



FREE

Losing Direction

EXAMINING THE DANGERS OF TRAVELLING IN ICELAND

The Icelandic Love Corporation Returns • Franz Ferdinand Talk About Their Return to Iceland
Sigtryggur Baldursson Recounts the Past • Visiting Hrafn Gunnlaugsson • Iceland Airwaves Preview

+ info. A Complete City Guide and Listings: Map, Dining, Music, Arts and Events Issue 14 // Sept 7 - Sept 20 2007

Opinions

- 12 How did you like Iceland?
An opinion by Chandler Fredrick

Articles

- 06 No Need to Panic
Interview with Birgir Órn Steinarsson, editor of new pop-culture magazine Mónitor
- 08 Confessions of an Art-Terrorist
Interview with Sigtryggur Baldursson
- 10 For Hrafn Gunnlaugsson There Really is No Place Like Home
Icelandic film director Hrafn Gunnlaugsson and his seaside abode
- 20 This is Hardcore
Interview with Blacklisted
- 21 Countdown to Airwaves
- 22 Locating Iceland
Photographer Sigurbjörn Hallbjörnsson
- 28 Icelandic Art
The National Gallery of Iceland

Features

- 16 Underestimating Mother Nature May Cost You Your Life
Deadly mistakes tourists make in Iceland

Music & Nightlife

- 18 Lekman's Heart On Fire
Jens Lekman at The Nordic House
- 18 Getting Into It
Sammi's Big Band, Jimi Tenor, and Antibalas at NASA
- 19 CD Reviews

Outside Reykjavík

- 14 Kjöldur by Bike —Part Two
- 25 Take a Walk Around Viðey

info.

- B1 Listings
- B5 The Reykjavík International Literature Festival
- B6 Spreading the Love
Interview with the Icelandic Love Corporation
- B7 Lost Horse Gallery
- B10 Food Reviews
- B12 Shopping
- B15 The Boys Dance Too
Interview with Franz Ferdinand

The Reykjavík Grapevine
Vesturgata 5, 101 Reykjavík
www.grapevine.is
grapevine@grapevine.is
www.myspace.com/reykjavikgrapevine
Published by Fróken ehf.

Editorial: +354 540 3600 / editor@grapevine.is
Advertising: +354 540 3605 / ads@grapevine.is
Publisher: +354 540 3601 / publisher@grapevine.is

The Reykjavík Grapevine Staff
Publisher: Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson / publisher@grapevine.is
Editor: Sveinn Birki Björnsson / birkir@grapevine.is
Assistant Editors: Steinunn Jakobsdóttir / steinunn@grapevine.is
Editorial Intern: Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir / vala@grapevine.is
Marketing Director: Jón Trausti Sigurðarson / jontrausti@grapevine.is
Support Manager: Oddur Óskar Kjartansson / oddur@grapevine.is
Art Director: Gunnar Þorvaldsson / gunnar@grapevine.is
Photographer: Gunnlaugur Arnar Sigurðsson / gulli@grapevine.is
Contributing writer: Ian Watson / www.ianwatson.org
Sales Director: Aðalsteinn Jórunnsson / adalsteinn@grapevine.is
Distribution: Samúel Bjarnason / samuel@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

The Reykjavík Grapevine is published 18 times a year by Fróken 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. Although the magazine has endeavoured to ensure that all information inside the magazine is correct, prices and details may be subject to change. The Reykjavík Grapevine can be found in Reykjavík, Akureyri, Egilsstaðir, Selfoss, Keflavík, Ísafjörður, Kárahnjúkar and at key locations around road #1 and at all major tourist attractions and tourist information centres.

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').

Printed by Landsprint ehf. in 30.000 copies.



Cover photo by:
Gulli
On cover:
A lost tourist
Thanks to:
Cintamani

From the Editor's Chair

Every summer, the city of Reykjavík comes alive when tourists flood the streets, getting lost along Laugavegur and suffering from insomnia from the midnight sun. In the coming weeks this will change. Tourism slows down, the days get shorter and city gets more depressing. This time of year, we bid our farewells to tourists; at least the ones who make it out alive.

These are all topics worthy of discussion. But perhaps we should take a moment to consider our own responsibility when it comes to marketing Iceland as the uncharted wilderness, waiting for brave explorers to overcome the forces of nature. Maybe we should take a moment to consider why we still encourage tourists to travel on roads that would hardly have been considered acceptable in the days of the Roman Empire. Perhaps we should bridge some of these rivers, perhaps we should make some of these pearls more accessible. Perhaps

cost of search and rescue operations. C) The tourists who travel to Iceland, unprepared for the harsh conditions. Like little Dorothy, I have a feeling we are not in Kansas anymore.

This issue, we tackle the highlands. Róbert Haraldsson completes his trip to Kjöldur; Steinunn Jakobsdóttir examines the dangers of travelling in the highlands. We also start preparations for the Iceland Airwaves. Yes, it's good times all around.

Every summer, tourists run into serious problems when travelling in Iceland. They get lost in the highlands, are stuck in the rivers, or have accidents on the narrow gravel roads. Some of them lose their lives.

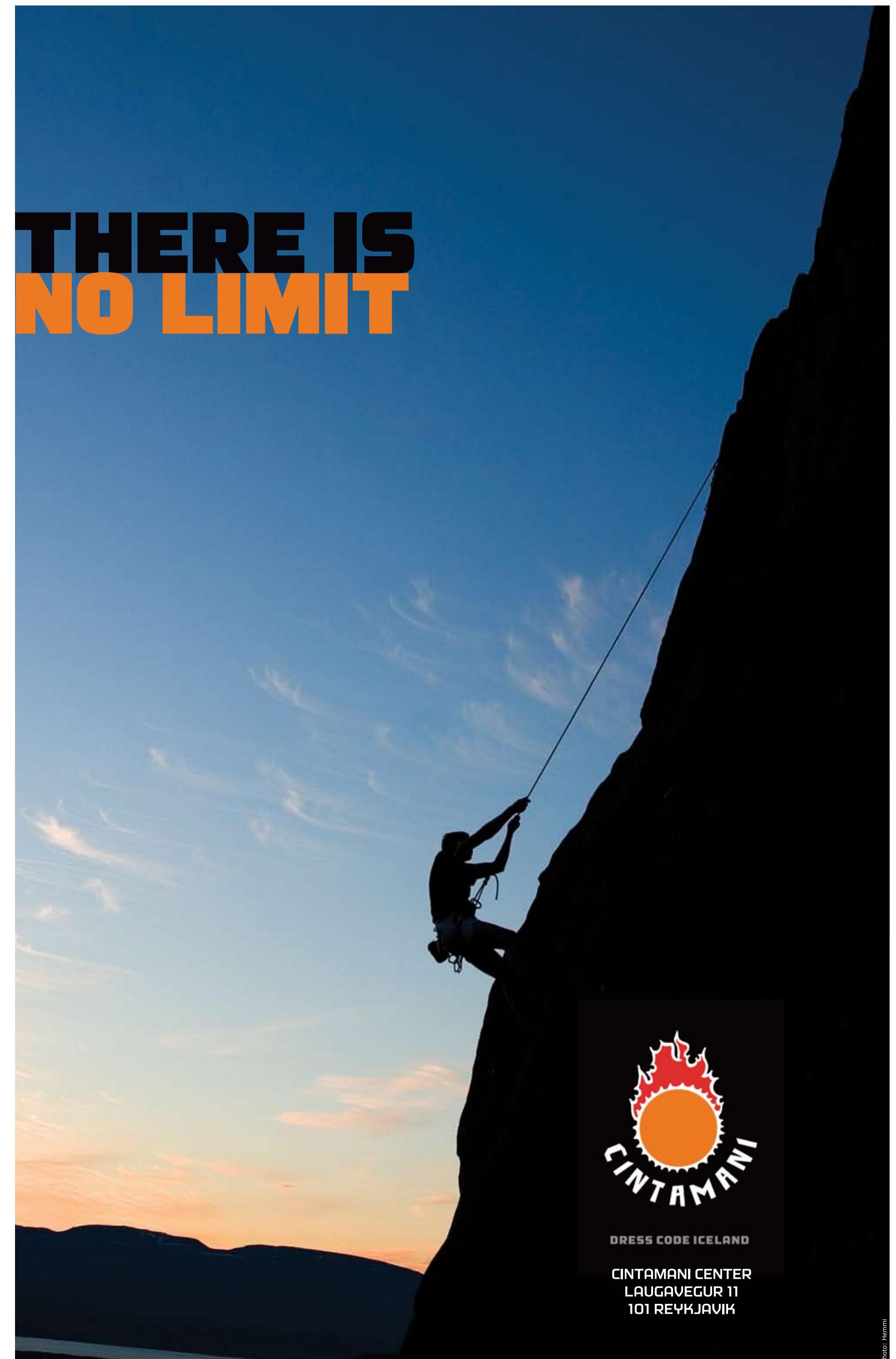
In the media, the discussion is usually concentrated on one of three things. A) The heroic efforts of search and rescue workers. B) The

we should take a more active role in educating tourists on what the hell they are getting themselves into. Maybe, just maybe, we have a part to play in this also.

Take care.



Sveinn Birki Björnsson
Editor



Reykjavík
PURE ENERGY

THE CENTRE // THE OFFICIAL TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE IN REYKJAVÍK

All you need for a great holiday

City Centre Booking Service // Bus Tours and Activities
Hotels and Guesthouses // Car Rentals // Horse Riding
Whale Watching // Internet and Phone Centre

VAT Cash Refund – Money Exchange

FREE BOOKING SERVICE

Iceland's Largest Booking Service

Simply the most comprehensive Booking Services in the City specialized in customizing and developing travel packages to suit your interests and needs. We can arrange your accommodation, transfers, tours, flights and car hire based on your requirements.

City Centre
BOOKING SERVICE

Your key to the
Capital

Reykjavík Tourist card

Gives admission to:
- all the thermal pools in Reykjavík
- public transport
- museums
- Reykjavík Zoo and Family Park,
- discount on tours and much more.
Great value for money.
Free Internet access for cardholders.
www.visitreykjavik.is

**GREAT VALUE
FOR MONEY**

24 HOURS 1.200 ISK
48 HOURS 1.700 ISK
72 HOURS 2.200 ISK

04_RVK_GV_14_2007 LETTERS

Sour Grapes

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

Dear Mr. E (Mr. E and Mr. F: so the Grapevine's Editor and I use to call ourselves within professional contexts, in an unlikely crossover that echoes both American indie rock and espionage B-movies),

As a long-time and devoted contributor, I feel the urge to spend a few words on the debate that recently sparked on the pages of this paper around opinion pieces and those who write them.

A lapidary "the opinions of the columnists don't reflect the opinions of 'The Reykjavík Grapevine'" has been the getaway answer to the numerous criticisms targeting our summer columns. Yes, it may be a bit boring as an answer, but it is a classic too, and as such respectable and effective. At least, it works for me. "Who picked the columnists, then?" was bitterly asked by someone in reply. "Isn't that you?" Sure it is. Because, I believe, The Grapevine does actually take pride – and with some rights – for giving space also to controversial voices and views. They might be questionable, sometimes raw, occasionally even poorly argued. Yet they have often succeeded in stirring waters and rousing interest and responses. A little credit is due in the context of a public arena that is all too often stale and prone to compromises such as the Icelandic one. And I can agree that the deliberate search for outrage is quite a coarse means to that end. One way or another, however, the job is to be done. The Grapevine's journalists have succeeded in doing it over the years – and quite efficiently. After all, we are here still discussing pieces published months earlier.

Is it all good, then? Well, not entirely. Apparently not the only one, I have happened to take myself some offence at Mr. Magnús Ólafsson's intervention On Advertisement. I can say straightaway that I have no intention to act as a steward of the ad-industry and, as far as I am concerned, I gladly leave Mr. Ólafsson with his own views on the matter, and willing others with the effort of debating whether the author is to be considered superficially juvenile or bravely rebellious.

What I personally felt as disturbing, and soliciting larger questions around editorial policies, is the expression "Jewish race," if it had been written of Afro-Americans as "niggers" or homosexuality as a "disease", would the "freedom of expression" policy have worked as smoothly? Can't I legitimately assume that, had that been the case, the general principles of political correctness and perhaps some pre-emptive censorship would have been wielded as a shield against the waves of public indignation?

Always yours,
Mr. F

Dear Mr. F,

Thank you for your letter. The merits of Magnús Björn Ólafsson's column, opinions, and arguments could be debated, and coincidentally, this is a fine place for such a debate. So, this is how it goes. It's my policy not to meddle with the writings of opinion writers in the Grapevine. Their opinions are their own, not mine or the Grapevine's, and presented as such. If you want to enter the public forum as an opinion writer, you best make sure that you are ready to stand by what ever you say. Live by the gun, die by the gun as they say. Obviously, I choose the columnist, Magnús Björn included. He was given this venue to exercise his freedom of expression and his columns have created public discussion, which is all I hoped to achieve.

That being said, the pages of the Grapevine are not intended to be a voicepipe for hatespeech or demeaning remarks. I believe that if a columnist stepped out of bounds, using derogatory remarks and slanderous generalisations, I would rather not run the piece then meddle with the writing. I did not regard this particular column to be anti-Semitic, but rather anti-capitalistic. It was critical of advertising, not the Jewish religion, or its practitioners. Perhaps that was a misreading on my behalf. If you were offended by Ólafsson's remarks, I am sorry on a personal level, but I will not apologise for my editorial policies and I cannot apologise on behalf of Magnús Björn Ólafsson. If he feels the need to apologise or retract his words, he will certainly be given every opportunity to do so on the pages of the Grapevine.

By now, I have learned the lesson by heart: "Opinion pieces only reflect the views of those who write them. We do not meddle with them: such they are published as they were written. Freedom of expression and stuff". I commend the policy. Nonetheless, I am left with the

'07

Reykjavík

Clean Energy Capital of The North

Leading the world towards a 100% sustainable energy society

Iceland is the world's leading nation in utilising renewable energy - 72% of Iceland's total energy consumption is from hydro- and geothermal sources. The next step is renewable energy for vehicles:

- **Hydrogen:** World's First Commercial Hydrogen Refuelling Station opened in 2003
- **Biogas:** Produced from Municipal Waste, Biogas is the Cheapest and the Most Environmentally Friendly Fuel available in Iceland
- **Ethanol:** Iceland's first Ethanol cars and E85 fuel were imported in August 2007
- **Electricity:** Iceland's first Plug-in Hybrid car started running in September 2007, able to run up to 50 kilometres on Electricity alone
- **Hybrid Cars:** The President of Iceland and Three Icelandic Cabinet Ministers drive Hybrid Cars

FOLLOW THESE THREE EVENTS

- **The Great Race:** 13 September: 40 different Ecofriendly Cars will race on the streets of Reykjavík, competing in Minimum Emissions, Minimum Energy Consumption and the Least Expensive Fuel. All cars can be seen at the University of Iceland main building at 13:00. 
- **Ecofriendly Cars Exhibition:** 15-17 September: in Perlan -The Pearl- featuring hydrogen, biogas, ethanol, plug-in hybrids and all electric vehicles. Open free of charge from 12:00-17:00.

- **Driving Sustainability:** 17-18 September: First Annual International Conference on Renewable Energy for Vehicles in Reykjavík, Iceland. President of Iceland, Minister of Finance, Minister for the Environment and energy experts from Iceland, USA, France, Sweden, UK and Switzerland will present solutions in sustainable transport.

We're moving ahead,
we just wanted you to know
Enjoy these events,
and the clean air of Iceland

www.driving.is



Reykjavík
PURE ENERGY

Landsbanki

ICELANDAIR



Hressingarskálinn

Hressingarskálinn (Hressó) 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 Hressó heats up with live music. Weekends, DJs keep the party going until morning, with no cover charge.



THE CENTRE
The Official Tourist Information Centre in Reykjavík

Adalstraeti 2 · 101 Reykjavík · Tel +354 590 1550 · info@visitreykjavik.is



No Need to Panic

Text by Sveinn Birkir Björnsson Photo by Gulli

Late September Icelanders can expect the first issue of Monitor, a new magazine dedicated to pop culture. The editor for this new publication is Birgir Órn Steinarsson, former front man for the indie-rock outfit Maus, also known as the solo artist Biggi. A Grapevine journalist sat down with Steinarsson to learn more about what to expect.

So, the first issue of Monitor should hit the streets by the end of this month, what can readers expect? That is, what kind of a magazine is Monitor going to be?

They should expect a magazine about Icelandic pop culture, with the emphasis being on Icelandic. Around 70% of the material is music, and of that around 90% is about Icelandic music. It's an entertainment magazine, and I'm pretty sure most people have an idea what to expect when I say that. There will be good space for in-depth reports and interviews, but there is also space for simple light weight material for everyone. On the web, we will definitely have more space for what's going on internationally, but I don't want the paper to be just news that we've copied up from press releases or translated from the web. I want it to be a credible source, and I want to give the readers a realistic view of the music scene here, devoid of glamour, even if the look of the magazine is quite stylish.

As a musician yourself, how did you get

tangled up in editing a music magazine?

Well, I never planned to be a journalist. I don't even remember considering it as a job option before I was asked to write a page about comic books in Undirtónar. After about 6 months of doing that I was offered a day job writing in a short lived weekly magazine called 24/7. After about 2 months of doing that Morgunblaðið called and offered me to write for them. Then

I was asked to write for Fréttablaðið, which I did with pride because I got a chance to create and build something new. I worked professionally as a journalist for 5 years before moving to London. And while I was there I supported myself by writing music reviews and by interviewing movie stars. When I got back I felt there was a space on the market for a monthly street magazine about pop culture. I used to pick up one in London called The Stool Pigeon whenever I had the chance. Snorri Barón Jónsson, from [The ad-agency] Vatikaníð, felt the same way, and strangely enough he asked me if I wanted the job. I was there to apply for another job I wanted to try out. So I've never applied for a job as a journalist, it's just always come to me.

Will it be hard for you, as a musician, to step into the role of the journalist? Some of the people that will be working for the magazine (Minus drummer Bjössi and rapper Dóri DNA) are also musicians, do you think there is any danger of the people

involved being to close to the scene they are covering?

Too close to the scene? I honestly don't think that's possible, but it doesn't matter anyway because they don't write about the scenes that they are in as musicians. Dóri writes about computer games and Bjössi is writing about the past. As for me, I've always been a musician and a journalist, and I've done OK so far. Maybe it will put some people off my music, but that's not important to me anymore. If people are unable to divide my art from my day job, then that's really their business, not mine. It's not going to stop me making music.

If the music paid for my meals, I wouldn't have to do this job, but unfortunately that's just not the case. And besides, I'm not really a part of the music scene that I want to focus on here. I want to focus on the new generation and what they are doing. Not old indie-farts who have been around for ages, like myself. I get enough exposure elsewhere; this paper will always be a bit more open to upcoming artists, rather than the established ones. If we don't think the artist is doing exciting stuff, he will be ignored rather than slaughtered.

Does that mean that you will handle music coverage by yourself?

Only in the first few issues. I won't be writing music reviews personally, but I will be doing most of the interviews in the first issues, just to set the tone of the direction.

"This is a promise, no one is going to push me to write about something that I don't think belongs in this paper. I'm perfectly capable of making up my own mind and won't be pushed or pigeon-holed."

As a self-described old indie-fart, are you still able to connect with the next generation of musicians, and more importantly, readers?

I'm pretty sure I can. It's not that hard to follow the output of a younger generation, even if you're a bit older. To think otherwise is arrogance. I mean, this is not a big city, and there are not that many outlets for bands to get heard in. So, it's not that much of a hassle to keep an eye out. Plus, we have reviewers and journalists here that are younger than I am. And I've always been a digger; it's in my nature to seek interesting stuff to listen to. And music doesn't really have an age meter anymore. I might joke that I'm an old indie fart, that's just because I've been releasing albums for 13 years. But the truth is that I'm still considered young in the music industry, I'm only 31 for Christ's sake! I started really young. It's not like I'm a 70 year old man, trying to be cool for the youngsters!

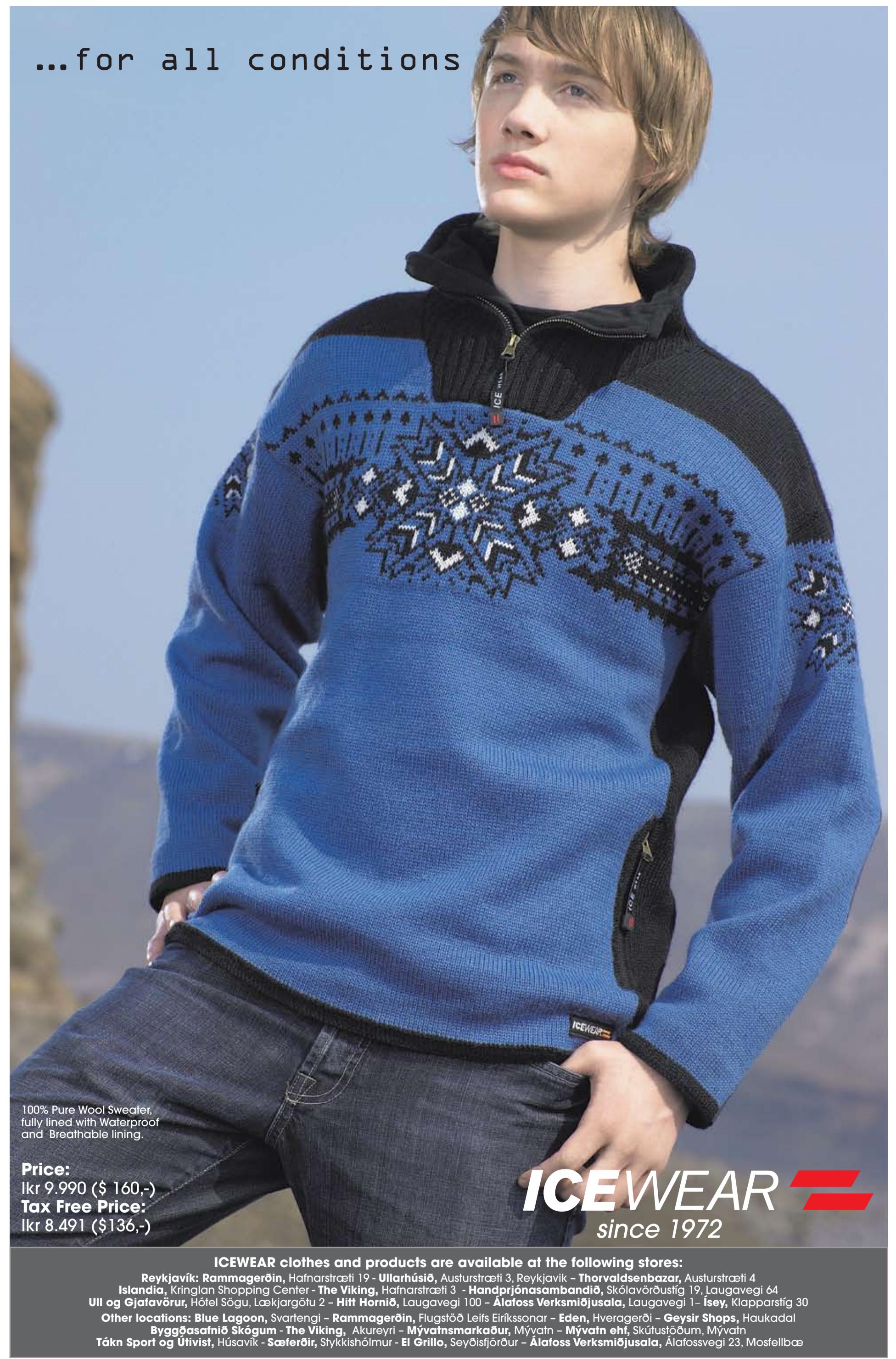
Mónitor will be published by an ad agency (Vatikaníð) which handles ads for Sena, by far the biggest company in Iceland when it comes to recording and selling music, as well as distributing movies and video games, will this make it difficult for you to run an independent editorial policy?

I hope not, if so, then I'm out of there. We've made it very clear to everyone involved what kind of a magazine we want to make. And let's face it. Sena doesn't have a lot of artists at the moment, who fit the criteria. So far, I haven't even heard from them in this process. And I don't even think about who's pressing the music we are covering. My interest is with the artists themselves. Sena is just one of many clients that Vatikaníð has. I don't see how they could possibly get into the position of telling us what to do. Vatikaníð has other clients as well, such as banks, soft drink companies, clothing stores and pizza companies. I don't believe that none of these companies would ever pick up the phone and try to do my job for me. And I don't think anyone in the music industry would be that crazy either. I have a good healthy relationship with the people at Sena, as I do with the people from [the recording labels] 12 tónar or Bad Taste. As an artist I have released albums for all those labels. This is a promise, no one is going to push me to write about something that I don't think belongs in this paper. I'm perfectly capable of making up my own mind and won't be pushed or pigeon-holed, I'm sure all my ex label managers know that by now.

OK, coming from a journalist at a magazine that runs on a similar business model, this might be a strange question, but... Did you ever think that the print medium is dead? I hear the internet is all the rave these days...

No, I don't. And you forget that Monitor isn't just a print medium, it's also going to be a vibrant active entertainment web-site. Personally, I pick up papers and read them. Reading from the paper is just more soothing than reading text from your laptop. And I think what is happening, for magazine publishers, is that the internet is being used as a strainer on what goes to print, and what does not. There is always more space online, but what actually goes to print, is what someone had enough ambition to send to print. This way, the web both becomes a teaser for what is to be found in print, and a way to get more in-depth coverage to the core audience. No need to panic.

...for all conditions



ICEWEAR clothes and products are available at the following stores:

Reykjavík: Rammagerðin, Hafnarstræti 19 - Ullarhúsið, Austurstræti 3, Reykjavík - Thorvaldsenbazar, Austurstræti 4
 Islandia, Kringlan Shopping Center - The Viking, Hafnarstræti 3 - Handþjónasambandið, Skólavörðustíg 19, Laugavegi 64
 Ull og Gjafavörur, Hötel Sögu, Laekjargötu 2 - Hitt Hornið, Laugavegi 100 - Álafoss Verksmiðjusala, Laugavegi 1 - Ísey, Klapparstíg 30
 Other locations: Blue Lagoon, Svartengi - Rammagerðin, Flugstöð Leifs Eiríkssonar - Eden, Hveragerði - Geysir Shops, Haukadal
 Byggðasafnið Skógum - The Viking, Akureyri - Mývatn ehf, Skútustöðum, Mývatn
 Tákn Sport og Útvist, Húsavík - Sæferðir, Stykkishólmur - El Grillo, Seyðisfjörður - Álafoss Verksmiðjusala, Álafossvegi 23, Mosfellbæ

Drífa ehf, Sudurhraun 12 C, 210 Gardabaer, Iceland, Tel +354-555 7400, Fax +354-555 7401, icewear@icewear.is



Confessions of an Art-Terrorist

Text by Sveinn Birkir Björnsson Photo by Gulli

Few Icelandic musicians remain as active as former Peyr, KUKL and Sugarcubes drummer Sigtryggur Baldursson. Wherever two musicians come together to play music, it seems destined that he will join them soon to bang the drums. Sigtryggur has played with so many different acts that it is nearly impossible to keep track. A Grapevine journalist sat down with this productive musician and discussed his past, leading up to the Sugarcubes. At a later date, we will bring you another installment, where we find out what happened post-Sugarcubes.

bug, listened to some old be-bop, and tried to imitate drummers like Max Roach, although I don't think I could play jazz to save my life. But there was a certain revolution in the years after 1980, when the British post-punk wave started, Joy Division, Killing Joke and Siouxsie and the Banshees and all those cool British bands. I was never much into punk, but the post-punk hit me right in the heart. Musically, it was so much more interesting. The punk was more raw expression, fast and loud.

Peyr recorded something with Killing Joke if I remember correctly.

Yes, [singer] Jaz Coleman came to Iceland with [guitarist] Geordie, and they wanted to form a band here and Coleman wanted me to join them. [Reportedly, Killing Joke members were deeply immersed in the works of the occultist Aleister Crowley and relocated to Iceland in 1982 to survive the impending Apocalypse, predicted by Coleman from his reading of Crowley's work. After a few months, when the Apocalypse failed to materialise, Killing Joke returned to the UK.]

That didn't happen though?

No, I just didn't trust him. He was obviously crazy. Although I was young and stupid, I was not that young and stupid. I just could not trust the guy. Not that Peyr was a particularly trustworthy company either. Peyr was a very strange band. Very creative, but a wonderfully dysfunctional family.

Peyr has been rediscovered in a way lately. I've recently seen at least two polls I think, where Rúdolf [Peyr's biggest hit] was selected as the best Icelandic rock song.

Yes, this band's original and creative and the songs have aged well. Better than a lot of other stuff from this era. We were experimental and tried new things. We always tried to push the limit. It is the old cliché really, being in the right place at the right time. This was a group of a few individuals who met under the right circumstances. We did not necessarily always get along too well, but creatively, we exploded. We, and people around us, had a lot of expectations for this band. We were going to be world famous in an instant, which was probably unrealistic, and the cooperation soured a bit when those expectations were not met.

There was a lot of structure around the band; we created a corporation around the band along with others, called Eskifar, which played creative and interesting music. The last episode was performed live and it was a big event. We were asked to collaborate for the show and we performed six songs, or pieces, as we called them. After that, we kept

house of cards really. When Peyr didn't become famous within one year, the whole house of cards came crumbling down, and all of a sudden we found ourselves in large debt. Mostly, this was just stupidity and inexperience at work. I was just 18 when this happened. Thinking back, we were colossally stupid, but it was also very creative.

But the band did come close to a breakthrough.

Yes, we could have pursued this further. But there was a falling out between certain members of the organisation and after that, things kind of fell apart. Everyone went off in another direction.

Peyr was a pretty political band, wasn't it?

Well, yes, we were shooting our mouths off, each in their own way. Partly, it was just the atmosphere at the time. But many of the lyrics were great. There was a lot of anger. We came out of this post-punk wave where people were angry. But I have always said that I was never an angry young man. I was more into experimenting with music. I regarded myself as an artist. It was not until much later that I became political. But, I can't say that I ever took this for a political band. We expressed a lot of different shit; it was open season on fascism and Margaret Thatcher, so yes there were some issues that we tried to deal with.

But, let's put it this way; our political consciousness was not very high. We yelled something, but I don't think any one of us could have discussed our political opinions in a coherent manner. We were just provoking people and felt that it was our role to make people to realise their hypocrisy and numbness. Just like young people do.

When Peyr broke up, you went on to join KUKL, or what?

Yes, KUKL was formed as a super group really. [The group consisted of Sigtryggur and Peyr guitarist Guðlaugur Óttarson, Purkurr Pilnir vocalist Einar Órn, Einar Melax, keyboard player from Medúsa, Singer Björk Guðmundsdóttir, from Tappi Tikarass, and Sigtryggur's old friend Birgir Mogensen, then with Spilafiffi; Sigtryggur, Einar Órn, Einar Melax and Björk would go on to form the Sugarcubes]. It was actually formed to perform on the last episode of a groundbreaking radio show called Áfangar,

which played creative and interesting music. The last episode was performed live and it was a big event. We were asked to collaborate for the show and we performed six songs, or pieces, as we called them. After that, we kept

"Mostly, this was just stupidity and inexperience at work. I was just 18 when this happened. Thinking back, we were colossally stupid, but it was also very creative."

working together. Einar Órn was studying in England, so this was partly a long-distance collaboration, but this allowed him to create contacts in England that would later stretch beyond KUKL, such as Derek Birkett, from the punk band Flux of Pink Indians which KUKL later toured with. He would later establish [the Sugarcubes and Björk's] record label One Little Indian. Most of these people were connected to the label Crass Records. Crass was a very political punk label in the UK, formed by the band Crass, which an anarchist punk band. This was an institution of its own. They published a lot of anarchist reading material, magazines and books. It was a very energetic group. This was very hardcore.

So, there you are again, the artist, surrounded by politics.

Oh yes, but I never viewed KUKL as a political band. We were rather trying to make new music, something that we wanted to hear, but didn't hear anywhere else. Our politics was more radical on a personal level. We were more of an artistic group than a political band. We wrote manifestos and published some reading material on leaflets, and speeches on science and so on. But I was just more involved with gluing up posters. I was more interested in the music, rather than the message. Of course, everything was about the message at the time. Everybody was on a mission, and we were on a mission to make revolutionary music, which we thought it was. When I listen to it today, it is very hardcore, it was a take no prisoners approach, we just stormed ahead. If we thought something sounded similar to something we had heard before, we would throw it out. We kept this work ethic when we later formed the Sugarcubes. When we formed the Sugarcubes, we were forming a band with a certain concept. The original concept was to make fun of pop music. Make pop music on our terms.

It must have been hell for the band then, when you suddenly became a world famous pop band?

Yes, in a way. We had been touring around the UK with KUKL, and played in Europe, and we managed to create some cult following in certain groups. We had been playing with [influential German industrial band] Einstürzende Neubauten and so on. That collaboration ended in 1986. Then we had been working with the Medúsa group, which was a band/artistic/poetry group, which KUKL's Einar Melax was a part of, along with Pór Eldon, Sjón and others. People from these two groups met informally at Björk's [and then partner] Pór Eldon's house, and we started doing different things. One of the things we did was to form Bad Taste, which was supposed to be an umbrella company for all our other exploits – music and poetry, visual arts and literature, where we wanted to promote tasteless things. Music was by no means a priority for us. But we decided that it would be necessary to form a pop group to make some money to fund other operations of our art-terrorism company, because that is what we considered this to be, art-terrorism, aimed at common sense and tastefulness. But, soon after the Sugarcubes started to draw attention, we had to decide if we wanted to take this all the way as a band, and doing that on our own terms. It was always the main point, that we could do this on our own terms. Björk still runs her career based on that principle. But the 'Cubes became famous, and that caused a completely new set of problems. I had to stop working and became a professional musician.

Special offer



Discounts on day tours

- ▶ 5% discount for 1 daytour
- ▶ 10% discount for 2 daytours
- ▶ 15% discount for 3 daytours

Tours must be purchased at Reykjavík Excursions

sales offices: BSI Bus Terminal, Radisson SAS Hotel Saga, Icelandair Hotel Nordica, Icelandair Hotel Loftleidir.



**Reykjavík
Excursions**
KYNNISFERÐIR

Booking phone: Tel: (+354) 562 1011 www.re.is e-mail: main@re.is



WINNER

Egils Lite was awarded the gold medal at the 2007 and 2006 Monde Selection, as well as the gold award at the 2006 World Beer Cup and the bronze award at the 2006 European Beer Star.

Now available on tap.



For Hrafn Gunnlaugsson There Really is No Place like Home

Text by Gabriele R. Guðbjartsson Photo by Gulli

"I'm like a raven, I collect things," Icelandic film director Hrafn Gunnlaugsson says of his seaside hidden abode. As an observer, the house at Laugarnestangi 65 can easily be mistaken for an eclectic museum, an offshore eatery or an enormous unfinished sculpture. Like so many artists, Gunnlaugsson has a vision for his anomalous haven – a living, breathing display of history, his travels, family, nature and above all, recyclable materials. It's simply not enough to observe; only active participants are allowed in this bizarre existence that Gunnlaugsson calls home.

The gravel road leading up to the house lingers for a bit, almost insisting that there is nothing to see. However, with a slight look to the left a luscious natural habitat for a flush of ducks cordially presents itself through its unassuming entry way. To the right, a handful of eclectic sculptures are randomly dispersed among the tall uninhabited blades. "I like to direct nature," Gunnlaugsson says jokingly about his horticultural skills. Given the jungle-like gardening concept, the greenery is wild and grows without boundaries or control. A massive raven, acting as the knight for his castle, perches regally on the single branch protruding from an enormous caramel coloured stone.

According to Gunnlaugsson, there are 160 massive stones scattered around the extensive property, collected as souvenirs from various locations around the country. "Some people come to Iceland and go whale watching because they want to see a whale; instead they get a flicker in the water. They're more likely to see an elf behind one of these stones than a whale in the ocean." As a proud endorser of the Icelandic folklore of elves inhabiting large mounds of stones throughout the country, Gunnlaugsson also respects the past life of the land itself. Once occupied by a hospital, a cemetery, the barracks of the British Army during World War II and the burial site of an Icelandic feminist icon, the property is rich in history. When Gunnlaugsson purchased the land thirty years ago, he not only wanted to give it new life, he also wanted to preserve its past existence as well.

The Raven's Nest

Much like an amusement park attraction, the first image of the house exudes an intentional playfulness that sets the tone for the rest of the tour. A geometric iron sculpture (a memento from an old World War II ship) decorates the outside walls resembling elements of the solar system including crescent moons and orbiting spheres. The colour scheme is not shy, vibrantly articulated in shades of red, yellow, white, turquoise and a rustic orange. The patio or balcony, made only of rusted iron, connotes a love that Gunnlaugsson has for heavy materials that have stood the test of time.

"First I get the material and then I become friends with it," says Gunnlaugsson on his methods for designing. Unlike the excruciatingly neat harbour that runs along the downtown coastline, his private shoreline is raw and unpolished – left the way nature intended. His hobby of garnering things materialises with a stone chimney left by the British Army resting happily on the rocks,

a deserted chicken coup nestling in the bushes and a lengthy storage shack covered in numerous masks detailing his travels from the deep waters of the Amazon to the roots of Madagascar. After completing the tour of the surrounding area, it was time to step inside the three-level dwelling that shows a personal side to this bearer of all things.

Upon entering the thirteen-door complex, it is clear that the ground level is absent of walls, forcing guests to take it all in at once. To the left, the dining room – a glass gazebo elegantly adorned in redwood furniture made in Vienna by a missle specialist more than a decade ago. A golden, ceiling-high, a-line shaped heating unit warms up a cosy corner of the living room while a cushy, seventies-style chair hangs listlessly from a wooden plank. Black and white photographs of Gunnlaugsson's family play an important role in this mosaic space as he stops to introduce each member by revealing their relationship and occupation. The kitchen, made of smooth, oak countertops is cluttered with glasses and an array of antique collectibles. On the walls and ceilings are canvas paintings of ravens, copies and reproductions of Monet, Van Gogh and Gauguin, and most importantly handcrafted masterpieces from his children in their early years. A wooden spiral staircase delivers you into a sea of books and films gathered and used for reference over the years.

The second level is small and private, only occupied by two bedrooms and a bathroom. Gunnlaugsson's bedroom is dark with the back wall reserved for a film screen. An array of angels with unusual faces align the crown moulding, as he adds, "If I see an angel that looks like former Prime Minister, David Oddsson, I buy it." The underground level feels essentially like a large cave composed of a hot pot that meanders out to the harbour rocks, a dry and wet sauna, a quaint little gym, a spare bedroom and a hole where Gunnlaugsson likes to dig when he gets depressed. Like any work of art, this home continuously evolves and has no intentions of completion.

At a time where every corner in Reykjavík is consumed with construction and cookie cutter modernisation, Gunnlaugsson's hideaway offers a breath of rarity. On the whole, the perfect nest for the bird that has to have it all.

Much like an amusement park attraction, the first image of the house exudes an intentional playfulness that sets the tone for the rest of the tour.

Restingmind Concerts and Hið Íslenska Tröllavinafélag proudly present:

THE FINNISH TROLLS ARE COMING!



THE KINGS OF FOLKMETAL
ARE COMING TO ICELAND
TO PLAY TWO
CONCERTS IN
REYKJAVÍK!



Grand Rokk

SATURDAY

15. SEPTEMBER 07

FINNTROLL

SÓLSTAFIR

DREP

TRASSAR

AGE LIMIT 20 YEARS

DOORS OPEN 21:30, STARTS 22:30

TICKETS: 1500 KR

**TICKET ADVANCE SALES AT: GRAND ROKK, GEISLADISKABÚD VALDA
AND HLJÓDHÚSID SELFOSSI**



TROLLHAMMAREN



SUNDAY

16. SEPTEMBER 07

FINNTROLL

SEVERED CROTCH

ASK THE SLAVE

DUST CAP

ALL AGES

DOORS OPEN 18:00, STARTS 18:30

TICKETS: 1500 KR

Buy directly from the people who make them



The Handknitting Association of Iceland

- Mini Mall IDA, IDA
Lækjargata 2, IDA
Open every day 10-22
- Laugavegur 64
562 1890
- Radisson SAS,
Hôtel SAGA
tel.: 552 1890
- Skólavörðustígur 19
Opening hours see www.handknit.is



NEW GREEN GROLSCH BOTTLE
BEER THAT LOOKS AS GOOD AS IT TASTES

Grolsch
PREMIUM PILSNER

Grolsch

12_RVK_GV_14_2007_OPINION

How Did You Like Iceland?

Text by Chandler Fredrick

I The other day I was flipping through Hugleikur Dagsson's "Avoid Us," the English translation of the one-line Icelandic comics put out by the publishing giant Penguin. I was inspired by a recent conversation with a friend of mine when he asked me to wrangle down and define Icelandic humour. At first I tried to tell him it was like Arrested Development, only meaner. Sarcastic, quick, witty, with lots of references to famous Icelanders who made asses of themselves in the '80s. The next day I found the book and we rolled a good-sized joint on the big, acid-trip green lawns of my little American liberal arts college. I showed him a few of the Hugleikur comics. Some he laughed at, others he found so morbid that they nearly made him retch. As even the most hard-stomached Icelanders will tell you, this is a pretty typical response.

Then we came to one comic in which an American astronaut has just landed on the moon; craters are all over the place. The astronaut looks back at the Earth, with the Americas (almost allegorically) in full view, and says "wow... I am so not going back there." It seemed familiar. It was something that I had said myself, going 120 kilometres per hour on the ring road just outside of Reykjavík, in an area with mossy, lava formations that so closely resembled craters they just had to be lunar. It was raining; ethereal music was blasting so loudly on my friend's car stereo that the speakers started hot-potatoing the noise. Sure it was sentimental as all get-out, but when the thought of going back to the U.S. chose that moment to haunt me, the response only seemed natural. "I am so not going back there."

II When I first came to Iceland, it had nothing to do with Björk and everything to do with coffee table books sporting standard titles like "Beautiful Earth" and "Strange Places." Nearly every time I found myself looking at a picture and asking "What the fuck is THAT thing?" it had some name like Ásbyrgi, Jökulsárlón, or Mývatn. "Iceland is a place of natural beauty and splendour." So I did my reading, talked to friends who had been before. I even bought into the Icelandic elf-people, Bangkok-of-the-north BS.

Of course, within the first hour I decidedly hated the country. This was because after nearly 20 hours of travel my friend and I were immediately issued a thorough search by the customs officers at Keflavík international. The adorable little black lab had wagged his tail at the smell of my friend's left pocket, a usual pocket for pot storage and we found ourselves countering accusations that we were trying to smuggle amphetamines for nearly an hour, watching the officers go through our stuff and responding to questions that were spoken in the most unclear English I have yet to hear in Iceland. Ironic that it should come from Customs officers.

But, to be fair, I never would have got the opportunity for my internship if it hadn't been for that irritating event. I hate to say this, but it seemed fated. Because of that hour-long search, we arrived into Reykjavík from the Flybus just in time to catch the Foghorns, whose lead singer, Bart Cameron, was the editor of the Grapevine at the time. After telling some friendly Kaffi Hljómalind vegetarians that I wanted to go into publishing as a career (how strange, I thought, a country where total strangers want to know your life aspirations within minutes of meeting you), I was introduced to Bart, a particularly hard Michiganer who seemed to come with an attached gaggle of Icelandic literati. A few minutes later, I picked my balls up off the floor and asked him if he could use an American intern for the summer of 2007. "Sure," he said, "I won't be editor then, but send us some writing and we'll see what we can do."

III Which brought me to the BSI bus terminal at around 7 o'clock AM on May 21, 2007, a gruelling and anticipatory 10 months since my last visit to Iceland. I found a payphone in the terminal, tried three or four times

WWW.GRAPEVINE.IS

News // Culture // Dining // Travelling // Shopping

before I could actually figure out how to insert krónur, finally reached the low, grumbling voice of the editor Sveinn Birki Björnsson.

"Hello?"

"Hi. Um. My name is Chandler Fredrick. I'm here for my internship."

"What?"

"Chandler. You know, the guy from America. The intern."

"ugggggggggggggggggggg."

"Please tell me you remembered that you have an intern coming."

"It's early"

"I know. Can you come pick me up?"

It was an unofficial start to an unofficial internship. "Unofficial" in that sense of spontaneous fun. I just wasn't prepared for an internship with Random House. For the first two weeks, I camped out on the living room floor of advertising king Adalsteinn Jorundsson, who would not only teach me how to drink and dine Icelandically (that is, too much vodka and too many hot dogs), but would become my misanthropic and Icelandic counterpart.

I was so impressionable in the beginning. I had violent opinions about everything Icelandic. "Iceland is an alcoholic country," I thought, "The people here are beautiful, but they all look the same – don't they ever worry about inbreeding?" "What's the deal with the Sirkus queue?" "Why aren't they nicer to the Polish?" "10 bucks for a fucking beer?" Eventually, I found that my attitude was alienating me.

I should add that my first assignment was to review a Björk album.

It was as if my friends at the Grapevine were prepared for my immediate distaste for their country. In effect, they set me up on dates with Iceland. They set me up with candlelit dinners at the fancy Vin og Skel, rafting trips on the gorgeous Hvítá, last minute shows with FM Belfast and Motion Boys. Amiina taught me how to shiver a spine using just a saw and a violin bow. I even got to sample a one-day cod fishing trip that made up for nearly 3 months of life without exercise. The Grapevine taught me to love her, mother Iceland. On a drive around the country she posed and she posed and finally I gave up the criticism, the accusations of American consumerism. In the very end we consummated on a sheep far in the East Fjords, and I bought her a 10-dollar beer at a little pub in Höfn, thinking nothing of price.

I came back to the U.S. in mid-August to a national heat wave, talk of the rotting U.S. infrastructure (just a week before my return, a primary Minneapolis bridge collapsed and killed several people) and an upcoming election in which an L. Ron Hubbard-embracing Mormon is a strong candidate. It's funny. They tell you your whole life that you'll only truly love America after having lived in a foreign country.

Chandler Fredrick hails from Oregon, USA. He spent the summer in Iceland as an editorial intern at the Reykjavík Grapevine.

I was so impressionable in the beginning. I had violent opinions about everything Icelandic. "Iceland is an alcoholic country," I thought, "The people here are beautiful, but they all look the same – don't they ever worry about inbreeding?"

ICELANDIC DESIGN

FOR THOSE WHO DARE!

HÚFUR SEM HLÆJA

SKÓGAR • THE SETTLEMENT CENTRE
THE BLUE LAGOON • EDEN • GEYSIR • GULLFOSS
LEIFUR EIRÍKSSON AIR TERMINAL • THE VIKING • ÚTILÍF

www.hsh.efh.is

Skólavörðustígur 18

PJÓÐLEIKHÚSID

On all Stages of Life
The National Theatre of Iceland

New Icelandic plays. Contemporary plays by exciting European playwrights. Icelandic musicals for the whole family. Classical works with a new twist. Plays for ages ranging from 9 months. Joy. Politics. Dark humour. Disco. Melancholy. Adventures. Laughter. Punk. Love and hate and everything else that matters... Join us this winter!

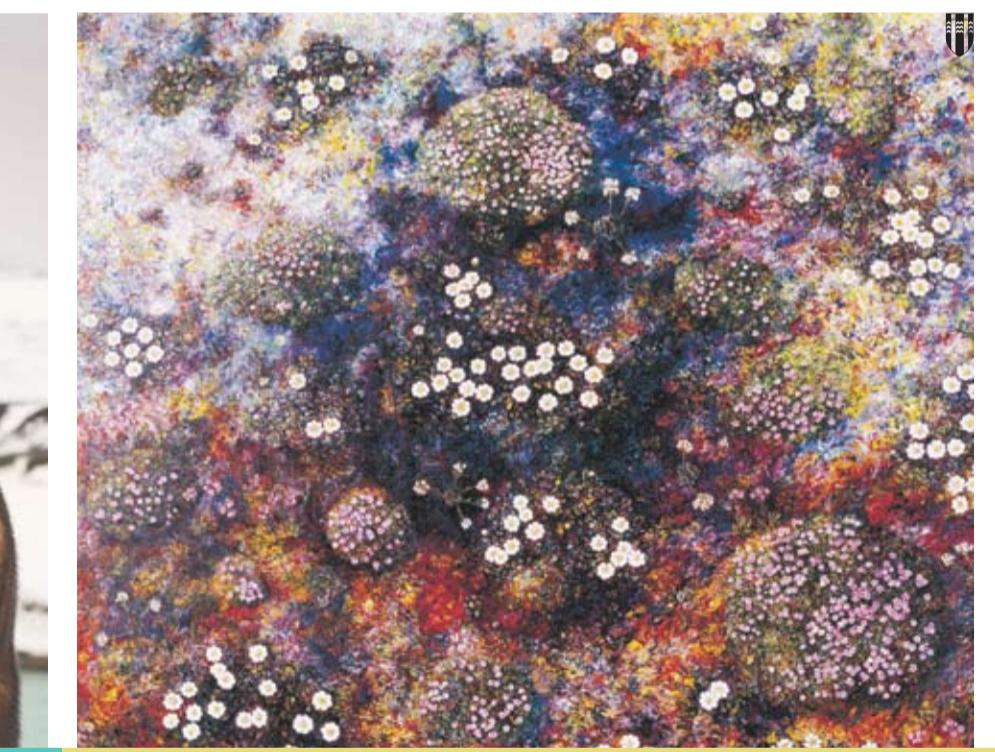
Find out more on our website: www.leikhuisid.is



Gjörningaklúbburinn

Hafnarhús

GLITNIR



Eggert Pétursson

Kjarvalsstaðir

Landsbankinn





Kjölfur by Bike – Part Two

Text and photos by Róbert H. Haraldsson

I wake up in this sublime world worrying. I can't help it. I keep looking to the sky for signs of more rain, estimating the chance that the winds will continue to work against me. Instead of resting in the holy land - a friend calls Hvitárnes a mountain church - I peddle on. Today's sketchy plan says 85 kilometres, across the interior, to a mountain Café at Áfangafell.

Backtracking to road F35, and confirming my slow average speed, I begin to pray for clear skies and more favourable winds. Slowly the sun comes out and the wind turns, coming from an easterly direction. A sidewind in the sun is a different ball game altogether from a headwind in the rain. For a tailwind, I simply do not dare to ask. Cycling between Hofsjökull and Langjökull, through the valley called Kjölfur, floating effortlessly in warm air, praising the creator, I begin to sink into myself until I'm nearly brought to tears. I can find no obvious reason for this, but later tell myself it's because of how small you feel in nature revealed, a cycling bug, really, amid sleeping giants.

A white jeep from Björgunarsveitin, an Icelandic rescue team, stops and the driver greets me. I ask him how far it is to Hveravellir. Before he has a chance to answer I say: "By my estimation it should be about 40 kilometres." He looks at a white note pad with some handwritten numbers, turns to me and then double checks. "It's 42 kilometres," he says. A deep sense of satisfaction envelops me.

Hofsjökull

These 42 kilometres turn out to be the hardest ones I have cycled in my life. My body is ready - a year long training with up to 165 kilometre day tours is paying off - but it's a hard mental struggle. And it takes the form of a battle with the glorious glacier Hofsjökull. I set myself the goal of cycling past Hofsjökull before declaring victory. Somehow the fact that Hofsjökull is nearly the size of the mighty Langjökull has escaped me. The glacier itself is partly to blame for my error. It doesn't spread out all over the

place like Langjökull, but calmly sits there in the middle of our land with its tail curled deep under its own belly. It can't be that much of a problem to cycle past the beast, I think, and the weather is favourable.

But cycling past Hofsjökull's west side turns out to be anything but easy. The serpentine road winds dry and grey through brown hills, each slightly higher than the one before it. You can see three or four of them at a time. If only you can make it past the highest hill yonder you'll see past the glorious Hofsjökull, you think, only to discover three or four more hills forming the same devilish pattern. This goes on for hours.

The huge rocks in the sand turn out to be a good place to dry your socks and shirts, and have a slice of lirfrárysa, svíðasulta and some cheese. A Czech couple, who pulls over

when, fixing a puncture in the South of Iceland earlier this summer, I was unable to find the hole in the tube. "You sink deep into yourself when you are alone in the interior highland of Iceland," Lawrence says "and if there isn't anyone to pull you up you just keep on sinking." He looks at me and adds: "I have often been brought to tears on those trips, Robert." The sun has peeled some skin of Lawrence's nose and cheekbones and he could easily pass for an Icelandic farmer.

We talk for hours and when Lawrence learns that this is my first trip over Kjölfur on a bike he becomes quite jovial. He tells me this is a unique place in all of Europe - this place I have right here in my backyard. "You'll be so proud to have cycled over the island," he tells me. "Not many people have done that."

As we talk that evening and over breakfast next morning, I realise that Lawrence is moved to have found a native cyclist who might one day come to share his love and enthusiasm for Iceland. I tell him about my intense dislike of leaving the tiniest scrap of trash in the highland

I begin to sink into myself until I'm nearly brought to tears. I can find no obvious reason for this, but later tell myself it's because of how small you feel in nature revealed, a cycling bug, really, amid sleeping giants.



interior. He has no difficulty understanding this. He had an incident last week himself when he was forced to run after a plastic bag for nearly a half a mile somewhere north of Vatnajökull. When he finally got hold of it he was too tired to walk back to the bike and had to lie down and rest for a while. "Should you pick up another man's trash?" I ask him. "Oh, you pick it up," Lawrence says, "Leaving it is the same as throwing it away yourself." I've an arsenal stocked with clever arguments I think I could use to refute Lawrence on this point, but my experience today silences me. Morality has precious little to do with cleverness.

Macbeth in the Highlands

It turns out that we both love Macbeth, and like to quote from the play, and Great Expectations and share a dislike for intoxicated people. Lawrence tells me about this guy who puked all over the camping ground in Akureyri last night. He stands up and imitates the intoxicated fellow extending his neck, like an ostrich, carefully placing a mouthful of vomit between tents and on tents and finally into his own tent. I tell Lawrence a story of two motorcyclists I shared a cabin with on Norróna last summer. They had warned me they liked to drink and politely asked whether

Lawrence knows all there is to know about cycling in mountainous areas and has, no doubt, spotted the flaws in my preparation. But he is nice about it and doesn't bring these flaws to my attention - except once when it proves necessary. Since we met he had been giving me increasingly less subtle hints

about the chain on my bike - "when your chain shines you need to oil it" he had said a number of times - but when we are ready to leave the next morning and I still haven't got it, he says with slight theatricality which seems alien to his nature: "Now, Robert, here, for example, is a chain that needs oiling." He then helps me oiling the chain, carefully placing a drop on each link while counting them. He tells me that what is left of F35 is easy, an anti-climax really, but that a major elevation (500 meters) awaits me shortly after coming back to highway one. He hands me a banana which is left over from our breakfast at this plain but excellent mountain Café.

- I'm to eat it before climbing the steep hill and he pleads with me to take the bus from Varmahlið to Akureyri. I'll be deeply irritated by highway one after Kjölfur and there are no shoulders for cyclists on the roads in the North. Arriving at Varmahlið exactly three days after leaving Reykjavík, I decide to follow Lawrence's advice. My pride has been growing steadily since I came down from the highland and cycled into Blöndudalur with its farms on each side of the river Blanda. I love the increasing smell of cow dung in the air. I stop to watch horses grazing in a field on a sloping hill close to a farmhouse. I count them

Róbert H. Haraldsson is a 47 year old University teacher who has recently taken up cycling. The first half of Haraldsson's story was printed in the last issue (13) of the Reykjavík Grapevine and is available at www.grapevine.is.

"Should you pick up another man's trash?" I ask him. "Oh, you pick it up," Lawrence says, "leaving it is the same as throwing it away yourself."

Breakfast special

Cappuccino + bagle + yoghurt = 650 kr.

roma Rauðarárstígur 8



Underestimating Mother Nature

Many travellers fail to follow simple safety guidelines. Some of them don't even believe us when they are told that the areas can be dangerous and the weather can suddenly change."

Text by Steinunn Jakobsdóttir
Photos by Hlynur Stefánsson

Iceland's wilderness draws thousands of local and foreign travellers each year. According to statistics from the Icelandic Tourist Board, approximately 400,000 tourists visited the country in 2006, a number that increases annually. The country's unspoiled nature and vast uninhabited highland areas attract hikers like a large bag of candy attracts children. But the Icelandic nature can be unfriendly to its visitors, and no one should underestimate that fact. Too many serious, even fatal, accidents offer a convincing testimony otherwise.

Last May, an American woman drowned in Reynisfjara beach when the strong waves grabbed her on the shore and pulled her out into the ocean. She never made it back to shore alive. Last year, a German traveller died when he was exploring an ice cave in Hrafninnusker. The cave collapsed and he didn't make it out again. In 2004, an Israeli lost his life hiking the popular Laugavegur trail. He didn't follow instructions and never made it back to the trail. The most recent incident has been covered widely in the local media due to extensive rescue operations. It involves two German mountaineers who arrived in Iceland in August to hike up Vatnajökull glacier. They never returned.

Tourists Gone Missing
The news of the German mountain climbers was a painful reminder of how unpredictable Iceland's

weather and wilderness can be. The men have been missing since August 17, when they didn't return to Reykjavík for their flight back to Germany.

With little information of their whereabouts, except for a tent found at the foot of Sínafellsjökull glacier, (a sub-glacier of Vatnajökull), a large team of experienced rescue workers headed to the glacier to search for the hikers. As the pictures above indicate, the visibility on the glacier was very limited, with large crevasses only metres apart. It had started to snow and the dangerous area was hard to cross. Under extremely difficult circumstances, rescue workers risked their lives and hiked up the glacier day after day. The Coast Guard helicopter swept the area repeatedly and police authorities asked everyone who could give any information to report back. The search was unsuccessful.

Rescue workers have speculated that the men were probably unaware of the harsh conditions facing them on the glacier before they headed off. They might even have read travel instructions on the Internet that didn't apply to the late-summer season. This time of year, walking up the glacier isn't only a difficult route but an extremely dangerous one. The glacier is slippery and large crevasses, up to 60 metres deep, make the icecap almost impossible to cross.

It was only a few days after the Germans were reported missing that an Israeli woman travelling alone in the nearby Kverkfjöll area got lost. Thankfully, before she set off the woman told the staff at Sigurðarskáli cabin about her planned trip and when she expected to be back. When she didn't return on time, Arna Ósp Magnúsdóttir, a ranger working at the cabin, went looking for her. She found the woman in Hveragil ravine in the Kverkfjöll Mountains the next day.

The woman left the cabin on Friday and as I understood it, she had all the equipment needed for the trip and seemed experienced. She planned to walk to Hveragil and return at noon the next day. When she didn't show up, I became a bit worried and called 112 [the emergency hotline] that same night. The next day I went looking for her myself. I found her on Sunday. She had lost her way on Friday and hadn't tried to find the road back," Magnúsdóttir explains and tells me that the woman was safe but pretty scared and upset. She had stayed in her tent the whole time but had no idea where she was. She had left her compass in the cabin and didn't know how to read the map.

Hope For the Best, Prepare For the Worst
Baldursdóttir, and several guides the Grapevine spoke

"It was really pure luck that I found her at that time," Magnúsdóttir adds.

Tourists Overestimating Their Powers

These two recent examples beg the question whether travellers are well enough informed before they set off for challenging trips around the country. Guides, rangers and rescue workers who spend months in the highlands every year have stressed that tourists don't take enough precaution.

Far too many examples show that tourists who travel off the beaten track tend to run into terrifying ordeals if they underestimate the rugged landscape, unfriendly weather and road conditions. With no telephone connection and bad equipment, many of them don't realise that in case of trouble, they might end up waiting for hours, even days, for rescue. Many of them overestimate their capability, sense of direction and survival skills and aren't prepared for unpredictable circumstances. Eventually, they can find themselves in life-threatening situations, which could easily have been prevented with the right preparation and a little rational thinking. In the meantime, local rescue workers spend night and day searching for missing hikers around the country, a task similar to looking for a needle in a haystack.

Landsbjörn, the Association of Icelandic Rescue Teams, counts about 100 rescue teams and more than 3,000 active members located throughout the country, all of whom are volunteers, specialised in search and rescue on land and sea.

"This summer has been similar to the past few years regarding emergency calls to Landsbjörn, but the number of calls has increased steadily in recent years," explains Ólöf Snæhólm Baldursdóttir, Public Relations Officer at Landsbjörn. The summer months, once the rescue team's slow season, is now the busiest time of year. This can mostly be explained by the growing number of tourists.

For tourists unfamiliar with the territory, gathering the right information and following the advice of those more experienced can be a matter of life and death. Still, a number of tourists don't take the time to study the areas beforehand or listen to warnings, Baldursdóttir tells me. Some even head for the mountains wearing only sneakers, jeans and a light jacket.

You don't need to be small vehicle can cause a wide glacier rivers, even on many drivers. Most of the time in passing rivers, surface confused, they go slowly and steadily, the first full-speed into the river. T

info.

▲ Private Exhibitions at Safn Old Movie Classics The Lost Children of Afghanistan Kimono in Concert The Tom Selleck Competition Extraordinary Children Literature Festival Franz Ferdinand Interview Food Reviews Shopping Music, Art, Films and Events Listings ▲



(ilc) B6

Icelandic Love Corporation
exhibits at Reykjavík Art Museum.



Safn – Sept 1 - Oct 7

Private Exhibitions at Safn

Safn has opened up three new private exhibitions featuring the work of three artists, Sigurður Guðjónsson, Huginn Þór Arason, and Tony Trehy.

Guðjónsson works primarily with video and photography installations. He has similarly worked extensively with music in his video-work, and began his career in the death-metal band Cranium. In Guðjónsson's video-work, the camera is at eye-level and travels at human speed, giving the viewer a sort of peeping feeling that is at once grotesque and raw. Guðjónsson's work is introspective and does not rely on clear story-lines, but rather allows the viewer to understand through self-reflection. His exhibition at Safn includes two video-

installations that have never been shown in Iceland before, Bleak, and Deathbed, both from 2006. He will also be showing still-photography from his previous video-exhibits and works in progress.

Thirty-one-year-old Huginn Þór Arason uses a wide range of media for his work, such as performance, painting, drawing and sculpture pieces, which he has made from pizzas, Play-Doh, and cotton. Arason creates new worlds with his exhibitions, where he attempts to weave together childish forms that resemble objects from everyday life. With his work he hopes to shed light on behavioural tendencies, personal taste and everyday decisions. Arason's work at Safn includes clay-work,

olfactory-sculptures, photographic drawings, and recycled paintings.

Tony Trehy is a British poet and stage manager who resides in Manchester England. For the past few years he has worked at turning his poetry into graphic and visual experiences for his readers/audience. After visiting Reykjavík in 2006, Trehy began work on the text-project "Reykjavík" where he uses the language of math and the many aspects of geometry, as well as geology, philosophy and art to create a proposal for a lyrical system that deals with the space and semiotics of the city.

Safn, Laugavegur 37, www.safn.is

Bæjarbió Movie Theatre – Ongoing

Old Movie Classics Every Week

For the past years, the Bæjarbió movie theatre, located in Hafnarfjörður, has played host to a different kind of film entertainment than commonly offered by the city's many cinemas. The National Film Archive of Iceland, celebrating its 30th anniversary next year, has used the old movie theatre to present old classics and masterpieces twice a week and only charges 500 ISK for the ticket. The Film Archive's extensive collection features films by world-renowned directors. This year's programme includes films

by Ingmar Bergman and Michelangelo Antonioni, who both passed away this year, as well as Charlie Chaplin's 'Dictator' and Henry Levin's 'A Journey to the Centre of Earth'. The fall programme kicks off with Bergman's movies 'Sasom i Ett Spegel' and 'Nätvärdsstäerna'. Screenings are on Tuesdays at 20:00 and Saturdays at 16:00. For the full programme visit: www.kvikmyndasafn.is

Bæjarbió Movie Theatre, Strandgata 6, 220 Hafnarfjörður



Reykjavík Museum of Photography – Until Oct 24

The Lost Children of Afghanistan

Interesting photographs by Native American photographer Dante are currently on display at the Reykjavík Museum of Photography. Entitled 'The Lost Children of Afghanistan,' the exhibition displays photos that document the lives of children in Afghanistan and show the children's everyday life, which is and has been affected by the turbulence of war. Dante currently lives and works in Reykjavík but lived in Afghanistan

some years back. He says the children have been through more hardships before the age of nine than most people have experienced their entire life, but despite of all that there remains a beautiful hope and strength in their future. The exhibition is open until October 24.

Reykjavík Museum of Photography, Tryggvagata 15 (6th floor)

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

Music

■ 12 Tónar record shop
Skólavörðustígur 15
Fri 07.09 Surprise concerts, 17:00

■ Austurbær
Snorrrabrátt 37

Fri 07.09 Soundspell release concert

Thu 13.09 Cover-band Buff and

Reykjavík Session Quartet present: Paul McCartney Tribute Concerts. Admission fee is 3,900 ISK.

■ Bar 11
Laugavegur 11

Fri 07.09 DJ Gulli Ósóma

Sun 08.09 DJ Oli Órði

Fri 14.09 DJ Oli Órði

Sat 15.09 DJ Gulli Ósóma

Fri 21.09 DJ Gulli Ósóma

Sat 22.09 DJ Biggi Maus

■ Barinn
Laugavegur 22

Fri 07.09 DJ Simon (1 floor) / DJ Don

Disco (2 floor)

Sat 08.09 DJ Margeir (1 floor) / DJ Ben

Jasmin (2 floor)

Tue 11.09 Dub (1 floor) / Weerbcore

electro (2 floor)

Thu 13.09 DJ Helgi Már

Fri 14.09 Hugsandi Danstólist (1 floor)

/ DJ Kvikindí (2 floor)

Sat 15.09 DJ Manny (1 floor) / DJ Miði

(2 floor)

Fri 21.09 DJ Casanove (1 floor) / DJ Dj

Muffin (2 floor)

Sat 22.09 DJ Gísli Galdur (1 floor) / DJ Errni (2 floor)

■ Borgarleikhús Í Theatre
Listabrétt 3

Fri 14.09 Höfður Torfa concert

Café París
Austurstræti 14

Fri 07.09 DJ Bórkur / DJ Lucky

Sat 08.09 DJ Bórkur / DJ Lucky

Fri 14.09 DJ Bórkur / DJ Lucky

Sat 15.09 DJ Bórkur / DJ Lucky

Fri 21.09 DJ Bórkur / DJ Lucky

Sat 22.09 DJ Bórkur / DJ Lucky

■ Dom - Múlinn Jazzclub
Bingholtsstræti 5

Wed 12.09 BoogaBlú

Wed 19.09 Jónssón / Gröndal Quintet

■ Gaukurinn
Tryggvagata 22

Sun 16.09 Concerts with Finish folk-metal band Finntroll. Opening acts are Severed Crotch, Ask the Slave and Dust Cap. Open for all ages, 19:00

■ Grand Rokk
Smíðustígur 6

Sat 15.09 Concerts with Finish folk-metal band Finntroll. Opening acts are Sólstafir, Drep and Trassar, 22:30.

■ Háskólabíó
At Hagatorg

Fri 14.09 Jethro Tull concert, 20:00

Sat 15.09 Jethro Tull concert, 20:00

Hellirinn
Hólmavík 2

Fri 07.09 Spanish band MoHo in

concert. Opening acts are Dust Cap, Drep and Severed Crotch, 20:00.

Sat 15.09 DJ Manny (1 floor) / DJ Miði

(2 floor)

Fri 21.09 DJ Casanove (1 floor) / DJ Dj

Muffin (2 floor)

Tue 11.09 Skólfest: Drep, Skitur, Diabolus, The South-Coast Killing Company,

■ Laugardalshöll

Sat 22.09 DJ Gísli Galdur (1 floor) / DJ Errni (2 floor)

■ Bæjarbió Movie Theatre
Austurstræti 20

Fri 07.09 Tepokarnir jazz band / DJ Maggi

Sat 08.09 Pub-líc / DJ Bjarni

Thu 13.09 Heaven & Hell party with DJs Plugg'd

Fri 14.09 Dalton concert / DJ Maggi

Sat 15.09 Troubadours Alexander and Óðvar / DJ Maggi

Fri 20.09 DJ Bórkur / DJ Lucky

Sat 21.09 Troubadours Bóddi and Danni

Fri 22.09 Pub-líc / DJ Bjarni

Sat 22.09 Troubadours Alexander and Óðvar / DJ Bjarni

■ Íðó
Vonarstræti 3

Sun 16.09 Concerts with Finish folk-metal band Finntroll. Opening acts are Severed Crotch, Ask the Slave and Dust Cap. Open for all ages, 19:00

■ Grand Rokk
Smíðustígur 6

Sat 15.09 Concerts with Finish folk-metal band Finntroll. Opening acts are Sólstafir, Drep and Trassar, 22:30.

■ Háskólabíó
At Hagatorg

Fri 14.09 Jethro Tull concert, 20:00

Sat 15.09 Jethro Tull concert, 20:00

Hellirinn
Hólmavík 2

Fri 07.09 Spanish band MoHo in

concert. Opening acts are Dust Cap, Drep and Severed Crotch, 20:00.

Sat 15.09 DJ Manny (1 floor) / DJ Miði

(2 floor)

Fri 21.09 DJ Casanove (1 floor) / DJ Dj

Muffin (2 floor)

Tue 11.09 Skólfest: Drep, Skitur, Diabolus, The South-Coast Killing Company,

■ Laugardalshöll

■ Prikið
Bankastræti 12

Sun 08.09 Chris Cornell in concert

■ Nasa
Thорvaldsenstræti 2

Fri 07.09 Hjálmar in concert, 24:00.

Sat 08.09 90s Party with Curver and Kiki Ow, 23:00

Fri 14.09 Franz Ferdinand in concert. Opening act: Jakobinara. Sold out.

Sat 15.09 S.S.Ól concert, 23:00

Sat 22.09 Serbian gypsy-band Kal in concert, 22:00.

■ Organ
Hafnarstræti 1-3

Fri 07.09 Concert: Singapore Sling and South-Coast Killing Company, 23:00

Sat 08.09 HipHop.is concert. Concerts inside and BBQ in the outside port.

Performers include Bent, Mori, Sesar A, Dabbi T, Element Crew, DJ Sverrir and more. Starts at 20:00.

Wed 12.09 Concert: Jakobinara and Lada Sport

Fri 13.09 Concert: B.Sig + guests

Fri 14.09 Rjómnin.is presents: Jan Maynir, Hellvar, Vicki Pollard and April. Tickets cost 500 ISK and all profits go to BUGL (The Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Clinic).

Sat 15.09 Concert TBA

Wed 19.09 Grapevine presents: DJ Heroe's Trial, Bertel and Kimono. Kimono's first big concert in over a year.

Thu 20.09 Fundraising concert organised by the association Iceland-Palestine

Fri 21.09 DJ Árni Sveins

Sat 22.09 DJ Nuno and Vasco Fortes from Portugal

Fri 21.09 GusGus in concert

Sat 22.09 Bacon celebrates the release of Kamel, the band's third album.

■ Kaffibarinn
Bergstaðastræti 1

Fri 07.09 Lovefingers and Captain Kirk DJ set / Jack Schidt DJ set

The Settlement Exhibition
■ Reykjavík Art Museum
 - Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum
Sigtun
 Open daily 10–16
 Admission ticket is valid for three days in all three museums.
 Free entrance every Thursday.
www.listasafnreykjavikur.is

Mar 31-Dec 31

Folk Tales
 An exhibition of works by Icelandic draughtsmen who took on the task of illustrating folk tales from the oral tradition.

Apr 2-Dec 31

The Shape of Life
 A new retrospective of the works by Ásmundur Sveinsson. The exhibition focuses on abstract works from 1945 onwards.

■ Reykjavík Art Museum

- Hafnarhús

Tryggvagata 17

Open daily 10–17

Aug 31-Oct 21

The Icelandic Love Corporation retrospective exhibition

Aug 31-Oct 21

D Gallery
 Jóhannes Atli Hinriksson exhibition.

Aug 31-Dec 31

The Erró Collection

Paintings by Erró

■ Reykjavík Art Museum

- Kjarvalssbraðir

Flokagata

Open Daily 10–17

Sep 8-Nov 4

Egert Pétursson - Retrospective Paintings by Egert Pétursson, an Icelandic artist famed for his meticulous depictions of flowers.

Sep 8-Oct 14

Sculptures by Helgi Gíslason. The exhibition features new works of bas-relief.

Feb 10-Sep 9

The K Factor

Paintings by Jóhannes S. Kjartal

■ Reykjavík Maritime Museum

Grandagarður 8

Open Tue.-Sun. 11–17

www.jorunjasafn.is

Current exhibition:

Travellers in Iceland

■ Reykjavík Museum

Kistuhylur 4

Open daily from 10–17

www.arbaejarsafn.is

Permanent exhibition:

Objects from Reykjavík cultural history.

■ The Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Grófáhus, Tryggvagata 15, 6th floor

Weekdays 12–19

Sat.–Sun. 13–17

Free Entrance

www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is

Jun 1-Sep 9

Automatos

Photographs by Olaf Otto Becker, Páll Stefánsson and RAX

Aug 30-Oct 24

The Lost Children of Afghanistan

Photographs by Dante

Sep 15-Nov 25

Dagblad Íslir / Vísir Newspaper!

Press photography in Iceland from 1960 to 2000.

■ Safn

Laugavegur 37

Wed.–Fri. 14–18

Sat.–Sun. 14–17

Free Entrance

www.safn.is

May 19-Oct 20

Museum of the Surface / Desire Archive

/ Decay Complex

Unnar Órn J. Auðarson exhibition

Sep 1-Oct 7

Sigurður Guðjónsson, Huginn Þór

Arason and Tony Trehy exhibition

■ Sigurðr Ólafsson Museum

Laugarstangi' 70

Open Tue.–Sun. 14–17

Permanent exhibition:

Works of sculptor Sigurðr Ólafsson

■ Start Art / Art Shop

Laugavegur 12b

www.startart.is

Sep 1–Sep 28

Anna María Sigurðardóttir and Ástríður Ólafsdóttir exhibition

■ Thorvaldsen Bar

Austurstræti 8-10

www.thorvaldsen.is

Aug 28–Sept 28

Universe

Paintings by Mæja

Outside Reykjavík

■ Skaffell

Austurvögur 42, Seyðisfjörður

www.skaffell.is

Aug 11–Nov 11

A group exhibition featuring works by Erla Þórainsdóttir, Hulda Hakon, Jón Óskar and Steinþrímur Eyfjörð

Sep 1–Sep 15

Meconium

Helgi Órn Pétursson and Pórunn

Eymundardóttir exhibition

■ Hafnarborg

Strandgata 34, Hafnarfjörður

Mon.–Sun. 11–17

www.hafnarborg.is

Aug 9–Sep 9

Element

Paintings by American artist Joan Perlman

Aug 23–Sep 9

Ice land scape

Artwork by German artist Wolfgang Heuwinkel

■ DaLi Gallery

Brekkugata 9, Akureyri

Mon.–Sat. 14–18

www.daligallery.blogspot.com

Current exhibition:

Sunnar Sigfriðardóttir exhibition

GallerIBOX

Kaupvangstræti 10, Akureyri

www.galleribox.blogspot.com

Aug 25–Oct 14

Sjónlist 2007 / Icelandic Visual Art

Exhibition displaying artworks by six

artists and art-groups nominated for the Icelandic Visual Art Award (Sjónlist) this year. These are Birgir Andréasson,

Hekla Dögg Jónsdóttir, Hrafñkell

Sigurðsson, Nikita, Studio Grandi and Óssur hf.

■ Smáralind

Háskólabíó, Hagatorg

107 Reykjavík, Tel. 525-5400

■ Laugarásbió

Laugárás

104 Reykjavík, Tel. 565-0118

■ Smáralind

Smáralind

201 Kópavogur, Tel. 564-0000

■ Samþíð, Álfabakki 8

109 Reykjavík, Tel. 575-8900

■ Samþíð, Krýgland 4-12

103 Reykjavík, Tel. 575-8900

Open daily 11–17 except Mondays
www.gerdarsafn.is

Aug 30-Oct 24

The Lost Children of Afghanistan

Photographs by Dante

Sep 15–Nov 25

Dagblad Íslir / Vísir Newspaper!

Press photography in Iceland from 1960 to 2000.

■ Safn

Laugavegur 37

Wed.–Fri. 14–18

Sat.–Sun. 14–17

Free Entrance

www.safn.is

May 19-Oct 20

Museum of the Surface / Desire Archive

/ Decay Complex

Unnar Órn J. Auðarson exhibition

Sep 1-Oct 7

Sigurður Guðjónsson, Huginn Þór

Arason and Tony Trehy exhibition

■ Sigurðr Ólafsson Museum

Laugarstangi' 70

Open Tue.–Sun. 14–17

Permanent exhibition:

Works of sculptor Sigurðr Ólafsson

■ Start Art / Art Shop

Laugavegur 12b

www.startart.is

Sep 1–Sep 28

Anna María Sigurðardóttir and Ástríður Ólafsdóttir exhibition

■ Thorvaldsen Bar

Austurstræti 8-10

www.thorvaldsen.is

Aug 28–Sept 28

Universe

Paintings by Mæja

Outside Reykjavík

■ Skaffell

Austurvögur 42, Seyðisfjörður

www.skaffell.is



Spreading the Love

Text by Steinunn Jakobsdóttir Photo by Gulli

The Icelandic Love Corporation is celebrating its 11-year anniversary with an extensive retrospective inside the Reykjavík Art Museum on Tryggvagata. ILC's three members, Jóní Jónsdóttir, Sigrún Hrólfssdóttir and Eyrún Sigurðardóttir, have invaded the museum and used every bit of space to display props, costumes, videos, photographs and installations. In almost an instant, they have transformed the gallery into a giant playground for art-lovers.

Established by four women in 1996, The Icelandic Love Corporation has gained a reputation both in Iceland and abroad. The fourth member, Dóra Íseifsdóttir left the group in 2001. The three remaining members have toured the world, surprised bypassers with surprising and innovative performances where humour, femininity and carelessness mixes with political thoughts and serious topics. They have never been afraid to go all the way. To them, there are no rules. Anything goes and nothing is irrelevant.

It All Started With a Kiss

ILC's history counts more than 200 exhibitions. They have performed in small galleries and large museums, collaborated with renowned artists and musicians and invaded public spaces in major cities across the world. To pick which pieces would best fit the exhibition and reflect the past and the present was understandably a challenging task. As the nature of performance art is, they are usually very dependent on time,

place and had-to-be-there moments. That didn't make the women's mission any easier. "The hardest part was to figure out how we should present our ideas. We have worked with such a time-based art form. We don't want to remake the performances so we needed to find a way to make the atmosphere stand on its own without us," Eyrún explains.

And in a remarkable way they've managed to do just that. They got THG Architects to design a huge see-through labyrinth inside the large space on the ground floor. The giant wooden puzzle is built around props, items, TV sets and installations. It produces an intriguing experience, and guides the viewer through all sorts of strange scenes. Simultaneously, you realise how inventive, sometimes strange and complicated, but most of all extensive their exhibitions have been.

They met in the Icelandic College of Arts and Crafts. The first big performance they did was 'The Kiss', broadcasted on national TV in 1996 and featured the artists kissing. A kiss, they explain, that was a little bit longer than a birthday kiss but shorter than a lover's kiss. In the end one of them kissed the camera lens and in the meantime, sent a kiss to every home in the country.

"With this performance we were trying to spread love and good feelings," Sigrún says. That mission has only expanded in line with their steadily growing career.

I ask them how things have developed and if

Addressing Environmental Issues

Sigrún and Eyrún lead the way to gallery. Photographs showing the women dressed in various crazy costumes and doing all sorts of witty things hang on the walls while flat-screen TV's show videos of them performing. They've clearly done a nice job documenting the performances. The costumes also play a big role in the characters dominant each time: "The costumes are one of the key elements. They are characteristic for different periods in our career," they explain.

"The seagull is like the businessman. He comes, takes what he wants and leaves," they add.

The job the group has managed to do is remarkable and it would take hours to explore everything inside. When looking back Eyrún concludes: "If you set your mind to it, the things you plan become a reality."

The exhibition is open until October 21. Lectures will take place at the museum during that time and a book has been published in connection with the exhibition.

"We've gone through all sorts of themes but nonetheless it seems that there is a strong base in our artworks. That is this positivity, optimism and general interest in life."

"These women are completely corrupt. They are allowing themselves the luxury of enjoying the chilly weather but have nice fur coats to protect them from the cold. The piece is meant to show the final moments of this luxury. To be cold. This exhibition also opened our eyes about these serious problems so we can perhaps say that these women reflect us in a way. But the women in the photos can just take off their fur coats if they get too warm. They don't worry much more than that," Eyrún says laughing. "I guess we deal with serious topics in a humorous way" Sigrún adds.

Small Pieces in a Big Puzzle

The past 11 years have been adventurous, eventful and brought the artists to places they never expected. One journey led them to New York to create costumes for Björk for the cover of her newest album, Volta. Pictures from the photo shoot were also featured on the cover of ID magazine.

"Björk saw a mask we had made and at that time she was working on the new album. She wanted to focus on tribal elements and African inspirations and thought the mask connected with her ideas. The mask is really what inspired the collaboration," they explain. This mask of course is on display in the gallery.

A little further inside is another clever piece in the puzzle, entitled 'Invasion – Invasion'. There is a copy machine, stacks of white paper and wheelbarrows full of fake money. Pictures of the artists dressed as seagulls hang on the wall.

"This piece builds on the invasion and expansion of money and globalisation. Here we can photocopy money if we run short on cash," Eyrún says and points to the machine. The seagulls are meant to reflect the global bully they furthermore explain:

"The seagull is like the businessman. He comes, takes what he wants and leaves," they add.

The job the group has managed to do is remarkable and it would take hours to explore everything inside. When looking back Eyrún concludes: "If you set your mind to it, the things you plan become a reality."

The exhibition is open until October 21. Lectures will take place at the museum during that time and a book has been published in connection with the exhibition.



The Lost Horse Gallery

Text by Steinunn Jakobsdóttir Photo by Gulli

Inside an old 19th century house at Skólastræti 1, a small side-street off Bankastræti, artist Alexander Zaklynsky and Agnar Ágnarsson have recently opened a new art gallery. They named the place The Lost Horse.

"The name comes from the long history of the house. This building used to be a barn for horses who got lost or ran away from their owners" Zaklynsky says. That was a long time ago and the downtown streetscape has changed immensely since confused horses ran wild around the muddy streets. The downtown development continues and due to city planning, all evidence of Skólastræti's hairy houseguests will in a few years no longer exist.

"This house will be torn down after two years, just like so many other old houses on Laugavegur and in Reykjavík. People seem to be more interested in tearing houses down instead of preserving them. The name is therefore also a statement Zaklynsky adds."

"There are not so many spaces in Reykjavík for artist to exhibit. I've been here for two years and have tried to find spaces to show my artwork. I wanted to open a new place and try to have it open for different artists who could both work here and show their art."

"The current exhibition will be on display until the end of September. Future projects include the Sequences art festival in October and film screenings in a few weeks."

The gallery is open by appointment on weekdays and from 12–18 on weekends. If interested in exhibiting in the gallery or using its studio, contact thelosthorse@hotmail.com

"You haven't been in Iceland if you haven't been to us"
Don't miss it!

**Viking feasts every night
- live entertainment**

- Hotel
- Restaurants
- Souveniers

VIKING village
Fjörubræin

For booking and further information:
Tel.: +354 565-1213
www.vikingvillage.is
vikings@vikingvillage.is
Strandgata 55 Hafnarfjördur

EXPECT HANG OVERS...

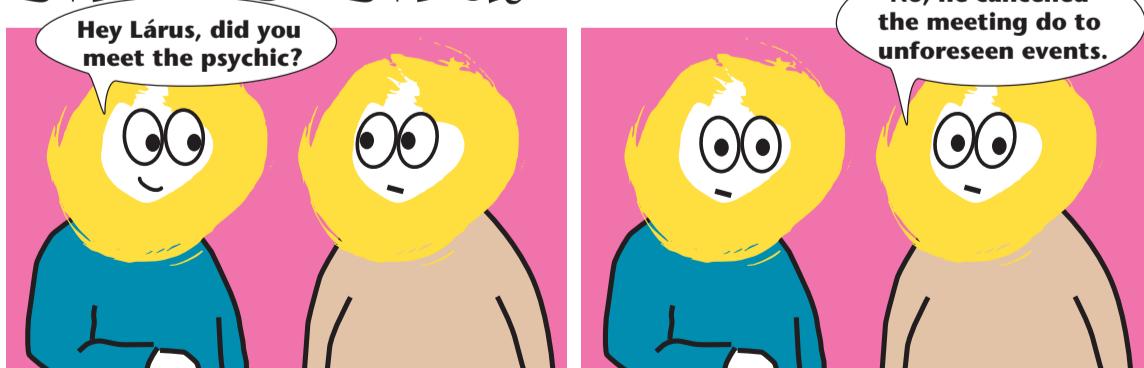
NASA
THE BIGGEST CLUB IN
DOWNTOWN REYKJAVÍK.
LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND.
WWW.NASA.IS

Energy for life through forces of nature

BLUE LAGOON ICELAND

www.bluelagoon.com

Lárus & Lárus



Diamond Circle

Unique Nature

Dettifoss
Ásbyrgi
Hljóðaklettar
Mývatn
Goðafoss
Grenjaðarstaður
Húsavík
Melrakkasléttá
Rauðarfjörð

Information centre
Garðarsbraut 7 | 640 Húsavík | ICELAND | Tel: +354 464 4300
e-mail: info@husavik.is | www.markthing.is



1 EATING

Vor

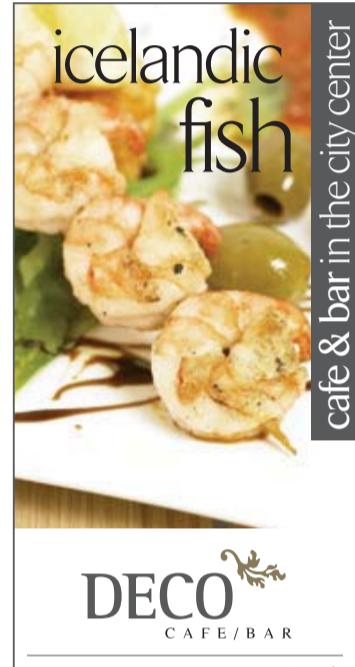
Laugavegur 24

Vor's refreshing take on cafe-style eating is marked by its use of fresh ingredients and a health-conscious menu that emphasises French and Mediterranean cuisine. The fresh spring salad and the excellent carrot-ginger soup are excellent pick-me-ups on rainy days, and the coffee served is of the highest quality.

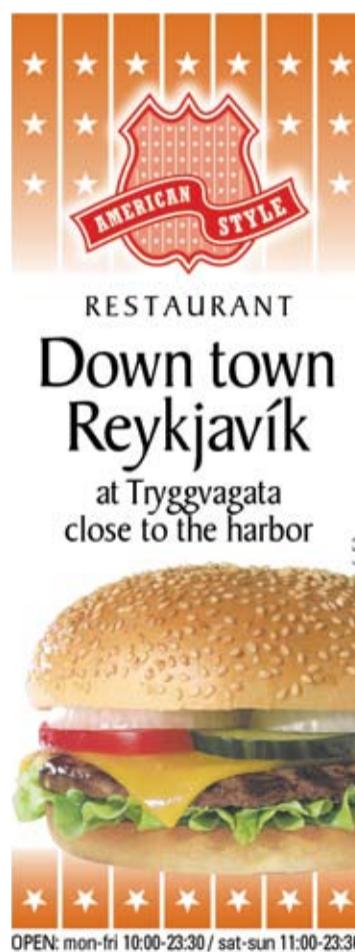
RESTAURANT

Indian Mango is ...
an Indian restaurant
..next to the hotel
..not to expensive
..not cheap

Indian Mango, Frakkastig 12,
tel: 551-7722 and 663-1291
www.indianmango.is



austurstræti 12 · 101 reykjavík



OPEN mon-fri 10:00-23:30 / sat-sun 11:00-23:00



DISCOVER ICELANDIC SEAFOOD

At the Reykjavik harbour

1 EATING

8 Pizza King

Hafnarstræti 18

This small pizza place is not only cheap but offers the largest slices of pizza you'll get downtown. Charging only 350 ISK per slice, not to mention the special lunch offer where a 10" pizza with three toppings of your choice and a can of Coke costs only 800 ISK. Pizza King is a local favourite. The fact it's open until 6 on Friday and Saturday nights doesn't hurt either.



2 Hornið

Hafnarstræti 15

The casual family-friendly Italian-style corner restaurant has operated at the same spot since 1979 when it became a loyal member of the Icelandic dining-out tradition. Most famous for its pizzas and the generously stuffed calzone, the wholesome menu prides itself on all sorts of high-standard pasta dishes, vegetarian and meat courses, all very affordable.

3 Deco

Austurstræti 12

Deco, a café and wine bar that has everything you need for a quality lunch cafe, right in the city centre. Its modern and stylish interiors, varied menu and impressive selection of whiskey, draw me back again soon. Deco usually gets quite crowded during the evening, when it turns into more of a wine bar than a coffeehouse. Grabbing a bite couldn't be easier.

4 Icelandic Fish Chips

Tryggvagata 8

Not the regular fish'n'chips diner but a healthy restaurant using only organic vegetables, quality fish products and no wheat or white sugar in its kitchen. Deep-fried catch of the day served with oven baked potatoes and Skyrries, a sauce made out of the fat-free milk product Skyr and flavoured with all sorts of spices, on the side for 1350 ISK. They also offer take-away at all times.

5 Sjávarkjallarinn

Aðalstræti 2

In an elegant setting, Seafood Cellar chef serve gourmet fusion style dishes, where the emphasis is not only on ocean delights, but also on all sorts of tempting Asia-inspired dishes. The most fun is to order the exotic menu, a range of courses carefully selected by the chef and share it with your dining partners.

6 Shalimar

Austurstræti 4

Few places in Reykjavík match the great combination of good price, excellent food, and fast service available at Shalimar. On the menu are assorted Indian-Pakistani dishes and the lunch special is always a great bet for a good meal during a busy day. Grapevine staff are frequently spotted in the locale, which should be recommendation enough.

7 Sægreifinn

Verðubó 8, Geirsgata

Located right next to the Reykjavík harbour, Sægreifinn fish shop and restaurant is truly like no other you'll witness in the country. The menu features various fish dishes and a rich portion of the best lobster soup we've ever tasted. It also caters to groups upstairs where the room looks more like a cabin than a diner. The good food and welcoming service make this place a must-try.

12 Á næstu grösum

(First Vegetarian)

Laugavegur 20B

Many locals claim this to be the best vegetarian restaurant in town offering a menu with plenty of vegan and vegetarian options, both healthy and tasty. Ask for the daily special or try the selection of three different courses. The Indian theme on Fridays is usually a hit and the sugar free banana cake just one of the highly tempting desserts.

13 Nonnabiti

Hafnarstræti 9

Renowned for its greasy sandwiches, Nonnabiti, or Nonni as the locals call it, is one of the more popular junk food places around, offering a large selection of take-away or dine in subs, sandwiches and burgers with a nice dash of the unique Nonni sauce. If you have a late night craving there's no need to worry, Nonni is open longer than most other places.

14 Austurlanda-hraðalestin

Hverfisgata 64A

Although a little pricey for a take-away, charging around 1600 ISK for a main course, the food is well worth the extra spending once in a while. Serving typical Indian dishes, the menu is a treasure chest for those with a penchant for a spicy bite. There are also a few tables inside for those who choose to dine in.

16 Kaffi Hljómalind

Laugavegur 21

This organic, free-trade café prides itself on being a non-profit company and a dedicated venue for the hardcore and cultural scene by hosting concerts, lectures and poetry nights. Serving delicious soups and vegetarian dishes as well as organic tea, coffee and cake, this is the place to visit for a reasonably priced healthy lunch.

17 Segafredo

By Lækjartorg

The Italian coffee-chain found its spot in the heart of Reykjavík, with its windows facing the Lækjartorg Square. Serving lunch snacks like panini and strong espressos for coffee lovers whether you need to grab a cup and sandwich on the way to work or want to enjoy your drink on the spot.

20 Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

A popular coffee place on weekdays, especially among students and downtown workers who like to enjoy a bottle of beer after a busy day. At weekends, Kaffibarinn becomes the opposite of a quiet destination, as its two floors fill up with the late-night souls. With DJs playing live sets from Wednesday to Saturday, the party doesn't start winding down until early morning.

23 Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

Reykjavík's version of CBGB's, Gaukurinn has been a mainstay in the Icelandic music scene since the days of Ingólfur Arnarson. A popular live venue, this is the place to find young and upcoming band, as well as older and more established bands. Anyone who is anything in Icelandic music has passed through Gaukurinn at one point or another.

26 Prikið

Bankastræti 12

This two-floor cafe/pub has been a part of Reykjavík's bar scene for decades. With a large and fairly cheap bistro menu, Prikið attracts a mix of university students with their laptops and elderly devoted regulars during the day while the younger clientele fills up the space during the evening and especially at weekends when the music is mostly dedicated to hip-hop and R&B.

29 Dillon

Laugavegur 30

The quintessential rock-pub, Dillon features moderately priced drinks, a dark and cosy mood and some pretty good music (especially when local favourite DJ Andrea Jóns mans the decks). The tattooed, beer-lovin' types who hang out there on school nights are joined by legions of parka-clad students during weekends, creating a party atmosphere that's always fun to partake in.

36 Börn Náttúrunnar

Skólavörðustígur 17a

The children's toy store Börn Náttúrunnar, located in a Skólavörðustígur basement, sells clothes and toys made only of organic products as well as books about childcare and parenthood. Here you can buy creative wooden playthings and woolen products for the young ones carefully selected by the parents who own the shop.

43 Iða

Lækjartaga 2a

The spacious Iða bookshop is a great source for all kinds of reading material offering an excellent range of books, travel guides, magazines, post-cards and great gift items. The first-class service will help you search for what you need. On the second floor you'll find restaurants serving sushi, soups and sandwiches.

7 Sægreifinn

Verðubó 8, Geirsgata

Treat yourself to Reykjavík's richest blend of seafood by Our Award-Winning Chefs

14 Austurlanda-hraðalestin

Hverfisgata 64A

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

17 Segafredo

By Lækjartorg

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

20 Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

23 Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

26 Prikið

Bankastræti 12

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

29 Dillon

Laugavegur 30

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

36 Börn Náttúrunnar

Skólavörðustígur 17a

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

43 Iða

Lækjartaga 2a

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

7 Sægreifinn

Verðubó 8, Geirsgata

Treat yourself to Reykjavík's richest blend of seafood by Our Award-Winning Chefs

14 Austurlanda-hraðalestin

Hverfisgata 64A

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

17 Segafredo

By Lækjartorg

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

20 Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

23 Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

26 Prikið

Bankastræti 12

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

29 Dillon

Laugavegur 30

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

36 Börn Náttúrunnar

Skólavörðustígur 17a

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

43 Iða

Lækjartaga 2a

At the Reykjavík harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

7 Sægreifinn



Humarhúsið

Amtmannsstig 1,101 Reykjavík, tel.: 561 3303

Humarhúsið is one of those restaurants where buffoons like myself find themselves at a terrible loss when it comes to figuring out how exactly one is supposed to commence eating any course that doesn't require a spoon. Faced with the task of digging into a plate of "Lobster & fillet of arctic char w/five herb broth" – all stacked up in a sort of weirdly fascinating architectural achievement – I fumbled about with my fork for several minutes before giving up and reverting to table manners best reserved for Happy Meals. As the restaurant was empty, my sole source of embarrassment was the highly professional waiter who came by in perfectly timed intervals to fill my glass with water.

The lobster was cooked to perfection; its tender texture and subtle taste offering glimpses of freedom from the cold and rainy Monday reality just outside our window. The chef's handling of the arctic char was likewise timed to perfection, with the skin crispy and the flesh satisfyingly loose, yet firm. Underneath the tower of fish and vegetables one could find some sort of potato stew that didn't add anything to the meal (except in terms of the height of the stack itself), but didn't draw away from it either. It was a satisfying course, which could have only been improved by a glass of some dry white wine (alas, the responsible writer never drinks at lunchtime).

The starter soup was less impressive. While it was aesthetically pleasing and quite OK in the taste department, the ginger and coconut infused vegetable cream sorely lacked bite. It was a dull soup, perhaps best described as a liquid version of actor Bill Pullman or the music of Coldplay.

Humarhúsið does have a reputation as an expensive restaurant, and certainly their dinner options are well out of reach for the average instant noodle-munching student or traveler. However, their lunch menu, both lavish and luxurious, is modestly priced in terms of the service, atmosphere and fresh ingredients at hand – a course will set you back 2,000 ISK. Compare that to any of the bistro's in the 101 area, where the price of a dish averages at 1,100–1,400 ISK, and you will find that an extra 900 isn't much in exchange for skilfully cooked fresh ingredients, which you can feast on in a classically luxurious and comfortable setting. HM

Hornið

Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavík, tel.: 551 3340

Known to most, if not all Icelanders, Hornið is a cosy little restaurant located on the corner of Hafnarstræti and Pósthússtræti. The fact that it opened its doors in 1979 places it among the oldest, still operating, restaurants in down-town Reykjavík. Hornið can also be credited for introducing Italian cuisine to Icelanders.

After taking my seat, settling in, and looking around I couldn't help feeling relaxed. Maybe it was the candlelit tables or the old, and not surprisingly, original interior that gave me that ever welcome feeling of being at ease. Since this was not my first, and definitely not my last, visit to Hornið, I had a pretty good idea what the menu had in store for me. Nevertheless I was pleasantly surprised to find out that I had not given it a very careful reading on my previous visits, or maybe it was just my hunger that seemingly highlighted all those desirable, never before noticed, courses.

For starters my companion and I decided on garlic bread with cheese (600 ISK) and mozzarella and tomato-slices with olive oil and basil (1150 ISK). Not knowing that the mozzarella course was served with garlic bread, we both looked kind of foolish when the dishes arrived and we were surrounded by garlic bread. But remembering that garlic could repel vampires, and is supposedly good for your circulatory system and god knows what else, we felt justified in our choices.

As the name suggests, the Fish Market specialises in fish

Fish Market

Aðalstræti 12, 101 Reykjavík, tel.: 578 8877

The restaurant Fish Market is the latest addition to the Icelandic restaurant flora. Co-owner and head chef, Hrefna Rósa Sætran has already amassed quite a reputation for her work as a chef, and is a permanent member or the Icelandic national team of chefs, (yes, like other national teams, this one travels and competes with other nations' national teams), so the expectations were high.

The restaurant itself is located in an old wooden house that has been extensively rebuilt, without killing the house's charm. The interior and overall design of the place bears witness to the owner's ambition. Decorations are simple and unpretentious, with black and warm earth-tones dominating the colour scheme. The attention to detail highlights the overall simplicity of the place, such as the salmon skin covered stair railing and the salmon skin bound menu.

The restaurant was surprisingly busy, considering that it opened less than a week ago. The staff were extremely friendly and relaxed, but went about their work in a professional manner. The downstairs dining area where we were seated overlooks the busy kitchen, where head-chef Hrefna gives firm orders to her staff. Light and ambient electronics played softly in the background. Put together, these elements create very easy-going and enjoyable settings for a good meal.

The restaurant Fish Market specialises in fish courses, and as the menu claims, inspiration is sought in Asian traditions. The menu offers an exciting combination of traditional Icelandic raw material and exotic tastes. Typically, starters are priced at around 2000 ISK and include the obligatory lobster soup, sushi and sashimi, as well as tofu, quail and beef dishes. The main course comes at 3500–4000 ISK and includes something called Organic Funky Chicken, eggplant taco and tuna toast. For dessert, you can expect to pay around 1500. We opted for a selection called the Tasting Menu (6900 ISK), several specially selected small dishes from the menu designed for sharing and brought to the table continuously, and a bottle of flowery Australian Riesling.

Every dish was a feast, but the highlights were the spareribs, presented in a Soya glazing that gave the meat a salty but exotic taste, the delicately prepared sushi, and a dish called Black Cod Real Deal. I am glad to report that the Fish Market lived up to its expectations. SBB

Reviews by Sveinn Birkir Björnsson, Sverrir Hjálmarsson and Haukur Magnússon Photos by Leó Stefánsson



LÆKJARGATA 2a | ÍÐUHÚSINU
101 REYKJAVÍK S | 5610562 OSUSHI.IS
MUNID LÍKA EFTIR SUSHI TAKEAWAY BÖKKUNUM !



Sink This Beer

Text by Sveinn Birkir Björnsson

Last April, Grapevine journalist Steinunn Jakobsdóttir visited Seyðisfjörður, a small and extremely charming fishing village on the East coast of Iceland, where she met Eyþór Pórisson, restaurant owner and entrepreneur. At that point, Pórisson let the Grapevine in on his plans to brew beer made from his own recipe and named after Seyðisfjörður's most famous landmark, El Grillo. Pórisson claims to have been perfecting his recipe since he first tasted beer decades ago. This has now become a reality. The smooth tasting El Grillo beer is now available from the State Alcohol Store, ÁTVR.

The beer is named after the British oil tanker El Grillo, which sank just outside Seyðisfjörður harbour February 10, 1944 in an air raid by German Fokker Wulf 200 bombers during World War II. The 7,264 ton, 147 meter long oil tanker rests at a 45 meters depth (apparently it is only 27 meters to the bridge) in the middle of the fjord. Oil has been pumped from the wreckage and today, it is one of the most popular diving spots in Iceland.

The bottle labels recount the history of this event. On the front is a photo of the sinking ship and a part of the story is on the back. In order to get the full account, you will need to buy several bottles. That is a smart business move and a philanthropic act all wrapped into one.

The beer contains 5.0% alcohol volume and is manufactured by Ölgerðin Egill Skallagrímsson in accordance with Pórisson's recipe.



Whales & Puffin Island

Take part in an adventure at sea with an unforgettable 3-hour trip into the world of whales and sea birds.

Located in Reykjavík's old harbour, only a 5 minute walk from the city centre.

A spacious double-deck and a special viewing area on the third deck ensures a spectacular view into the deep blue sea.

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



cultura
cafe • bar • bistro

open every weekday 11:30/01:00 * weekends (fri/sat) 11:30/04:00

icelandic
FISH & CHIPS

Organic bistro

Creating a tradition

Tryggvagata 8/Geirsgata, 101 Rvk
Tel: 511-1118
Open: mon-fri 11:30-21:00/sat-sun 12:00-21:00
www.fishandchips.is

SALT
LOUNGE BAR & RESTAURANT

Happy Hour
7 days a week from 17:00 – 20:00

Mouth watering surprises at SALT every month

Pósthússtræti 2, 101 Reykjavík – ICELAND / +354 599 1000 www.saltrestaurant.is



14,900 ISK

The colourful 'Pretty Shitty' street-wear jackets from designer Imba are everything but dull.
Gallery Crush, Laugavegur 28



5,500 ISK

Small yet stuffed designer shop KVK stocks a nice selection of 'Rokkmantlik' hair accessories.
KVK, Laugavegur 27



4,900 ISK

Perk up the living room with some funky patterned pillows from Forynja.
Forynja, Tryggvagata 14



26,000 ISK

There's no need to dread the chilly winter months. This trendy hooded 'Cow' poncho will keep you nice and warm throughout the year.
KVK, Laugavegur 27



Pay Attention!

Forynja

Tryggvagata 16, 101 Reykjavík

Designer and Naked Ape shop-owner Sara María Eyþórssdóttir doesn't waste any time when a new business idea pops into her head. She and her creative co-workers have established a growing fan-base, both locally and internationally, and to meet the increasing demand for cool clothing they recently opened a new store, 'Forynja' on Tryggvagata, located right by the old harbour.

Colourful children clothes as well as flattering dresses hang inside the small shop. The shelves are lined with large pillows, jewellery and cool gift items by up-and-coming local artists and eye-catching designer wear and interior decorations can be found in every corner. In 'Forynja,' you'll find something different and original.



BIRNA

BIRNA CONCEPT SHOP
Skólavöðustígur 2 - 101 Reykjavík
www.birna.net · Tel: +354 445 2020

**REYKJAVÍK
DESIGN
DISTRICT**



WWW.DESIGNDISTRICT.IS

Rent a laptop

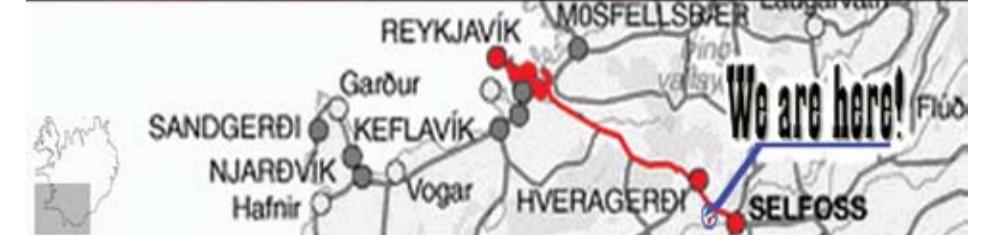
These coffeeshops have laptops

**Café Victor
Sólon**

**30 min. 450 kr.-
60 min. 900 kr.-**



**TONY'S
COUNTY**
ÖLFUSHÖLLINN
We are different!



**We are located 40 min. from Reykjavík
For further information call 481 3070 or send us an email
tonys@tonys.is · www.tonys.is**

Services
■ Useful Numbers
 Emergency number: 112
 Police: 569 9000
 Medical help: 1770
 Dental emergency: 575 0505
 AA: 551 2010
 Information: 118
 Telegrams: 146
■ Tax Free Refund
 Iceland Refund,
 Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 564 6400
www.icelandrefund.com

11-18.
 Banks in the centre are open Mon-Fri 09-16.

Getting Around**■ Public transport**

The only public transport system in Reykjavík is the bus. Most busses run every 20 minutes and price per fare is 250 ISK for adults and 75 ISK for children. Complete route map at: www.bus.is. Tel: 540 2700
 Busses run from 07:00-24:00 on weekdays and 10:00-24:00 on weekends

■ Rent a bike

Borgarhljóð, Hverfisgata 50, Tel: 551 5653, www.borgarhljol.net

HI Hostel, Sundlaugavegur 34, Tel: 553 8110, www.hostel.is

■ Laundry Service

Hi Hostel, Sundlaugavegur 34,

Tel: 551 2301, www.udafoss.is

■ Post Office

Post offices are located around the city as well as in the countryside. The downtown post office is at Pósthússtræti 3-5. For a full list and info on opening hours visit www.posturinn.is.

Stamps are also sold in bookstores, gas stations, some grocery stores and tourist shops.

■ Embassies and Consulates in Iceland

United States, Laufásvegur 21, Tel: 562 9100

United Kingdom, Laufásvegur 31, Tel: 550 5100

Russia, Garðastræti 33, Tel: 551 5156

China, Viðimelur 29, Tel: 552 6751

For a full list visit Ministry for Foreign Affairs: www.mfa.is/diplomatic-missions/icelandic-missions/

■ Internet Access

Most coffeehouses have wireless Internet access.

Computers with Internet connections are available at:

Ráðhúskaffi City Hall, Tjarnargata 11

BSÍ Bus Terminal,

Vatnsmýrarvegur 10

Ground Zero, Vallastræti 10

The Reykjavík City Library,

Tryggvagata 15

The National and University Library, Arngrimsgrá 3

Tourist Information Centre,

Aðalstræti 2

Icelandic Travel Market: Bankastræti 2

■ Opening hours

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

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

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

The State owned ÁTVR liquor stores: Mon-Thu 11-18, Fri 11-19, Sat

www.ahus.is
 Bankastræti 2, Tel: 510 5700, www.klef.is

Information on day tours, accommodations, car rental and everything else you need to know when travelling in Iceland.

■ Iceland Visitor

Lækjargata 2, Tel: 511 2442, www.iceandvisor.com

A travel agency offering travelling package trips and custom-made tours as well as car rental, day tours and accommodations for visitors.

■ Tourist Information Centre

Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 590 1550, www.visitreykjavik.is

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

■ The Icelandic Tourist Board

Lækjargata 3, Tel: 535 5500, www.visiticeland.com

All information needed before traveling in Iceland.

■ Goethe Institute

Tungata 14, Tel: 561 5921, www.goethe.de/island

A cultural institute that offers movie screenings, lectures and German language courses.

■ Nordic House

Sturlugata 5, Tel: 551 7030, www.nordic.is

The Nordic cultural centre organises various cultural events, conferences and exhibitions.

All major tourist spots in Reykjavík also offer brochures, maps and information for travellers.

■ Useful Information**■ Where to learn Icelandic as a foreign language**

Icelandic on the Internet, www.vefskoli.is

Mimir Continuing Education, Skeifán 8, Tel: 580 1800, www.mimir.is

Námsflokkar Reykjavík, Frikríkjuvegur 1, Tel: 551 2992

Fjölmenningssetur, Laugavegur 59, Tel: 511 1319, www.fjolmenningur.is

The Icelandic College of Engineering and Technology, Höðabakki 9, Tel: 577 1400, www.thi.is

Iönskólinn í Reykjavík, Skolavörðuholti, Tel: 552 6240, www.ir.is

The University of Iceland – Department of Continuing Education, Dunhagi 7, Tel: 525 4924, www.endurmenntun.is

Insurance and benefits: The State Social Security Institute, Laugavegur 114-116, Tel: 560 4400, www.tr.is

Icelandic citizenship: Unless you

Evangelical Lutheran Church. Masses are generally held on Sundays at 11:00 in churches all around the capital. Service in English is at Hallgrímskirkja every last Saturday each month, starting at 14:00. The Roman Catholic Church also has masses in English and Polish.

Other religious movements in Reykjavík are for example:

The Muslim Association of Iceland, Armuli 38

Ásatrú Association, Grandagarði 8

Bahá'í, Álfabakka 12

The Church of Evangelism, Hlíðasmári 9

The Icelandic Buddhist Movement, Víghólastrígur 21

Reykjavík Free Lutheran Church, Frikríkjuvegur 5

Pentecostal Assembly, Hátún 2

Roman Catholic Church, Hávallagata 14

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Asbraut 2

Jehovah's Witnesses, Sogavegur 71

Seventh-Day Adventists, Sóðurhlíð 36

Zen Buddhism in Iceland, Reykjavíkurborgur 31

Independent Church, Háteigsvetur 101

The Russian Orthodox Church in Iceland, Sólvallagata 10

The Cross, Hlíðasmári 5-7

■ Trade Unions

The Icelandic Federation of Labour, Sætún 1, Tel: 535 5600, www.asi.is

The Federation of State and Municipal employees, Grettisgata 89, Tel: 525 8300, www.bsr.is

The Association of Academics, Borgartún 6, Tel: 581 2090, www.bhm.is

Efling, Sætún 1, Tel: 510 7500, www.efling.is

The Commercial Workers' Union, Kringlan 7, Tel: 510 1700, www.vr.is

Union of Public Servants, Grettisgata 89, Tel: 525 8340, www.sfr.is

■ Useful Websites

www.visitreykjavik.is (The official tourist website of Reykjavík)

www.gayice.is (Information about the gay scene in Iceland)

www.fjolmenningur.setur.is (The Multicultural Centre)

www.hostel.is (Hostel International in Iceland)

www.vinnumalastofnun.is (Public employment services)

www.gulalinan.is (The yellow pages)

www.leigulistinn.is (Rent a flat)

www.ja.is (Icelandic telephone directory)

■ Where to get ...

Work and residence permit: The Directorate of Immigration, Skógarhlíð 6, Tel: 510 5400, www.utl.is

Insurance and benefits: The State Social Security Institute, Laugavegur 114-116, Tel: 560 4400, www.tr.is

Icelandic citizenship: Unless you

come from a Nordic country, foreign citizens have to have had an unrestricted residence permit in Iceland for at least seven years in order to get an Icelandic citizenship although some exceptions exist to that general rule. Applications are at the Ministry of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs, Skuggasund, Tel: 545 9000, www.domsmalaraduneyti.is

■ Unemployment benefits: Directorate of Labour, Public Employment Service, Tryggvagata 17, Tel: 515 4800, www.vinnulastofnun.is

■ Driver's license: Those who have a foreign license don't need an Icelandic one for the first six months. After that time you have one month to apply for an Icelandic driver's license. Applications are at police stations.

Tax card: Tax office, Laugavegur 166, Tel: 563 1100, www.rsk.is

Rent subsidies: Social Service Office, Tryggvagata 17, Tel: 411 9000 www.felagstjornustan.is



The Boys Dance Too

Text by Valgerður Þrórssdóttir

2004 was undeniably the year of Franz Ferdinand, when the Scottish four-piece along with their self-titled debut ploughed the dance-pop-rock competition in record sales all over the world, winning them the UK's coveted Mercury Music Prize. In September 2005, the band played Kaplakriki in Hafnarfjörður, right before releasing their second record, You Could Have It So Much Better, which debuted on the UK charts at Number 1. The Grapevine caught up with bassist Robert Hardy over the phone from Glasgow to discuss the upcoming release of the band's third effort and their second Icelandic appearance, this time at NASA on September 14, along with support from local teen darlings Jakobinarina.

Before going into the studio, really. Are you expecting your third record some time this year?

No, hopefully it will be recorded by Christmas but it probably won't be out until April or May next year.

That will make it more than two years since the release of You Could Have It So Much Better, which came out shortly after you played here last. Has this record been an especially long time in the making?

Parliamentary elections were last held in 2003 with 33.7 percent of votes going to the Independence Party. The Social Democratic Alliance got 31 percent, the Progressive Party 17.7 percent, the Leftist-Greens 8.8 percent and the Liberal Party 7.4 percent. The Independence Party and the Progressive Party formed a coalition and together lead the government.

I think we have a much more relaxed approach to it, and we have taken a bit longer than we did on the second one and I think that just feels fresh. We stopped touring and we actually, you know, came home for a few months.

It felt like the olden days again, it feels like before we were famous, and it's got that kind of excitement about it. We're excited about it in the same way as when we first got the band together.

You played last in Reykjavík two years ago. With a premier album that was as hyped and as critically and commercially popular as yours, naturally enough the sophomore release is going to be subject to some high expectations. Was that something that you were aware of in the process of making and releasing the second record?

That is true. We've written some new songs and we're gonna go and record them but before we do we

SUMARÍÐ ER BÚIÐ

SKÖLLFEST II

dordingull.com/skollfest

11. SEPTEMBER - HELLIRINN - HÓLMASLÓÐ 2, 101 REYKJAVÍK
EKKERT ALDURSTAKMARK - 1000 INN - HEFST 18:00

Blacklisted (USA)

CELESTINE, DYS, I ADAPT, KIMONO, RETRON
THE SOUTH-COAST KILLING COMPANY
DIABOLUS, SKÍTUR, DREP

PAPINOS PIZZA

THE REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

TPM

REYKJAVÍK FM 101.5

deathwish

DORDINGULL.COM

Gagnaugad
myspace.com/gagnaugad



re May Cost You Your Life

tourists don't realise that the

'in the highland area where an instant, the temperature going point. Without warning it /, even in the summer. In a city can be lost. A car might of nowhere and when drive be many kilometres to the e and hours until another

ably not work either. When tly easy to get lost in suchtly dressed in heavy rain or e terrifying. Even fatal.

ples of travellers who have before passing another car ety serious situation," Bal-

follow simple safety guide- even believe us when they an be dangerous and the ge. It seems as if many travt we are not joking."

em facing travellers in Ice- ghland roads, sharp bends i can be tricky for the un- control of a vehicle underially when the speed limit

or the mountain roads in suitable for upland driving er problems. Baldursdóttir basis, rescue workers spot on the mountain roads. eses only suitable for jeeps small vehicles, especially if rivers along the way. Add-

nore Yaris than jeeps." a genius to realise that a big problem when passen if that fact seems lost them have little or no ex- After staring at the water or it. But instead of driving it reaction is often to drive hat's when cars get stuck

and rescue teams or other travellers have to pull soaking-wet passengers and the damaged car back on land. That is, when the passengers are lucky enough to have someone close by

Hrannar Magnússon at the car-rental agency Sixt is well aware of the problem, but tells me that 95% of those renting cars at his company have no problems, 4% are lucky and 1% cause damages.

"Although we have been quite fortunate this year we have lost two jeeps to water damages," he says adding that the water damages are especially frustrating as they are expensive and the insurance doesn't cover it. "We try to make it clear to our customers that they aren't allowed to drive small cars on the mountain roads. We inform every tourist about the road conditions, although that can sometimes be tricky, especially when the customer doesn't speak English or Icelandic. We also try to make them aware of the fact that cars aren't insured off-road, the chassis isn't insured and no water damages are covered. That usually scares people and makes them more careful. We try to do what we can but in the end, they are at their own risk," he says.

The Reporting Service

Landsbjörg has based five rescue groups at four different highland locations for the past two summers. The rescue teams are on standby night and day, ready to help those in need.

"The groups assist travellers and offer general information. There are so many things that can go wrong," Baldursdóttir says. She urges tourists to always check the weather forecast, road conditions and, most importantly, let someone know about the trip and the planned route before embarking on long treks.

"I strongly recommend tourists to tell someone where they plan to go. They can tell family and friends or talk to the cabin ranger. They can also call the Emergency number before heading off or stop by at Landsbjörg's office (in Skógarhlíð 14) and have our people look over the travel schedules free of charge. Every year, a number of tourists use this service and we have seen some ridiculous travel plans. The reporting service is not an obligation but I strongly advise people to use it."

Unfortunately, too many travellers ignore the opportunity.

"This summer, I was driving up to Landmannala-

ugar when I passed a German tourist. He had been walking for hours. By pure luck he had found his way back to the road again where I picked him up. His feet were bleeding and he was totally beat. He told me he had hiked in Sweden, Spain and many other countries but never realised how much harder hiking in Iceland was," Baldursdóttir says. The man was alone and hadn't reported to anyone before he took off.

"If I hadn't found him, no one would have known where he could be located. No one would have noticed that something was wrong until he wouldn't show up at the Airport. That's exactly what happened in the case of the two German hikers. And we witness this frequently."

I ask Ranger Arna Ósp Magnúsdóttir, who has worked in Sigurðarskáli cabin since June, about the reporting service, and she tells me many tourists never even consider leaving a travel plan or report to the cabin staff. When asked if she thinks tourists are well enough informed about the many dangers, she says it can differ between groups:

"We've met large groups of tourists travelling around the area with only a foreign guide who isn't familiar with the nature or the safety precautions. A guide who doesn't even know the emergency phone number" she says and continues:

"Even experienced mountain climbers and skiers have troubles. Foreigners, who have never experienced the Icelandic weather, don't realise that the summer in the highland area can be harsh. I mean, it snowed this July."

Foolhardy plans are something guides and rangers across the country see every year. Tourists who don't seem to give a damn about warnings or safety and without hesitation stick to plans that are so misguided it is hard to believe anyone would even consider them, unless wanting to get killed. Magnúsdóttir tells me about one example she witnessed this summer:

"There was a man who planned to go mountain-skiing over Vatnajökull glacier. He was alone, had almost no experience and we had told him a storm was expected. No matter how much we warned him he didn't listen and headed for the glacier. At that time, it was hard for us to estimate what we should do and whether or not we should report this. Luckily, there was a rescue team based in the area."

Three days later, the skier returned, somewhat

ashamed. Due to the crazy weather he hadn't reached the glacier but instead found shelter in a nearby cabin. This man was lucky that the storm left him stranded safely inside. Things could have gone so much worse.

The More Information, the Better

In Iceland, like in most other countries, tourists are free to go almost everywhere and travel on their own. "People need to understand though that if something happens or you go missing, a large team of rescue workers is called out almost immediately. What I would like to see change is to have a system that would mandate travellers to submit a travel plan before hiking glaciers or going on long mountain trips. That would save everyone a lot of troubles," Magnúsdóttir adds.

"We need to make tourists realise that they need to be careful and understand that nature can be dangerous. Then we just have to let them loose and believe in common sense," Baldursdóttir concludes.

Those planning a trip across Iceland should heed this advice. Gather information, follow instructions, and let someone know the travel schedule before heading on the journey. Your life might depend on it.

Landsbjörg has opened a new website, www.safety.is, with good tips, useful phone numbers and safety procedures for all sorts of travelling in Iceland.

"Even experienced mountain climbers and skiers have troubles. Foreigners, who have never experienced the Icelandic weather, don't realise that the summer in the highland area can be harsh. I mean, it snowed this July."



Lekman's Heart On Fire

Text by Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir Photo by Gulli

Who: **Jens Lekman**
Where: **The Nordic House**
When: **August 24, 2007**

Jens places a small cold bottle of white wine, a glass and a chair on the stage. A light hush falls slowly over the crowd as he picks up his guitar and steps up to the microphone. "Oooooo," he whispers. In the great glass dome the lights quickly dim. The rain sounds hard against the roof.

"There's work to do," he begins to sing. Moving a little to his right, "You can do it later," he croons into a second microphone. Alone with his guitar, eyes closed, he points his face upward towards the slippery roof, and the words glide out soft but strong. "The rain has got to fall. The rain has got to fall. The rain has got to fall."

I don't know what it is about Lekman that makes his delivery so sweet, or his concerts so memorable. On his last visit to Iceland, Saturday night of Airwaves 2006, he half-accidentally played the festival's most captivating set, replacing Jenny Wilson last-minute with just a parlour guitar in hand. Now he was doing it again. Almost inadvertently, the whole room had fallen in love with him.

Jens and his band, which consisted at this point of a drummer and a bassist, launched unabashedly into Black Cab, in a clear and sincere sort of vibrant flurry. Soon after, the trumpets, trombone, horn and acoustic guitar of Benni Hemm Hemm sounded suddenly from the back of the room, as they began a slow march up the centre aisle with the opening chords of A Sweet Summer's Night At Hammer Hill.

A well-deserved encore followed, as in the air you could feel the crowd hungry for more of that sweet something that Lekman was so innocently pouring out. A certain something that I still can't pin-down. Something entirely accidental, perhaps, so simple that it's beyond words, best enjoyed with your eyes closed and your heart wide open.



Getting Into It

Text by Birkir Fjalar Viðarsson Photo by Gulli

Who: **Sammi's Big Band, Jimi Tenor and Antibalas**
Where: **NASA**
When: **September 1, 2007**

Attending the final night of the Reykjavík Jazz Festival, I did not expect much. Stórvæti Samma (Sammi's Big Band) has never excited me much and Brooklyn's Antibalas was totally foreign to me. Jimi Tenor was the only artist I'd enjoyed prior to this show.

I reflected on Sammi's body of work and his hard workmanship, ambition, consistency and search for the ultimate cool. Despite never enjoying his music to the fullest, I have the outmost respect for his passion. The guy can't stop playing, writing and putting big things together. This night was no exception. His Big Band featured 19 players, 13 of which played various horns. They sounded larger than life. The songs and arrangements played like music for a classy thinking man's action movie.

Add to this an element of surprise that was the appearance of Jimi Tenor, better known for his work for Warped Records. Here, he displayed an eclectic know-how of jazz music and surprised most of us with skilled flute playing, keyboard skills, rather good singing (although his voice was a bit too "small" for these big arrangements) and basically multi-tasking on a level I did not expect. Turns out he's been a player in the Finland jazz scene for years when not working on his Warp side.

As a live band they delivered but at the same time they bored me. It felt like a glimpse into a band rehearsal late at night when most of its members would rather be at home and

preparing to go to bed. And they played way too long to keep me interested. Dragging out the set like this is a big no-no. Make it snappy and go for it. Don't be polite.

This was not the case with the afro-beat political party mob Antibalas. Boy, was I glad that I went to this show expecting nothing. Although I admit, learning they were from Brooklyn, I imagined a band with diverse influence and origin that would make for an exciting and happening music spectacle – a melting pot of many good things. I was looking for energy.

My jaded ass got that and then some. I use the term "into it" a lot. That's because I rarely see bands that are truly into it play shows in Reykjavík. Antibalas were into it. They were into their own creation, which is something I admire. I'm pretty sure that if there were only 5 people there they would still have been into it, sweating, dancing, banging their heads etc. Antibalas attacked the stage with sheer positive enthusiasm and within seconds they had the crowd in the palm of their hands. Pretty much everybody was tapping their legs and a good number of people lost their signature "pose" and started dancing. They communicated with the crowd. They shared with us. They made me want to be there and not miss out. That's all I can ask for. Go see this band and buy their shit. Support bands that are into it.



Stereo Hypnosis Parallel Island

Parallel Island is the product of collaboration between father/son duo Óskar Thorarensen and Pan Thorarensen. Pan has made a name for himself in the electro scene as Beatmakin' Troopa, while Óskar is known to older generations as Jafet Melge of Inferno 5. Stereo Hypnosis is an aptly named duo, for they generate sounds that are... well, hypnotic. The album was recorded in the desolated island Flatey in Breiðarfjörður, and the location is more or less materialised on the recordings. Very ambient-driven electronica, full of lonely organic environmental sounds, birds in the background, waves crashing the shore, water dripping, with soft beats and gentle melodies that cast a soothing feeling of overcast skies and rainy days, perfect for staying in bed and listening to atmospheric and ambient music. This album is a prophecy come true. SBB

Our new bus winter schedule is in effect from 1. September. Please see the new schedule at our website www.trex.is and in our new winter pamphlet.



www.trex.is

Hópferðamiðstöðin
Vesttravel **TREX**
Travel Experiences

glaumbar

the fun
is at
glaumbar



Soccer
Football
Basketball
Tennis
Rugby

glaumbar - tryggvagötu 20 - tel: 552-6868
www.glaumbar.is

Reykjavík 871 ±2 Landnámsýningin The Settlement Exhibition

Step into the Viking Age

Indigo Indigo

Indigo started out as the solo project of Ingólfur Þór Árnarson, who released two albums under the moniker before joining hands with viola player Vala Gestsdóttir. This is Indigo's first release as a duet. Like former Indigo releases, this is tender and delicate music, softly stroked guitar melodies and viola, subdued voices and the occasional horn. Think Bright Eyes or Jeff Buckley at their most tender of moments. This is very heartfelt, but a tad too melodramatic for my own taste. The whole album glides through with little effort, staying true to the formula to the end. I am certain that for fans of the genre, this is a gem and hordes of people will enjoy this album immensely, but I am not one of them. SBB

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.

Reykjavík City Museum

Making of a Nation

Heritage and History in Iceland



Iceland's extraordinary history from settlement to present day

Guided tours in English daily 11:00



Opening hours:

Summer (May 1st - Sept. 15th): Daily 10-17.
Winter (Sept. 16th - Apr. 30th):
Daily 11-17 except Mondays.

National Museum of Iceland • Suðurgata 41 • 101 Reykjavík • Tel. 530 2200 • www.natmus.is

**There is no love
sincerer than
the love of food**

George Bernard Shaw
(1856 - 1950)

DOMO RESTAURANT / BAR
PINGHOLTSSTRÆTI 5
101 REYKJAVÍK
TEL. 552 5588
DOMO@DOMO.IS
WWW.DOMO.IS



domo

Exciting

Vor offers great food combined with good prices and anyone who likes Mediterranean gourmet cooking should come visit the new and exciting restaurant.



MON - THU. 9:30-22:00 | FRI. 9:30-01:00 | SAT. 11:00-01:00 | SUN. 11:00-22:00
LAUGAVEGI 24 | 101 REYKJAVÍK | TEL. 562 2322 | WWW.VOR.IS

Icelandic Art
...
The Essence
of a Nation

listinniðsala
fold



Artist: Gunella

offers the country's largest selection of contemporary Icelandic art
Rauðarársíður 14, near Hlemmur bus station, tel. 551 0400
Kringlan Shopping Mall, tel. 568 0400 • www.myndlist.is



This Is Hardcore

Text by Haukur Magnússon Photo by RobbyRedcheeks.com

"Uhm. I guess we started around 2003-4. Sometime then. We put out an EP called Our Youth Is Wasted; we didn't tour much on that, just put on random shows here and there. We then put out a split single with First Blood and an LP called The Beat Goes On, and then we've just been touring for the last years. I reckon we play about 250 shows each year, our guitar player got sick on tour and had an... uhm... heart attack, so we were going to break up, but we decided to keep on going. Are we hard working? Yeah, I guess. It's crazy. We've played well over 650 shows since we started touring full time two years ago."

George Hirsch, singer for near-legendary Philadelphia hardcore act Blacklisted, just got back from playing several east coast shows with his band when the Grapevine caught him on the phone. Today is packing day. Tomorrow, they leave for Europe, where Blacklisted will play many dates in a very short time. Their final show will be in Reykjavík on Skullfest festival on September 11. Blacklisted clearly qualify as hard working.

Yet, chances are none of you readers have ever heard of Blacklisted. Blacklisted is a fringe act. Their music is harsh and uncompromising, their lyrics are confrontational and most casual music fans would describe their live shows as frightening. I ask Hirsch what they have to offer the uninitiated audience in terms of pure experience.

In the spirit of opening minds and broadening my horizon, how should I approach their show?

I guess you can expect a lot of energy, there is a lot of energy behind the music and seeing it live is the same. It's energetic and fast moving, powerful. It speaks to you if you really listen, at least that's how I would hope it comes across. A random person might not understand the show, lest they ease into it somehow. It's hard to jump into it without a proper introduction. But you will find intimacy there, people are close and it's personal. As with anything, if you open your mind and are open to the experience, good things will come to you.

I assume that most of our readers are unfamiliar with Hardcore, what it is, what it stands for. What would you tell them?

It's a style of music. I don't know what else to say about it. I always think about it in terms of how crazy it is. How crazy is it that I am talking to you on the phone from Iceland, and I grew up in some random neighbourhood in Philly – now I'm flying to Europe to do shows. I look at my family and friends; they never get the experience to see that, to go all over the world just to play music. I think about a huge pop band that will never get to experience the things we've experienced, because everything gets handled for them while we're sleeping on people's couches,

hanging with the kids in each city. When you play Hardcore or tour in a hardcore band, you meet the people who come see your band – they're not our fans, they're our friends. Hardcore to me is personal, and it brings people together. How crazy is it that I have friends from Japan, from Australia and Brazil, all from playing music?

What type of person do you think Blacklisted would immediately appeal to, and is there a group you would like to reach and interact with more than another?

I don't think there's anyone that would be definitely into us, we get all kinds of different people. It appeals to kids for the most part, and if I could appeal to anyone it would be young kids, they could get into Hardcore more, experience new things and get into it.

The music we play is too abrasive for MTV, too aggressive. We're not a band the average person might listen to. They might go as far as listening to Mastodon, but that's different, they went to the Grammys. This music as a whole is too deep and aggressive, and some people are scared by it. It's not for everybody, not everything is for everybody."

I know it's not an easy question, but why do you play music?

I've seen it performed for so long, and I just liked it. I had a lot of stuff that I wanted to say, not like a political outlet, but stuff that I wanted to express and get off my chest.

"I reckon we play about 250 shows each year, our guitar player got sick on tour and had an... uhm... heart attack, so we were going to break up, but we decided to keep on going. Are we hard working? Yeah, I guess. It's crazy."

I've seen so many people do that, and I just thought, 'If this person can do it, I can do it.' In real life circumstances, that's stupid, competition in the workplace is stupid, but for Hardcore it's the model. Anyone can do this, get on stage any day and express whatever you want: people will accept it. I wanted an outlet, and there's really no other reason. I'm getting to travel, meet kids in different areas that will show me their cultures and bring me to places they know. We are able to play and meet people and make friends, experiencing different cultures full on. It's definitely worth it."

You tour a lot. I've been told you're almost never off tour. That sort of lifestyle has been romanticized a lot as of late, what with books like Our Band Could Be Your Life and all the canonizing the 80s Hardcore scene has seen lately. Does all the touring get to you, do you suffer intolerable conditions; is it as strangely glamorous as those books indicate? And is this something you've actively sought out?

I think it's tolerable, we wouldn't do anything that's intolerable, I wouldn't make myself suffer. All the same, is not as glamorous as it might be made out to be. It's like everything else; there's good stuff and then there's bad stuff. Things don't always go as planned, as you know, with a car or a van that you drive so much, bad things are going to happen. You will miss shows, this will break and that will break and a small van is really close quarters for a fifteen hour drive, after which you will load in and get right on stage.

It's a great experience but it's definitely not glamorous. That said, we're not eating dog food rolled up in bread – but we're also not partying with Playboy playmates in every town. There's a midpoint that we try and maintain; we just try to have fun and be as comfortable as possible on the road. There will be uncomfortable days, and you will get irritated, you might play a miserable show and not truly represent who you are. But all in all, it's fun. I'd recommend it to anyone, if they're willing to deal with whatever might come up, it's a good experience and you get to see things most people never will.



Countdown to Airwaves: 5 Weeks

Text by Haukur S. Magnússon Photo by Leó Stefánsson

Iceland Airwaves is a month or so away, taking place from October 17–21. You will, of course, be there. Over 170 bands and solo artists will perform – most of them are pretty good, if not outright awesome. Below are some you should check out in no certain order:

<3 Svanhvít!

Arcade Fire sure have a lot to answer for. Every garage band in existence has suddenly added a lute player, an accordionist and eight xylophone bangers to their line-up. Take Reykjavík upstarts <3 Svanhvít!. There's like... eleven of them on-stage at any given moment, some of whom serve such purposes as "air guitar" and "vacuum cleaner". However, Svanhvít! (mostly) avoid the trappings of their chosen pseudo-arty genre by leaning heavily on an element that some of its key players all but ignore: humour. And they write some pretty damn good songs, too. These runners-up in this year's Battle of the Bands contest are always a sight worth seeing, and they just might have a trick or two up their sleeves this year.

Sudden Weather Change

I hadn't even heard Sudden Weather Change a month ago, but ever since their débüt EP made its way onto my CD player I have been brimming with the kind of excitement I rarely get from new bands these days. The music sounds like a perfectly flawed blend of Wolf Parade and Cap'n Jazz and I can't wait to see them in concert – it just has to be a chaotic and bloody experience.

Weapons

Weapons are a staple of Reykjavík's live scene and can be found playing shows at some dive or the other most weekends of the year. Their dedication to their craft has ensured that they are an extremely tightly knit trio,

featuring stage moves par excellence. Their take on garage is conventional without being derivative, and melodic without being poppy. To boot, they usually get fists pumping, all of which means Weapons are a most welcome addition to any rocker's late night pub-crawl. And Iceland Airwaves, of course.

Annuals

I saw Annuals perform at this year's SXSW festival and have been looking forward to a repeat performance ever since. At a festival dominated by drab guitar bands with nothing to prove and (somehow) even less to say, these guys (and gal) stood out like a sore thumb on a dominantly indie-rock band (when did indie rock become a synonym for BORING anyway?). Their energetic, drum-heavy performance was sprawling and chaotic, yet tuneful and enticing. And while they do employ guitars for various means, their use is inventive, their sound solemn. And I wouldn't miss it for anything on TV.

of Montreal

It makes sense that of Montreal are playing Iceland Airwaves. Their latest piece of plastic, 'Hissing Fauna, Are You The Destroyer?' was reportedly conceived of and recorded in a tiny Norwegian bedroom, and features many, many odes to Scandinavian darkness, cold weather and Lutheran leanings. And the music? While "indie-disco" has become such a redundant and cringe-worthy term that it has long since passed the borders of meaninglessness (remember The Bravery?), of Montreal's music proudly evokes both elements, albeit with a heavy dose of classic pop sensibilities and a sense of poesy that their peers could only dream of. Plus, they're supposed to kick ass live.

We don't serve foreigners...

because to us - nobody is foreign.

Only 45 min. drive from Reykjavík is Eyrarbakki, a beautiful village by the south coast, where foreigners have been feeling at home since the 9th century AD. So welcome to Rauða húsið, a restaurant that makes you feel at home.

Tel: (+354) 483-3330,
Eyrarbakki - South coast

rauða húsið
restaurant
Eyrarbakki

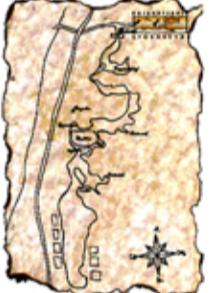


Kayak tour in Stokkseyri

Amazing experience

Robinson Crusoe

Appr. 1-3 hour without guide. Particularly interesting possibility for families and individuals, where participants can explore by themselves the amazing labyrinth of the swamp. Map of the area is in the reception. Notice that the area is absolutely safe.



Tours begin at the Stokkseyri swimming pool.



Adult: 2900 ISK
Children age 6-14 ára: 500 ISK

Viðey island

History - Nature - Art



Videyjartofla Restaurant is open daily from 11:30 - 17:00
Light refreshments and traditional coffee

Looking for tickets to concerts in Iceland?



GET THEM ONLINE!

midi.is

The Great Wall of China

Vesturgata 6-8
Tel: 552-1900 (english speaking)
Tel: 552-9898 (icelandic speaking)
Fax: 552-9988
www.greatwall.is
Also Available for Banquettes



12 course buffet
from monday - friday, 11:30 - 14:00
only 1.450 ISK

September Special

Any day of the week
3 Course Meal for two persons only 2.500 ISK each

Meal 1:
Springrolls
Deepfried fish in s'n's sauce
Almond Chicken Fried Noodles

Meal 2:
Hot n' sour soup
Pork w onion
s'n's King Prawn Fried Noodles

Meal 3:
Chicken Satay
Fried Beef with Sacha sauce
Mixed Seafood and Meet Dish Fried Noodles

ExperienceIce-land

Easy Glacier Adventures for Everyone

Ice Climbing

Ascension of Iceland's Highest Peak

Hot Spring Hike

Trekking and Backpacking



Icelandic Mountain Guides

Booking and information: www.mountainguide.is - Tel: +354 587 9999

Gaukur á stöng is proud to be the oldest pub in Iceland.
Live music every fridays, saturdays and then some.



www.myspace.com/gaukurastong * Tryggvagata 22 * 101 Reykjavík

Since 1983



Locating Iceland

Text by Sveinn Birkir Björnsson Photos by Spessi

Photographer Spessi (Sigurbör Hallbjörnsson) is a graduate of the Akademie Voor Beeldende Kunst, in Holland. Spessi's photography has always focused on capturing the extraordinary of the ordinary and the beauty contained in deconstructing the simplicity of everyday occurrences.

His book Bensin (Gasoline) was an inspiring meditation on the subject of gas stations, a most ordinary thing, full of meaning and texture when placed in front of Spessi's lens and exposed as a unique place. His latest book follows the same trend. Titled Location, it is a series of photographs taken around Iceland. But unlike many books of photography from Iceland, it is not dedicated to the exhilarating landscape, but rather to the everyday and ordinary Iceland. "I have always wanted to do a book about Iceland," Spessi says, "but I was never able to find the right way to approach it."

Although none of the photos contain people, Spessi describes them as portraits of people. "Some of the locations are people's homes

or offices. Then I include the living room, the bedroom and the storage room, that can often be as telling of a person as a portrait."

The Location series consists of several smaller series, each taken at a different location. The locations range from the small town Eskifjörður on the East coast of Iceland, the Kárahnjúkar dam project, the suburban Breiðholt, a community centre in Snæfellsnes, a car dealership in Reykjavík, and the Icelandic countryside. "I just tried to cover the whole country," Spessi says. "The photos are aspects of the whole country, inside people's homes or workplaces and out in the country."

The book was designed by Hjalti Karlson, at KarlsonWilker Inc. in New York and distributed by D.A.P., Distributed Art Publishers Inc.

Unlike many books of photography from Iceland, it is not dedicated to the exhilarating landscape, but rather to the everyday and ordinary Iceland.

EDDAS AND SAGAS

Iceland's national treasures

MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS – EDDAS AND SAGAS. EXHIBITION AT THE CULTURE HOUSE.

The Culture House - *bjöldmenningarhús*
National Centre for Cultural Heritage
Hverfisgata 15, 101 Reykjavík
Tel.: +354 545 1400, www.thjodmenning.is

Open daily between 11am and 5pm.
The admission fee grants entry to all exhibitions at the Culture House. Adults ISK 300, Senior citizens ISK 200, Students ISK 200. Free entry for children 16 years of age or younger. Admission is free on Wednesdays.
An open guided tour of the Manuscripts exhibition is offered every weekday except Wednesdays at 3:30 pm.

this advertisement
and others are
sponsored by:



In Lækjargata, houses and trees grow at an equal rate. 1987/2007



13.09.07 - 27.10.07
EGGERT PÉTURSSON
100 myndir / One Hundred Paintings

i8 Galleri er opn úr þriðudaga til förtudaga 11-17, laugardaga 13-17 og eftir samskotum.
i8 Gallery is open 11 am - 5 pm Tuesday to Friday, 1 pm - 5 pm Saturday, and by appointment.

Klappartorg 33
101 Reykjavík
Iceland
tel. 551 3666
info@i8.is
www.i8.is

i8

BOOKING CENTER.is

FREE BOOKINGS

Accommodation Activities
Rental Cars Vacation Packages
Day Tours Maps & Postcards
Special offers every day

www.bookingcenter.is | Tel.: +354 588 9 588 | Email: info@bookingcenter.is



A MUST DO FOR THE VISITOR...

THE SETTLEMENT CENTRE IN BORGARNES

Two unique exhibitions:
THE SETTLEMENT OF ICELAND and EGILS SAGA

Open daily from 10 am to 7 pm
RESTAURANT Open from 10 am to 9:30 pm

Tel: +354 437 1600
www.landnamsetur.is

Take a Walk Around Viðey

Photo by Leó Stefánsson

It takes about seven minutes to ride the ferry from Reykjavík to Viðey, the small island that sits a stone's throw away from the city. Once you are there, it will take hours before you are ready to leave again.

Few places in Reykjavík are richer in history than Viðey. The earliest signs of inhabitants on the island are from the tenth century. A large monastery was operated on the island from the 13th century until the 16th century. In 1775, Viðeyjarstofa, the large manor house, clearly visible from the city, became the first building in Reykjavík made of stones and cement. It became the Governor's house for a long time, and later housed the first printing press in Iceland. The Viðey church is also the oldest church in the country, dating back to 1777. But history is only a small part of the joy of visiting the island.

Viðey is a nice retreat from the pace of life in the city, even if you technically never leave the city. There are no cars around. Once you step off the boat, you'll need to walk or make use of bicycles available for guests to roam around the island. In the summer time, a horse rental gives you the option of using four legs instead of two wheels. Whatever mode of transportation fits you best, the most important thing is that you get around.

On a hill above the ferry dock, Yoko Ono's Imagine Peace Tower is scheduled for construction this fall, taking the place of the Blind Pavilion by Icelandic artist Ólafur Elíasson. Dispersed around the island's west side is Áfangar, another interesting piece of art by the American sculptor Richard Serra.

On the Eastern end, remnants of an old fishing village are still visible. The village was deserted in 1946 and most of the houses were torn down and rebuilt in Reykjavík. The old schoolhouse is still left standing. Inside, a photo exhibition documents the island's history.

Viðeyjarstofa, the old manor house, was completely renovated in 1986 and now serves as a café and restaurant. It is good to end a day in Viðey by sitting down with a waffle and a cup of coffee and enjoying the view over the city from the seaside. For those of us who live there, it is a side of the city we seldom see. **SBB**

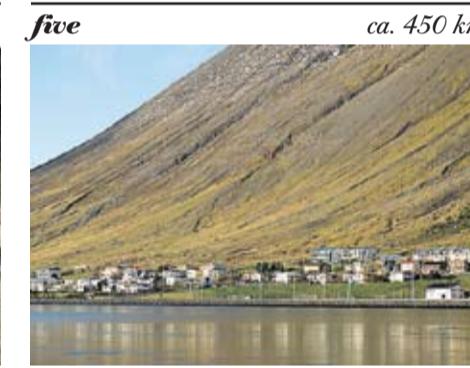
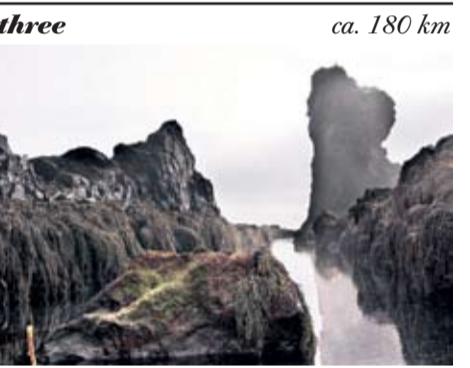
The ferry to Viðey leaves from Sundahöfn harbour every hour on the hour from 11 -17. Return trips are 15 min past the hour.

How to drive in Iceland

A relatively large percentage of foreign tourists in Iceland travel around the country by car. Conditions in Iceland are in many ways unusual, and often quite unlike that which foreign drivers are accustomed. It is therefore very important to find out how to drive in this country. We know that the landscapes are beautiful, which naturally draws the attention of driver away from the road. But in order to reach your destination safely, you must keep your full attention on driving.

Livestock on the road Single-lane bridges
In Iceland, you can expect There are many livestock to be on or alongside single-lane the road. It is usually sheep, but bridges on the sometimes horses and even cows Ring Road. The can be in your path. This is actual rule is that common all over the country, and can be very dangerous. The car closer to the sheep is on one side of the road and her lambs on the other side. Under these conditions—which are common—it is a good rule to expect the lambs or the sheep to run to the other side.



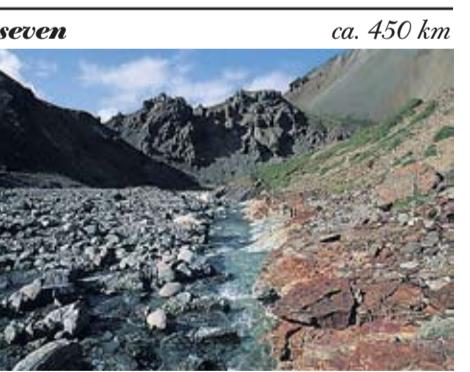


Stykkishólmur
The small village of Stykkishólmur is considered one of the more magical municipalities in the country. Surrounded by historical sites and natural beauty, the town is located on the north shore of the Snæfellsnes peninsula. The small and colourful houses are built around the harbour where fishing boats are docked alongside cruise ships and ferries. The town is the gateway to the Breiðafjörður islands and several companies organise daily sight-seeing trips among the thousands of small islands where one can spot wild birds flying around the boat while tasting freshly caught scallops.

Arnarstapi
The countryside landscape of the western part of the Snæfellsnes peninsula is both dramatic and contrasting where one will come across some of the country's extraordinary natural wonders. Among them is Arnarstapi, an old fishing village rich with history and interesting sights to explore. Its beautiful harbour with a magnificent view over the gulf of Faxaflói and all the unusual cliffs and surreal rock formations rising up from the unfriendly ocean have made the place a popular hiking destination. A short walk away one will find the small and homely café Fjöruhúsið.

Seljalandsfoss
When driving along the south coast of the country, admirable sights are only minutes apart, making the region a popular day-trip destination. Seljalandsfoss, a spectacular waterfall that drops 60 metres over a large cliff in the Eyjafjöll Mountains is one example. Seljalandsfoss has a distinctive feature, which makes it among the country's most photographed waterfalls. It is possible to walk behind it without getting soaking wet and capture unusual images from the other side. You don't have to worry about falling in the stream, a marked footpath leads the way.

Ísafjörður
A trip to the capital of the Westfjords, Ísafjörður, is a worthwhile journey as the town and its surroundings offer plenty of activities for travellers. The town is renowned for being a mix of a thriving fishing and music community and is for example home to the annual music festival Aldrei fór ég suður, growing in size and popularity every year. The nearby mountains and valleys boast many scenic hiking trips, after which you can relax at a downtown café with a drink in hand and chat with friendly locals.



Mt. Hekla
The dignified and scenic 40 km long stratovolcano Hekla is one of Iceland's most famous landmarks, towering above the Þjórsárdalur valley. Hekla is among the world's most active volcanoes. The volcano has erupted five times in the 20th century, most recently in February 2000. Early settlers in Iceland understandably feared this frightening fire-spouting mountain and believed Hekla to be the gateway to Hell. This summer, a new geo-historical museum, the Hekla Centre, opened at the farm Leirubakki, situated at the foot of the mountain.

Lónsöræfi
Set right on the eastern border with the huge and unquestionably magical Vatnajökull glacier (the largest glacier in Europe), the obscure Lónsöræfi is a vast volcanic preservation area of colourful hills, broad rivers, gushing waterfalls, and lush vegetation that is unique for Iceland. The area is surrounded by sharp and snowy peaks on all sides, and is often treaded by herds of reindeer. For visitors who dare the unpopular and rugged terrain, Lónsöræfi offers several cottages for accommodation. Also nearby is Skaftafell, a cool abandoned farm-campsite right on the edge of Lónsöræfi.

Skaftafell
Skaftafell is Iceland's second largest National Park, covering about 4,800 square kilometres of a highly diverse area in the south of Iceland. Comprising some of Iceland's most renowned natural pearls, including two-thirds of the Vatnajökull glacier, the Lakagigar craters, the sandy wasteland Skeiðarársandur and the impressive Svartifoss waterfall, the park is truly an outstanding treasure. Travellers can easily spend days exploring the area and all the panoramic views of the unique rugged landscape and majestic glaciers it has to offer. A nice campsite with good facilities is located in close proximity to the Skaftafellsjökull glacier.

Reykholt
Reykholt, a parsonage in Reykholtdalur valley, has a great historical significance to the Icelandic population. Reykholt is mostly famous for being the former mansion of Snorri Sturluson, born in 1179. He was a highly influential politician and historian as well as a widely acclaimed author. The main attraction is Snorastofa, which houses an exhibition on Snorri's life and the history of Reykholt as well as an impressive library. Outside is a small geothermally heated bathing pool, Snorralaug, preserved since the time Reykholt was Snorri's home.



Flatey
Despite its 2 km by 1 km size (Flatey is actually the largest in a series of 40 islands that make up the total area), Flatey is known as one of the most historically and culturally rich places in Iceland. The small island town was once home to one of the oldest monasteries in the country (built in 1172), which unfortunately no longer stands. Still, Flatey now boasts a church built in the mid-20th century – with paintings of the island and its inhabitants by the famous Catalan painter Baltasar. Flatey also boasts the smallest library in Iceland, with the well-known Flatey Book, which is one of the oldest books in the country and contains vital information about the sagas that cannot be found elsewhere. The book, which dates back to the 13th century, was rescued back from the king of Denmark in 1971. Flatey is also known for its wealth of Icelandic birdlife and colourful architecture.



NÁMSFLOKKAR HAFNARFJARDAR MÍÐSTÖÐ SÍMENNTUNAR

- ICELANDIC FOR FOREIGNERS
- TUNGUMÁL
- HANDVERK OG LISTIR
- HEILSA OG ÚTLIT
- TÖLVUR OG REKSTUR
- TÓNLISTAR- OG SÖGNAMÁL
- LEIKLIST FYRIR BÖRN OG UNGLINGA
- NÁMSAÐSTOD
- MATUR OG NÄRING
- PRÓFAÁFANGAR
- FJARNÁM VID HA

Námskeið á haustönn 2007 hefjast 24. september!
Nánari upplýsingar og innritun í síma 585-5860.
Ný námskrá kemur út 12. sept. og verður aðgengileg
á netinu: www.namsflokkar.hafnarfjordur.is

Tapas Iceland

Get a taste of the best of Iceland
...with a little bit of spanish thrown in!

GREAT TAPAS FROM KR. 550.-

THE ONLY KITCHEN OPEN TO:
01:00 ON WEEKENDS
23:30 DURING THE WEEK

ICELAND'S ONLY AUTHENTIC TAPAS-BAR
TEL: 551-2344 • EMAIL: TAPAS@TAPAS.IS
ADDRESS: VESTURGATA 3B • 101 REYKJAVÍK

Álafoss - outlet
Álafossvegur 23
Mosfellsbær
(C.a 16 km away from Reykjavík on the road to Þingvellir)

Open:
Mondays - Fridays
9:00 - 18:00
Saturdays
9:00 - 16:00

Álafoss
Laugavegur 1
Reykjavík
City Center

Open:
Every day
9:00 - 22:00

ÁLAFOSS
Wool & Souvenir Shop

<div

Icelandic Art

Photo by Gulli

For centuries, Icelanders were certainly not the culturally refined and creative lot they pride themselves on being today. This is evident from the history (and the collection) of The National Gallery of Iceland. This national museum was established in 1884, by Björn Bjarnason, an Icelandic lawyer living in Copenhagen, Denmark. Bjarnason collected works by some of Denmark's finest artists and donated his collection to his countrymen in an attempt to improve their artistic and cultural tastes. By 1900, the museum collection consisted of 74 paintings and two sculptures, none of them from Iceland.

In 1902, the collection finally received its first Icelandic artwork, the sculpture Outlaws by Einar Jónsson. In 1911, an Icelandic painting was added, Repose by Pórarinn B. Þorláksson. The collection has improved significantly through the years and by 2004, it consisted of more than 10,000 works.

The primary focus of the museum's collection is the work of Icelandic artists from the 19th and the 20th century, although works by prominent international masters are also included. The cornerstone of the museum is the work of Icelandic masters such as painters Gunnlaugur Scheving and the Ásgrímur Jónsson collection, who donated all his work to the museum in 1956.

In 1987, the museum found a permanent location on Frikirkjuvegur 7, after decades of uncertainty over housing. Designed by Iceland's most famous architect, Guðjón Samúelsson, this beautiful white building was originally built as a freezing plant in 1916.

The museum offers guided tours everyday and organises events and programmes in connection with exhibitions. Admission to the museum is free of charge. **SBB**

Listasafn Íslands
Frikirkjuvegur 7, 101 Reykjavík
Tel.: 515 9600, www.listasafn.is
Open Tue.–Sun. 11.00–17.00



LISTASAFN ÍSLANDS NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND



Air Iceland destinations

airiceland.is
tel. 570 3030

Get your action-packed day tour brochure at hotels, airports or any travel agent.

Classifieds

Classified ads are free for individuals! If you want to place a classified ad, email class@grapevine.is



café amour
A cozy café in the heart of Akureyri
www.cafeamour.is
+354 461 3030
amour@cafeamour.is

Grundarfjörður Hostel

comfortable - affordable Central in Snæfellsnes

grundarfjordur@hostel.is
www.hostel.is
+354-5626533
+354-8956533
Bring THIS AD and get 15% discount!

KVENNA ATHVÆRF
WOMEN'S SHELTER
tel. 561-1205

Olsen Olsen Diner
Very close to the international airport open every day from 11am to 10pm
Hafnargata 17 Keflavík

Accommodation
Gesthus Dúna
Suðurlandi 35, 105 Reykjavík
Tel: 5882100 / Fax: 5882102
Duna@islandia.is, gdhuna@simnet.is
www.islandia.is/duna
B&B ROOMS FROM 5.000,- SLEEPING BAG ACCOMMODATION

Hôtel Akureyri
Hafnarstræti 67
600 Akureyri
tel: 462 5600
hotelakureyri@hotelakureyri.is
www.hotelakureyri.is
A few minutes walk from downtown

Akureyri. Every room has private bathroom, refrigerator, safe, telephone, wireless internet and multi-channel TV. Free Breakfast included.

Hôtel Stykkishólmur
tel: 430 2100
hotelsykkisholmur@simnet.is
Hôtel Stykkishólmur is at Breiðafjörður bay, 2 hours from Reykjavík. The area is under special law of conservation. Golf course is free, parking free. Swimming pool 100. metr

company is looking for part time Work from home account managers and sales representatives, it pays \$3000 a month plus benefits and takes only little of your time. Please contact us for more details. Requirements - Should be a computer Literate. 2-3 hours access to the internet weekly. Must be over 19yrs of age. Must be Efficient and Dedicated.If you are interested and need more information,Contact Michael J Sloan, Email: mjsloan01@yahoo.com

Stuff for Sale:
Entire contents of modern apartment; incl. 3 single beds and 1 double folding sofa-bed. Everything as new. 50% of IKEA prices. Also solid birch dining table 175 x 100 cm, Danish design. 5000 ISK. Six red bentwood chairs, incl. cushions, 1000 ISK each. All prices negotiable. Please e-mail: karennej@yahoo.com

**1. Free single mattress. American style, soft, good condition, needs extra thin mattress on top. Email florrenicolas@hotmail.co.uk for more info
2. Bicycle for sell or exchange- Male teenage mountain bike, 10 yrs old but all checked recently. 8000ISK (ono) or exchange with female city bike. Call Flore 517 9252
3. LOOKING for old Holland style female city bicycle- free, exchange or cheap.
For info, call Flore 517 9252**

Job openings:
As part of our expansion program, our



REYKJAVÍK'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE MAGAZINE

ISSUE FOURTEEN: SEPTEMBER 07 - SEPTEMBER 20



Gott til
endurvinnslu

YOUR FREE COPY

Stuffed with stuff

I don't know what it is about Lekman that makes his delivery so sweet, or his concerts so memorable.

Vala Þóroddsdóttir was pleased to see Jens Lekman.

Page 34

These 42 kilometres turn out to be the hardest ones I have cycled in my life.

Róbert Haraldsson battles Hofsjökull.

Page 14

Although I was young and stupid, I was not that young and stupid.

Sigtryggur Baldursson explains his relationship with Killing Joke.

Page 8

Please tell me you remembered that you have an intern coming.

Chandler Fredrick recounts his stay as an editorial intern at the Grapevine.

Page 12

You don't need to be a genius to realise that a small vehicle can cause a big problem when passing wide glacier rivers.

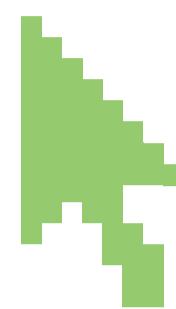
Steinunn Jakobsdóttir examines the dangers of travelling in Iceland.

Page 16

It all starts with the title.

Spessi explains the concept of his book Location.

Page 22



vinna.is
ATVIÑNUMIÐLUN

Szukasz pracy? / Need a job?

Nasza oferta jest bezpłatna.

Posiadasz numer ewidencyjny i pozwolenie na pobyt. Zarejestruj się na stronie www.vinna.is, tam znajdziesz oferty pracy w języku polskim.



Register at www.vinna.is, free of charge. There you can find a number of available jobs. To apply you need to have a national ID number and a residence permit (non-EU citizens need working permits as well).

Rejestracja i informacje na stronie www.vinna.is
For further information please visit www.vinna.is

Vinna.is
Sími 511 1144
www.vinna.is

RIVER RAFTING

GLACIER TOURS

WHALE WATCHING

SIGHTSEEING

HORSE RIDING

ACCOMMODATION

JEEP SAFARIS

DAY TOURS

Book your Adventure with us

www.citycentre.is

FREE
BOOKING SERVICE

Simply the most comprehensive Booking Services in the City specialized in customizing and developing travel packages to suit your interests and needs. We can arrange your accommodation, transfers, tours, flights and car hire based on your requirements.

CITY CENTRE BOOKING SERVICE · LOCATED INSIDE THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE · ADALSTRAETI 2 · 101 REYKJAVÍK · TEL +354 581 1717 · info@citycentre.is

City Centre
BOOKING SERVICE