



The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE



Culture Night Schedule inside!

YOUR FREE COPY

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND

Issue 12 – **August 13 - 26** – 2010

www.grapevine.is

+ COMPLETE CITY LISTINGS – INSIDE!

PLUS

POLITICS

That whole
Magma thing
so far...

ACTIVISM

Iceland's funniest
asst. nurse
gets arrested

MUSIC

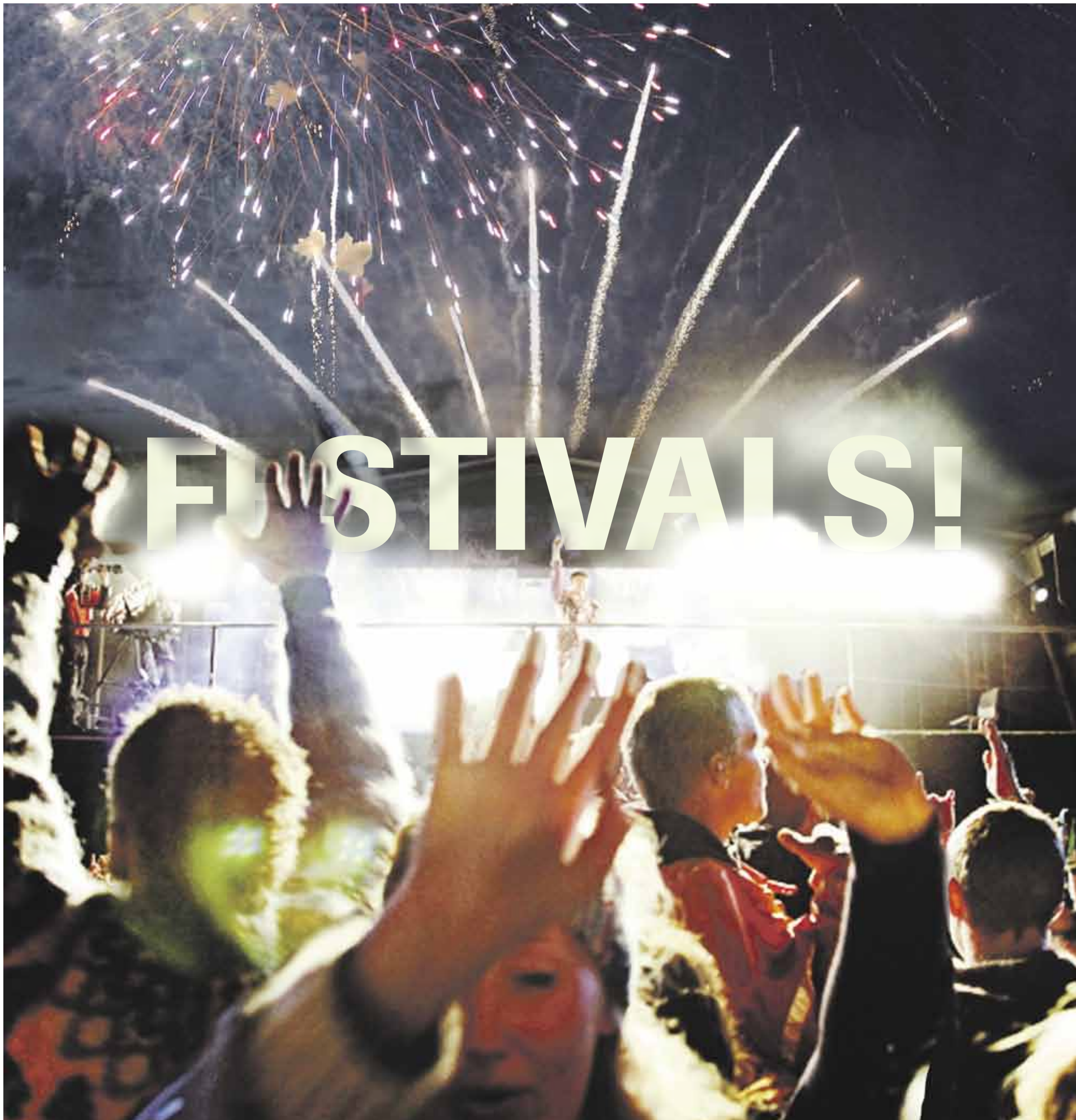
We interview
a violinmaker!

DEEP THOUGHT

Do humans
'own' nature?

TRAVEL

Foxes, puppets, pools and peril



FESTIVALS!

Boy, the summer of 2010 has been crammed full of festivals. There's barely time to sleep or anything, what with all the three-day youth art golf music theatre clown performance gardening fish pottery celebrations that seem to go on every weekend. Phew. It's been a busy summer, and there's more to come, so we decided to write up some of these past parties for your enjoyment. Page 19

SO LONG, SUCKERS!

Haukur's 30th Editorial

Hey guess what! After editing thirty consecutive issues, I am finally quitting this dumb job!

No, not really. But I am getting a vacation. This is great news to me as frankly, I am really tired. I know Grapevine looks all effortless and nonchalant and happy crappy and stuff, but making it really does take a lot of work. Especially when we're in bi-weekly mode and it's just one issue after another, interspersed with phone calls and e-mails from angry and demanding folks that want our help in selling their snake oil.

It wears you out, it really does. At times I've felt like I was just losing it, y'know, feeling the urge to yell at everyone and slam doors and go to my room and listen to some KoRn and feel sorry for myself. LIFE IS SO HARD! WAAAA! IT'S NOT FAIR! AND SO ON!

Luckily, that didn't happen too many times, and now I am going on vacation to SUNNY PHILADELPHIA, so I probably won't throw any major tantrums for another thirty issues or so. Hopefully.

It got me thinking though. Even though I think my job is pretty hard and all (I still really, really like it), it's probably nothing compared to what the good folks in our government are faced with. Look. I know I am always ragging on them for being lazy and incompetent and not knowing how to use e-mail and stuff, but you still gotta feel for these people.

I hear they're always on the job. That some of them have stopped exercising and sleeping, that they're always on the verge of nervous and mental exhaustion, that they never meet their families. Well some of them anyway. The hardworking ones.

And, you know, the task they're faced with is a pretty big one. Let us not forget that by the time they took over, the nation was pretty much in shambles after being raped by ideologues, banksters and corruption for at least two decades. Cleaning that shit up has got to be a task.



I'm not really sure where I'm going with this. Am I implying that it's maybe time to cut our government some slack, try showing faith in them and letting them do their job for a while without second guessing everything they get up to? I don't know? That sure doesn't sound like me.

I just feel like something's gotta change, you know. Sometimes feel like our entire nation is locked up in its room, refusing to take out the trash, blasting some KoRn while blogging about how misunderstood it is.

Maybe that's fitting though. Considering we only scored independence like sixty years ago, Iceland is very much a nation in its teens.

Too bad goddamn teenagers are all way self-absorbed and annoying and like really shitty music.




Special thanks to Hörður Sveinsson



TRACK OF THE ISSUE

Swords of Chaos

 swordsofchaos

Download at www.grapevine.is

OK, you're gonna need a few instructions before downloading this issue's free track. First off, get topless. Shotgun a six-pack of the shittiest beer possible and pour a pint of ice water over your head. Then go to your neighbour's place, call them a fuckass, spit in their face and run like hell! Then come home, download this track and chill the fuck down. If your neighbour comes a-knockin', tell him to suck a fuck. You're busy. If you don't follow these orders, you might crap your pants. Well, not really. But anyway, this track is 1:57 of loud, searing awesomeness sliced off The Swords' upcoming album, 'The End Is As Near As Your Teeth' (streetdate: August 25). After half the band decided to run away from home for a few months, they have finally gotten back to business kicking out the hardcore jams. We're really happy they are reunited at last and making us thrash and scream about along with them. Shirts off now!



THE REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE
Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavík
www.grapevine.is
grapevine@grapevine.is
Published by Fröken ehf.
www.froken.is
Member of the Icelandic Travel Industry Association
www.saf.is

Printed by Landsprent ehf. in 25.000 copies.

EDITORIAL:
+354 540 3600 / editor@grapevine.is
ADVERTISING:
+354 540 3605 / ads@grapevine.is
PUBLISHER:
+354 540 3601 / publisher@grapevine.is

PUBLISHER:
Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson / hilmar@grapevine.is

EDITOR:
Haukur S Magnússon / haukur@grapevine.is

JOURNALIST:
Rebecca Louder / rebecca@grapevine.is

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
Angela Rawlings
Stefán Pálsson
Joe Shooman
Hermann Stefánsson
Marc Vincenz
Bogi Bjarnason
Íris Erlingsdóttir
Sigurður Kjartan Kristinnsson
Paul Nikolov
Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl
Bob Cluness
Jón Gnarr
Jakob Kattner
Dr. Gunní
Snorri Páll Jónsson Úlfhildarson

EDITORIAL INTERNS:
Alexandra Young / alexandra@grapevine.is
Allison Savage / allison@grapevine.is
Emily Burton / emily@grapevine.is
Wiebke Wolter / wiebke@grapevine.is
Þórður Jónsson / thordur@grapevine.is

ON-LINE NEWS EDITOR
Paul Nikolov / paulnikolov@grapevine.is
FOOD EDITOR:
Catharine Fulton

ART DIRECTOR:
Hörður Kristbjörnsson / hoddi@grapevine.is
DESIGN:
Páll Hilmarsson / pallih@kaninka.net
PHOTOGRAPHER:
Julia Staples / julias Staples.com

SALES DIRECTOR:
Aðalsteinn Jörundsson / adalsteinn@grapevine.is
Guðmundur Rúnar Svansson / grs@grapevine.is

DISTRIBUTION:
distribution@grapevine.is
PROOFREADER:
Jim Rice

PRESS RELEASES:
listings@grapevine.is
SUBMISSIONS INQUIRIES:
editor@grapevine.is
SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES:
+354 540 3605 / subscribe@grapevine.is
GENERAL INQUIRIES:
grapevine@grapevine.is

FOUNDERS:
Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson,
Hörður Kristbjörnsson,
Jón Trausti Sigurðarson,
Oddur Óskar Kjartansson,
Valur Gunnarsson

The Reykjavík Grapevine is published 18 times a year by Fröken Ltd. Monthly from November through April, and fortnightly from May til October. Nothing in this magazine may be reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the publishers. The Reykjavík Grapevine is distributed around Reykjavík, Akureyri, Egilsstaðir, Seyðisfjörður, Borgarnes, Keflavík, Ísafjörður and at key locations along road #1, and all major tourist attractions and tourist information centres in the country.

You may not like it, but at least it's not sponsored. (No articles in the Reykjavík Grapevine are pay-for articles. The opinions expressed are the writers' own, not the advertisers').



Check out www.inspiredbyiceland.com - it's pretty inspiring

Comic | Lóa Hjalmtýsdóttir



WORLD PEACE: SOON LAMBURGER: NOW

The Icelandic Hamburger Factory is a new restaurant overlooking the famous Höfði, where Ronald Reagan

and Michail Gorbachev almost ended the Cold War. But that's history. Try our unique Hamburgers and the

first Icelandic Hamburger. Great prices on food, beer and wine. Come and feel the Factory buzz. It's worth it.

ÍSLENSKA
HAMBORGARAFABRIKKAN

2010

Tunninn Höfðatorgi
105 Reykjavík
Tel: 575 7575

fabrikkann@fabrikkann.is
www.fabrikkann.is

Opening hours:
Sun-Wed. 11.00-22.00
Thu-Sat. 11.00-24.00



Glacier Hiking & Ice Climbing from 15.990 ISK



The glacier is a magnificent phenomenon, a rugged, raw and ever changing hub of ancient frozen water. We will explore the crevasse riddled outlet glacier with its amazing ice formations, sink holes and jagged ridges accompanied by an experienced glacier guide.

We can pick you up from your hotel or hostel in Reykjavík. Call us on +354-562-7000, meet us at Laugavegur 11 in the Cintamani Center or ask for us at your hotel or nearest tourist information center.



www.adventures.is | info@adventures.is | +354-562-7000 | Visit us at the Cintamani Center, Laugavegur 11

www.handknit.is

Buy directly from the people who make them

The Handknitting Association of Iceland

- Skólavörðustígur 19 tel.: 552 1890
- Radisson SAS, Hótel SAGA tel.: 562 4788
- Laugavegur 64 tel.: 562 1890

Icelatte

Espresso, cold milk on ice and syrup of your choice

Te & Kaffi location in 101 Reykjavik:

- 1 Eymundsson Bookstore, Austurstræti 18
- 2 Eymundsson Bookstore, Skólavörðustígur 11
- 3 Te & Kaffi Store, Laugavegur 27
- 4 Te & Kaffi, Grandagarður 2

www.teogkaffi.is

Sour grapes and stuff

Say your piece, voice your opinion, send your letters to: letters@grapevine.is

4 Letters

MOST AWESOME LETTER:



Good morning Haukur, I'm submitting the following to the Inspired by Island competition, and I thought you might enjoy reading it and maybe even publishing part of it. The Grapevine, after all, was also very much part of my Iceland, and I was very impressed by the quality, the energy and the stimulating eccentricity of your paper. Thank you for that.

My Iceland? You want my Iceland? Very well, but I warn you that if I give you my Iceland you will not get your Iceland back again. My Iceland, after all, is filtered partly through Olaf Olafson, and just as his dreams become part of memory so my reality will become part of yours.

My Iceland is compounded of Arnaldur Indridason, Louis MacNeice, W. H. Auden, Mr. Bjarnfre arson, Andri Snaer Magnason, and Halldor Laxness, remembering always that Laxness is not just the grimly optimistic Halldor Laxness of Independent People... [goes on for approximately 45,000 more words...]

Dear Andre,

Wow! You really were inspired by Iceland, huh! That was a Russian novel you sent us. Thanks, man. Unfortunately we couldn't print the whole thing... OK, who are we kidding. We couldn't even read the whole thing! Sorry. It's just been really busy around here. And it is SUPER LONG. But it's cool that you wrote it nonetheless. And thank you for your kind words, too. <3

Hello,

I wondered if it is possible to post out a copy of The Reykjavik Grapevine, Issue 11 to us in England?

My daughter is a huge Bjork fan and would love to have a copy if it was at all possible, I would be happy to pay postage costs etc.

Thanks
Karen Ellis

MOST AWESOME LETTER

A buncha POLAR BEER for your thoughts

We're not gonna lie to you: we really love us some beers. Some folks would call it a problem, but beer never gave us any problems. In fact, over the years, it's solved most of 'em. A frosty glass of cold, frothy, bubblicious, golden-tinted beer has consistently failed to let us down. In the immortal words of the once-reputable Homer J. Simpson: "Mmm... Beer..."

Now, since we're real pleasant and giving folks here at the Grapevine, we thought we'd share some wonderful **POLAR BEER** with you, our readers. Not only that, you're also getting the gift of social life with it. So here's the deal: our most awesome letter of each issue (henceforth, or until the good people of **POLAR BEER** decide they don't want to play along anymore), we will be providing our MOST AWESOME LETTER scribe with twelve frothy POLAR BEERS, to be imbibed at a Reykjavik bar of their choice (so long as that bar is either Bakkus or Venue). If y'all's letter is the one, drop us a line to collect. **Give us your worst: letters@grapevine.is**



(Light)

Dear Mammút,

Thank you for your postcard! It's great to hear your tour is going well (or was when you sent it, in any case – who knows what happened afterwards), and it's great you sold out all your merch. Goddamn, you kids make us proud.

Go have some free beers at Bakkus to celebrate when y'all get back, aight?

Dear Karen,

But of course we can! We'd be glad to. Did you know you can even subscribe to the Grapevine for dirt cheap? No fooling! It's all there on our website. Or on page two of this very issue. Cool, huh?

Dear editor,

As an Israeli living in Iceland, I felt compelled writing you after reading the interview with the Palestinian author. Though she was correct on few points, there are still many misconception that are widely accepted among many people (among them many Icelanders) that I would like to clear up.

Give me the opportunity to clear some of them up for you and your readers. I offer you an exclusive interview for on the subject for the point a view rarely given stage on the local newspapers. Hopefully, that will shed little bit light on this controversial issue.

Med kvedju,
Guy Gutraiman

Dear Guy,

thank you for your letter. It's good to hear "the Palestinian author" got some things right when we interviewed her, and it's even better that some Israeli that moved to Iceland is kindly willing to allow us to interview him to clear up some of her misconceptions.

You should just write us an article and clear these 'misconceptions' up for yourself, though. We print pretty much anything folks send us (so long as it doesn't suck all over the place, and it isn't too long).

Anyway, what is it with all these folks writing in all the time asking to be interviewed? What's that all about? Should we just start interviewing everyone that has an opinion or something he or she wants to promote? Do other magazines do that? How come no one ever interviews us? We have lots of views and opinions and shit we'd like to promote.

In fact, Guy, you should interview us. We read your blog (www.guy.info), and while it got some things right (well, a couple), you seem to foster a bunch of misconceptions that we would be happy to clear up for you and your readers. We offer you an exclusive interview

on how you are totally wrong about a lot of things. Free of charge.

PS – sorry for the snarky tone of that reply. It's cool that you read us, and that you are opinionated, and we really do urge you to write them down so we can publish them (and then, if anyone disagrees, they can write in to 'correct' you. **FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS IS SO LOVELY**). But you gotta admit, your letter was kinda douchey and sorta begged for some snark.

HI!

I decided to write here, because i am worried!

When did Icelanders start cheating so much?

I thought that people here are nice and honest, but guess they are not.

Is it because i'm foreigner, that you think it is ok to cheat me?

I am not so rich that i can afford to all that crap you guys are selling me.

Stop that! Stop cheating and acting like gypsies!

You are not gypsies, you are icelanders. Peace loving honest people!

Stop fucking cheating me!
Susanna Omori

Dear Susanna,

What did we cheat you on? Or did we perhaps cheat on you? Who knows! We never fully committed to this relationship in the first place, it was a summer fling. It was a fling! You knew that! You knew! You were the one who suggested an 'open relationship' (and my how well that worked out for everyone).


Also, who are you to call us 'nice' and 'honest'? Where the hell have you been? And WTF is with your goddamn racism? That is extremely uncool. In fact, your 'gypsy' remark sorta wants us to cheat you out of your money, and hope others do, too. Stop fucking being a racist! Stop it! Is it because we have almost no foreigners in Iceland that you think it's OK to be all racist all over our pages. You are not a racist, you are a probably a Finn. An alcoholic, pessimistic, suicidal sauna-lover.

Stop being a goddamn whinypants racist! Stop stereotyping folks! STOP IT

Hressingarskálinn

Hressingarskálinn (Hressö) is a Classical Bistro, located in the heart of the city at Austurstræti 20.

Food is served from 10 until 22 every day. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, after the kitchen closes Hressö heats up with live music. Weekends, DJs keep the party going until morning, with no cover charge.

A woman with long brown hair is lying on her back on a bed of dark, coarse volcanic ash. She is wearing a light grey hoodie with the hood pulled over her head. Her hands are raised near her face, and her eyes are closed. The background is a vast expanse of the same dark ash.

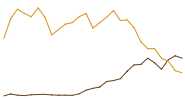
*
Design from
organic and *reclaimed*
materials

J E T KORINE

Volcanic Ash dyed garments /
Rust printed tops / NATURAL>
<DYES / Sun Bleached jackets
...and more!

studio / shop
Skólavörðustígur 17a
Reykjavík





Mayor's Address | Jón Gnarr

Welcome To Reykjavík



The odds of you being in Reykjavík are not great. The greatest part of mankind is elsewhere. It is scientifically proven. When I was little, I would often ask myself why I had been born in Reykjavík. Is it a coincidence where one is born? Is it subject to some universal law? Did I exist in any form before I was born? Did I have anything to do with where I was born? Why did Eva Braun and Adolf Hitler not bear any children? Did they not try to? Can it be that no child wanted them as parents? I don't know, but I do not believe in coincidence. I do not believe that God plays dice, especially not when human lives are concerned. These thoughts inevitably lead one to consider Schrödinger's cat. He is probably one of the most famous cats in the world (maybe after Ninja Cat). Still no one knows what it was called? What was Schrödinger's cat called? Abracadabra? I don't remember. Let's call it Phoenix. That is a common name for cats. Phoenix was of the nature that it both existed and not. There-



fore, it always existed, and even if Schrödinger killed his cat in a rather tasteless manner, it is still alive at Schrödinger's house, while Schrödinger himself has been dead for a long time:

$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \frac{h}{2}$$

Does this mean that I always existed, or that I never existed and do therefore not exist now? That can't be! It would mean that all our existence was unreal and only existed in our own imagination. If I do not exist, then neither do you. I have a hard time believing that. The facts speak for themselves. If I am not real, then how could I fly to Finland, send myself a post card with a picture of Tarja Halonen, the President of Finland, fly back home and welcome the mailman that brought me the card? I don't know. I am one of many Icelanders that believe in elves and trolls. I mainly believe in Moomin elves. It is more of a certainty than a belief. I have seen them and touched them. I know



they exist. I have been to Moominworld in Naantali, Finland. I have evidence; photographs, video recordings and witnesses. I had a good talk with Moomin Papa. He told me that life in Moominvalley was much better after Finland joined the EU. He encouraged us Icelanders to join the EU. He also said that the Moomins had always existed, long before Tove Jansson "invented" them. The Moomins are eternal, at least in books.

I hope these thoughts shed some light on the history of Reykjavík and its culture. I hope you enjoy your time in Reykjavík, that you go swimming a lot and tell all your friends how fun Reykjavík is, and how everyone is always happy there and that you will never forget your hotel, Suðurlandsbraut and the eternally young cat Phoenix.

Jón Gnarr, Mayor of Reykjavík

JÓN GNARR
HÖRÐUR SVEINSSON

Iceland | Statistics

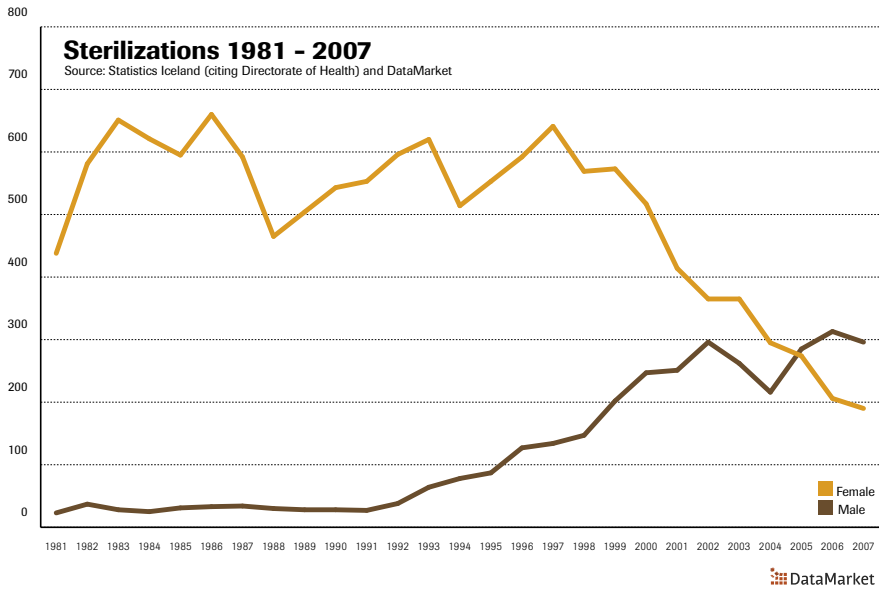
Getting The Old Snippity-Snip!

Despite how it may sometimes seem, what with all the pregnant ladies and guys who can't even spell the word condom, not everyone in Iceland wants to procreate. In this issue we present you with a graph of those who have gone to surgical proportions to avoid spawning babies.

So these are the numbers of men who have had vasectomies and women who have undergone tubal ligation since 1981. There is a rather startling trend shift somewhere in the mid-90s when suddenly the guys start stepping up to the scissors more and more to get their sperm-tunnels clipped. Then in 1999, the women officially said 'Fuck this!' and tube-tying went out of style. Maybe they were as shocked as we were that in 1986 only 33 men underwent the relatively non-invasive and reversible vasectomy procedure while a whopping 660 women went through a permanent and messy process. Vasectomies are also cheaper, faster and are done under local anaesthetic so it saves a bunch of hassle to doctors and patients alike!

Check out an interactive graph at www.datamarket.com (short link: www.url.is/3tz)

REBECCA LOUDER
PÁLL HILMARSSON



Opinion | Íris Erlingsdóttir

“Where there is no vision, the people perish”



The problem with the Magma deal is not that it involves a heartless foreign corporation (though of course it does) or that this corporation received advice from Icelandic regulators on how to circumvent restrictions on foreign ownership, or that Iceland is going down the path of exploited third world countries (though it may be).

The real problem is the lack of vision by Iceland's public “servants.”

King Solomon wrote in Proverbs 29:18 that “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Perhaps the wisest man of all time could see into the future, and sent this one especially for Icelanders.

The authors of the Black Report note several occasions when bank officials were asked what their strategy was, their purpose, and they had no answers. All decisions were made without forethought, without consultation, without consideration of the consequences. Apparently, the decision to privatise HS Orka was in part ideological (the mayor of Reykjanes is an old Independence Party hand), in part a desperate attempt to get some quick cash, and in part an attempt to help some old friends make a few bucks on the side.

I somehow doubt that there was much consideration by the decision makers as to how this 130-year lease of our natural resources would impact their great-great grandchildren. If we are going to open our country to foreign investors—which is not an inherently crazy idea—then we need to set out the rules in advance. We need to have a public debate in advance of any action. We need to create barriers between decision-makers and the financial benefits of privatisation. We need transparency. We need to know where we want to go. As the great American sage Yogi Berra put it: “You’ve got to be careful if you don’t know where you’re going ‘cause you might not get there.”

I would have hoped that we would have learned from our previous attempts at privatisation, but evidently not. When fishing licenses were given to vessel owners, despite the fact that the nation's maritime resources are considered to be a public good in our constitution, there was no open debate, there was no open bidding process, there were no temporal limitations imposed. When the banks were privatised, they were sold—or rather handed on a silver platter—to political insiders without public debate, without due diligence, without any strong regulatory framework. When we raped our land to create hydroelectric power for the aluminium smelters, no vote was taken, no disclosures of conflicts of interest were made, no terms were published.

Seen against this historical backdrop, the Magma deal is what we should have expected. As a result of the Icelandic government's current backpedalling, our international reputation is once again being trashed in the business publications. We're unreliable, we don't understand the importance of contracts, we can't keep our hands off of done deals. A thorough investigation of this matter should be undertaken, but I would hope that this time it will lead to the creation of some guidelines for decision-making by our politicians. Notices of public meetings and requests for contracts must be published, public contracts must be available on the internet, and conflicts of interests must be disclosed. The country's energy should be devoted to long-term strategies, rather than to the hot topics of the week. Instead of acting like addicts looking for their next hit, we need to act like adults planning a prosperous and sustainable future. 🍷

Icelandic home cooking with a modern flair

Shark • lobster • Lamb • Whale • Puffin • Fish • Wild game
ALL the icelandic beers Kitchen open till midnight!



Íslenski barinn

Restaurant



Pósthússtræti 9 Reykjavík Tel: 578 2020
www.icelandicbar.is info@icelandicbar.is



ELEGANT SURROUNDINGS SUPERB CUISINE MODERN COMFORT



PRESERVING QUALITY IS OUR BUSINESS

Open daily for lunch and dinners
Special offer on Monday
and Tuesday – 3 course dinner
for only 4200 ISK.

Reservation: tel. 552 5700,
e-mail: gallery@holt.is



Bergstaðastræti 37 s. 552 5700
holt@holt.is www.holt.is

Iceland excursions

GRAY LINE ICELAND



AH35 South Coast & Jökulsárlón

24.900 ISK



We believe that sightseeing can be so much more than looking out the window of your coach.

Check out our wide variety of activity tours and let's go out and move those muscles! Caving, diving, horseback riding, ATV or Super Jeep tours - we have it all!

Combination tours

We also offer a number of combination tours that allow you to do more in a single day.

Why not try combining the Golden Circle with one of the other exciting tours?

AH36 Vestmannaeyjar - Pompei of the North

22.500 ISK



AH11/12/13 The Golden Circle

FROM 8.000 ISK



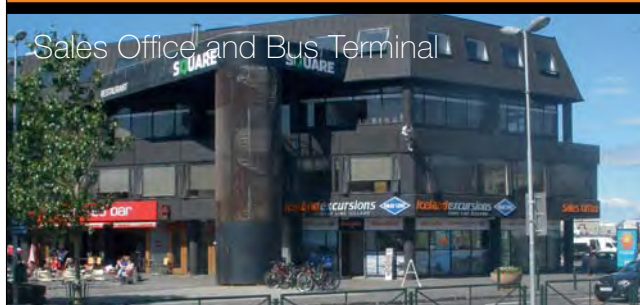
FROM 8.000 ISK

AH11/112/113 Skaftafell Express



Truly,
The Local Expert

24 hour booking service
+354 540 13 13
www.grayline.is



AH32 Landmannalaugar

16.500 ISK



Visit our sales office downtown at Lækjartorg, call +354 540 1313 or go to www.grayline.is



To EU Or Not To EU

Iceland's EU accession talks commenced on July 27, and Bloomberg implied that they were fast tracked to July primarily due to increased pressure from Britain and the Netherlands to settle the Icesave issue. "EU governments sped the talks from a planned September or October start to counter the growing anti-EU mood in Iceland. Opposition to EU membership rose to 60 percent in June from 54 percent in a November [according to a Capacent Gallup poll]." And although the Icesave issue is not formally being discussed during the EU accession talks, Deutsche Welle points out that, "it could end up being a stumbling block to eventual membership. Fulfilment of EFTA rules is necessary to qualify for EU membership, and those rules require Iceland to resolve its debt..."

On this first day of talks, Foreign Minister Össur Skarphéðinsson told Bloomberg that he felt that the Icelandic people would support joining the EU once the \$ 5.1 billion dispute is solved. He also told the foreign media that the Icelandic fisheries sector—in particular, as regards quotas and fishing bans—is not up for discussion. In an interview with Deutsche Welle, France's EU Minister Pierre Lellouche said, "You have to want to join Europe. I don't have the impression from the opinion polls that the Icelanders themselves are very favourable: that's the problem." EU ministers appear wary of Iceland repeating Norway's two-time rejection.

Icesave issue aside, to join the EU

Iceland may have to adapt fishery policies—at least meet EU halfway—and will probably have to pack in whaling altogether. It is hard to imagine that other major EU fishing nations such as Britain, Ireland and Spain will accept an 'opt-out' on the fisheries front. At a June meeting of the International Whaling Commission, Kristján Loftsson, CEO of Hvalur and anti-EU campaigner, mentioned that he really didn't see the difference. "Whales are just another fish," he told the AFP. During the meeting, a proposal to reduce Iceland, Japan and Norway's hunt was put forward, but talks broke down early. Kristján, who maintains that whaling is an integral part of Iceland's heritage and economy, recently commented to EUbusiness webzine that Iceland should not enter the EU, not only in the interest of whale hunting, but to protect Iceland's fishing industry in general. FISHupdate.com noted that "there will be demands from some member states for the country to abandon its controversial whaling policy, which allows it to take 150 fin whales a year supposedly for scientific research."

In a similar vein, a July FT article stated: "To qualify for EU membership, Iceland would have to participate in the bloc's common fisheries policy, which sets national quotas for how much each species can be caught. Rule-bending is rampant. France, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain will each receive a reprimand...from the European Commission for failing to curb unsustainable fishing." After decades making their

own decisions, one wonders how well an outside authority will go down with Iceland's fishermen. FISHupdate.com also pointed out in July that "the Irish, backed by at least eight EU countries including Britain, have made a formal complaint about Iceland's unilateral mackerel quota and warn that it could damage its bid to join the EU."

Could this be a sign of things to come?

Just a few days ago, Timmo Summa, head of the European Commission Delegation in Iceland, in an interview with euinside, a Bulgarian website, said, "This is going to be a challenge for the EU. To the East people sit on the negotiation table, ready to sign everything just because they want the money of the German taxpayers. The Icelanders are totally different." The EU, it seems, expects Iceland to pursue a hard line at the negotiating table. Summa added, "We still have no negotiations but everyone knows that we do not like opt-outs." On the surface, for the moment, it appears this will be unavoidable. "Iceland will be subject to exactly the same kind of scrutiny and seriousness as any other candidate," Steven Vanackere, Belgium's foreign minister told Deutsche Welle.

Another contending issue would be the EU Commission's rules on the free movement of capital which, among other things, would allow European companies to buy up Icelandic competitors. Somehow, looking at the current Alþingi debate—in particular the issue of foreign

“At a June meeting of the International Whaling Commission, Kristján Loftsson, CEO of Hvalur and anti-EU campaigner, mentioned that he really didn't see the difference. “Whales are just another fish,” he told the AFP.”


ownership in natural resources—I can't quite see Iceland agreeing on changing its laws to fit the EU's purposes. One of Iceland's EU advocates' main arguments to join the EU is, of course, the stabilisation of the króna and the economy. It doesn't seem likely that you can have your cake and eat it too, but you never know.

When the FT questioned Páll Vilhjálmsson, leader of the anti-EU movement Heimssýn, why Iceland applied to join the EU in the first place, he said, "The short answer is that we had a national nervous breakdown." And if the last months of the Icesave negotiations are anything to go by, fast track or no fast track, don't expect Iceland to join the EU anytime soon. 🇮🇸

MARC VINCENZ

JEAN-ETIENNE MINH-DUY POIRRIER

GRRRRR!

 "Ok Bob now please don't get angry with what I'm about to tell you..."

One of the more fascinating things about my wife (other than she has never cooked a fish in her entire life) is that she has an innate ability to determine when I'm going to blow my top in bilious fury. Granted, I do seem to lose my temper 47 times on a bad day, so she's probably had a fair amount of practice.

But right now, I don't know what she's talking about. We're standing outside a branch of Kaupthing (there is no way I'm calling it fucking Arion bank), having just seen a customer service drone. We're currently moving house, and we need some cash to help cover our deposit.

So we went to the bank to ask for an overdraft. But Sígga is worried as—like any good Icelander—she already has loans and overdrafts up the wazoo. "Well why don't I ask for one for my bank account," I say. And why not? I've lived in Iceland for over three years, I'm married to an Icelander, I've got no black mark against me, and I've still got two years on my residency permit. It should take five minutes, job done. Then we can all go and eat gold-plated pancakes and jewel encrusted hotdogs afterwards.

Only it never quite worked out like that. Sígga leads the conversation with the drone as I try not to look like some sort of mute psychopath.

The drone leaves her seat to discuss the request with the manager. After a few minutes she returns whereupon the conversation almost imperceptibly changes tone. Then as quick as it started, the meeting is over. "What, have we got the overdraft?" I ask, but Sígga is already pushing me out of my chair going "I'll speak to you outside."

Once outside she tells me everything. When the drone returned, she said that they would not be prepared to give me an overdraft. But they were more than willing to increase HER overdraft to nearly double the current level, no questions asked. No real reason was given. As the meeting was wrapping up, Sígga asked her "Would my husband have gotten an overdraft if he was Icelandic?"

And the drone replied 'Yes, he would.'

To her credit, she immediately apologised, stating that she had a foreign husband and this also happens to him to. Oh well, that's all right then.

And you know what? Nothing about this doesn't surprises me in the slightest. When you have a former chairman and CEOs as fugitives, getting arrested all the time, throwing money around in an incestuous circle-jerk of elephantine proportions, or illegally giving out loans in foreign currency (or in the case of Íslandsbanki, to children), then what's a little case of spiteful decision making as my foreign blood deems me 'Untrustworthy'?

So now I'm looking to change my bank account. But where do I place my meagre funds? Are there ANY independent, friendly banks that don't pay their bosses bonuses in the form of all the first-born children from the village? If there is any bank that wants my business then contact the office and I'll send my wallet around immediately. 🇮🇸

WHAT?

WHO?

Welcome to Iceland

Here's how to find

WHERE?

People

Businesses

Maps

Direction

Quick guide to the information you need while enjoying your stay

www.ja.is

já

- the answer

WE'LL TAKE YOU THERE!

Book now on www.re.is

Book now by calling 580 5450


DAY TOURS TO ALL THE MOST EXCITING PLACES IN ICELAND



EXPERIENCE A GREAT DAY WITH US!



EXPO - www.expo.is




Relax at the Blue Lagoon

Reykjavik Excursions offers great flexibility in Blue Lagoon tours.

You can either board the bus at BSÍ Bus Terminal in Reykjavík or at Keflavík Airport.

The drive takes about 40 min. from Reykjavík and 20 min. from Keflavík Airport.



MORE DETAILS IN
OUR DAY TOURS
BROCHURES



flybus **flybus+**



**Reykjavik
Excursions**
KYNNISFERÐIR



BSÍ Bus Terminal • 101 Reykjavík • ☎ +354 580 5400 • main@re.is • www.re.is

An Army of Us:

Magma Energy vs. Iceland (So Far)



By now most of our readers are probably familiar with the ongoing saga of Magma Energy—a Canadian-based energy company—and their troubles getting any sort of even footing in Iceland. On many occasions, it seems that Magma Iceland CEO Ásgeir Margeirsson and artist Björk Guðmundsdóttir are debating each other through the media. Meanwhile, the Icelandic government is trying to come to terms with the whole thing, and the mayor of Reykjanesbær thinks entirely too much about whether or not Björk files taxes in Iceland. It can get confusing. Fortunately, your pals here at the Grapevine are there to make sense of this debacle so you can judge for yourself whether Magma Energy is a voracious capitalist machine or a benevolent job-generating benefactor to Iceland.

FIRST, A LITTLE BACKGROUND

Last May, Magma Energy—using a Swedish puppet company to get around an Icelandic law preventing non-Europeans from buying up Icelandic companies—bought itself a majority stake in the Icelandic power company HS Orka. They already acquired a 46% stake in 2009 but, after buying out Geysir Green Energy, which had a 52% stake in HS Orka, their control became near-absolute.

The move came as a surprise to the Grapevine, as Magma Energy CEO Ross Beaty told us in September 2009 that “no, we do not plan on getting a majority [stake of HS Orka]. I have no interest in fighting Icelanders, particularly the government, over what is proper energy policy in the country.” This was a lie. When asked in 2009 if he was taking advantage of Iceland's depressed economic situation, he'd denied this was the case. However, in May of this year he told Hera Research Monthly “We would have been farther along had [the global economic crisis] not happened, although we may not have had opportunities that we took advantage of. For example, going into Iceland was strictly something that could only have happened because Iceland had a calamitous financial meltdown in 2008.”

AN OUTRAGE ENSUES

The corporate doublespeak caught national attention, and Icelanders were summarily outraged. They called upon the government to do something to stop this. There was just one problem: the previous conservative government had privatised HS Orka (as well as other local energy companies) by law years ago. And so, as Minister of Industry Katrín Júlíusdóttir pointed out, whether foreign or domestic, private companies had ac-

cess to buying HS Orka, and the conservatives had paved the way.

In addition, Magma Energy signed a 65-year contract with the town of Reykjanesbær to conduct geothermal exploration in the area (with renewal options for another 65). Reykjanesbær has the highest unemployment rates of any area in Iceland, and has been in a job slump since the NATO base left Keflavík in 2006. And so the promise of revenue and jobs was very appealing to mayor Árni Sigfússon.

Nonetheless, the Leftist-Green Party—one of the coalition partners in the parliamentary majority—called for an immediate review of Magma's purchase of HS Orka. Minister for the Environment Svandís Svavarsdóttir went so far as to say that Magma was “running roughshod over the people”, which was in response to Magma's announcement that they intended to do geothermal exploration in the area around national treasure Kerlingafjöll mountain.

It later came to light that Íslandsbanki (formerly Glitnir) had leaked documents to Magma Energy outlining other bids that competitors had made for HS Orka. RÚV reported that Magma Energy was not only informed of what the other two companies were bidding for the shares, but that Magma Energy didn't offer the highest bid. As it turns

“Perhaps because Magma Energy is a great example of the failure of Iceland's libertarian right wing policy: privatise it, and all your problems will be solved.”

out, Ásgeir Margeirsson's replacement as head of Geysir Green Energy was Alexander Guðmundsson, who was previously supervisor of Glitnir's financial sector under then-director Lárus Welding.

ENTER BJÖRK GUÐMUNDSDÓTTIR

While parliament deliberated on what steps to take next, Björk Guðmundsdóttir emerged as one of the most vocal and relentless critics of the sale of HS Orka, asking what possible benefit a foreign company owning 98% of an Icelandic energy company would have for Iceland. Ross Beaty responded with a “cheeky proposal”, as he put it, for Björk: a 25% stake in HS Orka, at cost prices.

This less-than-serious response only roused the artist to become more vocal against the corporation. A website, orkuaudlindir.is, was set up to host an online petition calling for parliament to block the sale of HS Orka to Magma Energy, and furthermore, for a national referendum to put Iceland's natural resources within public ownership. At the time of this writing, the petition has nearly 17,000 signatures since its inception not even a month ago.

Beaty and Magma Energy were on the defensive immediately. While the corporation scrambled to provide reassurances that they were only interested in helping Iceland develop its energy sector and help its economic recovery, their previous dishonesty about their intentions left many Icelanders sceptical. Apparently, some of these sceptics were in the government: in the last week of July, the government announced that it refused to confirm the sale of HS Orka to Magma Energy, putting a freeze on the takeover. In the meantime, Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir created a special committee with the purpose of investigating the legality of Magma Sweden's purchase of HS Orka, as well as to come up with ideas with regards to drafting legislation keeping natural

resources in public ownership.

This move—along with Björk's relentless media campaign against the company, to both foreign and domestic press—has made Magma's investors skittish, as Ross Beaty himself admitted to the Financial Times earlier this month, saying in part, “We do not want to walk away. But we have shareholders who are getting pretty frustrated with what's happening. We are being made a scapegoat for all the bad business practices leading up to the financial meltdown and the tremendous fear and mistrust it created.”

Beaty wasn't the only one frustrated. Reykjanesbær mayor Árni Sigfússon said, “Propaganda that a foreign company is using a puppet company to rake in our resources is unfounded,” accusing the Icelandic media of “lapping up the propaganda” on the subject, and arguing that a private company conducting this development was better than tax dollars spent on the same thing. He then capped his argument with the bizarre (and possibly untrue but definitely irrelevant) statement that Björk doesn't pay taxes in Iceland.

WHAT NOW, THEN?

So where does this leave us now? Well, the government has still frozen the HS Orka sale, and is still investigating Magma. Minister of Industry Katrín Júlíusdóttir has submitted legislation which would limit the lengths of contracts municipalities could make with private energy companies, foreign or domestic. Björk continues to speak out against Magma, and Magma continues to offer assurances that they mean no harm. Whatever the outcome with regards to Magma Energy, the conservatives—who created the environment and the legislation for this to happen—have been noticeably absent from the discussion. Perhaps because Magma Energy is a great example of the failure of Iceland's libertarian right wing policy: privatise it, and all your problems will be solved. 🍷

✍ PAUL NIKOLOV
📷 JULIA STAPLES

STAY HUNGRY FOR HEALTH

Delicious Vegetarian and Chicken Dishes
and the World's Best Soups






KRÚSKA

RESTAURANT - FOOD STORE - TAKEAWAY
Suðurlandsbraut 12 - Tel. 557 5880 - www.kruska.is
Open all weekdays from 11:00 - 20:00

HOW TO DRIVE ON GRAVEL ROADS

Conditions in Iceland are in many ways unusual and often quite unlike what foreign drivers are accustomed to. It is therefore very important to find out how to drive in this country. In order to reach your destination safely, you must keep your full attention on driving.

GRAVEL ROADS, BLIND HILLS & BLIND CORNERS




Where paved road suddenly changes to gravel is a common place for accidents to occur on rural roads. The main reason is that drivers do not reduce speed before the changeover to gravel, and consequently lose control.

Blind hills, where lanes are not separate, should be approached with caution. The same applies to many blind curves.

Loose gravel on road shoulders has also caused a great number of accidents.

See further instruction on www.drive.is

Slow down and move your car as far to the right as is safely possible when approaching another car coming on a gravel road from the opposite direction.



ROAD TRAFFIC DIRECTORATE

OPENS
TUESDAY
17TH OF
AUGUST



ADVENTURE GOLF



ADVENTURE GOLF

*Have some family fun in Reykjavík!
A treasure hunt that takes you along tropical shores
where you risk the chance of encountering whales
or even pirates on their ship.*

*Golf your way through our adventurous course
and try to find the treasure!*

Opening hours

Weekdays: 15:00 - 22:00

Weekends: 12:00 - 22:00

Skemmtigardurinn

Í GRAFARVOGI



Only 10 min drive
from downtown
Reykjavík.



Information: www.skemmtigardur.is | 534 1900 | info@skemmtigardur.is

Does Man Own Earth?

On Magma, Björk, the separation of philosophy and reality, xenophobia, green industry, false solutions, borders, Earth conservation and liberation.

There are countless reasons for Magma Energy not being allowed to purchase HS Orka. Those who have no idea why should quit reading this and get their hands on books like Naomi Klein's 'The Shock Doctrine' and documentaries like 'The Big Sellout' by Florian Opitz. They show how the privatisation of natural resources brings about increased class division and poor people's diminished access to essentials—without exception.

People could also study the history of Ross Beatty, the man that wants to build Magma Energy to being 'the biggest and best geothermal energy enterprise in the world.' Ross is the founder and chairman of Pan American Silver Corporation, which operates metal mines in Bolivia, Mexico and Peru, where mining is done by the book: Environmental disasters, human rights violations, low paid labour and union restrictions, to mention but a few of the industry standards.

Even though such facts are evident to all, the acceptance of this kind of critique is rare in Iceland. Those who criticise privatisation and marketisation from a radical perspective, analysing the global economic and power structures we live within, are often dismissed and belittled. The phenomenae 'capitalism' and 'representative democracy' have been normalised and recognised as 'the only right way' of social organisation; daring to criticise today's ruling ideologies is seen as banal, uncool, even hysterical.

THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS THAT ARE NEVER ASKED

In this discourse about the use of natural resources, the Earth and man, some people must wonder why the fundamental questions are never asked: Is man 'supposed' to 'exploit' nature just because he can? Is he 'allowed' to exploit nature like he does today? Does he 'own' nature or does he live with it? Is he not a part of it, does he not depend on it for his existence? These questions were asked at a public meeting on the Magma affair, recently hosted by Attac in Iceland. To begin with they were written off as theological reflections but after few objections the moderator changed his mind. He called them 'philosophical' but did not want the panel to turn into a forum for philosophical reflection.

GOD AND THE RATIONAL MAN

Considering the questions, theological and philosophical isn't necessary

ily wrong. In the book of Genesis, God provides instructions for humanity: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Those words, like others in the Bible, have often been used as arguments of those in favour of man's domination of the planet. Hannes Hólmsteinn Gissurarson, Iceland's most famous neo-liberalism proponent, used them to criticize James Cameron's Avatar, saying God's message is clear: Man is 'obligated' to dominate the Earth and tame it.

A similar attitude is found widely within Western philosophy. Starting with the ancient philosophers of Greece, man has been placed higher than other living beings on this planet. For instance, French philosopher René Descartes, often referred to as "the father of modern philosophy", claimed our species' rationality and intellect is what makes us men and separates us from animals.

Even though these and similar ideas have been debated back and forth, philosophy has smoothly been separated from reality. It is allowed to wallow in the whole world's philosophy, asking complicated, challenging questions. But seeing it as a part of reality and as real element in the discussion is not an option. Philosophers can simply dawdle between library shelves while pragmatists argue over the tiny difference between private and state 'ownership' of the Earth.

The 'pragmatist premises' that surface when philosophy and our alleged reality are separated prevent some of the discussion's factors to be considered. "Aluminium has to be produced somewhere! Without genetically modified food, humanity will starve!" With these premises, we jump over few of the debate's steps, so it starts in the middle of the stairway instead of at the beginning. This is called manipulating a debate.

EXTREMES? OR THE REAL FACTS?

At the above-mentioned public meeting, the "green socialist" Möður Árnason stated that independent from his favour of privatising 'utilization rights', he could not agree that the man 'owns' the Earth. Rather that he is its guardian that hasn't done his job well enough so far. For sure, humanity hasn't protected the planet properly. But on the other hand, there is a reason to doubt that the opposite is actually possible when ideas of the man as the planet's owner or guardian are in the foreground.

In his book 'Violence', Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Žižek asks if it is not time to stop ignoring the fact that organised religion is one of the main sources of murderous violence in the world, by always defining the violence and murders as the work of violent extremists who abuse the noble spiritual message of

We generally don't run opinion pieces this long, but this one was just all sorts of interesting. You should definitely give reading it a go if you've got a moment to spare.

their creed. The same question can be transferred to humanity's destructive behaviour, since it is clearly not some extreme fundamental-heavy-in dusty-moguls who alone bear responsibility for the state of the planet. We are dealing with an entire culture, a whole system of destructive power structures and behaviour patterns that build on the premises of man's domination over nature.

When Björk says that we should think in terms of the 21st century—which she says is free from heavy industry but full of nano- and biotechnologies—she assumes that lately, man has been on a wrong road, but should now head somewhere else on full speed.

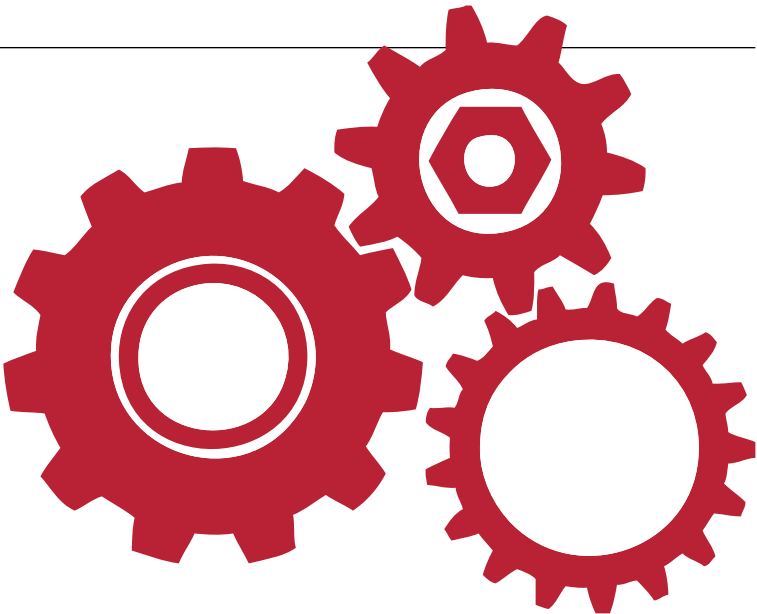
This is a misunderstanding. The 21st century way of Björk, Möður and other progressivists, is in full harmony with the dangerous ways in which humanity has been leading, at least since the beginning of the industrial revolution. The high-tech solutions do not replace heavy industry and old-school polluting production. They are only additions to what's already there, forming a global, industrial, unsustainable economical system that constantly is built upon. But removing from the bottom is impossible. The system stands and falls with its foundations.

SOLUTIONS! BUT ONLY THOSE WHO PRODUCE MONEY

So often the opponents of environmentalists try to bury the dispute by accusing the latter of not offering any solutions 'instead' of the industry they oppose. This is of course nonsense. Anybody who opposes one thing has another to offer. This is self-evident, though the solutions can differ. For instance, the solution to Iceland's constitutional violence towards refugees could span everything from 'more just laws' to a world without borders. The solution to an abusive or violent family father could be him receiving assistance to reform, or him being exiled from his community.

The biggest flaw of the discourse is how there is no space for solutions outside of the ruling system's frame, however obvious they may be, e.g. a healthy culture thriving on a healthy planet.

It isn't discussed whether unsustainable capital should be produced, the debate is rather based on the premises that 'capital production' is fundamental. Within this culture where jobs like entrepreneurial investment and human resource management have become as natural as a newborn's breath—money is the central point of all existence and discourse. No matter if there is no real value behind it. The market and industries might have found their ways to put a price on every square centimetre of this planet and every second that passes. But when one comes to think of it, how can human lives be measured with money? And what about mountains, rivers and forests?



THE MYTH ABOUT 'GREEN' ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY

In connection with aforementioned Coca-Cola-sponsored 'Náttúra' "nature concert" and the parallel opening of the Náttúra.info website, Björk stated that she and her comrades were not one more group of "angry environmental guerrillas". The happy environmental entertainers' project seemed to be about not challenging the status quo at all, but rather keep on the old track of industry and production—this time under the banner of institutionalised green flags and environmental certifications.

They went all over the country to find solutions in employment affairs, something that could replace heavy industry but still make money. The list became long, including everything from treatment-tourism and exported children's food to biotechnology and identification software for law enforcement.

In the magazine 'Dealing with Distractions' that was published last December, parallel to the resistance to the UN's climate change conference in Copenhagen, Mikko Virtanen writes about so-called 'alternative industrialism' and points out the flaws that environmentalists seem to avoid recognising and discussing: "To build a new green infrastructure of such a massive scale would require a lot of energy and materials, which can only be provided through the use of already existing fossil fuel based infrastructure. [...] The production of this new infrastructure will require a vast amount of raw materials, much of which are not renewable themselves, and are environmentally destructive to obtain. [...] It has yet to be proven if we even have the raw materials available to make enough wind turbines and solar panels to keep up current levels of energy consumption or any significant level of industrial production at all."

His result is that we "...need to put wind energy, solar energy and other alternative industrial solutions on the list of false solutions along with agrofuels, nuclear energy, and clean coal technology. As soon as possible, we need to start doing the only thing that can halt the destruction of our life supporting systems: reducing our industrial production and

consumption to the absolute minimum." What about bringing these ideas into the discourse on energy production and nature conservation here in Iceland?

THE EARTH WITHOUT BORDERS

In Reykjavík Grapevine's last issue, Björk says she cannot separate the protection of Iceland's nature and her role as an Icelandic artist. This enormous emphasis on this being 'Iceland's' nature and that as 'Icelanders', people should protect it—an idea not at all limited to Björk and her partners—makes it impossible to dismiss accusations about xenophobia as sidetracking, like Magma's opponents have done so far.

Certainly it is likely that libertarians, who in the same sentence talk about xenophobia and hostility towards foreign investment, are simply not capable of having a discussion about the ownership of the planet. However, that does not give environmentalists permission to dismiss all criticism about the integration of environmentalism and nationalist chauvinism. Sigur Rós have especially stated that they are not a political band, but just cannot sit by and watch such heavy industry constructions in 'their own backyard'. During Saving Iceland's international conference in 2007, Ómar Ragnarsson—one of Iceland's best-known environmentalists—said that compared to other nature, the "Icelandic one" is the equal to a Christmas meal in comparison to other meals of the year. And nobody would skip that dinner for another one! Do we really have to argue about if chauvinism and xenophobia are included in such pleadings?

In his 1922 book 'At The Cafe: Conversations On Anarchism', Italian anarchist Errico Malatesta simply but sharply explains his objection of nationalism: Why should a worker rather stand with a factory-owner within the same political borders, rather than another worker outside of them? These words can be implemented with nature at front. Why should the struggle for the protection and liberation of Earth, which constantly comes under persecution by the culture of the 'civilised' man, be subject to man-made borders?

>>CONTINUES ON PAGE 14



SAFFRAN IS

HOT AND HEALTHY

HEALTHY FRESH AND EXOTIC FOOD AND PRICES THAT WILL LEAVE YOU SMILING

SAFFRAN

GLÆSIBÆ / DALVEGI 4 KÖP

VOTED BEST GODDAMN RESTAURANT 2010 BY GRAPEVINE

GLÆSIBÆ DALVEGI 4 KÖP



WE SERVE YOU ALL DAY 11-22

Daytour from
Reykjavík to
Vatnajökull
29.900 ISK!



Vatnajökull Voyager is an express daytour from Reykjavík to Skaftafell & back. It includes transportation, glacier hiking, a glacier lagoon boat ride, lunch & waffle.



Glacier Hike



Ice Climbing



Climbing



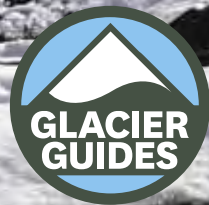
Cycling



Sightseeing



Boat Trip



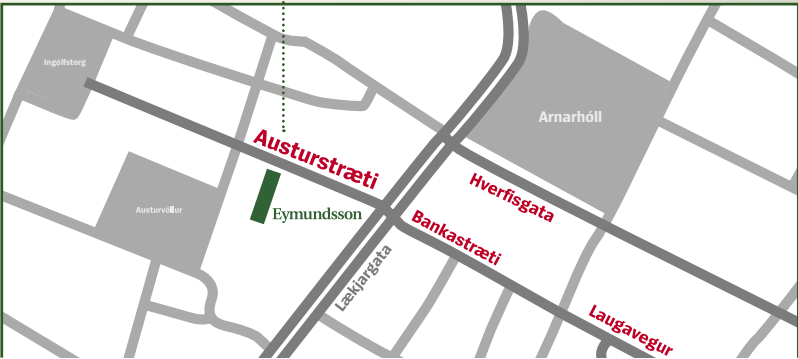
www.glacierguides.is | info@glacierguides.is | + 354-571-2100 | Visit us at the Cintamani Center, Laugavegur 11



Print your favourite
newspaper at our
city centre store

Daily Mirror, Washington Times, USA Today, Aftenposten, Die Presse, Edmonton Journal, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Le Monde, El Mundo, La Repubblica, Fakt, Okinawa Times, Jyllands-Posten, Politiken and many more are available through the print-on-demand service in our store in Austurstræti. We offer over 1000 newspaper titles from all around the world. Check if your local paper is available to be printed for you by our helpful staff.

AVAILABLE ONLY AT EYMUNDSSON AUSTURSTRÆTI





A source of health

Thermal pools and baths in Reykjavik are a source of health, relaxation and pureness. 94% of foreign guests that visited thermal pools and baths in Reykjavik said it had a positive effect on their health and well-being.

Welcome to Reykjavik's Thermal Pools



Tel: +354 411 5000 • www.itr.is • www.spacity.is

Article | Civil Rights

We Are All Assistant Nurses Now!

America has many foes. From the presidential palaces of Pyongyang and Caracas to the barren mountains on the Afghan-Pakistan borders, villains of James Bond-esque proportions constantly conspire against the beacons of liberty and freedom. And then there is Lalli the assistant nurse.

The funniest man in Iceland

Lalli, or Lárus Páll Birgisson, is an assistant nurse—hence the nickname (Icelandic nicknames are rarely very original). He is also the United States' Number One Nuisance in Iceland, an honour that has already brought him to court once, with more such visits likely to follow soon.

Far from being the stereotypical left-wing activist, Lalli first gained minor local fame several years ago when winning a stand-up competition, less than modestly named 'The Funniest Man in Iceland'. He was later noted during the 'Household Appliance Revolution', where he gave some powerful speeches at rallies mostly marred by poor oratorical skill.

Yet, overthrowing incompetent governments is not Lalli's greatest passion. Rallying for peace and disarmament is. Strangely, Lalli—a devoted Christian and YMCA-member—started out as a military-buff. "As a kid and teenager," he says, "I was obsessed with guns, war and soldiers. I aspired to join a military and witness combat. Instead I had to settle for the Icelandic Coast Guard, although scrubbing floors on a patrol vessel turned out to be a really poor substitute for Rambo heroics."

"War is Evil"

In early 1999, opportunity came knocking. In the spur of the moment, Lalli hitchhiked to war-torn Bosnia and later visited Kosovo, where ethnic tension was on the rise. A few months later, civil war broke out. Using his considerable persuasive powers, Lalli somehow convinced Icelandic Red Cross staff flying in aid and medicine to let him sit on the plane to Kosovo, where he witnessed the chaos firsthand and took pictures. The two visits were an eye-opening experience and to this day Lalli has been among the most-active Icelandic peace-activists, especially since outbreak of the Iraq-war in 2003 and the infamous declaration of support by the Icelandic government.

The typical activist prefers protesting in groups—the more the merrier. Then again, Lalli was never the typical activist. Instead of waiting for formal meetings or marches he goes and protests when he feels like it (assistant nurses work long, irregular shifts anyway). Thus, Lalli may be seen on a regular Tuesday morning in front of Parliament carrying a placard with horrid pictures of terribly injured Iraqi chil-

dren or perhaps a simple slogan such as "War is Evil".

The activist's bread and butter

One quiet afternoon, Lalli sat with such a placard on the pavement in front of the American Embassy on Laufásvegur, luckily accompanied by two friends and a video camera. This threatening behaviour promptly caused the embassy staff to call the police (listening to the videotape, the arriving policemen can clearly be heard cursing in disbelief that they are being bothered because of a guy carrying a sign in an empty street).

The policemen then asked Lalli to cross the street and stand on the opposite sidewalk. Lalli refused, pointing out that he was not sitting on embassy property but on a public sidewalk. Why should he stand in front of the house of some innocent neighbour when it was the US government he had issues with? Now the policemen repeated their request, this time formally ordering Lalli to move. Again, he refused and was arrested—the activist's bread and butter. Months later, Lalli was summoned to court, charged with disobeying police orders. An experienced district court judge, who had spent most of his career sentencing petty thieves and drug dealers, could hardly conceal his amusement when listening to the charges and subsequent detailed descriptions of events. Yet, in the end Lalli was found guilty, however without any kind of sentence.

This is important

This ruling has several consequences. Because of the verdict, Lalli has little chance of charging the police for illegal arrest (protesters have in the past filed such lawsuits and won. Most famously a group of activists, that had been arrested in order to stop them from appearing in the background of a live 'Good Morning America' transmission, were paid damages which they wisely spent on printing a new edition of their anti-imperialist magazine, showing Margaret Thatcher on the cover in a disrespectful position). It is also doubtful whether Lalli can appeal, given that he was not sentenced. And thirdly there is the not-so small matter of the legal fee.

Trivial as it may sound to some, Lalli's case should be of huge interest to all Icelandic political activists and the peace movement in particular. It is simply intolerable that fundamental rights, such as the right to protest and free speech, can be swept aside by law officers which make unfounded claims based on arbitrary decisions that peaceful protesters must move from one place to another (which has happened repeatedly in the past). The complete unaccountability of the police



when it comes to such decisions gives it a free card to sabotage organised protest, thus depriving the citizens of one of their most important rights. We are all Lalli the assistant nurse now!

STEFÁN PÁLSSON
STILLS FROM GE9N, A DOCUMENTARY
FILM CURRENTLY IN PRODUCTION

Opinion | Fundamental questions

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

It is time for the discussion about borders, states and nations, to be removed from internal debates amongst philosophers and anarchists—it needs to come to the surface as a real discourse.

WE CANNOT EAT MONEY

Some will undoubtedly oppose internal arguments within the environmental movement, asking those who agree that Magma should not own HS Orka to drop the debate on ideology, tactics and emphasis, now when the purchase has to be stopped. But if we drop critical discourse, internally and externally, the environmental ideal is bound to stagnate and become one-sided.

Then again, we may ask if these really are internal fights.

On the one hand we have people who ask the public and authorities to do what they demand, so that they can start

making music again. Instead of aluminium production, they suggest all kinds of production requiring huge amounts of water, the design and production of identification software for law enforcement, nanotechnology solutions and long-term biotechnology research.

On the other, we have people who fight for a completely different culture. Free from overproduction. Free from overuse of water and other goods. Free from identification repression and law enforcement. Free from nano- and biotechnologies, which focus on making man even more of a sovereign than he already is. And between these two directions, there are endless views, opinions and facts. Sharing an enemy does not necessarily make us comrades in arms.

In the discourse about Magma Energy, nature conservation, energy production and ownership, there is a need for

much wider range of views and opinions. So far, hardly no-one has given convincing arguments, proving that nature is better set in state hands than private ones. So far, none of those who oppose the privatisation of nature have reasoned for man's ownership of the Earth to begin with.

An old American Indian proverb says that not until the last tree has fallen, the last river polluted, and the last fish caught, will people realise that they cannot eat money. These foreboding words are something we need to take seriously. We cannot dismiss them as philosophical reflections, important to keep in mind but never supposed to be brought into real discourse and actions regarding the Earth, its protection and liberation.

SNORRI PÁLL JÓNSSON ÚLFHILDARSON



PIPA TBWA - SIA



EXPERIENCE MORE IN ICELAND

Puffin express offers whale and puffin watching, sea angling and dinner cruises.

OUR TICKET SALE IN REYKJAVIK
OLD HARBOUR IS OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM
BOOKING BY PHONE: +354 892 0099
ONLINE BOOKING: puffinexpress.is

*Open from
09:00 until 21:00
Laugavegur 27*



*Bacon & Bread // Soup & Salad // Cakes & Coffee
Sandwiches & Soda // Beer & Wine*

PUT A SEAL ON THE VUVUZELA



LÉTTÖL

Science World

Experimental nature park at The Nordic House
April 9 – September 30, 2010

Come, try, experience!

Soap bubbles table | Ice princess | Water blow | Sun radiator | Ball bench | Trembling well | Wave cradle

Admittance to the park is free. Registration + 354 551 7030.



surprising nature | gravel roads | crazy weather

Check out our website www.safetravel.is for safe returning

We want you out of here – alive!



ICELANDIC FOR FOREIGNERS

NEXT COURSES STARTING:

AUGUST 16th.

ICELANDIC 1

Mon. Wed. and Fri.
17:45-18:45

AUGUST 23rd.

ICELANDIC 2

Mon. Wed. and Fri.
20:00-21:30

- 👍 Experienced teachers
- 👍 Morning and evening classes
- 👍 Downtown location
- 👍 3 levels
- 👍 Modest-sized groups, max. 12

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

islenska@multi-kulti.org Tel.: 8996570

PRICE:
60 CLASS HOURS
24.000 ÍSKR.



Ingólfsstræti 8, 101 Reykjavík, sími: 692 8818
islenska@multi-kulti.org www.multi-kulti.org



ENTER THE HANGOVER

Some of yesterday's parties re-capped

The summer of 2010 has been one of festivals and parties. Every goddamn weekend has been dominated by a three-day art or music or theatre or pottery or gardening extravaganza that you just can't afford to miss. They all entail opening and closing parties, binge-drinking, staying up and throwing up and sometimes even watching a show or two.

We've been present for most of them, as you may have read about in our previous issues. Since fall's cold, dark, wet darkness yet again looms over, we thought we'd take a look at some of the parties we've attended this summer and attempt to draw some sort of wisdom from it all. We figured that might come in handy, as there are yet more festivals on the horizon, cool ones like Menningarnótt, Reykjavík Jazz Festival and Iceland Airwaves. You can use this coverage to prepare, maybe.

So read on! for some words about Seyðisfjörður's LungA, Reykjavík's Gay Pride weekend, Neskaupsstaður's Eistnaflug and the Faroese G! Festival. What wisdom did we draw? Well, if it's raining, then folks generally have a worse time than if it isn't raining. So don't plan your festival to happen on rainy days.

PS – Festival planners: quit planning so many goddamn festivals! Doesn't anybody hafta work anymore?

Thursday

I arrive at Neskaupstaður at six in the afternoon, after a long road trip with my young nephew and his six-month pregnant girlfriend. It took us twelve hours and half my day's supply of alcohol to get there. Neskaupstaður this year feels colder and cloudier than last year. I'm told that there was a mighty downpour the night before, meaning that most of the campsite resembles a turgid swamp containing bestraggled heavy metal refugees.

Because of our lateness, we've already missed several bands, including Bastard and Svartidaði, so I grab a bag full of beers and head straight down to the venue so as not to miss anything else.

As I arrive, Endless Dark are already playing. Excellent. We can stop the EU, fine foreign foods and animals from invading this country's borders, but we seem to have failed to stop the scourge of Crabcore from infecting the nation's musical youth. When the ending of one song sounds eerily familiar to the chorus to Leona Lewis' 'Bleeding Love', then you know you aren't off to a flyer of a weekend. Add to this the bass player wearing the tightest, brightest blue shorts this side of Reno 911. However, I give a massive plus to the keyboard player and the fact that his hair looks like someone let off an afro bomb in his face.

Thankfully the atmosphere is raised a few notches with the arrival of everyone's favourite doom/sludge metallers, Plastic Gods. But something doesn't seem quite right onstage. Oh wait a minute, there seem to be gazillion guitarists up there. The music also seems to have mutated a bit. A couple of the songs seem to have been sped up so they now resemble a slowed down Soundgarden or Church of Misery. But they introduced a new song that that was closer to Neurosis, and was truly EPIC in its scope. By the end I was nodding my head thinking: "Why the fuck has no one signed these guys up?"

I need to decompress a bit, so I venture outside and catch up with people. By the time I get back inside, Fortið have played most of their set. It's safe to say that they are the polar opposite of Endless Dark—seething operatic black metal, all leather trousers and sweat. But as I'm already rather drunk as a skunk, I spend an inordinate amount of time staring at the sound desk, which seems to be a cross between the Starship Enterprise and the instruments from a Björk concert.

Ok we've experienced a fair amount of metal and hardcore. Now for something a bit different. Reykjavík! are not metal, but they are noisy and immensely good fun. Especially when you see lead

singer Bóas, who jumps all over the place like a meth-smoking ferret on a hot plate. But the moshing I felt was a bit half-hearted, so I decided to get a decent cardio workout and leapt into the fray to throw some metalheads around a bit. Total joy, but I felt sorry for that poor guy I used as a makeshift battering ram...

I manage to catch the first half of Sólstafir's ice bastard metal set. And they're great, but... I'm not sure, there was something missing. When they played last year, Sólstafir were bathed in the darkest blood-red. And man they looked fucking terrifying, like David Lynch had directed the light show. Tonight it's all bright white light and way too much smoke. The songs themselves are also good, but felt a little tired. I decide to spend the weekend's food allowance on Brennivín and Ópal.

So far this evening has been all about alcohol, mass violence, bruises and metal in all its forms. But this seriously doesn't prepare you for Napalm Death. Even though they have been around for three decades, they are more angry, focused and belligerent than just about anything else out there. Now, I could claim I'd taken notes about how this song was great and that song was tight. But I'd just be lying, as I spent most of the time right in the moshpit (moshpit? It was more like asymmetrical warfare) and it was simply an hour and a half of grindcore as the most brutal shock and awe I've experienced. At a couple of points I was seriously getting worried for my own personal safety. In my notebook I managed to scribble down "help!" and "Lord forgive me."

I have no recollection of how I got to my bed, but the last thing I can remember is almost getting pole-axed by multiple shots of warm Ópal, somehow acquiring a specialised insulin needle, and squaring up to Klink and coming off worse to their superior judo moves.

- BOB CLUNESS

Friday Night

I spent most of Friday slathering kids in corpse paint at the off-venueso I missed the entire afternoon programming over at Egilsbúð. I made it down just in time to catch the last few songs from Wistar-ia, whom my friend was super excited to see play. They were all shirtless and angry and real heavy, but there was something kind of nu-metal about the music. It was all "Look at my big monster cock slapping you in the face!" Nice homoerotic undertones. My friend, as it turns out, had mistaken them for some other band and was confused as hell.

Next up was some band whose name I wasn't entirely sure of, but my first thoughts were "What the fuck is this

shit?" Turns out it was Cliff Clavin. They weren't actually bad, and I know there are always a few token non-metal bands at the festival, but I did not go there for weaksauce, radio-friendly, mid-'90s alterna-rock! The bassist's forced rock'n'roll posturing was so unbearable and unsuitable with the music, it was like watching a car crash.

Then Gone Postal came and saved the day. I believe it was my friend and colleague Bob Cluness who told me that at last year's festival, Sólstafir spent their set immersed in smoke and red light and it was terrifying. Watching Gone Postal's set made me fully understand this.

I went outside for a 500 ISK burger and on my way back in sensed I was in the presence of rubber gloves. I sure was, because Dr. Spock was on! Awesome! Reykjavík municipal government ROCKS! Maybe it was the hangover or the cheap burger but I found my mind tricking itself that Jón Gnarr was on guest vocals. That would have been cool. Anyway, it was all kinds of batshit crazy, as I hoped for.

I had to make a necessary run back to the off-venue, but managed to come back in time to see Momentum ripping through the concert hall. Seriously, it was kind of like being yelled at by a dinosaur. Nice one from the dude who decided to crowd-surf during the ballad portion of their set. Their last song was so epic and intense that long after it was finished, people could be heard chanting the chorus together. Moving, truly.

Finally it all ended with Sororicide and wooooooah... holy shit. If I were epileptic, I would have been having a seizure during their set. These guys really do their own thing, but most refreshing is that the singer kept up the growling voice while talking between songs. This band really was lovely. They had delightful interplay of growling and shredding and double-kick drumming. Simply stupendous.

- REBECCA LOUDER

Saturday

Fuck. That's what slithered through my beaten-up mind when I woke up the morning of the last day of the notorious Flight of the Testes. Several reasons for the fuck, to tell the truth, but fuck can be elicited by various motivations. Fuck, my tent is wet, is that really weird rain or is some dude peeing on my tent? Fuck, who's this broad lying next to me. Fuck, I'm hung-over as hell. Fuck, I bottomed all the booze yesterday and will have to drive to the next fjord to buy some more. Fuck, it's so late the pools probably filled with ill-reeking metalheads. Fuck, did all that shit from last night happen? But mainly: FUCK YEAH, the last night of Flight of the Testes is at hand and, par-

don my French, but it will be gruesomely epic!

To get over these several fucks, me and my flock of seagulls decided to give the shabby-metal-brunch at the hotel a go, advertising the feast of a lifetime all over town on sloppy yellow stickers. That turned out to be ludicrously overpriced sloppy hotel buffet, so it ended up adding another fuck to the table rather than eradicating the others. But they had though some sort of a snobby-lobbyish metal playlist burning up their stereo, "Boys are back in town" by Thin Lizzy and other similarly accessible "heavy metal". That was kinda funny. A definite drug of choice whilst you're stuffing your face with bacon and the like.

When we reached Egilsbúð for the concert it once again proved that the organisers at this great festival could basically cut out the the first five acts that take place between 3 and 6 pm, without anybody giving a fuck. Firstly, the sound always seems to suck that early and the first gigs seem to serve as some kind of sound checks, and secondly, the performers are never getting jiggy wit it, maybe because they're yet too hung-over or maybe 'cause there isn't anybody there. It was at least a godsend that the scandalous off venue, Mayhemisphere, showcased acts such as Retrön that had dreadfully been cursed to perform in front of an empty hall. But you can't blame the crowd; everybody was just getting marinated in the sun, puffin' a spliff and getting ready for the night's mania. Or getting their faces all splattered in corpsepaint, courtesy of our dear Ms. Louder. And most things were actually much awesomer in the artsy Berlinesque factory than in Egilsbúð, which added a greater depth to the "Flight of the Testes" scene this year.

The festival's climax was undeniably the mind-blowing combination of Mí-nus' early stuff and the ear-raping wall of sound that Severed Crotch created. Jesus Christ Bobby, it's really ineffable. Fuck.

- SIGURDUR KJARTAN KRISTINSSON

Saturday Night

Saturday rises like a bad hangover in my cot at Eistnaflug central. Last night was all Bob Cluness spraying drunkenly in my ear and the odd idiot getting in fights. Today is the end of money, wits, bands and endless trudges to the campsite for those who can't seem to hitch a ride.

Retrön somehow got the short end of the stick and open up tonight's proceedings. Pity for them, 'cuz these fine fellows in spandex can really tear up a crowd a lot larger than the seventeen souls present at this early hour—especially if their stellar drummer boy brings

his A-game.

Moldun are a machine of internet self-promotion. I catch their airwaves in the Jacuzzi at the public swimming pool next door to the venue and can't make out didley squat. Rumour has it they trade in run of the mill metalcore, and that I'm better of relaxing in the bubbling water.

Next up is football. The irony of missing the second half of Uruguay and Germany's bronze medal World Cup game to play black metal vs. death metal football is not lost on me. Rebecca Louder paints the teams in appropriate colours, and the game is a draw despite the fact that that black metal is for anorectic shut-ins and death metal reigns supreme among art forms.

I catch up with In Memoriam and am disappointed as well as batshit drunk. I think the sound production fucked them. Beneath are competent but can't seem to hold your humble writer's attention. A passed out Bob Cluness in the backroom bar provides more entertainment as I tape his shaved head with messages about his cluelessness.

Kolrassa Krókríðandi are the next perpetrators. I don't feel qualified to comment on their trite genre. In short: they bored me. I feel like I'm getting into a negative rut here, but I can't help it. Since Mínus seemingly shifted creative control from the brilliant backbone of Bjóssi and Bjarni to the pretentious wail of Krummi and Siggí, I felt better arguing with a French writer than witnessing them. I sorely regret this as news reaches me of an old school Jesus Christ Bobby set.

By now it's time to pay attention. Celestine are up and there's no need to pray they will slay. Bludgeoning post-metal on par with early Isis and Neurosis erupts like a stack of anvils to the chest. These guys obliterate and should be signed big time, post fucking haste.

Headlining megaliths Severed Crotch—Severed motherfucking Crotch!—explode like a cluster bomb raid. They perform with vigour and employ every single trick in the playbook to an ecstatic crowd. Shit is right legitimate with them fuckers and smiles are plastered on every face as the pit implodes and a paraplegic is flung from the stage into a stage dive. Mind-boggling is the recipe for the 'Crotch and spent is the feeling of revellers in the pit.

After the night quickly degenerates into a THC fuelled, alcohol driven meleé to the tunes of DJ Töfri. People get bare-chested on the dancefloor and the bus leaving at ten am is quickly forgotten about. Bad move on my behalf.

- BOGI BJARNASON



Fucking G!reat!

Göta’s G! Festival brought the ruckus

The good people of the G! festival over in the Faroe Islands decided it was a good idea to invite us over to cover the 2010 edition. We have written about their bash a number of times, and our reviewers have usually come back waxing all ecstatic about the event, its guests, the musicians performing, the town of Göta and its locals, not to mention the Faroe Islands themselves.

I plan on doing the same. Despite some pretty major setbacks this year, G! Festival is altogether pretty fucking awesome, both in concept, execution and setting (that beach they host it on is goddamn beautiful, and so is the town of Göta, its mountains and its houses. In his GV review of G! 2007, Ben H. Murray described the set-up as one suitable for “Valhalla’s own music fest”—who am I to disagree).

Here are some negative things about G! 2010. They can pretty much all be written off as ‘rain related’ (except for Danish rock sucking):

* It rained so much on the first day that the cool beach stage they have couldn’t be used for the rest of the fest, and massive scheduling problems (as well as lots of confusion) ensued.

* In fact, everyone’s tents blew away from the festival campsite, so lots of folks were left wet and stranded (some folks were saying that the Faroes’ entire tent supply sold out that next day). There seems to be a common theme to outdoor festivals: if it rains, then that is a pretty big problem. Folks get wet and angry and they smell. Then they get super intoxicated to be able to deal with all the rain and wet feet and lacklustre sleeping conditions, and will often seem to be forcefully watching the bands, just to get their money’s worth. Taking notes in the rain is also hard.

* We arrived there late on the second day of a three-day bash (conveniently missing the brunt of the rainstorm that laid waste to the fest’s campsite a day earlier), so we missed FM Belfast and Týr, among others. I am not Týr’s biggest fan (hell, I don’t even like their patented brand of Viking Hero LARP Metal), but seeing them perform at G! has long been a fantasy of mine. And it really would have been nice to see the unusually enthusiastic G! crowd react to FM Belfast’s set.

* Reykjavík’s own Bárújárn only got to play four songs before being whisked off stage to make room for Brandur Enni. * Saturday’s headliners, Danish brocore outfit Nephew, proved once and



for all that Danes should under no circumstances be allowed any attempts at playing rock music. Ever.

* Local Göta hero, the super-talented singer/songwriter Eivør Pálsdóttir, had her would-be triumphant homecoming set badly marred by all the rain. I was actually well impressed by her performance, but hanging out with her family later I got the impression that they were upset by it all, and that made me sad. A brilliant performer and a rising songwriter, it would have been nice if Eivør had been able to shine like she is capable of.

* I missed local electro outfit The Ghost’s set, and I hear it was awesome.

* I tasted ‘skerpikjöt’ (rotten leg of lamb) for the first—and last—time.

That out of the way, let us focus on all the positive things to be said about G! 2010:

* Göta is a fucking gorgeous setting for a music festival, rain or no rain. I often found myself looking up and around when bored by a particular performer and getting all flabbergasted and warm inside. This is especially important at a diverse and ‘liberally booked’ festival like G!, where some of the bands might suck. You can stare at the mountains while they get through with their sucking.

* The camaraderie on display throughout the event was admirable, heart-wrenching and comparable only to what may be found at Ísaffjörður’s Aldrei fór ég suður festival. Little kids, grandparents, teenagers, tourists and everyone in between gather to solemnly celebrate and enjoy a maddeningly diverse, often eclectic bill of music. This is good.

* The ‘dance’ stage and everything that went on around there. Memories of watching extremely intoxicated folks breakdance around in knee-deep puddles to the advanced beats of DJ Djuna Barnes at four in the AM will keep me going a long time.

* Despite several setbacks, Bárújárn played a stunning set of four songs. The last one, a lovingly crafted version of Icelandic classic ‘Brennið þið vitar’ (in tribute to a recently departed friend) brought tears to my eyes.

* Faroese thrashmetal band Synarchy played a super* tight, super exciting set of death* trash to an ultra-enthusiastic crowd. Metal lovers would do well by checking them out (they are sorta like Severed Crotch, but not really). The far more famous Swedish thrashers Arch Enemy also put up a rockin’ show on the main stage, but I’d still choose me some Synarchy over them any day.

* Danish folk-punks Afenginn also brought the party to a great climax, with their dreadlocked singer man bringing the audience into all sorts of frenzy. Fans of progressively junky roots music should give them a listen.

* Down at the beach, the Höryr Sauna party brought the good vibes (as well as excellent relief from all the rain) throughout the festival. These Finnish hippie-types set up a sauna-tent right by the sea, where one could sweat out toxins in the company of naked and drunk locals, interspersed with dips into the cold North* Atlantic. They also performed some pretty weird DJ sets throughout. If you ever have the chance to hang out in a sauna on the beach in Göta while

listening to a drunken, dreadlocked Finn ramble over techno polka beats, take it.

* The locals. They were so awesome. We got housed with a local family, and getting a glimpse of Faroese family life was enlightening and heart-warming. Every single person one confronts seems ready to help you with whatever you need help with, and concerned if you are genuinely having a fine time (not all of them knew I was a journalist, either). The highpoint of the festival was most definitely when we got invited for dinner at a local grandmother’s house, and got to share food, drink, stories and hugs with the entire extended family. This is the sort of happening that can and will reaffirm your belief in humanity, and it is a clear reason why you should try and visit G! some day.

* As a whole, the event proved without doubt that the Faroes have a diverse, vibrant and exciting music scene going on, with a number of established and excellent musicians operating out of there. Expect great things in the future.

* Visiting the Faroese incarnation of Sirkús in Tórshavn was really something, too. Operated since last year, the proprietors have really managed to capture the essence of the legendary Icelandic pub, and no trip to the Faroes is complete without a visit.

This all said, I must infer that if you get a chance to visit the G! Festival, you should take it.

- HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON

ASTRID MOHR



LungA Festival Music Madness

Two wristbands, torrential rain, some rockin’ and not so rockin’ bands

FRIDAY

I made it to the Kimi Records show just as Sudden Weather Change took the stage. Sudden Weather Change reminded me of every mediocre alt-rock band of the ‘90s. Nearly every song in their set used the same repetitive 4-count pattern, loud-quiet-loud dynamics, and 3/4 song break down before the last chorus. With three vocalists singing the same lyrics in the same range, the vocals sounded washed out and unaffected. The same thing applied to the three guitars. Without a definitive lead and lack of creative rhythm exchanges, the guitars served nothing more than to fill the room with unmerited distortion.

Sudden Weather Change needs to add something to their sound. : unexpected rhythms changes, interesting guitar effects, harmonic diversity, synchronized windmills, something. They should listen to Pixies’ Surfer Rosa and Dinosaur Jr.’s You’re Living All Over Me a few more hundred times and take notes on how to create successful noise rock atmosphere, the occasional killer guitar solo, and powerful and effective vocal projection. If you plan on blowing the audience away with a block of

sound, I expect more originality and energy than what they brought to the stage. At the end of their set, they half-heartedly shook their guitars at their monitors without any suspense of possibly smashing their instruments. We had to wait for Kimono to take the stage for some real rock and roll.

Next up was the five-piece psych-pop band Tape Tum from Belgium. In between passing the whiskey bottle around on stage, Tape Tum turned out some of the best music of the night. The drummer used creative, jazz influenced change-ups and fillers, holding together some rather complex arrangements throughout their set. The beginnings to a few songs reminded me of ‘Nights in White Satin’ by the Moody Blues. Just when I thought the music was headed somewhere epic, Tape Tum would throw in some ‘60s pop rhythms reminiscent of an up-tempo Zombies song.

The trumpet player/maraca shaker stole the show with some crazy voodoo dancing. Kudos to him for looking like the one guy on stage possessed by the music. He even played some serious trumpet on some songs. Tape Tum found the perfect balance between noise and silent space

in their more distorted songs. They jumped around, added in some spooky samples at all the right moments, and even threw in some Beach Boys baa baas to end their set. Tape Tum was definitely the most mature and original band of the night.

Next up was Stafrænn Hákon who played a bland, forgettable set: typical alternative music, cliché lyrics, nothing about their sound stood out compared to the rest of the bands. Kimono came on last and rocked harder as a three piece than all the other 4-5 piece bands. My only complaint about Kimono’s set is that it lacks variety. But they do what they do very well. Kimono mixes post-punk, grunge, prog-rock and touch of early metal into a kick-ass rock show. Articulate lead guitar solos, interesting and percussive rhythm guitar, and fast, precise drum builds, Kimono brought everything to the stage that Sudden Weather Change left out. Lead singer Alex MacNeil reminded me of the Cure’s Robert Smith with his effortless, wavering vocal stylings. Everything about their performance made Kimono seem like hard rock veterans.

SATURDAY

Saturday we caught the end of Miri’s set. The few songs we heard sounded like an indie jam band without any interesting solos or dynamic ambiance. Not terribly thrilling. Seabear played next, followed by Hjaltalín. Both bands, full of non-festival friendly instruments like violins and oboes, played decent sets but lacked the energy and excitement of later bands like Retro Stefson and Bloodgroup. Playing one after another, their sets sounded too similar and unenthusiastic. Playing a festival requires more than proving you can recreate what your new album sounds like. Both bands have excellent musicians; they just need to learn how to play for a wide audience, not necessarily there to see their set.

Next up was Retro Stefson. They combined funk, African chants, dance, Icelandic lyrics, and pop-rock. Their set was by far my favourite out of all the bands that played at LungA. The lead singer jumped around stage with his hoodie and guitar like he was Rocky (the first Rocky, when he was still cool). Most of the crowd forgot about the rain and danced along to every song. Retro Stefson met and surpassed every require-

The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE iNFO



Music, Art, Films and Events Listings + Eating, Drinking and Shopping + Map

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL AND
ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND

Issue 12 - 2010

www.grapevine.is



Jói de Vivre

Photo Exhibition and Book Publishing Party
Kron Kron, Laugavegur 63B
Culture Night, August 21
20:00 - 23:00

A party celebrating the publishing of photographer/
frequent Grapevine staffer Jói Kjartans' new book.

It contains a big selection of snapshots he has
taken on film since the year 2005.
Get your hands on a limited copy.



NEW AND UPCOMING MUSIC



SWORDS OF CHAOS 25.08.2010 The End is as Near as Your Teeth



MIRI Okkar ★★★★★ Morgunblaðið



HITAVEITAN ★★★★★ Morgunblaðið ICELANDIC MUSIC COMPILATION. ALL NEW SONGS! ALMOST.



STAFRÆNN HÁKON Sanitas ★★★★★ Morgunblaðið

ALL MUSIC
AVAILABLE
IN HAVARÍ



MUSIC

CONCERTS & NIGHTLIFE IN JULY & AUGUST

PRESCRIBING WITH LOVE MUSIC FOR YOUR LIVE EXPERIENCE

How to use the listings
Venues are listed alphabetically by day.
For complete listings and detailed
information on venues visit
www.grapevine.is

13 FRI

Apótek
22:00 Live DJ.
Bakkus
22:00 DJ De La Rosa.
Café Rosenberg
22:00 Eyvindur Karlsson goodbye
concert feat. Misery, Tim, and more.
Free.
Celtic Cross
07:00 Live music.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.
Dubliner
22:30 Live music.
English Pub
20:30 Live music.
Faktorj
23:00 Moses Hightower. 500 ISK
24:00 DJ Ívar Pétur Live DJ.
Hressó
22:00 Live band Silfur, DJ Fannar
afterwards.
Kaffibarinn
22:00 Alfons X. Live DJ.
P
16:30-20:00 After work gathering, chill-
out music, drinks at 500-600 ISK.
Prikið
22:00 DJ Danni. Free.
Sódóma
22:00 Benefit concert for Reykjadalur.
1000 ISK.
Venue
22:00 Concert with Elín Ey, DJ Flugvél
& Geimskip, DJ Músikölski, Crymo &
Nýhil poetry readings.

14 SAT

Apótek
22:00 Live DJ.
Bakkus
22:00 Árni Sveins. Live DJ.
Broadway
21:00 Jazz Festival - Don Randi & Geir
Ólafsson. 2900 ISK.
Celtic Cross
07:00 Live music.
Culture House
17:00 Opening Ceremony of the 21st
Reykjavik Jazz Festival. Free
20:00 Jazz Festival. Bill Evans tribute -
Agnar Már Magnússon. 2000 ISK.
Den Danske Kro
12:00 Live music.
Dubliner
22:30 Live music.
English Pub
20:30 Live music.
Faktorj
23:00 Reginfirra and guests.
24:00 DJ Playmobil. Live DJ.
Hallgrímskirkja
12:00 International Organ Summer 2010.
Halgeir Schiager organist. 1000 ISK.

Hotel Reykjavik Centrum
Jazz Festival - Uppsálir happy hour. Free.
Hressó
22:00 Live band Ímynd, DJ Fannar
afterwards.
Kaffibarinn
22:00 Ívar Pétur. Live DJ.
Prikið
22:00 Árni Kocoon. Live DJ. Free.
Sódóma
22 00 Severed Crotch release concert
with Angist, Manslaughter & Gone
Postal. Free.

15 SUN

Café Óliver
Summer Sunday banana split á la Óliver.
900 ISK & live music.
Café Rosenberg
Jazz Festival - The Quest (Don Randi
& friends). 1500 ISK.
Den Danske Kro
24:00 Live music. Beer for 600 ISK after
19:00.
English Pub
22:00 Live music.
Hallgrímskirkja
17:00 International Organ Summer 2010.
Halgeir Schiager organist. 1500 ISK.
Faktorj
24:00 Live DJ.
P
22:00 Lounge music.
Nordic House
14:00 Jazz Festival - An exciting musical
experiment for the whole family. Free.
20:00 Jazz Festival - The New Iceland
Liberation Orchestra!. 1500 ISK.
Prikið
22:00 Hangover movie night. "American
Werewolf". Free popcorn.
Sódóma
22:00 Severed Crotch album release
concert. Free.
Venue
22:00 Jazz Festival - Reginfirra. 1500
ISK.

16 MON

Café Óliver
Margarita Monday, 2 for 1 margaritas &
live music.
Café Rosenberg
22:00 Live Music.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.
Dubliner
22:30 Live music.
English Pub
22:00 Live music.
Hotel Reykjavik Centrum
18:00 Jazz Festival - Uppsálir happy
hour. Free.
Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 DJ or live music.
Nordic House
20:00 Jazz Festival - Pianist Sunna
Gunnlaugsdóttir presents her latest cd
"The Dream". 2000 ISK.
Prikið
21:00 Live DJ.
Risið
21:00 K Trio. 1500 ISK.

17 TUE

Café Óliver
Beer/wine 600 ISK.

Café Rósenberg.
21:00 Jazz Festival. Guitar Islandico.
1500 ISK.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.
Dubliner
22:30 Live music.
English Pub
22:00 Live music.
Hotel Reykjavik Centrum
18:00 Jazz Festival - Uppsálir happy
hour. Free.
Nordic House
20:00 Jazz Festival - Pianist Achim
Kaufmann. 2000 ISK.
Prikið
21:00 DJ Gauti.
Risið
22:00 Jazz Festival - Uwagga Wagga,
Sören Dahl Jeppesen.
Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
20:30 Gunnhildur Daðadóttir violin
and Helen Aun piano.

18 WED

Bakkus
22:00 Concert. Free.
Café Óliver
Kiwi Party & live music.
Café Rósenberg
21:00 Jazz Festival. Guitar Islandico.
1500 ISK.
Cathedral of Christ the King
12:00 Frinrik Stefánsson and Eygló
Rúnarsdóttir.
Culture House
20:00 Jazz Festival - Django Bates
Autumn Fires and Green Shoots.
3000 ISK.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.
Dubliner
22:30 Live music.
English Pub
22:00 Live music.
Faktorj
22:00 Kaylee Cole and Lára Rúnars.
Hotel Reykjavik Centrum
18:00 Jazz Festival - Uppsálir happy
hour. Free.
Hressó
22:00 Juan Cuban & friends.
Kaffibarinn
22:00 Hellert & Hilmar - Reggae Dub
Session
Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 DJ or live music.
Nordic-Baltic Choral Festival
12:30 / 20:00 Check choral.iii.is/ for list
of venues.
Prikið
21:00 Krúsi live music. A large and a
small beer for 700 ISK.
Risið
23:00 Jazz Festival - Haukur Gröndal
and his sextet. 1500 ISK.
Sódóma
21:00 Silfur. 1000 ISK.
Venue
22:00 Jazz Festival - Park Project.
1500 ISK.

19 THU

Bakkus
22:00 Einar Sonic. Live DJ.
Café Óliver
21:00 Ingó Weathergod. Beer for 600
ISK.

Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

Amsterdam Hafnarstræti 5 D2	Dillon Laugavegur 30 F5	Nýlendumörverzlun Hemma & Valda Laugavegur 21 E4
Apótek Austurstræti 16 E3	Dubliner Hafnarstræti 4 D3	Næsti Bar Ingólfstræti 1A E3
Austur Austurstræti 7 E3	English Pub Austurstræti 12 D2	Óliver Laugavegur 20A F5
B5 Bankastræti 5 E3	Faktorj Smíðjustígur 6	Ölstofan Vegamótastígur E4
Babalú Skólavörðustígur 22 G5	Glaumbar Tryggvagata 20 D2	Prikið Bankastræti E3
Bar 11 Laugavegur 11 E4	O'Connells Bar Lækjargata 10 E3	Rósenberg Klappartígur 25 E4
Barbara Laugavegur 22 F6	Hressó Austurstræti 20 E3	Sódóma Reykjavík Tryggvagata 22 D3
Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20 E3	Hverfisbarinn Hverfisgata 20 E4	Sólón Bankastræti 7A E3
Boston Laugavegur 28b F5	Jacobsen Austurstræti 9 E3	Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 D2
Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 E4	Kaffi Zimsen Hafnarstræti 18 D3	Vegamót Vegamótastígur 4 E4
Café Paris Austurstræti 14 E3	Kaffibarinn Bergstaðastræti 1 E4	Venue Tryggvagata 22 D3
Balthazar Hafnarstræti 1-3 D2	NASA Þorvaldsenstræti 2 E3	
Celtic Cross Hverfisgata 26 E4		



Café Rósenberg
21:00 Jazz Festival - Sören Dahl
Jeppeson. 1500 ISK.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Faktorý
22:00 Nóra, Múgsefjun and Nista (CA).

Hotel Reykjavík Centrum
18:00 Jazz Festival - Uppsálir happy hour. Free.

Hressó
22:00 Trubadours Jogvan & Vignir.

Kaffibarinn
22:00 Alfons X. Live DJ.

Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 DJ or live music.

Norraena Húsið
20:00 & 22:00 Jazz Festival - Django
Bates Beloved Bird Trio. 3000 ISK.

P
Lounge music.

Prikið
21:00 Comedy Night.

Sódóma
21:00 Fjölskylduhjálpin Benefit concert.

Thorvaldsen
16:30 Salsa Night. 16:30 beginners,
21:30 everyone.

20 FRI

Apótek
22:00 DJ Áki.

Bakkus
22:00 DJ Öfull.

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Varsjárbandalagið. Free.

Celtic Cross
01:00 Live music.

The Culture House
21:30 Jazz Festival - Jean Marie
Machado. 2000 ISK.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
20:30 Live music.

Faktorý
22:00 Ice on Fire 2 with Endless Dark,
Nevolution, Bróðir Svartúlfs, Nögl,
Morning after Youth, A Reason to
Believe.
24:00 Dj Biggi Maus.

Hafnarhús/Reykjavík Art Gallery
22:30 Jazz Festival - Ellen Kristjáns-
dóttir, Moses Hightower. 2000 ISK.

Hotel Reykjavík Centrum
18:00 Jazz Festival - Uppsálir happy
hour. Free.

Hressó
22:00 Live band Menn Ársins, DJ Elli
afterwards

Kaffibarinn
22:00 FKNHNSM DJs.

Laugardalur Swimming Pool
20:30 Jazz Festival - IKI. 1500 ISK.

Nordic-Baltic Choral Festival
12:30 / 20:00 Check choral.iii.is/ for list
of venues.

Nordic House
20:00 Jazz Festival - Maria Baptist
with the Reykjavík Big Band. 2000 ISK.

P
16:30-20.00 After work gathering, chill-
out music, drinks at 500-600 ISK.

Prikið
21:00 Gísli Magic. Live DJ.

Sódóma
22:00 Pearl Jam Tribute. 1000 ISK.

21 SAT

Apótek
22:00 DJ Áki.

Bakkus
22:00 Hunk of a man. Live DJ.

Café Óliver
Tropical Girls Night, 3 for 1 pina coladas
& sex on the beach.

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Trúbatrixur release concert. Free.

Celtic Cross
01:00 Live music.

The Culture House
14:00 Jazz Festival - All day music
program. Free.

Den Danske Kro
12:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
20:30 Live music.

Faktorý
14:00 Open Air Concerts with Moses
Hightower, Matti Sax and more.
24:00 Dj Benson is Fantastic.

Hotel Reykjavík Centrum
18:00 Jazz Festival - Uppsálir happy
hour. Free.

Hressó
18:00 Live band Sturla, Jogvan & Vignir,
DJ Arnir Double Trouble at 24:00.

Kaffibarinn
22:00 Pabbahelgi #5 - Gísli Galdur &
Benni B Ruff Live DJs.

Nordic House
Jazz Festival - IKI, La Fanfare Du
Belgistan. Free.

P
22:00 Daddy Disco & Mastermix.

Prikið
21:00 Culture Night with Magga Nóem
and friends. Danni Deluxxe Rottweiler
live.

Sódóma
24:00 Seabear and Munnfylli af Galli.
1000 ISK.

22 SUN

Café Óliver
Summer Sunday banana split á la Óliver
900 ISK & live music.

The Culture House
17:00 Jazz Festival - Ástvaldur Zenki
Traustason. 1500 ISK.

Den Danske Kro
12:00 Live music. Beer for 600 ISK after
19:00.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Grand Hótel
20:00 Jazz Festival - The Swing Sextet.
2000 ISK.

Hotel Reykjavík Centrum
18:00 Jazz Festival - Uppsálir happy
hour. Free.

Nordic House
14:00 Jazz Festival - An exciting musical
experiment for the whole family. Free.

Prikið
22:00 Hangover movie night, Free
popcorn.

Venue
21:00 Jazz Festival - Hdden. 1500 ISK.

23 MON

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Café Óliver
Margarita Monday 2 for 1 on margaritas
& live music.

Café Rósenberg
21:00 Jazz Festival - Byzantine Silhou-
ette. 1500 ISK.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Hotel Reykjavík Centrum
18:00 Jazz Festival - Uppsálir happy
hour. Free.

Prikið
22:00 Live DJ.

Reykjavík City Hall
Jazz Festival. IKI. Free.

24 TUE

Café Óliver
Beer/wine 600 ISK.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Prikið
22:00 DJ Gauti and Go Go dancers.

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
20:30 Eva Ingolf violin.

25 WED

Café Óliver
Kiwi Party & live music.

Café Paris
21:00 Live music.

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Live Music.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Faktorý
21:00 Stand-up night.

Kaffibarinn
22:00 Alfons X. Live DJ.

Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 DJ or live music.

Hressó
22:00 Juan Cuban & friends.

Prikið
Large beer followed by a small beer for
free, just 700 ISK.

Venue
22:00 DJ Óli Geir

26 THU

Bakkus
22:00 Live DJ.

Café Óliver
Ingó Weathergod. Beer for 600 ISK.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:30 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Hressó
22:00 Troubadour Böddi & Davíð.

Kaffibarinn
22:00 Maggi Legó. Live DJ.

Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 DJ or live music.

P
2-for-1 white wine and Grolsch beer.

Prikið
Surprise-Night. Beer offer.

Sódóma
21:00

Thorvaldsen
16:30 Salsa Night. 16:30 beginners,
21:30 everyone.

ONGOING

Classical Concert Company
Concerts with classical Icelandic music
every night at 20:30
Grandagarður 11 Admission: ISK 2900

Kaffi Reykjavík
Comedy show everyday at at 18:00
Vesturgata 2 Admission: ISK 2200.



Viking hotel
Viking restaurants
Viking live entertainment
Viking Souvenirs

For booking and further information:
Tel.: (+354) 565-1215
vikings@vikingvillage.is - www.vikingvillage.is
Strandgata 55 Hafnarfjörður

Viking village
Fjörukráin



HAVARÍ DAY CLUB

SAT
14.08
4PM:
TBA

SAT
21.08
4PM: REYKJAVÍK
CULTURE NIGHT
OF MONSTERS
AND MEN +
JUST ANOTHER
SNAKE CULT

Haha haha haha varí

AUSTURSTRÆTI 6 // 101 REYKJAVÍK
FACEBOOK.COM/HAHAVARI

Den Danske Kro

• Mondays •
Shot's night - all shots ISK 400.-

• Tuesdays •
Live music and Beer Bingo night

• Wednesdays •
POP- QUIZ night (special offer on drinks) & Live music

• Thursdays •
Live Music / Scandinavian nights

• Fridays •
Live music / Sing-along nights

• Saturdays •
Live music / Sing-along nights

• Sundays •
Hangover & Live music night Really good prices on drinks



Ingólfsstræti 3 • 101 • Reyk.
www.danske.is

Sódoma

REYKJAVÍK

Friday 13th:

Benefit concert for Reykjadalur

10pm / 1000kr

Saturday 14th:

Severed Crotch album release concert

10pm / FREE

Wednesday 15th:

Silfur

9pm / 1000kr

Thursday 19th:

Fjölskylduhjálpin Benefit concert

10pm

Friday 20th:

Pearl Jam Tribute Concert

Saturday 21st:

Culture Night concert

w/ **SEABEAR** + Munnfylli af Galli

12am / 1000kr

Friday 27th:

Reykjavík Jazz Festival

Sódoma Reykjavík Tryggvagata 22, 101 RVK

www.facebook.com/sodomareykjavik

www.twitter.com/sodomarvk

Thomsen & Thomsen

15. maí – 29. ágúst 2010

**LJÓSMYNDASAFN
REYKJAVÍKUR**
Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Listahátíð 15. maí – 29. ágúst
í Reykjavík 2010
REYKJAVÍK ARTS FESTIVAL

GRÓFARHÚS 6th floor · Tryggvagata 15 · 101 Reykjavík · www.photomuseum.is
Opening hours 12–19 mon–fri, 13–17 weekends · **ADMISSION FREE**



**Fri 13 - Alfons X, Sat 14 - Ívar Pétur,
Wed 18 - Hellert & Hilmar - Reggae Dub Session,
Thu 19 - Alfons X, Fri 20 - FKNHNDSM DJs,
Sat 21 - Daddy weekend #5 - Gisli Galdur & Benni B Ruff**

www.facebook.com/kaffibarinn

No photographing allowed



Moonbath By The Shore

Full Moon Ceremony

Gróttu, Seltjarnarnes, 17:00

Free

The moon is waxing gibbous once again and this month it rises in Pisces, the great celestial fish. Local holistic healer and fortune teller Ms. Moon will be conducting a ceremony to mark the fullness our global nightlight on the 24th out by the ocean in Selfjarnarnes which all are welcome to come take part in. This ceremony will focus on emotion, love, the protection of our natural resources and the healing power of water. It's free to attend, but you'll need to bring a few items: a bowl, a paper and pen, some melted honey, a bit of wood for a bonfire, some kind of musical instrument (be creative!) and your positive energy. **RL**

Talk & Presentation by Samarendra Das

The Reykjavík Academy, 20:00

Free

The Indian author, filmmaker and activist Samarendra Das is visiting Iceland again, from August 14 to 21 in collaboration with Saving Iceland. He's here to promote his and Felix Padel's book, 'Out of This Earth: East India Adivasis and the Aluminium Cartel', which is often referred to as the "black book" of the aluminium industry. Indeed, it addresses all the dark sides of the industry. Samarendra will have a talk and presentation on his book at the Reykjavik Academy, Hringbraut 121, on Wednesday August 18th at 20:00. He will have more talks as well around the country.

A vibrant, hand-drawn poster for a 'Free Concert'. The central focus is a circular illustration of a cat with bright red, spiky hair, wearing a simple necklace with a circular pendant. The cat is set against a green circular background. Surrounding this central image are concentric rings of text and decorative elements. The outermost ring features the words 'GRAPEVINE GRASSROOTS' at the top and 'Inule' at the bottom right. Below this, a pink ring contains 'hemmi & vardi' in a stylized font. A red ring below that says 'DJ FLUGVEL & GEMSKIP'. A green ring contains 'Megatronic'. A yellow ring says 'Free Concert'. At the top, a black ring contains 'FRIDAY 20TH'. The background is a complex mix of colors and patterns, including a large 'G' in the top left and various abstract shapes. The overall style is reminiscent of punk or indie zine art.



BIRGIR ANDRÉSSON
TUMI MAGNÚSSON
ROMAN SIGNER
10.07.2010 - 30.09.2010

Skaftfell CENTER FOR
VISUAL ART

EXHIBITIONS, HAPPENINGS & CONCERTS
at *THE WESTWALL GALLERY* &
THE BOOKSHOP-PROJECTSPACE
are planned on short notice -
see program on Skaftfell's homepage

AUSTURVEGUR 42 | SEYDISJÖRDUR | SKAFTFELL.IS

14
August

29
August

The Reykjavík Jazz Festival

Pass: 8000 ISK, tickets on sale at midi.is

The 21st annual Reykjavík Jazz Festival celebrates fifteen days of awesome jazz at the end of this month. Every year it showcases a variety of talented local musicians and some international names too, with over 120 musicians jazzing out in 80 different events this year. Pétur Grétarsson, artistic director and manager of the festival, claims the Reykjavík Jazz Festival sets itself apart from other jazz festivals because the

14
August

FEVERED GROTT
THE NATURE OF EXTREMES

Severed Crotch Release/ Farewell Concert

Sódóma, 22:00

Free

Reykjavík death metal superstars Severed Crotch released the album 'The Nature of Entropy' this summer and are going to celebrate with a concert at Sódóma on August 14. The drummer is leaving the country, so the Crotch won't be entertaining us with their blood-tinged brutality for a whole year. Others are going to play, such as Angst, Manslaughter and Gone Postal. It's free, so why not show up, get fucked up and slamdance to the most brutal band in Reykjavík? **PJ**

United Voices

Various Locations

1000-1500 ISK

Ever wondered what would happen when you fuse Nordic and Baltic choral music together? A super massive choral festival. And this year it's being held right in the heart of Reykjavik. The festival sees over 1.800 participants from the Nordic countries and Baltic states, who perform 26 concerts within just 4 days. On Culture Night, choirs will be scattered around the city in over 10 different locations before joining together at 17:30 to sing a huge concert at Arnarhóll. So if you aren't interested in seeing any of the concerts, you'll probably see them anyway, whether you like it or not. The festival commences on August 17th with an opening concert at Laugardalshóll at 8 p.m. See full schedule at choral.iii.is. **AY**

audience experiences the music on a more intimate level, in smaller venues. Pétur describes the jazz scene in Iceland as a small, but very vibrant one that is beginning to cross boundaries. Here are a few names to look out for during the festival.

Django Bates

British pianist Django Bates performs Charlie Parker inspired riffs with his trio, the Beloved Birds. He will also play a solo recital entitled "Autumn Fires and Green Shots."

Jean Marie Machado

French composer and pianist, Jean Marie Machado mixes jazz, classical music and Mediterranean music. He will be performing with a trio of Icelandic musicians as well as a solo set.

Maria Babtist & Achim Kauffmen
German pianists, Maria Babtist and Achim Kauffmen, will join the Reykjavík Big Band and local bass player Valdi Kolln and American drummer, Jim Black, for some awesome swing numbers.

EB

OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

CONCERTS & EVENTS IN JULY & AUGUST

How to use the listings
Venues are listed alphabetically by day.
For complete listings and detailed
information on venues visit
www.grapevine.is

MUSIC

13 FRI

Gæran 2010
Loðskinn, Sauðárkrókur
17:00 Music festival. Check Gæran's
Facebook for full schedule.

Skriðjöklarnir
Græni Hatturin, Akureyri
22:00 Live Band.

14 SAT

Blúsmenn Andreu
Græni Hatturin, Akureyri
22:00 Icelandic Blues, Live Band.

Gæran 2010
Loðskinn, Sauðárkrókur
17:00 Music festival. Check Gæran's
Facebook for full schedule.

Sálin Hans Jóns Mins
800 Bar, Selfoss
23:00 Live Band.

15 SUN

Classial Music
Gljúfrasteinn, Mosfellsbær
16:00 Performance by **Hallveig Rúnars-
dóttir** (soprano) and **Hrönn Þráinsdót-
tir** (piano). 500 ISK.

Concert
Snorrastofa, Reykholt
16:00 **Katalin Lorincz** and **Steinar
Matthias Kristinnsson**.

19 THU

Erla Þorsteinsdóttir tribute
Græni Hatturin, Akureyri
21:00 Live Band.

20 FRI

Concert
Snorrastofa, Reykholt
Male Choir from Stord in Norway.

22 SUN

Classial Music
16:00 **Gljúfrasteinn, Mosfellsbær**
Performance by **Sesselja Kristjáns-
dóttir** (mezzo soprano) and **Anna
Guðný Guðmundsdóttir** (piano).
500 ISK.

Concert
Snorrastofa, Reykholt
IKI. Young singers from Norway, Finland
Denmark and Iceland.

ART OPENINGS

Café Karólína, Akureyri
Breiða
August 7 - September 3
Photo exhibition
galleriBOX, Akureyri
August 7 - August 22
Exhibition by Clara Drummond

Skaftfell Centre for Visual Art
August 10 - August 18
Exhibits by Hildur Björk Yeoman &
Thelma Björk Jónsdóttir.

ART ONGOING

Akureyri Museum
Treasure
Runs until September 15
Twenty Photographers in Akureyri and
Surroundings 1858-1965 Eyjafjörður in
the early period.

Akureyri Art Museum
Rhyme
Runs until August 22
Works by **Ásmundur Sveinsson**.
**Árnesinga Folk Museum, Eyrar-
bakki**
11:00 - 18:00 until September 15

Dalir Og Hólar - Travel Drawings
**Ólafsdalur, Gilsfjörður; Króks-
fjarðarnes; Nýp & Röðull,
Skarðsströnd**

Deiglan, Art center, Akureyri
Runs until August 15+
Gréta Berg. Portraits.

Gamli Baukur, Húsavík
Let's Talk Local
15:30 Comedy show about Reykjavík,
2200 ISK/1100 ISK for kids.

The Ghost Centre, Stokkseyri
Night at the Ghost Museum
An offer for two to spend a scary night at
the Ghost Centre. 3500 ISK.

Hafnarborg, Hafnarfjörður
Formal Discipline
Runs until August 22
Exhibition of works by Eiríkur Smith.

Herring Factory, Djúpvík
Pictures - and their sounds
Runs until August 31.

Hótel Varmahlíð
Horses & Men
Runs until January 1, 2011
Photographic exhibition which looks into
the history of the horse, spanning 100
years.

The Husavik Whale Museum
Whale & Marine Exhibit
9:00 - 19:00 all July & August
Includes detailed info about whale
habitat, biology, ecology, strandings &
history in Iceland.

Icelandic Folk and Outsider Art
Museum, Akureyri
Art Feast 1
Runs until September 5
50 pieces by multiple artists.

**The Icelandic Settlement Centre,
Borgarnes**
The Egil Saga/ Settlement Exhibition
In these exhibitions The Settlement Cen-
tre tells the sagas of Iceland's settlement
and Egill Skallagrímsson, Iceland's most
famous viking and first poet.

**Jónas Viðar Gallery, Art center,
Akureyri**
July 31 - August 22
Exhibition by Maja Wolna.

Ketilhúsið, Akureyri
With Brush And Palette Knife
Runs until August 15
Painting and waterpaint exhibit by
Guðmundur Ármann Sigurjónsson and
Kristinn G. Jóhannsson

The Kópavogur Art Museum
Summer exhibit.
Runs until August 22

Kunstraum Wohnraum, Akureyri
Anywhere
Runs until August 29
Exhibit by German artists Frauke Hänke
and Claus Kienle.

Ljosafoss Power Station
Nature In Design
Runs until August 28
Exhibition of Icelandic designers who
find inspiration in nature.

**Museum of Design and Applied Art,
Garðabær**
Deep Sea to High Fashion
Runs until September 5
Exhibit featuring works which utilize
fish-skin leather.

**Pompei of the North, Westman
Islands**
Excavation project at the site of the
1973 volcanic eruption on the island of
Heimaey.

**Reykjanes Art Museum, Reykjanes-
bær**
11:00 - 17:00 every weekday, 13:00 -
17:00 every weekend.

Safnahus Museum
**Aquarium & Museum of Natural His-
tory in Vestmannaeyjar**
Mounted birds & fish, aquarium, and
rocks & mineral display.

Skaftfell Centre for Visual Art
Runs until September 30
Exhibits by Birgir Andrésson, Tumi Mag-
nússon & Roman Signer.

Skógar Museum, Hvolsvöllur
9:00 - 18:00 all July & August

Verksmiðjan, Hjalteyri
Finnur Keli Kristján ?
Runs until September 5
Collaborative exhibit by artists Finns
Arnar and Kristjáns Steingríms and the
composer Þorkels Atlasonar.



WATSKEBURT?

Kaffistofa, 16:00

Free

A group of four Icelandic artists, all
related to the Amsterdam art scene,
will show their works in the Iceland
Acedemy of the Arts gallery. The name
is some kind of Dutch slang that means
“what is happening?”, and that's just
what we're wondering. Lucidity and
flow characterises the works of the
exhibition, wherein they explore the
borders of virtual and actual reality.
There will also be a party with live
music on Culture Night. Contributing
artists are Hrafnhildur Helgadóttir, Máni
Marteinn Sígússon, Sæmundur Þór
Helgason and Torfi Fannar Gunnarsson.
PJ

by the sea
and a delicious lobster
at Fjörubordid in Stokkseyri



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.



< Only 45 minutes drive from Reykjavík

Eyrarbraut 3 · 825 Stokkseyri · Iceland · tel. +354-483 1550
fax. +354- 483 1545 · info@fjorubordid.is · www.fjorubordid.is

VÍKING


Best little
concert venue in Iceland

Fri. 13. Aug. Skriðjöklarnir
Sat. 14. Aug. Blúsmenn Andreu / Icel. Blues
Thu. 19. Aug. Erla Thorst. Tribute
Thu. 26. Aug. The Belgistan / Belgium Jazz
Fri. 27. Aug. Killer Queen / Queen Tribute
Thu. 2. Sep. The Snappers / Australian Jazz

For further informations
on upcoming events and concerts go to:
www.facebook.com/graenihatturinn

THE GREEN HAT
AKUREYRI

HISTORY AT
EVERY STEP



Open May 15th - Sept. 15th: 11 - 18
Other times by arrangement

Tel: +354 483 1504
husid@husid.com | www.husid.com

HÚSID Á EYRARBAKKA
The Southcoast Museum

Hafid Blaa
útsýnis & veitingastaður
restaurant

seafood
restaurant
With a splendid view
(354) 483 1000 - www.hafidblaa.is



Icelandic Wonders.COM

- 1200 m² Elves, Trolls and Northern Lights Museum
- 1000 m² Ghost Museum
- 24 Icelandic ghost stories in German, English, French, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese and Russian

* visit our souvenir shop in Hafnarstræti 4 Reykjavík and our museums at Stokkseyri *



Icelandic Wonders & Draugasetrið | Stokkseyri, Iceland | Tel. +354 483 1202/895 0020

AUGUST 21
REYKJAVÍK
CULTURE NIGHT
2010 SCHEDULE

IN YOUR
POCKET



Photo: Ragnar Th. Sigurðsson

WHAT IS REYKJAVÍK CULTURE NIGHT?

An annual event in the city since 1996, Reykjavík Culture Night has become an essential part of cultural life in Iceland, with thousands of people strolling the streets of the city on this exciting and eventful day. Culture Night offers the chance to enjoy a variety of activities ranging from guided tours, traditional shows and exhibitions to the most unusual happenings. A number of cultural institutes such as galleries, ateliers, shops, cafes, churches, restaurants and bars in downtown of Reykjavík stay open until late.

In short: if you find yourself in Reykjavík during Culture Night, soak yourself in it, you're guaranteed one of the best times to be had in a uniquely Icelandic way.



ART **MUSIC** **PERFORMANCE** **WORKSHOP** **MISC**

10:00 - 16:00

“I CHOOSE BLOSSOMING WOMEN ...”

Woman as Symbol in the Art of Ásmundur Sveinsson. The works in the exhibition are selected from the entire career of the sculptor.

ÁSMUNDARSAFN, SIGTÚN

10:00 - 18:00

OPEN HOUSE AT THE ORG GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTE

The ORG Genealogical Institute specialises in finding genealogical materials, family lineages and references applying to the genealogical heritage of the Icelandic people.

SKELJANES, BUS ROUTE 12, FINAL STOP

10:00 - 18:30

SECONDO

B/W photography by Karl R Lilliendahl. The exhibition name refers to the part of a second that it takes to capture the moment. The photographs are all of the Italian cities Lucca, Bologna and Venice.

MOKKA-ESPRESSO-KAFFI, SKÓLAVÖRÐUSTÍGUR 3A

10:00 - 22:00

CARELESS

Product designer Ragnheiður Ösp Sigurðardóttir exhibits crochet figures and illustrations in hand-made frames.

LAUGAVEGUR 48

CAMERA OBSCURA IN NORTHGALLERY

Camera Obscura (darkened room) is a certain illusion or an optical device that projects an image of its surroundings through a hole on one side of the room.

KJARVALSSTAÐIR, FLÓKAGATA

ALTERNATIVE EYE

The exhibition looks at how photographs are used in Icelandic and international contemporary art, through over 60 photographic works from the collection of Pétur Arason and Ragna Róbertsdóttir.

KJARVALSSTAÐIR, FLÓKAGATA

KJARVAL – KEY WORKS

Key works from Kjarval's oeuvre offer a unique and powerful retrospective of the career of Iceland's most beloved painter.

KJARVALSSTAÐIR, FLÓKAGATA

10:00 - 23:00

STOPS ALONG THE WAY

Exhibition of works by artist Guðmunda Kristinsdóttir at Hún og Hún Jewellery.

HÚN OG HÚN, SKÓLAVÖRÐUSTÍGUR 17

CONSTRAINT – FREEDOM

Exhibition of works by artist Kristín Tryggvadóttir, focusing on the tension between these two concepts.

GEYSIR, ADALSTRAETI 2

STATE ROOM IN THE CITY

Reflections on a place. Guests are invited to experience the location from a different perspective.

FRAKKATORG, FRAKKASTÍGUR

REYKJAVÍK TRAINS/METRO

Enter the Reykjavík Central Station and experience the city from a new perspective. The idea is to create a dialogue on the city's environment and transportation.

LÆKJARTORG

EXHIBITION

Artist Gunnar I Guðjónsson studied visual arts in Reykjavík and Barcelona and has caught the eye of galleries and collectors around the world.

ART CENTER, LAUGAVEGUR 51

SEEN FROM VULCAN

Exhibition of paintings created under the influence of the planet Vulcan.

INGÓLFSSTRÆTI 5

CORNER ENSEMBLE

Corner ensemble captures the flow in its distinct structural way and gives the user a new focusing point and another way to express oneself both inside and outside the frame.

AUSTURVÖLLUR

SCULPTURE

Exhibition of works by artist Sigurdís Harpa in the storefront windows of the Icelandic Red Cross store.

ICELANDIC RED CROSS, LAUGAVEGUR 12B

THE SETTLEMENT EXHIBITION

Guided tours at 14:00 and 16:00 for the younger visitors where they can experience what kids

their age did for fun in the Viking Age. Guided tours of the exhibition as a whole at 18:00, 20:00 and 22:00.

REYKJAVÍK 871±2, ADALSTRAETI 16

IN THE COLLECTION OF IMPERFECTION

Unnar Örn J. Auðarson's installation is intended to reach outside the walls of the art museum and create a dialogue with the methods of cataloguing and the role of museums in present-day society.

HAFNARHÚS, TRYGGVAGATA

VANITAS, STILL-LIFE IN CONTEMPORARY ICELANDIC

The exhibition highlights certain aspects of the artists approach to materials and composition, and brings attention to the reminder of transience and renewal that is found in many of the works.

HAFNARHÚS, TRYGGVAGATA

NUDES – GARY SCHNEIDER

The exhibition Nudes, consists of 30 life-size portraits of nude men and women that Schneider has photographed using an unusual technique.

HAFNARHÚS, TRYGGVAGATA

ERRÓ – PORTRAIT

The exhibition Erró – Portrett presents his portraits or character descriptions of well known individuals in the fields of science, politic, literature and arts.

HAFNARHÚS, TRYGGVAGATA

ERRÓ - PORTRAIT – DOLLS

Dolls are not a common theme in the history of art. Thus Erró took a surprising turn at the end of the 1980s when he started making collages, and later paintings, focussing on pictures of old dolls of the pre-war era.

HAFNARHÚS, TRYGGVAGATA

11:00 - 12:00

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN ENGLISH

Guided tour in English of the permanent exhibition of the National Museum of Iceland: The Making of a Nation. Free admission.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND, SUÐURGATA 41

11:00 - 13:00

FOREVER YOUNG

Open house at the Ombudsman for Children. Music, drawings and fun for the whole family.

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN, LAUGAVEGUR 13

11:00 - 22:30

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Flea market from 11:00. Concert starts at 15:00. The line up features: Frank Murder, Skurken, Quadruplos, Sometime, Steve Sampling, Feldberg and others. Installation by Anik and graffiti by Una.

HVERFISGATA 98

11:00 - 23:00

TOTAL SOAP BUBBLE

“I was born as a woman in a man's body, I am attracted to women, and therefore I'm gay.”, says The Soap Bubble. Opening of an exhibition by artists Ása Heiður and Birgir Breiðdal. Musical performance by Jónas Sigurðsson og Ritvélar Framtíðarinnar at 14:00, 16:00, 18:00. Also present: The Mad Soap bubble Machine

LAUGAVEGUR 96

11:30 - 12:00

KÓSI FLUTE GROUP

Established in January by flute instructor Pamela De Sensi, KóSi Flute Group is a collective of 8 young women who play the flute.

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN, LAUGAVEGUR 13

12:00 - 20:00

QUIZ AND COHEN

Authors of the popular Icelandic quiz game Spurt að Leikslokum conduct a quiz and folk singer Valur Gunnarsson plays his arrangements of Leonard Cohen in Icelandic.

BERGSTABASTRÆTI 10

12:00 - 22:00

INLAND/OUTLAND-ICELAND

Inland/Outland is a video installation made from 40.000 photographs taken during a drive around Iceland. Video by Svavar Jónatansson, original music by Daniel Ágúst Haraldsson.

REYKJAVÍK CITY HALL, TJARNARGATA

12:00 - 23:00

FIRESCAPES - FIRE IN ROME

An Exhibition of paintings of molten lava and erupting volcanoes by artist Hulda Hlín Magnúsdóttir.

TJARNARGATA 40

12:30 - 13:00

TROUBADOUR JÓHANN AUÐUNN

Jóhann Auðunn Þorsteinsson plays a few songs for the whole family.

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN, LAUGAVEGUR 13

13:00

CULTURE NIGHT OPENING CEREMONY.

Mayor of Reykjavik, Jón Gnarr, formally opens the Culture Night program. Finnish choir Cantenovum sings and a 7 meter painting of Iceland is painted by top artists from around the country.

ICELAND TOURIST BOARD, GEIRSGATA

13:00 - 13:30

INTRODUCTION TO THE WOMEN'S DAY OFF

Skottur, the association of Icelandic Women's Movements introduces Skottur and the Women's Day Off, October 24th.

AUSTURVÖLLUR

13:00 - 14:00

LEARN ANGLING

Fisherman Guðmundur and fish farmer Hörður teach kids the art of angling. Adults must accompany children under 11.

SÆÐIS GULLSMÍÐJA, GEIRSGÖTU 5B

CATS PURR

A magical tour of the old town in Reykjavík with Cultural Companion Birna. The streets come alive as Magnús R. Einarsson adds music to Birna's delivery of stories and poems. The tour is translated in Polish, English and Italian.

SKÓLAVÖRÐUHOLT BY HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA

13:00 - 15:00

BESTIVAL

Concert/live performances on the square. Line-up includes: Davíð Berndsen, Quadruplos, Maggi Mongoose. The exhibition Bestival opens at 18:00

HJARTATORG, LAUGAVEGUR 21

CERAMICS AND ART

Ceramic artist Ingibjörg Klemenzdóttir demonstrates the making of ceramic art in her studio, and artist Lilja Bragadóttir assists children in the making of art.

GALLERÍ DUNGA, GEIRSGATA

13:00 - 17:00

SUNGazing WITH THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Seltjarnarnes Astronomical Society offers a closer look at the sun with specially outfitted telescopes. Members of the astronomical society will be in front of the statue of Jón Sigurðsson, sunny weather permitting.

AUSTURVÖLLUR

13:00 - 18:00

REYKJAVÍK AIR SEARCH AND RESCUE

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Reykjavík Air Search and Rescue, the team will demonstrate their equipment and some basic manoeuvres.

REYKJAVÍK AIR SEARCH AND RESCUE, FLUGVALLARVEGUR

13:00 - 20:00

HOUSE HERITAGE

The National Architectural Heritage Board presents the architectural history of Reykjavík. Specialists offer advice on the maintaining old houses, and guests are invited to view the refurbishment of Laugavegur 4 and 6.

LAUGAVEGUR 4-6

NIKITA

Assortment of Icelandic music performances (hip hop, rock, electro, and dubstep outfits), Dohop Foosball, the Nikita Birthday show and kid-scribbles.

NIKITA, LAUGAVEGI 56

13:00 - 21:00

OPEN HOUSE

The theme of the day is fashion. 14:00 - 16:00 o'clock the archvies will host a fashion market.

Concert by Popular kletzmer band Varsjar-bandalagið at 17:00. Accordion player Örylgur Eypórsson plays popular tunes by demand and people are welcome to dance.

REYKJAVÍK MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES, TRYGGVAGOTU 15, 3RD FLOOR

13:00 - 22:00

TEN YEARS BY THE HARBOUR

Reykjavik City Library celebrates ten years at their current location by the harbour. Guests are invited to participate.

REYKJAVÍK CITY LIBRARY, TRYGGVAGATA

BERGUR THORBERG – EXHIBITION OPENING

Known for his paintings from coffee, Bergur Thorberg opens an exhibition, and shows people how coffee fuels his creativity.

ART CENTRE, LAUGAVEGUR 51

DATE WITH THE PAST

Do you fancy a Polaroid picture of you and your friends in costumes from another era? The Reykjavík Photography Museum, in cooperation with antique store Friða Frænka, offers you the chance.

REYKJAVÍK PHOTOGRAPHY MUSEUM, GRÓFARHUS, TRYGGVAGATA 15

13:00 - 23:00

WOMEN'S MOVEMENT TENT

Skottur, the coalition of Icelandic Women's organisations, presents the movement and the Women's Day Off on October 24th, when women quit their jobs at 14:25 to symbolize the wage inequality between the sexes. The art piece The Colour Palette of Icelandic Women will be introduced, and women are encouraged to bring their cosmetics to assist in the making of the piece, which will be revealed on the Women's Day Off.

AUSTURVÖLLUR

13:30 - 15:00

ART WORKSHOP FOR KIDS

Kids of all ages let creativity take control.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND, SUÐURGATA 41

13:30 - 17:00

MINI-WORKSHOP IN CREATIVE WRITING

Björg Árnadóttir instructs participants on creative writing, with short writing exercises and peer reviews. Workshops start at 13:30 & 15:30 and last 1,5 hour. In Icelandic.

TJARNARGATA 10

14:00 - 14:30

THE OP-GROUP – SCENES FROM OPERAS

The Op-Group delivers selected scenes from various operas from the group's concert series last winter.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND, FRÍKIRKJUVEGUR 7

ICELAND IN WWII

A guided tour of historical sites in Reykjavik from the Second World War. The history of the occupation of Iceland and the events leading up to it will be reviewed. The tour departs from the Reykjavik City Library. Admission is free.

REYKJAVÍK CITY LIBRARY, TRYGGVAGATA

MARÍA & MATTI DUET

María and Matti play light summer music

HITT HÚSIÐ, PÓSTHÚSSTRÆTI

14:00 - 15:00

RUNES AT CAFÉ LOKI

Café Loki's August artist in residence, Gyða Ölvisdóttir, demonstrates rune drawings and talks about her work in the café.

CAFÉ LOKI, LOKASTÍG 28

14:00 - 15:30

CHILDREN'S RHYMES

Ólöf Sverrisdóttir reads stories and recites verses and rhymes from different times. Pencils and papers will be available, should anyone wish to illustrate the stories. Events start at 14:00 and 15:00.

REYKJAVÍK CITY LIBRARY, TRYGGVAGATA

ERUPTION IN EYJAFJALLAJÖKKULL

Geologist Ari Trausti Guðmundsson and photographer Ragnar Th. Sigurðsson, authors of the book Eyjafjallajökull exhibit photos and discuss the eruption. The short film The Eruption! By Valdimar Leifsson will be screened.

CINEMA NO2, GEIRSGÖTU 7B

14:00 - 16:00

RIDE A HARLEY

HOG-Chapter Iceland, the Icelandic Harley Davidson Owners Group offers rides around the

pond on the back of a Harley. The ride is 500 ISK and the proceeds go directly to Umhyggja, the foundation for children with long-term illness.

IN FRONT OF ALTHINGI, KIRKJUSTRÆTI

OCEAN GRAPHIC

Graphic artist Elva Hreiðarsdóttir works with graphic plates and material from the ocean.

SÆÐIS GULLSMÍÐJA, GEIRSGÖTU 5B

FREEMASONRY IN ICELAND

The Icelandic Freemason order opens its temple. Guests are invited to tour the building and an introductory film on the order will be screened.

ICELANDIC FREEMASON, SKÚLAGATA 53-55

HUGS COURTESY OF THE ROLE CENTRE

Everyone is invited to participate in receiving and doling out hugs for strangers.

LAUGAVEGUR 25

14:00 - 17:00

UNNUR'S TEAHOUSE

Step into Unnur's Teahouse where she will explain and perform the art of the Beijing Opera, in particular the Huangmei form. The teahouse rooms 20 people. The event lasts an hour and starts at 14:00 and 16:00.

NJÁLSGATA 33A

THE ICELANDIC NUMISMATIC MUSEUM

The Central Bank and National Museum of Iceland jointly operate a numismatic collection that consists of Icelandic notes and coins, foreign money from earlier times, especially if mentioned in Icelandic sources, and more recent currency from Iceland's main trading partner countries.

CENTRAL BANK, KALKOFNSVEGI

FRIENDS OF LITLI-GARÐUR

Friends of Litli-Garður set up a café and a flea market in the garden and screen the film Sjónarhorn by Herbert Sveinbjörnsson, filmed at an outdoor concert during Reykjavík Culture Night 2008.

HABARSTÍGUR

14:00 - 21:00

CELEBRATION OF HYMNS IN HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA

54 Choirs from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Denmark and Greenland. Some of the best choirs in the North.

HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA

14:00 - 22:00

ART EXHIBITION

Painter Puriður Sigurðardóttir continues to work with nature as her main theme; she has previously painted hyper realistic works but now she focuses on abstract. This exhibition is dedicated to the study of the winter sky.

ICELANDIC GRAPHIC MUSEUM, TRYGGVAGATA 17

ALL DAY PROGRAM OF THE NORDIC ASSOCIATION

- 14.00 Norwegian choir - Skjervøy Koret
- 14.15 Herdís Þorvaldsdóttir - reads norwegian poetry
- 15.00 Norwegian choir - Untak
- 15.15 Ragnhild Rostrup - Accordion
- 15.40 Ellen Kristjáns
- 16.00 Norwegian choir - Trivselkoret Rolvsøy
- 16.15 Rósa Jóhannessdóttir - Traditional norwegian violin
- 16.40 Tribute to Erla Þorsteins
- 17.00 Norwegian choir -Mannskoret Ørnen
- 17.15 Lindy Hopp
- 18.30 Sing for me Sandra
- 19.00 Liima Inui (GL)
- 19.30 Árstíðir
- 20.00 Marte Heggelund og Jørgen Rief(NO)
- 20.30 Moses Hightower
- 21.00 Orphic Oxta
- 21.30 Retro Stefson

ÓÐINSTORG

14:30 - 15:00

ÞÓRUNN LÁRUSDÓTTIR SINGS

Actor Þórunn Lárusdóttir sings in the Women's Day Off tent.

AUSTURVÖLLUR

SVANUR MARCHING BAND

The marching band Svanur marches from Lækjartorg, up Bankastræti and down to Smiðjustígur. Join the march.

BANKASTRÆTI

GOTTSKÁLK ÞRUMDI ÞETTA AF SÉR...

The cartoon group Gottskálk þrumdi þetta af sér... tells a story with the assistance of the musical group Moy.

HITT HÚSIÐ, PÓSTHÚSSTRÆTI

TEA PARTY WITH MÓANÓRA

Drink some tea, dance to some tunes from the dance trio Móanóra.

HITT HÚSIÐ, PÓSTHÚSSTRÆTI

14:30 - 16:30

REQUESTS FROM THE YOUNG ONES

Host of the children's radio show Leynifélagið (The Secret Society) sings Icelandic children songs accompanied by Vignir Stefánsson, piano player.

The programme runs for 15 minutes and starts at: 14:30, 15:00, 15:30 and 16:00.

KRAMHÚSIÐ, BERGSTAÐASTRÆTI

15:00 - 15:30

OPERAS – SELECTED SCENES

The Op-Group delivers a program of selected scenes from various operas from the group's concert series last winter.

ÍÐNÓ, VONARSTRÆTI 3

MORA TRIO

The Mora Trio performs popular songs in brass arrangements.

HITT HÚSIÐ, PÓSTHÚSSTRÆTI

AIKIDO DEMONSTRATION

Members of Aikikai Reykjavík demonstrate Aikido techniques and answer questions.

AUSTURVÖLLUR

REYKJAVÍK WOMEN'S CHOIR

Reykjavík Women's Choir performs a program in the Women's Day Off tent.

AUSTURVÖLLUR

FUN AND DANCE

HNOD and the comedy troupe Upp mín sál! stage a dance event in cooperation with the Icelandic Presidential Ballet.

HITT HÚSIÐ, PÓSTHÚSSTRÆTI 7

VIKINGLOFT FASHION SHOW

Vikingloft Design is a design company specializing in Viking clothing and beautiful wool garments. The company will display its production.

VÍKINGLOFT, GEIRSGATA

15:00 - 16:00

THOMSEN & THOMSEN

Photographer Pétur Thomsen guides visitors through his exhibition Thomsen & Thomsen.

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY, GROFARHUS, TRYGGVAGATA 15

NORWEGIAN ARCHITECTURE AND ART

Architect Pétur Ármannsson leads a guided walk through the old town in Reykjavík where Norwegian architecture is predominant. The tour starts at the main entrance of the National Gallery of Iceland, where it is also ends with a guided tour of an ongoing exhibition of the works of Norwegian painter Edward Munch with Halldór B. Runólfsson.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND, FRÍKIRKJUVEGUR 7

GUIDED TOUR OF KJARVAL KEY WORKS

These works from Kjarval's oeuvre offer a unique and powerful retrospective of the career of Iceland's most beloved painter.

KJARVALSSTAÐIR, FLÓKAGATA

GUITAR ISLANCIO

The guitar trio Guitar Islancio plays old Icelandic songs in Jazz arrangements outside the Nine Worlds studio in Vesturport.

VESTURGATA 18

SVANUR BIG BAND

The Big Band Svanur with bandleader Matthías V. Baldursson performs with guest vocalists in the port behind Faktory Bar.

FAKTORY BAR, SMÍÐJUSTÍGUR 6

FASHION SHOW

Galleries and boutiques around the old harbour show their newest design in clothing and accessories for the winter season.

SÆÐIS GULLSMÍÐJA, GEIRSGÖTU 5B

NATIONAL HORSE COMPETITION

Photography exhibition featuring the Icelandic horse, in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the National Horse Competition.

HLJÓMSKÁLAGARÐUR

KIDS STUFF

Fun and magic with Björgvin Franz Gíslason, host of the children's programme Stundin Okkar on TV. Björgvin will guide a tour for children around the museum and act out in all possible and impossible ways. Even magically.

ICELANDIC NATIONAL MUSEUM, SUÐURGATA 41

15:00 - 17:00

ART COLLECTIVE GARÚN

Visual arts collective Garún celebrates the publication of their new book and exhibits sculptures.

HITT HÚSIÐ, PÓSTHÚSSTRÆTI 7

PÁLL OF HÚSAFELL – EXHIBITION OPENING

Opening of an exhibition of works by artist Páll of Húsafell. His unique natural stone sculptures and drawings are on display. Páll will play Icelandic folk songs on his stone harp.

PANORAMA, INGÓLFSSTRÆTI 1

FLAGS AND PHOTOS

F3 exhibits a large flag and Augnablik exhibits photographs in Gallery Tukt.

HITT HÚSIÐ, PÓSTHÚSSTRÆTI

DESIGNERS PRESENT

Designers Svava Grímsdóttir and Ásdis Ámundadóttir present their design in Gallerí Dunga. Svava designs clothes, Ásdis designs handbags, belts and other accessories.

GALLERÍ DUNGA, GEIRSGATA

MAGIC AND GAMES

Magician Einar performs magic and illusions. Volunteers from SEEDS organise games for kids.

ENAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM, NJARÐARGATA

15:00 - 20:30

HUNTERS OF THE NORTH

The renowned photographer RAX has observed and recorded the life on the Northern hemisphere for the past 30 years. Photos from his exhibition Last Days of the Arctic will be displayed on a big screen.

HAFNARHÚS, TRYGGVAGATA

15:00 - 22:00

OPEN STUDIO – NINE WORLDS

Artists Ari Svavarsson and Ágústa Malmquist invite guests to visit their studio/workshop/gallery Nine Worlds and participate in workshops and performances. Live music and distinguished guests drop by.

VESTURGATA 18

JAZZ AND ART

Artist Pétur Gautur opens his studio for guests. New paintings line the walls. Kristjana Stefánsdóttir's Jazz trio will play from 20.00 – 22:00.

PÉTUR GAUTUR, NJÁLSGATA

PHOTOGRAPHY

Culture Night Photography exhibition. Visitors are invited to bring their own photographs and display them.

KJARVALSSTAÐIR, FLÓKAGATA

15:00 - 22:30

JCI WELCOMES GUESTS

Junior Chambers International in Iceland presents its work and organisation. The festivities will end with an outdoor dance led by the band Bermuda.

JCI, HELLUSUND 3

15:30 - 16:00

HOMO SUPERIOR

Radio Homo Superior introduces the radio show Veganesti and presents the arts festival LungA.

HITT HÚSIÐ, PÓSTHÚSSTRÆTI

15:30 - 17:00

WHO IS JÓNAS?

A film celebrating the 200-years anniversary of Jónas Hallgrímsson, poet and naturalist.

CINEMA NO2, GEIRSGÖTU 7B

ACCORDION DANCE

The Reykjavík Accordion Society and the accordion group Smárinn play dance music to lift your spirit.

THE OUTDOOR CHESS BOARD, LÆKJARGATA

16:00 - 16:30

OPERA AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

Opera singers Ragnhildur Sigurðardóttir and Hólmfríður Jóhannessdóttir perform selected duets and arias.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND, SUÐURGATA 41

DANCING BOYS

The dance troupe Dancing Boys performs an original composition.

HITT HÚSIÐ, PÓSTHÚSSTRÆTI

GARÐABÆR WOMAN'S CHOIR

Garðabær Women's Choir performs a program in the Women's Day Off tent.

AUSTURVÖLLUR

FIMBULFAMBI AMBIENCE

Fimbulfambi play ambient music and perform a composition for the bells of Hallgrímskirkja Church.

HITT HÚSIÐ, PÓSTHÚSSTRÆTI

QEQQANI ERINARSOQATIGIT

The choir Qeqqani Erinarsoqatigiit/Midtgrønlands sangkor from Greenland. Conductor Tilken Jakobsen.

HAFNARHÚS, TRYGGVAGATA

16:00 - 17:00

ART WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN

Troll children conduct an art workshop and give guided tours of the current exhibition Strides.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND, FRÍKIRKJUVEGUR 7

16:00 - 18:00

MARTA M. JÓNSDÓTTIR EXHIBITION

Opening of a solo exhibition by abstract artist Marta M. Jónsdóttir.

GALLERÝ ÁGÚST, BALDURSGATA 12

16:00 - 20:00

FREE WAFFLES

Volunteers from SEED bake and distribute free waffles. Musicians, magicians and jugglers entertain.

SKÓLAVÖRÐUSTÍGUR BY BANKASTRÆTI

16:00 - 23:00

PSYTRANCE

The garden behind Fógetinn hosts a Psytrance party, featuring fire and light, and the music of: Twinsonic live, Extream and Mr De Deus dj-a.ln-ferno.

FÓGETAGARÐURINN, KIRKJUSTRÆTI

16:00 - 23:00

CONSTRAINTS

An exhibition by Sólveig Hólmarsdóttir, dealing with the social unrest of the recent past.

ÍÐA, LÆKJARGATA

16:30 - 17:00

NORDIC FOLK SONGS

The band Silfurberg plays their version of Nordic folk music and the band Uppsteyt rambles.

HITT HÚSIÐ, PÓSTHÚSSTRÆTI

ACCORDION DUET

Accordion players Flemming Viðar Valmundsson and Jónas Ásgeir Ásgeirsson play the accordion, solo and duet.

ÍÐNÓ, VONARSTRÆTI 3

SIGRÍÐUR EYRÚN FRÍÐRIKSDÓTTIR SINGS

Sigríður Eyrún Friðriksdóttir sings in the Women's Day Off tent.

AUSTURVÖLLUR

POETRY

The poetry group Ljóðverk reads original poems and cast their net of poetry.

HITT HÚSIÐ, PÓSTHÚSSTRÆTI

17:00 - 17:30

TENOR JÓHANN FRÍÐGEIR

Tenor Jóhann Friðgeir performs a few songs, accompanied by piano player Jónas Þór.

SÆÐIS GULLSMÍÐJA, GEIRSGÖTU 5B

GO GIRLS!

Protest songs from a concert programme which has been put together for the Women's Day Off on the 24 October 2010.

AUSTURVÖLLUR

17:00 - 18:00

IN C

The Icelandic Flute Choir performs one of the most influential minimalist flute pieces ever written, In C by Terry Riely from 1964.

ÍÐNÓ, VONARSTRÆTI 3

DELIZIE ITALIANE

The trio Delizie Italiane plays Italian folk music and new arrangements of Icelandic pop classics with Italian lyrics outside the studio Nine Worlds by Vesturport.

VESTURGATA 18

LIT WALK

Literary walk of Grófarhús, where poets and other performers recite poems. The programme concludes with a performance of song and poetry by the poetry band Greitt til Hliðar Plús Tveir including their winning act from the 2010 Poetry Slam

BORGARBÓKASAFNID, TRYGGVAGATA

THE ERUPTION! AND ÞÓRSMÖRK BY THE GLACIER

Screening of two Icelandic nature films, The Eruption!, which captures the eruption in the Volcano in Eyjafjallajökull in a breathtaking manner and Þórsmörk by the Glacier, filmed in one of the most spectacular locations in Iceland.

CINEMA NO2, GEIRSGÖTU 7B

17:00 - 23:00

CONCOCTION

Artists Elísabet Ásberg and Svanhvít Valgeirsdóttir co-exhibit for the second time sculptures and paintings on the walls of Elísabet's studio.

HVERFISGATA 52

17:30 - 18:30

POEMS AND ARIAS

Póra Passauer, contra alt, performs Kindartotenlieder by Gustav Mahler and well-known arias by Puccini, Tchaikovsky and Donizetty, accompanied by piano player Lilja Eggertsdóttir.

FRÍKIRKJAN CHURCH, FRÍKIRKJUVEGUR

17:30 - 21:00

PIANO AND HORN

Piano player Ása Dóra Gylfadóttir and horn player Rake! Björt Helgadóttir, students at the Reykjavík Music School, play classic Icelandic songs and selected works for piano and horn.

ART CENTRE, LAUGAVEGUR 51

18:00 - 18:30

THE OCTET ÓMAR

The Octet Ómar performs heartfelt pop classics arranged for quartet and beautiful arrangements for choirs, celebrating the beauty of life.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND, FRÍKIRKJUVEGUR 7

QEQQANI ERINARSOQATIGIIT

The biggest choir in East Greenland performs folk and religious music from Greenland.

HAFNARHÚS, TRYGGVAGATA

18:00 - 19:00

GUITAR ISLANCIO

The guitar trio Guitar Islancio plays old Icelandic songs in Jazz arrangements outside the Nine Worlds studio in Vesturport.

VESTURGATA 18

PINGVELLIR – WHERE EAST AND WEST MEETS

Nature film about Lake Pingvallavatn and the surrounding area. Geographical and biological history and life in and around the lake are put in focus.

CINEMA NO2, GEIRSGÖTU 7B

LA FANFARE DU BELGISTAN

The Belgistan, a small autonomous (and purely fictional) region of Eastern Belgium, proudly presents its Fanfare: an ensemble of five horns and two percussionists bringing the unique sounds of Belgistani music to the world audience. Its hellish dances, wild and mysterious rhythms, and hypnotic melodies.

KJARVALSSTAÐIR, FLÓKAGATA

18:00 - 20:00

REYKJAVÍK 1944

Screening of the film Reykjavík 1944 by Loftur Guðmundsson. The film is a unique documentary of life in Reykjavík in the first year of Icelandic independence and the end of the World War. Screenings at 18:00 and 19:00

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND, SUBURGATA 41

18:00 - 21:00

STEBBI AND EYFI

The kings of Icelandic pop music, Stefán Hilmarsson and Eyjólfur Kristjánsson play their most popular songs and discuss life and music with the audience.

CARUSO, ÞINGHOLTSSSTRÆTI 1

GARDEN CONCERT

Hrólfur Jónsson plays original songs from his new CD, Tímaglasið, with musicians Ragnar Jón Hrólfsson, Albert Finnbogason and Úlfur Alexander Einarsson. Concerts at 18:00 and 20:00.

BJARKARGATA 2

18:00 - 23:00

NOT ALL IS WHAT IT SEEMS

Fifteen people take off their trousers and shoes to confront our preconceptions.

SKÓLAVÖRÐUSTÍGUR BY BANKASTRÆTI

BESTIVAL

This project is an outdoors art festival comprising paintings, photographs, performances, video art, sculptures, graffiti and music.

HJARTATORG, LAUGAVEGUR 21

18:00 - 23:30

SEX ON THE BEACH

Performance art piece Sex on the Beach by artist Inga Sólveig takes place from 18:00 until the break of dawn in Gallery Eye for an Eye.

HVERFISGATA 35

19:00 - 19:30

SUNSHINE YOGA

Yoga instructor Auður Bjarnadóttir demonstrates and teaches yoga with her students in the Women's Day Off tent.

AUSTURVÖLLUR

19:00 - 20:00

SAGA-STEADS

Photographer Einar Falur gives a guided tour of his exhibition Saga-Steads. The exhibition revisits places in photographs by William Gershom Collingwood, who photographed Iceland during his travels in 1897.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND, SUÐURGATA 41

CHUKOTKA ON THE EDGE OF WORLD

A film about the life and hopes of people in the Chukotka-territory by the Arctic Circle in Siberia, where billionaire Roman Abramovich was elected governor in 2000.

CINEMA NO2, GEIRSGÖTU 7B

19:00 - 22:00

INSTALLATION

A Transpatial Installation by the French artist Yann Gautron. Poetry, Painting and music.

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE, TRYGGVAGATA 8

19:30 - 20:00

T.N.T. (AC/DC TRIBUTE BAND)

T.N.T is the first Icelandic AC/DC tribute band, and this is their first live performance.

JCI, HELLUSUND 3

20:00 - 20:30

GUITAR ISLANCIO AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

Guitar Islancio consists of guitar players Björn Thoroddsen, Jón Rafnson and Hjörtur Steinars-son. The trio will play sweet guitar music as they have been known to do.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND, SUÐURGATA 41

IN C

The Icelandic Flute Choir performs one of the most influential minimalistic flute pieces ever written, In C by Terry Riely from 1964.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND, FRÍKIRKJUVEGUR 7

IN EVERY DIRECTION AND BACK

Song trio Les Triples performs golden oldies.

IDNÓ, VONARSTRÆTI 3

ÞÓRUNN ANTONIA SINGS

Singer Þórunn Antonia sings in the Women's Day Off tent.

AUSTURVÖLLUR

20:00 - 21:00

IKI CONCERT

IKI is a song improvisation troupe of nine women from four Nordic countries: Iceland, Finland, Norway and Denmark. The troupe was formed in Copenhagen in 2009, where all the singers were studying at the Rytmisk Musik Konservatorium. IKI sings beautiful cappellas based on sounds, tones, languages and rhythm.

NORDIC HOUSE, STURLUGATA 5

DALTON IN CONCERT

The band Dalton warms up the audience outside JCI Iceland.

JCI, HELLUSUND 3

SPIDER IN HIGH HEELS

Live music and poetry in celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Reykjavík City Library at its current location. Eðvarð Lárusson's Trio plays music to selected poems.

REYKJAVÍK CITY LIBRARY, TRYGGVAGATA

20:00 - 21:30

MOVIE SCREENING

Geologist Ari Trausti Guðmundsson and photographer Ragnar Th. Sigurðsson, authors of the book Eyjafjallajökull, exhibit photos and discuss the eruption. The short film The Eruption! by Valdimar Leifsson will be screened.

CINEMA NO2, GEIRSGÖTU 7B

20:00 - 23:00

JÓI DE VIVRE

Photography exhibition and a publishing party for a new book by photographer Jói Kjartans. The photos span a five-year period from 2005 to present day. DJ's, performances and refreshments.

LAUGAVEGUR 63B

DESIGNERS IN AN ALLEY

Icelandic designers exhibit their work in alley 17-23 of the Icelandic Design Centre.

ICELANDIC DESIGN CENTRE, VONARSTRÆTI 4B

20:20 - 23:00

RÁS 2 NOVA BIG BANG CONCERT

A whole- evening concert by Exton Sound and Lighting. Artists include:

Grafík - Iceland 80's top pop group with national favourite singers Helgi Björns and Andrea Gylfa. Gunni Þórðar and his Rockestra - the Nestor of Icelandic rock performs a medley of songs from a career spanning half a century.

ARNARHÓLL

20:30 - 21:00

PERFORMANCE

Ólöf Ingólfssdóttir, newly appointed Fjallkona ("Lady of the Mountain") 2010, reads poetry in full costume.

WOMEN'S DAY OFF TENT, AUSTURVÖLLUR

IN THE BEGINNING

The theatrical performance "In The Beginning" was Ingi Hrafn's graduation project from the Rose Buford College in London. The performance is without words, it is very visual and evokes the imagination of the audience.

HAFNARHÚS, TRYGGVAGATA

20:30 - 21:30

ICELANDIC PEARLS

Agnes Amalía Kristjónsdóttir soprano, Guðrún Jóhanna Jónsdóttir soprano, Jóhanna Héðinsdóttir mezzo-soprano and Nathalia Druz-in Halldórsdóttir mezzo-soprano with piano player Renata Ivan perform classic Icelandic songs by Iceland's most beloved composers.

DÓMKIRKJAN CHURCH, KIRKJUSTRÆTI

REYKJAVÍK DANCE FESTIVAL

Get a taste of the upcoming Reykjavík Dance Festival which will run from 1. – 5. September.

KJARVALSSTAÐIR, FLÓKAGATA

20:30 - 22:30

HLJÓÐX BYLGJAN CONCERT

Mannakorn - a league of virtuosos. Hjálmar - excellent arctic reggae band. Not to be missed. Hjaltalín - one of the most exciting bands to come out of Iceland

INGÓLFSTORG

21:00 - 22:00

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Guided tour of the three ongoing exhibitions at the National Gallery of Iceland: Untitled Film Stills, by Cindy Sherman; prints by Edward Munch; and Strides, a selection of works from the National Gallery collection.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND, FRÍKIRKJUVEGUR 7

ACCORDION FUN

Hilmar Hjartarson and Friðjón Hallgrímsson have a reputation for playing fine old-fashioned accordion dance music. They will play a few songs and hopefully get a few legs moving.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND, SUBURGATA 41

ÓMAR THE SAVIOUR

The Salvation Trio performs a programme based on texts by Ómar Ragnarson.

FRÍKIRKJAN CHURCH, FRÍKIRKJUVEGUR

21:00 - 22:30

OUTDOORS DANCE

The band Bermuda with singer Íris Hólm play dance music courtesy of JCI Iceland.

JCI, HELLUSUND 3

MOVIE SCREENING

Frozen Paradise. A documentary about a sea kayak trip in Greenland. A lyrical account of kayaking and the habits and history of the people on the east coast of Greenland.

CINEMA NO2, GEIRSGÖTU 7B

21:30 - 22:30

REGGAE FROM GREENLAND

A concert with pop/rock band Liima Inui from Greenland.

HAFNARHÚS, TRYGGVAGATA

22:00 - 23:00

STELLA POLARIS - THE DREAM OF THE SHAMAN

A performance inspired by Nordic mythology, a ritual celebrating life, nature and history.

HLJÓMSKÁLAGARÐUR BY BJARKARGATA

22:30 - 23:00

THE ERUPTION!

Two screenings of the Icelandic film, The Eruption!, which captures the eruption in the Volcano in Eyjafjallajökull in a breathtaking manner.

CINEMA NO2, GEIRSGÖTU 7B

23:00

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

The final boom of Reykjavík Culture Night is sponsored by Vodafone..

ARNARHÓLL

23:30

22 BURNING RAFTS

Óskar Ericsson's installation of just that, 22 burning rafts floating in the sea.

THE SHORE EAST OF THE SUN VOYAGER SCULPTURE

CULTURE NIGHT AT LANDSBANKINN

Art historian Aðalsteinn Ingólfsson gives guided tours of Landsbanki's works of art.

	12:00
at	12: 45
	13:30

Icelandic children's favourite performers Gunni and Felix entertain.

	14:00
at	14: 45

15:30 Ómar Ragnarsson, one of Iceland's most beloved entertainer performs.

Four choirs from the Nordic Choir Festival perform

16:15	Concert Clemens (Denmark)
16:30	Chamber Choir Kamertonas Kaunas (Lithuania)
16:45	Chamber Choir Cantinovum (Finland)
17:00	Chamber Choir of North- Iceland

LANDSBANKI, AUSTURSTRÆTI 11

Landsbankinn is a proud sponsor of Culture Night

Program subject to change. Please check www.visitreykjavik.is for a final schedule.





10 Bar 11

Hverfisgata 18

At Bar 11, DJs call the tunes every weekend, emphasising old rock’n’roll classics, chart-toppers and sing-along hits (but only if they rock). The packed dance floor tends to turn into a war zone on weekends – an appealing experience if that sort of thing appeals to you.

11 Bakkus

Tryggvagata 22 – Naustarmegin

A new and welcome addition to Reykjavík’s bar scene, Bakkus serves up reasonably priced beer, a really impressive selection of international vodkas and an atmosphere unlike any other in town. An eclectic mix of patrons, regular live music and movie nights keep this place interesting and always inviting. Expect dancing on tables and to-the-death foosball battles. CF

12 OSUSHI

Lækjargata 2a

Great place to satisfy your craving for raw fish and vinegar rice. The selection on ‘the train’ is wide and varied and the atmosphere is relaxed. Also, the colour-coded plates make it easy to keep tabs on your budget while scarfing down your maki and nigiri. CF

13 Kornið

Lækjargata 4

How about filling your face with cakes at the delightful Kornið. They taste so good, you would gladly push your own mother over for even the slightest of sniffs. Not a sweet tooth? Well, try their delectable sandwiches then; we recommend the egg and bacon ciabatta! At only 590ISK plus all the Píta sauce you could dream of. What more can one ask for on a lunch break? JB

14 Kolaportið

Tryggvagata 19

Reykjavík’s massive indoor flea market is a wonderful place to get lost for a few hours, rummaging through stall upon stall of potential treasures. There are heaps of used clothing, knitwear and other yard-sale type goods from decades of yore, and a large food section with fish, meats and baked goods. Check out the vintage post cards and prints at the table near the army surplus. CF

15 Ban Thai

Laugavegur 130

Even though the service at Ban Thai may get a little flaky, the food is always to die for and the place also offers a very pleasant dining atmosphere that puts you right in a comfortable Thai sorta mood. It’s really Reykjavík’s only “fancy” Thai restaurant. Ban Thai has remained a true Reykjavík treasure for the longest time, and is truly one that should be celebrated.

16 Grænn Kostur

Skólavörðustíg 8b

Serving healthy organic vegan and vegetarian food for well over a decade, Grænn Kostur is the perfect downtown choice for enjoying light, wholesome and inexpensive meals. Try any of their courses of the day, or go for the ever-pleasing spinach lasagne.

17 Kraum

Aðalstræti 10

The Kraum Iceland Design store features the best from the latest trends in Icelandic design. Kraum sells unique, Icelandic takes on everyday items like stationary, wooden children’s toys, plastic zip-lockable handbags and raincoats, and woollen and other clothing and jewellery.

18 Shalimar

Austurstræti 4

Shalimar prides itself on being the northernmost Indian restaurant in the world. The daily special, comprised of two dishes on your plate, goes for roughly 1,200 ISK. But we recommend the chicken tikka masala, known to be highly addictive.

Ask for a Tax Free form & save up to 15%



REYKJAVÍK STORE, LAUGAVEGUR 88-94, 3. SÍ 511-2007

curated by v&w

www.farmersmarket.is

NIKITA

Laugavegur 56
101 Reykjavík
www.nikitaclimbing.com

MANÍA

LAUGAVEGUR 51, 101 RVK

Raggi from the band Árstíðir is the unstoppable...

HUMAN JUKEBOX

Playing every wednesday night from ten o'clock

Live music - every night
Live soccer
Special beer offers
And our infamous Wheel of Fortune

THE ENGLISH PUB

Austurvöllur



HIKING AND SUPER JEEP ADVENTURES

DAY TOURS FROM REYKJAVÍK

HOT SPRINGS & GLACIER - LAVA CAVE & WATERFALLS
GLACIER WALK & VOLCANO EXPERIENCE
4X4 DRIVING THROUGH VOLCANIC LANDSCAPE



ICELANDIC MOUNTAINGUIDES & ICELANDROVERS

TEL: +354 587 9999 · mountainguides.is · icelandrovers.is

or visit the **ITM** INFORMATION AND BOOKING CENTER, Bankastræti 2 - Downtown

Whale Watching from Reykjavik



Daily whale watching tours at **9:00**, **13:00** and **17:00** from the Old harbour in Reykjavik. Free entry to the **Whale Watching Centre** for our passengers.

Other adventures at sea

- **Sea Angling** tours are scheduled daily at 11:00 until August 31st.
- The ferry to **Viðey island** is scheduled all year round.

Call us on **555 3565**
or visit **www.elding.is**

Make sure it's **Elding!**

elding.is



ART

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS IN JULY & AUGUST

COCKTAIL PLEASURES AND VISUAL STIMULATION

How to use the listings: Venues are listed alphabetically by day. For complete listings and detailed information on venues visit www.grapevine.is

OPENINGS

ArtFart Festival

Nordic House

August 13, 15:00 **What is a festival?**
Symposium: Jesper De Neergaard, Johanna Tuukkanen & Ragnheiður Skúladóttir.

Norðurljósin

August 13, 21:00

Mario Bros by Dans á rósum

Útgerðin

August 13, 21:00

Pure Pleasure Seekers by

Bottled Ensemble.

August 13-14, 19:00

small is beautiful by Sarah Hopfinger

Hugmyndahús háskólanna

August 14, 14:00

Dancewalks by Anna Asplind

BSÍ

August 14, 17:00

Fjöltengi by Homo Ludens

Norðurljósin

August 14, 20:00

P.A.R.T.S. in Pieces

August 14-15, 20:00

Interjections by Fimbulvetur

August 15

18:30 Mario Bros by Dans á rósum

19:30 Blóðeik by Sigurður Arent

Jónsson

20:30 Vakt by AMMA

Hugmyndahús háskólanna

August 16

16:00 Dancewalks by Anna Asplind

18:00 Á gólfinu by Árni Kristjánsson

20:00 Stuttmyndakvöld by Dansne-

mar LHÍ

Norðurljósin

August 16, 20:00

Interjections by Fimbulvetur

Hjartargarðurinn, Downtown

Festisvall

August 21

Outdoor exhibition by Árni Már

Erlingsson, Sigurður Atli Sigurðs-

son, Sunna Ben, Hanna Birgsdóttir,

Bryndís Björnsdóttir, Katrín Inga

Hjördisardóttir Jónsdóttir, Davíð

Berndsen, Sindri Snær Sveinb-

jargar-Leifsson, Friðrik Svanur

Sigurðsson

Hugmyndahúsið

Nýpurhyrna & Water tools

August 8 - August 15

Architecture exhibit by Sigrún Sumar-

liðadóttir and Giambattista Zaccari-

otto.

IPA Gallery

Thura

August 6 - August 22

Exhibition by Þuríður Sigurðardóttir

Kaffistofan

Watskeburt?

August 20, 21 and 22

Exhibition by Hrafnhildur Helgadóttir,

Máni Marteinn Sigfússon, Sæ-

mundur Þór Helgason, Torfi Fannar

Gunnarsson

Kling & Bang

Kaosis

Opening performance August 14, 17:00

Runs until September 12

Art by Jennica Rapehirst, Maia Lyon

Daw, Joseph Marzolla, Beverly

Shana Palmer, Athena Ilewellyn

Barat, Nicholas Becker, Berglind

Ágústsdóttir.

Ljósmyndaskólinn, Photo School

Opens August 14, 15:00

Runs until August 29

Graduates of the photo school showcase

their art.

Mokka

Secondo

Opens August 20, runs until September

23.

Photo exhibition by Karl R Lilliendahl.

ONGOING

Árbæjarsafn / Reykjavík City Mu-

seum

Summer Program

Runs until August 31

Outdoor heritage museum.

Art Gallery Fold

From The Bowels Of The Earth

Photography exhibition of the volcanic

eruptions in Iceland this year, which

brought photographers from all over the

world. Ongoing all summer.

ASÍ Art Museum

The Expression of Colour

Runs until August 29

Exhibition featuring 20th Century Icelan-

dic artists.

The Culture House

Medieval Manuscripts

Permanent Exhibition:

Icelanders

Runs until September.

Exhibit featuring a selection of pho-

tographs from the book "Icelanders"

by Unnur Jökulsdóttir and Sigurgeir

Sigurjónsson.

ICELAND :: FILM

Ongoing exhibition.

Traces the evolution of Icelandic

filmmaking, exploring myths versus

modernity.

The Nation and Nature

Thirty-minute film about the relationship

between humans and nature. Film plays

continuously during open hours.

Downtown Reykjavík

Reality Check, an outdoor exhibition

curated by /Esa Sigurjónsdóttir.

The Library Room

Ongoing exhibition

National Archives of Iceland - 90 years

in the museum building. Commemorat-

ing the 100th anniversary of the Culture

House.

Art | Venue finder

Artótek

Tryggvagata 15 | **D2**

Mon 10-21, Tue-Thu 10-19, Fri

11-19, Sat and Sun 13-17

www.sim.is/Index/Isenska/

Artotek

ASÍ Art Museum

Freyrugata 41 | **G4**

Tue-Sun 13-17

Árbæjarsafn

Kistuhylur 4

The Culture House

Hverfisgata 15 | **E4**

Open daily 11-17

www.thjodmenning.is

Dwarf Gallery

Grundartígur 21 | **H6**

Opening Hours: Fri and Sat

18-20

www.this.is/birta/dwarfgallery/

dwarfgallery1.html

The Einar Jónsson

Eiríksgata | **G4**

Tue-Sun 14-17

www.skulptur.is

Gallery 100°

Bæjarháls 1

www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100/

Open weekdays from

08:30-16:00

Gallery Ágúst

Baldursgata 12 | **F4**

Wed-Sat 12-17

www.galleriagust.is

Gallery Fold

Rauðarástígur 14-16 | **G7**

Mon-Fri 10-18 / Sat 11-16 /

Sun 14-16

www.myndlist.is

Gallery Kling & Bang

Hverfisgata 42 | **E5**

Thurs-Sun from 14-18

this.is/klingogbang/

Gallery Turpentine

Ingólfstræti 5 | **E3**

Tue-Fri 12-18 / Sat 11-16

www.turpentine.is

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre

Gerðuberg 3-5

Mon-Thu 11-17 / Wed 11-21 /

Thu-Fri 11-17 / Sat-Sun 13-16

www.gerduberg.is

Havari

Austurstræti 6 | **E3**

Hitt Húsið

- Gallery Tukt

Pósthússtræti 3-5 | **E3**

www.hittusid.is

i8 Gallery

Tryggvagata 16 | **D2**

Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and

by appointment. www.i8.is

Living Art Museum

Skúlagata 28 | **F6**

Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17 / Thu

13-22. www.nylo.is

Lost Horse Gallery

Vitastígur 9a | **E3**

Weekends from 13-19 and by

appointment on weekdays.

Hafnarborg

Strandgötu 34,

Hafnarfjörður

The National Gallery of

Iceland

Frikkirkjuvegur 7 | **F3**

Tue-Sun 11-17

www listasafn.is

The National

Museum

Suðurgata 41 | **G1**

Open daily 10-17

natmus.is

The Nordic House

Sturlugata 5 | **H1**

Tue-Sun 12-17

www.nordice.is/

The Numismatic Museum

Einholt 4 | **G7**

Open Mon-Fri 13:30-15:30.

Reykjavík 871+/-2

Aðalstræti 17 | **D2**

Open daily 10-17

Reykjavík Art Gallery

Skúlagata 28 | **F6**

Tuesday through Sunday 14-18

Reykjavík Art Museum

Open daily 10-16

www listasafnreykjavikur.is

Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculp-

ture Museum Sigtún

Hafnarhús

Tryggvagata 17 | **D2**

Kjarvalsstaðir

Flókagata | **I7**

Reykjavík City Theatre

Listabraut 3

Reykjavík Maritime Museum

Grandagarður 8 | **C3**

Reykjavík Museum of Pho-

tography

Tryggvagata 16 | **D2**

Weekdays 12-19 / Sat-Sun

13-17 - [www ljossmyndasafn-](http://www ljossmyndasafn-reykjavikur.is)

[www ljossmyndasafn-](http://www ljossmyndasafn-reykjavikur.is)

[www ljossmyndasafn-](http://www ljossmyndasafn-reykjavikur.is)

[www ljossmyndasafn-](http://www ljossmyndasafn-reykjavikur.is)

[www ljossmyndasafn-](http://www ljossmyndasafn-reykjavikur.is)

[www ljossmyndasafn-](http://www ljossmyndasafn-reykjavikur.is)

ART

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS IN JULY & AUGUST

The Living Art Museum
Old News
Project about information, media and recycled, reprinted news. Initiated in 2004 by Danish curator Jacob Fabricius, director of Malmö Kunsthalle in Sweden.

Ljósafossstöð power station
Nature in Design
Runs until August 28.

The Dwarf Gallery
Ongoing exhibition.
An independent art gallery with ongoing exhibitions. It's located in an old basement. Do you really need to know any more than that?

The Einar Jónsson Museum
Permanent exhibition:
The work of sculptor Einar Jónsson.

Gallery Ágúst
Runs until October 9.
Exhibit by Marta M. Jónsdóttir.

Gljúfrasteinn Laxness Museum
Ongoing exhibition.
Gljúfrasteinn was the home and workplace of Halldór Laxness (winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955).

Havari
Runs until August 31.
Exhibiting work from The Icelandic Love Corporation, Sigga Björg, Hugleik Dagsón, Lindu Loeskow and Sara Riel.

Hornið
Runs until September
5 Ár/Angur, Design exhibition

i8
Elín Hansdóttir
Runs until August 21

Iðnó
Cellophane
English comedy show, every Thursday and Sunday at 20:00.I

Mokka
Draumsýnir
Runs until August 19.
Painting exhibition by Tómas Malmberg.

National Gallery of Iceland
Cindy Sherman - Untitled Film Stills
Runs until September 5.
American photographer Sherman plays with female film fantasies in self-portraits.

Edvard Munch
Runs until September 5.
Prints in the collection of the National Gallery.

Strides
Runs until December 31, 2012.
A selection of the Gallery's collection from the 20th and 21st century.

The National Museum
Permanent exhibitions:
The Making of a Nation
Heritage and History in Iceland is intended to provide insight into the history of the Icelandic nation from the Settlement to the present day.

Ása Wright - From Iceland to Trinidad
Collection of objects that belonged to the adventuress Ása Guðmundsdóttir.

Embroidery of Life
Embroidery by Guðrún Guðmundsdóttir, inspired by old manuscripts

The Nordic House
Bygdarlívið
Runs until August 21
Photo exhibition by photographer/writer Randii Ward.

Land Of Experiments
Runs until September 30
Interactive exhibit based on scientific contraptions from Tom Tits Experimentarium in Sweden. Play!

Ráðhús Reykjavíkur
Dulin Himintungl
Kim Linnet exhibits her 360° panorama photos of Iceland.

Reykjavík 871 +/- 2
The Settlement Exhibition
Permanent exhibition:
Reykjavík Art Museum
Hafnarhús
Erró - Portrett - Dolls
Runs until August 29.
Collection of Erró's paintings and collages of pre-war era dolls.

Vanitas
Runs until August 29.
Still-life in contemporary Icelandic art. Curator's talk with Hafþór Yngvason on June 6 at 15:00.

In the Collection of Imperfection
Runs until August 29.
Pieces from city archives and other collections, gathered by Unnar Örn J. Auðarson. Explores the nature of museums and archiving.

Nudes - Gary Schneider
Runs until August 29.
South African born photographer presents 30 life-size portraits of nude men and women.

Reykjavík Art Museum
Kjarvalsstaðir
Photo & Graph family workshop
Runs until August 22.
An ongoing workshop on what's behind a photo.

Alternative Eye
Runs until 22 August.
Selected photographic works from the collection of Pétur Arason and Ragna Róbertsdóttir.

Kjarval - Key Works
Runs until August 29.
Retrospective on Iceland's most beloved painter.

Reykjavík Art Museum
Ásmundarsafn
Sleep Light
Runs until April 17, 2011.
Multimedia installation by Ráðhildur Ingadóttir.

Thoughts In Forms
Runs until April 17, 2011.
The workshop of sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson, recreated.

"I choose blossoming women ..."
Runs until April 17, 2011
Woman as Symbol in the Art of Ásmundur Sveinsson.

Reykjavík Maritime Museum
The Coast Guard vessel Óðinn
Permanent exhibition
The Óðinn took part in all three Cod Wars and is open for exhibition.

Reykjavík Restaurant
Let's Talk Local
18:00 Comedy show about Reykjavík, 2200 ISK/1100 ISK for kids.

Reykjavík Museum of Photography
Thomsen & Thomsen
Runs until August 29
A photo exhibition by Pétur Thomsen Sr. & Pétur Thomsen Jr.

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
Who is who?
Ongoing
A Moment with Sigurjón Ólafsson
Spark, Klapparstigur 33
Eau de Parfum
Runs until August 31
Perfume exhibition.

Reykjavík

871 ±2

Landnámssýningin

The Settlement Exhibition

Step into the Viking Age

Experience Viking-Age Reykjavík at the new Settlement Exhibition. The focus of the exhibition is an excavated longhouse site which dates from the 10th century AD. It includes relics of human habitation from about 871, the oldest such site found in Iceland.

Multimedia techniques bring Reykjavík's past to life, providing visitors with insights into how people lived in the Viking Age, and what the Reykjavík environment looked like to the first settlers.

The exhibition and museum shop are open daily 10–17

Áðalstræti 16
101 Reykjavík / Iceland
Phone +(354) 411 6370
www.reykjavikmuseum.is

 Reykjavík City Museum

www.landnam.is

THE SETTLEMENT CENTRE

In two exhibitons it tells the Saga of The Settlement of Iceland and Iceland's most famous viking and first poet Egill Skallagrímsson.

It gives the traveler a good foundation for further knowledge when traveling in Iceland.

 THE SETTLEMENT CENTRE

Brákarbraut 13-15, 310 Borgarnes
Phone: +354 4371600
landnam@landnam.is

NEW




RENT A

SMART GUIDE


The Smartguide takes you on a journey around the setting of The Saga of viking cheftain and poet Egill Skallagrímsson. With the help of GPS navigation the Smartphone detects your exact location, upon which your guide automatically begins narrating, just as if he were with you in person. A unique and personal experience. **Available at The Settlement Centre in Borgarnes**

Languages: 


Listasafn Reykjavíkur
Reykjavik Art Museum




Alternative Eye




Key works




Nudes



"I choose blossoming women ..."



Portraits



In the Collection of Imperfection

Reykjavik Art Museum

Hafnarhús <u>28 May 2009 - 12 Sep 2010</u> Erró – Portraits <u>20 May - 29 Aug</u> Vanitas – Still-life in Contemporary Icelandic Art <u>28 May - 12 Sep</u> Erró – Portraits Dolls	<u>14 May - 29 Aug</u> Nudes – Gary Schneider <u>20 May - 29 Aug</u> In the Collection of Imperfection – Unnar Örn J. Auðarson	<u>3 May - 31 Dec</u> Kjarval – Key works <u>14 May - 22 Aug</u> Alternative Eye – Selected photographic works from the collection of Pétur Arason and Ragna Róbertsdóttir <u>14 may - 22 Aug</u> Photo&graph – An educational workshop for the family	<u>1 May 2010 - 17 Apr 2011</u> "I choose blossoming women ..." – Woman as Symbol in the Art of Ásmundur Sveinsson <u>20 May 2010 - 17 Apr 2011</u> Sleep Light – An installation by Ráðhildur Ingadóttir
---	---	--	--

Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17
Open daily
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Thursdays 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagötu
Open daily
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Ásmundarsafn
Sigtún
Open daily
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Free admission



www.artmuseum.is

artmuseum@reykjavik.is

T +354 590 1200

F +354 590 1201

Geysir Fact #1

Cheap Cars



www.geysir.is



GEYSIR
BISTRO

FRESH ICELANDIC
SPECIALITIES

Wide
variety of
international
dishes

GEYSIR
BISTRO

ADALSTRÆTI 2
101 REYKJAVÍK
TEL 597 4200
geysirbistro.is

Friendly family restaurant
in the City Center



Tryggvagata 20
101 Reykjavík
Tel 562 3456
grillhusid.is



A menu where
everyone has a
great variety to
choose from



Italian cuisine
Fresh home made pasta

Basil & Lime
Ristorante/Bar

Klappargatur 38 · 101 Reykjavík · Tel 555 3696 · basil.is

THAI RESTAURANT



OPENING HOURS
Daily from 11:30 - 20:30 | Weekends from 11:30 - 20:30

PRICE AROUND 1.100 - 1.400 ISK
BIG PORTION
www.nudluhusid.is

LAUGAVEGI 59



Noodle Station
Noodle soup with chicken **IKR 850**
Noodle soup with beef **IKR 850**

Home of the best noodle soup!

Skólavörðustígur 21A



icelandic
FISH & CHIPS

Organic bistro

Creating a tradition

Tryggvgata 8/Geirsgata, 101 Rvk
Tel: 511-1118
Open: mon-sat 11:30-21:00/sun 17:00-21:00

FOOD

FOR YOUR MIND, BODY AND SOUL

REVIEWS

Food Pages On The Road: Seyðisfjörður Edition

On the east coast of Iceland, as far away as you can drive from Reykjavík without taking an unfortunate plunge into the Atlantic, is Seyðisfjörður. The adopted home town of Dieter Roth and an unofficial extension of 101 Reykjavík, Seyðisfjörður is a gorgeous locale, boasting countless waterfalls streaming down the surrounding Strandartindur and Bjölfur mountains, an enchanting fog that rolls in daily like clockwork, and its own town name lit up on the mountainside in a grandeur that puts Hollywood to shame. It's also got a few more restaurants than some other micro-towns in the country. It's a pretty great place.



Food And Culture

The Skaftfell Cultural Centre, Bistro and Café (Austurvegur 42) is the type of place that Iceland could use more of. The 100+ year-old three-storey house is a bistro and (internet) café on the ground level furnished with inspiration and art from Dieter Roth, with a gallery space on the second floor and an artist apartment up top. Adding to the cool is the casually friendly international staff who are likely to chat up camera-saddled tourists and well-acquainted locals with the same familiarity and warmth.

On the day my date and I ventured to Skaftfell for a bite there was a DIY looking fountain lubricating the pavement out front and an exhibit of Birgir Andrússon, Tumi Magnússon & Roman Signer up above that, in addition to looping some entertaining video of conjoined umbrellas being taken away in a gust of wind, loudly mimicked the sound of a burdened shelving unit collapsing (or some similar calamitous occurrence) every five minutes. Perfect dinner music.

Having WWOOFed at a local organic farm last summer I browsed the menu and quickly gravitated toward the veggie burger and barley risotto (2.400 ISK) produced from the spoils of those same fields and my date, looking for something classically hearty, went with the lasagne with

salad and chilli sauce (2.000 ISK).

When the food arrived shortly after ordering, I was somewhat surprised to see that the veggie burger I thought I was ordering was actually two veggie patties, sans bun and other burger accoutrements, stacked aside a large helping of barley risotto and accompanied by two stacks of zucchini and tomato, broiled with blue cheese. Once the initial surprise wore off (quickly) I was too enamoured with my meal to care about the misunderstanding on my part. It is good, people. The veggie patties are delicately moist and earthy and are complimented beautifully by a creamy mushroom sauce. The barley risotto was a little on the chewy side, but the hints of olive oil and herbs flavouring the barley and diced red peppers with which it was mixed was divine.

My date's lasagne was exactly as he had hoped—large, meaty and chock-full of cheese and carbs. It was sided by a green salad with feta cubes and a creamy chilli sauce that I would happily put on everything I eat from this point forward. I'm not one to gravitate to items like lasagne on a menu, but this was a really tasty slice. Each layer of pasta was soft, but not chewy, and the spices in the sauce and meat were subtle. It tasted like something my dear old Italian

Skaftfell

Austurvegur 42, Seyðisfjörður

What we think: Food + Art = delicious

Flavour: Hearty home cooking with some added creativity

Ambiance: Bright, comfortable and casual

Service: Warm and friendly



grandmother would have made in the old country, if I were to have a dear old Italian grandmother, or any Italian ancestry, and if lasagne were a traditional dish of Canada's old country... but it's not. The point is that this lasagne is good stuff and that chili sauce bumps it up another notch.

Suffice to say we cleaned out plates and were too stuffed for dessert, so we feasted our eyes on the noisy offerings upstairs one more time before heading out into the foggy Seyðisfjörður night



 CATHARINE FULTON
 CATHARINE FULTON

Food & Drink | Venue finder

3 Frakkar
Baldursgata 14 | **G4**

Aktu Taktu
Skúlugata 15 | **E6**

Alibaba
Veltusund 3b | **D2**

American Style
Tryggvagata 26 | **D2**

Argentina Steak-house
Barónstígur | **F6**

Austurlanda-hraðlestin
Hverfisgata 64A | **F5**

Á Næstu Grósum
Laugavegur 20B | **E4**

B5
Bankastræti 5 | **E3**

Bakkus
Tryggvagata 22 | **D2**

Ban Thai
Laugavegur 130 | **G7**

Basil & Lime
Klappargatur 38 | **E4**

Babalú
Skólavörðustígur 22A | **G5**

Balthazar
Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D2**

Bæjarins Beztu
Tryggvagata | **D3**

Brons
Pósthússtræti 9 | **E3**

Café Cultura
Hverfisgata 18 | **E4**

Café d'Haiti
Tryggvagata 12 | **D2**

Café Loki
Lokastígur 28 | **G4**

Café Paris
Austurstræti 14 | **E3**

Café Roma
Rauðarárstígur 8 | **G7**

Deli
Bankastræti 14 | **E5**

Domo
Þinghólfstræti 5 | **E3**

Einar Ben
Veltusundi | **E2**

Eldsmiðjan
Bragagata 38A | **G4**

Fiskmarkaðurinn
Adalstræti 12 | **D2**

Geysir Bar/Bistro
Adalstræti 2 | **D2**

Garðurinn
Klappastígur 37 | **F4**

Glaetan book café
Laugavegur 19 | **F5**

Grái Kötturinn
Hverfisgata 16A | **E4**

Grillhúsið
Tryggvagata 20 | **D2**

Habibi
Hafnarstræti 20 | **E3**

Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar ("Bullar")
Geirsgata 1 | **B2**

Hlíðla Bátar
Ingólfstorg | **D2**

Hornið
Hafnarstræti 15 | **D3**

Hótel Holt
Bergstaðarstræti 37 | **G3**

Humarhúsið
Amtmannstígur 1 | **E3**

Hressó
Austurstræti 20 | **E4**

Icelandic Fish & Chips
Tryggvagata 8 | **B2**

Indian Mango
Frakkastígur 12 | **F5**

Jómfrúin
Lækjargata 4 | **E3**

Kaffi Hljómalind
Laugavegur 21 | **E4**

Kaffifélagið
Skólavörðustígur 10 | **F5**

Kaffitár
Bankastræti 8 | **E4**

Kaffivagninn
Grandagardur 10 | **A1**

Kofi Tómasar Frænda
Laugavegur 2 | **E4**

Komið
Lækjargata 4 | **E3**

Krua Thai
Tryggvagata 14 | **D2**

La Primavera
Austurstræti 9 | **D2**

Lystin
Laugavegur 73 | **F6**

Mokka
Skólavörðustígur 3A | **E4**

Nonnabíti
Hafnarstræti 9 | **D3**

O Sushi
Lækjargata 2A | **E3**

Pisa
Lækjargötu 6b | **E3**

Pizza King
Hafnarstræti 18 | **D3**

Pizza Pronto
Vallarstræti 4 | **E2**

Pizzaverksmiðjan
Lækjargötu 8 | **E3**

Prikið
Bankastræti 12 | **E3**

Ráðhúskaffi
Laugavegur 11 | **E2**

Santa María
Laugavegur 22A | **F5**

Serrano
Hringbraut 12 | **H3**

Shalimar
Austurstræti 4 | **D2**

Silfur
Pósthússtræti 11 | **E3**

Sjávarkjallarinn
Adalstræti 2 | **D2**

Sólón
Bankastræti 7a | **E3**

Sushibarinn
Laugavegur 2 | **E4**

Sushismiðjan
Geirsgötu 3 | **B2**

Svarta Kaffi
Laugavegur 54 | **F5**

Sægreifinn
Verbúð 8, Geirsgata | **B2**

Tapas
Vesturgata 3B | **D2**

Thorvaldsen
Austurstræti 8 | **D2**

Tíu Dropar
Laugavegur 27 | **E5**

Tívoli
Laugavegur 3 | **E4**

Vegamót
Vegamótastígur 4 | **E4**

Við Tjómna
Templarsund 3 | **E2**

Vítabar
Bergþórugata 21 | **G5**



Bed And (Very Basic) Breakfast

A search for a morning bite in Seyðisfjörður took my breakfast date and I to Hótel Aldan (Norðurgata 2), where a breakfast buffet is served daily for 1.650 ISK. The setting is idyllic, a gorgeous old wooden hotel with a charming country-style dining room, so there was no better place in our collective mind to start the day with a quiet cup of coffee and a some nice fare.

Now, I've stayed in a lot of hotels of varying star-counts in my time—as a matter of fact, I've called three hotels my temporary home in the month of July alone—so a hotel breakfast buffet has become standard fare for me. As such I can generally gauge what will be on offer based on the menu price of the buffet and, for 1.650 ISK, I would have bet my first born that a hot dish or two would be served up alongside the standard issue breads, meats and cheeses. I was wrong. The breakfast buffet at Hótel Aldan is as basic as it comes, for an above average price.

The spread comprised of two tables, one topped with platters of bread, deli meats and slices of gouda, and the second featuring a single platter of sliced fruits, a trio of cold cereals, plastic cartons of yogurt and a pitcher of milk. Our coffee order was brought to the table and is included in the price of the buffet.

My date dove right into the bread, meat and cheese while I prepared a bowl of Cheerios and muesli, over which I poured milk that turned out to be

Hótel Aldan

Norðurgata 2, Seyðisfjörður

What we think: Way too expensive

Flavour: Basic hotel continental breakfast

Ambiance: Charming and cosy

Service: Tired and unenthusiastic

room temperature and not particularly appealing. The rolls were nice and fresh, at least, and were filling if not at all worth the hefty price tag.

The coffee was adequate—nothing spectacular—and my date's tea order arrived as a nice assortment of teas to choose from along with sugar, honey and lemon.

The food wasn't bad. It was just so very basic, and so appallingly overpriced that it left an unpleasant taste regardless. I do, however, understand they do a nice dinner. I'd go back for that. 🍴

CATHARINE FULTON

CATHARINE FULTON

EAT AND DRINK

3 X SANDWICHES

1 SANDHOLT

Laying eyes upon the fresh baguette sandwiches and selection of wraps—the lax, with a kick of dill and creamy dressing, is superb—in the glass display is like taking in the offerings of a quaint Parisian patisserie. The sandwiches are delicious, too, especially when enjoyed in Sandholt's cosy eating area.
Laugavegur 36

2 TE OG KAFFI

This chain boasts a selection of focacce that are tasty on their own but get amped up a notch after spending a couple of minutes in the sandwich press. The star of the show is the grilled chicken, sun-dried tomato and mozzarella variety, with bonus sun-dried tomatoes baked into the bread.
Austurstræti 18 (in Eymundsson)

3 SUBWAY

Sizeable, fast, filling, stuffed only with the stuff you're craving. It's far from gourmet, but sometimes that's just how a sandwich should be.
Austurstræti 3

3 X ICELANDIC HOME COOKING

1 POTTURINN OG PANNAN:

Good'ole Icelandic home cooking, and as much of it as you can stomach during lunch-time hours. What makes Potturinn og Pannan special is that it manages to not feel like a cafeteria, as some buffets can.
Brautarholti 22

2 FLJÓTT OG GOTT

Okay, so it's the restaurant in BSÍ, but it's still Icelandic home cooked meals without the frills or embellishments of modern restaurants. This cafeteria restaurant offers up the staples of Icelandic home cooking: plokksfiskur, meatballs, breaded fish, potatoes. Good simple food.
Vatnsmýrarvegur 10

3 MÚLAKAFFI

Their restaurant menu is set by the day, and offers the likes of plokksfiskur, hangikjöt tarts, lamb chops and soups. Plus, if you're looking to have some quality home cooked Icelandic fare at your next event, Múlakaffi caters! Apparently this place has been around since before street numbers existed.
Hallarmúli

3 X UNHEALTHY

1 RIKKI CHAN

You can practically taste the MSG itself and feel the pounds securely fastening themselves to your midsection when scarfing down the generous portions doled out at the Chinese food component of the Kringlean food court. But it's a lot of food for relatively little money and it tastes pretty decent.
Kringlan mall

2 AMERICAN STYLE

Burgers topped with bacon and cheese and other burgers and sided with fries and cocktail sauce, etc. A trip to American Style is a practice in gluttonous overindulgence.
Tryggvagata 26

3 EIN MEÐ ÖLLU

Newsflash: hotdogs aren't health food. Far from it.
Throughout the city

“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. Tel: 561 8555

Madonna

Ristorante Italiano

6 course Seafood Lunch Buffet Only 2.690 kr

Icelandic seafood soup, seafood pizza and a variety of fish dishes.
Lunch Buffet 11:30 - 14:30

Madonna Rauðarárstíg 27 445-9500 www.madonna.is

ICELANDIC FRESH SUSHI

Open Every Day from 11.00-22.00

Situated by the Reykjavik Harbor

sushismiðjan

RESTAURANT

BAR & TAKE AWAY

OPIÐ TIL 22:00

Nordic House, Sturlugata 5, 101 Reykjavik, Tel. 6185071/8939693, www.dillrestaurant.is

We exceed high expectations

Open for bistro style lunch every day from 11.30–14.00 and dinner wednesday to saturday from 19.00–22.00

There are a lot of positive reviews about BanThai that we are the best thai restaurant

Authentic Thai cuisine served in elegant surroundings with Spicy, Very Delicious and reasonable prices. Private rooms on the 2nd floor. Open Hours 18.00–22.00. Every day. Tel; 692-0564, 5522-444

The three great places for Thai food

All same price 999.-

Smaralind 5544-633 and Hverfisgata # 123 588-2121

www.yummiyummi.net



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



blaidur@gmail.com / photo: ÁJS



EXPECT
HANG
OVERS...



NASA

THE BIGGEST CLUB IN
DOWNTOWN REYKJAVIK.
LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND.
WWW.NASA.IS



ment for a successful festival concert: they played a varied set, interacted with the crowd, and stood out from the rest of the bands with their unique sound and contagious energy.

Bloodgroup rounded out the night with some high-energy, dark electro-pop. By that time, my friend and I were exhausted from the day's festivities and all the rain. When we left, everyone was drunk-dancing to Bloodgroup's sound and light show. All in all, the music at LungA was enjoyable enough to make me want to go next year (as long as it doesn't rain so much!).

- EMILY BURTON

Drowning In The East Coast

MUSIC, ARTS AND RAIN

"You know what they say about the weather in Iceland don't you? If there's good weather in the west, it's shitty in the east," explained a co-worker shortly before we embarked on a journey to Seyðisfjörður for the LungA festival. My travel companion and I laughed at him.

GUESS WHO'S LAUGHING NOW

After a smooth flight over landscapes reminiscent of Tolkien's Middle Earth, we touch down to the unseasonably cold winds of Egilsstaðir to find that the last coach to Seyðisfjörður is long gone. We spend a few moments frantically devising a plan to hot-wire a car but that ceases to be an option when the airport bolts its doors shut and all signs of life disappear.

With luggage suspiciously resembling a couple of body bags, we drag our stranded asses to the road and unenthusiastically stick our thumbs out. The first passer-by picks us up, setting us en route to our destination. Thirty minutes later, the car descends into Seyðisfjörður and a gloomy halo of mist gathers around the mountains, conceal-

ing us from the rest of the world. Seyðisfjörður projects a mesmerising eerie atmosphere which can't be reproduced outside of Iceland. Yet this beautiful backdrop serves as a great contrast to the happenings below...

WHERE'S THE APOCALYPSE?

Blackouts, vomiting, violence and fornication: all the sinning and debauchery one can dream of can be attained at LungA. But before we can join in the revelry, we decide to check out an experimental performance set up by the workshop group, 'Through the eye, out the ear'.

The unsettling scene before us looks like a futuristic wasteland and is accompanied by screeches of white noise from the surrounding speakers. A sinister woman, clad as a blood-red dominatrix, steps onto a fire-painted platform, manhandling an innocent-looking girl dressed all in white. The dominatrix forcefully smears red jelly all over the girl in white. Then, she binds the girl's hands and drenches her in red paint. The audience watch in confusion and wonderment, despite the painfully-slow pace of the performance.

The performance ends and we notice a smoky caravan next to the performance stage. We step inside and see a group of tattooed men wearing floral dresses sitting around a table sipping tea. Their heads are covered in green bags, each one with a noose tied around their neck. Slightly disturbed and confused, we walk through the caravan and find painted sticks scattered among the other rooms. "The theme was catharsis – a rebirth through explosions," explains Helgi Örn Pétursson, one of the workshop leaders. We nod our heads, still confused.

LIQUID COURAGE

We tear ourselves away to hit the swimming pool. Of course the most potential-

ly relaxing experience of the weekend has to be destroyed by a band playing painfully discordant and distressing music. "Go be all 'cool and experimental' someplace else!" a voice shouts from the hot tubs. As we walk to the pool we run into a fully-clothed audience watching the concert. Embarrassed for wearing swimsuits in a swimming pool, we run to the hot tubs instead and the moment our toes touch the steaming water it's all deemed worthwhile.

Next we decide to check out the Friday night Kimi Records concert. Despite being one of the festival's highlights, the venue is close to empty and the people there are sitting down. I suspect that people have opted for the cheaper option of causing mayhem at the campsite, or maybe people just aren't that into music... Either way it makes for a nice shelter from the rain.

Suddenly, to lift everyone's spirits even higher, we're all kicked out and told to pay in order to get back in for the 'after-party'. We comply and find Quadroplos filling the room with drunken dance moves. A man of a similar appearance to (YouTube sensation) The Techno Viking is angrily bopping his head to the beat, spitting and frothing at the mouth while throwing beer cans at the audience. And with that we went home, for fear of our lives, to find all of our belongings soaking wet.

THE MORNING AFTER...

We wake up from our drunken sleep and stumble out of our tent. The clouds slide down the mountains, onto the earth and the rain turns torrential. After overhearing a guy saying that he slept in a trash bag after his tent sprung a leak, we shake off any complaints we have from the night. We throw on the same ensemble we've been wearing for the past two days, scorning those who look like they just stepped off the runway. Clearly, they aren't camping.

It's impossible to think of anything but the rain. The cafés and restaurants



are crammed till bursting point so we scour the streets for hours with little to do. With a couple of clothes markets, some unsuccessful barbecues and an outdoor concert to follow, it's evident that LungA is taking a hard hit from this unexpected bad weather.

We walk back to our tent to find our things gone, and it's not until I start running around like a crazy person accusing those around for stealing our things that we realise about a hundred more tents have sprung up just like ours.

Crap. We apologetically back away.

THE GRAND FINALE

Finally the festival's crowning concert swings round and for the most part the rain seems to dominate the main stage, as it's about the only thing that has any effect on the audience. A majority of the crowd gathers underneath any form of shelter they can find—including our umbrella space—while a few brave ones embrace the wet. They remain unphased by most of the bands until Retro Stefson take to the stage—unless you count the odd idiot dancing to Seabear like it's a fucking Brazilian carnival. By the end, Bloodgroup have transformed a lifeless crowd into a dance floor buzzing with energy.

We head back to camp with our spirits raised to find the remnants of a battle field. The earth has transformed into a pool of mud, most of the campsite lies in ruins and beer cans overflow out of every tent. Campers run around, drunkenly yelling, screaming and causing as many fights possible as if they are getting drunk for the very first time.

The queue for the toilets is endless as every stall has someone passed out on the inside, and after being severely put off by the young girl with her face buried in a sink she just threw-up in, we decide it's time to hit the hay. "You're not done just yet," exclaims one of the girls. "You're not done with the festival experience until you're passed out in grass with your face buried in the mud!"

No thank you.

- ALEXANDRA YOUNG

© ALEXANDRA YOUNG AND HUGI HLYNSSON



Soaked In Rainbows

Grey skies didn't stop Gay Pride

After a couple of super sunny days last week, I was getting my hopes up that the celebrations would be bright, warm and fabulous. But then Iceland had to go be Iceland and get all gross on us right when we were going to board the Queer Cruise on Friday. What an asshole. Regardless, we boarded the whale watching boat that the party was happening on and set sail for fun times.

The good people at Elding provided the party with tons of cheap booze—500 ISK for wine! Wow! Unfortunately though, it seemed that most of the people in attendance were not really in the

party zone and mostly stayed indoors, sipping their once-boxed Merlot. Maybe some streamers or balloons would have spiced things up. Luckily I ran into a friend there who was completely sauced and hilarious, so we flashed a cruise ship and danced in a conga line around the upper deck until the boat docked.

CAN'T RAIN ON OUR PARADE

Saturday was the big day when all the bears, queens and twinks took to the streets to march. The parade kicked off uproariously with our mayor Jón Gnarr decked out in granny-drag, waving like the Queen Mum from the top of a float. It went on with a series of fairly random floats, such as the bride-and-groom

girls unenthusiastically shuffling about to Daft Punk, a 'queer for Christmas' theme and some kind of Gay Disney float. There were also some impressive ones like the stunning operatic drag queens, Haffi Haff in a Lady Gaga-esque white lace bodysuit and of course the magnificent finale of Páll Óskar rising into the sky in a red tube.

The show that followed at Arnahól was short and sweet and a perfect length for the hundreds of tuckered out kids and bladder-full drunk adults. Most of the acts weren't all that impressive though. Sigga Beinteins did turn out a pretty fantastic performance, even if the music wasn't my cup of tea. Love him or hate him, Haffi Haff performed his heart out and got the crowd's attention. And

of course the host of the show, Mr. Páll Óskar, pulled out all the stops and had people dancing all the way up the hill.

WHERE MY GAYS AT?

Of course after the kids went home there was a full night of gay fun ahead to be had. The city was in rare form and the streets were littered in sad, dirty confetti and decrepit rainbow flags. I squeezed my way into NASA before it filled over capacity and to see Páll Óskar for a third time that day, owning the stage under a trellis of pink balloons. The crowd was going absolutely berserk for the man, but it wasn't very queer, so after many amazing songs and the heat level rising to an unbearable level, I headed up to

Barbara to find the gays.

I got up there and saw a few more same-sex makeouts, but that isn't saying much. I bumped into my friend from the boat who thought there were too many straight people in the bar and he ordered me to go find the unofficial gay pride rave down on Skúlagata and tell him if it was any fun. Once I found it, the music was way better than Barbara with real DJs playing real techno, but the rest was just your typical 101 hipster crowd standing and leaning on things, talking to each other through the sides of their mouths. And still too many breeders. You could smoke indoors though, that was pretty cool.

- REBECCA LOUDER

The Rise And Fall Of Kukl

THE CRASS CONNECTION

Even though their old bands had played together on various occasions, the Kukl people did not know each other much. They were quick to befriend one another, though, and rapidly interfusing musically. They decided to continue as a band after the radio performance. Soon after, Kukl recorded two songs at a small studio in Selfoss owned by Ólafur "Labbí". He had played with rock band Mána in the '60s and '70s but in the early '80s he ran the country-dance group Kaktus. Björk had sang cover songs with this band at various country balls along with her more new wave-ish leanings with Tappi Tíkarrass, so Kukl got the studio time for cheap. Gramm released the two songs as a 7" single in the autumn of 1983—the A side being the cheerful "Söngull".

In September 1983, Kukl performed their first big concert in Laugardalshöll at a grand festival called 'We Demand a Future!' The headline act was Crass, an English anarcho punk group whose records Gramm had imported and sold for some time. Einar Örn was studying media in London at the time and he strengthened the connections with the Crass people and often visited the band at their countryside commune.

A GROUP OF SOLOISTS

Crass Records had released all kinds of anarchist punk records—with various forms of Margaret Thatcher dissing—and now offered Kukl a record deal, even though Kukl had no lyrics about how rotten Thatcher was. The first Kukl LP was called 'The Eye' and came out in 1984. Now the "Kukl sound" was fully shaped. The bass and drum enlaced in complex rhythms, the keyboard and guitar floated on top or nipped at the beat, and Einar Örn and Björk entered the experimental fray by talking, singing, grunting, croaking and blowing horns and whistles. "We are all big soloists and our sound man tells us that we are very hard to mix," Björk said apologetically in an interview at the time. Melodies could be heard through the intriguing racket. This was art—"difficult music"—and Kukl was only liked by the most broadminded in Iceland.

The Icelandic demand for such cutting edge



stuff was very limited so with contacts not only to the Crass people, but also to Killing Joke and Psychic TV (who had played in Iceland in 1983), Kukl set out to tour Europe as much as possible. Kukl's circle of friends also included the band Flux of Pink Indians, which released music on Crass too. Kukl and Flux played all over Britain together, including a tour to support mine workers. Flux's bassist Derek Birkett would later form the One Little Indian record label that released The Sugarcubes, and later Björk's solo music.

EVERYTHING THAT COULD HAPPEN HAPPENED

Kukl's tours were no luxury sojourns. They hung together in a van, slept together in one room and ate stews at squats that often were their venues. "We lived on hand outs. I remember one tour where I only got bread and Camembert cheese to eat. When we finished in Amsterdam I was so sick that my life was in danger," said Einar Örn in 2000 and might be exaggerating. In an interview in 1986 Björk said: "It's very tiring to sit so long in a car. Kukl's first tour lasted for two months and everything happened that could possibly happen. All kinds of love affairs formed, everybody got fired, etc."

Some times were sweeter. Kukl played a great gig in Paris that was later released on a cassette entitled 14.9.84 after the date, and Kukl were the first Icelandic band to play the Roskilde festival in Denmark. In the beginning of 1986, Kukl's second album was released. Entitled 'Holidays In Europe (The Naughty Nought)', it was so heavy and difficult that it made 'The Eye' almost sound like an ABBA record in comparison.

A PROVOKING BELLY

In Iceland, Kukl's activity was limited to Einar's vacations from his media studies in London. Kukl was one of the "big numbers" at the infamous Viðey Island festival of 1984, where only thirteen paying guests showed up. Einar played in a t-shirt, a football cleat and nothing else, after his pyjama trousers dropped down. He had gotten the trousers on loan after he fell in the sea.



- 1. Kukl in 1984: From left: Sigtryggur, Birgir, Guðlaugur, Björk, Einar Örn, Einar Melax.**
2. Björk on the cover of Vera magazine, early 1986.

Kukl and (Icelandic legend) Megas teamed up for a concert in 1985, but Kukl's most infamous Icelandic appearance was on TV, where the band played a thirty-minute set. Not only did the abstruse music get on people nerves—the band had a sexy female model on stage pretending to be a hen—but most provoking was Björk's big pregnant belly that stood out, nude and defiant.

It was all over for Kukl in early '86. Difficulties in communication between members had sometimes ended in fistfights and musically there was not much to prove—the creative tank was empty. Four Kukl members would soon form The Sugarcubes, playing altogether different and more frivolous music. 🍷

By Dr. Gunni, based on his 2000 book *Eru ekki allir í stuði?* (Rock in Iceland).

Music | Album Reviews



Various Artists

Dress Up

www.hljodaklettar.com

Pain and pleasure in equal measures

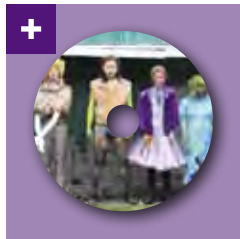
'Dress Up' is a two-hour compilation from new boutique label Hljóðaklettur meant to commemorate the day of Iceland's independence from evil Danish furniture designers. Containing music from the leading lights of Iceland's ambient/electronic/industrial scenes, 'Dress Up' also comes with a furry wallet cover for your tape, as well as a Hnakkí-style tracksuit jacket, so you may wallow in your nihilist feelings in style.

Starting Side A, you can feel the celluloid influence of horror and sci-fi as Pétur Eyvindsson and Evil Madness work their slow throbbing '80s synths, evoking John Harrison's soundtrack to 'Day of the Dead'. Things take a decided turn for the nasty as BJ Nielsen & Stíllupsteypa's hollowed out ambient storm 'Big Shadow Montana' gives way to harsher industrial sounds (and a man crying for five minutes). For example, Dino Felipe's 'Exterio' is REAL industrial music, using machinery to create a sound akin to illegal experiments on human flesh, Tetsuo style.

Side B is changes the mood as the music becomes more electronic and beat driven. Beginning with 'JarreSchulze', BJ Nielsen's ode to Kraftwerk, there is the crunched, manipulated feedback of Rúnar Magnússon's 'Freeze No Extra', morphing into the dystopian disco of Hunk of a Man's 'Captain of Love'. You're brought down with more harrowing dark ambient from Sigtryggur Berg Sigmarsson and Jóhann Jóhannsson, before DJ Musician gives everything a final kick up the backside in the end credits.

I would heartily recommend you try and secure a copy of this release if you can (the run is limited to only 35). The numerous styles of electronic processing and noise ensure that if you have any interest in digital music, then there is definitely something here for you.

—BOB CLUNESS



Bárujárn

Bárujárn (EP)

 hrukkublikk

Oh my god, yes!

This EP is incredibly frustrating. Not because of the songs—they are instant hip-shaking, gothabillily surf hits. Not because of the musicians—the instruments are sharp, dynamic and played with true soul. Not even the production—it's drenched with distortion and reverb all the way through, like a fresh salad with delicious dressing. What is maddening here is that it's only three short songs by one of the most promising bands in town, and some of us have been waiting a long time for them to record! I beg of you, Bárufjárn, please give us more of this.

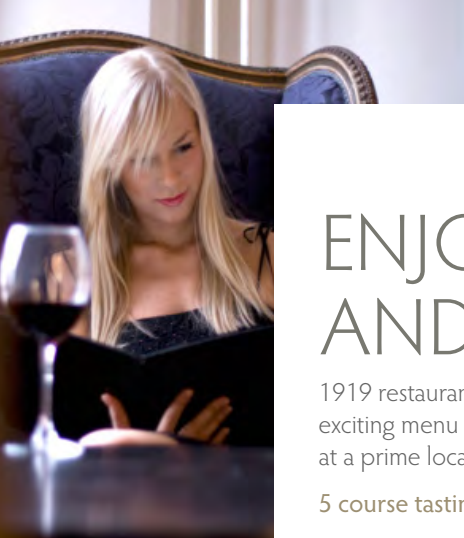
—REBECCA LOUDER

**Now offering
catering service!**

sushibarinn

laugavegur 2 101 reykjavík ☎ 552 4444

Open:
Mondays-Saturdays 11:30-22:30
Sundays 16:00-22:00



ENJOY
AND RELAX

1919 restaurant offer a new and very exciting menu in a relaxed atmosphere at a prime location.

5 course tasting menu: 5990,-

1919
RESTAURANT
AND LOUNGE

Radisson Blu 1919 Hótel
Pósthússtræti 2 101 Reykjavík +345 599 1050

ATG RVK 1ST YEAR BIRTHDAY SPECIAL!

I ♥ RVK

DUBSTEP - ELECTRO - MINIMAL - TECH - HOUSE

PLASTICIAN

DJ BONES

SPACE IBIZA

KLOSE ONE

KID MISTIK

BENSOL-GHOZT

HOSTED BY **ILLA MAN**

NASA - 28 AUGUST 2010

FORSALA MIDI.IS kr. 2000 - VIÐ HURÐ kr. 2500 - HÚSIÐ OPNAR 22:00 - FACEBOOK 'ATGRVK'

Cinema No2

CAFÉ HAÏTI

Icelandic volcano and nature films.
In the loft at Café Haïti,
Fisherman's Wharf No 2.

THE ERUPTION!

In spring 2010 Eyjafjallajökull hit the News all over the World. In Cinema No2 you can experience the ferocious, devastating powers.

This is the eruption of decades.

Café Haïti and Cinema No2 - Exciting experiences to start (or end) the day when Fisherman's Wharf and for instance Whale watching is on the program.

Just 5 minutes strolling distance from the Reykjavik Museum of Art

BRING THE AD AND GET 10% OFF ON ALL DVDs!

Fisherman's Wharf

Probably the coolest t-shirt store in the world!

DOGMA
laugavegur 30 - www.dogma.is

ICELAND :: FILM – Berlin – Copenhagen – Reykjavík
Icelandic Filmmaking 1904-2008

MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS – EDDAS AND SAGAS
The Ancient Vellums on Display

ICELANDERS – AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS
The spirit of the Icelandic nation in words and images.

THE CULTURE HOUSE
National Centre for Cultural Heritage

EXHIBITIONS - GUIDED TOURS
CAFETERIA - CULTURE SHOP

The Culture House – Þjóðmenningarhúsið
National Centre for Cultural Heritage
Hverfisgata 15 • 101 Reykjavík (City Centre)
Tel: 545 1400 • www.thjodmenning.is

Open daily between 11 am and 5 pm
Free guided tour of THE MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS exhibition Mon and Fri at 3:30 pm.

32 restaurants in Reykjavík

Enjoy

Verði þér að góðu

Enjoy

dining out

Enjoy covers the ambiance, food and location of 32 restaurants in Reykjavík

Seafood, steakhouses, vegetarian, innovative cuisine and more . . .

www.salka.is

Salka

JÓNSSON & LEIVISSESS • JÚLÍ • 2010

Kringlan

Tax Free Shopping

at Reykjavík's Largest Shopping Centre

At Kringlan you will discover more than 150 quality shops, a wide range of restaurants and services such as banks and a multiplex cinema. All major international brands are represented, as well as Icelandic designs and souvenirs.

Claim your tax-free cash refund at our service desk for a refund of up to 15% of the VAT.

Mon.–Wed. 10–18.30, Thu. 10–21, Fri. 10–19, Sat. 10–18, Sun. 13–18

To the tourists pictured: We're really sorry. It's nothing personal, OK. We just needed a photo to go with it.

Opinion | Iceland

Diving Into Iceland

An Austrian in Iceland

It's been already two months since I left my hometown in Austria to work as the programme coordinator at RIFF (Reykjavík International Film Festival), and Iceland already feels very familiar. I jumped into the cold water of alienation and was warmly welcomed by the city and its inhabitants.

I soon discovered that Reykjavík and Iceland have so much more to offer than the standard tourist package (Blue Lagoon, whale watching, Golden Circle, Þingvellir—all are great experiences by the way). You will find an exhilarating culture, art and music scene; excellent food and a Dionysian nightlife; moreover you can contemplate mind-blowing landscapes and a spectacular animal life. I've had some fun, and I'd like to share some of my experiences with you Grapevine readers.

My friend Addi and I just went on a spontaneous road trip to the Westfjords, which is a mountainous, hardly populated area in the northwest corner of Iceland. You should most definitely check out Látrabjarg, which is the most-western part of Europe and its largest bird cliff (120–440 metres), which is home to millions of birds such as puffins, gannets, guillemots and razorbills. Just make sure you don't fall of the edge.

We slept somewhere in the grassland opposite Þatreksfjörður on a bed of moss, and witnessed the midnight sunset (which is one of the most amazing sights ever), while playing the guitar and eating one-way BBQ. The next day I felt like Colin McRae as we drove to Þingeyri on dirt roads, that are barely passable on a Toyota Corolla, it was sheer lunacy (no guard railing, steep ravines and huge rocks lying on the road)!



We visited my Danish friend Janne and her Belgian boyfriend Wouter, who opened up the most jovially and home-like coffeehouse the world has ever seen (it's called Simbahöllin, and the five year renovation was totally worth it), so if you want to taste the most delicious, exquisite, mouth-watering Belgian waffles (with jam and whipped cream or chocolate) make sure not to miss this place.



Our last destination was Ísafjörður, capital of the West fjords, where we attended a hip hop show by MC Erpur Eyvindarson (from Icelandic hip hop legends XXX Rottweiler), who let me spit some spontaneous rhymes on his still-popular club banger 'Viltu dick' ("Do you want dick?") and later introduced me to the infamous, home-made booze called 'Landi' or 'Moonshine', which, if not properly made, can make you blind.

On our 12-hour ride back home,

coming straight from the post-afterparty get-together, I tried to chase a sheep and failed epically. All in all, I would recommend going to West fjords to anyone who is looking for adventure and breathtaking scenery.

I didn't know what to expect when I arrived in this arcane, mysterious, moonlike country eight weeks ago, but in retrospect, I'd like to quote Milos Forman (who was the honorary guest of last year's RIFF) who said: "In comparison to Iceland, the moon seems quite boring." 🍷

Jakob Kattner (AKA Big J) is a rapper, journalist, producer and currently working as programme coordinator at the Reykjavík International Film Festival.

 JAKOB KATTNER
 JAKOB KATTNER

Opinion | Tourists

What Not To Wear

The unique fashion of Iceland's tourists



During my time in Reykjavík, it has become quite clear that something is severely wrong with Iceland's tourist population. "Whatever is the matter?" you might wonder. I'm talking of course about the misconception they all seem to carry about what to pack when coming to this fine country.

Summer means tourist hunting season and boy, do they have yet to evolve a proper Scandinavian camouflage. Someone seems to have told everyone who steps off an international flight in Keflavík that downtown Reykjavík has treacherous mountain ranges at every turn and boasts an average temperature of 0°C. At least, that's the explanation I can come up with when puzzled by the odd state of dress of our foreign friends.

Everywhere you look, the feet of

these outsiders are clad in hiking boots, their torsos covered in thick layers of Gore-Tex, and their backs hunched forward by the weight of backpacks the size of obese children. They really are hard to miss.

Perhaps they want everyone to know they aren't Icelandic? Maybe they figure they have no chance of being mistaken for a local? Or, is it really that they just don't want to risk having to try out those awkward Icelandic phrases they learned and instead wish to be spoken to in English right away? I'm really not sure.

These globetrotters seem to enjoy walking around looking like they're ready for extreme winter sports or a blizzard at the drop of a hat. Don't they realise that it's summertime here in the Northern hemisphere? Were they not

aware that Icelanders dress fashionably too? I mean, okay, sometimes people dress a little odd, creative even, but definitely not like they walked out of a North Face advert. At least not all the time.

Where exactly are these visitors getting the idea that they need to be prepared for every climate all the time? Yes, Iceland is notorious for its harsh, rugged landscape and the saying "if you don't like the weather just wait five minutes and it will change," is well known, but does that automatically mean you have to dress like that poor kid in A Christmas Story? I guess so.

If you're reading this, lamenting over the fact that you only packed those waterproof hiking boots and fleece pull-overs, don't fret—you can always head to the Red Cross shops and find some cheap duds. That is, if you've got some krónur to spare. If not, just tough it out, you don't have to look like a local. Now, you know better for next time.

If, on the other hand, you're preparing for a trip to this northern island, take heed and place some fancy rags right next to your snow pants! Icelanders can be pretty snazzy dressers, even if the colour black dominates their wardrobe.

🍷

 ALLISON SAVAGE
 JULIA STAPLES

Shopping | Design

A Quiet Statement Against Mass-Production

Jet Korine finally has a store of her own



“Whenever I get hold of a piece of fabric it calls for a certain volume,” explains Jet Korine, proprietor of a new fashion store by the same name, nestled up on Skólavörðustígur. “Therefore, I don’t want to torture the original character of its shape.”

The moment you step into the store it’s evident that you’re looking at the work of someone who’s dedicated to the recycling of raw, natural materials. The walls are brown and bare and the clothes are hung on rusty metal poles, held by heavy chains dangling from the ceiling.

Her method is simple: the organic fabric, the base of the garment, is treated through natural processes. Dyed with a range of natural pigments such as flowers, volcanic ash, mud or trees, every item displayed in the shop is unique from the other, apart from their signature earthy tone.

The designer’s workshop is situated in the heart of the store, where you can witness the painstakingly slow and careful process of assembling each item whilst you do your shopping. “People have an attachment with these garments, especially because they can see

where they come from. When you purchase cheap clothes you barely put any thought into how or where they were made. They are easily discarded and forgotten.”

The shop has been experiencing a massive boom in sales, particularly since the success of last winter’s coat collection ‘Life Coat’ which, as implied by the name, were carefully handcrafted to last a lifetime. “We’re overwhelmed with having to keep up with the constant demand, so the shop is almost always empty!”

“We’re going through a growing global awareness right now,” Jet tells us, “and having worked in the fashion industry, I realised I did not want to support the never-ending need for consumer waste. I want to be able to sleep at night knowing that what I’m pushing forward is worthwhile.”

ALEXANDRA YOUNG
JULIA STAPLES

Art | Documentaries



Volcanoes, Þingvellir And Þórsmörk, Oh My!

Icelandic Documentaries At Café Haiti

In the cosy loft upstairs one of Reykjavík’s many coffeeshops, it is now possible to order a nature documentary on the side of your café lattes and espressos. Cinema No2 will be showing a variety of films from the Icelandic documentary company, Lifsmynd Film Production, on the big screen above Café Haiti.

The loft area is decked out with comfy couches, mood lighting, and exposed rafters; the perfect place to take in some of Iceland’s nature without ever having to leave the comforts of the city. With Café Haiti right below your feet, a light snack, meal, or a delicious

cup of Haitian coffee are easily within reach before the show begins.

Cinema No2 will be screening an assortment of documentaries, some short, others long, some about volcanoes, the rest about valleys and tectonic plates – all about Iceland. All of the documentaries are shown in English, however a few of them are available in French and German. Lifsmynd is currently working on expanding the languages available in their documentary collection.

The loft-space is also available to reserve for private screenings and comfortably fits around fifty viewers. If

the weather’s a mess or you just plain forgot to buy tickets for one of those fancy tours, never fear, head on over to the old harbour and take in some of Iceland’s natural wonders at Cinema No2 – no hiking boots or long bus rides required. If you really enjoy it, most of the documentaries are available on DVD for purchase.

The screening schedule can be found at Cinema No2’s website, <http://www.lifsmynd.is/cinemano2.html>.

ALLISON SAVAGE
JULIA STAPLES

ICELAND ON TRACK Guided Super Jeep Tours



Call: +354 663 8300
Or book online: www.icelandontrack.com
10% off all day tours
Offer valid only if booked directly with Iceland on Track

Licensing and registration of travel-related services

The Icelandic Tourist Board issues licences to tour operators and travel agents, as well as issuing registration to booking services and information centres.

Tour operators and travel agents are required to use a special logo approved by the Icelandic Tourist Board on all their advertisements and on their Internet website.

Booking services and information centres are entitled to use a Tourist Board logo on all their material. The logos below are recognised by the Icelandic Tourist Board.



List of licenced Tour Operators and Travel Agencies on: visiticeland.com

Numismatic Museum



The Central Bank and National Museum of Iceland jointly operate a numismatic collection that consists of Icelandic notes and coins, foreign money from earlier times, especially if mentioned in Icelandic sources, and more recent currency from Iceland’s main trading partner countries. A selection from the numismatic collection is on display in showcases on the ground floor of the Central Bank’s main building. **Open from 14:00 – 17:00 on Culture Night.**

Situated in the Central Bank’s main building in Kalkofnsvegur 1, Reykjavík. Open Mon.-Fri. 13:30-15:30. Free admittance.

Reykjavík Literally

A Guided Walking Tour

Every Thursday in July and August at 5 pm.



Join us for a fun introduction to Icelandic literature, with a bit of history mixed in. This 90 min. walk is at an easy pace and suits everyone. Starts at Reykjavik City Library in Tryggvagata 15. **Free of charge.**



Reykjavik City Library
www.borgarbokasafn.is
Tel. 411 6100

Icelandic Cuisine

Rauðarárstíg 37



Rauðará
s: 562-6766
raudara@raudara.is



The country's largest museum of cultural history featuring a permanent exhibition on Iceland's extraordinary history from settlement to present day.

National Museum of Iceland

OPENING HOURS:

Summer

(May 1st – September 15th)
Daily 10–17

Winter

(September 16th – April 30th)
Daily except Mondays 11–17



Suðurgata 41 · 101 Reykjavík · Tel. +354 530-2200 · www.natmus.is

Geysir Fact #3

Cheap Cars

GEYSIR
www.geysir.is

Cellophane

A play about having a shit day, but taking comfort in knowing you're not the only one

Alarm clock rings. Press the snooze button (but accidentally turn off alarm). Alarm clock doesn't ring. Wake up twenty minutes late. Kids are still in bed, try to wake them up gently. Pack lunches, pick out clothes (fell asleep watching TV and didn't plan the day). Yell at kids to hurry up. Out the door, start the car. Forgot the youngest, run inside and grab him. Socks don't match. Drive 15 km over the speed limit. Late to drop kids off at school. Teacher bitches about disturbing class again. Late to work. Accidentally switched presentation note cards with arithmetic note cards. Day is fucked.

This is the start of a "Cellophane day"—a day where one little mistake can snowball into an inescapable shit-storm. "Cellophane" playwright and actress, Björk Jakobsdóttir, claims she used to have these kinds of days all the time when her kids were younger and life moved in fast motion.

Björk grew up in Hafnarfjörður, where she established the Hafnarfjörður Theatre, famed for showing new Icelandic plays and creative adaptations. After a while, Björk found herself playing the same roles—second in command to the leading male character. She started reading monologues and kept thinking to herself, "Why isn't anybody writing about me?"

Björk's solution to this question was to leave her kids with her husband for four days and write 'Cellophane'. When I asked Björk how she came up with the idea for the play, she replied, "I have no idea why I wrote 'Cellophane', it just came to me." Best described as a comedic monologue, 'Cellophane' starts out with leading lady, Helen, dressed in lingerie and boxing gloves, dancing and posing to the Rocky theme (or something like it). Delivered like a stand up comic routine, 'Cellophane' chronicles a day in the life of a busy mother/wife/career woman. One-liners like "I wish we [humans] just had a mating season" poke fun at ridiculous sex advice in women's magazines among other modern problems for the middle-class mother of two.

CELLOPHANE WORLDWIDE

Cellophane has been shown in over twelve countries, the performance on June 24th at Iðnó marking the first English rendition of the play. Helen, played by Þórunn Lárusdóttir, managed to elicit enough bursts of laughter from the audience to consider 'Cellophane's' translation into English a success. Björk explained that British humour is very similar to Icelandic humour. "The British are very open about their sex lives and the same is true in Iceland. We also go extreme." As well as appealing to a certain style of humour, Björk adds country-specific cultural references to each performance of Cellophane.

Björk describes how 'Cellophane' has been received elsewhere she tells me that the play has been running well



in Finland. "It was very interesting to read the reviews from Sicily. I think they are ten years behind us in equality. The play became so political in Sicily when it's more of having a laugh about it in Iceland."

When I asked Björk if she thought 'Cellophane' specifically targeted a female audience she complained: "When a woman writes a play with a female lead, then people only see it as a 'woman's play'. If a man writes a play with a male lead, you don't hear about how it is only for men. It is no less for men than it is for women."

PAST THE PLASTIC WRAP

For a play like 'Cellophane', a lot depends on the actress's comedic timing and ability to connect with the audience. During the performance I witnessed, Þórunn stumbled over a few lines but for the most part her performance as Helen was believable. In the silent spaces, when Helen would sigh between conversations with the audience or imaginary characters, she expressed emotional depth that went past the light-hearted jokes. The audience felt Helen's distress in those moments. Þórunn's physical expressions carried just as much weight as her ability to deliver lines.

The title 'Cellophane' stems from advice taken from a woman's magazine—the idea being to wrap yourself in cellophane like a sex toy in order to rouse your husband. Björk explains, "Women's magazines are so stupid.

"When a woman writes a play with a female lead, then people only see it as a 'woman's play'. If a man writes a play with a male lead, you don't hear about how it is only for men."

People think they can sell women anything: 10 ways to talk to your vagina, 10 ways to be a better mother, 10 ways to turn on your husband. You would never see this with men: 10 ways to talk to your dick, 10 ways to be a better father, 10 ways to please your woman. We are so hard on ourselves. There is something wrong with us. There is a lack of confidence in us women."

What is Björk's secret to ignoring women's magazines and finding happiness among all those Cellophane days? "1. Choose the father of your children carefully 2. Deal with life through humour rather than guilt. 3. Have a hobby." I asked Björk what she hoped people would learn from Cellophane. She replied, "Don't be so hard on yourself; you are not alone. And it's OK if you only do it two times a month."

Catch a performance of Cellophane at Iðnó Theatre on Sundays & Thursdays at 20:00.

EMILY BURTON
PROMOTONIAL PICTURE

We've Got Your Steaming Hot Grapevine T-shirt Right Here

- Impress your friends!
- Pick up men, women or both!
- Show off your impeccable tastes!
- Make friends and influence people!
- Pledge your undying allegiance to The Grapevine!
- Cover your torso in style!
- Support your local alt.magazine!
- Buy tourist merch that's less obviously touristy!

Yes, The Reykjavík Grapevine finally has a T-shirt all of its own. Pick up a copy of this sweet, limited edition item at **Havari** on Austurstræti or **Dogma** on Laugavegur – 101 Reykjavík. And do it now. For the children.



Europcar



LOOKING FOR THE BEST?

Competitive rates and great choice of makes and models available wherever you're travelling.

Europcar Reservations Centre + (354) 461 6000 • holdur@holdur.is • www.holdur.is • 14 Rental locations around Iceland.

**BÍLALEIGA
AKUREYRAR**
Hóldur

"Like driving on the moon"

Gardner Huges, 56 year old client from Utah.

GEYSIR ATV TOURS

Experience the 4x4 fourwheeler rides
around the amazing geysir area

1,5 km from Geysir Center



 Ferðamálastofa
Icelandic Tourist Board

Open all year

Daily trips in June, July and August
every two hours from 10:00 – 18:00.

Geysir ATV Tours
Tel: + 354 869 4474
atvtours@atvtours.is
www.atvtours.is



THE VIKING

FAMILY BUSINESS FOR 50 YEARS

THE VIKING : INFO

Laugavegur 1 • Reykjavík • 581 1250
Hafnarstræti 3 • Reykjavík • 551 1250
Hafnarstræti 104 • Akureyri • 4615551

email: theviking@simnet.is



CHECK OUT - WWW.THEVIKING.COM

The Scientist of Sound

World-renowned violinmaker Hans Jóhannsson talks about making stringed instruments in the 21st century

Words

Emily Burton

Photography

Julia Staples

“When I listen to music, I very often don’t listen to the music; I just listen to the instruments. Otherwise, I get involved with an emotional situation, which is what we are all after; but in order to learn about the nature of the sound, I have to kind of forget the music.”



Stepping into Hans Jóhannsson's violin workshop feels like stepping into an 18th century science lab. A beaker filled with amber-coloured varnish bubbles and hisses in the corner. Jars of oils, a scale, syringes, mixing bowls and test tubes line the windowsills. Parts of instruments hang from the walls. Hans shows me his latest creation, a classical violin made from his own model. Inside the label reads 'Berlin-Reykjavík', the two cities he divides his time making violins and other stringed instruments.

Hans has been making violins for 33 years. He studied the craft in England for 3 years before moving to Luxembourg, where he worked at the Chateau de Bourglinster, an isolated, 12th century castle. Inspired by the seclusion and fairytale-like environment, Hans concentrated on making violins for twelve years. Today, he continues to only create, shying away from the business side of making violins, restorations, and repairs.

Hans spends a little over two months designing, making varnish, and sculpting the wood for a single instrument. Unlike most violinmakers, he does not make copies of instruments. Hans works from his own classical model and makes small changes every year. He describes the experience as a lifelong process. He also makes strange instruments. I sat down with Hans to ask him how he got his start creating stringed instruments, and what the future holds for violin making.

How did you get started in the violin making business?

My grandfather was a cabinetmaker. I used to hang out in his workshop when I was a kid, and I suppose my interest in working with wood comes from him. There weren't any musicians in my family. In my teens, I played jazz violin and guitar, but I never had any formal training in classical music. I think I was about twelve or thirteen when I decided that violin making was what I really wanted to do.

What is special about the way you make violins?

I am now heavily into the science of violin making. I do a lot of computer analysis of tones and sounds. I am involved in a group that is a part of the Catgut Acoustical Society in the US. Every year we meet in Oberlin at the music conservatory. It's a diffusion of what people have learned in past decades and the sciences of modal analysis of instruments. It's the same knowledge that is used to design airplanes and cars and anything you can think of that moves and is dynamic.

There are few good, classically trained makers in the world who have made the effort to learn a little bit about objective analysis. It's all about finding out how the instrument moves at different frequencies, because that teaches you specifics about the density of the wood and where to remove wood to make it work in a certain way. It's an interesting way to learn how to control the sound of an instrument, for example, how to make a bright or a dark sounding instrument.

Can you explain the science that you use?

I put a little motion sensor, called an accelerometer, on the bridge of the instrument. Then, I go around the whole instrument with a tiny hammer with a motion sensor in it as well. I collect all the data from each point on the instrument as it starts to move. The software takes all of the information and makes a map of the whole instrument. The software was developed by an ingenious violinmaker in England named George Stoppani. You can make little animations of how the thing is moving. The animations show me things that I couldn't possibly realise on my own. It's a revolution in the way we think about sound.

How has that changed the way you make instruments?

The work doesn't become completely scientific, because violin making is based on the old tradition of feeling. It changes the picture that I have in my head of what it is that's making the sound and how the instrument is behaving. I don't see the reason for the dichotomy between traditional, empirical ways of doing things and the scientific way. I think it is a mistake to separate things out and refuse to think about objective analysis in violin making.

When scientists are at their peak, it usually has to do with their frame of mind. Traditionally, people don't think about a scientist as being a creative person, but that's exactly what it's all about. There are a lot of violinmakers that are really sceptical about science, because they think that if you objectify things that

are done with feeling, then you somehow destroy them. I don't agree with that.

Tell me about the strange instrument you make.

I love the baroque form of the classical violin, but the whole aesthetics of the violin belong to the baroque era. It's intriguing that something so great has remained unchanged for almost 400 years; whereas, everything else is developing—chairs, tables, cars and things are constantly evolving. I always wanted to try and create something that had to do with our times. I've been working for a few years now with an architect in Oslo, Andreas Eggertsen, and an artist in Berlin, Ólafur Elíasson. I needed to work with other people, because otherwise I would always be stuck in my way of thinking. The classical music scene is kind of conservative and not willing to accept big changes. My line of thinking was that if I were collaborating with an architect and artist, their whole approach would be completely open. There is an incredible amount of experimentation and a lot of interesting, contemporary thought in those spheres.


We decided to do some preliminary tests and experiments. First of all, we wanted to make a stringed instrument that anybody who had learned to play the violin, viola, cello or double bass could pick up and feel at home with. We didn't want to create a new culture. We could've made a wacky instrument, but then we would've had to make a whole new culture around it. We started thinking about the phenomena of resonance and how that fits in with shapes. The

Germans have a really good word called "gestalt." It's more than shape; it's how a shape functions.

Ólafur had been doing some studies on three dimensional vibratory designs that he made a few years ago based on a harmonograph. It had three swinging pendulums, which if you tuned them to a harmonic series, you would get these beautiful shapes drawn in three dimensions. We thought we would try, just for fun, to make a shape that would be an efficient resonator to amplify the string sounds. Using that as a basis, we also did a lot of studies on animal shapes, plant shapes and organic, natural shapes. Insects have outside skeletons or shells that can withstand tremendous forces and distribute vibrations really well. There was a resonator that worked quite well that was based on the shape of a beetle. Then, we fused those two kinds of things together and we made a series of resonators out of wood, which I carved. They were wooden resonating sculptures.

How did the sculptures work?

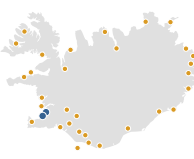
I made a series of sculptures, each one resonating in its own frequency range. We did this sound installation in London where we placed the resonators in different parts of a building designed by Ólafur. The acoustics were strange, which suited us well. We got this incredibly good English violinist, Thomas Gould, to improvise. We channelled the signal from his electric violin to these electromagnetic drivers (like a speaker without a paper cone). The violin was one I made out of wood, but it was just like a skel-




HI Hostels Reykjavík

- your affordable quality bed

We'll be here, to arrange the most exciting excursions at the best price, and offer you local advice on how to get the most from your stay in this wonderful city. Stay at Reykjavík City Hostel or Reykjavík Downtown Hostel.



Reykjavík City Hostel
Reykjavík Downtown Hostel.



Geysir Fact #5

Cheap Cars



www.geysir.is



eton violin—it had no resonating body of its own.

The next stage was to make a real instrument, a real violin. A couple of years ago I carved a violin out of wood that was based on these harmonic shapes. Last October we had a concert in the library in Alexandria, Egypt. We got this really good Egyptian violinist, Khalid Owaieda, to improvise some Arabic Sufi tunes. It's a violin, but it's based on modes of thinking that belong to our time. It actually kind of works. It still needs some development, of course. For me fooling around with this new instrument is even more exciting, because people haven't done very much, not in this way.

So what's next?

The next project is to make a two-way violin. It's going to be like a two-way speaker enclosure with two or maybe three chambers. Each chamber will take care of its own frequency range. You can play modern music on a classical violin, and you will be able to play early music on the 21st century violin. Music transcends the form and the "gestalt" of an instrument.

Do you think a really great violinist can transcend an instrument?

A good player can make a cigar box with rubber bands sound good. Do you know the story about Jascha Heifetz? After a concert some lady told him, "Mr. Heifetz, your violin sounds wonderful." He put his ear up to it and said, "That's funny, I don't hear a thing." The sound that you hear has a lot to do with the person playing. In fact, when we are trying to do acous-

tic listening tests, one thing that is really difficult is, if a player is really good, he or she will give so much of the tone from the way the fingers are pressed onto the fingerboard. It's hard to be completely objective, because you can't take that away.

Why are older violins so popular? Is it true that violins get better with age?

When you assemble an instrument, the wooden parts have to support quite a lot of tension. In the first few months and maybe even the first three or four years, all those different parts are getting used to being subjected to that pressure all the time. Also, things like fingerboards and necks can get used to a certain player and vice versa. The player and the instrument are like a symbiosis—they are like two ends of the same thing. The monetary value of an instrument has a psychological effect. No one believes that an instrument worth 2 million dollars is not laced with a certain degree of quality. On the other hand, the fact that the world's best musicians have been the only people using the old valuable instruments has helped to enhance their reputation.

Myth or no myth, some of the old masterpieces are truly awe-inspiring. There were just some incredibly talented people around at the time. There was an amalgamation or mingling of all kinds of different interests and disciplines. If you were making instruments, you were probably fooling around with astronomy or maths. I think the same thing is happening today. I think violin making is becoming great again. 🍷

Hornið opened in 1979 was the first restaurant of its kind in Iceland, a restaurant with a true Italian atmosphere. Hornið is known for good food made out of fresh raw materials, good pizzas baked in front of the guests, good coffee and comfortable service.

Lunch offers every day.

Open every day from 11.00 to 23.30

For reservations call 551-3340

Educational material on children's health in Albanian, Arabic, English, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Thai and Vietnamese

Tannvernd barna

Matur medganga

Reyklingar medganga

Næring ungbarna

Polvdro

Some of the Icelandic brochures have been translated in all the languages, others in some of them.

They are available at Health Care Centres and on our website:
www.publichealth.is - Útgefið efni - Foreign languages

WWW.PUBLICHEALTH.IS

PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE OF ICELAND

Lyðhekkustöð Hugbók Markaðsáðgjöf March 2010

Kraum of the crop

Clothing Jewellery Accessories

Furniture Music Books

Aðalstræti 10
101 Reykjavík
Tel: 517 7797
www.kraum.is

OPENING HOURS
JUNE- AUGUST
Mon-Fri 9-21
Sat 10-17
Sun 12-17

Pizzeria tel. 578 8555

Lækjargata 8 Downtown

Gamla Smiðjan

Probably the best pizza in town

BEZT Í HEIMI* LOBSTER SOUP
1100.- kr

SEA-AGRA SOUP
850.- kr

MOBY DICK ON A STICK

PURTRIFIED SHARK
marinated in Icelandic schnapps

HARD FISH

SÆGREIFINN

Verðúð 8 / tel.553 1500 / Geirsgata

— OPENING HOURS : 11³⁰-22⁰⁰ —

The Icelandic Love Corporation

“How life evolves, how human life is created and how children are born. Where we come from, and where we are going. These are all very large questions, but the material that links them all in our current project is nylon. Nylon stockings to be exact.”

Over the phone, The Icelandic Love Corporation’s Sigrún Hrólfsdóttir explains what the three woman artist collective is currently pondering and investigating. Her words are a good reminder why the performance art collective has maintained a constant and fruitful presence on the Icelandic arts scene ever since forming in 1996, why Grapevine is intensely thankful for having them around, and why we get all excited when we learn they have a new performance in the works.

The group consists of Sigrún along with Eirún Sigurðardóttir and Jóní Jónsdóttir. They create performances, the lasting by-products of which include installations, sculptures, prints, textiles, photographs and videos.

“The nylon stocking represents a metaphysical idea of an object that is both incredibly feminine and at the same time the product of complicated scientific processes and years of research. Nylon stockings are a scientific wonder that man created to both imitate and improve upon human flesh, an engineered replica of what the silkworm makes on his own. The idea of the nylon stocking embodies opposites and contrasts like nature vs. civilisation, all sorts of ideas and thoughts.”

Their reflections on life, the universe and nylon will be premiered at a show they call TIGHT on August 19, at the Amos Anderson Art Museum in Helsinki, Finland. Those that cannot make it over will still be able to take in their reflections, as the show and performance will be accompanied by a lush catalogue that will certainly make its way around. Furthermore, Sigrún tells me they hope to bring TIGHT to Iceland at some point.

Those who cannot wait to experience The Icelandic Love Corporation and their art can then attend a show at the Hafnarborg gallery in Hafnarfjörður, where they will be displaying a video piece entitled ‘Dynasty’. Their web-site, www.ilc.is is also chock-full of niceties, and Sigrún tells us that if folks are really, really interested in partaking in the ILC experience, they might try and arrange for a visit to their studio.

Thank you for being around, Icelandic Love Corporation.



IN MY OPINION THE VERY BEST VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT IN THE WORLD

Benjamin Dove

OK, His Holiness The Dalai Lama did not eat at our restaurant when he visited Reykjavik. But he sure should have. Join the many famous people who like, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Obama, Paul McCartney, Nelson Mandela, David Lynch Madonna, etc. And become one of our happy regular customers.

Where the famous people eat, you are very safe!



Laugavegur 20b & KRINGLAN Shopping Centre, Reykjavik
Tel: (+354) 552 8410 * www.anaestugrosum.is



Energy for life through forces of nature

Blue Lagoon is open daily www.bluelagoon.com



Taste the best of Iceland

Try our famous Icelandic Gourmet Fiest

- » Starts with a shot of the infamous Icelandic spirit Brennivín
- » Smoked puffin with blueberry "brennivín" sauce
- » Icelandic sea-trout with peppers-salsa
- » Lobster tails baked in garlic
- » Pan-fried monkfish with lobster sauce
- » Grilled Icelandic lamb Samfaina
- » Minke Whale with cranberry-sauce
- » World famous chocolate cake with berry compoté and whipped cream

5.890 ikr.



RESTAURANT-BAR
Vesturgata 3B | 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 551 2344 | www.tapas.is

The only kitchen
in Reykjavík open
to 23:30 on weekdays
and 01:00 on weekends

reykjavík jazz

14-29.AUG.2010

www.reykjavikjazz.is



Fifteen days of jazz!





A Borganestastic Day

Learning and playing around Borgarfjörður

“Hey guys, let’s go hang out in Borgarnes! I hear it’s a really cool place!”

Now when was the last time you heard that? Let’s be honest: probably never. The little town an hour and a half northwest of Reykjavík is usually no more than the first or last pit stop on a road trip out of town. Knowing there was surely more to it than meets the passer-by-eye, we decided to trek up and see what the deal was. As it turns out, we were completely surprised and delighted by how much fun we had.

- 1. Hreppslaug
- 2. Brúðuheimar
- 3. The Settlement Centre
- 4. Bjössaróló

THE CONQUERING OF LANDS

The Settlement Centre, Brákarbraut 13-15

Our first stop was the Settlement Centre, one the most boasted of Borgarnes’ attractions, opened in 2006 by actor and playwright Kjartan Ragnarsson and his wife. For some reason, I had some kind of preconceived idea that it was going to be all gimmicky, like a colonialist fair or a Civil War recreation. Not that that’s a bad thing! I love colonialist fairs, what with all the funny hats. But this wasn’t the case at all. The centre is housed in the two oldest buildings in town, set side-by-side and connected by a reception annex built right into the side of a hill. The design of the place ingeniously blends primitive nature with sleek modernism. One building houses a beautiful café and restaurant, with a delicious smelling buffet as well as a meeting centre, while the other one has the centre’s two exhibits.

The first exhibit on the settlement of Iceland was a rich and interactive history lesson that

took us all the way from Viking shipbuilding to what now lays at the original settlement sites. The whole thing was quite impressive in its design and technological prowess, managing to create immersive spaces that didn’t feel contrived or tacky. The second room features a ship’s prow gently moving as if on waves and looking out to a circular panorama of the ocean, like a Viking mechanical bull. The exhibit continues with various diagrams, sculptures, videos and interactive maps with accompanying stories, filling ones head with all sorts of heroic and humorous tales. The entire exhibit took roughly half an hour to go through without stopping the audio guide.

The next one was the Egils Saga exhibition, which depicts one of the most notable Icelandic sagas, the one of Egill Skallagrímsson, whose family settled the Borgarfjörður region. This exhibit is a much more theatrical and artistic representation of the tale with a multitude of wood sculptures, statues, dioramas and paintings lining the rooms.

These depictions range from rustic folk art to medieval-style religious panels, but also mythical nature-based carvings and some supremely creepy characters made out of very authentic looking animal skulls. Although there’s surely a lot more to the tale, this is a great way to tell it.

My only issue with both exhibits is that without any panels to read, one is confined to the audio guide for information. Unless one decides to go through just to look without learning, the minimum time in each display is thirty minutes. Not to mention how it excludes the hearing impaired. Hopefully in the future they will print a guide booklet as an alternative.

MAGIC WITH STRINGS ATTACHED

Brúðuheimar, Skúlagata 17

Our next stop was just up the road at Brúðuheimar (the ‘Centre for Puppet Arts’). Spread throughout three small houses near the Borgarnes shoreline, this museum was a real surprise for my two co-



AIR ICELAND

Always best price online.
Various online-offers to all Air Iceland's

www.airiceland.is

websales@airiceland.is / tel. +354 570 3030



horts and I, as this place was originally referred to us as a ‘doll museum’. Much like my prejudices at our first stop, my friend had the notion this was going to be a bunch of creepy, 19th Century porcelain dolls staring at us like corpses through sterile glass cabinets. In fact, this was a completely magical world of human-controlled creatures and characters created by German puppet-master Bernd Ogrodnik, curated with Hildur Magnea Jónsdóttir.

The enchantment began as soon as we made our way up to the loft of the main house. A peephole display revealed the set of ‘Nómi’, a film currently in progress, while popular Icelandic children’s character Einar Áskell with his dad and mouse hung out behind us. After rounding a couple of corners we landed in a room with a massive shadow-screen display of ‘The Jumping Mouse’ and a try-out station with hand-puppet instructional images on the wall. Needless to say, we turned into a bunch of big kids trying to make

alligators and bunnies.

We then headed over to the next house which was full of sets from previously performed puppet shows, such as ‘The Little Match Girl’, ‘The Magic Book’ and ‘The Pillowman’. Most extraordinary was the giant set of ‘The Little Shop of Horrors’ along with its hilariously phallic miniature counterpart. On the upper floor—which we nicknamed the ‘hot loft’—we found a bunch of workshop stations and a screening of Bernd Ogrodnik’s puppetry in action. In the third house we took a gander at the theatre, currently set up to show ‘Peter and The Wolf’, and tinkered around on the most out-of-tune piano in Iceland, begging to have an improvised experimental album recorded on it.

GARBAGE DELIGHT!
Bjössaróla Park
After a little stroll along the shoreline, taking in the gorgeous sunshiny weather we were lucky enough to get, we headed up towards a park that

everyone seemed to be talking about. Built by local handyman Björn Guðmundsson, Bjössaróla is a playground made entirely of recycled and discarded materials. Brilliantly executed with slides built into the surrounding hillocks, a variety of swings, a jungle gym, spinning top and several lookout points, the place was swarming with children. If one is a bit too big to play on a hobbyhorse, it’s great to simply climb the rocks up to the top of the point and lookout at the beautiful fjord. It was enough for one of my cohorts to proclaim that she could move to Borgarnes.

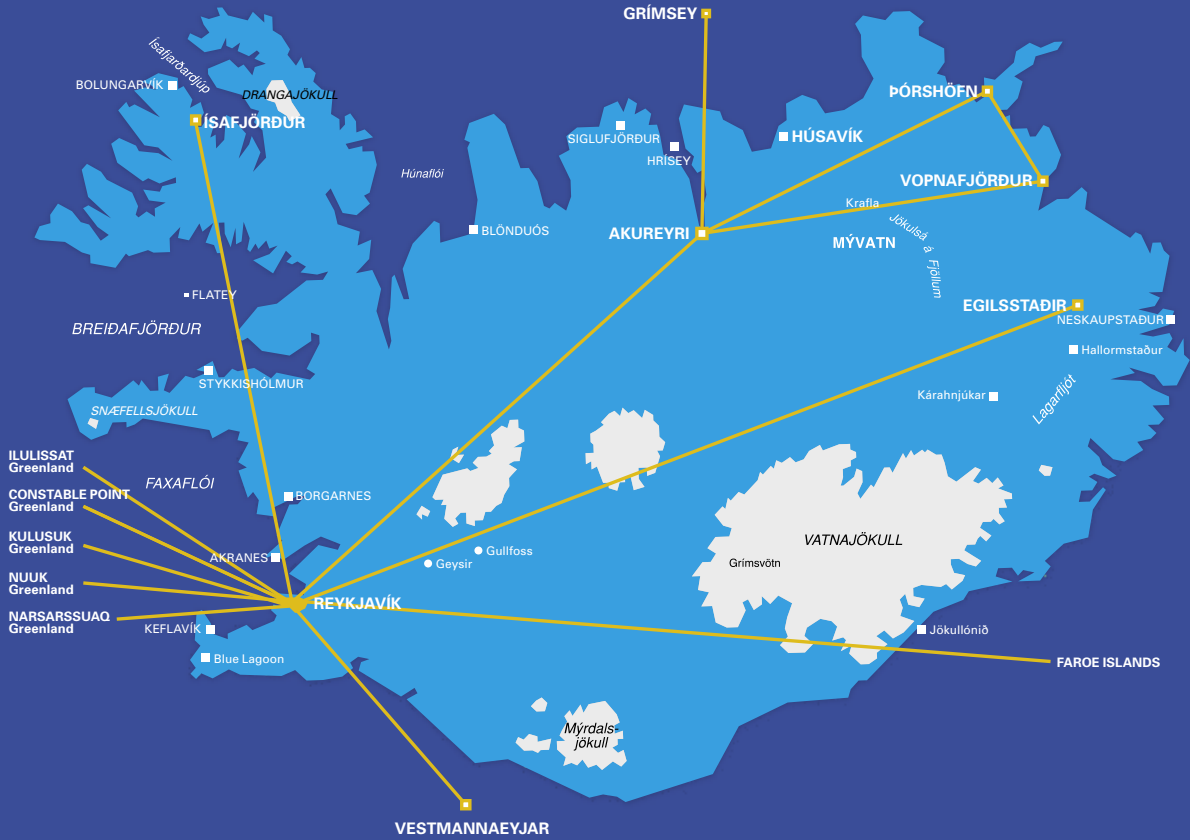
DON’T FORGET YOUR SWIMSUIT
Hreppslaug Country Pool
Of course, no trip of any length in Iceland would be complete without a quick dip in some body of water. At the end of our marvellous and brain-stimulating day around Borgarnes we decided to venture ten minutes off-course for a very rewarding swim. Built in 1928, Hreppslaug pool is nestled

in a little cove overlooking a field and is just about as quaint as they come. The admission centre is basically just a farm-shack with a few hooks and terrible water pressure in the changing rooms. The pool itself was really great though. It actually has something resembling a deep end (i.e. nearly two metres) and is refreshingly cool. The hot tubs were also totally funny, made out of small metal containers that looked like they came from the farm next door. We sat in our little metal tub, contemplating our great day, and thoroughly agreed that Borgarfjörður is well worth the visit. 🍷

✍️ REBECCA LOUDER
📷 JULIA STAPLES

www.airiceland.is

destinations.



Contact Air Iceland or travel agent for reservation.



Must-Love Foxes

The Arctic Fox Centre comes out of its hole

Mere minutes away from Ísafjörður, the Arctic Fox Centre in Súðavík is the first of its kind in the world. The centre is dedicated to Iceland's only native animal and features a small, but growing, collection of all things fox related, from stuffed creatures to jars of fox droppings (and fox foetuses, too). The exhibit is also jam packed with information on the species to raise foxy awareness, in three languages, to wit. They even have an orphaned fox pup that they are fostering until he can go live alone in the wild! Yes, that is as cute as it sounds.

Opened of June 12 of this year, the centre is housed in the oldest building of this adorable, tiny fishing town in the Westfjords, which was abandoned for many years and recently restored. Ester Unnsteinsdóttir is the curator of the exhibit and also runs the café in the building. She has been studying arctic foxes since 1989 and has worked at the Hornstrandur nature reserve observing fox wildlife. She moved to the Westfjords from Reykjavík as there is the highest density of arctic foxes residing in this region of Iceland. She has been building the collection for the past

three years and is now very happy with the response the centre has received, estimating approximately 1.500 visitors since it opened.

"I am involved in the scientific community here," Ester tells us about how she managed to make the centre a reality. "I was invited to Sweden last year for a conference of arctic foxes where my PhD advisor was speaking and that was really great. We are also really lucky to be in collaboration with so many people and institutes such as the University of Iceland, the Nature Institution and a lot of photographers."

In addition to providing knowledge and information, they also act as a non-profit research centre where they work to gain more information on the species, observe their behaviour and develop sustainability methods. They work in conjunction with nature reserves and organisations such as Wild North, but also with fox hunters who are hired to control the population and contribute to the centre's growth.

"We are also developing an interactive children's programme," says Ester, "We working with an illustrator named Billa and she is creating characters for



the centre based on the popular Scandinavian character Mickey the Red Fox." Further expansion for the centre will include scientific material, a research library and a collection of nature films. She has also received a large collection of receipts from the son of a fox hunter who sold pelts to the Hudson Bay Company in Canada in the 1930s.

Most of all, she is truly happy with the building and how beautiful the restoration process has made it. "I am really proud to give the old house life again," she brims with joy, adding that members of the community have come by to bring her things that once belonged to the house. Another excellent

gift to the house is a stamp collection donated by a former police officer from Reykjavík. The cosy atmosphere, hot coffee and super friendly staff (not to mention all the foxy fox wisdom) makes this a must on any Westfjords road trip. They have free Wi-Fi too! 📶

REBECCA LOUDER
JULIA STAPLES

iViking

So, this discussion came up in the pub last Friday: Wouldn't it be fascinating if we Icelanders started embracing our Viking heritage more? Instead of our twisted version of the American way, which is to binge 'til you're full and purge 'til you drop.

I do not mean going completely back to the Viking ways, more for ceremonial purposes.

For starters our national costume would have to be changed. We could still keep the black suit, but overlain would be large piece of bear fur, both for warmth and to ward off predators with the bear musk, like the deadly mink and horrifying red fox. The luxury of the fur would differ from person to person, for instance the President would receive the largest fur, which would be more like a cape.

The costume would also feature a skullcap with horns on it, and an ornamental battle-axe.

It would make family pictures much more interesting. Instead of the traditional baptism-gift of 'a cross', the newborn would receive a small throwing axe, maybe even a set of them. The larger axe would be a confirmation gift.

I can see it now: After the ceremony, the youths would line up, dressed up in their white robes, carrying their large axes.

Religion could also be spiced up. Icelandic religion has always been very laid back, with our National Church's motto basically being: "Believe in God. Or don't. Let us sing."

But let's move on to the real meat of this discussion, which is the change this will mean to Icelandic nightlife. One of the benefits would be introduction of mead. I, for one, would love to see mead re-introduced to Icelandic drinking life. It would of course be served in horns.

Troubadours would also make a comeback, although their odes would be a bit less fantastical than the songs of old. Now, they would sing of 'Arni the Economist's victory over the stubborn lawnmower.'

"Three times did Arni's boot strike the hateful mower of lawns..."

It would bring back a sense of camaraderie, everyone sitting by the long table singing, drinking mead, singing while drinking mead.

The downside would of course be the increased danger. Let me paint you a scenario:

"Hey, where's Andri?" // "Oh... He... He passed..." // "...Out?" // "Away." // "What?" // "He stepped on someone's foot inside, the guy challenged him to a duel and killed him. Andri's dead."

So there would be a slight increase in nightlife-murder, but not as much as you'd think. Fights have pretty much become commonplace on a Saturday night. I even witnessed a fight just a couple weeks ago inside a club. Not some sleazy place, either, but a pretty high-end establishment.

It was between two doormen, two middle-aged men and woman holding a broken glass, which she used to cut one of the doormen. So it wouldn't be that big of a leap to take up the older, more barbaric ways. We're already halfway there.

So just think about it: On two years' time, the most important concern the police would have on Culture Night wouldn't be rapes or fights, but the annual longboat beach raid. 🚤



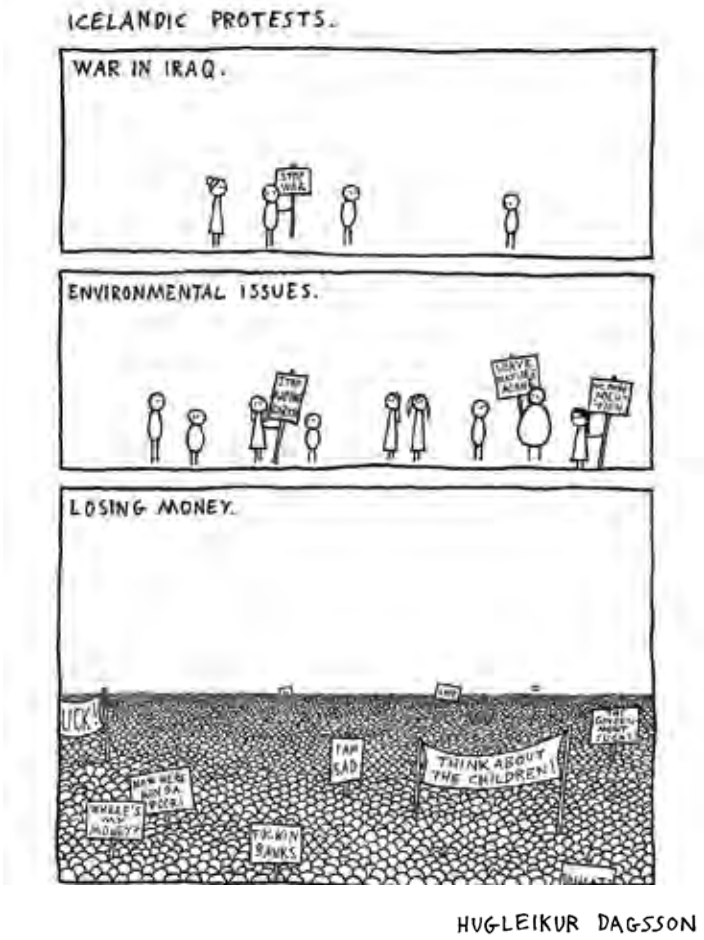
Mountaineers of Iceland

SUPER JEEP & SNOWMOBILE TOURS

Mountaineers of Iceland • Skútuvogur 12E • 104 Reykjavík • Iceland
Telephone: +354 580 9900 Ice@mountaineers.is • www.mountaineers.is • www.activity.is



Comic | Hugleikur Dagsson



Music | Album Reviews



Sóley
Theater Island
ssoolleeyy
She'll steal your soul while you sleep if you play this CD!

When listening to many Icelandic female solo artists, the one constant running through them like a dose of salts is their incessant perkiness. I do like being happy, but at times it's like watching a musical version of the Stepford Housewives.

At least Sóley has the look or someone who spent her childhood tearing the heads off dolls, or crawling through your TV set at night and killing you in your sleep.

Her EP 'Theatre Island' is also a suitably eerie and gothic affair. Perhaps that's due to her use of the piano instead of the guitar as the pivotal instrument. A heavy debt is paid to the likes of Bat For Lashes and Antony and the Johnsons for inspiration. But for all the sullenness, when she decides to show positivity on tracks like 'We Will Put Her in Two Graves', it feels all the more resonant and sincere. A solid debut.

—BOB CLUNESS



DJ Musician
Sehr gut cocktail
djmusician
Not even ziemlich gut

Uh-oh, ironic/unabashed Europop alert! What we get here is bubbly basslines, lots of arpeggios and oodles of silly 80s my-first-303-type factory-settings synth sounds. It's not really a question of whether this is a joke or not but rather how good the songs are. And, taken on their own merits, the answer is: not all that amazing. For sure, looks like DJ Musician is a great lad. There's a likability to the artwork shot of Your Favourite DJ, dressed in an old East Germany footy shirt and holding up a big beer stein, but that personality's not reflected in the music. The whole point of the Deutsche Elektronika that this propounds to lovingly lampoon is that it sounds like what C-3PO grooves to with his queeny robo-dudes down at Studio-R2D2. But when it comes down to it, Sehr Gut Cocktail really just needs a few more tunes amidst the entirely-authentic, but somewhat meandering, sonic space. Most of the time, this album sounds like someone's broken into a SNES shop and started playing eighteen different platform games all at once. Get a couple of Abba/Pet Shop Boys/Kraftwerk cocktails down yer neck and have another crack, brother.

—JOE SHOOMAN



Valgeir Sigurðsson
Draumalandið
valgeirs
An immaculate conception

Divested of the enviro-politic moving picture of the same name, this ceases to be a soundtrack and transcends even the status of an album, because everything about this collection of feelings, emotions and resonant creative constructions is pretty much immaculate. The arrangements and performances are outstanding as is the production, with strings to the fore and, most importantly, strings used properly. The glissandic nature of Laxness, or the glockenspiel/accordion counterpoint of Draumaland, to pick just two examples, are testimony that here is a piece of work made by, for, and with a rare blend of deep love and understanding both of thematic trails and the human experience. And, of course, it is testament to life's beautifully delicate paradoxical nature that such imperviously wonderful classicism can be borne from such a prickly and contentious subject. Taken simply as a record, this album's relatively short-form explorations comprise excerpts from a wider soundtrack—the music of the spheres.

—JOE SHOOMAN

Woolens factory store, located in Vík

Genuine woolen goods, made in Iceland

Also wide selection of souvenirs

ÍSLAND

Reykjavík

Vík

Víkurprjón ehf

Phone: 487-1250

www.vikwool.is

Adventure

under a bridge

FISKFÉLAGIÐ FISH COMPANY

THE BEST OF REYKJAVÍK 2010

BEST SEAFOOD

Drop in for our lunch offers or take the plunge and book a table for a culinary experience without a match!

AROUND ICELAND without ever leaving your table. We look forward to seating you in our dreamlike surroundings and handing you the a'la carte menu we take great pride in. If you are in a mood for an adventure, allow us to point out "Around Iceland" a set menu with all the best the sea and land has to offer spiced with herbs found around the island.

Reservations 552 5300 - info@fishcompany.is - fishcompany.is
Grófartorg - Vesturgata 2a - 101 Reykjavík

Café Loki
in front of Hallgrímskirkja

Enjoy some solid homemade Icelandic food open to 20 all days

HOTEL KEILIR

Best located downtown hotel

in Keflavík

5 min from the airport

Special summer offers

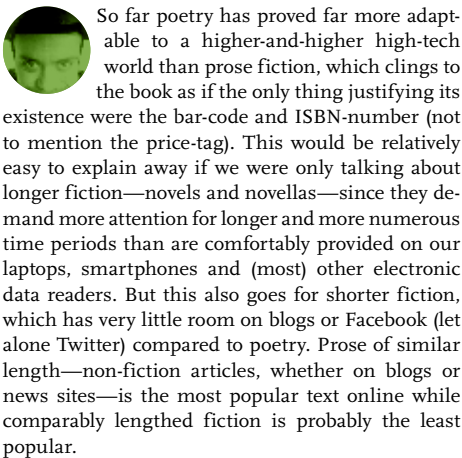
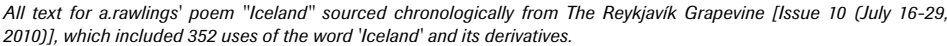
contact us now
tel: +354-4209800
www.airporthotel.is

Ask for lobster if the mood strikes you!

Royal thai cuisine

www.thaireykjavik.is

Thai Reykjavík | Lækjargata 8 | 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 571 2222 | www.thaireykjavik.is
restaurant | bar | take away



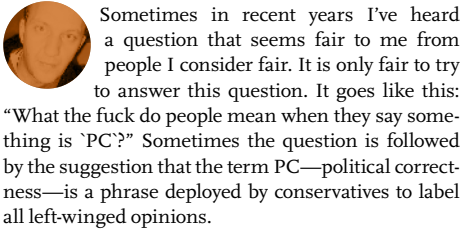
short, the people who fall flat for the innovative are less likely to wanna constrict themselves to a one thousand year old Arabic invention. For prose, any medium is a vehicle. For poetry, any medium is a limitation on the path towards divinity.

Third: while length does not explain why people read the New York Times online and not the short stories of Jorge Luis Borges; while it does not explain why fiction can't keep up online with non-fiction, length may explain why poetry beats fiction. You can get snippets of poems—but not stories. You can have a minute of poetry. Or half a minute. A second of poetry. Add to this the fact that a lot of poetry can be disjointed, spastic and humorously dysfunctional like comedy—it can be very audience friendly. Anyone who's attended poetry readings and prose readings can attest to the fact that poetry readings are usually much more enjoyable—poetry is (by nature) more performative than prose; by origin it is a spoken or chanted artform. And on the internet you can find anything, save for patience—hence the popularity of short fun.

Fourth: while there is no money in poetry and (for some reason) people have no compunctions about giving away non-fiction, or republishing it online a few weeks or months after it's printed equivalent hit the streets, the world of prose fiction has been sufficiently conservative and self-protective to avoid both the blogosphere and the webzines—nor has it much of a presence within the (semi-legal) world of peer-to-peer networks.

Much of this may change with the advent of the e-book, which so far is mostly designed around linear prose fiction. For one thing the books of many popular and/or respected writers are now available (illegally, in most countries) in various e-reader formats through torrent-sites. They're not available in the same enormous way as music or film, but the files are there and they're much smaller than music or film and therefore more expediently downloadable. Even e-reader platforms are mostly geared towards longer works of prose fiction (including collections of short stories), non-fiction does have some presence, while poetry—with all of its line-breaks and weirdo layouts—will have to adapt (and become more adaptable) if it wants to fit in. 🍀

Go Fish!*



Possibly so. Sometimes. But PC is a very real thing and can be defined. In fact, the world is getting very much PC these days; it takes more courage every time to go up against PC. PC is going up to a new level. It's scary. It's scatter-brained. It's PC.

So what is PC? Here is a definition: Being PC is having opinions that you think are generally considered proper and pious. Being PC is the cowardice of going for the norm, for the healthy, harmless, sane and accepted view. Being PC is having opinions without true conviction. Being PC is having opinions that are considered right—not opinions that you yourself think are right: it is acquiring opinions without thought or consideration, making sure they offend absolutely no one. PC is effortless and comfortable.

And what's more, once you've gone PC (with the level it has reached today) you get a Carte Blanche (no, not the American actress); you can now join the constant search for the politically incorrect. There is a new game going. You can Go Fish!

Let's have some guidelines on this search. Remember: Do not confuse it with critical thought. Being critical is difficult, while being a PC-seeker is easy. 'What is right is right,' is now your motto. You start off by setting your frame from narrow to very narrow. Then off you go scrutinizing the media: newspapers, TV, radio, the internet, in search of something that from your new perspective shows lack of consideration to anyone or anything. Don't worry, you will find it and you will always be in the right, every spoken or written word is now a possible threat to the new frame you defend.

People are ill informed and tactless—and definitely prejudiced. If you're lucky, somebody will use a degrading word on black people in the newspaper (those words are upgraded frequently so don't worry, you're on the safe side). If there is no such thing today, you will definitely find some comment in the media possibly degrading to women. Remember: Define 'degrading' freely. Nudity in newspapers is a sure thing to go for—especially if you're male and not really that into women's rights. You don't actually have to go against real issues, like the fact that women get less wages than you do, and there is no need to examine your own views on gender issues. Scorn your fellow males praise of 'pretty girls,' it is chauvinism. Find somebody critical of the church. Why do those people want to repress people's right to practice religion? Scorn them for lack of tolerance. Everything is biased, always.

Why go for blind Justice when you can settle for just plain stupid Justice? Keep narrowing your frame, constantly. Keep searching. Is somebody making fun of Muslims? Look for a columnist condemning radi-

cal Muslims. Racism! Is somebody airing a negative view on the government of Israel? Anti-Semitism! Somebody critical of Palestinian violence? Arab-hatred! Is something that could possibly be conceived as impolite being said of the obese, of the mentally ill, of homosexuals? Phobia! Is mockery being made of puritans? Intolerance! You can go against child abuse, searching for words in the media that may seem positive towards it, that is if you twist them well enough. As this practice has few defenders (in their right mind, at least) you will have to resort to more creative intentional misunderstanding, but on the other hand you are sure to gain some credos. Interpretation is everything here. Remember: Everything can be said to be biased.

Make yourself a list of clichés to use as weapons, be prepared to be offended every second of your life. Practice by nagging to yourself if nobody is around. Find in your face the muscles that make a proper grimace of indignant repulsion, a hallowed expression of scandal and of scorn. You will discover the pleasure of accusing. It makes you feel very good about yourself. Did you hear that the French just banned the burqa? Take a definite stand, damn them for their intolerance to other cultures (block out the possibility of other factors of the issue, such as Islamic female repression). Be surprised (strive to make surprise and shock your innermost attitude towards life). When nothing is happening, resort to searching for petty typos. Aren't they, after all, in a way, a form of prejudice and phobia? Make a list of words you can use in every occasion: Nationalism, xenophobia, discrimination, clique... Narrow your frame, narrow your frame. Remember, nobody is innocent. And you have a cause.

Now, for an outlet for your bickering. You already have a blog, don't you? Use that. It will make you more PC as you go along. Make every status on your Facebook wall your input to the battle for a purer, healthier, smoother, flatter, more prejudice-free and more PC world. Make your morning ceremony a small search for links that show prejudiced views. Put them on your wall along with a few well-chosen words that brilliantly expose just how bigoted the opinions of all those hypocrites out there are. Write letters to newspapers. Phone them. Email them. Write articles in the papers, if you get there. If not, keep up the good work, make the media more PC. The media is actually getting rather lenient and scared, constantly afraid of being exposed as bigoted, trying to walk the straight and narrow road, trying to fit into the narrow, narrow frame. But there is still work to be done. The search goes on. Do not listen to critical voices. Do not believe them if they say you are becoming just another narrow-minded gladiator, dogmatic happy hunter. Do not believe them when they call you a self-righteous, up-tight prick. Oh, no. Don't listen to that. Go fish! 🐟

**I apologize if anything in this article has offended anyone in any way.*

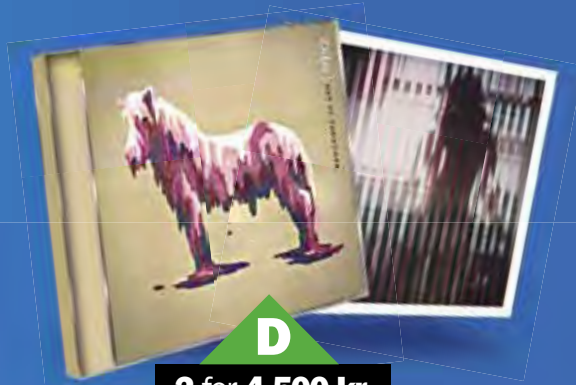
BEST PRICE!

MIX TOGETHER CD's, DVD's AND GAMES



C
2 for **3.400 kr.**
or one for 1.999 kr.

2 games
Ghostbusters (PS3)
Heavenly Sword (PS3)



D
2 for **4.500 kr.**
or one for 2.599 kr.

2 CD's
Dikta · Get it Together (CD)
Hjaltafin · Terminal (CD)



C
2 for **3.400 kr.**
or one for 1.999 kr.

2 DVD's
Karlar sem hata konur (DVD)
Superbad (DVD)



A
2 for **1.200 kr.**
or one for 799 kr.

Game + CD
UP (PC)
Michael Jackson · Music and Me (CD)



C
2 for **3.400 kr.**
or one for 1.999 kr.

Movie + Game
Family Guy (DVD)
Red Faction Guerrilla (PS3)



B
2 for **2.300 kr.**
or one for 1.499 kr.

2 games
Supreme Commander (PC)
Stormrise (PC)

MIX TOGETHER FROM THE SAME PRICE CATEGORY



2 for **1.200 kr.**
or one for 799 kr.



2 for **2.300 kr.**
or one for 1.499 kr.



2 for **3.400 kr.**
or one for 1.999 kr.



2 for **4.500 kr.**
or one for 2.599 kr.

THIS IS ONLY A PART OF THE SELECTION!

S·K·Í·F·A·N

KRINGLAN · 591-5320 · WWW.SKIFAN.IS

PAGE 12

Björk stated that she and her comrades were not one more group of “angry environmental guerrillas”. The happy environmental entertainers’ project seemed to be about not challenging the status quo at all, but rather keep on the old track of industry and production – this time under the banner of institution-alised green flags and environmental certifications.

Environmental activist Snorri Páll sort of agrees with Björk. But not really. He has some interesting ideas, too.

PAGE 26

“A good player can make a cigar box with rubber bands sound good. Do you know the story about Jascha Heifetz? After a concert some lady told him, “Mr. Heifetz, your violin sounds wonderful.” He put his ear up to it and said, “That’s funny, I don’t hear a thing.””

Hans Jóhannsson discusses the science of violin-making in a totally fascinating interview.

PAGE 14

As a kid and teenager I was obsessed with guns, war and soldiers. I aspired to join a military and witness combat. Instead I had to settle for the Icelandic Coast Guard, although scrubbing floors on a patrol vessel turned out to be a really poor substitute for Rambo heroics.

Iceland’s most active peace activist Lárus Páll Birgisson once fostered bigger dreams than loitering outside the US Embassy.

PAGE 6

“Seen against this historical backdrop, the Magma deal is what we should have expected. As a result of the Icelandic government’s current back-peddalling, our international reputation is once again being trashed in the business publications. We’re unreliable, we don’t understand the importance of contracts, we can’t keep our hands off of done deals.”

Íris Erlingsdóttir brings some more Magma to the table.

PAGE 32

“It would make family pictures much more interesting. Instead of the tra-ditional baptism-gift of ‘a cross’, the newborn would receive a small throw-ing axe, maybe even a set of them. The larger axe would be a confirmation gift.”

Andri Már Hagalín embraces his inner Viking.

River Rafting
on Hvítá River
from 7.990 ISK
Nature is the Adventure!



Arctic Rafting offers rafting trips on the Hvítá River, only 10 minutes from the Geysir area. The trips start at 7.990 ISK and a variety of combination tours are available every day.

We can also pick you up from your hotel or hostel in Reykjavík. Call us on +354-571-2200, meet us at Laugavegur 11 in the Cintamani Center or ask for us at your hotel or nearest tourist information center.



www.arcticrafting.com | info@arcticrafting.is | +354-571-2200 | Visit us at the Cintamani Center, Laugavegur 11






ICELANDIC Fish, Lamb & Chicken
in original PAKISTANI & INDIAN curries,
TANDOORI dishes, TANDOORI Nan breads
Kebabs, Samosas, Vegetarian specialities,
LUNCH & DINNER OFFERS every day



PAKISTANI - INDIAN TANDOORI & CURRY CUISINE
AUSTURSTRÆTI 4, Tel. 551 0292 www.shalimar.is