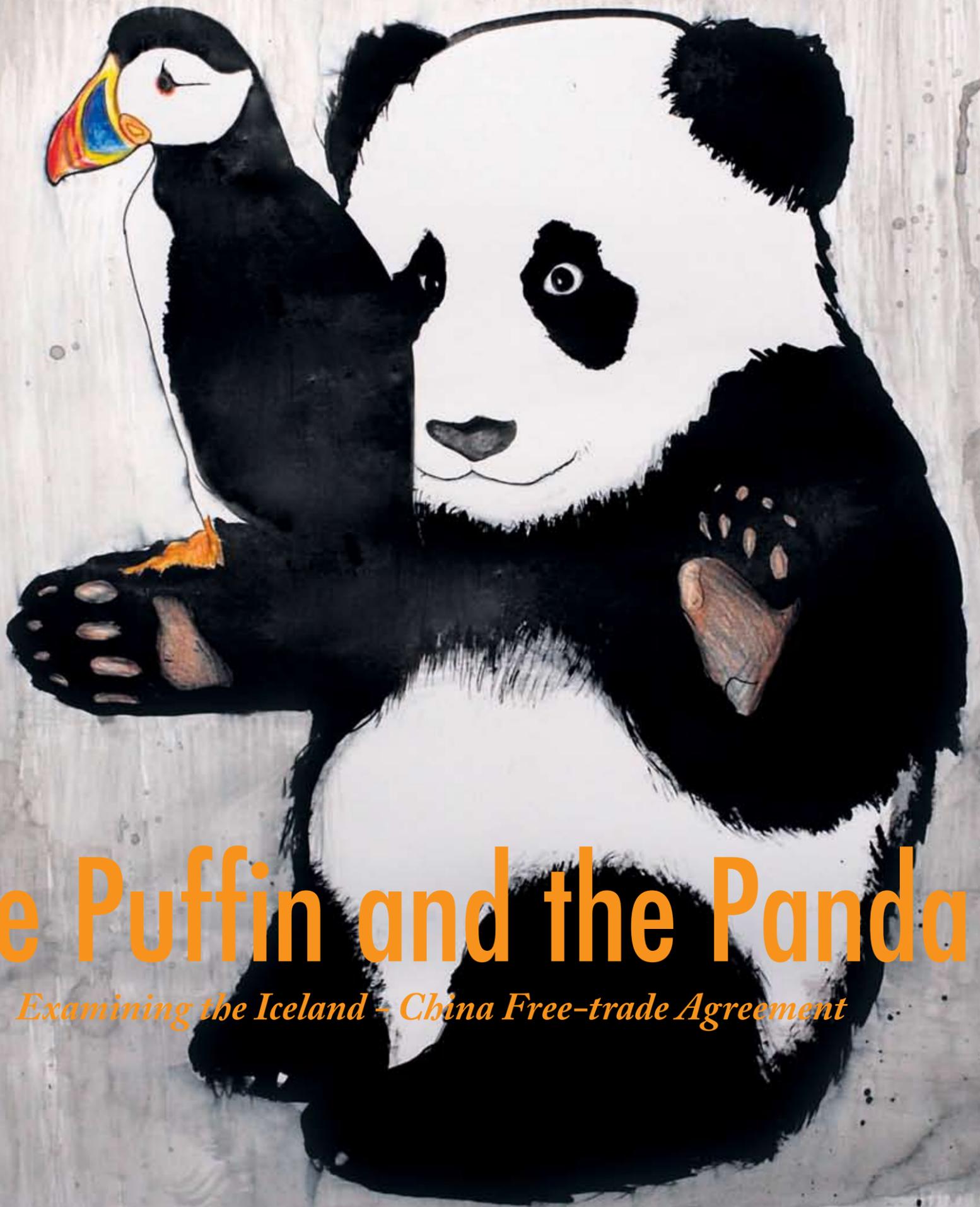




FREE



The Puffin and the Panda

Examining the Iceland - China Free-trade Agreement

The Lonesome Traveller is Out and About • Taking in Belgium • Is There Future For Music?
Art Terrorist Returns • Books on the North Atlantic • Reykjavík International Film Festival

Articles

- 06 **Future Music**
Interview with Gerd Leonhard
- 08 **Confessions of an Art-Terrorist, Part II**
Interview with Sigtryggur Baldursson
- 10 **Mount Esja: The New Couple's Therapy**
- 12 **Airwaves Countdown**
Three Weeks
- 45 **The Saga Museum in Perlan**

Features

- 16 **Iceland – China**

Music & Nightlife

- 20 **Something Worth Hyping About**
Franz Ferdinand at NASA
- 20 **Who Needs Oxygen, Anyways?**
Skóllfest at TPM
- 21 **The Cornell Challenge**
Chris Cornell at Laugardalshöll
- 19 **CD Reviews**

Outside Reykjavík

- 14 **Across the Country in 40 Days**
Adventures of the Lonesome Traveller, Leg 1
- 22 **Belgium, an Unlikely Choice**
- 25 **A Day at the Mall**
- 26 **Destinations**

info.

- B1 **Listings**
- B5 **An Everyday Extraordinary**
Mary Ellen Mark's Extraordinary Child at the National Museum of Iceland
- B6 **Reykjavík International Film Festival Preview**
- B7 **CD Reviews**
- B10 **Food Reviews**
Boston, Hornið & Domo
- B12 **Shopping**
- B15 **Five Classic Books About Moving to the North Atlantic**
Book Review

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 Birkir 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 / gunni@grapevine.is
Photographer: Gunnlaugur Arnar Sigurðsson / gulli@grapevine.is
Contributing writer: Ian Watson / www.ianwatson.org
Sales Director: Aðalsteinn Jörundsson / 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 Landsprent ehf. in 30.000 copies.



Cover illustration by:
Sara Riel

From the Editor's Chair

This issue is the last of our summer issues. That means we will accept the inevitable winter, and instead of bringing you a new issue every two weeks, from now until May, we will bring you one new issue a month. Obviously, that does not include our daily publication during the Airwaves festival, which is something worth being excited about. I'm psyched at least.

Next issue, you might notice some changes to the paper. We will use this period to do some fine-tuning, go over what has been working this summer, and what not. We will change the look somewhat, to bring you a fresh and exciting Grapevine this winter.

Content wise, there will probably be some changes as well. The quick turnaround

during the summer (the summer issues are more or less done in one week) means that we often don't have time to spend on stories that we find interesting, but would require a longer work period. The winter is our opportunity to follow such stories. But enough about next issue, let's talk about this issue.

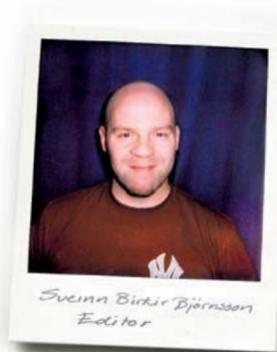
Iceland – China free-trade agreement has been subject to some speculation for a few months. This issue, Ian Watson takes the difficult challenge of examining what the agreement actually entails. Exiting stuff, I'll tell you.

The Lonesome Traveller is actually a person; he is a little different from the rest of us, obviously, for he elected to stay up in the highlands for over 40 days, walking from

coast to coast. He is back. And he is ready to tell his story. His Walden will be published in six to eight installments over the next few issues.

I suggest everyone read the interview with Gerd Leonhard on page six. Gerd is a forward thinker who has incredibly intelligent things to say about the future of music distribution. His point of view is similar to that of Lawrence Lessig, the author of Free Culture, a book that everyone should read. (Download it from the Internet, it is free.)

May you live in interesting times.



Sveinn Birkir Björnsson
Editor



HOT STUFF

Type: Indriði
 Colors: Silver blue, black
 Material: Tecnostretch from Pontetorto
 Price: 12.990 ISK

CINTAMANI CENTER // LAUGAVEGUR 11 // 101 RVK
 WWW.CINTAMANI.IS



DRESS CODE ICELAND



Reykjavik
PURE ENERGY

THE CENTRE // THE OFFICIAL TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE IN REYKJAVIK

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



Iceland's Largest Booking Service

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



Your key to the
Capital

Reykjavik Tourist card

Gives admission to:
- all the thermal pools in Reykjavik
- public transport
- museums
- Reykjavik 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

THE CENTRE
The Official Tourist Information Centre in Reykjavik

Adalstraeti 2 - 101 Reykjavik - Tel +354 590 1550 - info@visitreykjavik.is

04_RVK_GV_15_2007_LETTERS

Sour Grapes

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

Re: Icelandic Referees

Referees play an important role in any sport. Soccer is not the exception.

They are in charge of justice on the pitch. However justice does not wear a blindfold on the soccer fields in Iceland. The men in black are unfair, not to mention partial to teams and players.

Some footballers viciously and maliciously come after some opponents trying to take them out of the game without any regard of fair play, much less the safety of the player.

It is in these circumstances that the referees wear the blindfolds. They see only what they want to see.

A vivid example that illustrates the point I am trying to get across is Alicia Wilson who plays for KR. She is a very talented and skillful player, and I believe whoever has seen her play would agree with me. She is also the fastest and quickest player in Iceland. Moreover, these qualities have become Alicia's worst nightmare. Opponent players come after her in every game trying to take her out of the game by any means, and the man in charge of justice is nowhere to be found.

Alicia is passionate about the game, but she is by no means a dirty player. She is an example and many should learn from her.

There are five components in soccer, technical, physical, tactical, psychological, and the regulations of the game. Aggression has never been part of the sport, and when it takes place, it is punished. However this rule is not applicable when KR number 7 is attacked, and if she responds in any way she is mercilessly punished.

Icelandic referees, stop the attacks promptly, and do not run off international players who bring something good to the league and help make it better. Take off the blindfold and let justice wear it.

Truly yours,

Oscar E. Lopez
olopez_98@yahoo.com

Dear Oscar,

First off, in Iceland, it is called football, not soccer. Soccer is a word used by barbarians. Second, what is your relationship with Alicia Wilson?

To me, the referee is allowed to make human errors, same as the players. If you are suggesting that the referees are corrupted, I think you are wrong. This is not the NBA we are talking about. And by the way, my congratulations to Valur FC for winning the Icelandic championship in women's football.

Editor

1 comment: ÁTVR

Never let a government or state run a public concession of any kind.

Does the Mayor know that these kind of people do not care if the beer is cold or not.

This violence occurs late at night, the state booze stores close at 7pm.

If there are six daytime street drinking guys together and ÁTVR will only sell by the six pack, then guess how the six daytime street drinking guys will get their own individual can of beer???

I wonder if the Mayor has thought that there might be a drug problem in his town that is causing most this

violence.

Illegal drugs are available to buy 24hours a day on the street and at every school ground.

Maybe on the street right in front of the Mayors office.

Could it just be, that the old daytime street drinking guys are smarter than the Mayor.

People in Demark will have good joke on this one... The joke is on the Mayor of Reykjavik.

Jonas Thor
Gozo, Malta

Dear Jonas,

Obviously, Icelandic alcohol regulations do not compare favourably to Danish alcohol regulations. Or maybe that depends on the viewpoint, I don't know. But I don't think the Mayor gave this much thought at all. It was a reflex action when some one yelled fire!

Editor

We spoke to someone in the editorial department last week about the changing face of Reykjavik. We have been travelling to Iceland since the early 90's, sometimes twice a year and we have always enjoyed spending 2 or 3 nights in Reykjavik. It was a lively, friendly, relatively clean city. We feel there have been some changes which make it a much less appealing place to visit. We believe that a lack of pride and caring about the physical environment has infiltrated Reykjavik's culture to a great degree. A walk along Laugavegur revealed a number of smashed shop windows. This we have never seen before. Litter in alley ways, along city steets and in vacant lots is very unappealing to us as tourists. It seems the litter has increased to a great degree. Grafitti is now almost everywhere from older unoccupied buildings to newly painted renovated structures. This also is very unattractive and unappealing and we're sure owners of the structures are not thrilled. The grafitti for the most part is far from artistic. To us it seem as though Reykjavik is losing its soul and is being abused by many individuals. We believe unless steps are taken to really curb these abuses and solutions are found with input from all parties involved, Reykjavik will become less and less appealing to tourists and to those people living there. The secure feeling we have had in the past was not present during our last visit. We hope that things do change so Reykjavik can once again become a special European city. We hope Icelandic pride and ingenuity will bring Reykjavik back to an environmental leadership position as the major city in a country with a unique environment. We look forward to hearing from you.

Cindy and Paul Kaplan
Swan's Island, Maine, U.S.

Dear Cindy and Paul,

I am sorry to hear that our city no longer appeals to you. However, I don't think the city is any worse than it has been for the last ten years. And, you know, I live here, so, case closed.

Editor

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.



Reykjavik
International
Film
Festival

Reykjavík International Film Festival

27. SEPTEMBER 7. OCTOBER 2007

Opening film:

SIGUR RÓS - HEIMA World premiere

Thursday 27. September

Friday 28. September

Ticket sales at www.riff.is

The world premiere of Heima marks the opening of eleven days crammed with exotic films from every corner of the world - 87 of them to be precise. Visit our festival centre at Hressingarskálinn, Austurstræti 20, 101 Reykjavík or website for more information





Future Music

Text by Haukur S. Magnússon Photo by Gulli

A multitude of international music industry figures and various professionals will convene in Reykjavik in mid-October to attend an international conference that focuses on "The future of music distribution, Internet marketing and related topics." The ambitious conference, promoted by the Icelandic Music Export (IMX), is entitled "Who is in Control?" If its keynote speaker, self-proclaimed "Media Futurist" Gerd Leonhard, in any way lives up to his moniker, the answer to that question is a concise: "No one". The Grapevine met up with Leonhard and learned how one becomes a Media Futurist as well as why the global music industry needs to hoist up its pantaloons to prevent its bloated behind from showing more than it already does.

What is your background? Could you explain to us what being a "Media Futurist" entails?

I went to the Berklee College of Music and studied Jazz guitar there, so I've basically been in the music business all my life, as a musician, producer, concert promoter, etc. I spent 12 years as a professional musician, touring and recording different projects and playing everything from concert halls to cruise ships. In the mid-90s, I started working for the European Commission on a project that employed 800 experts from all over Europe – the Arts Education and Training Initiative. We were looking at ideas to improve the economic conditions for artists, musicians and writers, to help them make money.

After working on that project for two years, it became clear to me that the Internet was going to completely change the economy of how artists, especially musicians, distribute their products and make money from them. In 1994, I started my first Internet projects and wound up working for ten different Internet companies from 1995–2002, as well as founding six of those myself.

Long story short, after the Internet bubble crashed and all the companies died in 2001 I moved back to Europe and wrote a book called The Future of Music which became a bestseller in the industry. It's been widely translated and pretty much everyone has it. There, share the things I learned in my years in the business, and since then I've been lecturing, blogging and writing about the future of digital technology and music. I talk about things like the proposed

flat rate system, artists' direct connection to the market, how niche markets are growing more lucrative and how agents and managers are becoming more important than the labels – all things that are quite clear to anyone who's been following the progress for the last few years.

I do a lot of work advising companies and artists about the future of music. For the last two years I have expanded into film, video, TV, branding – in short everything that has to do with content and technology, the overlap between creative work, intellectual property and how technology is using it. I help technology companies understand record labels; record labels understand opportunities and artists realise how they can market themselves. Starting October 1, my new book, The End of Control, will be available free of charge on-line at endofcontrol.com. There I discuss how artists, labels and publishers will have to give up the idea of controlling who gets their content and how, and how there are other things they can sell than physical copies of it.

How, then, do you foresee the future of music distribution and consumption?

The biggest change is that the model is moving away from selling units to selling access. That means that at first you have to give access, in some cases for free. You provide a way for people to find it on the Internet, blogs and social networks like MySpace and Facebook. You provide access for the larger communities in return for an ad-revenue split, so that money is made from the web site but the music is free for the user, very much like radio is done. No one pays for radio, but there's still money being made.

The thing about music consumption is that it's changing over. The kids don't want to start by buying a physical product, although they may spring for it later. As you know, those aged 12–27 only want to click on a website or through their mobile phone to check the music out; they consume music in an interactive way and aren't ready to pay right from the beginning. In the old way, you had to buy the full CD before making your mind about the music, while now I can check out a punk band from Japan, listen to all of their tunes and watch their videos for free – if they draw me in and I become a fan, I will try and buy their CDs and T-shirts and go to their shows.

This evolution is positive for the musicians

and the consumers, but bad for the intermediary, i.e. the music industry, which has made almost all of its revenue from selling copies. Very few artists made any money from selling CDs, as most of the record companies tap up 85% of the revenue on them. So in light of the old model, this new way of doing things is excellent for artists and for fans but not for the people in the middle, who now will have to think of new ways to make themselves relevant.

The small record companies have already figured this out; all of them are becoming agencies now. Distribution is easy now, you can have it on the net for almost zero cost, so what they do is specialise on helping the artist making the best possible music, and marketing that and promoting to get attention. The only thing that matters now, if you're a musician, is getting attention, and there are a lot of ways of getting it.

Bands are seeing the importance of building a brand name. If you have a million views a day of your blog and 5,000 people downloading your video, you can build a brand from it and don't have to be so concerned about selling a CD. You can still sell them to anyone who wants them, but the main focus should be providing access. You have to build the audience, to borrow a marketing term, it's a big switch from "push marketing" where you force your product on people via advertising and flyers, to "pull marketing" where you play a gig, provide a good web-site that features downloads and free streams to social networks; all of these things work to pull people in. If what you're offering is any good, they'll get stuck, and if it's really good, they will become loyal fans. And then you can sell them something.

Lots of bands don't sell any CDs at all, instead making all their money from concerts. Grateful Dead is a good example, and Prince is a more recent one. He gave away his last CD for free in England recently because he could make more money from playing a concert. There are many, many ways to make money as a musician aside from selling copies, whether it be licensing songs for movies, television or computer games, selling concert tickets, merchandise, writing a book even.

So to summarise, there are two changes evident. One is from access to ownership, where you now make money by providing

"Bands are seeing the importance of building a brand name. If you have a million views a day of your blog and 5,000 people downloading your video, you can build a brand from it and don't have to be so concerned about selling a CD."

access, and the other thing is that musicians and labels will have to look at all the different ways they can make money as musicians – but first, they have to build a brand. Robbie Williams made seven or eight times more from branding and ads than record sales. The artist has nothing to worry about if you download his music, it doesn't take away from him, provided he is smart enough to see the opportunities at hand.

Iceland is being discussed as a suitable test-market for the new flat-rate system. Do you see this happening?

The proposed model is simply a network license. Rather than saying that everyone has to pay when they want a song, we give them access to everything and charge a flat rate for that access. We provide a license to the telecom operators and portals and anyone who has a cell phone or any other kind of network access can get all of their music from there.

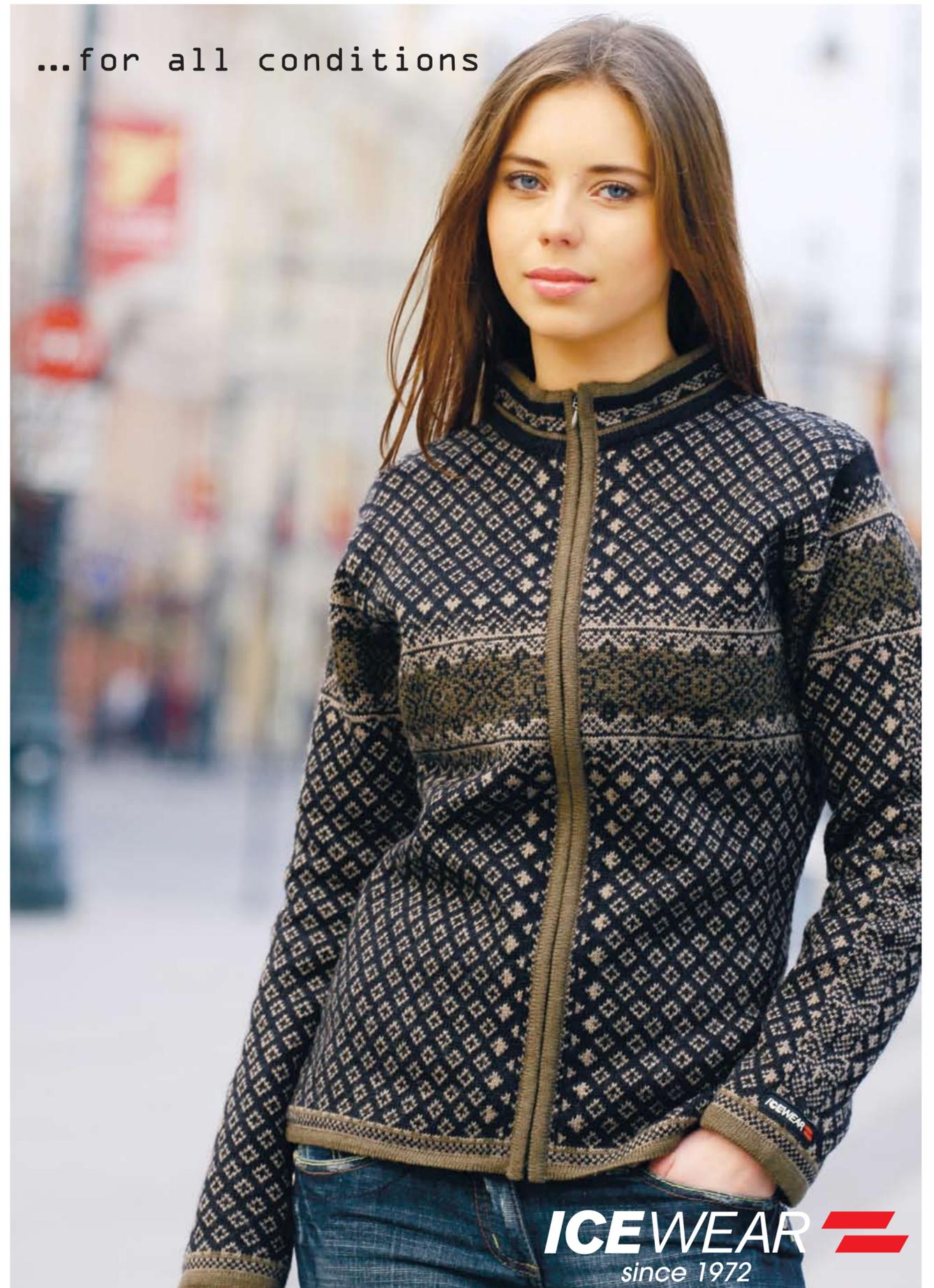
I think it would work over well in Iceland because there are no major music labels in the country. It's so small that even if nobody would buy any CDs, it would be relatively painless for the labels. The experiment is thus contained, and you can study the results. I think the total market for CD sales in Iceland is around 10 million Euros, so this is very possible if you do the math. If everyone in Iceland pays one Euro a week for this access, and that revenue is distributed to labels and artists in accordance with the number of streams or downloads a track gets, everyone will make more money and the consumer will also pay less. Iceland is also suitable because the people here really like their music, and there is lots of local talent that would benefit from an early start in this model.

What we have to do is create value for the composer and musician, a system where we don't bother charging for the individual song, at least not in the beginning. If you had to pay for every song you heard on the radio, you wouldn't listen to it. We need a system that's all wrapped up in a flat rate, a system that's ad supported and whose many operators would take care of the consumer costs instead of ad revenue. The ISPs and phone companies will probably wind up paying your one Euro per week fee for you, if you agree to watch a couple of ads per day.

So, you ultimately see this evolution as benefiting musicians and music-fans alike?

I think that no matter what we do, the users and what people used to know as consumers – which is not that easy anymore – the user will get benefits everywhere. There are 1 billion people on-line, 1.5 billion people watching TV and 3 billion with cell phones. What's happening is that the user is becoming more powerful, as there are so many of them. Anything that keeps the user from getting his desired value is swept away. If you put a rock in a river, the river will get around the rock, it will find a way, and this is how you should view the users. There's no use in trying to place rocks in their way to stifle their route, you should rather try and go with the flow. Travel agents, for instance, used to book your trips and flights for you, a process that you now take care of on-line. There are still lots of travel agents around; they have simply reorganised what they do.

...for all conditions



ICEWEAR 
since 1972

ICEWEAR clothes and products are available at the following stores:

Reykjavík: Rammagerðin, Hafnarstræti 19 - **Ullarhúsið**, Austurstræti 3, Reykjavík - **Thorvaldsenbazar**, Austurstræti 4
Íslandia, Krínglan Shopping Center - **The Viking**, Hafnarstræti 3 - **Handþrjónasambandið**, Skólavörðustíg 19, Laugavegi 64
Ull og Gjafavörur, Hótel Sögu, Lækjargötu 2 - **Hilt Hornið**, Laugavegi 100 - **Álafoss Verksmiðjusal**, Laugavegi 1 - **Isey**, Klapparsfíg 30
Other locations: Blue Lagoon, Svartengi - **Rammagerðin**, Flugstöð Leifs Eiríkssonar - **Eden**, Hveragerði - **Geysir Shops**, Haukadal
Byggðasafnið Skógum - **The Viking**, Akureyri - **Mývainsmarkaður**, Mývatn - **Mývatn ehf.**, Skútustöðum, Mývatn
Tákn Sport og Útivist, Húsavík - **Sæferðir**, Stykkishólmur - **El Grillo**, Seyðisfjörður - **Álafoss Verksmiðjusal**, 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, Part II

Text by Sveinn Birgir Björnsson Photo by Gulli

Few Icelandic musicians remain as active as former Peyr, KUKL and Sugarcubes drummer Sigtryggur Baldursson. Last issue, Sigtryggur talked a Grapevine journalist through his career up to and including the Sugarcubes. This week, we find out what happened after the Sugarcubes disbanded.

I remember being in Austria as a small kid, probably in 1988, and I saw the cover of the album *Birthday* by the Sugarcubes in a storefront window in Vienna. For me it was probably the first manifestation that someone from Iceland could actually become world famous, and that you [The Sugarcubes] had probably done it. It was a strange feeling

It was for us as well. Very surrealistic. But still, we were such a strong group, and we had our own philosophy, which helped us a lot. We were pretty determined when it came to negotiating with companies; obviously we were working with a very good man in England, Derek Burkett [founder, One Little Indian], who had similar ethics when it came to negotiating with major labels and distribution companies: just take them as far as you can. The tougher you are in negotiations, the more they will respect you. So, we were able to negotiate for creative control over our work, which was uncommon in those days. We could just make music the way we wanted.

Obviously, the pressure on us was subliminal, and eventually it all became a game between the record industry and us. There is always the pressure to take it to the next level, that the next record should sell more than the previous one, all that bullshit. Suddenly we found ourselves listening to lectures on marketing in America, which we had no interest in. This was all pretty surreal. But we tried to laugh it up, for a long time. The cleverness of what we decided could probably be debated in some cases, obviously we learned a lot. This industry is based on advances. You get an advance on your publishing; you get an advance from the label to make your next album, and so on. You better not take that money and spend it on houses and cars, cause then you have no money to make the record. But we didn't necessarily realise that, so when we quit we didn't have a god damn cent. That was a lesson.

The Sugarcubes disbanded in 1992, shortly after the release of *Stick Around For Joy*,

but since then you have kept quite busy. I would almost go so far to say that two musicians could hardly come together with out you joining them on drums.

Heh, well, it is not that serious. I've been a part of many projects. Most notably probably is this crooner, the Bogomil Font character that I have maintained. He is a lounge lizard, and a mambo dude. It started as a joke really. It was a part of the art-terrorism concept surrounding Bad Taste Ltd.. Probably the last art-terrorism project we did was Kormákur B's Jazz Band, which was intended to be a 14-15 people jazz band that knew nothing about playing jazz. It was made out of rock musicians around our own label [Bad Taste] but it was more like a theatre, so every one dressed up in fine clothing and played their own character and then we went on stage and absolutely slaughtered these famous jazz songs. But it was still sort of charming, beautiful kind of ugly really. This was an idea from [former Sugarcubes bass player] Bragi Ólafsson actually, and it was a lot of fun, probably the last big project we did as a group together.

Anyway, the concept was that you gather a lot of interesting people and each one of them gets to create their own character to play, then we rehearse some songs, only not too much, and eventually we would play these large dance halls like Hótel Borg. That's when Bogomil Font came about He was this crooner, with a huge Bulgarian moustache. Later, after the Sugarcubes disbanded, I was broke and needed money, so I thought I would form a small pub-band with some friends. First, I asked Bragi Ólafsson if we should put together a mini-version of Kormákur B's Jazz Band so we could afford some food. He told me he had given up on music and had decided to become a writer instead. But he told me to gather some people who knew how to play and create a mambo band, which I did, more as a joke really. But then it became a runaway hit in 1992.

I had never intended to be a ball king in Iceland, so when my wife told me she wanted to go study in the US in '93, I was just pleased to leave this behind. But since then, I have always tried to joke a little with this theatrical character Bogomil, and I revive him every now and then to earn me some money, although it has nothing to do with creative integrity when it comes to music. Obviously, he only sings cover version, jazz and mambo, something

that is just fun to croon. But the strange twist is that people always want to pay money to listen to him, but when I try to do something creative, like [percussion duo] Steintryggur, that is an uphill battle all the way. But luckily, I still have a humour for this.

So, again, like the Sugarcubes, this starts out as an art-terrorism project, that becomes hugely successful.

Yes. So, is it entirely possible for you to be a successful art-terrorist?

No, you just have to keep the teeth sharp. It helped me a lot when the band Flis approached Bogomil to do a calypso record with them. That allowed me to revive this concept with him, to do a calypso record with sharp, straight cutting lyrics. I was getting a little tired of being stuck in this family entertainer role. Even if I had humour for it, and it created money, it still needs a blood transfusion every now and then to stay fun. The record Bogomil made with Flis is a cross-over. I am not singing Fly Me To The Moon anymore. We wrote our own lyrics, and that changed the whole concept. It became a bit political, calypso music is so much fun, it is very jolly music, but it always has this political undercurrent and very sharp lyrics. That's where I found a new path for Bogomil, and was able to do something that I felt mattered. I was able to reconnect him with myself when I started writing lyrics for him.

So are you more willing to be accepted as a political musician then you were before?

Yes, I am doing this consciously now. When I was in KUKL, I never expressed myself much politically. My politics was more on a personal level. I was trying to create revolutionary music. That was my politics back then. Now I am not trying to create political music, with [Bogomil Font], but I regard Steintryggur, Parabola, and these other projects as an extension of what I was doing in KUKL. I am trying to create music that I don't hear anywhere else. Something that is unique to me, which is something I believe every creative artist tries to do, to create something they think matters, something that is an original creation. This sounds very formal, but I think that it is still true.

But you've been a part of many different projects lately, apart from Bogomil, Parabola, and Steintryggur?

Yes, I enjoy playing with young musicians. I have been playing with Sammi's Big Band;

"First, I asked Bragi Ólafsson if we should put together a mini-version of Kormákur B's Jazz Band so we could afford some food. He told me he had given up on music and had decided to become a writer instead..."

Ben Frost, a very avant-garde musician; and Pétur Ben. These are all different things, but I have such a wide musical palette, I enjoy the variation, I need to stay busy with many different things.

Do young musicians seek advice from your experience?

I try not to give much advice. I am not sure I am the right person for that. But I enjoy working with young musicians and I am very happy to have had that opportunity. Usually they have come to me, but if you are open and seek out new things in what you are doing, that will happen. I've been lucky in that aspect. But I have no grand master plan at work. I just try to stay open to new things and to keep busy. I am very happy with my career, and I think it has been very colourful and varied.

I read somewhere that you were a part of a project with [Type O Negative frontman] Peter Steele, something called Icelandic Ancestry?

Did you see this on Wikipedia? I have seen this on Wikipedia also, and I have no idea what this is. I found some guy on Wikipedia called Peter Steele and I have no idea who he is. I have been associated with many projects on the web that I have no idea what it is. But I have a likely explanation. When I lived in the US, when my wife was studying there, I was working in some studios there. One of the things I did was to release three CDs with beats. I know that people have used the beats from these CDs in their music, but this was sold as copyrighted material and used with loop programs like Acid. I have found people that have credited me as a drummer in their projects when they have used these CDs. Maybe they knew who I was, or enjoyed the Sugarcubes or something. But even if they use my beats, that is not the same thing. I was also working as a session player in a studio called Smart, which is owned by Butch Vig. I recorded albums with many musicians there. That's how I think I became associated with these different projects.

Since we are on US turf, it is probably best to ask you about a consistent rumour that you were offered a position as a drummer in Pearl Jam.

I knew Eddie Vedder before he was a rock star (Eddie Vedder roadied for the Sugarcubes), and I met him again after he became a rock star when we played a festival with them. He had changed a bit; he became a very artsy reclusive type, instead of the happy bouncy kid he used to be. This is just when they are becoming famous, back in '92. He was already into that part he plays with Pearl Jam, the serious worried type, a character that he has cultivated very well. But they had some problems with drummers in the beginning. Dave Abbruzzese played with them on the first album, but quit the band in '94 or '95. At that point, they were looking for a drummer, and I got a call from their agent's office and some woman tells me that Eddie had mentioned me as a possible replacement and asked if I was interested in auditioning. But I knew Eddie, and I thought this was just so much bullshit, so I told her I was ready to audition and said she could tell Eddie to call me himself if he wanted me to come in. But he was very sheltered, and kind of paranoid, so I never expected him to call me. Which he never did, this was just hyperbole. This is probably just as good. I am not sure I would have fit into that group, I mean, they were playing grunge music, I would have had to get an all-new wardrobe.

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 Reykjavik Excursions

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

Our brochure is available at all major hotels and guesthouses.



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.

Léttöl

10_RVK_GV_15_2007_ARTICLE



Mount Esja: The New Couple's Therapy

Text by Gabriele R. Guðbjartsson Photo by Gulli

In these modern times the therapy market is booming with self-help books, talk shows, relaxing CDs, day spas and the usual pill that's suggested by four out of five not so known doctors. However, sometimes all you need is a day away from the market. On a day with an acceptable weather forecast and a need for a self- or relationship-renovation, Mt. Esja offers that and so much more.

On a sunny day in July, my husband and I packed some food, a camera and sent the baby off to grandma's house. We only had one goal in mind – the top of Esja. At 914 meters high and about 20 kilometres long, Mt. Esja answered our prayer for some peace, quality time and an opportunity to work together to accomplish a monumental task. Like so many couples who have spent years together, life can start to look like an assembly line. Everyone does their part everyday the same way to produce the same product. In our case, we had spent the previous two months focusing our time and energy on our newborn. Not that we do not completely adore and unconditionally love our child, it was just also certain that we needed time to breathe differently, to get to know one another as individuals again and to step away from our roles as “the one that breastfeeds” and “the one that changes all the poopie diapers.”

In theory we were going to be the super-athletic power couple that dominated the mountain in a record breaking time of 45 minutes. However, after realizing that I had given birth eight weeks prior and that he did not possess the Beckham-like form he once had, we decided that on this hike we were going to take it slow and use the time to stop and smell the roses for once. Our decision was also assisted by the fact that an elderly couple with walking sticks and their two children passed us quite speedily on the way up. At that point we looked at each other and knew that our competitive egos could take at least one day off.

Before we even reached level one I was blaming him for the heat and for lending me the wrong pants to wear. (I actually thought he was sabotaging the trip by being better prepared than I was.) This of course completely annoyed him, forcing him to walk even faster and leaving me to lag behind and grow even more frustrated. The horizon looked bleak with the premature bellyaching and the little frustrations from the heat and fatigue. However, after we cooled down a bit by stripping down to tank tops and shorts and gulping down two bottles of orange-flavoured Gatorade, we got back on track and reminded each other of the day's purpose.

As the trek faded on we reminisced about when we first met and how much our lives had changed since then. We caught up on what was going on in the

world around us and what we had missed while being caught up in the charms of parenthood. We stopped to get water straight from the stream and laughed at how far we had to go to the top. He worried about me when I lost my balance on the sharp jagged rocks to level five, while I listened as he shared his knowledge of the mountain and his experiences of its beauty from his childhood. When we finally reached level five we stopped to snack on the power bars and fruit from our backpack and decided to rest for ten minutes before trudging our way to the very top. In those ten minutes it started to get a little cold and at that point we had been away from the baby for almost three hours. The best part of the trip happened in the next 30 minutes. As I clearly did not want to go on, my husband lovingly put his foot down and confirmed that we were going to finish what we started. He jokingly commented that if we didn't finish this one adventure it would lead to a life of unfinished projects. Although his joke blended with comedic exaggeration, he was right on point and I had to give in.

For the last bit of the hike he got behind me and pushed both physically and mentally. It was teamwork in its truest form and I appreciated him so much more for the motivational edge. I realized that when someone loves you that much it's their job to push you in ways that make you stronger and realise your full potential. When we finally reached the top it felt as if we had joined this exclusive club as we visually absorbed every speck of the most breathtaking view of the city of Reykjavik. The experience was surreal and yet provided my husband and me with such tangible memories of one of the best days we have had together. So next time you need a break, remember Dr. Esja, couches not included.

In theory we were going to be the super-athletic power couple that dominated the mountain in a record breaking time of 45 minutes.

WWW.GRAPEVINE.IS

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

Discover the wonders of Iceland in a Berg car.

BERG
car rental
Safety all the way!

Check for special offers at your hotel or guesthouse.



Free pickup at your hotel in the Reykjavik area.



Contact Info: Tel: +354 577 6050 - Fax: +354 567 9195 - Tangarhöfði 8 - www.bergcar.is - berg@bergcar.is

Þekkir þú þinn rétt?



Á Íslandi eru lágmarkskjör tryggt með kjarasamningum og óheimilt er að greiða lægri laun en þar er kveðið á um. Færð þú rétt laun? Færð þú launaseðil við hverja útborgun? Þú átt rétt á því. Því miður misnota sum fyrirtæki erlent launafólk og notfæra sér þekkingarleysi þess. AFL Starfsgreinafélag er eitt stærsta verkalýðsfélag landsins og við aðstoðum alla félaga okkar, sama af hvaða þjóðerni þeir eru. Við höfum pólsku- og enskumælandi starfsfólk.

Czy znasz swoje prawa?



Na Islandii, minimalne warunki placowe sa zapewnione przez umowy zbiorowe i niedozwolone jest zaniżanie płac które sa ustalone. Czy otrzymujesz prawidłowe wynagrodzenie? Czy otrzymujesz odzinki wypłat? Masz do tego pełne prawo. Z przykrością stwierdzamy, że niektóre przedsiębiorstwa zatrudniające pracowników, wykorzystują niewiedzę pracowników. AFL Związek Zawodowy rejonu sa jednym z wiekszych Związków Zawodowych na Islandii i udzielają pomocy wszystkim swoim członkom, niezależnie od ich narodowości. Mamy pracowników polsko i anglojęzycznych.

Do you know your rights?

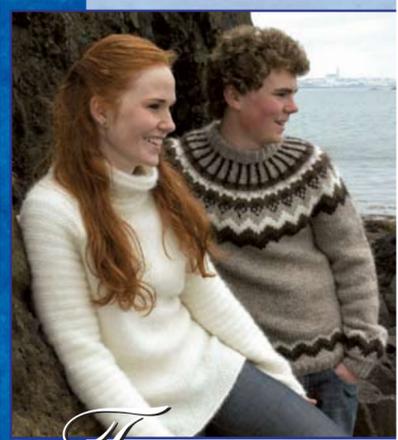


In Iceland everyone is guaranteed minimum wages as stated in the collective bargaining agreements and it is illegal to pay someone lower wages. Are your wages correct? Do you always receive a pay statement? You have the right to. Unfortunately some companies abuse the fact that immigrants have a lack of knowledge in this area. AFL Labour Union is one of the largest labour unions in the country and we support all of our members, no matter their nationality. We have Polish and English speaking employees.



AFL Starfsgreinafélag | AFL Związki Zawodowe rejonu | AFL Labour Union
egilsstadir@asa.is | asa.is | Tel. 470 0300

Buy directly from the people who make them



The Handknitting Association of Iceland

- Mini Mall IDA, Lækjargata 2, Open every day 10-22
 - Laugavegur 64, 562 1890
 - Radisson SAS, Hótel SAGA, tel.: 552 1890
 - Skólavörðustigur 19, tel.: 552 4788
- Opening hours see www.handknit.is

12_RVK_GV_15_2007_MUSIC



Countdown to Airwaves: 4 Weeks

Text by Haukur S. Magnússon Photo by Leó Stefánsson

As you are reading this, the last dozen of this year's Iceland Airwaves participants are being announced. All in all, over 190 bands and solo artists will perform at the festival, which is way more than ever before. Iceland Airwaves will take place in just over three weeks, which means that none of us will have time to properly acquaint ourselves with the many, many masterful acts we'll be able to feast our eyes upon come that long, lager-soaked weekend in October. A great task is at hand.

Grizzly Bear
Don't believe the hype! Take a listen for yourself and take in the wisdom that Grizzly Bear are truly one of the most pleasurable things to happen in to the whole of left-field music in a long time. And if the left field doesn't appeal to you, you should still check 'em out, as they have tunes by the bucket load and aren't afraid to use them either. As much as their recorded output has been raved about for the past months, their live shows are receiving even uppier thumbs from those who've had the pleasure of witnessing. As far as I'm concerned, Grizzly Bear are this year's "Airwaves must", and I'll wait in line for a long time to see them.

Smoosh
The first thing you will learn about Smoosh is that the band is comprised of a pair of sisters in their early teens (13 and 15 years old, respectively) who have been writing and recording songs under the guidance of Death Cab for Cutie drummer Jason McGerr for the last seven years. This is truly interesting, but there's so much more to it than that. Like a younger Jakobínarína, minus the abundance of arrogance and Y-chromosomes, Smoosh play perfect pop tunes filtered through some rocking influences and the joyous innocence that accompanies their young age. Currently touring the US with Bloc Party, Smoosh will whip Airwaves crowds into a frenzy come October. Just you see.

Ra Ra Riot
This unfortunate band gained their biggest surge of publicity for all the wrong reasons. Ra Ra Riot's music is of the infectious variety, tuneful popage rammed through a blender of American indie-influences, so they were already making waves (and booked to play Airwaves) when tragedy struck the band last June. Songwriter, founding member and excellent drummer John Pike drowned while apparently on the way home after an aftershow party. After some speculation, the band announced they would keep going, not the least to honour Pike's vision and memory. A truly sad story, but what's important is that Ra Ra Riot is an amazing live band (as I witnessed at SXSW), and their music is genuinely good.

The Iceland Airwaves web site, at www.icelandairwaves.com, is a great resource in this respect, as it lists all of the performers, links to their MySpaces and even doles out free mp3s of most of them. Ticket holders and music enthusiasts – now is your cue to plop yourselves down in front of a computer, note-pad and alcoholic beverage in hand. Have a ball making your schedule, and enjoy the anticipation build-up, when you discover yet another great track from some oddly named fucks you've never heard of. And if you discover something you loathe on the bill, you can use your advantage to stock up on rotten eggs and snappy comments for heckling. Be creative: personalise! Those shiny promo pics and blatantly boastful bios are more useful than you think. But do not throw anything at the Airwaves-newcomers listed below, for they are all awesome. See:

Bertel
These kids from Seltjarnarnes have been getting it on for a while now, and they've been getting considerably better with every passing month. Reminiscent of old Icelandic punk circa "Rokk í Reykjavík" (the hugely influential 1982 documentary, now mostly known for featuring a very young Björk freaking out), mixed with Emiliana Torrini's pronunciation and some very early-21st Gang of Four-isms. Also: rowdy fun concert stuff.

FM Belfast
FM Belfast's show at last year's Iceland Airwaves was truly the stuff of legends, as those in attendance will attest to. They raised hell at Pravda, so much in fact that the place literally burned down (give or take a few months) and frankly isn't there anymore. They have long been staples of the 101 Reykjavik music scene, but unlike many of their contenders actually have the tunes and showmanship to back up their infamy. Expect a great homecoming show at Airwaves, since 2/3rds of the band is currently residing in New York, attending art school. What else.

Hraun
Hraun will surprise you at Airwaves. Even though they only released their debut this spring, Hraun is indeed one of Iceland's veteran bands. Since Hraun's inception, they have played an untold number of shows (that usually drag to an untold amount of hours in length) around the country, usually leaving behind a trail of satisfied, tired and drunk folks. Describing their performances as "party concerts" – they have mastered the art of sneaking up on you from behind, usually starting with low-key versions of their folksy original material and climaxing a couple of hours later in a frenzy of joyous Falco covers.

Ticket holders and music enthusiasts – now is your cue to plop yourselves down in front of a computer, note-pad and alcoholic beverage in hand.



31 August – 21 October The Icelandic Love Corporation
Gjörningaklúbburinn
Hafnarhús GLITNIR



www listasafnreykjavikur.is listasafn@reykjavik.is



8 September – 4 November
Eggert Pétursson
Kjarvalsstaðir Landsbankinn



Open daily 10-17. Free entrance on Thursdays. One admission ticket is valid for three days in Hafnarhús, Kjarvalsstaðir and Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum.
Tel +354 590 1200 Fax +354 590 1201

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

I'M SENDING MY SUPPORT

WESTERN UNION

Fast, reliable, worldwide money transfer.

Landsbankinn
410 4000 | landsbanki.is



Across the Country in 40 Days: Adventures of The Lonesome Traveller, Leg 1

Text and photos by by Fabrizio Frascaroli

"Why on earth am I doing this?" The question surfaced a bit earlier in the morning and lingered there for a handful of seconds, as a last desperate warning or unconscious solicitation to withdraw. I was at the Akureyri campsite, while a light but persistent drizzle hit the ground and my bare hands intent at packing up the tent, and an array of images buzzed within my head – projections and anticipations of all the misery to carry out that same operation under blowing winds, heavy rain, and dozens of miles away from a friendly voice or the nearest cup of warm coffee. A rather depressing scenario.

It is not uncommon to falter on the verge of a long-awaited moment. As I found out a long time ago, however, being chronically late is a basic and nearly impeccable antidote for such sudden weaknesses of the mind. So the questions ceased while the scramble continued with only one apprehension left: to make it in time for the bus, possibly without any disastrous tumble in the process.

Waiting – the activity in life I dislike the most. In this case the wait is fortunately short, and allows for a very welcome cup of coffee. This morning's stress rush was beneficial: besides getting rid of all lingering fears and doubts, I could reach the bus station some fifteen minutes early, enough to settle the

last organisational details. I dropped a couple of boxes at the office, and made sure that they will safely reach Mývatn and Askja – my next destinations – within a few days. I am planning to stay in the wilderness for more than one month: a Trex bus will take me to Ásbyrgi, in the North-East, and from there I will be walking for hundreds of kilometres, all the way to Þingvellir, at the opposite corner of the Country. There is no way I can carry all that same operation under blowing winds, heavy rain, and dozens of miles away from a friendly voice or the nearest cup of warm coffee. A rather depressing scenario.

It seems that the ride to Ásbyrgi will be an intimate affair, concerning only me and a couple of other hikers, obviously Germans. The bus driver – a friendly chap of few words and many smiles, who smirked at my complimentary ticket – has been busy (and evidently self-satisfied) for several minutes, stuffing the wagon with all sort of packages and endless cartons of milk. Finally, he slams the container's door closed and turns his eyes towards me. It is time.

Ásbyrgi

It is around noon. I must have slept the entire way. The woods and shrubs of Ásbyrgi look silent and lazy today, as absorbed in some sort of uneasy wait. There is little traffic, which is

strange, considering how this place is a favourite among foreign and Icelandic tourists alike. The atmosphere does not feel particularly electrical. Even the weather seems undecided whether it will offer a fair and sunny sky or the "Weather of Great Occasions" (that is cloudy, foggy and drizzly). I linger on: the freshly renovated visitor's centre makes for an interesting stop and passionate introduction to the area and another cup of coffee for makes for an excellent excuse to postpone the start a bit still. A few last retouches to my backpack, and at last I am convinced that it truly is time to start: only matter of moving the first steps, and all the rest will come easier. It is July 9, and I have begun my journey.

There is a marked and well-tended path leading southwards from Ásbyrgi to the waterfall of Dettifoss. It unfolds along the western bank of the mighty river Jökulsá á Fjöllum, within one of the most important protected areas in the country: the Jökusárgljúfur (Glacial River Canyon) National Park. It is a reserve of unique geological formations, fragrant birch woods, rich fauna, and easy walking. The low elevation, the grassy and soft soil, the presence of an organised trail network – all of this makes for a comfortable, family-friendly hiking experience. Likely it won't be your ultimate Icelandic adventure, or the most spectacular

scenery you will ever encounter in the inlands, but the region remains well worth the exploration, and predictably one of the most trodden trekking resorts in the country.

For me, it represents an ideal preparation for the upcoming effort. I have chosen one of the hardest routes through the Highlands, across deserts, marshes, glaciers, and roaring rivers: I can expect plenty of challenges and dramatic landscapes ahead. For the moment, enjoying a mellow and leisurely start, just long enough to fully get into gear, appears to be the most reasonable and pleasant option.

The trail's initial portion runs along the eastern side of the highly scenic canyon that

Mythology and poetry claim this place to be a mark in the earth left by the passage of Sleipnir, Odin's steed.



is Ásbyrgi's trademark and greatest attraction – from a strong vantage point at the southern edge, the gaze can embrace it in its entirety. Mythology and poetry claim this place to be a mark in the earth left by the passage of Sleipnir, Odin's steed.

Geologists, on the other hand, have interpreted it as the outcome of a jökulhlaup (glacial flood burst) of ridiculously huge scale – possibly an even more catastrophic and unconceivable explanation than the former. Personally, at least, I have some troubles depicting a flood stemming from a glacier (probably following some under-ice eruption) so terrific in scale that it inexorably ploughs hundreds of kilometers of land, excavates a deep and nearly rectilinear gorge, and finally impacts the soil with such brute violence that it models a hoof-shaped canyon out of bare rock – and all of this, in the mere turn of a few hours. Whatever the origination myth, it is hard to deny or underrate the sort of serene and majestic fascination that the overgrown glen of Ásbyrgi – with its steep cliffs, thick vegetation, and emerald green ponds – exercises on the visitor. Even when all appears blurred and faded under a leaden, sullen sky, like today.

Winding Down

I left town in a situation of most dramatic haste: being chronically late also has an obnoxious side. The franticness of my last days in Reykjavík has left a visible scar in my mood and, no matter what, I still feel loaded with nervousness and irritation. As the first kilometres roll by, I am mainly focused inwards, trying to give my thoughts the same placid green colour of the surroundings. I don't have to wait long, however, before the usual little miracle that I have got used to over the years occurs: the wilderness slowly takes over, painful

memories give way to immediate enjoyment, tension melts into inebriation. No, it won't be the most spectacular scenery I have ever experienced in Iceland, but even at the fourth visit the Jökusárgljúfur National Park can reserve delighting surprises. The craters of Rauðhólar – adorned with pointy pinnacles and vividly red as if stained in blood – certainly are one of those, and seem to act like a border beyond which all is mystery and wonder.

The path winds among arcane basaltic formations now – towers, caves, fortresses, and skulls of rock. Products of the torment of the land, to a keen eye they could appear as cyclopean artefacts of times immemorial, which the course of ages has covered in trees and scrubs. I dream of a megalopolis once inhabited by some cruel and ancient civilization, such as the ones conceived by the morbid imagination of H. P. Lovecraft. It is a fuzz of voices and footsteps that brings me back to the concreteness of the present: I am only a couple of kilometres away from the resting point at Vesturdalur, and visitors are more frequent in this part of the park. I reach the campsite after my first day of marching spent under overcast but dry weather. I barely have time for crunching my dinner before finally paying toll for last week's lack of sleep. Without even realising it, I collapse like a sack of potatoes onto my sleeping bag (rather than inside it) – it is not even nine o'clock.

Fair weather greets me at awakening. The landscape gradually changes texture and grows idyllic, while the almost disquieting sculptures of basalt that accompanied my course yesterday become progressively rarer, until fading into memory. For a dozen kilometres, the surroundings are a sequence of colourful and blossoming vegetation, gashing waters, and mirror-like ponds. As the path approach

es the waterfall of Hafragilsfoss, the walk becomes more technical and challenging – but the increasing effort is repaid by some of the most charming views encountered so far. The waterfall itself, nested deep inside the gorge and crowned in floating rainbows, offers a memorable spectacle.

Dettifoss

When Dettifoss finally irrupts, it seems orchestrated a with savant cinematic touch. As the Hafragil lowlands are left behind, the landscape changes its face abruptly and entirely. It becomes barren – utterly barren – a monotonous stretch of black sand and solid, crude rock. Only minuscule patches of vegetation are scattered here and there: small and untamed flowers pathetically emerging from the wasteland around just to ask "What are we doing here?" One could easily think of a Western movie's final and epic duel, or even St. John's Apocalypse, set in such a place: in no way would it feel out of context. Yes, the sensation is that of being at the far end of the world. Not to mention the roar – that constant, overwhelming noise of precipitating waters that draws nearer.

When the main actor eventually reveals itself, it is still cloaked in a cloud of drizzling splashes, raised up in every direction by the impact. The real risk after all of the expectation-building, however, is disappointment. In reality, the mighty Dettifoss actually sucks. There is nothing beautiful, cosy or picturesque about this waterfall: just a square wall of fluid mud erected there to scare the children into tears or delight those statistics-lovers such as yours truly. ("Hey, after all this is the waterfall with the greatest flow volume in Europe!"). And yet, in spite of its lack of aesthetic value, every summer the banks of Dettifoss enjoy

an unceasing pilgrimage of visitors, devotees ready to stand in awe before its nude display of wrath and power. I am not exempted, and the morning after my arrival I am there, under a clear blue sky, paying visit to and spending a generous portion of film on this Moloch of dirty water and silt.

So it has come that the third day of my journey has begun, blessed by sunny weather and the rarity of some 25°C in the air. My high spirits, however, are fated to shortly face a sudden demise. I have only walked a couple of kilometres from the waterfall when I stop again for a few photos. I kneel, camera in hand and pointed at the horizon. A sudden breath of wind blows the fine sand all over me and my precious equipment. I wait it out and continue, but my zoom-lens does not respond anymore: it got stuck by the grains and simply does not turn any more. I make a first attempt at remaining calm, sit down and smoke. "Once the cigarette will be over, I am sure the lens will work fine again" I tell myself. The facts contradict my delusional optimism. My attempts at keeping calm crumble. I swear, try to force the lens, but the screeching noises suggests to me that I am doing more harm than good. Apparently, I must accept the evidence: for the moment, I cannot rely on a camera any more – clearly, an unbearable perspective. I sit down and smoke again, thoughtful. I try to repeat to myself that the unforeseen is part, even the very juice, of adventure. Maybe. For now, however, I only see the adventure prematurely slipping away: I feel miserable and perplexed about the course to take – just a lonely and bent figure in the landscape at the end of the world, three days into my 40-day journey.

Thanks to Trex (www.bustravel.is) for Reykjavík-Ásbyrgi transportation

Researchers' Night - for the whole family

Friday 28. September

Open house 17:00-21:00
at Reykjavík Art Museum,
Tryggvagötu 17.

Visinda Vaka
Opið húsi!
Hafnarhúsinu Tryggvagötu
Föstudaginn 28. september
kl. 17:00 til 21:00

RANNÍS

Researchers
in Europe

Rannsóknamiðstöð Íslands • Laugavegi 13 • 101 Reykjavík • Sími 615 5800 • Bréfsími 552 9814 • www.rannis.is

Breakfast
special



Cappuccino + bagle + yoghurt = 650 kr.

roma Rauðarásfigur 8

The myth that the future of business is in China is very old. As early as 1840, European and American manufacturers ran the numbers and calculated that they could get hugely rich if they could just sell one toothpick or button to each person in China.

Text by Ian Watson

As Iceland and China moved closer towards signing a free trade agreement, the state television news came up with a great graphic to illustrate what might happen. Two lace-less shoes arrive duty-free in Iceland from China. Icelanders tie on a set of laces. Then we resell the shoes duty-free to Europe at way less than Europe's price for importing direct.

The unstated fear that this news story played upon runs basically like this: China has infiltrated the Icelandic government and has a secret plan to use Iceland as a back door to Europe's markets. A few people in Iceland will make lots of money on this, at the moral cost of collusion with an ethically bankrupt country which mistreats its people and is ruining the environment.

In fact, country-of-origin rules mean that Iceland would have to add more value than tying on a pair of shoelaces in order to be able to re-label Chinese products as its own. But this story illustrates how the China buzz in Iceland is riddled with myths and hype. The Grapevine's editor asked me to cut through them and find out what is really happening.

Conspiracy theorists probably imagine that all of the talk about China in Iceland is because rich, corrupt Chinese businessmen-cum-politicians have paid off rich, corrupt Icelandic businessmen-cum-politicians to be able to influence the political process here (and kick some Falun Gong butt in the process!) But the more I looked into the situation, the less sensational it turned out to be. China is neither as much of a threat, nor as much of an opportunity, as it is made out to be.

Not Just Free Trade

Iceland is not really that special. China has already signed several free trade agreements, and is now working on adding New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, Iceland, and Norway. For the time being, China has left the big fish – the EU, the USA, and Japan – out of their sights, probably because those negotiations are trickier and more politically charged. Smaller, peripheral countries like Norway and New Zealand have more to gain from an agreement, and China's smaller successes might pave the way for bigger ones.

Signing a free trade agreement requires recognising China as a "market economy," which is something that many countries would prefer not to do. China is, increasingly, a free-market society, but it is also still opaque, authoritarian, and centralised. So being among the first to recognise China as a market economy means being among the first willing to say that the glass is half full rather than half empty. This is a justifiable move at this point in history, and at the same time it is a somewhat dubious honour for countries like Iceland.

There has been lots of talk about how the agreement between China and Iceland will be a "new generation" free trade agreement, which will cover services as well as goods. I have heard people say that thousands of Chinese workers will flood Iceland to offer their services to the construction or fishing industries at very low wages.

However, it seems that free trade in "services" really means things like letting Icelandic shipping companies move goods not just from Reykjavik to China, but also between two different Chinese ports (what's called "cabotage" in the language of international

Iceland–China

Is Free-trade as Good as Claimed?

info.

▲ Grettir Kabaret 2007 *Elíza Release Concert* The Solars System of the Elves *Megas & Senuþjófarnir in Concert* Eggert Pétursson – Two Exhibitions
 “Daagblaðið Vísir!” Reykjavík International Film Festival *Food Reviews*
 Shopping *Music, Art, Films and Events Listings* ▾



(riff) B6

Reykjavik International Film Festival



Around Town – Sept 27 - Oct 5

Grettir Kabaret 2007

In collaboration with this year's Reykjavík International Film Festival, the Kino movement will offer aspiring artists an opportunity to partake in a Kino Kabaret, titled, Grettir Kabaret 2007.

Kino first started in Montreal on January 1999 when two friends decided to produce an original short film every month until the end of the year. 200 short films later, Kino was born. Inspired by kiné, a Greek word meaning "movement," Kino works around the concepts 'independence' and 'freedom of expression'. Its mission is to gather artists who believe that the importance of a cinematographic work does not rest solely on the amount of its production budget. Its motto - "Do well with nothing, do better with little and do it now!"

Kino Kabaret is a production laboratory based within the festival's setting, where films are created by participating Kinoites (Kino members) from around

the world. Every morning during the Kino Kabaret, a meeting and brainstorm session takes place at the Kinolab. Local Directors, Actors and Musicians are invited to join the meetings and participate in the Kabaret. Teams are formed and then off they go for the day. The material is decided, produced, shot, edited and screened within 48 hours. The Kinolab is the core of the Kabaret. It requires a wide space, provided by the festival, where the Kino Kabaret TEAM can set up their headquarters with all of the production necessities, such as video and audio equipment, lights, editing stations, food, coffee, enthusiasm, encouragement and love.

Kinolab is also a production meeting space. It should easily be accessible to the Kino Kabaret team as well as any curious festival goer and organiser, who want to see the Kinoites in action.

– The GrettirKabaret begins September 27 at 5 pm at Café Hressó. Registration on site.

– September 28 - The first Kabaret begins at 9 am.

– September 29 - The first GrettirKabaret screening at 9 pm. Location: Nordic House,

– October 1 - Concert: Mr. Silla & Mongoose, Steintryggur and Gabriel Braun.

– October 2 - The second Kabaret begins at 9 am.

– October 3 - The second Kabaret screening 9 pm. Location: Organ.

– October 4 - The third and final Kabaret begins at 9 am.

– October 5 - The third and final Kabaret screening 9 pm. Location: Nordic House.

For further info, consult www.riff.is and www.kino00.com.

Organ –September 26

Eliza Release Concert

On Wednesday, September 26, pop veteran Eliza Geirsdóttir Newman will hold a release-party and concert to celebrate her first solo album, Empire Fall. This will be Eliza's first concert in Iceland in approximately three years. Eliza established the all-female Kollrasa Krókríðandi at 16 and has later been known as Bellatrix, a band that has been the launch pad for many of the country's biggest names in music.

Eliza, who sings and plays the violin, will be accompanied by a new band, consisting of Guðmundur Pétursson on guitar, Birgir Baldursson on drums, Jakob Smári Magnússon on bass, and Arndís Hreiðarsdóttir on piano and glockenspiel. Mammút will open up the show. Concert starts at 21:00, 1000 ISK in.

Organ, Hafnarstræti 1-3, back alley, 101 Reykjavík



Galleri Gel – Sep 21 - Oct 5

The Solar System of the Elves

Photography exhibition by Danish photographer Kim Linnet. The exhibition consists of nine big photographs, each one 100cm x 512cm in size. The photos are taken in Reykjavík, on Snæfellsness and on Reykjanes. The circular form of the photographs symbolizes nine planets that has always been here, but are normally hidden; just like the elves of Iceland.

Each photograph consists of more than 50 different digital images that are glued together with a special software.

The process makes it possible to create panoramic images that shows the entire surroundings, including the ground and sky, from the place where the photos were taken. Portraying the world this way of makes us rediscover the beauty and the details in our surroundings and you will want to go closer and examine the pictures, searching for details and landmarks that you know are there.

Galleri Gel, Hverfisgata 33 101 Reykjavík, tel.: 551 7733

Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri –September 21

Megas & Senuþjófarnir in Concert

Megas and Senuþjófarnir will be playing a concert in Akureyri on Friday, September 21 as part of their short Icelandic tour. Megas and the band will be playing songs off their newly released record, Frágangur, Megas' first record in six years, and the first he has done with the band in seven years, as well as older Megas classics. Senuþjófarnir consist of the four members of Hjalmar, Guðmundur Kristinn Jónsson on guitar,

Sigurður Guðmundsson on bass, Mikael Svensson on keyboard, and Nils Olof Törnqvist on drums, as well as Guðmundur Pétursson on guitar. Only 150 tickets available.

Græni Hatturinn, Hafnarstræti 96, Akureyri

TICKETS AT midi.is



i8 – Sep 13 - Oct 27 / Kjarvalsstaðir Sep 8 - Nov 4

Eggert Pétursson – Two Exhibitions

The Icelandic painter Eggert Pétursson, receiver of the 2006 Carnegie Art Award's, 2nd prize is currently exhibiting in two locations in Reykjavík. Pétursson's subject is the delicate Icelandic flora. Displayed in conceptual paintings, rather than decorative, his unique paintings of the minute tundra flowers of Iceland's seemingly barren landscape reveal the universe within. Abstract at a distance, at close inspection his canvases are hyper-realistic—an infinite regression of painstaking brush detail creating each petal, stem, and leaf. Pétursson will be exhibiting 100 paintings at i8 gallery, the fruits of more

than two years of work, where Iceland's short-lived summer is described in three different ways through the most delicate Icelandic flora. Reykjavík Art Museum – Kjarvalsstaðir hosts a retrospective exhibition, featuring more than 50 works, some of which have never been exhibited before.

i8, Klapparstígur 33, 101 Reykjavík tel.: 551 3666, www.i8.is

Reykjavík Art Museum - Kjarvalsstaðir Flókagötu, 105 Reykjavík, tel.: 517 1290 www listasafnreykjavikur.is



Reykjavík Museum of Photography – Sept 15 - Nov 25

“Daagblaðið Vísir!”

“Dagblaðið Vísir! 1960-200” or Afternoon Press Photography in Iceland is the newest exhibit at the Reykjavík Museum of Photography. The name is taken from the shouts of the street-vender paperboys, advertising the daily news. The exhibit features photographs published in newspapers throughout Iceland over the past four decades, highlighting the role of photojournalism on relating major events in our lives, and telling stories about the people, places,

and country that takes center stage. The exhibit also explores the ever moving eye of the photojournalist, living day to day eager to capture the next moment that will be of importance to the nation.

The exhibit features about 150 photographs published in newspapers throughout Iceland over the past four decades, highlighting the role of photojournalism on relating major events in our lives, and telling stories about the people, places,

country and includes photographs from the afternoon papers Vísir (1961 – 1981), Dagblaðið (1975 – 1981), and DV (1981 – 2002). The collection also includes paper copies of the newspapers as well as films from the first production year of Fréttablaðið in 2001. Now on display through November 25.

The Reykjavík Museum of Photography, Grófarhús, 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

Bar 11

Laugavegur 11

A popular hangout spot for Reykjavík's rockers and their young idolaters with DJs playing classic rock'n'roll hits.

Fri 21.09 23:00 DJ Gulli Ósóna
Sat 22.09 23:00 DJ Biggi Monitor
Fri 28.09 23:00 DJ Óli Dóri Weapons
Sat 29.09 23:00 DJ Gulli Ósóna
Fri 5.09 23:00 DJ Biggi Monitor

Sat 6.10 23:00 DJ Óli Dóri Weapons

Barinn

Laugavegur 22

Vibrant late-night party place and a nice roomy bistro during the day.

Fri 21.09 23:00 DJ Casanova (1st floor)
Fri 28.09 23:00 DJ Peter Parkar (1st floor)
Sat 29.09 23:00 DJ Gisli Galdur (1st floor)
Sat 29.09 23:00 DJ Tweak (plugg'd) (2nd floor)

Thu 4.10 22:00 Breakbeat
Fri 5.09 23:00 DJ Peter Parkar (1st floor)

Fri 5.09 23:00 DJ Ernir (2nd floor)
Sat 6.10 23:00 DJ Shaft (1st floor)

■ **Café Amsterdam**
Hafnarstræti 5
Fri 21.09 22:00 Perfect Disorder
Fri 21.09 00:00 DJ Master

Sat 22.09 22:00 Gordon Riots celebrate release of new album

Sat 22.09 00:00 DJ Master

Fri 28.09 00:00 DJ Sesar

Sat 29.09 23:00 "Playing Requests" veterans of music cover everything from Britney to the Beatles.

■ Café Cultura

Hverfisgata 18

Music from the world's four corners.

Fri 21.09 23:00 DJ Lupin
Sat 22.09 22:00 Salsa Night
Fri 28.09 23:00 DJ Kristín

Sat 29.09 23:00 DJ Ernir

■ Café Paris

Austurstræti 14

Fri 21.09 22:00 DJ Börkur / DJ Lucky
Sat 22.09 22:00 DJ Börkur / DJ Lucky

Fri 28.09 22:00 DJ Börkur / DJ Lucky
Sat 29.09 22:00 DJ Börkur / DJ Lucky
Fri 5.09 22:00 DJ Börkur / DJ Lucky
Sat 6.10 22:00 DJ Börkur / DJ Lucky

■ **Frikirkjan**
Laufásvegur 13
Fri 5.10 Danielson in concert (2500 ISK, midi.is)

■ **Gaukurinn**
Tryggvagata 22
Hosts mostly cover bands on weekends, playing anything from Britney to the Beatles. On weekdays, odds are you'll find local bands playing their original material.

Fri 21.09 22:00 Cover band Silfur plays
Sat 22.09 22:00 Brain Police + Guests

Fri 28.09 22:00 Live bands; Dr. Spock, Vicky Pollard, Cliff Calvin and Perfect Disorder.

■ **Hlemmur Bus Terminal**

Hlemmur

21.09 16:30 Retro Stefson

■ Hressó

Austurstræti 20

Here, troubadours play sing-alongs until midnight, followed by DJs playing whatever the crowd is aching for at the time.

Fri 21.09 22:00 Troubadours Public
Fri 21.09 00:00 DJ Bjarni

Sat 22.09 22:00 Troubadours Alexander and Órvar

Sat 22.09 00:00 DJ Barni
Thu 27.09 22:00 Troubadours Public

Fri 28.09 22:00 Troubadours Böddi and Danni

Fri 28.09 00:00 DJ Maggi
Sat 22.09 22:00 Jazz band Tepokinn plays

Sat 29.09 00:00 DJ Maggi
Fri 5.10 22:00 Troubadours Alexander and Órvar

Fri 5.10 00:00 DJ Bjarni
Sat 6.10 22:00 Troubadours Public

Sat 6.10 00:00 DJ Bjarni

■ **NASA**
by Austurvöllur

Fri 21.09 21:00 Bands Jeff Who?, Ölvis and Dikta play live (500ISK)

Sat 22.09 23:00 Irish folk rock band Stuðmenn (1500ISK)

■ **Organ**
Hafnarstræti 1-3
Fri 21.09 21:00 GUS GUS (live) (3500ISK) tickets available at 12 Tónar record shop

Fri 21.09 02:00 DJ Andrés

Sat 22.09 21:00 Bacon Live Support Unit and Guests

Wed 26.09 21:00 Mammút (live)

Wed 26.09 22:00 Eliza (live) Album Release concert (1000ISK)

Thu 27.09 21:00 Benny Crepo's Gang and Royal Fortune

Sat 29.09 22:00 Metro Area (USA)
Thu 4.10 21:00 Monitor Concert

Fri 5.09 22:00 Lee Hazelwood Tribute night

Sat 6.10 22:00 Skátar and Bloodgroup

■ **Prikið**
Bankastræti 12
Fri 21.09 22:00 Indigo (live)

Fri 21.09:00:00 DJ Maggi Lego
Sat 22.09 00:00 DJ Gulli Ósóna

Wed 26.09 22:00 DJ Biggi Monitor
Thu 27.09 22:00 DJ Andri

Fri 28.09 22:00 Kokteilbandið (live)
Fri 28.09:00:00 DJ Gisli Galdur

Sat 29.09 22:00 DJ Rósa

■ **Q-Bar**
Ingólfsstræti 3
Stylish and vibrant gay / straight-friendly bar and party venue. Cosy on weekdays and full of surprises on weekends.

Fri 21.09 23:00 DJ Beauty and the beats

Thu 27.09 23:00 DJ Manny
Fri 28.09 23:00 DJ De La Rosa
Sat 29.09 23:00 DJ Ási Þjásí
Wed 03.10 22:00 DJ Beatr
Thu 04.10 22:00 DJ Þórir
Fri 05.10 20:00 Pre-Halloween party
Sat 06.10 23:00 DJ Beauty and the beats

■ **Sirkus**
Klapparstígur 30

Playing reggae, country and occasionally hosting live gigs on weekdays, Sirkus's veteran DJs keep the party going till late on weekends.

Fri 21.09 23:00 DJ Tóti Trans
Sat 22.09 23:00 DJ Skeletor

Wed 26.09 22:00 DJ Egner
Thu 27.09 22:00 DJ Chuck

Fri 28.09 23:00 DJ Maggi Legó
Sat 29.09 23:00 DJ Gisli Galdur

Wed 3.10:22:00 DJ Jonni
Thu 4.10 22:00 DJ Unnur Andrea feat. Tóti Trans

Fri 5.09 23:00 DJ Mr. White
Sat 6.10 23:00 Lazershov

■ **Tjarnarbió**
Tjarnargötu 12

Tue 2.10 20:00 Skátar, Reykjavík!, Me, Slumbering Napoleon and more.

■ **TPM - Hellirinn**
Hólmaslóð 2
Fri 21.09 20:00 Bands; Mara, Carte Moctem, Gone Postal and Diabolus play live.

■ **Vegamót**
Vegamótastíg 4
Fri 21.09 22:00 DJ Simmi

Sat 22.09 22:00 DJ Danni Deluxe
Thu 27.09 22:00 DJ Steinar Lár

Thu 27.09 22:00 DJ Benni B Ruff
Sat 29.09 22:00 DJ Simmi

Thu 4.10 22:00 DJ Símon
Fri 5.09 22:00 DJ Danni Deluxe
Sat 6.10 22:00 DJ Dóri

■ **Museums & Galleries**

■ **101 Gallery**
Hverfisgata 18
Thu.–Sat. 14–17 and by appointment

www.101hotel.is/101hotel/101gallery/

■ Artótek

Tryggvagata 15

Mon. 10–21, Tue.–Thu. 10–19, Fri. 11–19, Sat. and Sun. 13–17

www.sim.is/Index/Islenkal/Artotek

Sep 17–Oct 14
Exhibition:
The work of Þóra Sigurðardóttir

■ **ASÍ Art Museum**
Freyjugata 41
Tue.–Sun. 13–17
Free Entrance

Sep 29 and onwards
Rubbish
Magnús Tómasson exhibition. A journey through his sketchbooks.

■ **Auga fyrir Auga**
Hverfisgata 35
Open Thu.–Fri. 15–19, Sat.–Sun. 14–17

Current exhibition:
"Red Square" Photographs from Calcutta by Christopher Taylor

■ **The Einar Jónsson Museum**
Eiríksgrata
Tue.–Sun. 14–17
www.skulptur.is

Permanent exhibition:
The work of sculptor Einar Jónsson

■ **The Culture House**
Hverfisgata 15
Open daily 11–17
www.thjodmenning.is

Permanent exhibitions:
Medieval Manuscripts; The National Museum – as it was; The Library Room; The Road to Zion; Berlin Excursion

Current exhibition:
Exhibition featuring the works of Kjar-

Surtsey – Genesis
The exhibition traces the emergence and evolution of the island Surtsey until the present day and predicts its geographical and ecological development over the next 120 years.

■ **Dwarf Gallery**
Grundarstígur 21
Opening Hours: Fri. and Sat. 18–20
www.this.is/birta

Current exhibition:
Smooth Spaces
Exhibition by Gunnndís Ýr Finnboadóttir

■ **Gallery Ágúst**
Baldursgata 12
Wed.–Sat. 12–17
www.galleriagust.is

Aug 29–Sep 22
Fenóména
Opening exhibition: Ásdís Sif Gunnarsdóttir and Rakel Bernie. Drawings, photographs, video-art and 3D.

Sep 29–Nov 10
Hlutlaus á Hreyfingu
Exhibition: Hulda Stefánsdóttir

■ **Gallery Crush**
Laugavegur 28
Current exhibition:
Exhibition featuring artworks by graphic designer Hólmsteinn Kristjánsson.

■ **Gallery Fold**
Rauðarárstígur 14–16
Mon.–Fri. 10–18
Sat. 11–16
Sun. 14–16
www.myndlist.is

Current exhibition:
Exhibition featuring the works of Kjar-

tan Guðjónsson

■ **Gallery Gel**
Hverfisgata 37
Mon.–Fri. 13–18
Sat. 11–16
Sun. 14–16
www.myspace.com/gallerigel

Sep 21–Oct 12
"Dulín Himintungl Álfanna" photo exhibition.

The exhibition consists of nine big photographs, each photograph being 100cm x 512cm in size. They are taken in Reykjavík, on Snæfellsness and on Reykjanes. Due to their circular nature, the photographs symbolize nine planets – planets that have always been here, but are normally hidden

■ **Gallery Tukt**
Pósthússtræti 3–5
www.hitthusid.is

Sep 1–Sep 15
The Traveller
Photographs by Viktor Pétur Hannesson. Hannesson travelled Europe for three months this summer and exhibits his travel story with photos and a written diary.

■ **Gallery Turpentine**
Ingólfsstræti 5
Tue.–Fri. 12–18
Sat. 11–16
www.turpentine.is

Sep 28–Oct 13
Paintings by Pétur Thomsen

■ **Gerðuberg Cultural Centre**
Gerðuberg 3–5
Mon.–Thu. 11–17
Wed. 11–21

Thu.–Fri. 11–17
Sat.–Sun. 13–16
www.gerduberg.is

Sep 22–Nov 11
Klapparstígur 33
Tue.–Fri. 11–17
Sat. 13–17 and by appointment

■ **i8 Gallery**
Klapparstígur 33
Tue.–Fri. 11–17
Sat. 13–17 and by appointment

■ **Living Art Museum**
Laugavegur 26
Wed., Fri.–Sun. 13–17
Thu. 13–22
www.nylo.is/

operate a numismatic collection consisting of Icelandic notes and coins.

Reykjavík 871 +/- 2
Aðalstræti 16
Open daily 10–17
Permanent exhibition:
The Settlement Exhibition
Reykjavík Art Museum
– Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum
Sigtún
Open daily 10–16
Admission ticket is valid for three days in all three museums.
Free entrance every Thursday.
www.listsafnreykjavikur.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
– Hafnarhúsið
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
22 Sep at 13:00
Artist's Talk
Members of the Icelandic Love Corporation discuss their work and career along with poet and composer Sjón and curator Fee Quay.

Reykjavík Art Museum
– Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagata
Open Daily 10–17
Sep 8–Dec 31
Egbert Pétursson – Retrospective
Architecture at Eye Level
Sep 8–Nov 4
Egbert Pétursson – Retrospective
Paintings by Egbert 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.
Sep 15–Dec 31
Jóhannes S. Kjarval – Key Works
Paintings by Jóhannes S. Kjarval
21 Oct at 15:00
Guided Tour – Meditation on Furniture
Architect Óli Jóhann Ásmundsson joins a guided tour of the exhibition and discusses his work.
Reykjavík Maritime Museum
Grandagarður 8

Open Tue.–Sun. 11–17
www.sjomijnjasafn.is
Current exhibition:
Travellers in Iceland
Reykjavík Museum
Kistuhýlur 4
Open daily from 10–17
www.arbaejaarsafn.is
Permanent exhibition:
Objects from Reykjavík cultural history.
The Reykjavík Museum of Photography
Grófarhús, Tryggvagata 15, 6th floor
Weekdays 12–19
Sat.–Sun. 13–17
Free Entrance
www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is

Aug 30–Oct 24
The Lost Children of Afghanistan
Photographs by Dante
Sep 15–Nov 25
Dagblaðið Vísiir! / Vísiir 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 Örn J. Auðarson exhibition
Sep 1–Oct 7
Sigurður Guðjónsson, Huginn Þór Arason and Tony Trehy exhibition
Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
Laugarnestangi 70
Open Tue.–Sun. 14–17
Permanent exhibition:
Works of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson
Start Art / Art Shop
Laugavegur 12b
www.startart.is
Sep 1–Sep 28
Anna María Sigurjónsdóttir and Ástríður Ólafsdóttir exhibition
Thorvaldsen Bar
Austurstæti 8-10
www.thorvaldsen.is
Aug 28–Sep 28
Universe
Paintings by Mæja

Outside Reykjavík
Skaffell
Austurvegur 42, Seyðisfjörður
www.skaffell.is
Aug 11–Nov 11
A group exhibition featuring works by Erla Þórarinsdóttir, Hulda Hákon, Jón Óskar and Steingrímur Eyfjörð
Hafnarborg
Strandgata 34, Hafnarfjörður
Mon.–Sun. 11–17
www.hafnarborg.is
Sep 13–Oct 7
“Photographs”
Photos by American artist Denis Masi
Sep 13–Oct 7
“Wait”

Treesculptures by Aðalheiður S. Eysteinsdóttir
Gljúfrasteinn
– Halldór Laxness Museum
270 Mosfellsbær
Open daily except Mondays from 10–17.
Kópavogur Art Museum
– Gerðarsafn
Hamraborg, Kópavogur
Open daily 11–17 except Mondays
www.gerdarsafn.is

The Icelandic Museum of Design and Applied Art
Lyngás 7–9, 121 Garðabær
Opening hours: Tues.–Fri. 14–18; Sat. and Sun. 16–18.
www.mudesa.org
Exhibitions devoted to Icelandic design.
The Icelandic Settlement Centre
Brákarbraut 1–15, Borgarnes
Opening hours: May to Sep 10–20; Sep to May 11–17.
www.landnam.is

Permanent exhibitions:
The Settlement of Iceland: The Saga of Egill Skalla-Grimsson
Suðsuðvestur
Hafnargata 22, Keflavík
Thu.–Fri. 16–18
Sat.–Sun. 14–17
www.sudsuvestur.is
Sep 1–Oct 7
Coup d'État
Unnar Örn Auðarson Jónasson exhibition

Vatnasafn / Library of Water
Bókhöfustígur 17, 340 Stykkishólmur
www.libraryofwater.is
Open daily from 11–17.
Permanent exhibition:
Roni Horn installation. She has replaced stacks of books with glass columns containing water gathered from Iceland's glaciers and glacial rivers.

Sandgerði Museum
Gerðavegur 1, Sandgerði.
Until Feb 7, 2008
Polar Adventures
Exhibition on the life and work of the French polar explorer, scientist and doctor Jean-Baptiste Charcot.

Jónas Viðar Gallery
Kaupvangsstræti 12, Akureyri
Fri.–Sat. 13–18
www.jvs.is/jvgallery.htm
Akureyri Art Museum
Kaupvangsstræti 12, Akureyri
Tue.–Sun. 12–17
www.listsafn.akureyri.is
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 Andrés-son, Hekla Dögg Jónsdóttir, Hrafnkell Sigurðsson, Nikita, Studio Grandi and Óssur hf.
DaLi Gallery
Brekkgata 9, Akureyri
Mon.–Sat. 14–18

www.daligallery.blogspot.com
Current exhibition:
Sunna Sigfríðardóttir exhibition
GalleriBOX
Kaupvangstræti 10, Akureyri
www.galleribox.blogspot.com



Films
Hairspray Smárabíó, Háskólabíó, Laugarásbíó
Brettinn Upp Smárabíó, Háskólabíó, Regnboginn
Veðramót Smárabíó, Háskólabíó, Regnboginn
Rush Hour 3 Smárabíó
Knocked Up Smárabíó, Sambíóin Álfabakka, Laugarásbíó
Simpsons the Movie Smárabíó, Regnboginn

Vacancy Smárabíó, Regnboginn
Mr. Brooks Sambíóin Álfabakka, Sambíóin Kringlunni
Astrópía Sambíóin Álfabakka, Sambíóin Kringlunni, Háskólabíó
Bratz The Movie Sambíóin Álfabakka, Sambíóin Kringlunni
Disturbia Sambíóin Álfabakka, Laugarásbíó
Ratatouille Sambíóin Álfabakka
The Bourne Ultimatum Háskólabíó, Sambíóin Kringlunni, Laugarásbíó
License to Wed Sambíóin Kringlunni

Transformers Sambíóin Kringlunni
Sicko Regnboginn
Superbad (Sept 28)
Death at a Funeral (Sept 28)
Hot Rod (Sept 28)
3:10 to Yuma (Sept 28)
No Reservations (Sept 28)

Movie Theatres
Regnboginn, Hverfisgata 54
101 Reykjavík, Tel. 551-9000
Háskólabíó, Hagatorg
107 Reykjavík, Tel. 525-5400
Laugarásbíó, Laugarás
104 Reykjavík, Tel. 565-0118
Smárabíó, Smáralind

Looking for tickets to events, cinemas, theatres, or concerts?

Check www.midi.is for availability.



201 Kópavogur, Tel. 564-0000
Sambíóin, Álfabakki 8
109 Reykjavík, Tel. 575-8900
Sambíóin, Kringlan 4-12
103 Reykjavík, Tel. 575-8900
Sambíóin Akureyri, Ráðhústorg
600 Akureyri, Tel. 461-4666
Nýja-Bíó, Hafnargata 33
230 Reykjanesbær, Tel. 421-1170
Selfossbíó, Eyrarvegur 2
800 Selfoss, Tel. 482-3007

RIFF
Sep 27–Oct 7 This year, RIFF's programme consists of nearly one hundred films. For more info see pick or go to www.riff.is

Events
Open House at the Intercultural Centre
07.09 Every Friday night, the Intercultural centre plays host to an intercultural meeting. The concept is to bring foreigners and Icelanders together, and to give them the opportunity to get to know other people and to share experiences. The meetings feature plenty of activities that will allow the attendees to stir things up into a nice cultural broth. Entrance is free.
The Intercultural Centre, Hverfisgata 18
Young people with a foreign background
The discussion meeting will be in Menntaskólinn við Hamrahlíð's conference room the 24th of September 2007, from 8:30 till 12:30
For those interested in taking part, please notify Anh-Dao by telephone 821-2523 or via email ahdao.tran@reykjavik.is. FINL (Future in a new country) is a project meant to help young people of foreign descent to educate themselves, organise their lives and become active members of Icelandic society. The discussion meeting is part of meeting this goal.

Text by Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir Photo by Mary Ellen Mark



An Everyday Extraordinary

Text by Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir Photo by Mary Ellen Mark

“Every time she saw me she laughed,” says Mary Ellen Mark smiling at one of her large framed black and white photographs hanging in the National Museum gallery. “I guess she found me pretty funny.”

Mark's latest photographic exhibition, titled “Extraordinary Child,” or “Undrabörn,” is a look at the lives of disabled children in Iceland. Mark, an American-born award-winning photographer and photojournalist, spent six-weeks in the fall and winter of 2006–2007 at Öskjuhlíðarskóli and Safamýrarskóli schools and the Lyngás daycare centre for the disabled, spending full days with the kids and often accompanying them home.

“I have a couple of pictures of her,” Mark continues, walking away from the picture of the smiling girl, titled Iris who always laughed when she saw my camera. “I like to show the different moods of the children because they're just like every child. They have moods; they're happy, they cry, they're mischievous, they're angelic, many different things. But these kids are mainly angelic. They're really so sweet. And pure, actually.”

Mark's past projects have includ-

ed photographing homeless youths in Seattle, brothels in Mumbai, and the Indian Circus. Her latest work is another raw divulge into the human condition, into a world that Mark neither glorifies nor dramatises.

“This little girl, who is very profoundly disabled, she recognised her picture. She came and she went straight to her picture. The first thing I learned is that you never underestimate, no matter how seriously or how profoundly disabled these kids are, there's a lot they understand and you can't take it for granted.”

Walking around her exhibition Mark bears a delightful look of contentment on her face, looking at every photograph as though greeting old friends. The photographs show the children in their everyday environments: eating, swimming, playing in the snow, moments covering a full range of emotions, yet strung together by a quality of distinct humanness.

Accompanying Mark's work are photographs of the bare school environment by Ívar Brynjólfsson, select artwork by the school's pupils, as well as a documentary made by Mark's husband Martin Bell about the life of Alexander Viðar Pálsson, one of

the pupils at Öskjuhlíðarskóli.

According to Mark, one of the goals of the exhibit and of Margrét Hallgrímsdóttir, director of the National Museum who worked closely with Mark on the project, is to raise awareness of the kids and to encourage that a new communal school with improved facilities be built. Later that day, at the exhibit's opening reception, the director of the Board of Education, Júlíus Vífill Ingvarsson, announced that a new school would be built in the near future that would combine the efforts of Öskjuhlíðarskóli and Safamýrarskóli.

“I think I have to show the happy moments but I also have to show the moments of real pain,” says Mark. “We try to kind of balance it so if you see a kid crying you also see another picture of another side to their personality where they're laughing. Like Bragi here,” she says and stops in front of another beautifully simple photograph. “He really laughs if someone falls down.”

Extraordinary Child will be on display at the National Museum of Iceland through to January 27, 2008. For more information visit www.thjodminjasafn.is

TRADITIONAL ICELANDIC FOOD and International Dishes



Our Weekly Menu:

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



Home-like food
International buffet
Grilled chicken
Sheep's head and Cøbe
Fish dishes
Hamburgers
Salat bar
Sandwich bar
Coffee and cakes

FLJÓTT OG GOTT
BSI BUS TERMINAL
HRINGBRAUT REYKJAVÍK
RESTAURANT OPEN 7.15.30 AND TAKEAWAY
ROUND THE CLOCK.

icelandic FISH & CHIPS
Organic bistro
Creating a tradition
Tryggvgata 8/Geirsgata, 101 Rvk
Tel: 511-1118
Open: mon-fri 11:30-21:00/sat-sun 12:00-21:00
www.fishandchips.is

“Europe's finest hot dogs”
(The Guardian 2006)
Bøjarins bestu pylsur
- at Reykiavik harbor

An outstanding collection of Icelandic design
A new design shop in the oldest house in Reykjavík
Clothes, jewellery and applied art
Located in the center of the city
More than 70 designers
Opening hours
Monday-Friday 9:00 - 18:00
Saturday-Sunday 12:00 - 17:00
Thursday evenings until 22:00
www.kraum.is

online
GRAPEVINE
WWW.GRAPEVINE.IS
NEWS | BACK ISSUES | PODCASTS | LISTINGS | REVIEWS



Reykjavík International Film Festival Preview

The fourth annual Reykjavík International Film Festival will take place September 27 – October 7. Founded in 2004 by a group of film enthusiasts and professionals with the goal of creating an annual international film festival in Reykjavík, RIFF has become the one of the main cultural events in Iceland, with last year's guests exceeding 15,000 people.

Dimitri Epides, programmer for the Toronto and Montreal Film Festivals as well as the Thessaloniki Festival in Greece, was brought on board to supervise the film selection in 2005, and has worked with the festival since. This year's festival selection features nearly 100 titles from over 30 countries, with a focus on new cinema. The festival's competitive category is only open for first or second features from directors who compete for the Golden Puffin. Every year, the RIFF program has included films on human rights issues. This year, the category will be dedicated to films on the situation in Iraq and panel discussions will be hosted in relation to the screenings. The festival's program includes an extensive array of documentaries and special attention will be directed to cinema in Spain. 25 years ago, German film director Rainer Werner Fassbinder took his own life at the age of 37 and a special Fassbinder retrospective is scheduled to celebrate his work, in cooperation with the Goethe Institut in Copenhagen.

Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki will accept RIFF's 2007 Creative Excellency award. In his celebration, RIFF will screen his "Finland-trilogy" consisting of Drifting Clouds (1996), the Oscar nominated The Man Without a Past (2002), and Lights in the Dusk (2006). Another guest at the festival this year will be Czech director David Ondricek but his films have never been screened in Iceland before. This year, three of Ondricek's latest features will be screened. Ondricek will attend a Q&A session after the premiere of his most recent film Grandhotel. Leading actress Klára Issová will also attend the screening.

Grapevine staffers put their heads together to select a few interesting titles from the festival's extensive program.

It turned to be even more challenging than getting five people to agree on pizza topping, but this is what we came up with. Obviously, it would be wise to consult the more extensive program available on the festival's web page, www.riff.is.

Sigur Rós – Heima

In July 2006, musical group Sigur Rós began an unexpected two week tour around Iceland. The tour marked the end of a 13 month world tour in support of their fourth album Takk... Once details of the tour were available it was decided to film all of the tour's concerts, the journey itself, the Icelandic people and Iceland's nature in order to make a documentary. The footage has now become Sigur Rós – Heima, a 94 minute documentary directed by Denni Karlsson. The world premiere of Heima will open this year's on September 27.

Helvetica

The Helvetica typeface should be familiar to anyone who has ever typed on a computer. In fact, it should be familiar to anyone who has ever lived in a city, watched TV, read the papers. Helvetica is the most popular typeface in the world and celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. For this occasion, director Gary Hustwit decided to make an independent documentary about the origin, rise and world domination of Helvetica. The film, which is both visually beautiful, thought-provoking and entertaining, was an immediate hit and has been screening at events and festivals the world over. The film is full of lively interviews with designers and revolutionaries who analyse and elaborate on how Helvetica has become synonymous with modern life and surrounds us on all sides.

Control (Above, left)

Ian Curtis, lead singer of the legendary rock group Joy Division, committed suicide at the age of 23. By then, he had recorded two albums with his band, gotten married, had a mistress and fathered a child. Control is Curtis' story of struggle with depression and alcoholism from his teenage years until his death



one fateful Sunday night in 1980. But this is also the story of Deborah Curtis, the woman he loved and betrayed, and what she had to go through. The screenplay is based on her memoir. Samantha Morton is stunning in the role of Deborah. Directed by renowned photographer and music video director Anton Corbijn, who approaches the subject with rare subtlety. Corbijn worked as a photographer and photographed Joy Division while the group was active. His experience makes for a realistic recreation of the late seventies and the aura surrounding the group at that time. Control is his first full length feature film.

Grandhotel

This latest of Ondricek's films keeps up the tradition of mixing together excessive humour, strong characters, realistic material and a unique style. The setting is an old hotel high in the mountains where Vlasta Fleischman works as a guard. He is an amateur meteorologist and fantasises about flying away from the hotel and thus escaping from his own life. Obsessed with the weather, he is constructing his own hot air balloon in order to follow his dreams. The film revolves around different characters living in or working at the hotel, connecting in one way or another through the protagonist. Grandhotel is a film that must be seen on a large screen, as the hotel itself, the surroundings and last but not least the magnificent shots of the weather are among the film's strongest factors.

Iraq in Fragments

A triptych of life in a war-ridden country. In the first part we follow an 11-year-old orphaned garage worker in Baghdad who fears the world he lives in. In the second part we are presented with the political uproar that followed the U.S. army invasion as extremist Shiites see that the moment has come to take action against the Sunnis, who have ruled the country for hundreds of years. The film's final part revolves around a family of farmers in Kurdistan, which is perhaps the only region of Iraq where "peace" still reigns. The film

is poetic, religious and brimming with subtle allusions to Dickens and Shakespeare. Iraq in Fragments received an Academy Award nomination as best documentary of 2007, won several awards at the Sundance Film Festival and the Grand Jury Prize at the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival.

Shotgun Stories (Above, right)

The backdrop of this modern minimalist Western are the cotton fields and back roads of Southeast Arkansas, but brothers Son, Boy and Kid could just as well be born out of the old Icelandic sagas. Their father was a violent drunk who left his family without even bothering to give the boys proper names. They grew up in a bad relationship with their mother and had no relationship with the father, who forgot his former life, sobered up, became a devout Christian, started another family and had four new sons who all got fine names. The film begins just after the father dies. When the lost boys show up for the funeral to the latent hostility of their half-brothers, past hatred boils anew and an old-fashioned tale of revenge, obligation and honour is unleashed.

Metamorphosis

According to medical statistics from the year 2003, an average of one in 4,600 people in China wants to have a sex change, which is about 280,000 people. With state owned hospitals in big cities offering private sex change operations since 1986, about 400 people in China have made this dream come true. Although they can officially change the sex on their ID cards, they still face immense pressures from society and tradition. Their greatest desire is to be understood. This documentary is about three transsexuals, whose lives and desires reflect those of others in their community in China, a community that deserves not only acceptance but also respect.

For more info go to www.riff.is



I Adapt Chainlike Burden

Chainlike Burden is the third LP release from the Icelandic hardcore outfit I Adapt. The band's earlier releases are long since unavailable and in great demand. On Chainlike Burden, the band moves from the more traditional high-octane hardcore, and slows down the pace a bit, to create a slower and far heavier record than the band's first two albums. Still, it is the band's most consistent and solid offering, full of crunching energy and the occasional sing-along. The recording process took its time, and the band has made good use of it. The production is excellent, although I believe the vocals should have been higher in the mix. The lyrics are introverted and dark, which creates a sombre atmosphere. The highlights are Sinking Ship, a slow and emotional bone crusher and Subject to Change, a powerful screampfest for the kids. Solid stuff. **SBB**



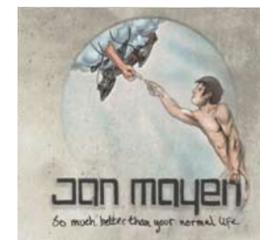
Soundspell An Ode to the Umbrella

Soundspell is made up of five boys not old enough to buy alcohol, the oldest one at 18 years old. On their debut, counting 10 songs, they demonstrate unusual musicianship for such youngsters. The songs are excellent indie music a la Coldplay or Keane with a soft piano playing a big part, but it is the angelic voice of singer Alexander Briem that makes this stand out from the average brit-pop sounding bands. The production is good and the packaging professional. In fact this does not sound like a debut at all, but instead a mature work of art. A few of these songs will definitely make it into daytime radio. Soundspell play Airwaves in October. A sure thing to check out. Recommended. **PH**



Magni Magni

Magni is blessed with a great voice and he is a very presentable guitar player. Unfortunately, he elects for a take-no-chances, rather than a take-no-prisoners, approach, so this is a rather uninspired, overproduced paint-by-the-numbers pop-rock effort that sounds professional but offers little of substance. In through one ear, out the other, type of stuff. The tender ballad If I Promised You the World, which has been in constant air-play the last months, and a completely biteless version of Radiohead's Creep are good examples of his soft and safe approach. Most of the songs are Magni's own, apart from two covers and two older songs from his earlier band, Shape. The highlight of this album is a live cover version of Live's When the Dolphins Cry – the ultimate crowd pleaser – but sadly the only song on the this album where the producer could not run amok on his ProTools equipment, and the only time that Magni fully uses his voice and lets it escape from the scales. **SBB**



Jan Mayen So Much Better Than Your Normal Life

Jan Mayen came out in late 2003 with an outright buoyant and breakable, yet catchy and melodic, self-titled EP. 2004 brought to light their debut LP, an album that shook many trees and even caught the attention of city councillor Gisli Marteinn Baldursson. "So Much Better than Your Normal Life" displays the quartet's development gracefully from being a gleeful tour de force to a grown up entity that contains its youth elegantly, not only as a band but as individuals. Their biggest growth might be the voice of singer Valgeir Gestsson. The guitar work brings to mind the duelling chemistry of Sister-era Sonic Youth and even Thin Lizzy's Gorham and Robertson with a murky twist and held together by a greatly advanced rhythm session. The album is also neatly crafted and includes some out of the ordinary, but welcome, synthesized sweetness. This album is so much better than a normal rock album. **BR**

Originally printed in issue #12

Reviews by Benedikt Reynisson, Páll Hilmarrson and Sveinn Birgir Björnsson

"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
- Souvenirs

VIKING village
Fjörukráin

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

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 Meat Dish Fried Noodles
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Energy for life through forces of nature

BLUE LAGOON
ICELAND

www.bluelagoon.com

Lárus & Lárus

Hey Lárus, did you fix the breaks on the car?

No, I couldn't, but I made the horn louder.

ORKAN
ALWAYS NICE

EXPECT HANGOVERS...

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



RESTAURANT
Down town Reykjavík
at Tryggvagata close to the harbor

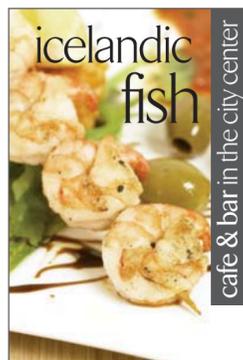


OPEN: mon-fri 10:00-23:30 / sat-sun 11:00-23:30



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

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



icelandic fish
cafe & bar in the city center

DECO CAFE/BAR
austurstræti 12 • 101 reykjavik

1 EATING
Vor
Laugavegur 24
Vor's refreshing take on café-style eating is marked by its use of fresh ingredients and a health-conscious menu that emphasizes 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.

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 café, 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.

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 Skyronnes, 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 chefs 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 their 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 staffers are frequently spotted in the locale, which should be recommendation enough.

7 Sægreifinn
Verubúð 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.

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.

9 Bernhöftsbakari
Bergstaðarstræti 13
It's a bakery, the oldest one in the city in fact, selling all sorts of bakery goods, snacks and an extensive selection of the sweet stuff from early dawn. We particularly love the spelt bread in the morning, and some snúður, kleina and vínarbrauð to go with the afternoon coffee.

10 Bæjarins bestu
Tryggvagata
There's a good reason why there's always a line in front of Bæjarins Bestu, regardless of the weather or time of day. Selected the best hot-dog stand in Europe by The Guardian, a fact locals realized decades ago, it has been serving "ein með öllu" ("one with the lot") to downtown pedestrians since 1935, making it the oldest fast food restaurant in the country. Grabbing a bite couldn't be easier.

11 Great Wall Restaurant
Vesturgata 6-8
As the name might suggest, Great Wall Restaurant serves Chinese food with great pride. Located in an old house that has recently been extensively refurbished, this new addition has enough space to accommodate large groups. In the basement, you will find Great Wall Magazine, which will sell you all the ingredients needed to make your own Chinese food.

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-hraðlestin
Hverfisgata 64A
Although a little pricey for a take-away, charging around 1600 ISK for a main course, the food is well worth that 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.

SPOT THIS: Sjávarkjallarinn
Aðalstræti 2, 101 Reykjavík
In an elegant setting, Seafood Cellar chefs 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 their exotic menu, a range of courses carefully selected by the chef, and share it with your dining partners.



15 DRINKING
Grái Kötturinn
Hverfisgata 16a
A small antique-style non-smoking coffee house in a Hverfisgata basement, legendary for its early opening hours, amazing breakfast and strong coffee that will easily wake you up in the morning. We especially recommend The Truck, American style breakfast consisting of eggs, bacon, pancakes, fried potatoes, tomatoes, syrup and toast. The bagels are also excellent.

16 Kaffi Hjómalið
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 paninis and strong espressos for coffee lovers whether you need to grab a cup and sandwich on your way to work or want to enjoy your drink on the spot.

18 Glaumbar
Tryggvagata 20
Here is a bit of trivial information: In Icelandic, "glauumar" means the sound of a party. I don't know what more you need to know about Glaumbar, except perhaps that it is the premier sports bar in town. After the final whistle, the action on the dance floor becomes feverish as local DJs take central role.

19 Hressó
Austurstræti 20
The celebrated site of one of the more famous coffeehouses in Iceland, this bar/café/bistro brings a European flair to the city. That is until about 11, when things get to rockin', and you can see the true character of Reykjavík.

20 Kaffibarinn
Bergstaðarstræti 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 soups. With DJs playing live sets from Wednesday to Saturday, the party doesn't start winding down until early morning.

21 Sirkus
Klappargatugur 30
Attracting a mixed crowd of party-people, the small bar Sirkus has always been popular among musicians and the creative crowd who get along well although the breathing space can be limited on weekends. While Sirkus's DJs provide for the greatest party possible every weekend, the bar occasionally hosts concerts on weeknights.

22 Organ
Hafnarstræti 1-3
The stylish two-floored bar and concert venue Organ presents a diverse range of concerts by local and international acts at least four times a week. Features established bands and young emerging musicians; the newly opened venue can accommodate 300 people and has enough seats for weary concertgoers to rest between sets. Open 'til way past late on weekends.

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 bands, as well as older and more established bands. Anyone who is anything in Icelandic music has passed through Gaukurinn at one point or another.

24 Boston
Laugavegur 28b
Located above the second-hand fashion store Spótnik, with its rooey bar floor and nice sofas in the lounge room upstairs, Boston is a fresh addition to the Reykjavík bar scene. Old-school yet stylish interiors, and enough tables to create a good vibe, make the place a comfy café as well as a laid-back tavern where the music is good but never intrusive.

25 Café Cultura
Hverfisgata 18
Located inside the Intercultural Centre, Cultura is a restaurant/bar with a cosmopolitan feel, hosting an array of events and various theme nights like Salsa teaching, tango nights and fusion parties. The menu features all sorts of international dishes like Thai soup, Spanish tapas, fajitas and falafel mixed with bistro regulars such as sandwiches and salads.

26 Prikíð
Bankastræti 12
This two-floor café/pub has been a part of Reykjavík's bar scene for decades. With a large and fairly cheap bistro menu, Prikíð 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.

27 Barinn
Laugavegur 22
Up-and-coming Barinn is becoming quite popular among Reykjavík party scenesters. Its three floors and equally numerous bars get quite crowded during weekends where a mix of dancing downstairs and chatting upstairs make for a good night out. Though mostly a DJ bar, Barinn occasionally hosts live gigs and is always a fun party venue.

28 Q-Bar
Ingólfsstræti 3
A spacious gay/straight friendly bar, the newly renovated Q-Bar is a welcome addition to the nightlife downtown. In stylish and comfortable surroundings, with a lounge-like atmosphere, a good vibe and plenty of seats, the place never gets uncomfortably crowded nor too noisy for conversation.

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.

30 SHOPPING
G-Star Raw
Laugavegur 86
Buying jeans used to be a simple task. With the ever-growing selection, successful jeans hunting can take days. The task did not get any easier with the recent addition of a store from the industry powerhouse G-Star Raw. This Dutch brand features an edgy collection, authentic details and innovative washings.

31 Underground
Veltusund 1
Located in a basement by Ingólfsborg, former pro skater, Mike Carroll's skateboard shop Underground is aptly named. The shop offers all the relevant skating gear, be it clothing or boards, from industry leading brand names such as DC, Circa and others. A wide array of T-shirts, shoes, and other skating necessities available.

32 Kirsuberjatréð
Vesturgata 4
Kirsuberjatréð is the perfect little gift shop. A co-op gallery/gift shop owned and operated by ten women artists and designers. Kirsuberjatréð is the commercial outlet where they sell their products. The selections range from clothes, baskets, ceramics, copper sculptures, fish skin items, paper crafts, contemporary jewelry, felt items, and various other designs.

33 Vinberíð
Laugavegur 43
This small boutique sells all kinds of sweets. From chocolate fondue mix, to handmade chocolates, to lollypops and Belgian chocolate with such flavours as lavender and ginger. Vinberíð also sells Icelandic sweets, including the popular licorice products. A must stop for the sweet toothed.

34 Laugavegur 28
Laugavegur 28
A fresh addition to the Laugavegur fashion scene, four separate stores under one roof, second-hand clothing and accessories stores Elvis and Rökk og rósi, and CD experts Smökkleysa, all staples of the Laugavegur shopping experience. In addition, the new store, Pop, supplying neat stuff for the home. The collective will offer unique clothing and ornaments and supply the score to your life.

35 Gullkúnnst Helgu
Laugavegur 13
This spacious and classy store sells jewellery made from lava and other stone. Gullkúnnst Helgu, which is housed in the 1924 built shop on Laugavegur 13, has been selling unique jewellery such as necklaces, bracelets and watches for 15 years.

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.

37 Cintamani
Laugavegur 11
If there is one thing you need in Iceland it is warm clothing. In a country known for rapid weather changes, you either come prepared, or buy the appropriate gear. Designed and developed in Iceland to meet rugged weather conditions, Cintamani clothing has been worn on both the North and the South Poles, as well as on the top of Mount Everest.

38 Trilogía
Laugavegur 7
A collection of trendy designer wear fills the space at fashion shop Trilogía, including amazing designs by Alexander McQueen and Chloe alongside Robert Cary Williams, Erotrotikos and many, many more. Summer dresses, sweaters and skirts for all the fashion conscious girls out there as well as cool accessories to complete the look.

39 Kolaportíð
Tryggvagata 19
A trip to the downtown indoor flea market Kolaportíð down by the harbour is always a fun way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Endless stalls offering all kinds of second-hand goods, candy and even fermented shark and Icelandic liquorice. If ready to spend some time thoroughly examining the selection you can find some great bargains. Only open on weekends.

40 Nakti Apinn
Bankastræti 14
Nakti Apinn, located on the second floor at Bankastræti 14, offers an amazing variety of colourful street-clothing, including hooded sweatshirts, T-shirts and leggings designed by the owners and hand-printed with different patterns, graphics and figures. Inside you'll also find a good selection of Icelandic music, books on art and design, accessories, baby clothes and international designer wear.

41 Thorvaldsens Bazar
Austurstræti 4
Located inside a dignified wooden building, Thorvaldsens Bazar is among the oldest shops in Reykjavík, opening in 1901 and run by the women's charity organization the Thorvaldsen Society. Selling souvenirs, handicrafts, woolen underclothes and sweaters as well as Icelandic jewellery, the friendly saleswomen work as volunteers and all profits are donated to charity work.

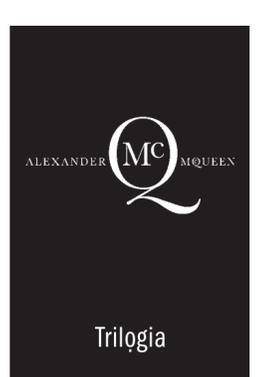
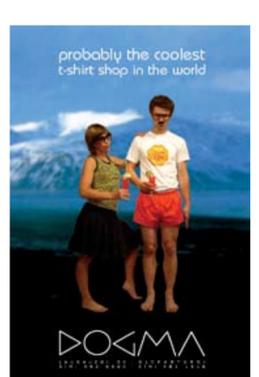
42 Friða Frænka
Vesturgata 3
This small boutique is a jam-packed treasure chest overflowing with antique furniture and items to perk up your apartment. In every corner of the shop, you'll find some unique items, including candle holders, lamps, pillows, gorgeous 60's sofas, tables, vases and a selection of clothes and vintage jewellery.

43 Iða
Lækjargata 2a
The spacious Iða bookstore 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.

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



G-STAR RAW
REYKJAVIK STORE
LAUGAVEGI 86-94



tveir fiskar
DISCOVER ICELANDIC SEAFOOD
At the Reykjavik harbour



Treat yourself to Reykjavík's richest blend of seafood by Our Award-Winning Chefs
tveir fiskar
At the Reykjavik harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavík
Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is



SHALIMAR
INDIAN LUNCH 950.-
INDIAN DINNER 1150.-
AUSTURSTRÆTI 4, Tel. 551 0292 www.shalimar.is





Boston

Laugavegur 28, 101 Reykjavík

Until recently, Boston has been known to bar hoppers in Reykjavík as a comfortable place to go for drinks and meeting friends. Now it takes a plunge into the ever growing scene of bistros and restaurants located in downtown Reykjavík. Though it opened its doors on New Year's Eve in 2006, its location has been somewhat of a mystery to many, owing to the fact that it has no sign on the outside to lead prospective clients in. But that hasn't stopped it from flourishing.

Once inside one realises that this is not one of those typical, over-designed modernistic places in Reykjavík. It's obvious that a lot of effort has been made to create a unique atmosphere at Boston. The daring combination of black and golden colours, antique chairs, Victorian-style wallpaper, and modern art makes up an interior design like no other in Iceland – everything working together to create a relaxed ambience for dinner and wine.

The menu isn't very long, only nine courses in total, including appetizers and desserts. Hildur, co-manager and one of two owners, told me that the idea was to rotate between different menus quite frequently and that way let it reflect the seasons.

Skipping the appetizers we went straight for the main course. I decided on chicken medallions with Parma ham and salvia. Somehow the combination of chicken wrapped around Parma ham and a string of salvia perplexed my senses for a bit, not knowing what to make of the taste. But it soon came to me; it was brilliant, unlike anything I had tried before. My companion went for a more conservative dish of traditional Icelandic fish stew favoured by many Icelanders. This being a very simple dish only meant that the demands for success on the chef's part were even greater. Much to our delight the stew was exceptionally good.

For dessert we both had the French chocolate cake. Looking like a muffin, it had a cake-like crisp on the outside but the inside was filled with warm, creamy chocolate. Now I could try to go into details for you, using words like 'velvet' and 'euphoria' and somehow try to translate the sensation it gave to me – but I won't. The reason for this is simple: words cannot do it justice. All I can say is, try it and you'll know what I mean. *SH*



Domo

Pingholtistræti 5, 101 Reykjavík, tel.: 552 5588

Domo has not been around for long, but in the short time since its opening it has garnered a good reputation through word of mouth. I am pleased to inform you that the reputation is mostly well deserved.

The restaurant's simplistic, yet elegant design presents an aura of no-frills attitude towards fine dining. Monotonous black and white interior, peppered with warm wood and red décor that give the place warmth, despite the minimalist design. It fits the menu perfectly. With a dominating Asian themed cuisine, Domo offers a lot of sushi types and other "cold" dishes; yet, each dish is nicely decorated, earning praise from my companion as "the most beautiful food in Reykjavík." If nothing else, a dinner at Domo is an aesthetic experience.

We selected the Domo Surprise, a five-course combo selected by Domo's chefs. At 6,800 ISK (ca. \$100) it could be considered a bargain, as on average a simple starter comes at around 2,000 ISK and a main course around 4,000. The wine selection was left in the hands of the waiter, and he proved fit for the job.

For starters, we were served a mixed sushi platter, eight different kinds in total, with a glass of light Italian wine that proved fitting. They were all good and although my companion did not care for squid, I must mention the salmon maki, which I thought stood out among them.

The second starter was a delight. First, a lightly broiled kangaroo, served with pears and cashew nuts. Perhaps fittingly, the kangaroo was served with a glass of Australian white Riesling. Second, perfectly fried scallops with coriander. It was the peak of the night.

The main course consisted of fried cod in garlic and Soya, a delicious treat, lightly fried duck breast, a very good choice, and grilled lamb with plum sauce, which I frankly felt was beneath the standards set by previous dishes. But again, the red Australian Shiraz Cabernet was a fitting selection. After enjoying chocolate tarte, raspberry ice cream and exotic fruit, the evening was brought to a close by another excellent selection by the waiter, a glass of France Muscat wine.

As far as fine dining in Reykjavík goes, Domo is up there with the best of them. *SBB*



Garðurinn

Klappartíg 37, 101 Reykjavík, tel.: 561 2345

The restaurant Garðurinn, or as it is called in English, Ecstasy's Heart Garden, is a small and friendly family-operated vegetarian restaurant, located on Klappartígur, a little side street from Laugavegur. It does not exactly protrude when you pass it, but if vegetarian is your choice, you should probably keep an eye out for it.

The menu is rather simple. It consists of the day's special and the soup de jour, both of which are changed every day. The week's selection is available every Monday in advance. The restaurant offers an half n' half option, that is, a small bowl of soup and a small dish of the day's special, for a very manageable 1150 ISK.

When my lunch date and I sat down for a power lunch (every lunch should be a power lunch, shouldn't it?) at the Garden, the day's selection was tofu in coconut milk and Turkish bean soup. Both dishes were excellent, and although I am always a little sceptical of tofu that I have not prepared myself, I feel confident in giving this dish the thumbs-up. The home baked spelt bread that followed the soup was a good, but the hummus really stood apart. Afterwards, we had a strong cup of coffee and some very good cakes, one chocolate and an equally good carrot cake. That is something of an achievement really, since both cakes were made from spelt, but still did not taste dry or dull, as spelt sweet bread often tends to do.

Among the dishes available that week were: Persian vegetable and fruit dish and carrot soup (Thursday), vegetarian curry, and bean and vegetable soup (Friday), Mexican burritos w/ pinto beans and vegetable soup w/ basil (Saturday); no shortage of exciting options obviously.

The service is extremely friendly, as it usually is in family run places. The dining area is small and decorated with photos of Sri Chinmoy, with relaxing yoga music coming from the speakers. I guess it would be easy to describe the atmosphere as new-age, but that would be over-simplifying things. Mostly, this is just a good restaurant.

The only real complaint is that it is only open until 17:00 each day, except for Sunday, when it is closed all together. *SBB*

Reviews by Sveinn Birkir Björnsson and Sverrir Hjalmarsson Photos by Gulli and Skari



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



WWW.GRAPEVINE.IS

News // Culture // Dining // Travelling // Shopping // Articles // Interviews



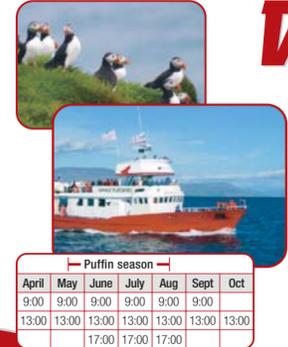
Whales & Puffin Island

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**



Puffin season							
April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	
9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00	9:00		
13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00
		17:00	17:00	17:00			



Elding Whale Watching, Reykjavík harbour
Tel: (+354) 555 3565, Fax: (+354) 554 7420
info@elding.is, www.elding.is



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



8,990 ISK

Puma's "The Suede" is a pure classic. These babies find that simplicity never goes out of style. Alternate white laces included.
Pumabúðin/Marabon, Laugavegur 42

21,990 ISK

This Chie Mihara Gina heel in red is juicy enough to eat. Shoes like this are why Kron has a special place deep in all our hearts, and our wallets. Made in Spain.
Kron, Laugavegur 48



5,550 ISK

These vintage boots are made for walking. Strutting really. A must for tackling winter in style.
Spúútnik, Laugavegur 28b



16,990 ISK

Camper's "homage" to Barcelona and the skate scene. Alternate orange laces included. Made in Morocco.
Kron, Laugavegur 48



5,500 ISK

The Florsheim Shoe, once the most popular men's shoe brand in the United States. Find this and more King-worthy feet accessories at Elvis on Laugavegur.
Elvis, Laugavegur 28



2,990 ISK

These unisex Adidas slippers are as timeless as they are practical. Made in Italy.
Pumabúðin/Marabon, Laugavegur 42



Pay Attention!

Kron

Laugavegur 48, 101 Reykjavik

That old cliché about women having a soft spot for shoes is alive and well in Reykjavik, especially when those women pop into shoe-store Kron on Laugavegur. Co-shop owner Hugrún Árnadóttir is alleged to have the most impressive shoe collection in Iceland, and not surprisingly, since Kron is something of a candy-store for feet enthusiasts. Indeed everything inside is deliciously wearable, the best brands, quality, and style hand-picked to make Kron the most exciting shoe retailer in the city. Kron stocks brands such as Chie Mihara, Vialis and Salvador Sapena, and is one of the only stores in all of Iceland that sells the gorgeous Spanish brand Camper.

But it's not just women who get a kick out of Kron, as the store stocks quality men's shoes and boots to boot. A purchase from Kron is definitely a treat, and should be considered such, especially when you get a look at the price tag. Yet the prices dutifully follow some of Europe's top labels, a fact of pretention that the store often lets you forget. As anyone with a self-respecting sweet tooth will undoubtedly affirm, this place is a factory of sweet, sweet shoes, and luckily enough you don't need a Golden Ticket to take the magical tour. **VP**



**REYKJUNIK
DESIGN
DISTRICT**



WWW.DESIGNDISTRICT.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
■ Laundry Service
HI Hostel, Sundlaugarvegur 34,
 Tel: 553 8110, www.hostel.is
Úðafoss, Vitastígur 13,
 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, Víðimelur 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, Vallarstræti 10
The Reykjavik City Library,
 Tryggvagata 15

The National and University Library, Armgrimsgrasa 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

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

Getting Around

■ **Public transport**
 The only public transport system in Reykjavik 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

Buses run from 07:00-24:00 on weekdays and 10:00-24:00 on weekends

■ **Rent a bike**
Borgarhóli, Hverfisgata 50,
 Tel: 551 5653, www.borgarhol.net

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

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

■ **Taxi**
Hreyfill-Bæjarleiðir,
 Tel: 553 3500 or 588 5522

BSR, Tel: 561 0000

■ **For disabled travellers**
Reykjavik Group Travel Service,
 Brunastaðir 3, Tel: 587 8030, www.randburg.com/is/reykjavik_group_travel_service/

A useful brochure, Accessible Reykjavik, can be found at tourist offices.

■ **Car rentals**
Átak Car Rental, Smiðjuvegur 1,
 Tel: 554 6040

ALP, Dugguvogur 10, Tel: 562 6060
Avis, Knarravogi 2, Tel: 591 4000

Eurocar, Hjallahraun 9, Tel: 565 3800
A.G Car Rental, Tangarhófi 8-12,
 Tel: 587 5544

Atlas Car Rental, Dalshraun 9,
 Tel: 565 3800

Berg Car Rental, Tangarhófi 8,
 Tel: 577 6050

Hertz, Flugvallavegur, Tel: 522 4400

■ **Airlines**
Air Iceland, Reykjavikflugvöllur,
 Tel: 570 3030, www.flugfelag.is

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

■ **Bus Terminal**
BSÍ, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10,
 Tel: 562 1011, www.bsi.is

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

Cultural Centres and Tourist Offices

■ **The Intercultural Centre**
 The Intercultural Centre throws occasional cultural events and conferences but its main purpose is to be an information and counselling centre and serve as an advocate for the rights of immigrants in Iceland.

Hverfisgata 18, Tel: 530 9300

www.ahus.is

■ **Icelandic Travel Market**
 Bankastræti 2, Tel: 510 5700,
 www.kleif.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.icelandvisitor.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 Reykjavik Tourist Card. The Reykjavik Tourist Card gives admission to city busses, various museums, Reykjavik swimming pools, The Family Park and Reykjavik 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 travelling in Iceland.

■ **Goethe Institute**
 Túngata 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.nordice.is

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

All major tourist spots in Reykjavik 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

Námshöfundar Reykjavíkur,
 Frikirkjuvegur 1, Tel: 551 2992

Fjölmenning, Laugavegur 59,
 Tel: 511 1319, www.fjolmenning.is

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

lönskólinn í Reykjavík,
 Skólavörðuholti, Tel: 552 6240,
 www.vr.is

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

■ **Religious movements**
 The national church in Iceland is the

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 Reykjavik are for example:

The Muslim Association of Iceland,
 Ármúli 38

Ásatrú Association, Grandagarði 8
Bahá'í, Álfabakka 12

The Church of Evangelism,
 Hlíðasmári 9

The Icelandic Buddhist Movement,
 Víghólastigur 21

Reykjavik Free Lutheran Church,
 Frikirkjuvegur 5

Pentecostal Assembly, Hátún 2
Roman Catholic Church,
 Hávallagata 14

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Ásabrat 2
Jehovah's Witnesses, Sogavegur 71

Seventh-Day Adventists,
 Suðurhlíð 36

Zen Buddhism in Iceland,
 Reykjavíkurvegur 31

Independent Church,
 Háteigsvegur 101

The Russian Orthodox Church in Iceland, Sólvallogata 10
The Cross, Hlíðasmári 5-7

■ **Trade Unions**
The Icelandic Federation of Labour,
 Sættún 1, Tel: 535 5600, www.asi.is

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

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

Efling, Sættún 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 Reykjavik)

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

www.fjolmenningarsetur.is (The Multicultural Centre)

www.gulalinn.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.utli.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.domsmlaraduneyti.is

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

Icelandic social security number (kennitala): National Register, Borgartún 30, Tel: 560 9800,
 www.hagstofa.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.felagstjonustan.is

Facts on Iceland

■ Iceland is a constitutional republic with slightly more than 300,000 inhabitants. Reykjavik has been the country's capital since 1786 and today almost two-thirds of the population live in the greater capital area.

■ The 17th of June 1944 Iceland became an independent republic.

That day is the national holiday and is celebrated all around the country.

■ Alþingi, the national parliament, is the oldest assembly in the world, established at Þingvellir in 930 but restored in Reykjavik in 1844. The parliament is comprised of 63 members, who are elected by popular vote every four years. Icelandic citizens over 18 years of age have the legal right to vote.

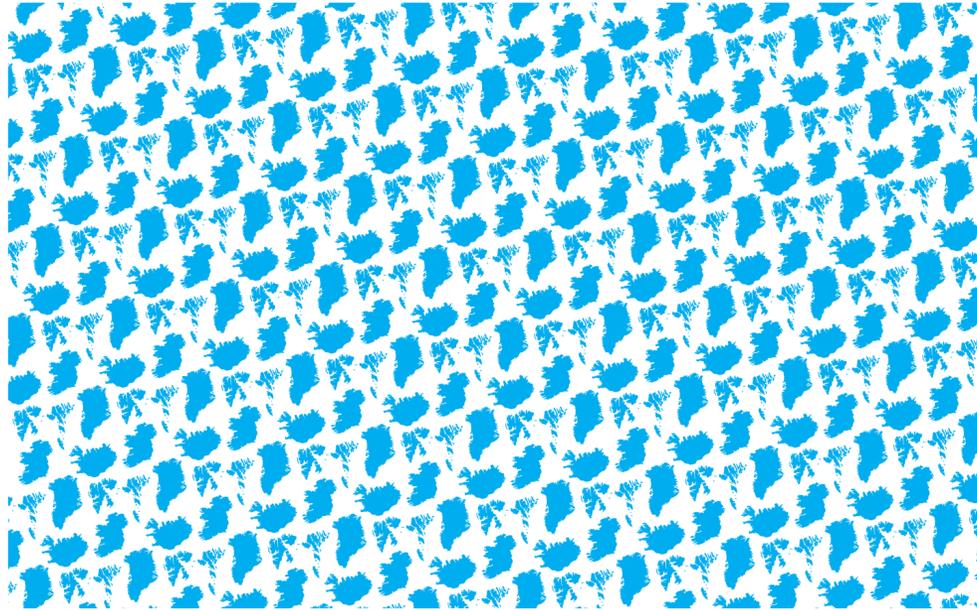
■ Parliamentary elections were last held in 2003 with 33.7 percent of votes going to the Independence Party. The Social Democratic Alliance got 31 percent, the Progressive Party 17.7 percent, the Leftist-Greens 8.8 percent and the Liberal Party 7.4 percent. The Independence Party and the Progressive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

■ Iceland has 12 ministers with the prime minister and head of government being Geir H. Haarde, who is also chairman of the Independence Party. The President of Iceland is Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, who has been in office since 1996. He is the Chief of State although his duties are mostly ceremonial.

■ Time Zone: GMT 0

■ Currency: Íslensk króna (ISK)

■ International Dialling Code: +354



Five Classic Books About Moving to the North Atlantic

Text by Ian Watson

You know the story already: a comfortably off writer buys an old farmhouse in France or Italy, drags their sceptical spouse along, meets the eccentric neighbours, learns to cook with the local herbs, and writes a best-selling book about their new life. But what about the people who move north and west, not south? These five classic books tell of their authors' fascination with the North Atlantic, and the enthusiasm that made them leave their southern homes and come here to live... three Americans, one Austrian, and a young man from Togo.

Greenland – An African in Greenland
 By Tété-Michel Kpomassie (1981)

Tété-Michel Kpomassie grows up in a good family in Togo, and one day discovers a book about Greenland in a used bookstore. With the adorably random obsessiveness of youth, he decides that he just has to go there. After several years of working his way north via Paris and Germany, he finally gets the right visa and reaches Greenland in 1964. He's a handsome and agreeable kind of guy, young Greenlandic women quickly fall for him, and his description of the sometimes casual, sometimes ritual promiscuity of Greenlandic life is riveting. Kpomassie drifts from village to

village, hosted by one family after the next. He is alternately exhilarated by the thrill of learning to ice-fish and drive a dog-sled, and repelled by Greenlandic isolation, drunkenness, underemployment, poor housekeeping, and village jealousies. After a year and a half, he returns to Paris, where he has lived ever since. Originally written in French, this book has been translated into many languages and has slowly become a real classic.

Available at Borgarbókasafn's downtown branch, or for less than a dollar from Amazon.com.

Faroe Islands – Far Afield
 By Susanna Kaysen (1990)

In the early 1970s, Susanna Kaysen accompanied her then-husband Jonathan Wylie to live for a year in the village of Skopun in the Faroe Islands, where Wylie collected material for his Ph.D. dissertation at Harvard University. Her book Far Afield, published twenty years later, fictionalizes their experience, even going so far as to write herself out of it. Though the novel falls slightly short of classic status, it is easy to read and one of the most accessible portraits of Faroese life in English. Kaysen is best known for her subsequent book Girl, Interrupted, which was made into a movie starring

in Scoresbysund before returning to Austria, where he died in 1968 and Christiane Ritter in 2000.

Not held by any Icelandic library, but used copies are for sale on abebooks.com for about \$8. Easily available used or new in German.

Iceland – Ripples from Iceland

By Amalia Lindal (1962)
 Amalia Lindal met her Icelandic husband when they were both students in Boston just after World War II. She came back to Iceland with him in 1949 and raised five children in Kópavogur. In between meals and diaper changes, she wrote – collecting her observations of Icelandic society into this book, and later editing a magazine called 65° Icelandic Life. Her prose is light and readable, her opinions forthright, sincere, and sometimes controversial. Twenty short chapters cover subjects like moving to Iceland, childbirth, home ownership, gender roles, class distinctions, alcohol use, motherhood, sex, religion, and Christmas. Forty-five years later, it is amazing to see both how much Iceland has changed, and how much Lindal's descriptions still ring true. Lindal's marriage broke up in 1971, she renounced her American citizenship when the Vietnam War put her sons under threat of the draft, and in 1973 she left Iceland for Canada, where she remarried and passed away in 1989. Get the second (1988) edition of the book, which includes an interesting epilogue.

Available at almost any Icelandic library, or on sale at Reykjavik bookstores for less than 400 ISK.

Ireland – The Island of the White Cow
 By Deborah Tall (1986)

A divorced Irish playwright comes to teach for a year at the English department of an American university. He falls for a pretty student named Deborah Tall, she falls for him, and he convinces her to run away with him after graduation to the island of Inishbofin off the northwest coast of Ireland. The book tells the story of their five years there, from 1972 to 1977. This was Ireland long before it got all those European Union development grants and slashed its corporate taxes to attract business. The islanders are fascinating, and make good company, but are (much like Kpomassie's Greenlanders) burdened by unemployment, alcoholism, remoteness, jealousy, and frustrated ambitions. The island lacks a good store, reliable telephone service, and a running water supply. Tall is forced to cast off most of her romantic notions of island life, but she gains wisdom from her hardship, and she writes beautiful prose. This book speaks to anyone who has ever dreamed of giving it all up and buying an old house by the green fields and stormy coasts on the western edge of Europe. Eventually, Tall and her Irish friend split up, and she returned to the United States, where she had a successful career as writer, editor, and teacher before her untimely death in 2006.

Not held by any Icelandic library, but used copies from Amazon.com cost \$4.

VIÐTJORNINA
 SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Since 1986

Opening hours are from 18.00 every day.

Phone (+354) 551-8666.
 Templarasundi 3, 101 Reykjavik.
 www.vidtjornina.is
 vidtjornina@simnet.is

Don't miss **KISAN** when in downtown Reykjavik. A truly unique concept store carrying world known brands as well as local delights like the quality sweaters from **Farmers Market** – only place in downtown.

KISAN
 CONCEPT STORE
 Laugavegi 7 • 101 Reykjavik
 Sími 561 6262 • www.kisan.is

Annick Goutal, Bonpoint,
 Farmers Market, Orla Kiely, Sonia Rykiel,
 Jamin Puech, Petit Bateau, Steiff ...

DAAGBLAÐIÐ VÍSIR! 1960–2000
 AFTERNOON PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY IN ICELAND

15. September – 25. November 2007

LIÓSMYNDASAFN REYKJAVÍKUR
 Reykjavik Museum of Photography

Tryggvagata 15, 6th floor • 101 Reykjavik • Tel. 563 1790 • photomuseum@reykjavik.is • www.photomuseum.is
 Opening hours 12-19 mon-fri, 13-17 weekends • ADMISSION FREE

Reykjavík 871 ±2
 Landnámssýningin
 The Settlement Exhibition

Step into the Viking Age

The exhibition and museum shop are open daily 10-17

Aðalstræti 16
 101 Reykjavík / Iceland
 Phone +354 411 6370
www.reykjavikmuseum.is

Experience Viking-Age Reykjavik 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 Reykjavik's past to life, providing visitors with insights into how people lived in the Viking Age, and what the Reykjavik environment looked like to the first settlers.

Reykjavik City Museum

ORGAN

FRI SEP 21 – 23:00

GusGus / Dj Andrés (3,500 ISK)

SAT SEP 22 – 22:00

Bacon Live Support Unit Release Concert

WED SEP 26 – 21:00

Elíza Release Concert

THU SEP 27 – 21:00

Benny Crespos Gang / Royal Fortune

SAT SEP 29 – 23:00

Metor Area (USA)

THU OCT 4 – 21:00

Mónitor Concert

FRI OCT 5 – 21:00

Lee Hazelwood Tribute Concert

SAT OCT 6 – 22:00

Skátar / Bloodgroup

www.myspace.com/organreykjavik

Hafnarstræti 1-3, back alley – Open: Mon-Thu 19-01 / Fri 17-05 / Sat 19-05 / Sun closed



transport). It also might be defined to include the types of banking services that an Icelandic-registered bank like Glitnir can offer to its customers in Shanghai. The free trade agreement will not change the residence and work permit system that limits Chinese workers' ability to come to Iceland.

Old-Fashioned Gains

It seems that Iceland's main gains from a free trade agreement with China will be very old-fashioned and simple, and incremental rather than revolutionary. To start with, halibut and redfish exported from Iceland to China are currently subject to a customs tariff of 10-15%, which would hopefully disappear under the agreement.

Meanwhile, ninety-eight percent of Iceland's imports from China are manufactured goods like shoes or telephones. Export manufacturing has boomed in China, especially in the coastal cities, over the last two or three decades – just as it once did in other Asian countries like Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. For the first time in 2006, Iceland imported more from China than it did from Japan.

Many Chinese goods actually stop in other European countries on their way to Iceland. Some are subject to a 15% tariff when they enter the European Union. This is supposed to be refunded if the goods are re-exported to Iceland. But in practice the refund doesn't always take place. So imports wind up being subject to Icelandic tariffs on top of the European ones, which increases Icelandic retail prices.

As long as Iceland remains outside of the EU, a free-trade agreement may encourage more Icelandic wholesalers to import directly from China, by making the savings from doing so significant enough to offset any inefficiency in importing directly to such a small market instead of through larger mainland facilities. As any introductory economics class teaches, free trade is, at least in principle, good for both parties' bottom lines.

Refrigerated Transport: Eimskip

Icelandic exports to China totalled 2.75 billion ISK in 2006, 80% of which were frozen seafood products. Fish is a high-status protein in Chinese culture, although the Chinese prefer to buy live rather than frozen fish when possible. Much of the Icelandic fish that is sent to China travels with Eimskip, Iceland's largest shipping line.

Eimskip has four offices in China and just signed a contract to manage China's largest refrigerated warehouse in Qingdao. While Icelandic frozen fish will surely spend time in this warehouse, it will also serve other shippers from other nations, as do Eimskip's operations in general.

This is in turn a sign that growth opportunities for Iceland, in China and elsewhere, may no longer be in raw exports of Icelandic goods. The game now is to manage, own, or invest in all sorts of businesses, which serve clients worldwide and employ local people. This might mean logistics and transport, or supply chain management, or airlines, or banking.

Modern Icelandic businesspeople no longer move abroad to sell fish, like in the old days. They drive their jeeps to work in Reykjavik, where they might own part of a company based in London which serves German clients in Asian markets. While Iceland's "flag" products are still important – the ones that tourists talk about, like fish and geothermal know-how – Icelandic companies have, very sensibly, grown up and gone global.

Virtual realities: EVE Online

A completely different example of Icelandic operations in China involves CCP, a successful computer-game company based in Reykjavik. Their star product is EVE Online, a multiplayer role-playing game with about 200,000 users worldwide who pay \$15 a month to play. CCP needs to offer user support 24 hours a day, so they opened two extra offices in places where people are awake when Iceland is asleep. They chose Atlanta and Shanghai as the locations and now have around twenty employees, mostly Chinese, working in the Shanghai office.

China's bureaucracy requires that providers of online computer games be licensed by the government – few other countries have such rules – and no foreign company in Chi-

na has yet received such a license. So even though CCP has an office in China, they cannot offer EVE Online to Chinese users. They do, however, lease EVE Online to a Chinese company which sells it to Chinese users under a different name. However, the virtual world in the Chinese version of EVE Online is not connected to the virtual world accessible to users in other countries, so Chinese users can only play with each other, not with Europeans or Americans.

Naturally, CCP hopes that a free trade agreement between Iceland and China would let them sell their services directly to Chinese customers, so that Chinese players could register and pay directly to CCP for membership in EVE Online and participate in the same virtual environment as the rest of the world. No one seems sure whether the free trade agreement under discussion will actually bring about any change in this kind of complex situation, where regulatory power, Internet freedoms, and online payment issues interact.

Idealism and Pragmatism

China's growing importance in world trade disturbs the "China idealists" who still feel that Western relations with China should be conditional on the humane development of Chinese society. Idealists are horrified by the quality of life in Chinese society, and the Chinese government's seeming indifference to its peoples' suffering. They condemn China's use of the death penalty, its cultural imperialism in Tibet and Xinjiang, the working conditions in its factories, its lack of freedom of speech, the way that ordinary Chinese people keep each other under ideological surveillance, the weak rule of law, the poor state of the environment and public health, China's belligerent ethnocentric tendencies, and its stubborn opposition to letting Taiwan become a normal independent country. They want the rest of the world to act harshly towards China – no Olympics, no free trade – until it changes.

These days, the idealists are losing their battle to the so-called China pragmatists. Deep down, pragmatists sympathize with the idealists' concerns, but they have concluded that the only sensible way to deal with China is to engage it economically and politically. They suspect that criticising Chinese society is counterproductive. (On a personal level, direct criticism can make Chinese representatives feel they have lost face, and thus disengage.) They see benefit in increased business with China and hope that in an economically stronger China, social and environmental conditions will improve from the bottom up.

Iceland's China policy has long since moved from idealism to pragmatism. But even to pragmatists, the degree of recent Icelandic-Chinese contact sometimes seems disproportionate. A recent report in Fréttablaðið (June 24) says that 20 official Chinese delegations were expected in Iceland in 2007.

All of them will take up Icelandic public servants' time and money. One can't help but wonder whether this will be time and money wisely spent. Chinese officials tend to come to Iceland in large groups. Of course one wants to be hospitable and to promote cultural exchange. But the protocol and security arrangements for Chinese visitors have sometimes seemed excessive. Even Minister of Justice Björn Bjarnason, a person who normally takes pride in Iceland's police and border security capability, has repeatedly criticised the Icelandic government's heavy-handedness towards Falun Gong protesters during Chinese president Jiang Zemin's visit to Iceland in 2002.

It's easy to see how these visits make some people start to imagine that Iceland has lost track of its self-interest and swung beyond pragmatism to a point where it is letting itself be manipulated. I haven't managed to learn enough about the costs, incentives and outcomes of these visits, the interests behind them, the time they take or the amount of free food involved, to really judge whether this is the case.

New Zealand is another country which has moved from idealism to pragmatism in the last few years. Much like in Iceland, critics accuse New Zealand's government of suppressing protests against visiting Chinese leaders, stonewalling local journalists who have idealistically criticised China, and moving too quickly towards a free trade agreement with a country for which many New Zealanders feel

a considerable amount of moral queasiness.

But for now, economics has trumped idealism. When I studied Chinese in Beijing in 1992, the atmosphere was still politically charged, and it is only a small exaggeration to say that every conversation with Chinese students was thought of as an example of friendship between nations. Now, most foreigners in China have making money on their mind, not political principles. This has pulled the podium away from those who are troubled by social, environmental, and human rights issues in China.

Europeans' personal relations with Chinese have started to resemble their relations with Americans, in which feelings about, say, the death penalty or the war in Iraq are mostly set aside.

Still, it never takes long before a disturbing story comes over the news from China – or the United States – about pollution, or corruption, or discrimination, or cultural imperialism. Such stories force the idealist deep inside every pragmatist to ask again what we should do when we see fellow humans suffer. No amount of business success can ever quite make this question go away.

The History of China Hype

It's skilful marketing, in addition to business realities, that has created a China buzz in Iceland. And marketing often means creating expectations that people can get excited about, even if they never fully pan out.

The myth that the future of business in China is very old. As early as 1840, European and American manufacturers ran the numbers and calculated that they could get hugely rich if they could just sell one toothpick or button to each person in China. Iceland's current exports to China work out to only about two ISK per Chinese. What if we could boost that to two hundred ISK, by getting every Chinese person to eat half an Icelandic cod fillet on average every year? Just a few hundred grams – that's not much, now!

These speculative dreams have a history of not working out. One of the most poignant examples was the story of the Icelandic-owned Scandinavian Guangzhou Candy Company, which began producing liquorice in China in March 1993 and closed amid land ownership disputes in the summer of 1994. (For more detail, see Stefán Úlfarsson's master's thesis, "Kína í íslenskum veruleika.")

I lived through a more modest example of high expectations when I went to work for the then Bifröst School of Business in 2005. Amid much fanfare, the school had signed a partnership agreement with a university in Shanghai. The hype was that just as many Chinese students have come to American and European universities in the past couple decades, dozens of Chinese students would soon be studying business at Bifröst. This sounded exciting at the time, but little by little it turned out to have been a misjudgement of the market. No Chinese students ever came to Iceland. But there was actually a workable business model in the relationship. Shanghai became a popular, inexpensive, and exotic study abroad destination for Bifröst students – essentially, another outsourcing role for China, with Icelanders as purchasers, and teaching rather than phones or TVs as the product.

Besides sheer size, another way to get people excited about China is to play on the natural tendency to imagine that foreign cultures possess secret spiritual wisdom. Owners of Zen retreats, purveyors of meditation, massage, and Chinese medicine, and tattoo artists who post Chinese character designs on their walls all lick their lips when Europeans and North Americans come through the door convinced that Asians understand the path to cosmic bliss. (Similarly, Landsbanki's recent English-language advertising campaign, which

China is neither as much of a threat, nor as much of an opportunity, as it is made out to be.

imbued everyday Icelanders with the mythical qualities of their first names, relies on the myth of the Land of the Vikings – where everyone believes in elves and speaks an ancient language of great wisdom and power.) But as the two German brothers in the 2000 movie Enlightenment Guaranteed find out when they are put to work scrubbing floors at a Japanese monastery, we are all human, and Asian cultures, though different, are neither more nor less spiritual than our own.

I am often concerned when I hear students speaking casually about plans to study Chinese. Spoken Mandarin is easy once you figure out its four tones. But the writing system is an inefficient beast (which other Asian countries have mostly abandoned and which Chinese schoolkids also find difficult). It takes two to three years of intensive study before you can even begin to read a newspaper. Like studying any language, it's a fascinating journey, but not one to be undertaken lightly. You can make quicker progress in any other Asian language.

To hook a customer, one doesn't always have to deliver tangible returns; sometimes just expectations of returns are enough, and sometimes even expectations of others' expected returns. So before you drop everything and get on the China bandwagon, or any other, be an informed consumer: try to find out whether there's something real on offer, or you're just a sucker in a buzzmakers' scheme.

Not the Only Asian Country

In the grip of the China buzz, mainland China starts to seem like the only country in Asia. But there are over 700 million East Asians in countries like Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, Singapore, and Japan, and roughly 1.2 billion in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. These countries are important business partners, outweigh China as a source of imports to Iceland, offer considerable investment growth potential, and produce (on average) higher-quality products. For example, Asian food importers in Iceland prefer to buy from Thailand, the Philippines, and Japan, not from China.

China is just one of the scenes on a broader Asian tapestry. The real long-term story is the two-way encounter between Asian and Euro-American cultures. Two hundred years ago, there were virtually no Asians in Europe or North America. Now people of Asian ancestry make up about 4% of Britain's population, about 5% in the United States, and closer to 10% in Canada. Iceland is at around 1%, but already Southeast Asian cooking has had a huge influence on us, to the point where fish sauce and coconut milk have become commodities that we buy in bulk at Bónus.

The encounter may be just beginning. Although Asia is far away, I can well imagine that in fifty years Europeans will be eating more Asian food, reading more Asian literature, seeing more Asian movies, and using more Asian design ideas than they do now. The three billion people in Asia (compared to less than one billion in Europe and North

America) have plenty of interesting, practical ideas that are worth knowing and learning about. And that means Indonesian peanut sauce and Japanese red bean paste just as much as Chinese pot stickers or Peking duck.

China within Asia

The cultural differences and relations between Asian countries are as complex as those within Europe. China has a special position in Asian history. In medieval times, when China was more powerful, many Chinese settled in other Asian countries. These communities were prominent in business life, and in some cases enjoyed special favour from European colonial administrations. Substantial ethnic Chinese minority communities still exist in countries like Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.



Especially after World War II, Asian countries promoted their indigenous languages, religions and value systems at the expense of Chinese culture. This process was comparable to the twentieth-century rollback of German-speaking influence in Eastern Europe, as countries like Poland and Hungary promoted their own identities. The measures used were often drastic. Thailand closed Chinese-language schools and made ethnic Chinese take Thai names. Indonesia passed a law in 1959 forbidding Chinese to own businesses. Tensions continue: in 1998, anti-Chinese riots broke out in Jakarta.

During the thirty years since the Cultural Revolution, as mainland China has slowly reopened to the rest of the world, the image of mainland China in other Asian countries has been a less than positive one, of chain-smokers with rude manners, who dress badly, spit in public, and are suspicious of anything non-Chinese. In a way, the mainland Chinese have been the Ugly Americans of Asia. This is a stereotype, of course, with only limited

truth behind it. Many people who travel to China aim at getting beyond the stereotypes to make human contact with the "real" China. In the same way, thoughtful travellers to America know that stereotypes of Americans only apply to a minority.

Just as those with a Jewish identity do not automatically identify with Israel, not everyone who is "Chinese" lives in or identifies with mainland China. So overseas Chinese can be as critical of mainland China as anyone else. Singapore's anti-spitting campaign, for example, was not just a way of cleaning up the city but also of symbolically distancing Chinese Singaporean customs from those in mainland China.

Many Asians feel they have worked hard to create relatively tolerant, relatively open societies and to develop sensible trade relations with the rest of the world. At one level,

the same bookshelf with the story of Lancashire in the early 1800s, the north-eastern United States in the later 1800s, or Japan after World War II. Cities like Shenzhen have sprawled from nothing to New York size in a matter of two or three decades. Emigrants, often young women, have arrived from the Chinese countryside, and work 12 hours a day, six days a week, for \$100 a month. They live in company dormitories, eat in company cafeterias, and overworked but reasonably secure, assemble the goods that China sells to the world.

There's no question that Iceland can benefit from establishing more direct trade channels with China. It's likely that Iceland can modestly increase its exports to China, and that Icelandic investors can significantly increase their holdings in China. It's important to have sensible political relations with China. Understanding Chinese culture is important.

...But Location Still Matters

I mentioned that Icelandic exports to China totalled 2.75 billion krónur in 2006. That may have sounded like a lot. Here's another statistic: the same year's exports to the Faroe Islands totalled 2.89 billion krónur. Exports to the Faroes have outpaced exports to China for many years running. China has twenty-five thousand times as many people as the Faroe Islands. But it is many times further away.

We need to understand these sorts of numbers to avoid building castles in the air. As Stefán Úlfarsson put it, the "lack of critical discussion about China in Iceland" has "probably played a role in Icelanders' considerable gullibility towards unrealistic 'miracle stories' about the Chinese economy."

Here are some more facts: Lithuania and Nigeria are bigger purchasers of Icelandic seafood than China. Japan is a far more important export destination for Icelandic goods than China. And something like 70% of Iceland's trade is with Europe anyway.

Now that China is open again, it is likely to become a trade partner with Iceland of an importance proportional to its size and distance from us. That means that it is going to be a significant partner, but surely never the biggest one, and probably one subject to relatively high geopolitical risk. I know this isn't a really exciting conclusion – but hey, my goal was to evaluate the buzz, not perpetuate it.

China's high rate of manufacturing growth will continue for some time, but it will not last forever, just as Japan and Taiwan matured as manufacturing centres. Iceland is in the North Atlantic, and will always be closely tied to its closest neighbours: Europe, Canada, and the United States.

So, here's my advice. Go to China. Learn about it. Work with Chinese suppliers. It's a fascinating place. But keep in mind that the Great Wall of China is not visible from the moon. And don't forget to learn some Faroese.

Diamond Circle
Unique Nature

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

- Dettifoss
- Ásbyrgi
- Hljóðaklettur
- Mývatn
- Goðafoss
- Grenjaðarstaður
- Húsavík
- Melrakkasléttur
- Raufarhöfn

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

Inside Reykjavík

The Grapevine Guide

The only guide that tells you the talk of the swimming pools, how to find the best cafes, how to recover from all night parties, an A to Z of Icelandic music and what "Viltu kaffi?" can really mean.

Travel Guides Can Be Honest. Really

Available at your nearest bookstore



Something Worth Hying About

Text by Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir Photo by Gulli

Who: **Franz Ferdinand**
Where: **Nasa**
When: **September 14, 2007**

The two-person mosh-pit gyrating to Jakóbinarína's Jesus was spilling beer onto the crowd. It wasn't their beer, they definitely didn't look old enough to buy, but the man in the crisp grey suit with freshly groomed hair and an even fresher beer in his hand had a strangely bemused smile on his face as for the third time the two pubescent boys slammed their sweaty bodies into his side. The beer splattered again over the dense crowd.

It was a bizarre scene, as the jacket-clad thirty-somethings began strutting onto the standing room floor of NASA with a beer in one hand and their badly dressed up girlfriends on the other. I wasn't sure which stereotype was more hateable, the businessmen pretending to have an interest in 'hip young people music' by securing a pair of the most hard-to-get tickets of the summer, or the too-cool-for-school punks spilling the beers they were too young to buy. Either way, I suppose neither type was in the majority. They just happened to be bumping into each other. The social commentary was writing itself.

Jakóbinarína were gracing the stage looking just as young and exploited as we'd all imagined, but had kicked off their set with an undeniable and consuming energy, fuelled perhaps by a seeming enjoyment of the music they were making. Their apathetic and doped-up-looking faces soon got the better of them, however, as their set slowly dwindled into a well-rehearsed but tragically unconvincing bout of angry noise. Tragic, because the band has obvious talent, which, I fear, will soon go to waste when they actually become too cool

for school... the point at which you actually stop going to school, and are forced to ask yourself: why are you fucking making music if you pretend to hate it so much?

When Franz Ferdinand finally took the stage, casually dressed in a way that I think no one expected of such a glitzed-up name, two years of anticipation and expectations bubbled to the surface of everyone's mind in the sold-out venue. They kicked off with Cheating On You, a song off of their premier album, but seemed to have a hesitant, nervous glint in their eyes. Every other song that followed was a newbie, a fresh Ferdinand being tested out on Reykjavik before being taken into the studio, interwoven with the golden oldies, Michael, Matiné, Walk Away and then the show's pinnacle with Take Me Out, where at one moment the hundreds of people crowding NASA were all jumping simultaneously. At ten songs in, the band was still sizzling on stage, and at the start of Darts of Pleasure, someone actually threw a black lacy bra at singer Alex's face. As if that wasn't enough, the bra then fell off his face and slipped perfectly onto the microphone, where it hung by one strap for the rest of the song.

At the end of the night a hearty encore followed. The two most clichéd names in Icelanders' recent music memory had just informally duked-it-out on stage, and who would have thought that it would be the boys in Ferdinand who proved that they were something worth hyping about.

Who Needs Oxygen, Anyways?

Text by Sveinn Birgir Björnsson Photo by Gulli

What: **Sköllfest**
Where: **TPM**
When: **September 11, 2007**

The second annual Sköllfest festival will likely be remembered as the year's sweatiest show, which is a good thing.

TPM, the night's venue, closely resembles a storage basement: four walls, no windows and, as logic dictates – when you cram in more than 200 people – no oxygen; the perfect setting for this kind of show really.

"I wanted to put on an 'end of summer/back to school jam' where I gather the most interesting bands from the alternative music scene and bring together different styles of music for people to enjoy," explained promoter and I Adapt's singer Birgir. The goal was achieved, for the most part, with varied acts representing the furthest peripheries of the mainstream grid. A night like this offers a great opportunity to see what's brewing beneath the surface.

Sadly delayed, I missed the opening act from Skitur entirely. I caught the tail end of the death-metal band Diabolus who displayed their authoritative metal mastery. The band is clearly influenced by the New-Canadian wave of death-metal and vocalist Egill has the tools for the craft. Diabolus sound brutal – although gore-ridden lyrics and song names usually make me cringe – and it will be interesting to see how these youngsters move forward.

Retron is comprised of two guitarists and a drummer who play instrumental hero-metal. Riff after riff and blaring drums interlocked in a metal symphony, I love the concept. I even loved listening to them for up to 15-minutes, but after that it became redundant and I lost interest. On one song they added keyboards, which added much needed diversity.

This marked the first time I've seen the metalcore band Celestine live, and although I could see glimpses of excitement in their aggressive delivery, I did not manage to connect with the band and found the whole thing rather uninspired.

Kimono stuck out like a sore thumb on this bill. Their progressive indie rock sound, with lot of time-changes and off-beats, was a refreshing change of pace however. Kimono delivered a great set, highlighted by two new songs that might cement their status as the most interesting indie-rock band in the country.

By the time the next two bands had finished their set, the already hot TPM was positively steaming. So steaming, in fact, that the Grapevine photographer could no longer use the camera. First up were Philly, PA, hardcore act Blacklisted who delivered an emotional and energetic performance that made me remember why I think hardcore is important to begin with. They were immediately followed by Icelandic hardcore act I Adapt, who, despite ripping the bass drum in the middle of their set, set everyone's ass on fire. This was possibly the best one-two punch I've witnessed since Gojira-Minus at last year's Airwaves.

Metal veterans Drep did just what veterans should do, and played a very solid set of very solid metal music. Long time punk mainstays Dys, however, surprised everyone and premiered a new song, the first one in over three years, adding to their arsenal of politically charged anarcho-punk sing-a-longs. That's a joyous occasion.

The Cornell Challenge

Text by Sveinn Birgir Björnsson Photo by Leó Stefánsson

Who: **Chris Cornell**
Where: **Laugardalshöll**
When: **September 8, 2007**

As a live performer, Chris Cornell is an ontological challenge.

By all accounts, he is a grunge-god, a member of a selected club that includes him, Eddie Vedder and Kurt Cobain. But, as Cornell himself pointed out, this show covered "a lot of songs, a lot of different albums, different bands, and a lot of different time periods."

As I watched him tear through songs from his rather industrious career, his early days with Soundgarden, the one-off Temple of the Dog record, and a few Audioslave songs, I was forced to consider the question as to whether watching Chris Cornell and the session squad could recreate with some authenticity the feeling of seeing any of these bands live.

Through out his career, Cornell has been lucky enough to play with some great musicians, in particular, guitarists with a unique style, such as Kim Thayil and Tom Morello, whose sound is not easily replicated. Would it be the same without them? Or would the Chris Cornell entourage share a similar fate as the latest reincarnation of Guns N' Roses?

It turns out that the session squad (I can't recall the name of a single group member, although Cornell took the effort to introduce them all twice) did a good job with these songs. For the most part. It was mostly during the delivery of songs from Soundgarden's Badmotorfinger, in particular the fast paced Jesus Christ Pose and Rusty Cage, that Thayil's presence was missed. The more traditional-riff based Outshined came through fine, and the night's version of Slaves and Bulldozers was actually very cool.

Obviously, when Cornell performed songs of his two solo albums this was not a problem. And about halfway into the show, he emerged with an acoustic guitar and played a few songs solo, including an inspired version of Fell on Black Days. It was not a problem then either. In fact, I would have loved to see him perform a solo set entirely.

Another thing to keep in mind is that Chris Cornell has sole writing credits for almost every major song that Soundgarden released, besides writing most of the Temple of the Dog album, and contributing heavily to Audioslave; so in a way these will always be his songs, regardless of who he elects to play them with.

So, was it a good show? Yes, it was actually. Cornell is a great singer, backed by a capable band, performing both new material and songs that have stood the test of time remarkably. But more than anything, it just made me wish I had been old enough to see Soundgarden play in their heyday.

glaumbar

the fun
is at
glaumbar



Soccer
Football
Basketball
Tennis
Rugby

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

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 Reykjavik

Icelandic Art ... The Essence of a Nation



Artist: Gunnella

Art Gallery Fold

offers the country's largest selection of contemporary Icelandic art

LISTMUNASALA
fold

Rauðarástigur 14, near Hlemmur bus station, tel. 551 0400
Kringlan Shopping Mall, tel. 568 0400 - www.myndlist.is

by the sea
and a delicious lobster
at Fjöruborðid in Stokkseyri

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

Fjöruborðid
and the sea and us...

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

< 45 minutes drive from Reykjavik

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

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

online
GRAPEVINE

WWW.GRAPEVINE.IS

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



Belgium, an Unlikely Choice

Text and photos by Zoë Robert

It is common knowledge, or, at least it should be common knowledge, that Belgium is home to the best beer in the world. And, obviously, it's famous for its delectable chocolate. That is probably why Brussels, the capital of Belgium, was chosen as home to both the European Union and NATO. Still, as a tourist destination, Belgium remains grossly underrated. When was the last time you heard of anybody who went for a holiday to Belgium?

Background: a Divided Nation

Belgium is divided into two parts: Dutch speaking Flanders, and French speaking Wallonia. With three official languages, Dutch, French and German (two parts speak Dutch, one third speaks French and a small minority speak German as a first language), you would expect things to get complicated. But many people in Brussels, the only officially bilingual part of the country, speak both Dutch and French.

Waiting at Brussels North station for my train to the West Coast, where I would spend the majority of my stay, I got a sense of life in the multilingual capital. The newsstands were filled with a generous choice of papers in both Dutch and French and regular train departure announcements were also in both Dutch and French. Walk into a shop or a cafe and you're greeted in both languages. As one of Europe's main business centres, many expats are among the office workers and students that rush through the station, resulting in English also being widely spoken.

In December last year Belgian state televi-

sion ran a mock breaking news bulletin "announcing" that the Dutch speaking part of the country had declared independence and as a result the king and queen had fled. Only half an hour later did the station inform its viewers that the whole thing was a hoax. But many people, including politicians and ambassadors abroad, had already fallen for the stunt. Criticism came from all sides, that is, apart from the separatist far-right Flemish Interest party, which advocates Flemish independence. The broadcaster later defended the program, stating that it illustrated the importance of the debate on the future of Belgium. But, for some, this longstanding issue is anything but a joke.

According to statistics, many Flemings support the independence of their region, but wouldn't push for it if it came down to it. Three months after Belgians went to the polls, the country still doesn't have a government, fuelling speculation by some that the country is running into real trouble. While independence isn't an aim of any of the major parties in power, the economic gap between the wealthier Flanders and struggling Wallonia has intensified discussions on the subject. The two regions have separate political parties and media, and have enjoyed self-rule since the 1980s. Along with economic, social and cultural differences, these were among the reasons a group of 65 Flemish businesspeople and academics, which released a manifesto in 2005, argued their case for independence. In the meantime, it does seem somewhat ironic

that the centre of European politics is having an identity crisis of its own.

A Fishy History

The two-hour train journey from Brussels to the beach resort town of Oostduinkerke in the southwest of the country passes contrasting landscapes of medieval cities and open farmland. While you're unlikely to visit the Oostduinkerke and its surrounding area for its stunning scenery, the area offers plenty of cultural activities. Its rich history also has significant links to Iceland. Until 1995, local fishermen sailed to Iceland to work in the lucrative cod-fishing industry. Today, the seaside resort town's economy heavily relies on the many tourists who flock to the sandy beaches, lined with cafes and beach cabins, during the summer months.

However, the fishing industry is also still visible. At low tide you can still catch shrimp fishermen on horseback dragging their nets through the shallow waters off of the beach. These fishermen are one of the village's tourism draw cards as they are supposedly the only fishermen in the world to fish on horseback. During peak season, they can be seen searching the grey waters of the North Sea before later cooking and selling their catch to hungry passers-by on the beach. The town celebrates its annual Shrimp Festival in late June, which includes a public shrimp fishing competition and culminates in the crowning and procession of the "shrimp queen", the winner of the teen pageant.

But it wasn't that long ago when fishing wasn't so glamorous and fishermen had to travel much further to fill their nets. Once Belgian fishermen sailed to Iceland to earn a living catching cod. Every Friday during July and August a "folkloric" evening is held at the National Fishery Museum in Oostduinkerke to commemorate the history of local fishermen going to sea. The event consists of a market of traditional crafts and foods including hammocks made from fishing net and hand woven baskets, similar to those which hang from each side of the shrimp fishermen's saddles, and local delicacies such as dried fish and other seafood. Each week a band entertains the crowd with folk songs, now mainly consisting of tourists. My evening there, the group sang about the hardship of sailing to Iceland – the cold (some of the fishermen suffered from frostbite), spending six months of the year away from their families, and eating nothing but cod and potatoes. In the early years, fishermen would also walk long distances to the harbour where their boats were kept before setting sail north.

The bodies of some of the fishermen who died at sea in Iceland are buried in a small cemetery next to the museum. While the younger members of the festival's crowd were using the cemetery as a playground, much to the disgust of some, the locals are generally keen to honour and pass on the history of these men. Though the Amandine, the last trawler that sailed from Belgium's coast to Iceland, arrived back in April 1995, many festivals and



initiatives have been set up to do just this. One such initiative is The Youth for Europe Exchange set up by the European Union, which invites young Icelanders to Oostduinkerke to take part in a cultural and historical exchange with young Belgians in an attempt to foster interest in the history and to forge links between young people of both countries. Many of the fishermen who did not make it back alive were buried on Icelandic soil, while some of the survivors stayed on to live in Iceland. Those that did build and decorated their houses with the remains of the stranded fishing boats.

But this region isn't just about fishing. Belgium may be one of the most densely populated and urbanised countries in the world, but large areas have also been dedicated to outdoor leisure, such as extensive cycling tracks. The notoriously flat countryside is perfect for the sport, and it's not uncommon for bicycles to outnumber cars on the roads. The paths wind through peaceful farmland and small villages, but the highly organised mapping and signing system allows you to cycle the whole country with little navigational effort. And because there are so many paths to choose from, you can cycle in relative solitude, even during peak holiday season. At least, that's what I experienced.

"Venice of the North"

Most commonly referred to as the Venice of the North, the medieval and World Heritage listed city of Bruges lies a little inland from the West Coast. The impressive Old World architecture and canals are worth a visit in themselves, that is, if you don't mind sharing the tiny streets lined with stores selling what else but pralines, souvenirs of perhaps one of Belgium's most famous exports – Tintin, and carts selling chips with mayonnaise, with hoards of other tourists. Finding less scenic, but more charming, quaint cobble-stoned back streets wasn't too difficult, though.

Bruges is famous for its handmade lace. A recently aired program on Belgian television claimed that some of the "locally-made" lace actually comes from China, an allegation that has the local lace makers in uproar. But some of the craft workshops welcome visitors interested in viewing the women making the intricate lace, a skill

which apparently takes years to master. After walking the narrow streets and admiring the canals, we stopped at the Béquinages, a once enclosed convent-style (although, less strict) community built during the Middle Ages and designed to help unmarried women (many men lost their lives fighting during this time, leading to a shortage of men) meet their spiritual and material needs while also providing them with a safe place to live. The Béquinages were the result of a semi-religious movement by women in Northern Europe who wanted to maintain a sense of independence. Although the site is a major tourist attraction, the place continues to house women.

It's clear that the tiny nation Belgium is definitely underrated on the international stage. The weather may not always be fantastic, but the country has a rich history and its people are passionate about preserving tradition. For such a small country, Belgium offers incredible diversity in everything from scenery to culinary delights to things to see and do. Why else would foreign diplomats, cycling-enthusiasts and beer-lovers be equally content on visiting?

In December last year Belgian state television ran a mock breaking news bulletin "announcing" that the Dutch speaking part of the country had declared independence and as a result the king and queen had fled.

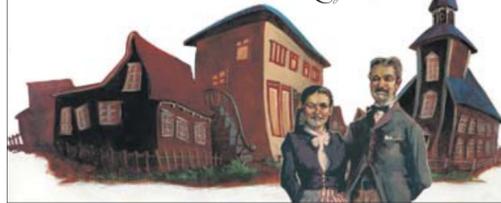
We don't serve foreigners...

because to us - nobody is foreign.

Only 45 min. drive from Reykjavik 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

KAJAKAFERDIR
STOKKSEYRI
kajak@kajak.is
www.kajak.is
tel. +354 896-5716

Vidrey island

History - Nature - Art



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

- A charming restaurant
- Unspoiled nature and peace
- A thousand years of history and culture
- A number of beautiful hiking trails
- Leisure area and playground for children
- Special activities on weekends
- Free bike loan

Vidrey Tours / Tel: +354 533 5055
www.vidrey.com / elding@elding.is



This exciting new multimedia exhibition tells the story from an island's dramatic birth from the depths of the Atlantic Ocean through its forty year history to the current day – and beyond, glimpsing the future 120 years hence.

The exhibition explains the Government's decision to submit an application to UNESCO to designate Surtsey a World Heritage Site.

SURTSEY

GENESIS

The Culture House - Þjóðmenningarhúsið
National Centre for Cultural Heritage
Hverfisgata 15, 101 Reykjavík
Telephone 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.

Looking for tickets to concerts in Iceland?

GET THEM ONLINE!

midi.is

UPPLIFBU FERDALAGIÐ MEÐ OKKUR!
EXPERIENCE ICELAND WITH US!

WINTER SCHEDULE 2007/2008

Vetur / Winter 2007 - 2008
Áætlunarferðir / Bus schedules
Norðun- og Vesturland
North- and West Iceland
www.trex.is

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

Hesthals 10, Reykjavík SÍMI/TEL 587 6000 & Hafnarstræti 77, Akureyri SÍMI/TEL 461 1106 FAX 567 4969 E-MAIL info@trex.is URL trex.is



Old buildings in Aðalstræti were renovated and new ones built in the same style at the beginning of the century. 2000/2007



A Day at the Mall

Photo by Gulli

Everyone loves the mall. This has already been established and the video evidence made available by Kevin Smith. In the greater Reykjavík area, there are two malls worth visiting: Kringlan, located just outside Reykjavík city centre and Smáralind in Kópavogur, which has acquired some international notoriety for resembling male genitalia when seen from the air. (Guess which one is Smith's favourite?)

Like elsewhere in the world, in Iceland the mall is a world full of opportunities. With sufficient funds (or credit) there is no limit to how much fun there is to be had. Obviously there is a plethora of stuff to buy: clothes, electrical gadgets, CDs, or whatever else the mind desires. Even more important is the fact that shopping greases the wheels of economy, so really buying that awesome new phone that simultaneously allows instant text messaging, taking photos and talking while driving eventually serves the greater good.

But going to the mall to shop is to miss the point entirely. The most exciting thing any mall has to offer is not the merchandise for sale, but the people who are there to buy it. The mall is the modern day equivalent of the ancient market square, where people gathered to enjoy each other's company, make conversation, or in the case of Socrates, solve the riddles of philosophy. Many of his questions are still raised in the halls of the malls.

So, go to the mall: it is your duty as a citizen and as a moral being.

Kringlan
Kringlan 4-12, 103 Reykjavík
Tel.: 568 9200, www.kringlan.is

Smáralind
Hagasmári 1, 201 Kópavogur
Tel.: 528-8000, www.smaralind.is

Uncle Tom's Cabin
Laugavegur 2

Espresso, Cappuccino, Café Latte, Soya Latte, Tea and Organic Tea
Coffee in French Press, Take Away Coffee
Real hot Chocolate
Various light meals, sandwiches and more
DJ playing on weekends and dancing
Open until 5:30 on weekends

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

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
In Iceland, you can expect livestock to be on or alongside the road. It is usually sheep, but sometimes horses and even cows can be in your path. This is common all over the country, and can be very dangerous. Sometimes a 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.

Single-lane bridges
There are many single-lane bridges on the Ring Road. The actual rule is that the car closer to the bridge has the right-of-way. However, it is wise to stop and assess the situation, i.e. attempt to see what the other driver plans to do. This sign indicates that a single-lane bridge is ahead.

EINBREIÐ BRÚ

ROAD TRAFFIC DIRECTORATE



Photos by Thorsten Henn and Skari

*distance from Reykjavik in kilometres.

two ca. 480 km



Húsavík
The fishing town Húsavík, which sits at the shore of Skjálfandi bay, has been experiencing a great increase in tourism in recent years. The biggest draw for travellers is the fact that the Skjálfandi bay is known for being an excellent whale-watching spot and many companies offer daily whale-watching excursions from the harbour. Visitors should also check out the Whale Museum, located by the harbour. The museum was founded in 1997 and provides information on cetaceans and Iceland's whaling history. The Húsavík church, which is one of the oldest wooden churches in Iceland, is also worth a look.

three ca. 50 km



Akranes
A town of 6,000 people, Akranes is only a 35-minute drive from the capital. Two Irish brothers settled the town in 880 and today the townspeople celebrate the settlement annually with a family festival called the Irish Days, taking place on July 6 to 8 this year. Activities for visitors are varied and range from exploring interesting museum exhibitions in the Garðar area, sunbathing on the town's famous sand beach Langisandur or relaxing in the public park Garðalundur, a spacious area with lakes, trees and a large playground for the children.

four ca. 120 km



Gullfoss
When the gushing white Hvítá river runs into a canyon in the southwest, it creates Gullfoss (or Golden Falls), one of the most popular tourist attractions in Iceland. The waterfall has a series of three steps, with each drop greater than the next. Where the trail meets the falls, the volumes of the wide Hvítá can be witnessed plunging about 32 meters into a relatively obscured canyon. Fortunately, plans to utilise the fall for energy were dropped a long time ago. A trip to the spectacular Gullfoss is generally included with any "Golden Circle" package.

five ca. 50 km



Garður
Located on the northern part of the Reykjanes peninsula, the small community Garður is only a ten-minute drive from the Keflavik international airport. The town's trademark is the two old lighthouses down by the coast which offers a great panoramic view over the Faxaflói bay. The coastline also happens to be an excellent bird-watching spot. As Garður is an old fishing village, a museum dedicated to fish processing, The Garður Folk Museum, was established in 1995 and features a collection of old boat engines, fishing gear and other historical items.

six ca. 490 km



Mývatn
Lake Mývatn, created by an eruption more than 2000 years ago, is one of the largest lakes in the country, covering about 37 square kilometres and surrounded by unique landscape. One of the most popular tourist spots in the country, the vast volcanic area is rich with a striking scenery, diverse fauna, varied birdlife, numerous small islets and hordes of extremely annoying midges, which the lake draws its name from. The lake and its surrounding wetlands and lava fields are a nature reserve. The area boasts endless sight-seeing options as well as good services and facilities for travellers.

seven ca. 700 km



Lagarfljót
Just as the Scottish have folklore about the nightmarish Loch Ness monster who dwells in the depths of the great Loch Ness, so the Icelanders have their own haunting sea creature. "Lagarfljótsormurinn" is a lake monster according to east Icelandic folklore, who stirs in the depths of the Lagarfljót lake, near the eastern hub of Egilsstaðir. A tourist boast by the same name cruises the lake and features special tours and on-board banquets. Nearby is Hallormsstaðarskógur, which is the largest forest in the nation.

eight ca. 600 km



Askja
One of the country's majestic volcanoes, the caldera Askja has erupted several times over the last centuries. Surrounded by the Dyngjufjöll Mountains, Askja is an active volcano, which was declared a natural monument in 1978. A powerful eruption in 1875 changed the scenery immensely, forming the large blue lake Öskjuvatn, right in the middle of the caldera. The 220 metre deep lake is the deepest one in Iceland. The same explosion created the volcanic crater Víti containing a geothermal warm lake where bathing is quite popular. Just beware of the slippery slopes leading down to the 'pool'.

nine ca. 190 km



Vík
The small coastal village Vík í Mýrdal is the southernmost town in the country and contains many interesting sights to explore. The town's natural surroundings offer attractions such as green meadows, expansive sand deserts, glaciers and glacial rivers and only minutes away from town is Dyrhólaey, a long preserved promontory stretching from the coast and out into the ocean. The area is rich with birdlife and picturesque views and while hiking down to the town's beautiful black sand beach you can view the large Reynisdrangar rock pillars in the near distance.

one *ca. 50 km



Pingvellir
If this is not your first-time in Iceland you've probably made a trip to the Pingvellir National Park already. If not, you should definitely take a day tour to this oldest national park in the country, founded in 1928. A place of great significance to Icelanders due to its role in the country's history, the park is a protected national heritage and is on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In 930, Alþingi, the oldest parliament in the world, was established at Pingvellir. Other historically important events took place here as well, for example the adoption of Christianity in 1000 and the celebration of Iceland's independence in 1944. Understandably, there are numerous historical sites and buildings to explore and marked paths will lead the way. You will be able to explore old ruins, an ancient drowning pool (Drekkingarhylur) where women who had children out of wedlock were drowned for their crime, and the Pingvellir church. The park, with the country's largest lake, Þingvallavatn, as its centrepiece, is renowned for its natural attractions such as Almannagjá fissure and Öxarárfoss waterfall.

Rent a laptop

These coffeeshops have laptops

Café Victor Sólun

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



kvark.chf



Choose from over 70 courses, ranging from lobster and various types of fish to icelandic lamb in the greatest of atmosphere. A must try is our famous puffin with blueberry and "brennivín" sauce.

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 Reykjavik on the road to Þingvellir)

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

Álafoss
Laugavegur 1
Reykjavík - City Center

Open:
In summer:
Every day
9:00 - 22:00

In Winter:
Mondays - Fridays
10:00 - 18:00
Saturdays
10:00 - 14:00

ÁLAFOSS

Wool & Souvenir Shop

Take the warmth with you!
www.alafoss.is

The Saga Museum

Photo by Gulli

In the Saga Museum in Perlan it all starts at the very basic beginning; it begins with the land, with lava and with rocks. With a very fancy mp3 player and headphones in my ears, I am being prepared for a thirty-minute overview of Iceland's story. The whole thing, or up through the Sagas at least. Starting with the lava. The museum tackles seventeen points of interest about Icelandic history, spanning religion, commerce, trade, war, illness and more. The exhibit highlights important historical figures, such as literary, religious, and war heroes, as well as tackling economic, cultural and political phenomenon, such as the once popular swamp iron smelting, and the creation of Alþingi, Iceland's first government.

The figures used in the museum are silicone casts of real models, chosen for their supposed likeness to the historical figures which otherwise have no physical depiction on historical record. The process was developed by Ernst Backman and creates an amazingly alive representation of figures long, long dead.

The museum also talks at length about the origin of Icelanders and especially of the first Icelandic women settlers, most of whom were of Celtic origin, kidnapped from Ireland of the mostly Nordic Vikings. Other important stories that are lodged in the conscious of every Icelander - such as that of Egill Skallagrímsson, the most famous, and violent, poet of the Saga age - are brought to life with startling authenticity.

The exhibit is surely as enthralling a visit for Icelanders as it is for visitors discovering Iceland's sagas for the first time. **VP**

Perlan, Öskjuhlíð, 105 Reykjavík, www.saga-museum.is
Open daily from 10-18 through September, 1000 ISK for adults
CD available in Icelandic, English, German, French, and Swedish



I have always thought that the old radiotelegraph office by Suðurgata is the most beautiful building in Reykjavík. It does not hurt that it stands between Árni Magnússon Institution, where the old Icelandic manuscripts are kept, and Háskólabíó cinema, where the La Grande Bouffe by Marco Ferreri was screened over 50 years ago.

Bragi Ólafsson used to play bass for The Sugarcubes. Today he is an award winning author.

AIR ICELAND

Fly and discover

Air Iceland destinations

airiceland.is
/ tel. 570 3030

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



The Reykjavik City Police has been cracking down on public urination lately. If you need to use the toilet, use the toilet, or else pay the penalty.

Photo by Gulli

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

WOMEN'S SHELTER
KVENNA ATHVARF tel. 561-1205

Grundarfjörður Hostel

comfortable - affordable
Central in Snæfellsnes

grundarfjordur@hostel.is
www.hostel.is

+354-5626533
+354-8956533

Bring THIS AD and get 15% discount!

LÁ ART MUSEUM
Hveragerði

Open daily 12-18
Admission free
www listasafnamesinga.is

ASÍ ART MUSEUM
FREYJUGÖTU 41
101 REYKJAVÍK
TEL. 511-9353

Accommodation

Gesthús Dúna
Suðurlíð 35,
105 Reykjavík
Tel: 5882100 / Fax: 5882102
Duna@islandia.is, ghduna@simnet.is
www.islandia.is/duna
B&B ROOMS FROM 5.000.- SLEEPNG BAG ACCOMMODATION

Hótel Akureyri
Hafnarstræti 67
600 Akureyri
tel: 462 5600
hotelakureyri@hotelakureyri.is

Olsen Olsen Diner

Very close to the international airport open every day from 11am to 10pm

Hafnargata 17 Keflavík

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.

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

Bakki, Laugarbakka
tel: 4512987 / 6163304
email: elinborg8@msn.com
Quiet surroundings, only one kilometer from Highway 1, Rooms, Sleeping Bag Accommodation and Camping w/electricity Mini-Market and Cafe Angling sold for lakes in Arnarvatnsheiði

Accommodation Needed

Postgraduate Student studying in Reykjavík (09/2007-08/2008) looking for a room to rent in a shared flat OR for a whole flat to be shared with other postgradu-

ate students (up to 350 per room) 12 months. Contact: duycks@yahoo.fr or call: +48507932211

I am looking for a small apartment near Reykjavik 108. Please call me at (310) 775-3916 or email me at: bettysblues@gmail.com

Job needed:

21 year old student from Canada, studying Icelandic, looking for part time employment with a family while I am here for 3 months. Duties may include cooking, cleaning, or looking after children. I have references and a CV. Please contact Lindsay at smokeandmirrors00@hotmail.com.

Job openings:

As part of our expansion program, our 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

Tveir Fiskar Restaurant is looking for an experienced waiter required for full time or part time work. Must be fluent in English, have excellent communication skills, a keen eye for detail and enjoy working in a team. Knowledge of wine and Icelandic desirable but not essential. The position is in the evenings (from 16:00 to closing). If you would like to join a young, passionate and motivated team, send your CV/Resume by email to cat@restaurant.is.



It's the journey
- not the destination

Enjoy every second of your stay by exploring the beauty of Iceland and taking advantage of our easy, safe and practical services in Iceland.



+354 522 44 00 • www.hertz.is

Hertz locations in Iceland: Keflavík Airport, Reykjavík, Ísafjörður, Akureyri, Höfn, Egilsstaðir, Selfoss



THE VIKING
ICELAND'S LARGEST SOUVENIR SHOP

THE VIKING : INFO

Hafnarstræti 3
101 Reykjavík
tel: 551 1250

Hafnarstræti 104
600 Akureyri
tel: 461 5551

email: theviking@simnet.is



By the highway going through Hveragerði, you'll find **EDEN** the greenhouse café

The most popular stop for half a century and surrounded by hot springs, this greenhouse café offers souvenirs, flowers, ice cream and food at reasonable price as well as Icelandic cakes.

EDEN
HVERAGERÐI

EDEN ehf | austurmörk 25 | 810 hveragerði



Stuffed with stuff

It is common knowledge, or, at least it should be common knowledge, that Belgium is home to the best beer in the world.

The Grapevine goes to Belgium. **Page 22**

Lots of bands don't sell any CDs at all, instead making all their money from concerts. Grateful Dead is a good example, and Prince is a more recent one.

Gerd Leonhard explains the future of music. **Page 6**

Grapevine staffers put their heads together to select a few interesting titles from the festival's extensive program. It turned to be even more challenging than getting five people to agree on pizza topping.

The Reykjavik International Film Festival is soon. **Page B6**

As a live performer, Chris Cornell is an ontological challenge.

Sveinn Birgir Björnsson saw Chris Cornell in concert and thought of philosophy. **Page 21**

Everyone loves the mall. This has already been established and the video evidence made available by Kevin Smith.

The mall, the place to be. **Page 25**

I am planning to stay in the wilderness for more than one month.

The Lonesome Traveller leaves town, again. **Page 14**

!!! (US), múm, Bloc Party (UK), Chromeo (CA), Deerhoof (US), Mugison, Trentemøller (DK), of Montreal (US), GusGus, The Bronx (US), Mínus, Lay Low, Buck 65 (CA),

Amiina, Ampop, Annuals (US), Benni Hemm Hemm, Bonde do Role (BR), Changer, Cut off Your Hands (NZ), Dikta, The Duke Spirit (UK), FM Belfast, Forgotten Lores, Eberg, Friendly Fires (UK), Gavin Portland, Ghostigital, Grizzly Bear (US), Hafdis Huld, Heavy Trash (UK), Hjaltalín, I Adapt, Jagúar, Jakobínarína, Jan Mayen, Jeff Who?, Khonnor (US), Jenny Wilson (SE), Kira Kira, Lali Puna (DE), Late of the Pier (UK), Leaves, Loney, Dear (SE), Motion Boys, Ms John Soda (DE), My Summer as a Salvation Soldier, Ólöf Arnalds, Pétur Ben, Plants & Animals (CA), Ra Ra Riot (US), Retro Stefson, Reykjavík!, Seabear, Sign, Singapore Sling, Skakkamanage, Skátar, Sprengjuhöllin, Steed Lord, The Teenagers (FR/UK), Ultra Mega Technobandið Stefán, Ungdomskulen (NO),

/7oi, > 3 Svanhvít, 1985!, Æla, Alræði Öreiganna, Asli, Atomstation, Audio Improvement, B. Sig, Ben Frost, Benny Crespo's Gang, Bertel, Best Fwends (US), Beteley, Biogen, Bloodgroup, Bob Justman, Bobby Breiðholt, BonSom, Bootlegs, Borko, Boys in a Band (FO), Brain Police, Búdrýgindi, Cliff Clavin, Cocktail Vomit, Computer Club (UK), Coral, Dark Harvest, Dimma, DJ Kalli, Detect (FR), Djezus, Dr. Spock, Drep, Dýrðin, Ég, Eilífur, Electroll, Elíza, The End, Enkidu, Envy of Nona, Esja, ET Tumason, Ewok, Fabúla, Fjallabræður, For a Minor Reflection, Foreign Monkeys, Frost (NO), Future Future, The Ghost (FO), Grasrætur, Fluokids (FR), Gordon Riots, Gossi, Hairdoctor, Helgi Valur & The She-males, Hellvar, Hestbak, Hoffman, Hooker Swing, Hraun, Jack Schidt, Jezebel, Johnny & The Rest, Johnny Sexual, Jónas Sigurðsson, Kalli, Kasper Björke (DK), Kenya, Kimono, Klassart, Lada Sport, Leaf (SE), Leópol, Lights on the Highway, Mammút, Mala & Sgt Pokes (UK), Markús Bjarnason, Martyn (NL), Mental Overdrive (NO), Miri, Momentum, Mountain Zero, Moonbootica (DE), Morðingjarnir, Mr. Silla & Mongoose, The Musik Zoo, Múgsefjun, Motorfly, Naflakusk, The Nanas, Nilfisk, Noise, Nr. Núll, O.N.E., Óli ofur, Orang Volante / Panoramix, Our Lives, Original Melody, Patrick Chardronnet (DE), Perfect Disorder, Pikknikk, Plúseinn, Póetrix, Prinzhorn Dance School (UK), Perla, President Bongo (GusGus DJs), Radio LXMBRG (SE), Rafhans 021, Raychem, Receptors (US), Retron, Rökkurró, Rhondda and the Runestones, Roxy Cottontail (US), Royal Fortune, Rúnar Þórisson, Sam Amidon (US), Samúel J. Samúelsson, Sesar A, Severed Crotch, Shadow Parade, Shogun, Sickbird, Single Drop, Slow Club (UK), Smoosh (US), Snake And Jet's Amazing Bullit Band (DK), Social (SE), Solid Gold (US), Sólstafir, Sometime, Soundspell, South Coast Killer Band, Stafrænn Hákon, Stairplex (FR), Stereo Hypnosis, Strigaskór nr. 42, Subliminal, Sudden Weather Change, Sverrir Bergmann, The Telepathetics, Terrordisco, The Tremolo Beer Gut (DK/SE), Theatre Fall (SC), Thor, Thundercats, Tied & Tickled Trio (DE), Tim Pogo (US), Toggi, Tonik, Trassar, Úlpa, Valgeir Sigurðsson, Van of Two, Védís, Vicky Pollard, The Viking Giant Show, VilHelm, We Made God, Weapons, Who Knew, Worm is Green, Wolfgang, XXX Rottweiler, The Zuckakis Mondeyano Project.

BAKHJARLAR

Reykjavík PURE ENERGY

ICELANDAIR

TÓNLEIKASTADIR

Listasafn Reykjavíkur - Hafnarhús, Gaukurinn, NASA, Lídó, Organ, Grand rokk, Barinn & Iðnó.

MÍÐASALA

Armband á hátíðina kostar 7.900 kr. í september, og hækkar eftir það í 8.500 kr. Það veitir aðgang að öllum tónleikum hátíðarinnar. Airwaves armband fæst í verslunum Skrifunnar Laugavegi, Kringlunni & Smáralind. BT & landsbyggðinni og á midi.is. Framkvæmd Iceland Airwaves 2007 er í höndum Hr. Örylgs í samvinnu við Icelandair & Reykjavíkurborg.

Auk þess munu fleiri viðburðir og tónleikar fara fram í Fríkirkjunni, Bláa lóninu, Norræna húsinu, plötuverstunum, kaffihúsum og börum í miðborginni.

www.icelandairwaves.com
www.myspace.com/icelandairwaves

17-21 October 2007

ICELAND AIRWAVES '07

RIVER RAFTING GLACIER TOURS WHALE WATCHING SIGHTSEEING HORSE RIDING ACCOMMODATION JEEP SAFARIS DAY TOURS

Book your Adventure with us

www.citycentre.is

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

FREE BOOKING SERVICE

City Centre BOOKING SERVICE