALSH

This record has two lots of two versions of songs and then the superbly titled 'Bring Me The Head Of Paul McCartney On Heather Mill's Wooden Peg' which appears on their latest album 'My Bloody Underground'. Fans may feel hard done by the lack of fresh material, but this is really just a thank you to Iceland from the ever-changing, always-partying and forever mesmerising band for the good times had here. The white shoegaze of both English and Icelandic versions of 'Amazing Electronic Talking Cave' wash so well together that they could have used both for one composition. The red and green swivels in the psychedelic title track doesn't spoil the colour either. The whole EP is drenched in feedback and their choice of FX is once again ooh la la. The band gives away so much stuff away for free that it would be a bit rich for an onslaught of grumbles. No complaints here.



THE VERDICT
Newcomer is a little hard on himself in his choice of name

LISTEN
www.myspace.com/
josefkarl

WANKER OF THE 1ST DEGREE

Retrograde!



REVIEWED BY MARCUS WALSH

This debut is an absolute scattershot of electronic ideas, but just because you are scatterbrained doesn't necessarily mean you are a wanker. With a blockbusting sixteen tracks, clocking in at just over 36 minutes, the trouble is that an idea doesn't get the opportunity to flourish like it deserves and that's a shame. The sound is very reminiscent of British contemporary Nathan Fake, employing Yamaha keyboard distortion to a very choppy effect like in the excellent 'Blast Them All'. If only the idea was fleshed out beyond its mere 1 minute and 40 seconds, then it could form part of the spine of the album. This is not yet fully realised enough to be termed Intelligent Dance Music™ but it does display compelling potential. The next step for Jósef Karl Gunnarsson will be an interesting one and despite the apparent inconsistency here, he can still go and rub one out in satisfaction.

CONCERT REVIEW BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON — PHOTO BY GAS



SIGN PREPARES FOR SUPERSTARDOM

Rock Stars in the Making



Endless Dark had just finished their part in warming up the very moderate number of people already gathered at Amsterdam early on Saturday night when we joined them. The thin crowd expanded somewhat when indie-rock outfit Mammút stepped on stage to do their part. Performing material from their newly-released sophomore album Karkari, Mammút got a very welcome reception. Behind the strength of vocalist Katrína Mogensen, Mammút is an enjoyable live band, and their long-overdue return from a self-imposed hiatus is surely welcomed.

With the stated reason for the night's show to raise funds for an upcoming tour in support of their last year's release The Hope, Sign should be pleased with the turnout. When the band appeared on stage, Amsterdam was packed and crowd was ready to rock. For the last year, Sign has quietly been making a name for themselves in international rock circles, courtesy of Kerrang! magazine. The band was recently awarded a spot on an Iron Maiden tribute disk alongside established acts such as Metallica and Machine Head,

with a cover of Maiden's Run to the Hills. The band used this opportunity to debut the song in front of a live audience. A similar Kerrang! release where the band covered Youth Gone Wilde, had previously landed the band a spot on tour with Skid Row.

While this might suggest that the band plays heavy metal the old fashioned way, Sign's music is really power pop, thinly disguised as metal. The Darkness comes to mind. Sing-along choruses with a hard rock edge, written for mass consumption. But none of the above really matters, because onstage Sign look and act the part of bigger-than-life rockstars better than anyone since Mötley Crüe did 20 years ago. I've seen them play live about ten times in recent years and everytime I've been equally impressed with their stage persona and performance. Their perceived shortage of metal pedigree should not hold this band back as long as they can keep the cool. 🇵🇸

WHO
Sign
Mammút
Endless Dark

WHERE
Amsterdam

WHEN
Saturday, September 20

THE VERDICT
Sign proved they are ready, willing and able to rock.



MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS – EDDAS AND SAGAS
The ancient vellums on display



SURTSEY – GENESIS
Multimedia exhibition on a new volcanic island



THE LATE VIEW
Halldór Laxness' private photographs



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SLEEPS LIKE AN ANGRY BEAR SURE ARE ANGRY

Punk in Fast Forward

Kaffi Hljómalind is still Reykjavík's most reliable bet when it comes to all-ages shows. Regrettably, the times that the concerts begin are less than predictable. So I had to wait 45 minutes the last time I went there and this time I missed the first band, when I was 25 minutes late.

That's why I did not get to see Morri this evening. Sorry guys! The band cannot have played longer than 20 minutes. Anyway, brevity should characterise this evening in general, as no band (except Sleeps Like An Angry Bear) broke that mark.

The first band I saw was called The Best Hardcore Band In The World. Unfortunately, the four could not live up to their name at all, although their mixture of fast old-school hardcore and melodic elements would have been a good basis. However, their sloppy playing gave the whole show a very unmotivated appearance. The audience answered by standing around motionless.

After their short gig, Sleeps Like An Angry Bear got on stage. This trio really inspired me.

It was not just their traditional emo-sound, that fell somewhere between Texas Is The Reason and Mineral, that suddenly resurrected all of the teenage desperation and rhapsodic joy of those mid-90s bands. The band played flawlessly and seemed more dedicated with every song. For this reason, it is not surprising that they were the most celebrated band this evening. Good job! Just one thing: when you want to ecstatically wreck your instruments at the end of the show, just throwing your drumsticks aside and, uhm...kicking over your drum stool is not very Kurt-Cobainesque. In for a penny, in for a pound!

The last band of the evening was Death Metal Super Squad. Yet, by then there were only about 20 people left of the audience. All the others missed out on a way-too-short but intensive show by this punk rock band. They should have played more than ten minutes though. Because of their set's brevity, their show seemed somehow incomplete. Still, what would you do if everyone left right before your gig? 🐻

WHO

Morri,
The Best Hardcore Band in the World,
Sleeps Like An Angry Bear,
Death Metal Super Squad

WHERE

Hljómalind

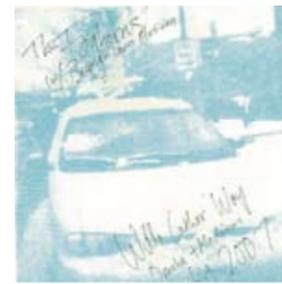
WHEN

Friday, September 19

THE VERDICT

Many interesting ideas saw light of day but the show suffered for its brevity.

CD REVIEWS



THE VERDICT

Live album would be best coming from just one venue

LISTEN

www.myspace.com/thefoghorns

THE FOGHORNS

Willa Cather Way



REVIEWED BY MARCUS WALSH

Like how The Dirtbombs throw down garage rock and soul into live recordings, The Foghorns employ percussive 'bucket music,' (a genre the band themselves have coined) and bluegrass on *Willa Cather Way* and sound decent for it; well, at least for the six first tracks anyway. The acoustics sound very different between the two live venues of Homer's in Omaha, New England and Zoma in Madison, Wisconsin. The final two tracks from the latter venue suffer as a result of a tinny recording and hearing too much of the crowd jars considerably with the previous succinct sound quality and straight-talking lyrics of singer Bart Cameron. The frankness of "This is a bad place to be sober" in 'So Sober' is akin to the author that the CD is named after and is humorous, especially in the context of the venue here being a record store. Overall, it's just a shame about the last two tracks.



THE VERDICT

Unknown quantities equate to a positive surprise

SÖKUDÓLGARNIR

Líf & Fjör



REVIEWED BY MARCUS WALSH

This record is put on the desk in a brown paper bag. No previous encounters with the band. Whatever to expect? It's just an EP so if it's tedious, then at least it will be over soon. Late Sunday night, I lit some candles and pressed play. Holy smoke. Not being able to understand foreign lyrics can often be a shortcoming to the listener if the music grates. However, a deeper listen beyond the words reveal that the folk and bluegrass on offer here is amusingly peculiar enough in its conviction while still sounding familiar. Sökudólgarnir translates as 'The Culprits' and the music is similarly mischievous. All five tracks are strong, especially the upbeat country of 'Símanúmerabúggí' that creates an urge to see it played in the flesh. The band offer variety as 'Rónablús' offers a light blues boogie, if you'll only take the record by the hand.

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ARTICLE

DJ Platur

Home at last

Ragnhildur Magnúsdóttir, is the director of From Oakland to Iceland: A Hip-Hop Homecoming, showing at this year's Iceland Airwaves festival. Raised in California and part of the famed Oakland Faders Crew, her brother DJ Platur returns to his native Iceland which he left at age 7. The film documents his life as an exported Icelander and explores his three week tour DJ'ing in his homeland, reconnecting with his family, and lifting the lid on Icelandic rap and beatboxing.

The film examines the difference between Icelandic rap and the rest of the world. How do you explain the difference?

Most people don't even know there is hip hop in Iceland; people don't put the two together. An Icelandic rapper's reality is European politics or drugs or domestic violence. They aren't shooting caps in anyone's asses

How do you describe the movie?

It's a Fusion of hip hop and Iceland, the flavor of my brother's two cultures- the beats he produced with the landscape. It contrasts. I can relate to it; although I live here now, I lived in the states for 18 years. When you're away, you really want to get back on the front of a mountain, you want to go somewhere and be in the landscape.

How would you describe your brother's works?

He mixed Bjork's 'Human behavior' and Public Enemy. I love how eclectic he is. 'Gangsta Rap meets 80's funk soul' is how to define my brother- it has to be funky.

What do you hope will happen for this movie?

I'd like to show it on a few different mediums and a couple of festivals, and a premiere in Oakland. I hope it gets out there and people see it, and if it exposes ten people to Icelandic hip hop or the great music my brothers been doing then that's perfect. There's not so much you can do with a movie this size, I'm aware of its short comings.

How has it been launching the film in Iceland?

It's been hard, the film circle here is very small and closed. The Icelandic Film Centre has been very supportive, but other than that, it's been very typically 'Icelandic' and negative. I've even had female filmmakers 'dissing' the project. I experienced that some people were relatively negative towards it and it made me want to connect to people abroad. Maybe it was because the local scene was so negative that I ended up talking to MTV. I was looking for other ventures: if anyone attempts to film something here without asking ten people in the scene for help, or if you do it on your own and show up with a film- you're almost like an intruder. At Skjaldborg where we premiered the film it was pretty positive, but there was this strange vibe around, like "who does this bitch think she is?" You have to own it. I'm not going to participate in that negative bullshit. I had 70 women in my apartment last night, all networking and female bonding. 🍀

ARTICLE BY MARCUS WALSH — PHOTO BY GAS



SCENE FROM THE PAST: ICELANDIC DELICACIES

Old Food in New Context

An Exhibition of Icelandic Food History

The buffet of the century: a history of Icelandic food culture is the first exhibit of its kind, focused on Icelandic food culture in the 20th century. Organiser Sólveig Ólafsdóttir sheds some light on the project.

So, can you tell us a little bit about the upcoming exhibition?

The exhibition is about food in Reykjavik in the 20th century. It is a timeline showing the food culture change in Reykjavik. On the opening weekend we're offering a five course menu on the Saturday, including rye bread with whipped cream. This an Icelandic version of a Danish dish that normally includes apples.

Apples were hard to get hold of earlier this century weren't they?

The myth that Icelanders ate their first apples around 1950 is simply not true. For the first 30 years of this century, if you had money you could buy apples and grapes in Reykjavik. It was very special. Most of the ships came from England or Denmark. You could call them "colonial grapes." The government banned imports on fruit and vegetables shortly after the Second World War. Sometime around 1955, we began to import fruit again, but only at Christmas time. Especially apples. The smell of the apples are deeply connected with Christmas still today.

So was it just apples available?

The only fruit that were available were for those who needed prescriptions. The doctors prescribed oranges and such for colds. The government ran this for around 25 years.

Are there any other myths that need dispelling?

From the beginning of the 20th century, until 1930, there was free import for everything into Iceland, unlike in the latter part of the 20th century. We need to dispel a few myths. We say to foreigners try the shark, try the black death, try the sea pests, but we don't like them either. There is nothing we can term typically Icelandic. There is nothing unique about this. You shouldn't like something just because it is "Icelandic". The only thing that is 'unique' is that only an Icelander would typically eat dried fish and butter.

What was Reykjavik like for foreign troops stationed here?

During the Second World War, 20,000 British soldiers got bored of the canned meat they brought. Reykjavik housewives tried to make fish and chips. There was no history of deep fried culture here though. It was just bad potatoes.

Where would this kind of event take place?

Hotel Borg was one of the locations. The cooks and the managers of the hotel tried to make the menu like continental style for the officers. The officers did not like this food. It sounds hilarious.

Did the Reykjavikians get anything back in return for their "efforts"?

In return, the canned meat that the troops brought was the hottest thing on the black market. The military brought many other things off the boat and

the freezer was the best hiding place for this.

Where do you find such interesting stories?

Before this exhibit there were no good books about Icelandic food culture. We had to do this ourselves. We gathered together old recipes and interviews. There are only primary sources for available for research purposes. A lot of untold stories. The whole thing lacks a lot of overview. We go forward and try to fill out the full picture of Icelandic food culture.

How do you recreate such history and prevent an exhibition being 'dry'?

It's difficult to put food in an exhibition and so an atmosphere will be on display in a very orderly old kitchen exhibit. Posters of old brands from Iceland will be on the walls, including one of a canned meat called 'Geysir'. Brands that have been around for many decades, having connections to every household.

Did any foods get 'lost in translation' along the way?

We are actually going to offer mistaken recipes because of the errors in translation. In one recipe from Norway in baking cookies, you should use blackcurrant, but in translation they came out as coriander cookies, so I am going to bake some of those! 🍀

Buffet of the Century: A History of Icelandic Food Culture runs from September 26 to November 23 at

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ARTICLE

The Cinematic Laboratory

Filmmakers experiment with time

BY STEVIE WARD

Sylvain Lavigne from Montreal, along with his two collaborators, Ianic Mathieu and Janick Lavoie, has launched an event called the Grettir Kabarett. The Canadian based Kino organisation invites members from around the world to meet in Reykjavik to collaborate with local artists, filmmakers, actors, and musicians in order to make films in 72 hours.

THE HYPOTHESIS

According to legend, Kino started in early 1999 in Montreal when a simple bet was waged between friends: produce an original short film every month until the new millennium and the end of the world. A year later, they were disappointed to learn that the Apocalypse had been postponed, but true to their word, and two hundred short films later, the Kino concept was born.

Laboratory Theatre is always a challenge. Fueled on a creative spirit and founded on buzzwords like 'Organic' 'Fused' and 'Collaborative', the European trend for time-based devised theatre has bred its way around the world. Thankfully, this idea has finally found its way into interactive film events, where half the joy is not in the finished article, it is in the art of making of the work itself.

THE FORMULA

Every morning during the Kino Kabaret, a brainstorming session takes place at the 'KinoLab' - a veritable 'Bat Cave' for filmmakers. The teams are formed and the rest is left to cinematic chance. "It's like putting a party together," Sylvain comments "You know where and when and what to bring, but then you have to go with the flow." Collaboration between the hosting city's artists and the Kinoites (Kino members) is the ultimate goal.

The challenge for these newly formed teams is to produce forty-five minutes of original programming with no fighting or using pre-made dialogue, scripts or footage. "Inspired by kinè, a Greek word meaning movement, KINO is Independence and Freedom of Expression." Their mission is to assemble artists who believe that the importance of a cinematographic work does not rest on the amount of its production budget; the real test is in the simultaneous fusion of different egos, creative visions and improvisational work styles.

THE CATALYST

When a lab experiment is finished, there is always an unveiling. The catalyst for great Kino film is the challenge to have the films complete for open screenings hosted by the Kinoites every seventy-two hours. As well as releasing their fledgling films into the Kabaret ambiance with cocktails and constructive criticism, each director is encouraged to muse over their new work and answer questions about their journeys and respective methodologies.

THE RESULTS

As creativity goes, it is better to expect the unexpected. "There are gems and crap, you invite everyone and they give it their best shot." Sylvain explains "It's part of the spirit of the event, there are wonderful surprises. In Berlin there was a French breadmaker who got inspired by a screening, and decided he wanted to make a Kino. It wasn't the most wonderful piece, but it wasn't bad. Now he can go back to his bakery, and say he made a film- that's a wonderful thing. Another guy came across the Reykjavik Kabaret, got adopted by a group and ended up in front of the camera—he now has an agent and is working in television." Although Kino does not promise automatic stardom or baked goods, it can offer a new challenge for film and theatre artists from various backgrounds around the world, and a great chance to share talents with a public audience. 

INFO

The Kino Kabaret is a year-long organization with over fifty independently running chapters in fourteen countries and four continents. The fifth annual Reykjavik International Film Festival (September 25-October 5, 2008) is host to this year's Kabaret. For more information please see <http://kino00.com>.

TO TAKE PART

Show up on September 27 at Hresso at 20:00.



New in Reykjavik? Need help getting started?

Service centres provide information about social services

The department of welfare gives information and advice about social entitlements and provides support in cases of social or personal problems for registered residents in Reykjavik. For general information about operations in the City of Reykjavik and additional information on e.g. specific housing benefits, pre-school applications or financial aid, you should contact service centers in your own neighbourhood:

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For a Minor Reflection

Airwaves artist to watch

Iceland Airwaves is fast approaching. The line up is complete, so now it is time to start planning what to see and what to skip. The Grapevine is always willing to lend a helping hand, so as a part of our effort to preview the festival, we present an Airwaves artist to watch, a band that you should make every effort to see this year.

Last year, the post-rock foursome For a Minor Reflection released their debut album, *Reistu þig við, sólin er komin á loft...*, an instrumental ode to the sun presumably, that was widely regarded as one of the finest releases of 2007.

Like so many bands before them, FAMR began its life in a garage. And like so many other bands, they are bound together by their love of Pink Floyd and improv blues. “The guys had been playing together for a while, and then I met [guitarist] Kjartan [Hólm] at a high school dance and we were drinking and talking and he invited me to come to jam with them in the garage,” says Guðfinnur Sveinsson, the band’s other guitar player. “We were just jamming to Comfortably Numb and improvising some blues to begin with.”

It was a modest beginning by all accounts, but things progressed fast and soon the band was head over heels in the process of recording an album. The hour-long instrumental opus was well received by the music press and fans alike. “We don’t really try to define ourselves, we don’t really think of ourselves as a post-rock band, but we won’t get mad if someone decides to call us that,” Guðfinnur says about their perception from the music press.

The success of their debut album has led to bigger and better things for the young band, and next up for the youngsters is a tour through Europe in support of Sigur Rós. “That’s like going from the first division to the premier division,” Guðfinnur says. “It is a big step for us, and I just hope we’ll be able to prove we are worth it.”

The band has already started work on their follow-up album, which should see the light of day in the not too distant future. “There will be lesser blues influence on it,” Guðfinnur explains. But there is still room for some improvisation. “Kjartan usually brings in the basic idea and then we improvise around it. Then the songs continue to take shape while we play around with them in rehearsal.”

“But right now, we are just focusing on the tour. Airwaves is just a warm up for the tour. If we do well there, then that’s just an added bonus.”



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The Life Aquatic: Iceland Style

BY DESIREE ANDREWS

Thanks to the development of new technology designed to tackle the problems of frigid water and severe weather, Iceland's waters have become the new frontier in diving and a revolution is happening meters under the surface.

Underwater explorers have travelled the world for decades, building a legacy of adventure and romance. But until now, Iceland has been left all but untouched. According to Tobias Klose, owner of the Reykjavik based dive company Dive.is, today cold-water recreational diving is becoming a trend but diving here is more than fish-gazing and underwater tourism. Commercial divers have been in high demand for years and the scientific community is starting to turn their eyes toward the icy waters of this once forgotten area.

Jeff Timm, a diving guide at Diving.is, took me to Þingvellir National Park to give me a taste of dry-suit diving at Silfra, considered by many well-respected divers to be one of the top five sites in the world. With a visibility that is unrivalled—on a good day a diver can see over 100 meters—and deep canyons created by the divide in the American and Eurasian continental plates, diving here feels like an epic adventure even if you're just going down a few meters.

The dive gear takes about 20 minutes to put on. Silfra water is cold and protecting every part of your body becomes paramount if you're going in. Getting suited up is a cumbersome process, starting with a full-body thermal layer and completed by a heavy neoprene dry suit. Aside from the oxygen, this is probably the most important tool for diving in the icy waters.

Once I'm adequately waterproofed, I put on a snug neoprene dive hood, gloves and a mask before I am loaded up with weights, an oxygen tank and flippers. I have to say that even though everyone in full dive gear looks a little ridiculous, it still feels pretty bad-ass. All I need is a gun strapped to my hip and a 1970s spy theme playing in the background.

Cold is not quite the right word to describe Silfra. My lips instantly become numb; they are only thing exposed to the true temperature of the 3°C water. I breathe softly, pulling air from my regulator and head down below. It's certainly no dip in a tropical sea; there's a constricting feeling of the freezing water pushing in on me but that goes away after a bit and I'm left to experience what divers in this area have been feeling for the past two decades: an overwhelming sense of amazement.

While recreational diving is a growing industry in Iceland, commercial and scientific diving has an exciting, if not long, tradition. Div-

ers like Erlendur Bogason and Omar Hafliðason, who have been diving for over ten and twenty years respectively, know that Iceland's waters are ripe for discovery.

While the rough waters surrounding the island will tear apart most sunken vessels within two or three winters, there are still protected fjords where lost ships are preserved and these wrecks are just waiting to be found. "In Iceland there are a lot of undiscovered things," says Erlendur, a scientific research diver. "One year we found three wrecks in one week."

The secrets to aquatic treasures like sunken ships are found on land as often as they are underwater. As a boy, Omar heard stories of farmers in the West Fjords who looked out past the shore and saw dozens of men walking across the frozen sheets of ice toward land, leaving their ship, deeply embedded the frozen sea, to sink to the bottom of the ocean. For a long time he wrote off the tales as rumour but when he found the story written in a book of 17th century Icelandic sagas, the details of a sunken British ship were so well documented that he thought there might be something to it after all.

Years later, as a commercial diver, Omar and a few friends set out to find the lost ship. "At first, nobody believed that we would find anything," he said. "We had the stories with us. The eyewitness accounts were well described and we had good landmarks—in a way it was like a treasure map." Using the clues from the saga, they pinpointed the location and sent down an underwater sonar device to see what they could find. The trip was worth the effort as the sonar reported back abnormal echoes that indicated the existence of foreign objects on the ocean's floor.

After their hunch was confirmed, Omar and his team took on several dives over the course of a few years, pulling up wood planks that established the ship's age—over three hundred years old—and later, using a metal detector, they found three cannons.

Omar and his team had solved the mystery of the saga. "It's not often that a commercial diver gets to be part of an adventure like this," he says. "And when we do it's very exciting."

Omar isn't the only diver to follow the clues from the past to interesting dive sites. On a trip to the northeast coast, Erlendur ran into an old man who claimed to have seen two British trawlers sink in the harbour near his farm in 1933. The farmer said that all of the men survived the shipwrecks but were plagued with disease and had to be quarantined to the small farm for over 30 days. Erlendur loaded up his gear and found the sunken trawlers within an hour. In doing so, he unravelled a rich strand of history that would otherwise have been forgotten.

I end my dive less eventfully than these divers, but I am still satis-

fied with the otherworldly feeling of going just a few meters below the surface. It strikes me that the history of Iceland is so pervasive that it's nearly tangible; it leaves me wondering what else might be waiting to be found. 

Erlendur Bogason is a scientific diver who is most famous for discovering Strýtan, the world's only geothermic chimney that can be reached by a scuba diver. Below is a list of his top five dive sites in Iceland.

Lónafjörður located in northeast Iceland.

Best dived April-May. Some 10–15 years ago I was working as a diver in Þórshöfn and the local fishermen showed me a big steam of cod. Every year the cod comes to the same spots to spawn. Since then I have dived there every year to study the cod spawning behaviour and also how the cod behave around fishing gear, especially hooks.

The hot water submarine cones in Eyjafjörður

In 1997, we discovered the giant 50m high cone in Eyjafjörður. It rises from the seafloor at 70m depth up to 15m depth under the seafloor. The fresh water that comes out of the cone is 73.6°C. This was the first underwater area in Iceland to be protected by law.

Icelandic fresh water rivers

When you dive under the surface of a clear Icelandic river you will discover colours and fish you don't expect and diving under a big waterfall is an indescribable experience.

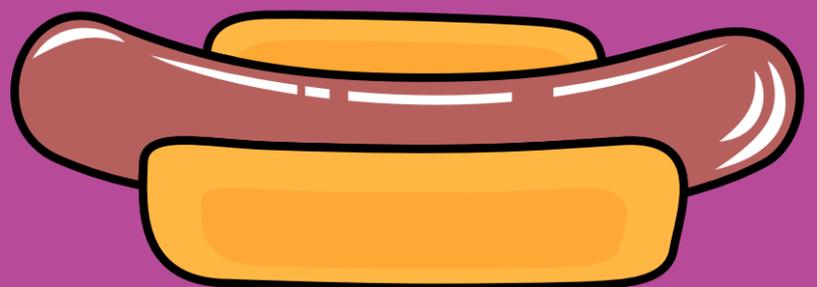
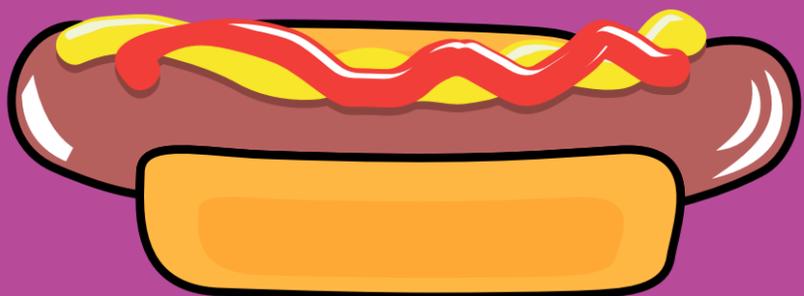
The Skútan Standard in the harbour of Akureyri

The 60m long and 11m wide ship was discovered by me and two other divers in 1997.

Surtsey and Heimaey

I dived here with Karl Gunnarsson, a seaweed biologist. We were studying how life begins at the floor of the new island. This is special for me because I was born in the Westmann Islands and the eruptions of Surtsey started in 1963 – the same year as I was born.

Dive.is offers trips to Silfra and other dive sites year-round. Check out their website, www.dive.is, for more information.



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INTERVIEW BY BERGUR EBBI BENEDIKTSSON — PHOTO BY GAS



A Journey Without a Determined Destination

"We are interested in the phenomenon of screen-tests. It is an interesting blend of acting and being yourself," says Ólafur Ólafsson one of the two artists behind the exhibition Everybody is Doing What They Can, recently opened in the Reykjavík Art Museum - Hafnarhús. The show revolves around videos of people being interviewed in a screen-test manner, as if they are auditioning for a part. Some videos were produced before the opening but there is also a studio inside the exhibition hall where people are interviewed on the spot.

The exhibition, which Ólafur's collaborator Libia Castro says is best explained by using the word "project," is the first in a series set up in Hafnarhúsið where the relationship between the museum and the public space outside its walls is examined. I ask Ólafur and Libia about the idea behind the screentests and how it is aimed to examine the relationship between the public and the museum.

IMAGE BUILDING PROCESS

"The original idea we had was to make an advertisement for television but we weren't sure what subject we wanted to advertise, if any, since that was not the main issue. In order to start that project we decided to arrange informal interviews with people and record them. Then we realised we had two parallel projects and we decided to drop the advertisement part but to go full forward with the screen-tests," says Ólafur, and Libia concludes that the uncertainty about the subject is ongoing. "We don't have the image yet. We chose a group which is related partly through certain issues and ask them about journalism, advertisements, economical- and partly environmental issues," she says and adds that building the image is a work in progress

INFO

Libia Castro and Ólafur Ólafsson have worked together as a pair in numerous projects in the past years. Their art often deals with themes of socio-political situations and they put an effort in to integrating their art in to the community where it is shown. They do this by staying for long periods on site and with the cooperation of local communities and activist groups. Libia and Ólafur had a big project on the Manifesta7 Art Festival in South Tyrol in Italy earlier this year and also had a notable input on the CAC Festival in Malaga in 2007. They have received several awards for their achievements.

and maybe it will be more strictly moulded three weeks after the opening or maybe it will still be quite loose.

A TRAVELLING SHOW

Their idea is to take the exhibition out of the exhibition hall and project some of the videos in other locations around town to further difuse the borders between the public space and the museum. "Our background lies in social sculpture, life art, fluxus and conceptual art. Life art is experiential, it is not aiming at putting itself apart from life but to take a place in life," says Ólafur. Maybe it is the journey but not the destination? Ólafur and Libia agree on that in this case. There is no final goal since the process itself is the goal. In the meantime, I guess everybody is doing what they can.

Ólafur and Libia's project will be up until November 2. A new exhibition by Hlynur Halldórsson which carries on the theme of erasing borders between the museum and the public will open on November 6. The exhibition is called "In/Out" and is about making a deal with various companies around town and borrows items from them to install them in the museum in a formal manner. The companies, which can be shops or other services, then get pieces of art from the museum and put them on display in their premises.

We advise people to go to Hafnarhúsið and see for themselves. If the exhibitions are journeys without a determined destination a visitor can surely expect something similar from the trip to the museum. 

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DESTINATION

Akranes Sports Museum

BY JAMES CRUGNALE — PHOTO BY GAS

Akranes, located 48 km northeast of Reykjavik, offers one of Iceland's most comprehensive museums that will appeal to those with many varying interests. Getting there is half the fun. After a long adventurous slog through Iceland's third longest tunnel, Hvalfjörður, you follow the viewpoint sign (the infographic is shaped like a cloverleaf) until you see the giant ship (Sigurfari, which is the only decked vessel preserved from former times in Iceland.)

The museum offers several different sections, including multiple museum-within-a-museums like the folk museum (with artifacts left over from the cod wars), and many other colorful, diverse exhibitions.

Perhaps the most attention grabbing of these is the Iceland Sports Museum, built in 2002. If you wanted to discover every possible achievement and contribution Iceland has made in sports, you've hit pay dirt. Vilhjálmur Einarsson's Olympic silver medal from his historic triple jump in 1956 is included, as are his footprints measuring the approximate distance he sprawled in his momentous achievement.

Other Olympic paraphernalia includes Vala Flosadóttir's pole from the 2000 Olympics where she won the bronze and Bjarni Friðriksson's judo suit from his bronze-winning effort in 1984. There is a special section dedicated to Jón Páll Sigmarsson with many of his trophies from the World's Strongest Man competition and NBA player, Pétur Guðmundsson's Los Angeles Lakers pre-game basketball outfit. Museum curator Jón Allansson is optimistic that he'll be receiving items from this year's silver-winning handball team soon. "We hope we'll get something from them," Allansson said.

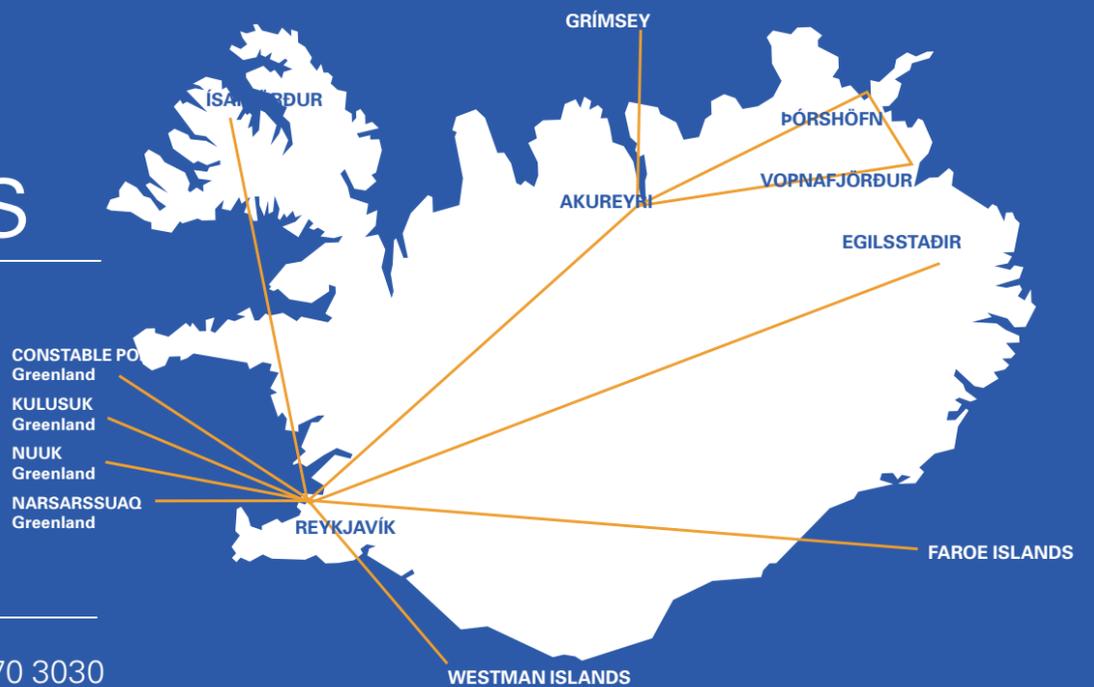
Akranes Museum Centre
Garðar, 300 Akranes
www.museum.is

Open September 15 - May 14
13:00 - 17:00



A BICYCLE CRUSHED BY JÓN PÁLL SIGMARSSON, THE STRONGEST MAN IN THE WORLD; MAY HE REST IN PEACE

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DESTINATION

Rounding up the Sheep

BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE — PHOTOS BY GAS

The Icelandic people have a strong, abiding connection with their farm animals. Though, admittedly, in everyday life in downtown Reykjavík, they've become a mere cliché – a stuffed animal for children or a novel cuisine found in national dishes like svið. But for generations past, sheep and horses both guaranteed income and survival for rural settlements. Every fall, this fact is celebrated when the urbanites flock to the country side to partake in traditional sheep herding!

All over Iceland, sheep are led into the highlands in the spring, where they can enjoy the advantages of a life in nature for the summer: unlimited grass, freedom of movement and best of all, no people around to chase them. Before winter the sheep have to be on the farm again to save them from hypothermia or to be brought to slaughterhouse. Either way, every year between September and October (depending on the region, they are earlier up North) small groups of young men are chosen to round up the sheep and bring them back to the lowland. The search is an adventure, which can last up to a week and during which the participants get by on the backs of horses only accompanied by smoked lamb snacks, warm clothes, dirty jokes and some encouraging booze.

The big social event is held the day the group is expected back with the herd. Originally, the farmers met to divvy up the returning sheep by their unique ear indentations. Nowadays, the homecoming of the sheep has become a popular tradition unique to Iceland. The whole community gathers at the herding place and passes the time waiting for the flock singing folk-songs, drinking and other forms of revelry. Kids have fun playing with the horses and sheep that have already arrived. In the evening there is often a great celebration with the requisite drinking and dancing, which concludes the festivities. 🍷

For info on round-up dates:
www.bondi.is



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TOP 5 ACTIVITIES ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON



Númi Þorkell

Númi Þorkell Thomasson is a 29-year old half-Icelandic, half-German cook. The cool kids also know him as the drummer of the late legendary indie-rock group Anhéri. After a few years living in Berlin, where he studied to become a chef at the Kempinski Bristol Berlin Restaurant, Númi is back and is about to open a new restaurant, Segurmo, at the Boston bar on Laugavegur. “The menu will be basic but delicious. You will be able to choose from a dish of meat, fish and vegetables, but the courses will change every week”, says Númi who, in addition to cooking the meals, also plans to stand in the doorway like a crazy Italian chef and wave to hungry bystanders and encourage them to step in. Númi has charm so it will probably pay off.

1 KOLAPORTIÐ

This is the flea market where you can find anything from salted cod to the LP you've always been looking for. It's even fun to be there if you don't have any money.

2 A MAKE-OVER AND FUNKY DANCE

Have some artificial nails installed and do a silhouette dance in front of cameras. At least that's what I did last Sunday for my friends who are going to use this in some kind of dance-project.

3 HANG OUT WITH PARENTS

On Sundays it's great to meet friends who have children. Just to hang out and chat and watch the children play.

4 ESJAN

To take a hike up Mt. Esja is a good activity when you've been staying in Reykjavík for too long. Up there you can see the town in perspective. How small and insignificant it all is.

5 TO PICK LOVAGE

Sometimes I spend my Sunday afternoons sneaking into gardens to pick lovage, which I use as a spice for the authentic Icelandic meat soup. I only pick it where it is obviously not being used by anyone so I don't consider it stealing.

TOP 5 ICELANDIC WRITERS



Tinna Gunnlaugsdóttir

Tinna Gunnlaugsdóttir is the artistic director of the National Theatre of Iceland. Before taking on that job she worked as an actor on stage and in movies for 25 years. Tinna is now promoting the winter schedule of the theatre where she says the emphasis will be put on Icelandic pieces. “On the big stage we'll have two big plays: Summerlight, and then Comes the Night which is based on the novel with the same name by Jón Kalman Stefánsson and Frida...viva la vida by Brynhildur Guðjónsdóttir” She also points out that this winter also holds a new piece by Sigurður Pálsson, one of Iceland's most respected authors and a new production of an Icelandic classic, Hart í bak, from 1962. She also encourages people to check out an experimental production of Macbeth that will start this month.

1 HALLDÓR LAXNESS

He is more Icelandic than anything else, but his works deal with feelings relative to all people and therefore he is without borders.

2 JÓN KALMAN STEFÁNSSON

In a way Jón Kalman is a logical and a modern continuation of Laxness, but he also has elements of Scandinavian magic realism.

3 VIGDÍS GRÍMSDÓTTIR

She has insight that makes her creation palpable and true.

4 EINAR MÁR GUÐMUNDSSON

Einar Már is a sincere man of storytelling.

5 KRISTÍN MARJA BALDURSDÓTTIR

I just feel that what she writes is interesting and exciting.

TOP 5 INTERESTING BUILDINGS IN REYKJAVÍK



Elís Pétursson

Elís Pétursson is a 28-year old musician from Reykjavík who, among other things, plays bass with the pop-group Jeff Who. The band is now on the verge of releasing its second album, which will follow up their popular debut from 2006. “It will hopefully be ready before the Iceland Airwaves Festival. We had finished recording and then we decided to do some finesse changes,” says Elís. He also implies that the overall sound of the new album will be a little bit more sophisticated and a little less happy-go-lucky but without jeopardizing the main task of being excellent pop. We look forward to hearing the album and can agree that its first single, the excellent She's Got the Touch, sounds promising.

1 THE MUSIC HALL

When I walk down Bankastræti I sometimes imagine how cool this house will be when it's finished. It will sprinkle the downtown of Reykjavík with a metropolitan touch. At least it will be cooler than the Esso gas station and the tire-shop that used to be there. I guess I will miss the Go-kart lap though.

2 HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA

I grew up near this church and even though it's going through some make-over today I'm always fond of it. I can't imagine a Sunday without the chime of the out-of-tune bells.

3 KÓPAVOGSKIRKJA

I hope it's OK to reach a little bit out of Reykjavík to the nearby Kópavogur. I basically like the architecture of this structure. It's neat because it is not trying too hard.

4 THE NÆPA

I like the Icelandic name of this house “næpa” which means turnip. Instead of giving it a more grand name like “Kremlin” or “The Red Tower” we basically thought it reminded us so much of a turnip we couldn't resist.

5 THE OLD CITY LIBRARY AT ÞINGHOLTSSTRÆTI

It's a genuinely elegant house. It's kind of hard to imagine that this used to be a library. It should host a specialised bar serving only whiskey and cognac.



Stuffed with stuff

Even though your commitment to serving comfort food to a starving public at ludicrous hours of the day is laudable – and even though a specific blend of your oily, greasy, oily garlic oil and surprisingly spicy chilli powder will make just about anything taste pretty good – I still think you need to re-think some of your strategies.

Haukur S Magnússon lovingly points out some of Pizza King's slight flaws .

PAGE 6

Here, along the liquid coast of the ocean, everything is flowing at the same speed as our blood: rolling waves, causeways of waterfalls and rainbows at the elements' edges, sunny spotlights on the slopes of hills, climbing clouds and fog. The ocean reworks both the reflection and the reflected giving us the freedom not to change anything ourselves – and to fear no changes.

Ivetta Gerasimchuk lyrically captures the Icelandic spirit

PAGE 6

Laboratory Theatre is always a challenge. Fuelled on a creative spirit and founded on buzzwords like 'Organic' 'Fused' and 'Collaborative', the European trend for time-based devised theatre has bred its way around the world.

Stevie Ward deconstructs an experiment conducted by Kino Kabaret

PAGE 39

All over Iceland, sheep are led into the highlands in the spring. There, they can enjoy all the advantages of a life in freedom for the summer: unlimited grass, freedom of movement and best of all, no people around to chase them. Encounters with feral sheep (or horses, which also run free) on your excursions happen quite often.

Florian Zühlke cavorts with sheep and shepherds on a traditional Réttir

PAGE 45



**Reykjavík
International
Film
Festival**
September 25
— October 5
2008

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Landsbankinn



PÓSTURINN

Docs in Focus

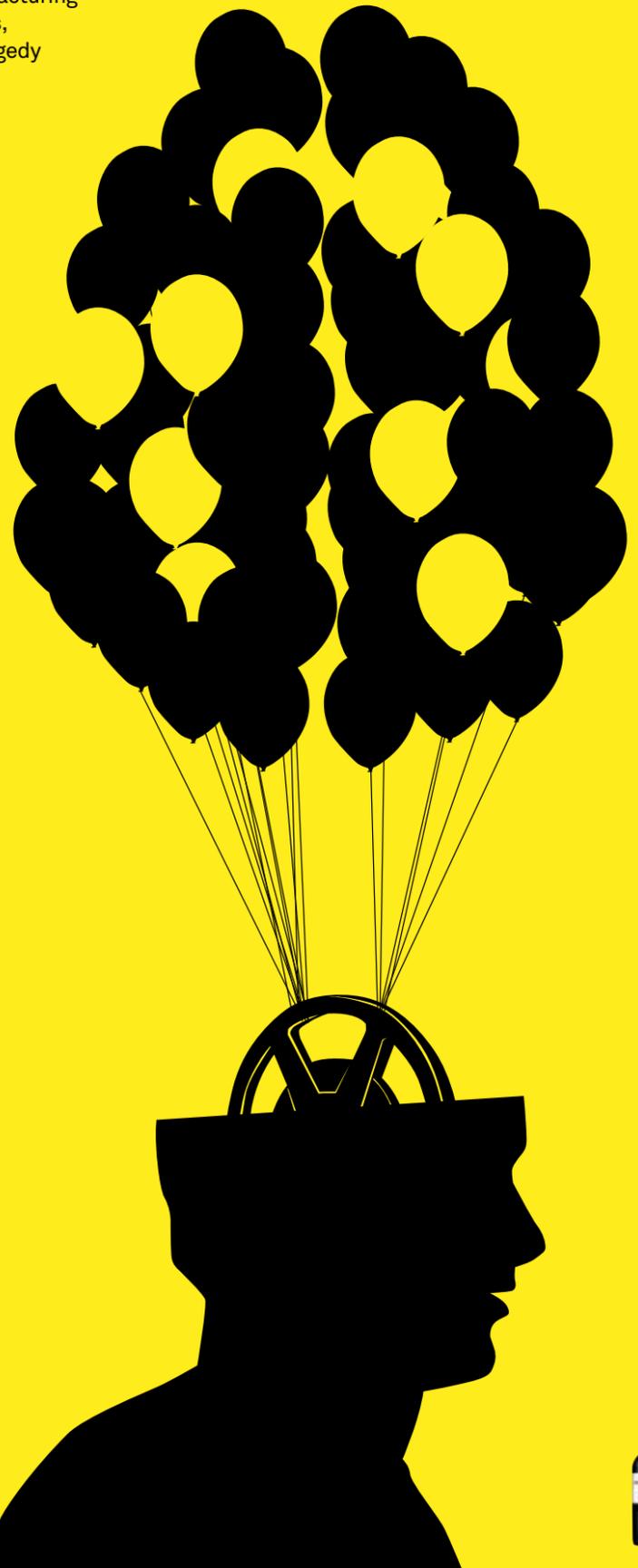
↘ The category focuses on the most interesting documentaries of the film industry today.

The diverse selection at this year's festival is a good reflection of the growth in documentary making in recent years. Viewers have realized that documentaries aren't just informative but also just as fun as other film art forms.

The film themes vary from the graffiti-artist's struggle for recognition to propaganda manufacturing in Turkmenistan. Some of these films, like *Indestructible*, depict human tragedy in a powerful way.

↘ Ticket info:

riff.is



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The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE **iNFO**



Music, Art, Films and Events Listings + Eating, Drinking and Shopping + Map
+ *Get Medieval at the Culture House · Haddaway at Nasa · Ben Frost*

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL AND
ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND.

Issue 15 2008

www.grapevine.is

What:

ID Lab at Reykjavik Art Museum (B5)





GEIMSTOFAN



THE VIKING

ICELAND'S LARGEST SOUVENIR SHOP

THE VIKING : INFO

Hafnarstræti 3 | Hafnarstræti 104
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Music

DANCE-ON-THE-TABLE, SCREAM TILL YOU LOSE YOUR VOICE

If you're looking for a night of energetic, dance-on-the-table, scream-out-song-lyrics-till-you-lose-your-voice fun, try hitting up Kaffibarinn on October 2 where three bands, Skátar, Sudden Weather Change and Sykur will take the stage starting at 21:00. Skátar, a band known for their commitment to DIY music production and lively performances, are sure to pump up the crowd and set the scene for an exciting night. If you want to get a preview, download their newest single Party Liners at grapewire.net.

Indy rock band, Sudden Weather Change, was started in 2006 by former members of the now defunct System Failure 3550 ERROR ERROR. Their sound, that is at once soulful and enthusiastically dynamic, has given them a dominating presence in the Reykjavik music scene. Vibrantly electronic, Sykur's new wave beats will have you longing for you old Casio keyboard. These boys don't just stay home and play synthesizers, they also play them in public.

1 F7

What
Skátar, Sudden Weather Change & Sykur
Where:
Kaffibarinn
Bergstaðastræti 1
101 Reykjavík
When:
Thursday October 2, 21:00
Free Admission



Art

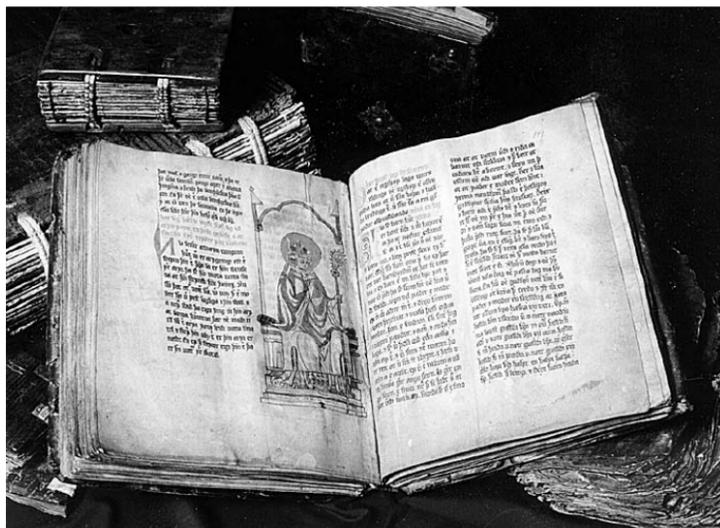
GET MEDIEVAL AT THE CULTURE HOUSE

The Culture House is featuring a stirring exhibition entitled Medieval Manuscripts – Eddas and Sagas. This permanent showcase presents the principal medieval manuscripts including law codices and Christian works, and the legendary Sagas of Icelanders. Other early scripts from centuries past are also on display. The ancient scrolls on display are some of the rarest artefacts of the country's past that provide written sources of information on the society, religion and world view of the people of Northern Europe from pagan times through the tu-

mult of Viking Expansion, the settlement of the Atlantic Islands and the period of Christianisation.

Where:
The Culture House,
Hverfisgata 15
When:
Daily from 11:00 - 17:00
Admission fee 300 ISK

2 F6



Music

BEAT BOX & THE BLUES

Glaumbar is American-style sports bar, brash and boisterous, with a huge video screen showing matches, deafening music, and weekend DJs. It has recently become the home of the Beat Box club who collaborated with Glaumbar during the prestigious Reykjavik Jazz Festival in August, filling every single seat and spot to stand in Glaumbar for four nights in a row

Many of Iceland's best musicians in the field have played in Glaumbar during Beat Box nights, such as Tómas R. Einarsson, Samúels Jóns Samúelsson Big Band, Moses Hightower, Dís, Mama's Bag, DJ Magic and many more. No wonder then that Blues Band B.Sig has been asked to bring their cool and mellow rhythms and sensational melodies into our ears and hearts.

Where:
B.Sig and more.
Where:
Glaumbar, Tryggvagata 20
When:
October 9, 21:00

3 E5

If you would like to be included in the Grapevine listings, free of charge, contact the Grapevine by email at listings@grapevine.is.

Music & Entertainment

FRIDAY SEPT 26

- **Amsterdam**
23:00 DJ Master.
- **Apótek**
23:00 DJ Áki.
- **Bar 11**
23:00 DJ Matti.
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 DJ Sexy Lazer.
- **Café Paris**
23:00 DJs Andri Ramirez and Stjáni.
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Valdi.
- **Hressó**
21:00 Menn Ársins (Pop / Rock).
23:00 DJ Maggi.
- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 DJ Magic.
- **Oliver**
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikið**
21:30 Troubadours Franz and Kristó.
- **Q-Bar**
21:00 DJ Yamaho.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Thin Jim and the Castaways (Santiago infused country).
- **Sólon**
23:00 Downstairs Party, upstairs dance.
- **The Iceland Symphony Orchestra**
19:30 "Fire and Ice".
- **Vegamót**
23:00 DJ Jónas.

SATURDAY SEPT 27

- **Amsterdam**
22:00 Brain Police, Esja, Brant Bjork and the Bros (CAL). Admission 1500ISK.
- **Apótek**
23:00 Dance music with various DJs.
- **B5**
23:00 DJ Gulli from Ósoma cranks the beats.
- **Café Cultura**

- 23:00 DJ Hjalti's a.k.a Casanova (house Music all night long).
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Lurkur.
- **Hressó**
21:00 Live band Galaxia.
23:00 DJ Maggi.
- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 DJ Alfons X (Electro, House, Hip Hop).
- **Prikið**
21:00 Reykjavík Grapevine and RIFF throw a party to celebrate the premiere of two musically oriented documentaries at the Reykjavík International Film Festival.
- **Oliver**
23:30 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Lez Jungle Night with DJ Glimmer.
- **Rósenberg**
21:30 Mood play blues and folk rock tonight.
- **Sólon**
23:00 Downstairs: Party. Upstairs: Dancing.

SUNDAY SEPT 28

- **B5**
Live music.
- **Prikið**
21:00 Hangover Movie Night.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Halli and Davið play soft rock for y'all.

MONDAY SEPT 29

- **Q-Bar**
21:00 Horror Movie Night with free Popcorn.
- **Sólon**
21:00 Salsa night.

TUESDAY SEPT 30

- **Oliver**
21:00 Live Music.
- **Q-Bar**
22:00 Live Music Night with Elin Ey & Myrra.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Band: Memphis Mafia.

WEDNESDAY OCT 1

- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 Prince Liborious.

- **Q-Bar**
21:00 Company B in concert.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Django Reinhardt (European Jazz that has to be heard) tribute band play tonight.

THURSDAY OCT 2

- **Glaumbar**
22:00 Beat Box / Mama's Bag (Soul, R'n'B).
- **Hressó**
22:00 Troubadours Jogvan and Vignir live.
- **Kaffibarinn**
22:00 Bands Skátar, Sudden Weather Change and Sykur.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Sexual Chocolate.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Two Jazz Bands.
- **Vegamót**
23:00 DJ Mr. Gorilla Funk.

FRIDAY OCT 3

- **Apótek**
23:00 Dance music with various DJs
- **Bar 11**
23:45 DJ Biggi in Maus.
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Valdi.
- **Hressó**
21:00 Live Band Dalton.
23:00 DJ Johnny.
- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 Karius & Baktus (Bloodgroup).
- **NASA**
23:00 Haddaway.
- **Oliver**
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Disco Night.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Múlinn presents the first of many Jazz nights for the winter.
- **The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra**
21:00 "Now Listen! Gamelan."
- **Vegamót**
23:45 DJ Simon.

SATURDAY OCT 4

- **Apótek**
21:00 Dance music with various DJs.
- **B5**
23:45 Oli in Wentems.

Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

22 Laugavegur 22 | **G7**
A popular place among the city's party scenesters, this three storied bar makes for a great night out with chatting upstairs and dancing downstairs with regular DJs.

Amsterdam Hafnarstræti 5 | **E6**
Kaffi Amsterdam seems to have been around forever, though recently it's been reinvented as a live venue. Good music, cheap beer, and colorful characters to be found.

Apótek Austurstræti 16 | **E5**
Sporting a chic and pristine interior with a healthy club atmosphere.

B5 Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
By day a chic little bistro with good food and a prime location for Laugavegur people watching | by night a stylish bar with a "whiskey room" and manhattanesque clientele.

Bar 11 Laugavegur 11 | **G6**
The sweetest Rock joint on the northern hemisphere. Mötley Crüe would have played this bar 25 years ago and still be talking about it.

Belly's Hafnarstræti 18a | **E5**
Belly's deserves praise for having the cheapest bar prices around.

Good for anyone looking for a deal, there are enough tables for everyone and TVs for sport | watching.

Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20 | **E5**
Named after the Iceland's most legendary sports commentator, this is the place for the three Bs: ball, burger and beer.

Boston Laugavegur 28b | **H6**
A fresh addition to the Reykjavík bar scene. Roomy bar floor, nice sofas and stylish interior make this a comfy café as well as a tavern with good, unintrusive music.

Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**
Cultura is a café/bar with a party feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.

Café Paris Austurstræti 14 | **E5**
With an outdoor terrace, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.

Café Victor Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D4**
Victor attracts a diverse crowd, both in age and origin, a role that extends to the musicians that play there.

Celtic Cross Hverfisgata 26 | **H6**
Arguably the most authentic Irish pub outside Ireland, a very lively space where you'll often find live music, sometimes two bands playing at once.

Dillon Laugavegur 30 | **H7**
The quintessential rock pub Dillon serves moderately priced drinks, and has pretty good music, too. The mix of students and tattooed tough guys always creates a fun atmosphere.

Dubliner Hafnarstræti 4 | **E5**
The city's main Irish pub attracts quite a lot of foreigners, though there's an influx of locals on weekends. Good if you're looking for the darker stuff on tap.

Glaumbar Tryggvagata 20 | **E4**
The premier sports bar in town, though after the final whistle, DJs take the floor and begin a night of feverish dancing.

Grand Rokk Smiðjustigur | **G6**
As its Viking theme accurately displays, this hardcore chess hangout is no place for the lily livered. Take the pub quiz on Fridays at 17.30, the winner gets a free case of beer!

Highlander Lækjargata 10 | **E7**
If you prefer Scottish to Irish, this might be the place for a single malt.

Hressó Austurstræti 20 | **E5**
With a spacious neutral interior, pleasant courtyard and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd. Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.

Hverfisbarinn Hverfisgata 20 | **G6**
After a long line, you'll get in and wonder what all the fuss was about. You may end up here if you're still going at 4 on a Sunday morning, in which case it's just as good as any.

Kaffi Hjómáland Laugavegur 23 | **G6**
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great food and coffee but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.

Kaffibarinn Bergstráðastræti 1 | **F6**
A popular place to grab a drink after work, this daytime coffee joint rolls with night-time activity on weekends with live DJs. Parties often pound until dawn.

NASA Þorvaldsenstræti 2 | **E6**
The main live venue in town. If you are look-

ing for a decent band, chances are you'll find it at NASA.

Næsti Bar Ingólfstræti 1A | **F6**
On nights where queues snake down Laugavegur, Næsti Bar can be great place to sneak off to and chat with friends over a beer. Frequentated also by the literary and acting elite.

Oliver Laugavegur 20A | **H7**
This nightclub attracts a crowd of crazy dancers that may not be for everyone. In which case, air conditioning and fine food make Oliver a good lunch spot.

Ólstofan Vegamótastigur | **G6**
No tricks here. You'll want just simple beer in this simple pub. Also the hangout for Reykjavík intellectual circles

Prikið Bankastræti | **F5**
Part of the Reykjavík bar scene for decades, this café/bar has a fairly cheap menu and attracts a mix of students and old regulars. R&B and Hip-Hop plays on weekends.

Q-Bar Ingólfstræti 3 | **F6**
A roomy gay/straight bar. Some of the best DJs in town play regularly, making it an especially lively space on weekends.

Rex Austurstræti | **E5**
Rex is quite fancy and you may feel out of place if you don't dress up a bit. One of the more posh spots in town.

Rósenberg Klappartígur 25 | **G7**
Live music venue that has something to offer every single night, ranging from rock to jazz to poetry. You name it, they got it.

Sólon Bankastræti 7A | **F5**
Truly a jack of all trades establishment. By night a decent restaurant, by day a café/bistro and on Friday and Saturday nights a nightclub. Art exhibitions on the walls to top it off.

Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 | **E5**
Dress formally for this fancy spot, and come before 12 to avoid a long line. DJs play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Vegamót Vegamótastigur 4 | **G6**
Vegamót's kitchen is open until 22.00 daily and sports an appealing lunch menu. Come for a tasty brunch on weekends. If you like Óliver, try Vegamót and vice versa. The party goes on late.

ATTENTION METALHEADS!



Faroese folk-metal band Týr mini tour in Iceland this October

THURSDAY 2. OCT

PADDY'S, KEFLAVÍK
DOOR 20:30 / STARTS 21:30
COST: 1500 KRONUR
+ 18 & OVER
TÝR
TOMMYGUN PREACHERS
DARK HARVEST
DIABOLUS

FRIDAY 3. OCT

GRÆNI HATTURINN, AKUREYRI
DOOR 21:00 / STARTS 22:00
COST: 1500 KRONUR
+ 18 & OVER
TÝR
DISTURBING BONER
SHOGUN
FINNGALKN
PROVOKE

SATURDAY 4. OCT

NASA, REYKJAVÍK
DOOR 21:00 / STARTS 22:00
COST: 2300 KRONUR
+ 20 & OVER
TÝR
SEVERED CROTCH
MAMMUT
DARK HARVEST
PERLA

SUNDAY 5. OCT

HELLIRINN TPM, REYKJAVÍK
DOOR 18:00 / STARTS 18:30
COST: 1500 KRONUR
ALL AGES
TÝR
GONE POSTAL
HOSTILE
TRASSAR
PALMPRINT IN BLOOD

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SMEKKLEYSA PLÖTUBÚÐ, REYKJAVÍK
PENNINN, AKUREYRI
PADDY'S AND HLJÓMVAL, KEFLAVÍK
AND OF COURSE AT THE DOOR!!!

DON'T MISS THE METAL EVENT OF THE YEAR!



The REYKJAVÍK
GRAPEVINE



Listings

- **Dwarf Gallery**
20:00 Bacon Live Support Unit in Concert
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Atli Skemmtanalögga.
- **Hressó**
21:00 Live music.
23:00 DJ Maggi.
- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 Long Saturday - DJ Magic & Alfons X.
- **Kaffi Hljómáland**
18:00 Die Young (Hardcore, TX), Gavin Portland + guest.
- **Nasa**
22:45 Týr (Folk-Metal from Runavík).
- **Oliver**
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Party Zone Night with Multiple DJs.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Misery loves Company (Tom Waits Cover Band).
- **Sólón**
23:00 Downstairs: Party. Upstairs: Dance.
- **Vegamót**
22:00 Hannes & Dóri.

SUNDAY OCT 5

- **Prikið**
21:00 Hang-Over Cinema. Popcorn and Coke available.
- **Rósenberg**
23:00 Andrea Glyfa.

MONDAY OCT 6

- **Q-Bar**
21:00 Horror Movie Night with free Popcorn.
- **Sólón**
21:00 Salsa Night.
- **Rósenberg**
23:00 Two troubadours play live.

TUESDAY OCT 7

- **Oliver**
21:00 Live music.
- **Q-Bar**
21:00 Live Music with Ellín Ey and Myrra.
- **Rósenberg**
13:00 Live Troubadour Girls and Poetry (1 pm to 1 am).

WEDNESDAY OCT 8

- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 Bedroom Community #4. Ben Frost feat. Borgar Magnússon.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Live Jazz.

THURSDAY OCT 9

- **Glaumbar**
23:00 Bit Box / B.Sig / Rock 'n' Soul.
- **Hressó**
21:00 Troubadours Jogvan & Vignir live.
- **Nasa**
21:00 Motion Boys release concert.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Múliinn Jazz Company present another 3 days off live jazz.
- **The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra**
19:30 A Gypsy Gala.
- **Vegamót**
23:00 DJ Hannes.

Art

- **101 Gallery**
Aug 22 - Oct 5
ZEDRIK - Installments by Sigga Björg Sigurðardóttir
- **Artótek**
Sept 11 - Oct 19
Exhibition by Ólöf Björg
- **ASÍ Art Museum**
Sept 27- Oct 19
Haraldur Jónsson - Myrkurlampi. An Exhibition that is both "a state of mind and an extension to ones body".
- **The Culture House**
Permanent exhibitions: Medieval Manuscripts; The Library Room.
Current exhibitions: Surtsey - Genesis
The exhibition traces the emergence and evolution of the island Surtsey until the present day and predicts its geographical and ecological development over the next 120 years.
From Beyond the Oceans - Translations and original writings by Helgi Hálfðanarson
The thematic exhibition currently

on view in the Library Room is dedicated to Helgi Hálfðanarson's translations and original writings. The Late View - Halldór Laxness' Photographs
Nobel Laureate and cosmopolitan Halldór Laxness was better known for his writing but also proved to be a good photographer. This is an exhibition of his works.
Exhibition Series
Ásta Ólafsdóttir displays her artwork at the Culture Shop.

- **Dwarf Gallery**
Oct 3 - Oct 6
This is a Circle: An exhibition by Natalija Ribovic & Toru Fujita in memory of Úlfur Chaka Karlsson
- **The Einar Jónsson Museum**
Permanent exhibition:
The work of sculptor Einar Jónsson.
- **Fótógrafi**
A new exhibition opens monthly with works of various photographers
- **Gallery 100°**
Oct - Nov
Leonardo Da Vinci. An exhibition of Da Vinci's drawings and machines.
- **Gallery Ágúst**
Aug 16 - Sept 27
Exhibition by Katrín Elvarsdóttir
Oct 4 - Nov 1
Exhibition: IN VISIBLE INK
- **Gallery Fold**
Current exhibition: Gallery Fold's summer exhibition. Paintings by Ásgrímur Jónsson, Jón Stefánsson, Jóhannes S. Kjarval, Finnur Jónsson, Þorvaldur Skúlason, Jóhann Briem and Nína Tryggvadóttir
- **Gallery Kling & Bang**
Sept 9 - Sept 28
The Orange Fire that you showed me in Hljómskálagarðurinn
Exhibition by Ásdís Sif Gunnarsdóttir
Oct 04 - Oct 24
Sequences / Trommusólo / Drum solo Trommusólo / Drumsolo
- **Gallery StartArt**
Sept 25 - Oct 29
Six exhibitions by Ragnhildur Stefánsdóttir, Kristín Reynisdóttir, Björn Birnir, Björn Valdimarsson, Gréta S. Guðjónsdóttir, Kristveig Halldórsdóttir, Ása Ólafsdóttir and Þórdís Alda Sigurðardóttir
- **Gallery Turpentine**
Sept 12 - Oct 5
Home: A solo exhibition of the works of visual artist Birta

Art | Venue finder

101 Gallery
Hverfisgata 18A | **F6**
Thu-Sat 14-17 and by appointment
www.101hotel.is/101hotel/101gallery/
Located in the 101 Hotel, features a broad selection of international and local contemporary art.

Artótek
Tryggvagata 15 | **D5**
Mon 10-21, Tue-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-19, Sat and Sun 13-17
www.sim.is/index/Islenka/Artotek
An Icelandic art exhibition space and art dealer. Pieces are available for purchase or lease.

ASÍ Art Museum
Fréyrgata 41 | **G10**
Tue-Sun 13-17
Run by the ASÍ labour union, features mostly contemporary Icelandic art. Free entry.

Árbæjarsafn
Kistuhylur 4
An open-air museum featuring arts-and-crafts fairs and exhibitions in the summer.

The Culture House
Hverfisgata 15 | **F6**
Open daily 11-17
www.thjodmenning.is
A Museum of Icelandic cultural history, with an ongoing exhibition of the original manuscripts of the sagas and eddas.

Dwarf Gallery
Grundartígur 21 | **H8**
Opening Hours: Fri and Sat 18-20
www.this.is/birta
An independently run basement Gallery,

Gallery Dwarf hosts exhibitions which speak straight to the hearts of the "cute" generation.

The Einar Jónsson Museum
Eiríksgata | **G9**
Tue-Sun 14-17
www.skulptur.is
Features a permanent exhibition on the sculptor Einar Jónsson as well as temporary exhibits.

Fótógrafi
Skólavörðustígur 4a | **F7**
www.fotografi.is
Features photographic exhibitions by local photographers.

Gallery 100°
Bæjarháls 1
www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100/
Open weekdays from 08:30-16:00
An art museum run by the Orkuveita Reykjavíkur energy corporation. Features contemporary art by Icelandic and foreign artists.

Gallery Auga fyrir Auga
Hverfisgata 35 | **G7**
Independently run art museum featuring Icelandic art.

Gallery StartArt
Laugavegur 12B | **G7**
Tue-Sat 1-17
www.startart.is
Contemporary Icelandic and foreign art. Admission is free and the gallery is run without any government funding.

Gallery Ágúst
Baldursgata 12 | **F9**

Wed-Sat 12-17
www.galleriagust.is
Galleri Ágúst is a contemporary art gallery in the centre of Reykjavík. With an ambitious programme of exhibitions, it also presents and sells art-work of Icelandic and international artists.

Gallery Fold
Rauðarástígur 14-16 | **J9**
Mon-Fri 10-18 / Sat 11-16 / Sun 14-16
www.myndlist.is
More of an art auction than just a gallery, Fold also evaluates and exhibits art.

Gallery Kling & Bang
Hverfisgata 42 | **G7**
Thurs-Sun from 14-18
this.is/klingogbang/
Exhibits upcoming and established contemporary artists as well as hosting screenings, lectures and performances.

Gallery Turpentine
Ingólfrstræti 5 | **F7**
Tue-Fri 12-18 / Sat 11-16
www.turpentine.is
Houses a collection of Icelandic contemporary artwork as well as works from old Icelandic masters both for display and sale.

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre
Gerðuberg 3-5
Mon-Thu 11-17 / Wed 11-21 / Thu-Fri 11-17 / Sat-Sun 13-16
www.gerduberg.is
Located in Breiðholt, the Gerðuberg cultural centre hosts both exhibitions and events.

Hitt Húsið
- **Gallery Tukt**
Pósthússtræti 3-5 | **E6**
www.hitthusid.is
Initially thought of as a hobby centre to keep the youth from drinking, Hitt húsið is still operational and organises events as well as hosting art exhibitions in their Gallery - Gallery Tukt.

i8 Gallery
Klappartígur 33 | **G7**
Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and by appointment.
www.i8.is
Represents work by an eclectic mix of Icelandic and international contemporary artists.

Living Art Museum
Vinsngata 3 - **G7**
Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17 / Thu 13-22. www.nylo.is
A non-profit gallery that organises 8-10 larger exhibitions every year as well as other cultural events.

Lost Horse Gallery
Skólastræti 1 | **F6**
Weekends from 13-19 and by appointment on weekdays.
Located in a renovated stable off Laugavegur, features work by local artists.

The National Film Archive
Hvaleyrarbraut 13
www.kvikmyndasafn.is
The National Film Archive of Iceland screens old movie classics and masterpieces twice a week for 500 ISK per ticket.

The National Gallery of Iceland
Frikirkjuvegur 7 | **E8**
Tue-Sun 11-17
www.listasafn.is
Houses the national art collection and is the centre of research and documentation of Icelandic art.

The National Museum
Suðurgata 41 | **C9**
Open daily 10-17
natmus.is/
Established in 1863, this museum features exhibits on Icelandic cultural heritage.

The Nordic House
Sturlugata 5 | **C11**
Tue-Sun 12-17
www.nordice.is/
Explores and promotes Scandinavian culture with regular lectures, films and exhibitions.

The Numismatic Museum
Einholt 4 | **K9**
Open Mon-Fri 13:30-15:30.
Presents a cultural history of Iceland through analysis of collected coins, medals and books.

Reykjavík 871+/-2
Aðalstræti 17 | **D6**
Open daily 10-17
Museum on the founding of Reykjavík. Located in the oldest house in the city. Tours in English on Mondays and Saturdays at 14.00

Reykjavík Art Gallery
Skólugata 28 | **H6**
Tuesday through Sunday 14-18
The city's public art gallery features works by Icelandic artists.

Reykjavík Art Museum
Open daily 10-16
www.listasafnreykjavikur.is
Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum
Sigtún Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17 | **E5**
Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagata | **K11**
Specialising in contemporary art by local and international artists. Free entrance.

Reykjavík City Theatre
Listabraut 3
Presenting Icelandic music and dance performances as well as dramatic theatre, produces six new shows each year.

Reykjavík Maritime Museum
Grandagarður 8 | **C3**
With a fishing trawler-turned-exhibit space, educates on the maritime and fishing traditions of Iceland.

Reykjavík Museum of Photography
Tryggvagata 16 | **D5**
Weekdays 12-19 / Sat-Sun 13-17
www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is
Features work by local and international photographers, as well as an archive on the history of photography.
Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
Laugarnestangi 70
Features a permanent exhibition of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson's works.



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www.sjominjasafn.is

Katrín Elvarsdóttir / Sigrún Sigurðardóttir

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Music FAROESE VIKING METAL HONORING THE GODS

Faroe Islands-based Týr, one of the most popular modern Viking-metal bands, is coming to NASA. The group was founded in 1998 by long-time friends Heri Joensen (guitar, vocals) and Kári Streymoy (drums). Since then, their mixture of true heavy metal and traditional Scandinavian folk-songs has had an impressive impact on the international metal scene. After touring Europe several times with

bands like Amon Amarth or Die Apokalyptischen Reiter, Týr got to play the legendary Wacken festival in Germany in 2007. Currently, the four are on tour again to promote their new album, "Land," which was just released this summer.

4 F6

What:
Týr
Where & When:
Paddy's, Keflavík
on Thursday, October 2, 20:30.
Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri
on Friday, October 3, 21:00.
Nasa, Reykjavík
on Saturday, October 4, 21:00.
Hellirinn, Reykjavík
on Sunday, October 5, 18:00.



Art ID LAB

The Reykjavík Art Museum is premiering a new art installation called ID LAB starting September 27 and running through January 11. The exhibition will use fashion and design to illustrate and explore the societal artifice of identity and the social zeitgeist of our time. By using striking concepts that manifest in the traditional as well as the contemporary, the installation hopes to present ideas that stretch far beyond their external influences. The exhibition presents works by a range of Icelandic artists including the three-person team of Icelandic Love Corporation who describes their work as being "fueled by champagne, a natural capacity for mayhem and a devout respect for Dolly Parton." Katrín Ólína Pétursdóttir's work will also

appear in the exhibit. Her multimedia artwork has been described as "supernatural, organic and dreamlike," combining the literary traditions of Iceland with a modern style. Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir, Huginn Þór Arason, and Jón Sæmundur Auðarson will also have worked displayed.

What:
Exhibition Opening
Where:
Reykjavík Art Museum
When:
27 September – January 11

5 E5



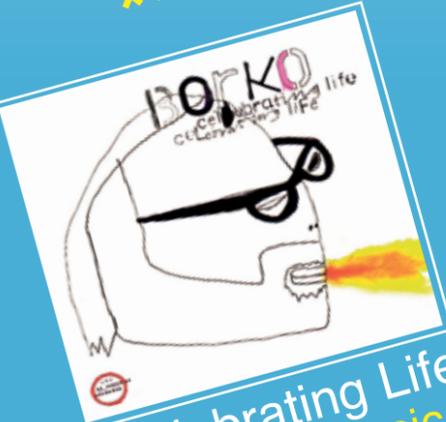
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Benni Hemm Hemm -
Murta st. Calunga
**** Fréttablaðið



Hjaltalín - Sleepdrunk Seasons
**** Fréttablaðið



Borko - Celebrating Life
**** All Music Guide

Upcoming Releases:

Retro Stefson -
Montaña (october)
Reykjavík! -
untitled second album (november)

Upcoming Distribution:

Skakkamanage -
All over the face (october 20th)
FM Belfast -
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Listings

- Guðjónsdóttira
- **Gerðasafn**
Oct 4 - Nov 16
Ecuadorian Cultural Festival
 Sept 12 - Nov 2
 Mola. An exhibition of knitting art by Colombian Indian tribe Cuna.
 Sept 21 - Nov 2
 Video Art exhibition.
- **Gerðuberg Cultural Centre**
 Sept 12 - Nov 2
 Mola. An exhibition of knitting art by Colombian Indian tribe Cuna.
 Sept 21 - Nov 2
 Video Art exhibition.
- **Gljúfrasteinn Laxness Museum**
 Gljúfrasteinn was the home and workplace of Halldór Laxness (winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955) and his family for more than half a century. It has now been opened to the public as a museum, unchanged from when Laxness lived there.
- **i8 Gallery**
 Sept 12 - Oct 26
 Pleinairism: An exhibition of works by; Francis Alys, AA Bronson, Paul Chan, Tacita Dean and many many more.
- **Living Art Museum**
 Aug 16 - Sept 29
 Tillit - rücksicht - regards
 Exhibition by Hlynur Hallson
 Sept 9 - Oct 18
 Grassroot 2008-Björk
 Viggósdóttir-Guðmundur Vignir Karlsson-Halldór Ragnarsson-Jeanette Castroni-Jóna Hlíf Halldórsdóttir
 Oct 11 - Oct 22
 Bj Nielsen-Darri Lorenzen-Finnbogi Pétursson-Ingólfur Arnarsson-Mika Vanio-Bjorn Quiring
- **The National Film Archive of Iceland**
 The National Film Archive of Iceland screens old movie classics and masterpieces twice a week for 500 ISK per ticket.
- **The National Gallery of Iceland**
 July 10 - Sept 28
 Exhibition: Highlight of Icelandic Art
 At the annual summer exhibition at the National Gallery of Iceland the emphasis is on different periods in modern and contemporary Icelandic art. Each part of the exhibition focuses on a certain period in the short history of Icelandic art since it was first recognised as a profession, and various aspects of development in art are explored in light of social change- Ongoing
 Sept 25 - Oct 5
 An Exhibition by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat who has for decades been in the forefront of artists who use video to express her particular criticism of Iranian society. The prohibition of women singing publicly, or the fact that mentally ill women do not have to veil their hair are examples of her keen eye for curiosities concerning reigning political system, which she reproaches for its ambiguous position in terms of sexual discrimination.
 Oct 11 - Dec 2
 Love at First Sight: Modern and temporary art from the Würth collection
 The private collection of the German industrialist Reinhold Würth has grown enormously during the last decades. It is now considered one of the largest private collections in Europe in terms of modern and contemporary art. The exhibition displays the recent acquisitions from this important private collections, where Impressionist works to contemporary German and international art will be on display.
- **The National Museum**
 Permanent exhibition:
 The Making of a Nation
 June 6 - Jan 21
 Over the Ocean and Home: Icelandic artefacts from Sweden.
 Sept 27 - Nov 30
 The Nation, the Country and the Republic: Exhibition of the works of photographer Vigfús Sigurgeirsson, both photos and videos from between 1928 and 1958.
 Sept 28 - Oct 12
 Þrjúnaheimur Lúka: Twin sisters Gunnhildur and Brynhildur exhibit a collection of hand knitted design clothing.

- **The Numismatic Museum**
 Permanent exhibition:
 The Central Bank of Iceland and the National Museum of Iceland jointly operate a numismatic collection consisting of Icelandic notes and coins.
- **Reykjavík 871 +/- 2**
 Permanent exhibition:
 The Settlement Exhibition
- **Reykjavík Art Gallery**
 Current exhibition:
 Magnús Tómasson, Pétur Már Pétursson and Tólli
- **Reykjavík Art Museum - Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum**
 Permanent Exhibition
 The Shape of Line
 A new retrospective of works by Ásmundur Sveinsson. The exhibition focuses on abstract works from 1945 onwards.
- **Reykjavík Art Museum - Hafnarhús**
 Sept 18 - Nov 2
 Everybody is Doing What They Can:
 Libia Castro and Ólafur Ólafsson. The two artists have worked together since the late 1990s, building up a strong body of work which focuses on social issues and the sharing of life experiences. Their work has a strong political core and gives voice to people on the margins of our society, migrants and asylum seekers.
 Sept 18 - Jan 11
 Parallel Universes
 A private Exhibition by Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir
 Sept 27 - Jan 11
 Imaginary Friends:
 Exhibition by Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir
- **Reykjavík Art Museum - Kjarvalsstaðir**
 18 May - 31 Aug
 Dreams of the Sublime and Nowhere in Contemporary Icelandic Art:
 This exhibition includes many new works of photography and video art by Iceland's most outstanding artists, building on their disparate ideas about nature as a phenomenon.
 18 May - 31 Aug
 Where Am I?: An exhibition in which children and adults can contemplate their planet, their country, and the landmarks of their environment.
 18 May - 31 Dec
 Jóhannes S. Kjarval - Key Works: The current exhibition in Kjarvalsstaðir's east gallery features key works from the museum's collection along with works on loan from the Labour Unions' Art Gallery and from the collection of Ingibjörg Guðmundsdóttir and Þorvaldur Guðmundsson.
 13 Sept - 16 Nov
 Visual Symphony - The Art of Bragi Ásgeirsson for 60 Years
- **Reykjavík Maritime Museum**
 Current Exhibitions:
 Living Museum by the Sea;
 Arterial for Country and City;
 From Poverty to Abundance; The Shark - Light and Life Energy;
 Hidden Craftsman.
- **Reykjavík Museum (Árbæjarsafn)**
 Current exhibitions:
 Building Techniques in Reykjavík 1840-1940; Disco and Punk - Different cultures?; Christmas is Coming; History of Reykjavík - from farm to city; Memories of a House; Living and Playing
- **The Reykjavík Museum of Photography**
 Sept 13 - Nov 23
 Home/Away Photography
 Exhibition: An exhibition documenting over 50 years of asylum seekers in Iceland, charting back to 1956.
- **Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum**
 Permanent exhibition:
 Works of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson.

OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

For more information about art outside Reykjavík visit grapevine.is

Music HADDAWAY AT NASA

The NO LIMITS Night- a mecca for music and fashion of the 90s, has been 'The Church of Solid Hits' in Iceland for the last two years. The 90's dress code and prominent back-catalogue of dance, trance and popular hits insures that the nights are a huge success. The growing trend in Icelandic clublife, No Limits parties have dominated Icelandic New-Year's eve with many people coming from all over the country to worship at the altar of nostalgia-now they will finally have their preacher. 'What is love? Well I'll tell you. 90's Legend Haddaway exploded in 1993 with the song which stayed in the charts for 52 weeks selling over 8 million records. The song is without a doubt one of the biggest 90s hits and played a big roll in the 1998 movie 'Night at the Roxbury' directed by John Fortenberry. Performing their greatest hits and showcasing a

new song in co-operation with Dr.Alban called 'I love the 90s', Haddaway will be handing the night over to 'musical cowboy DJs' Curver and Kiki-ow who keep up the fun with non-stop 90s music for the remainder of the night. If you want to 'jump around' with 'no limits' the night is unmissable.

What:
Haddaway
When:
Friday, October 3
Where:
NASA, Thorvaldsenstræti 2

4 E6



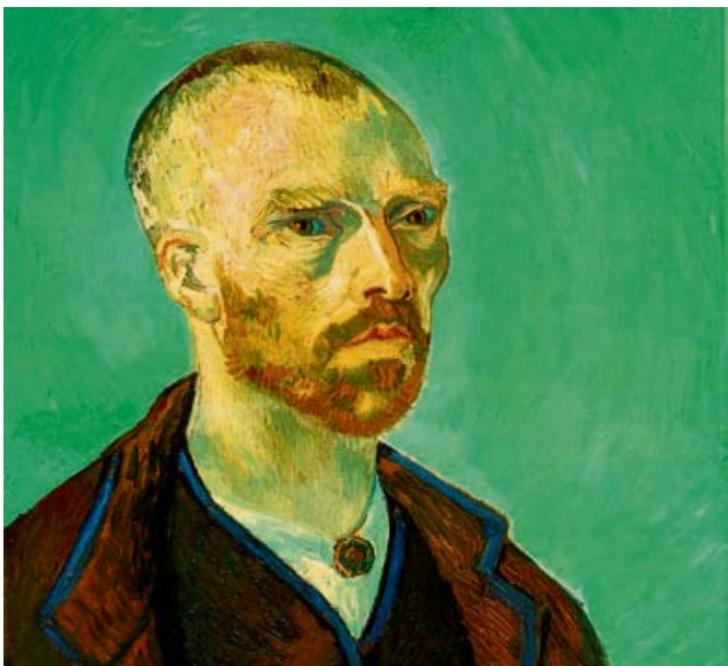
Music A RHYTHM RAVER

This new phenomenon of throwing live concerts at the narrow and raunchy Kaffibarinn has in the last few months turned out to be quite a success. One can of course see the perfectly proper image of sweaty and well-oiled rockers going hand in hand with the hard drinking regulars at the infamous bar, but this spring when Ben Frost performed in a completely packed Kaffibar it was obvious that his kind of acts are just as appropriate. The Australian-Icelandic musician Ben Frost has researched the whole electro spectrum in his works but you can never guess what he's going

do next. So, this October 2 he will make another appearance at the before-mentioned bar, accompanied by Borgar Magnússon and whatever they'll be up to, expect bottles falling out of the shelves and spatters of beer filling up the air due to their extremely dynamic bass.

What:
Ben Frost
When:
October 2, 21:00
Where:
Kaffibarinn

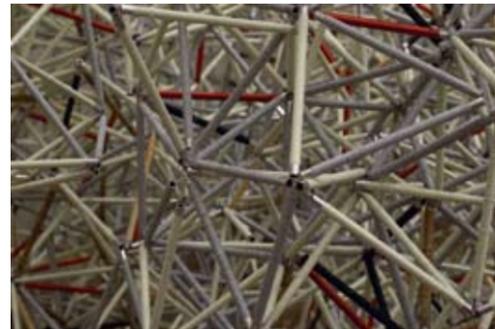
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Listasafn Reykjavíkur
Reykjavik Art Museum



Kjarvalsstaðir
Bragi Ásgeirsson
Visual Symphony
13 September – 16 November



Hafnarhús
Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir
Parallel Universes
18 September 2008 – 11 January 2009

Reykjavik Art Museum



Hafnarhús
Ólafur Ólafsson & Libia Castro
Everybody is Doing What They Can
18 September - 2 November



Ásmundarsafn
Water Carrier
22 August – 31 December
Watercolours by eleven artists

Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17 daily 10–17
Thursdays to 22

Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagata, daily 10–17

Ásmundur Sveinsson
Sculpture Museum,
Sigtún, 1.5.–30.9. daily 10–16
1.10.–30.4. daily 13–16

Free admission.



www.artmuseum.is

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Opening Hours

Bars and clubs: According to regulations bars may be open until 01:00 on weekdays and 05:30 on weekends.

Shops: Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat 10-16, Sun closed. The shopping centres Kringlan and Smáralind as well as most supermarkets and tourist shops have longer opening hours.

Swimming pools:

weekdays 06:30-22:30, weekends 08:00-20:30 although some may be open an hour longer.

The State owned ÁTVR liquor stores: Mon-Thu 11-18, Fri 11-19, Sat 11-18. Banks in the centre are open Mon-Fri 09-16.

Tourist Information

Icelandic Travel Market
Bankastræti 2, Tel: 522 4979,

Tourist Information Centre
Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 590 1550,
www.visitreykjavik.is

Both tourist infos offer information for tourists as well as providing internet access, booking service, a phone centre, money exchange service, tax refund and selling the Reykjavík Tourist Card. The Reykjavík Tourist Card gives admission to city busses, various museums, Reykjavík swimming pools, The Family Park and Reykjavík Zoo, The Culture House and the National and University Library.

Getting Around

Public Transport

The only public transport system in Reykjavík is the bus. Most busses run every 20 minutes and price per fare is 280 ISK for adults and 100 ISK for children. Complete route map at: www.bus.is. Tel: 540 2700
Busses run from 07:00-24:00 on weekdays and 10:00-24:00 on weekends

Taxi

Hreyfill-Bæjarleiðir,
Tel: 553 3500 or 588 5522

BSR, Tel: 561 0000

For disabled travellers:

Reykjavík Group Travel Service,
Brunastaðir 3, Tel: 587 8030,
www.randburg.com/is/reykjavik_group_travel_service/

Airlines

Air Iceland, Reykjavíkflugvöllur,
Tel: 570 3030, www.flugfelag.is

Air Vestmannaeyjar,
Tel: 481 3255, www.eyjaflug.is

Bus Terminal

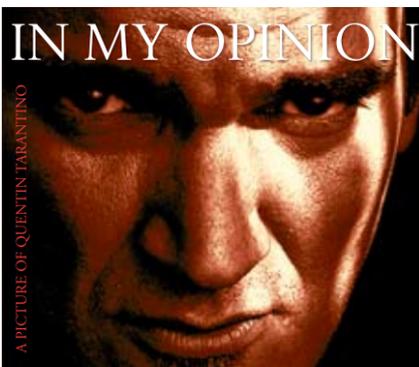
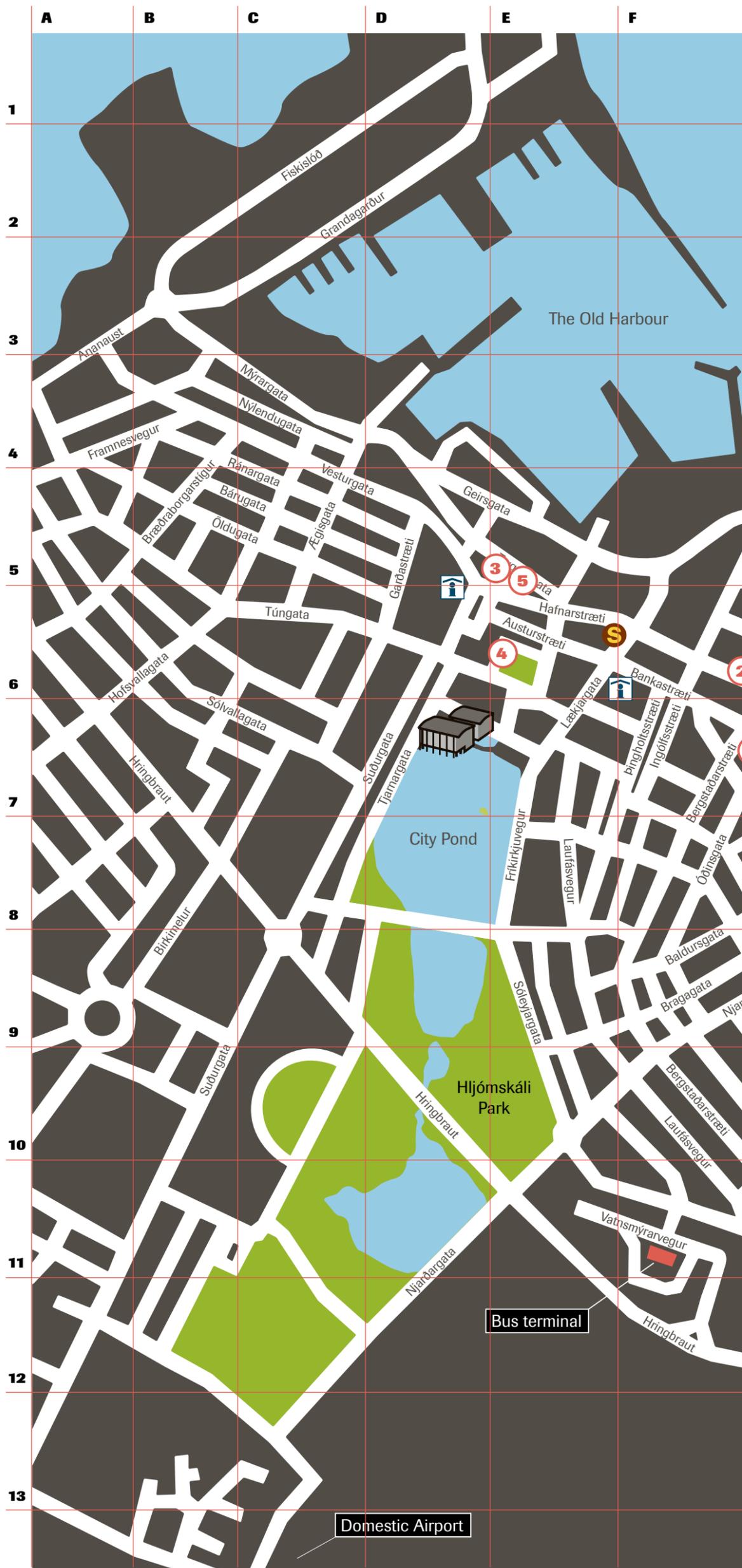
BSÍ, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10,
Tel: 562 1011, www.bsi.is

Flybus

Busses run daily from the BSÍ Bus Terminal to Keflavík International Airport in connection with all departing flights. Departures daily from 04:45 to 15:00/16:30 (every 15 - 60 minutes). For Flybus time schedule see: www.flybus.is

Samferda.net

A reasonable choice for the budget traveller. You log on to the website www.samferda.net, choose your destination and hopefully find a travel buddy to share the cost.



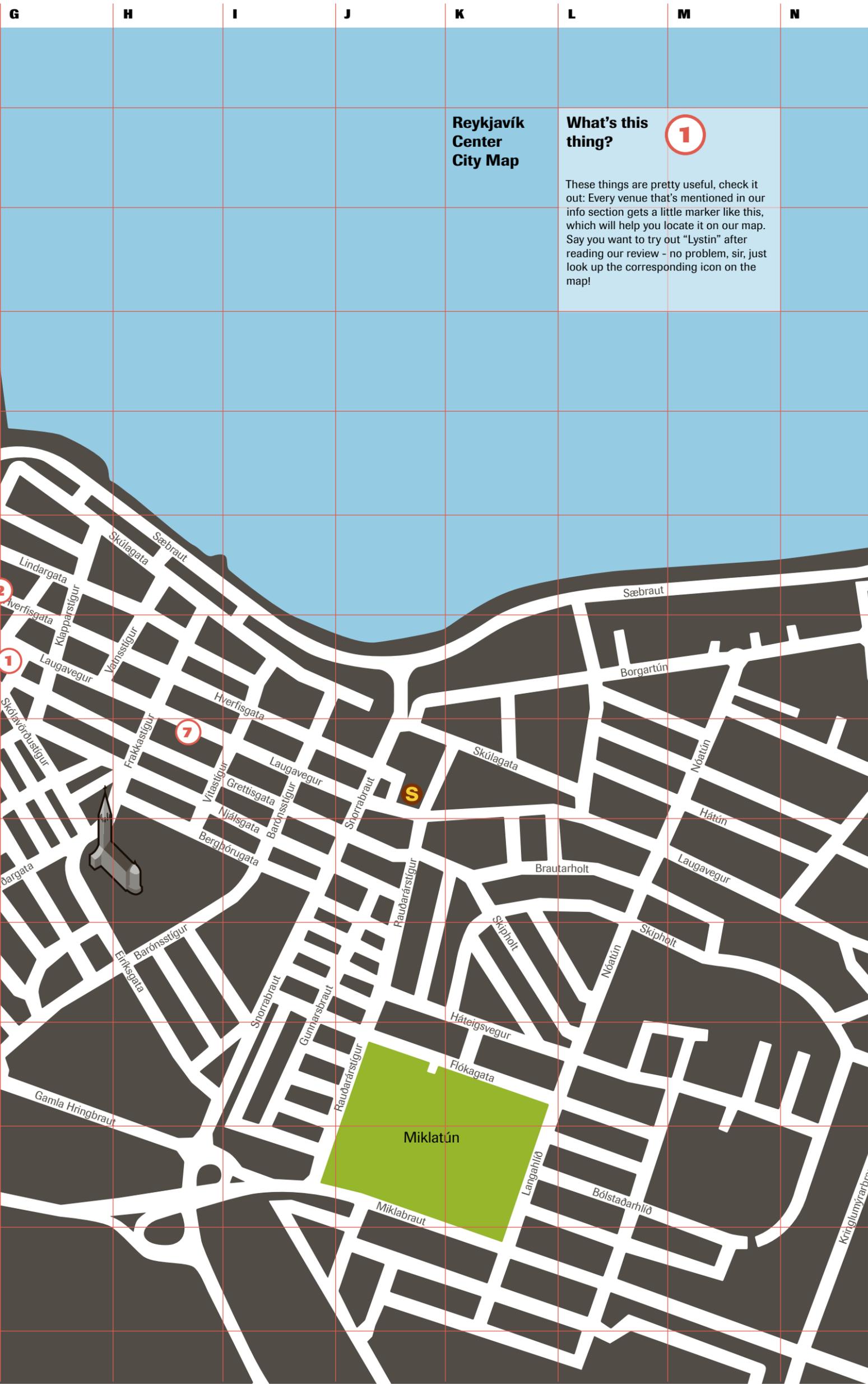
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**THE VERY BEST VEGETARIAN
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OK, Mr. Tarantino did not eat at our place the last time he came to Iceland but we are pretty sure that he will visit us very soon. Join the many very famous people who like Patty Smith and John Travolta and become one of our regular customers. Where the stars eat you are very safe!

*Á næstu
grösum*

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**Reykjavík
Center
City Map**

**What's this
thing?**



These things are pretty useful, check it out: Every venue that's mentioned in our info section gets a little marker like this, which will help you locate it on our map. Say you want to try out "Lystin" after reading our review - no problem, sir, just look up the corresponding icon on the map!



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LAUGAVEGUR 7



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AUSTURSTRÆTI - 4

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Food 19. HÆÐIN

Reviewed by **Sveinn Birkir** – Photo by GAS

Nineteen floors up in the air is high enough so that you have to pop your ears on the elevator trip down again. You should try it sometime. The lunch restaurant 19. hæðin, located on the 19th floor of the Smáratorg tower obviously, is likely to affect other senses just as much.

Let's begin with the eyes. 19 floors up in the air, this place is as much a visual feast as a culinary one. The view stretches far and wide and on a clear day you'll be pretty impressed. But the view is hardly enough to drag you into a restaurant. Especially one that is not open for dinner. That would most likely be the taste buds. And again, 19. hæðin delivers. On weekdays, the restaurant offers a blend of hot and cold dishes in a buffet manner that will satisfy most occasions. On weekends, however, the staff pull out all the stops to create an exquisite brunch collection that will keep you sated well into next week, for a very modest 2650 ISK a head.

Opening with sea-food soup and a variety of salads, my trusted photographer and myself quickly moved on to a more breakfast based combo of bacon and eggs, followed by syrup laced pancakes and juice. We then decided to sample the luscious steaks on offer. The lamb proved to be better than the veal, but both were excellent. Although overstuffed like Thanksgiving turkeys, we managed to make our way to the dessert table where a selection of fruits, cream, cakes and custard awaited. With some hesitation I decided to risk a little custard pudding and some chocolate cake to go with the paper-thin crème brûlée, which mostly consisted of the sugary crust that is the sole reason crème brûlées exist in the first place.

With our stomach walls about to split open, we hightailed out of there before doing ourselves any more damage. 🍴

Where:
**Smáratorg 3
Kópavogur
Tel.: 575 7500**



How much:
2500 – 3000 ISK

What we think:
Great and surprisingly affordable weekend brunch.




TRADITIONAL ICELANDIC FOOD and International Dishes

Our Weekly Menu:

MONDAYS: Minced steak w. onions Lamb cutlets Fishballs	WEDNESDAYS: Salted lamb & pea soup Lamb cutlets	SATURDAYS: Fried fish fillets Lamb cutlets
TUESDAYS: Gratinated fish Lamb cutlets Meatballs	THURSDAYS: Lamb meat & broth Lamb cutlets	SUNDAYS: Roast pork Lamb cutlets
	FRIDAYS: Lamb chops Lamb cutlets	

*Homelike food
International buffet
Grilled chicken
Sheep's head and Coke
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Hamburgers
Salat bar
Sandwich bar
Coffee and cakes*

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RESTAURANT OPEN 7-23.30 AND TAKE AWAY
ROUND THE CLOCK

Food & Drink | Venue finder

3 Frakkar

Baldursgata 14 | **F9**
A seriously Icelandic atmosphere and traditional Icelandic dishes prepared in the good old-fashioned way. RSVP and keep your ears pricked for wild whaling tales!

Af lífi og sál

Restaurant
Laugavegi 55b | **7H**
A high street backyard restaurant where the menu changes every night, so who knows what's for dinner? But serving such dishes as grilled dolphin, bacalao and kangaroo, you can't go wrong by dropping by for lunch or dinner.

Aktu Taktu

Skúlagata 15 | **K8**
This drive-in destination in 101 Reykjavík is busy day and night and the burgers are especially tasty. The caramel shakes are a local favorite.

American Style

Tryggvagata 26 | **E5**
With a soft bun and lots of veggies, you can settle into a booth and eat for hours. Big portions for authentic American dining.

Argentina Steakhouse

Barónstígur | **I8**
True to its name with tender steaks and flamingly vibrant South American décor. Generous portions, fine wine, liqueurs and ci-

gars make an excellent choice in fine dining.

Austurlanda-hraðlestin

Hverfisgata 64A | **H7**
Though a bit expensive for take-away, it is well worth it for a spicy bite of this Indian cuisine. A few tables to the side for those who choose to dine in.

Á Næstu Grösum

Laugavegur 20B | **G7**
Regarded by many to be the best vegetarian place in town, "First Vegetarian" offers a healthy and tasty menu of vegetarian and vegan dishes. Indian theme on Fridays a hit.

B5

Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
By day a chic little bistro with good food and a prime location for Laugavegur people watching—by night a stylish bar with a "whiskey room" and Manhattanesque clientele.

Babalú

Skólavörðustígur 22A | **G8**
It's tough to miss café Babalú walking up Skólavörðustígur. A cozy place for coffee and cake, the well-worn, homey ambience makes it difficult to leave.

Bæjarins Beztu

Tryggvagata | **E6**
The oldest fast-food in Iceland, it is feasibly

the best hot dog stand in Europe. Don't be intimidated by the perpetual line in front — an absolute must and worth the wait.

Café Cultura

Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**
Cultura is a café/bar with a party feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.

Café Loki

Lokastígur 28 | **G9**
With a splendid view of Hallgrímskirkja, Café Loki is the perfect place to take a load off your feet and enjoy some solid homemade Icelandic food.

Café Paris

Austurstræti 14 | **E6**
With an outdoor terrace, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.

Café Roma

Rauðarárstígur 8 | **J9**
Roma, an Italian deli and café, offers a variety of breads, soups as well as tempting desserts. For a good bargain, come at lunchtime for the specials.

Café Victor

Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D6/E6**
A hangout for older foreigners, Victor attracts a diverse crowd,

both in age and origin, a rule that extends to the musicians that play there.

Domo

Pingholtsstræti 5 | **F7**
The elegantly decorated Domo serves delicious French-Asian cuisine, excellent sushi and has a great wine list. A sure choice.

Eldsmíðjan

Bragagata 38A | **G9**
Totally satisfying oven-baked pizza with a wide choice of toppings—snails an unusual specialty. Well worth the cost. Order, take away or eat comfortably among the paintings.

Fiskmarkaðurinn

Aðalstræti 12 | **D6**
Run and co-owned by the national team of chefs, this establishment specializing in Japanese cuisine has everything planned to the last detail, ensuring a relaxing evening.

Geysir Bar/Bistro

Aðalstræti 2 | **D6**
Sited in the dignified Geysir Building at the corner of Vesturgata and Aðalstræti, this stylish bistro is always a good place to grab a tasty bite for a reasonable price.

Garðurinn

Klappastígur 37 | **G7**
"Ecstasy's Heart" is a simple, friendly, family-run vegetarian restaurant on Klap-

parstígur. Offers an ever-changing menu of specials and soup du jours, alongside a basic menu

Grái Kötturinn

Hverfisgata 16A | **G7**
Legendary for its early opening ours, the Gray Cat serves amazing breakfasts and coffee that packs a wallop. A splendid way to start you off on your day.

Grillhúsið

Tryggvagata 20 | **E5/E6**
With a menu of reasonably priced home-style food, Grillhúsið has satiated hungry regulars since 1994 with juicy burgers, sandwiches, steaks and fish dishes.

Habibi

Hafnarstræti 20 | **D5**
A reliable source of high quality shawarma and falafel. Important ingredient for successful living.

Hamborgarabúlla

Tómasar ("Bullán") Geirsgata 1 | **D5**
Considered by some to be the best real hamburger in Reykjavík, "Bullán" does serve some mysteriously delicious burgers, guaranteed to take the edge off any hangover.

Hlölla Bátar

Ingólfstorg | **D6**
The first sub sandwich shop in Iceland, Hlölla Batar has a large selection of creatively

named sandwiches with equally imaginative contents. Good for an adventurous bite.

Hornið

Hafnarstræti 15 | **E6**
Since 1979, this Italian restaurant has been a longtime Reykjavík staple. Famous for its pizza and stuffed calzones, it proudly offers an affordable menu of high-quality dishes

Hótel Holt

Bergstaðarstræti 37 | **F7**
Housing Iceland's most renowned restaurant, The Gallery, an evening here is an unforgettable experience. Delicious French-inspired cuisine and fine wines await.

Humarshúsið

Ammtmanstígur 1 | **E7**
One of the oldest restaurants in the country, the lobster house is known of course for its lobster and also its impressive cognac lounge. Fine intimate dining.

Hressó

Austurstræti 20 | **E6**
With a spacious neutral interior and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd. Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.

Icelandic Fish & Chips

Tryggvagata 8 | **E5**

Food AF LÍFI OG SÁL

Reviewed by **Sverrir Hjálmarsson** – Photo by GAS

Aflífi og sál is located in a cosy port just off of Laugavegur. The restaurant itself is on two floors, with a balcony on the second floor overlooking the port. The interior is simple and relaxing and together with the enjoyable music creates a welcoming atmosphere.

The bistro offers a 'floating menu,' that is to say they have a different menu in the evening than in the daytime. During the daytime the emphasis is on lighter courses as well as lower prices. You'll find everything from soups and salads to Icelandic opened-faced sandwiches and crêpes. In the evening they switch to a sophisticated and more traditional menu, offering a variety of fish and meat courses as well as inviting appetizers and desirable desserts. The prices are a bit higher in the evening, but that only reflects the transformation from bistro to restaurant.

For starters, my companion for the evening and I decided to share two courses. First, we had grilled portobello

mushrooms with a cheese mix, served with a salad and green and red peppers. The smooth and salty taste of the mushroom made this the perfect appetizer. Next we had antipasto which came with a mixture of meats, cheese and olives. It was so good that neither of us really wanted to share it with the other. As for the main course, I had the giant carp with lemon and caper butter, served with tomato salad and shrimp risotto. To be honest the carp was a bit too salty for my taste and I've never really been a fan of risotto, so I was a bit disappointed with the course. My companion had the baccalo with tomato and toasted garlic, served with salad, olives and shrimp risotto. By his account the dish was tasty and fulfilling, and even further complimented by the excellent Pinot Grigio we had with it. Overall, the meal was very enjoyable despite the let down by the carp. 🍷

Where:
Laugavegur 55b
101 Reykjavík
Tel.: 551 1511

7 H8

How much:
1500 - 3000 ISK

What we think:
A pleasant place for a quiet meal.



"They put on such a beautiful meal for us. We had the most amazing freshest fish I've ever had in my life. It was all so perfectly cooked too... Beautiful!"
Jamie Oliver's Diary

L A P R I M A V E R A
R I S T O R A N T E

Austurstræti 9, Reykjavík Tel: 561 8555

*by the sea
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At the seashore the giant lobster makes appointments with mermaids and landlubbers. He waves his large claws, attracting those desiring to be in the company of starfish and lumpfish.

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fax. +354-483 1545 · info@fjorubordid.is · www.fjorubordid.is

Not your average fish'n'chips joint, but a healthy restaurant using only organic vegetables and quality fish products. The spiced skyr side a special treat.

Indian Mango
Frakkarstígur 12 | **H8**
Specializing in delicious dishes from the Goa region of India, honed to perfection in the owner's period as head chef at the Four Seasons. Incredible service as well as food.

Jómfrúin
Lækjargata 4 | **E6**
These days, good Smörbröd can be an elusive delicacy. Lucky for us out in the colonies, it's alive and well at Jómfrúin with fresh eel imported specially from Denmark.

Kaffi Hjómaland
Laugavegur 21 | **G7**
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great lunches and food but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.

Kaffitár
Bankastræti 8 | **F6**
Kaffitár celebrates good coffee, and serves it in abundance, along with sweet treats and tasty if pricy special blends. Eat in or to go, a great way to enjoy your morning boost.

Kaffivagninn
Grandagarður 10 | **D1**
By the harbor, this lunch and coffee place is a gathering place for

all sorts of tough folks. If you want traditional Icelandic food, a great place to see another side of Reykjavík.

Kebbhúsið
Austurstræti 2 | **E6**
The name says it all, really.

Kofi Tómasar Frændu
Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Nestled in a basement location, Uncle Tom's Cabin has the feeling of a back-alley London Café. On weekends it becomes a happening and diverse bar.

Krua Thai
Tryggvagata 14 | **D5**
We dare you to find a better meal for the same price anywhere else. Every dish is delicious. Just eat what looks best to you on their colorful menu.

La Primavera
Austurstræti 9 | **E6**
Though it sounds strange, La Primavera serves delicious traditional North Italian cuisine using only local produce. A startlingly tasty combination and a local favorite.

Mokka
Skólavörðustígur 3A | **F7**
Operating since 1958, Mokka is the city center's oldest coffee joint and founder of Icelandic coffee culture. Regular art exhibits are always worth a look.

Nonnabíti
Hafnarstræti 9 | **E6**
"Nonni" is one of the more popular junk-food places in town,

renowned for its greasy sandwiches and its unique Nonni-sauce. Open late for a midnight cravings.

O Sushi
Lækjargata 2A | **E6**
Also called "The Train", O Sushi's most intriguing feature is a conveyor belt that runs around the entire restaurant delivering a buffet of authentic sushi straight to your table.

Pizza King
Hafnarstræti 18 | **E6**
This little place serves not only the cheapest but largest slices downtown. A local favorite, and open until 6 on Friday and Saturday nights.

Pizza Pronto
Vallarstræti 4 | **D6**
With a convenient location and late hours, a good place to snack in between bars. Three sizes of pizza with a good selection of toppings. A cheap, if unhealthy, choice.

Prikið
Bankastræti 12 | **F6**
Part of the Reykjavík bar scene for decades, this café/bar has a fairly cheap menu and attracts a mix of students and old regulars. Mostly R&B and Hip-Hop on weekends.

Raðhúskaffi | **D7**
Tjarnargata 11
Located in the City Hall with a great view of the pond, this café has a good selection of pastries and a good place to relax. Regular art exhibits add to the aesthetic.

Santa Maria
Laugavegur 22A, | **F7**
Authentic Mexican food, directly from the stove of the owner's mother, who is an authentic Mexican. Served with a healthy distaste for anything texmex. Also the best quality/price ratio in town with every dish under 1000 ISK.

Segafredo
Lækjartorg | **E6**
The Italian coffee chain makes its way to Lækjartorg Square, bringing strong espresso and Italian lunch snacks to grab on the way to work or just to enjoy on the spot.

Shalimar
Austurstræti 4 | **E6**
Shalimar sports the conceit of being the northernmost Indian restaurant in the world and has fine daily specials. We recommend the quite addictive chicken tikka masala.

Sjávarkjallarinn
Ádalstræti 2 | **D6**
Elegant Seafood Cellar focuses on gourmet seafood and tantalizing asian-fusion dishes. Share the exotic menu, courses selected by the chef, with a friend for the most fun.

Sólón
Bankastræti 7a | **F6**
Truly a jack-of-all trades establishment. By night a decent restaurant, by day a café/bistro and on Friday and Saturday nights a nightclub. Art exhibitions on the walls to top it off.

Sushibarinn
Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Deceptively ordinary Sushibarinn has recently become the talk of the town among Reykjavík sushi lovers, serving, in our opinion, the very best rolls in city.

Svarta Kaffi
Laugavegur 54 | **H8**
A cosy second floor café, their fame lies partly in their tasty Súpa í Brauði (Soup in Bread) and also in their romantic atmosphere. Good for a few early evening drinks.

Sægreifinn
Verbuð 8, Geirsgata | **D5**
Right next to the harbor, Sægreifinn fish shop is like none other in the country. With a diverse fish selection, exquisite lobster soup and good service, an absolute must-try.

Tapas
Vesturgata 3B | **D5**
For those with a bit of money and time to spare, Tapas serves course after course of delightful miniature dishes. Also serves tasty and unusually affordable lobster.

Thorvaldsen
Austurstræti 8 | **E6**
Dress formally for this fancy spot, and come before 12 to avoid a long line. DJs play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Tíu Dropar
Laugavegur 27 | **G7**
An old-fashioned café with warm atmosphere and generous coffee refills. A thoroughly

pleasant establishment.

Tívolí
Laugavegur 3 | **F7**
A stylish bistro with a wide variety of selections and positively charming atmosphere.

Tjarnarbakkinn
Vonarstræti 3 | **D7**
Right above the lóno theater, an ideal place to go before shows. Nice views of the pond and outdoor dining in the summertime. The lamb comes especially recommended.

Vegamót
Vegamótastígur 4 | **G7**
Vegamót's kitchen is open until 22.00 daily and sports an appealing lunch menu. Come for a tasty brunch on weekends. If you like Óliver, try Vegamót and vice versa.

Við Tjörnina
Templarasund 3 | **E7**
A Reykjavík classic with menu exclusively of traditional cuisine, as frequented by tourists as it is by locals. A perfect opportunity to try Icelandic delicacies.

Vitabar
Bergþórugata 21 | **H9**
Really a bar, but best known for its hamburgers. Burger and fries for 500 one of the best deals in town, but Forget-Me-Not blue cheese and Garlic Extravaganza are also winners.

The Forget-Me-Not Burger – Simply Magical!

VITABAR
Bergþórugata 21 – 101 Reykjavík – Tel.: 5517200

SHOPPING

Stylist: **Erna Bergmann** — Hair & Makeup: **Elísabet Alma** — Models: **Eva & Geiri** — Photographer: **GAS**

She wears:

Pink Tank Top: Anatomie - Anatomie
Black Tank Top: Anatomie - Anatomie
Shorts: Anatomie - Anatomie
Socks: Gaspard Yurkievich - Kronkron
Leggings: Danskin - Ástund
Shoes: Alexander McQueen for Puma - Anatomie
Towel: Billabong - Brim

He wears:

Jacket: Nike Limited - Kronkron
T-Shirt: Kr3w - Noland
Shorts: Wood Wood - Kron Kron
Socks: Second Hand - Spútník
Shoes: Nike - Kronkron

Special Thanks:

Baðhúsið



Shopping | Venue finder

12 Tónar
Skólavörðust. 15 | **G8**
A record label as well as a store, all the best new Icelandic music on CDs or live on Fridays at 5 PM.

66°North
Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
High quality Icelandic outdoors clothing, designed for life at 66° North

Aftur
Laugavegur 23 | **G7**
Aftur's internationally acclaimed label is proudly displayed here in their shop/studio.

Álafoss
Laugavegur 1 | **F7**
The downtown outlet for famous makers of traditional Icelandic woolsens.

Belleville
Laugavegur 25 | **G7**
Stuffed with trendy

streetwear designs as well as funky magazines and media.

Blue Lagoon Store
Laugavegur 15 | **G7**
All the natural skincare products from the famous geothermal spa at their outlet here.

Brim
Laugavegur 71 | **H7**
Big surf wear, skate wear, and snowboard shop.

Börn Náttúrunnar
Skólavörðustígur 17a | **G8**

The basement children's toy store sells clothes and toys only made of organic products as well as books about childcare and parenthood.

Cintamani
Laugavegur 11 | **F7**
Featuring quality Icelandic outdoor gear,

you can even book an excursion on the spot.

Dead
Laugavegur 29 | **G7**
Artist Jón Sæmundur Auðarson's own hand-printed Rock and Roll label, Dead, plus others.

Dogma
Laugavegur 32 | **H7**
Dogma offers street clothing with interesting prints. Hooded sweaters and T-shirts made by both Icelandic and foreign designers can be found.

Figúra
Skólavörðustígur | **G8**
This shop features Icelandic designer wear, everything from street clothes to party dresses.

Friða Frænka
Vesturgata 3 | **D5**
A real treasure chest of

antique furniture and vintage accoutrements to perk up your apartment.

G-Star Raw
Laugavegur 86 | **I8**
A store for the Dutch jeans brand, an edgy collection with innovative details and washes.

Galleri Sautjón
Laugavegur 91 | **I8**
Stocking many hip labels, a unisex store offering casual business wear to evening dress wear.

Gilbert
Laugavegur 62 | **H8**
Watchmaker Gilbert Guðjónsson has sold watches and clocks on Laugavegur for over 40 years. Recently, Gilbert designed his own line of wristwatches.

Glamúr
Laugavegur 41 | **H7**

A flashy vintage clothing shop with everything from necklaces to fur coats to kimonos.

Green Apple
Laugavegur 20 | **G7**
The tiny shop combines massage and other relaxation products with organic products.

Gyllti Kötturinn
Austurstræti 8 | **E6**
One of a few second hand shops that have popped up in recent year, Gyllti Kötturinn also offers some pieces by locals.

Handþrjóna-sambandið
Skólavörðustígur 19A | **G7**
All sorts of hand knit woollen clothing as well as fine yarns and knitting supplies.

Iða

Lækjargata 2A | **E6**
A great source for all kinds of reading material, with restaurants on the second floor.

Kisan
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
An interesting mix of items from all around the world you won't find anywhere else.

Kisuberjatréð
Vesturgata 4 | **D5**
A lovely gallery/gift shop run by ten artists and designers where they sell their products.

Kolaportíð
Tryggvagata 19 | **E5**
Open on weekends, you can get a bargain on almost anything at this indoor flea market.

Kraum
Aðalstræti 10 | **D6**
Featuring the best in contemporary Icelandic design of everyday

items of any kind.

Kronkron
Laugavegi 63B | **I8**
This hip new shop stocks the latest trends in everything from socks to sweaters.

KVK
Laugavegur 27 | **G7**
Small yet stuffed designer shop KVK, which stocks a nice selection of local designs.

Liborius
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
One of a kind, very high-end shop featuring the latest, crispest designs for both sexes.

Marimekko
Laugavegur 56 | **H8**
Finnish designer brand Marimekko has found its spot on Laugavegur. The Marimekko concept store stocks a wide selection of

the colourfully printed designer products.

Mál og Menning
Laugavegur 18 | **G7**
A multi-level store with games, books, souvenirs and a bustling café on the top floor.

Nakti Apinn
Bankastræti 14 | **F7**
Offers an amazing array of colourful designer wear as well as contemporary media.

Nexus
Hverfisgata 103 | **I8**
The biggest comic book and gaming store in Reykjavík has something for everyone.

Noland
Laugavegur 32 | **H7**
A new skate shop offering fresh tees and sneakers from Krew, Supra and more.

Rökk og Rósir
Laugavegur 17 | **G7**

Second-hand clothing for the fairer sex at a reasonable price.

Skarhúsið
Laugavegur 12 | **F7**
Glittery accessory shop stuffed with cheap jewellery, bags or other small items.

Skífan
Laugavegur 26 | **G7**
Selection of CDs, DVDs and computer games as well as some Icelandic films with English subtitles.

Spútník
Laugavegur 32 | **G7**
One of the best second-hand shops in the country, with recycled clothes at a range of prices.

Systur
Laugavegur 70 | **H7**
For whatever women's lingerie needs you might have, this is the

store to satisfy them.

Trilogía
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
A collection of trendy designer wear fills the shop, summery dresses, sweaters and skirts.

The Viking
Hafnarstræti 3 | **E5**
This large tourist shop sells all sorts of smart souvenirs to bring back home.

Þorsteinn Bergmann
Skólavörðustígur 36 | **G8**
Since the 1940s this small store has offered a huge selection of household supplies for a laughable low price.

Anatomie
Skólavörðustígur | **G8**
A great little shop with an excellent selection of sportswear.

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	Miesięczne	Stawka dzienna	Nadgodziny
Stawki Podstawowe	207.555	1.197	2.155
Po 1 roku w swiazkach	214.366	1.237	2.226
Po 3 roku w swiazkach	219.704	1.268	2.282
Po 5 roku w swiazkach	225.202	1.299	2.339

Stawka podstawowa dla rzemieślników bez egzaminu zawodowego, dyplomowanych we własnych krajach: (Ta kategoria placowa ważna jest maksymalnie dwa lata).

	Miesięczne	Stawka dzienna	Nadgodziny
Stawki Podstawowe	186.800	1.078	1.940
Po 1 roku w swiazkach	192.929	1.113	2.004

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Umowa zbiorowa jest dla wszystkich, którzy pracują w wyżej wymienionych zawodach. Obniżenie stawek jest łamaniem prawa i kontraktu. Wszyscy wykształceni rzemieślnicy są członkami związku.

Samiðn, Borgartún 30, tel. 5356000 – www.samidn.is

INTERVIEW BY STEVIE WARD



FLYSKY - FROM LAST YEAR'S SEQUENCES FESTIVAL

Exploring Site Specific Art

The Sequences Festival is on again

The Sequences Festival is an annual independent arts festival established in Reykjavík in 2006. Founded by four artist-run galleries—The Living Art Museum, Kling & Bang Gallery, The Dwarf Gallery and Gallery Bananananas and developed by the Center for Icelandic Art—this year's 27 works focus on time-based arts with emphasis on site-specific, multi-disciplinary work. We sat down with Executive Director Tinna Guðmundsdóttir, Artistic Director Kristín Björk Kristjánsdóttir and Honorary Artist Ruri to explore the inspiration behind the festival.

Ever since artists removed the proscenium arch or traditional exhibition spaces from the equation, festivals have continued to create artwork away from black-box style theatres or museums. "I'm fascinated about how you can walk through town and have things pour over you" Kristín Björk Kristjánsdóttir explains. "A person shouldn't need an arrow pointed at art saying 'this is art'; I like how it can be something that just happens to you. You don't have to step into a space that is specifically an art space to experience it. The thinner the line between art and reality becomes, the more interesting it gets."

This opens the mind to view all spaces as

'active', creating new rules for the audience: you activate the space when you walk into it, and you choose when the performance ends. "There is a magical aspect to it," Kristin continues. "It becomes a surreal thread into daily life, rather than something you have to put aside, with directions on how to experience it. In Sequences 2006, Andrew Burgess had a video work projected onto Parliament called 'Another Ping', which completely distorted the way one experienced the space. This year, Magnús Árnason, 'The Darkest Star of Icelandic art' will take the Nordic House under siege with a morbid slime installation."

THE MAGIC OF TIME AND SPACE

Honorary Artist Ruri explains: "Art is like magic and the time based artworks in Sequences bring together magic and technology and science." Time Based Media (introduced in 1972 by UK video art pioneer David Hall) is this festival's primary element. Performances can be 'one-off' moments in time, or run for the entire duration. For example 'Stilluppsteypa', an experimental electronic duo, will exhibit an 'artificial intergalactic alien presentation' in the basement of Listasafn Íslands which will only exist for the length of the festival, whilst some works may become permanent installations.

Spatial experimentation is evident in so much of 'Sequences'. The aim of 'Situationists' was to notice how certain spaces intervene with states of mind, and to seek out reasons for movement there, other than those the environment was designed for. Tinna Guðmundsdóttir remarks that remnants from last year's festival are still 'intervening' with Reykjavík's landscape. "People still point out Theresa Himmer's sequined waterfall from 2006 and they ask 'has that always been there?' When they discover where it came from, it is such a nice feeling to realise you were a part of it, a part of the magic."

A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY MOVEMENT

The festival aims to facilitate the fusion of different artistic disciplines, Kristin explains. "Even the Sequences artists themselves are inter-disciplinary. They always have more than one string to their bow. For example, in our VJ event, filmmakers collaborate with musicians. Danni from Sometime will be playing a scruffy, custom made drum kit that triggers video signals."

"It was inspired by Iceland Airwaves," Tinna continues. "They always have artists who make something 'deluxe' just for them. We wanted to do something similarly special for Icelandic artists. We really tried this year to bring different people

together and when they had suggestions for collaborations, we agreed to it. The festival strives to give Icelandic and foreign artists a platform to work together."

It is evident that this platform is successful. Two of this year's artists, composer Hildur Ingvaldardóttir Guðnadóttir and visual artist Elin Hansdóttir, met on a plane and decided to collaborate. The aptly named 'Ode to flying' is a re-devising of "Music for airports 2/2" (originally recorded 30 years ago by Brian Eno.)

Honorary Artist Ruri comments on her first time collaboration with acclaimed musician Johann Johansson: "It's quite a challenge because we hadn't even met before this idea came up, and for me it is a very interesting one." The multi-media artist started working with the musician long distance in the summer. "Then we met in Copenhagen, so we have been working it over the net, which is typical for the times in which we are living."

NEW MEDIA REVOLUTION

The festival experiments with 'New Media' – the creation of live and virtual exchanges for audiences – through interactive video, sound and installation. Experimentation with the inseparable nature of reality and simulation in the 70's led to the development of walk-through installations that allowed audiences the freedom to move within the space and become affected in ways never before allowed in art exhibitions.

"New Media artists had to fight their way into being," Tinna explains. "The pieces in Sequences are not ones that are commonly acknowledged. There is a lot of New Media in museums, but how can you buy a performance? How can you sell it? It's impossible to recreate or capture."

Ruri comments: "People say 'It cannot be art because you cannot keep it, there is nothing left, when you finish it' so I say it's like memories: it lives onward in the memories of those who are present. Memories are not valid, some say they have no value. I love to ask the person, 'are you married?' Very often they say yes. So I ask, 'Why did you get married? By the same method of evaluation, it has no real value. It only lives in your memory.'

In regard to this year's memories, Tinna concludes: "When so much is focused on the audience going 'through something', you have to be here to see it. I like art as an experience. It should be alive and overwhelming – New Media is the future of art."

Sequences Arts Festival
October 11 - 17

For more info:
www.sequences.is

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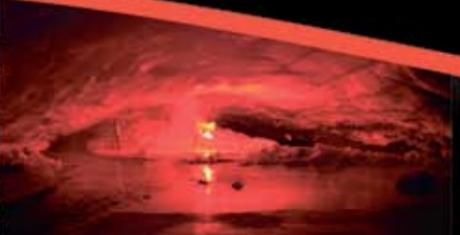
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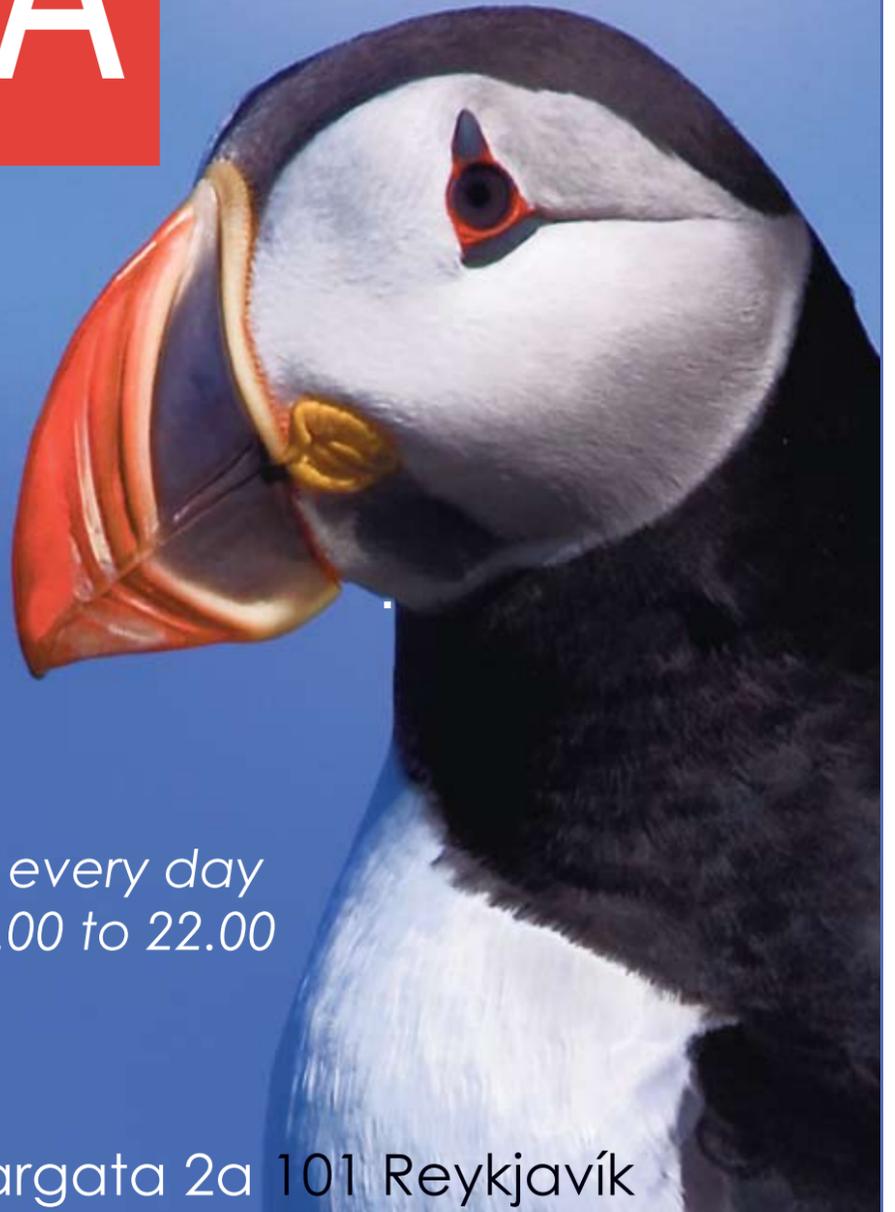
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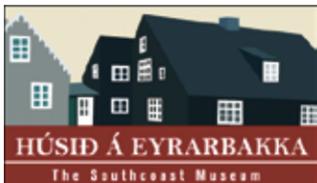
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13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00
		17:00	17:00	17:00		



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SEQUENCES 2008

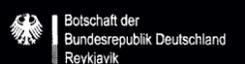


REAL-TIME ART FESTIVAL

REYKJAVIK 11-17 OCTOBER

For more information: www.sequences.is

Full details and complete festival overview in the next issue of The Reykjavík Grapevine.



The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

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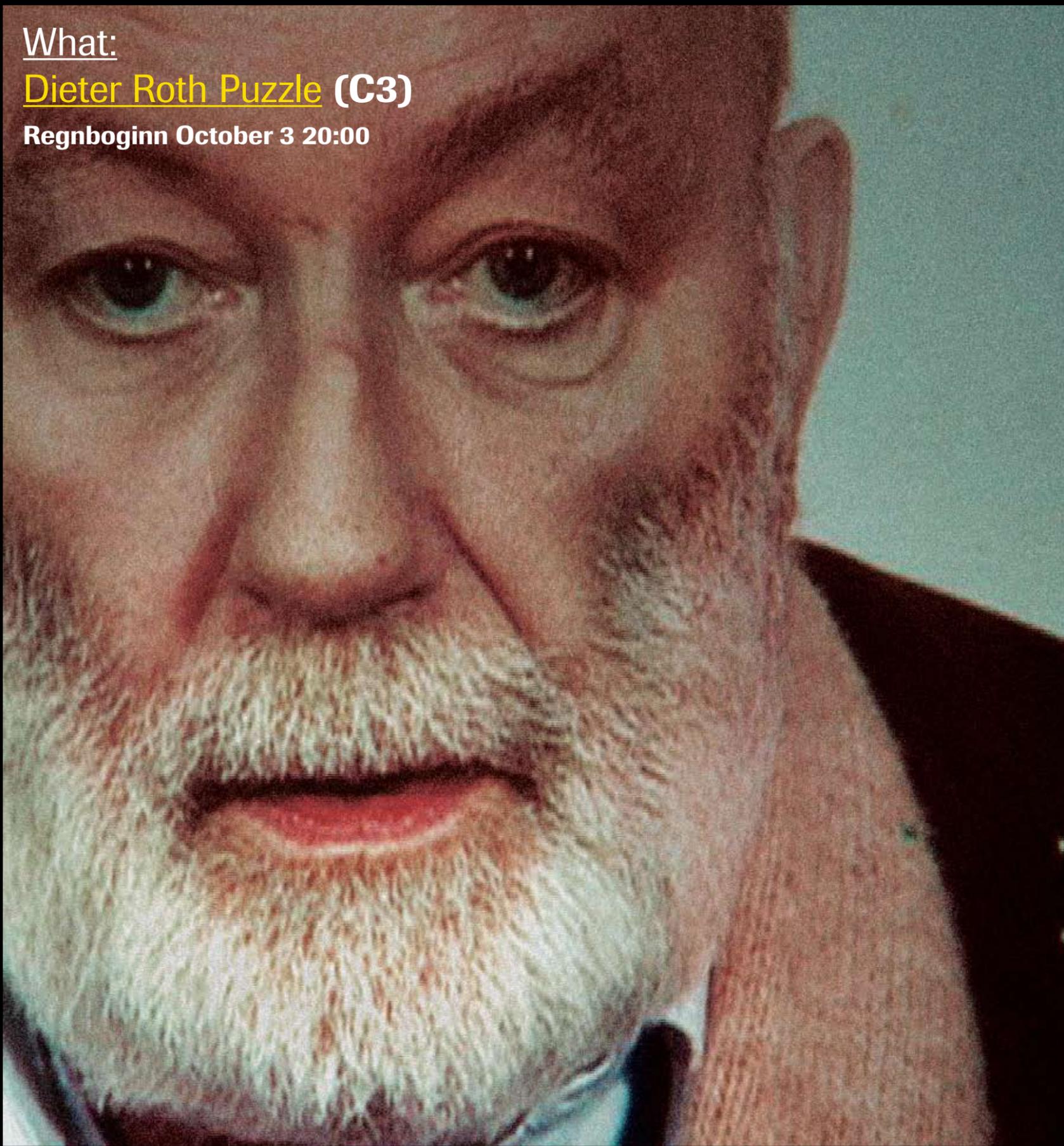
Issue 15 2008

www.grapevine.is/art/film • www.riff.is

What:

Dieter Roth Puzzle (C3)

Regnboginn October 3 20:00



Midnight Movies THE CROWN JEWEL OF OZPLOITATION

Long Weekend is not only a golden nugget of the Ozploitation-era but also a forgotten classic of horror cinema. A young married couple on the brink of a divorce head into a secluded beach to try to work out their problems. They have no respect for their surroundings and slowly nature starts turning against them. The environment becomes uncanny and threatening, but no monsters are involved – rather, the horror lies within the detailed atmosphere that lures the audience into the seething paranoia. The film celebrates its 30th anniversary this year and is projected from a new film print. A remake is on the way and therefore we

encourage everyone to grab the opportunity to watch this original work on the big screen. Screening before the feature is the short film Violence in the Cinema, part 1 (1971) by George Miller, director of the Mad Max trilogy, where the rising wave of violent cinema is discussed in a fairly straightforward manner.

Regboginn
27.9 | 23:30 (AUS) 1978
3.10 | 23:30 92 min,
5.10 | 22:30 35mm



Sound on Sight ELECTRONICA REYKJAVIK



Electronica Reykjavik is the story of a revolution in music. The electronic and house music of the late 80's and early 90's not only defined a generation, it affected a whole other generation of musicians. A scene of mostly underground and avant-garde Icelandic electronic artists emerged, many of which are portrayed in the film. Be prepared for the deepest rhythms of nature and – above all – a very sexy party. The film gives rare insight into the early days of Icelandic dance music as it features footage from clubs long gone and hairstyles better forgotten as well as performances from artists such as Anonymous, Biogen, GusGus, Ghostigital and many more.

Regnboginn
Q&A
27.9 | 18:30
1.10 | 19:30
Iðnó
30.9 | 22:30

Arnar Jónasson
(ICE) 2008
55 min,
Beta SP

New Visions BLIND LOVES

As the title indicates, Blind Loves is about the love between blind people. It follows two couples, a blind mother and a young teenage girl, trying to find love on the Internet. The first couple has clearly been together for a long time but the second one just started dating and the girl's parents are not very pleased. The blind mother has a child who is not blind and they have a very special relationship. The teenage girl meets a boy on the Internet but is afraid to tell him that she's blind. How can a blind person find love? Do blind people see love differently than other people? In a very entertaining manner, this film shows how blind people struggle with love and how, like everybody else, they only want to love and be loved.

Regnboginn **Jurajw**
26.9 | 22:30 **Lehotsky**
1.10 | 19:30 (SVK) 2008
3.10 | 17:00 77 mín,
35 mm



Horizon: Argentina LEONERA

Would you sacrifice your mother to be free? Leonera is about Julia, a young Argentinian woman who is possibly a murderer. Either she or Ramiro, her lover, killed Nahuel and either Ramiro or Nahuel is the father of her son, Tomás. It looks like it could get ugly in court. In Argentina children can be raised in prison to be with their mothers. Julia's mother wants to raise her grandson so that he

can be in a healthier environment, but Julia is unwilling to let go. This film deals with ethical dilemmas, but in the end it boils down to a single question: Would you sacrifice your mother to be free?

Regnboginn **Pablo Trapero**
30.9 | 19:30 (ARG) 2008
1.10 | 22:00 113 mín,
2.10 | 17:00 Digibeta



Event MÍNUS25

Minus25 is a special section within the Reykjavík International Film Festival that is dedicated to young people from 5–25 years old. The festival has worked during the past years to become more than a film festival by adding an important educational value to the event. The objective of the Minus25 program is to provide young people with film oriented entertainment, education and experience during the festival. The main collaborators in the Minus25 program are Hitt Húsið and The Nordic House and most of the program will take place there. The detailed schedule can be found on the Riff webpage, www.riff.is.



Event FESTIVAL TV

Festival TV is a channel that shows reports from the program and interviews with guests of Reykjavík International Film Festival. The reports are made by the media students at the University of Iceland and film students at Borgarholtsskóli College, who will prepare daily clips from the festival. The vast selection of clips will be screened on various venues across the city centre, but will also be available at the festival's official webpage www.riff.is. So, if you want to be sure you're not missing out on some crucial event, and also if you do so, check out this brand new festival TV.

RIFF | Venues

Bæjarbíó Hafnarírói
Strandargötu 6 | This old cinema will host a few special events, for example the Kung Fu extravaganza which the celebrated musician Paul Oscar will offer eager viewers.

Hitt Húsið
Pósthússtræti 5 | **E6** This youth culture centre will be a haven for young enthusiastic filmmakers as it hosts the youth film weekend, amongst other fun events.

Hressingarskálinn
Austurstræti 20 | **E6** If you want to take part in the celebrated 'Gretti Cabaret' you'll have to show up at this old coffee place where the participants gather.

Iða
Lækjargötu 2 | **E5** In this central coffee shop tickets will be available during opening hours or from 12PM till 6PM.

Iðnó
Vonarstræti 3 | **E7** An old and antique hall where a restaurant and a music venue is operated nowadays. For this year's RIFF it will

be transformed into a modern cinema.

National Gallery of Iceland
Frikirkjuvegi 7 | **E8** The recipient of the Creative Excellency Award at the 2008 Reykjavík International Film Festival will host several exhibitions at this art museum by the city pond.

Regnboginn
Hverfisgötu 54 | **H7** One of the three main RIFF cinemas and also the only functional cinema on a daily basis. It boasts of five fully equipped screening rooms and screens the bulk of the program.

The Nordic House
Sturlugötu 5 | **C11** The Nordic culture centre, nicely designed by the famous architect Alvar Alto is a milestone in the festival's schedule and hosts many screenings as well as a various special events.

Volunteer Centre
Laugarvegi 35 | **H7** A lot of people volunteer their work at the festival. At the volunteer centre you can get tickets and festival info from 10AM till 8PM.

RIFF Schedule

THURSDAY SEPT 25

- **Iðnó**
 - 15:30 Wild Combination: A Portrait of Arthur Russel
 - 17:30 Shadow of the Holy Book
 - 20:00 Cat Dancer
 - 22:30 33 Scenes from Life
- **Nordic House**
 - 15:30 Two Looks
 - 17:30 Flow: For Love of Water
 - 20:00 Indestructible
 - 22:30 Feast of Villains
- **Regnboginn**
 - 20:00 O'Horten
 - 22:30 A Country Teacher
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Cold Lunch
 - 20:00 Snow
 - 22:30 Tale 52
- **Regnboginn**
 - 20:00 Breakfast with Scot
 - 23:30 Heavy Metal in Baghdad
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Berlin Calling
 - 20:00 Uprising
 - 23:30 Investigator

FRIDAY SEPT 26

- **Iðnó**
 - 15:30 A Beautiful trag**
 - 17:30 The Fridge/ About Water
 - 20:00 The Suicide Tour
 - 22:30 Bomb It!
- **Nordic House**
 - 13:30 The last Continent
 - 15:30 Up Stream Battle
 - 17:30 Shirin Neshat
 - 20:00 Drifting Flowers
 - 22:30 A Jihad for Love
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:00 Ev. Present
 - 18:15 Thats What I Call Dance
 - 22:30 Revanche
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 The Ax
 - 20:00 With Your Permission
 - 22:30 Blind Loves
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Good Cats
 - 20:00 Mr. Big
 - 22:30 Berlin Song
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Pandora's Box
 - 20:00 Birdsong
 - 22:30 Before I Forget

SATURDAY SEPT 27

- **Nordic House**
 - 13:30 Young Heros 10-12
 - 15:30 Young Heros 10-12
 - 17:30 Two Looks
 - 20:00 Shirin Neshat
 - 22:30 My Winnipeg
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 A Country Teacher
 - 18:30 Electronica Reykjavik
 - 20:15 And Rolling
 - 21:30 O'Horten
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 Before Tomorrow
 - 17:30 Snow
 - 20:00 Hanna K
 - 22:30 Berlin Calling
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 A Line a Day Must Be Enough
 - 17:30 Generation 68/ Only A Birth
 - 20:00 Terribly Happy
 - 22:30 She's a Boy I Knew
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 I Loved You So Long
 - 17:30 Without Mercy
 - 20:00 Barcelona
 - 22:30 Rain
- **Regnboginn**
 - 23:30 Violence in the Cinema/ Long Weekend**

SUNDAY SEPT 28

- **Iðnó**
 - 15:30 A Jihad for Love
 - 17:30 Squeeze Box
 - 20:00 Frontier Ghandi
 - 22:30 Frontier Ghandi
- **Nordic House**
 - 13:30 Young Heros 10-12
 - 15:30 Young Heros 10-12
 - 17:30 The Suicide Tour
 - 20:00 Flow
 - 22:30 Wild Combination: A Portrait of Arthur Russell
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 Afterschool

- 17:30 Home
- 20:00 Pandora's
- 22:30 I Loved You So Long
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 Birdsong
 - 17:30 Tale 52
 - 20:00 Zift
 - 22:30 The Ax
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 Story of Stuff/ Stone Science
 - 17:30 Drifting Flower
 - 20:00 Fridge/ About Water
 - 22:30 Wisper Trees/ In Search of a Legend
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 Soar
 - 17:30 A Zone
 - 20:00 Cold Lunch
 - 22:30 Before Tomorrow

MONDAY SEPT 29

- **Iðnó**
 - 13:00 Cat Dancers**
 - 15:30 My Winnipeg
 - 17:30 Generation 68
 - 20:00 In Search of a Legend
 - 22:30 That's What I Call Dance/ Everybody Present!
- **Nordic House**
 - 13:00 Tale 52**
 - 15:30 33 Scenes From Life
 - 17:30 Wild Bull
 - 20:00 Berlin Song
 - 22:30 Indestructible
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Berlin Calling
 - 20:00 Missing
 - 22:30 Zift
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Before I Forget
 - 20:00 Lou Reed's Berlin
 - 22:30 O'Horten
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Mr. Big
 - 20:00 The Last Continent
 - 22:30 Feast of Villians
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Barcelona
 - 20:00 Soar
 - 22:30 With Your Permission

TUESDAY SEPT 30

- **Iðnó**
 - 13:00 Wild Bull**
 - 15:30 **A Line a Day Must Be Enough!**
 - 17:30 Up The Yangtze
 - 20:00 Breakfast with Scot
 - 22:30 And Rolling/ Electronica Reykjavik
- **Nordic House**
 - 15:30 Young Heros 12-14
 - 17:30 Young Heros 14+
 - 20:00 Squeeze Box!
 - 22:30 A Beautiful Tragedy
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Afterschool
 - 20:00 Birdsong
 - 22:30 Adoration
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 The Most Distant Course
 - 20:00 Revanche
 - 22:30 Soar
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Cat Dancers
 - 20:00 Bomb It!
 - 22:30 Mr. Big
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Lou Reed's Berlin
 - 20:00 Lions Den
 - 22:30 Home

WEDNESDAY OCT 1

- **Iðnó**
 - 13:00 Wisper of Trees/ Story of Stuff**
 - 15:30 Heavy Metal in Baghdad
 - 17:30 Upstream Battle
 - 20:00 Bomb It!
 - 22:30 Terribly Happy
- **Nordic House**
 - 13:00 Without Mercy**
 - 15:30 Young Heros 12-14
 - 17:30 The Last Continent
 - 20:00 Shadow Of The Holy Book
 - 22:30 Breakfast with Scot
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Rain
 - 20:00 Adoration
 - 22:30 Lion's Den
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Investigator
 - 20:00 Afterschool
 - 22:30 Hanna K
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Indestructible

- 20:00 And Rolling/ Electronica Reykjavik
- 22:30 Story of Stuff/ Stone Silence
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Pandora's Box
 - 20:00 Blind Loves
 - 22:30 Without Mercy

THURSDAY OCT 2

- **Iðnó**
 - 13:00 Story of Stuff/ Stone Silence**
 - 15:30 Fury
 - 17:30 Generation 68/ Only a Birth
 - 20:00 A Jihad for Love
 - 22:30 She's a Boy I Knew
- **Nordic House**
 - 15:30 Wild Bull
 - 17:30 Up the Yangtze
 - 20:00 Two Looks
 - 22:30 Wild Combination
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Lion's Den
 - 20:00 I Loved You So Long
 - 22:30 Tulpan
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Adoration
 - 20:00 O'Horten
 - 22:30 Lou Reed's Berlin
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Fridge/ About Water
 - 20:00 Good Cats
 - 22:30 My Winnipeg
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Revanche
 - 20:00 The Most Distant Course
 - 22:30 Cold Lunch
- **Bæjarbíó**
 - 21:00 Kung Fu Night

FRIDAY OCT 3

- **Iðnó**
 - 13:00 Flow
 - 15:30 Good Cats
 - 17:30 She's a Boy I knew
 - 20:00 Terribly Happy
 - 22:30 Berlin Song
- **Nordic House**
 - 13:00 Polar Radio
 - 15:30 Shadow Of The Holy Book
 - 17:30 Young Heros 14+
 - 20:00 A Beautiful Tragedy
 - 22:30 33 Scenes From Life
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Icelandic Shorts
 - 20:30 Dieter Roth Puzzle
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Adoration
 - 20:00 Without Mercy
 - 22:30 With Your Permission
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Pandora's Box
 - 20:00 Hanna K
 - 22:30 Zift
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17:30 Blind Loves
 - 20:00 Before I Forget
 - 22:30 The Most Distant Course
- **Regnboginn**
 - 23:30 Violence in the Cinema/ Long Weekend
- **Bæjarbíó**
 - 20:00 Sons of the Soil

SATURDAY OCT 4

- **Iðnó**
 - 13:00 Upstream Battle**
 - 15:30 That's What I Call Dance/ Everybody Present!
 - 17:30 The Suicide Tour
 - 20:00 A Line a Day Must Be Enough!
 - 22:30 Drifting Flowers
- **Nordic House**
 - 17:30 Feast of Villans
 - 20:00 33 Scenes From Life
 - 22:30 Dieter Roth Puzzle
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 Cat Dancers
 - 17:30 Fury
 - 20:00 Garbage Warrior
 - 22:30 Heavy Metal in Baghdad
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 A Zone
 - 17:30 With Your Permission
 - 20:00 A Country Teacher
 - 22:30 I Loved You So Long
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 Cold Lunch
 - 17:30 Tulpan
 - 20:00 Investigator
 - 22:30 Revanche
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 Snow
 - 17:30 The Ax
 - 20:00 Rain
 - 22:30 Tale 52

SUNDAY OCT 5

- **Iðnó**
 - 13:00 Breakfast With Scot
 - 15:30 Whisper Trees/ In Search of a Legend
 - 17:30 Squeeze Box
 - 20:00 Up The Yangtze
 - 22:30 Icelandic Shorts
- **Nordic House**
 - 13:00 Young Heros 10 & under
 - 15:30 Dieter Roth Puzzle
 - 17:30 Shadow of the Holy Book
 - 20:00 Bomd It!
 - 22:30 Terribly Happy
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 Tulpan
 - 17:30 TBA
 - 20:00 TBA
 - 22:30 TBA
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 Barcelona
 - 17:30 TBA
 - 20:00 TBA
 - 22:30 TBA
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 Drifting Flowers
 - 17:30 My Winnipeg
 - 20:00 Heavy Metal in Baghdad
 - 22:30 Fury
- **Regnboginn**
 - 15:30 Before Tomorrow
 - 17:30 Home
 - 20:00 Snow
 - 22:30 Violence in the Cinema/ Long Weekend

Events

FRIDAY SEPT 26

- **Listaháskóli Íslands**
 - 11.30 Shirin Neshat Masterclass- She will speak about her own work and the connection between filmmaking and visual arts.
- **Nordic House**
 - 17.00 Shirin Neshat: Q&A with director
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17.00 Everybody present!: Director present María Guðmundsdóttir
 - 18.15 Regnboginn That's what I call dancing: Director present Ásthildur Kjartansdóttir
- **Iðnó**
 - 20.00 The Suicide Tourist: Q&A with director John Zaritsky
- **Regnboginn**
 - 20.30 Only a Birth: Director present Þór Elís Pálsson

SATURDY SEPT 27

- **Nordic House**
 - 12:00 John Zaritsky documentary masterclass
 - 17:00 Eye for an eye by Árni Beinteinn Árnason
- **Regnboginn**
 - 18:30 Electronica Reykjavik: Director present Arnar Jónasson
 - 20:00 Directors present Elsa María Jakobsdóttir & Gaukur Úlfarsson

SUNDAY SEPT 28

- **Háskólatorg Háskóla Íslands**
 - 13:00 An afternoon with Costa-Gavras
- **Iðnó**
 - 17:30 Squeezebox!: Q&A with director Zach Shaffer
 - 20:00 Iðnó Frontier Ghandi world premiere: Q&A with director T.C. McLuhan
- **Kringlan**
 - 20:00 Drive-In Movie! Dayshift/ Remote Control director: Oskar Jonnsson.

MONDAY SEPT 29

- **Ráðhúsið**
 - 12.00 Pannel: The importance of documentaries in the environmental discussion. Filmmaker Pannel Includes, Yung Chang, Konstanty Kulik, Ben Kempas and Teri McLuhan
 - 17.00 Peace Concert with David Amram- From India to Iceland
- **Iðnó**
 - 17.30 Iðnó Generation '68: Q&A with director Simon Brook
 - 20.00 Search of a Legend: Q&A with director Konstanty Kulik

TUESDAY SEPT 30

- **Nordic House**
 - 12.00 An afternoon with Gloria Fan and Baltasar Kormákur
 - 17.30 Up The Yangtze: Q&A with director Yung Chang
- **Iðnó**
 - 20.00 Breakfast with Scot: Q&A with producer Paul Brown
- **The Grand Rokk**
 - 21:00 Grettir Kaberet Screening. Films made in 72hrs will be screened before an audience.

WEDNESDAY OCT 1

- **Nordic House**
 - 12.00 Lecture Mate Amargo: Modern Argentinian filmmaking Hólmfríður Garðarsdóttir
 - 20.00 The Shadow of The Holy Book: Q&A with director Arto Halonen
- **Iðnó**
 - 17.30 Upstream Battle: Q&A with director Ben Kempas
 - 20.00 Bomb it!: Q&A with director Jon Reiss

THURSDAY OCT 2

- **Nordic House**
 - 10.00 Sound on Sight market
- **Ráðhúsið**
 - 16.00 Bomb It! Bomb It! – Panel on graffiti
- **Iðnó**
 - 20.00 A Jihad For Love: Q&A with producer Sandi Dubowski
- **Regnboginn**
 - 20.00 I've Loved You So Long: Q&A with director Phillipe Claudel
 - 21.00 B-movie night with Páll Óskar

FRIDAY OCT 3

- **Nordic House**
 - 11.00 Screening I've loved you so long and Q&A with director Philippe Claudel
 - 12.00 Sandi Dubowski: Discussion- Faith and homosexuality- the producer of A Jihad for Love leads a discussion.
 - 18.00 Arto Halonen Masterclass
- **Regnboginn**
 - 17.00 Icelandic shorts: Directors present
- **Iðnó**
 - 17.30 She's a Boy I Knew: Q&A with Director Gwen Haworth
- **Regnboginn**
 - 20.30 Dieter Roth Puzzle: Director present Hilmar Oddsson
 - 20.00 Without Mercy: Q&A with director Elemér Ragályi
 - 20:00 Bæjarbíó Hjaltalín in Concert
- **The Grand Rokk**
 - 21:00 Grettir Kaberet Screening
 - Films made in 72hrs.

SATURDAY OCT 4

- **Nordic House**
 - 10.00 Screening of Okay followed by Q&A
 - 14.00 Work in progress: Sunshine Boy by Friðrik Þór
- **Ráðhúsið**
 - 16.00 Nordic panel: The Self-Image of Nordic filmmaking
 - The panel includes including Paprika Steen, the Danish filmmaker and actress, the Faroese filmmaker Katrin Ottarsdóttir and Laufey Guðjónsdóttir.
- **Regnboginn**
 - 18.00 With Your Permission: Q&A with director Paprika Steen
 - 20.00 Iðnó A Line a Day Must Be Enough: Q&A with director Katrin Ottarsdottir

SUNDAY OCT 5

- **The Grand Rokk**
 - 21:00 Grettir Kaberet Screening

Young Heroes ZEZIL'S WORLD

Children have long been a neglected audience when it comes to documentaries and the few that are made for them tend to be made for TV. That is changing however and this year the festival will, in co-operation with the Goethe-Institut, offer thirteen documentaries for children, divided into four different programs and organised by different age groups. In the age group 14+ the highlight is the Danish film Zezil's World. Here we meet Zezil and Kristopher who are both outsiders in their way. Zezil feels like a foreigner in her own country, because while she is Danish, her ancestors come

from the Middle East. Kristopher on the other hand is really relieved when he decides to tell his family and friends that he is gay. Finally we follow the day Estonia joined the EU – but particularly we follow Mikik, Kristo and Sascha who turned 18 that same day.

Nordic House 30.9 | 17:00
ZeZils Verden Denmark 3.10 | 17:00 35 min

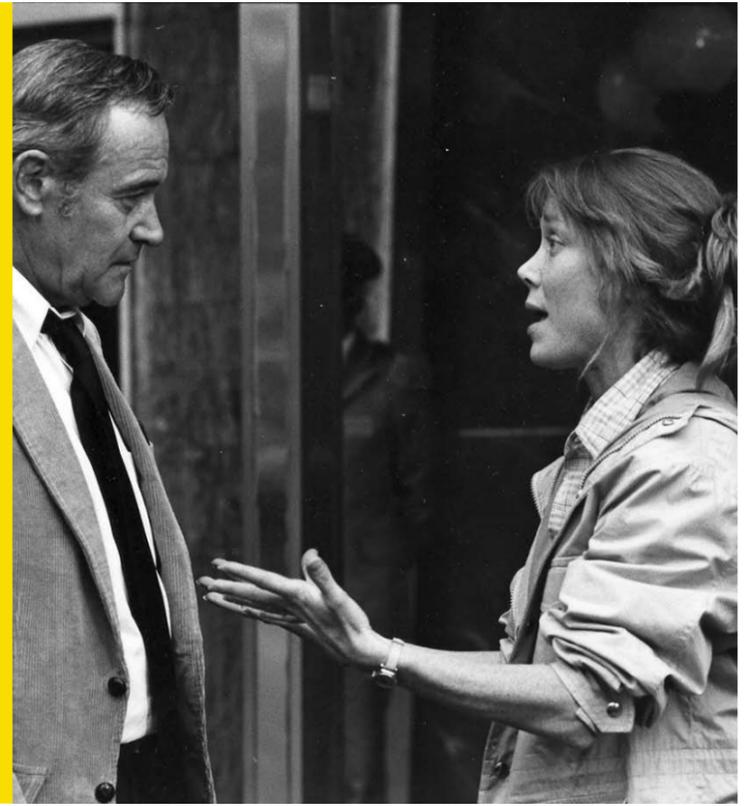


Costa-Gavras MISSING?

Missing is based on real events that took place right after the 1973 coup d'état in Chile. An American father played by Jack Lemmon arrives in South America to search for his son. Slowly he starts to realise that not everything is the way it should be in this country, nor in his own.

Jack Lemmon proved in this film that he was not just a capable comedian but also a good dramatic actor. The script won an Oscar and the film received the Golden Palm at Cannes as well as winning awards at nearly every other festival that year. The film received good reviews everywhere except in Chile where it was banned during the dictatorship. Missing has long since become a classic and was a major milestone in Costa-Gavras' career.

Regboginn Q&A 29.9 | 20:00
Costa-Gavras (US) 1982 122 mín, 35 mm



Icelandic Panorama NAGLINN

Under the Icelandic Panorama category, we bring you the films that we believe will reflect Icelandic film production in the coming years. On of the more successful Icelandic shorts in this category is "The Nail" by Benedikt Erlingsson. This is a picture about a nail, about men, the male animal, politicians and brain damage. Róbert is a leader of a nation who gets a nail rammed into his head, resulting in brain damage. He becomes a better leader but a worse politician. Benedikt Erlingsson has lately performed the one act play Mr. Skallagrímsson for a full house in the Settlement Centre in Borgarnes. Many Icelanders also remember him from Fóstbræður (Stepbrothers), a sketch show from the late 90s.

Regnboginn Q&A 3.10 | 17:00
lðnó 5.10 | 22:30
Benedikt Erlingsson (ICE) 2008 15 min, Digibeta



Open Sea A FEAST OF VILLAINS



According to the director himself, there is nothing significant about the main character of this film. Fu Gui fills a certain space but has no understanding of that space. In reality Fu Gui is nothing but a badly beaten dog unable to confront the world with anything but nervous fear. Fu Gui badly needs money to pay for his father's medicine and in order to get the money he heads south to sell one of his kidneys illegally but is cheated out of the money. When he returns, his father has died and now he can't even pay for the funeral. That bizarre plotline manifests that Feast of Villains is a tragicomic take on a grim reality. Director Pan Jianlin was born in 1969 and belongs to a new generation of Chinese filmmakers, less afraid of criticizing the government and has shown again and again that he is an artist unafraid to use the film medium to tackle serious issues.

Norræna húsið 25.9 | 22:30
4.10 | 17:30
Regnboginn 29.9 | 22:00
Pan Jianlin (CHN) 2008 85 min, Digibeta

Docs in Focus BOMB IT! THE GLOBAL GRAFFITI DOCUMENTARY

Bomb it! takes the viewer on a journey to the origins of modern street art in New York where the first tags ushered in a new form of communication, a way for the forgotten people of the sprawling metropolises to scream and reveal what the world is really like, to reject its previously accepted norms. This form of communication has evolved into elaborate street art spread across the continents, from Amsterdam to Tokyo to São Paulo to London. This street art now has its own aesthetic values that question the definitions of art and what makes a space public.

It embraces life – true life, not the jaded, self-indulgent views that permeate the so-called clean parts of the world. The director Jon Reiss has been named one of the "10 Digital Directors to Watch" by Daily Variety and we have to say we agree, digital or not.

lðnó 26.9 | 22:30
Q&A 1.10 | 20:00
Regnboginn 30.9 | 19:30
Norræna húsið 5.10 | 20:00
Jon Reiss (US) 2007 93 mín, Digibeta



Docs in Focus SHADOW OF THE HOLY BOOK

In Shadow of the Holy Book director Arto Halonen and his friend, reporter Kevin Frazier, investigate the relationship between a few big corporations and the dictator state Turkmenistan. The former Turkmenistan leader Saparmut Niyazov (also known as Turkmenbashi) wrote the propaganda book Ruhnama and made it mandatory reading in all the schools in the country. Today the book is like the Bible of Turkmenistan. In order to do business in Turkmenistan various large corporations have translated the Ruhmana into their own language, despite little interest in the book outside of Turkmenistan, thus opening up business opportunities with Turkmenistan. In this way the corporations are also supporting the human rights violations that are widespread in the country.

lðnó 25.9 | 17:30
Norræna húsið Q&A 1.10 | 20:00 5.10 | 17:30
Arto Halonen (FIN) 2007 90 mín, Digibeta

