



The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

www.grapevine.is

YOUR FREE COPY > THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND

IN THE ISSUE Issue 15 • 2010 • September 24 - October 7

COMPLETE CITY LISTINGS - INSIDE!

► **WTF!**

Glitnir CEO Lárus
Welding made over
\$3,000 per day in 2009

► **OMG!**

Strætó is finally
stepping into
the 21st century

► **LOL!**

London's Mayor
vs. Reykjavík's

► **ROFL!**

RIFF promises
plenty of fun times

► **BRB**

Watching whales,
rowing boats

Soap Opera

*—Iceland's Minister of Finance
tries to clean up the mess as the
farce rages on...*



Two years after Iceland's epic TOTAL ECONOMIC COLLAPSE, Minister of Finance and Left Green chairman Steingrímur J. Sigfússon is still trying to make sense of the whole mess, while attempting to set things in order. We ask him what happened, what he's doing about it and why Parliament so often seems like a collection of incompetent amateurs. **PAGE 19**

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

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



On the cover:
Steingrímur J. Sigfússon

Photo:
Baldur Kristjánsson
www.baldurkristjans.is
Assistance: Gísli Kr. Hauksson
Behind the scenes footage on
www.grapevine.is

Wish I Was Still On Vacation :(

Haukur's 31st editorial



Hi. I'm back from vacation. It was alright. I read a lot of books. Drank a lot of beer. Took in some sun.

Went to the beach a couple times, actually. That was nice. Wish we had beaches like that over here.

Oh yes, I did a little dance, made a little love, got down tonight. Boy was it relaxing! As I boarded the plane back home I felt like a fresh, new human being, all ready to take on the world with the sun in my eyes and a smile on my face.

Then the stewardess passed around the latest copies of Fréttablaðið and Morgunblaðið, Iceland's two daily newspapers.

Ugh. I sank further into my chair with every turn of the page. I tensed up. My skin turned pale and clammy. I started shaking uncontrollably as I envisioned of the environment I was returning to. I cried a little inside.

Folks, what are we doing? Seriously! What the

hell are we trying accomplish here? This is not how an enlightened and reasonable society operates. This is not how we run a discourse. This is not how we solve any problems!

It feels like we are all stuck in some sort of horrible Twilight Zone-type area where we are doomed to just cover our ears and scream as loud as we can in one another's faces while completely ignoring the each other, the outside world and every attempt at a valid argument.

What are we protecting? Who are we protecting?

What are we doing?

I don't understand.

And I am having some serious doubts whether I have the stomach to partake much longer.

Mayor's Address | Jón Gnarr

Welcome To Reykjavík

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

himself has been dead for a long time:

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

Does this mean that I always existed, or that I never existed and do therefore not exist now? That can't be! It would mean that all our existence was unreal and only existed in our own imagination. If I do not exist, then neither do you. I have a hard time believing that. The facts speak for themselves. If I am not real, then how could I fly to Finland, send myself a post card with a picture of Tarja Halonen, the President of Finland, fly back home and welcome the mailman that brought me the card? I don't know. I am one of many Icelanders that believe in elves and trolls. I mainly believe in Moomin elves. It is more of a certainty than a belief. I have seen them and touched them. I know they exist. I have been to Moominworld in Naantali, Finland. I have evidence; photographs, video recordings and witnesses. I had a good talk with Moomin Papa. He told me that life in Moominvalley was much better after Finland joined the EU. He encouraged us Icelanders to join the EU. He

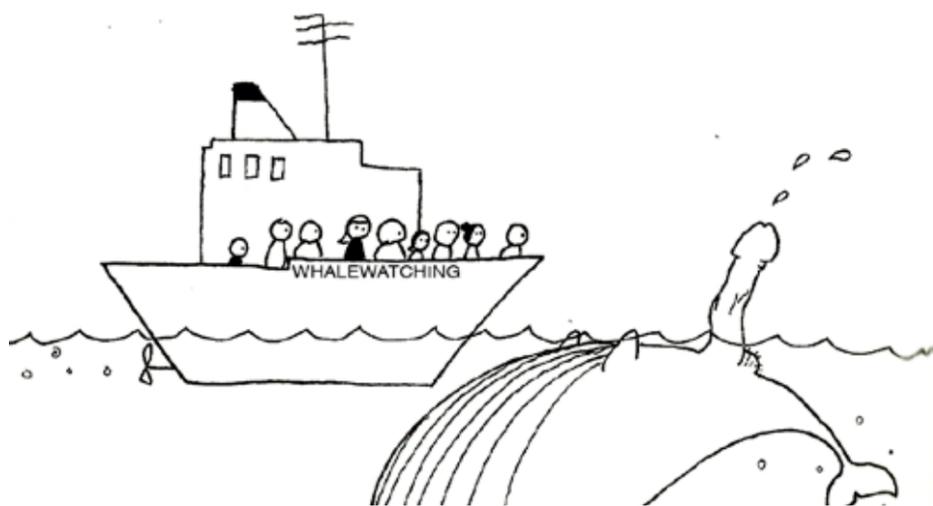


also said that the Moomins had always existed, long before Tove Jansson "invented" them. The Moomins are eternal, at least in books.

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

Jón Gnarr, Mayor of Reykjavík

Comic | Hugleikur Dagsson



SAFFRAN.IS

HOT AND HEALTHY

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

SAFFRAN

GLÆSTIBÆ / DALVEGI 4 KÖP

VOTED
BEST GODDAMN RESTAURANT 2010
BY GRAPEVINE

GLÆSTIBÆ

DALVEGUR 4 KÖP

WE SERVE YOU ALL DAY 11-22

WE'LL TAKE YOU THERE!

Book now on www.re.is

Book now by calling 580 5450

DAY TOURS TO ALL THE MOST EXCITING PLACES IN ICELAND



EXPERIENCE A GREAT DAY WITH US!



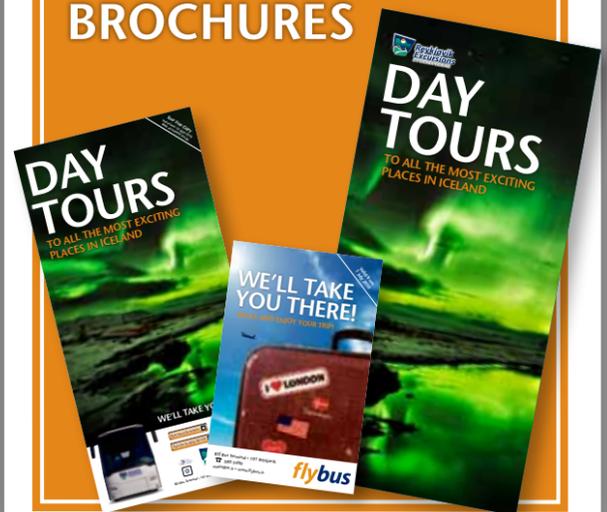
Relax at the Blue Lagoon

Reykjavik Excursions offers great flexibility in Blue Lagoon tours.

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

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

MORE DETAILS IN OUR DAY TOURS BROCHURES



flybus flybus+



Reykjavik Excursions
KYNNISFERÐIR



Cafe latte



Te & Kaffi
location in
101 Reykjavik:

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



www.teogkaffi.is

Sour grapes and stuff

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

4
Letters

MOST AWESOME LETTER:

GRAPEVINE AIN'T GOT LEGS

To whom it may concern,
It is with a heavy solemn sorrow I draft to you this letter of complaint. Here I am, a bright-eyed and eager young visitor to your fair city, flying half way across the planet to bask in the icy blonde poker faced glow of your gorgeous landscape and megafauna for all of September, my tiny heart brimming with golden promises of "walking around town with BONAFIDE local COOL KIDS - the LOCAL AUTHORITY on BAD ASS!" Galavanting about town, sharing a beer and a laugh, not looking like a tourist, what more could I possibly hope for? Only to be bitterly disappointed last Friday as I

MOST AWESOME LETTER

A buncha POLAR BEER for your thoughts

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

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



(Light)

stood lonely and alone inside Havari looking just like a stupid fucking tourist. Well, you, cool kids, local, bad ass, cool kids, really left me hanging. Hanging like a strange, sober, solitary icicle, doomed for September to wander the seedy back alleys of RKJVK without you.

Well, see you around I guess.

Sincerely,
Yours for September,
Ashleigh R.
PS If you want to find me and apologize I am usually wandering around alone in the Graveyard about midnight.

Dear Ashleigh,

sorry we weren't at Havarí that day. We thought we'd been pretty clear that our walking tour only lasted through August. Maybe we weren't, maybe you can't read, maybe someone somewhere made some sort of mistake. Who knows!

Anyway. You'll get some beer at Bakkus to cheer you up. And if you're really, really sad about missing that walking tour, shoot us an e-mail and we'll give you a personal one, aight?

Hello there good people at Grapevine,

first thing let me just tell you how great I think your paper is and how we foreigner beings appreciate the pleasure of some easy information! The reason I am writing this letter to you is unfortunately somehow less merry...I am downright asking for help, for I know how to get out of the messy situation I find myself in.

Let me explain...I am an international student at the University of Iceland, I came here first as an exchange student but fell so badly in love with this country that I decided to stay some years more. I will clarify, for points that will be made clear in the following, that I do not come from a third-world country or similar. I am here out of pure personal interest, not out of need.

So, I start my studies all over, and was admitted as a degree student. Being of humble family, I don't have any knowledge of the wonderful world where Mommy and Daddy will take care of all your expenses. That to say, I have to work full time to pay my ass off, and it ain't easy these days. I am a waitress in a well known restaurant on Laugavegur, and my condition here is the core subject of the matter.

My employer is (self-admittedly) plain racist. I am not entitled the same "privileges" as my Icelandic colleagues, for instance a day off for a dinner with my boyfriend. No, I'll invariably be told "Ha, it's not possible! You should have let me know some days earlier, than I would have said yes" (note: I asked permission on a Tuesday to have off on Saturday; if this is impossible, I wonder why my colleague could ask Friday night for Sunday off, and be told it was ok... mmh). Plus, I am always spoken to in a rude manner, that leaves little to one's imagination as of my foreign passport as being the origin of it. I am not prone to self appreciation, but I feel I can say I am the best among the employees in my same position, the most dedicated hard-working girl and often praised by the customers.

Some time back, during several talks with the Workers Union Efling I found out that on top of everything my salary is around 500 kr. per hour lower than the law states. Putting it in mere numbers, I am paid 1200 kr per hour, per hour, whether Union laws state that night jobs (such as a waiter is if working after 18.00) should have a minimum wage of a bit over 1700 kr. I am not gonna consider that since I've been employed for over a year I should also be entitled to at least 2 pay-raise already, but I think it's clear that over 15 months that makes for a lot of money that I have legal right to get refunded.

I think it is outrageous that Iceland does not have laws protecting employees against this kind of racial discrimination. It is just plain shocking that these things can happen in such a progressist

country.

My question is: what would you do? Sue your employer? I know if the Union would take over the cause I would win it, and get all the money back. The point is, how would I find another job? And what would I do without money, but leave the country and get back home?

Can somebody help me out here?

All the best,

*Lisa (of course, I won't tell you my real name. I'm still afraid of the consequences if my boss or anyone would read this).

Dear Lisa (if that is your real name!!!),

what's wrong with being in need or from a third world country? Maybe we have a case of the racist pot calling the racist kettle racist on our hands here? Who knows!

Anyway. We can't see that your problem with your employer has anything to do with you being a foreigner, really. From what we can tell, he or she is taking advantage of you because you let yourself be taken advantage of and choose to spend your time writing letters to tourist magazines instead of actually doing something about it. So go ahead and sue your employer, and then find a job elsewhere. It'll be fun! If you can't get one, well, at least you're not in need.

Dear Grapevine,

I would like to say thru you : THX to your wonderful country that it's allowed for foreigners to work here, THX to Grapevine for being updated even in the middle of nowhere!; THX to the drivers to bring us these news and customers, THX to Elva and Svavar from Gullfoss Kaffee, because they are the best chiefs I ever had and such a kind persons you barely can find in Europe. Maybe I remark for Icelanders: the probability that dark hair and dark eyed person will be speaking icelandic is approximating to zero ;), but pls - have mercy with us, sometimes we speak other 4 languages and just there is no chance to learn your interesting one in advance. So, all to best to whole Iceland!

Martina, Czech Rep.

Dear Martina,

on the behalf of everyone THXed in your letter, we would like to THX your right back for your gratitude and generally THXful manner.

Anyway, we are not passing on your remark to Icelanders (Icelanders: if you read what Martina wrote above, try your hardest to forget it), because we get so many complaints from foreigner-types that are trying to learn Icelandic and are all frustrated that no one will speak it

to them. You shouldn't worry about not understanding Icelandic. Most of what's said here is pure nonsense anyway, so just nod your head and go about your business.

I came across your website and have been reading it with great interest. Your English translations are excellent and this is the first error that I have found out of 30 articles. I am impressed with the activism shown by your people in punishing your rogue bankers.

On <http://grapevine.is/News/ReadArticle/New-Law-on-Work-IDs-Passed> change "eletzrical" to "electrical".

Donald E. Pauly
Las Vegas, Nevada
USA

Dear Donald,

thank you for your letter, for your sweet compliments and for your eagle eyes! We'll make sure to maybe amend this error if we can remember when we have the time and will get around to it someday probably hopefully!

Hæ Grapevine,

I have few questions to ask you.

- Are all articles published on the website appears in the printed edition ?

- Would you have any spare copies to give of the previous edition of, say, the past 3-4 years ?

(I know that all issues are available on pdf and therefore printable, but i would like to avoid it if possible)

Kv.
Yohann

Hæ Yohann!

Thank you for your letter! It totally made our day for some reason. Or maybe it was that wet lunch. In any case, we are feeling SWANK!

(BTW, have you heard Jay Reatard? He rules! Or ruled. Poor guy).

Now, to answer your questions:

-Pretty much all of the articles on our website appear in our printed edition. Not all of them though. Not the news, for instance. And sometimes we have so much stuff to get off our chests we can't really fit it within our pages, so we just cram it on our website.

-Uhm... we're not sure? Try emailing subscribe@grapevine.is. They might know.

32 restaurants in Reykjavik
Enjoy
Verði þér að góðu

Enjoy
dining out

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

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

www.salka.is



Salka

Iceland excursions

GRAY LINE ICELAND



ICELAND EXCURSIONS

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

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

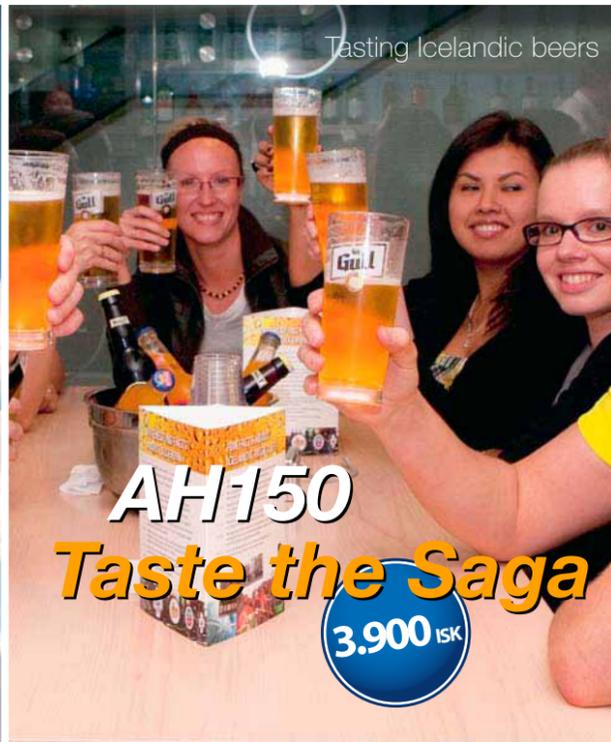
Geysir Area

AH11/12
The Golden Circle
 FROM 8.600 ISK



Tasting Icelandic beers

AH150
Taste the Saga
 3.900 ISK



Aurora Borealis

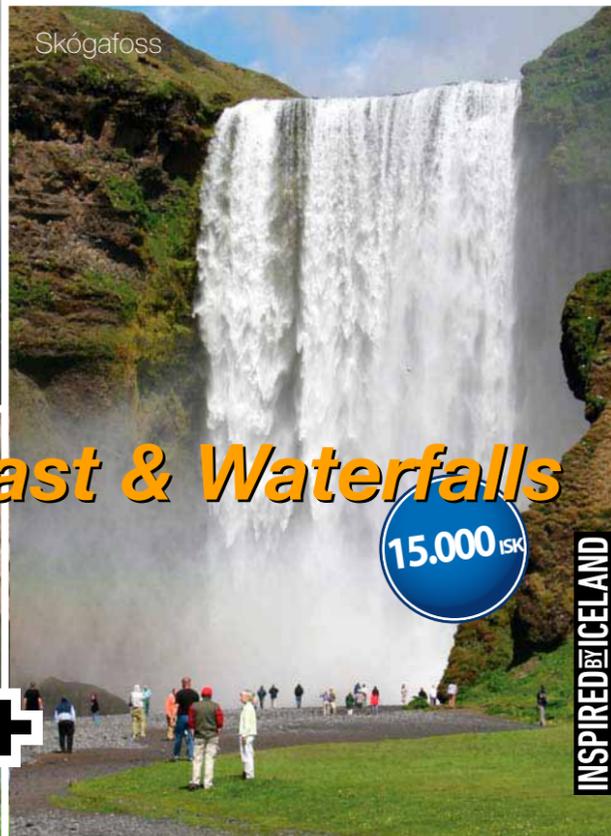
AH33 Northern Lights
 4.900 ISK



* We offer you a second tour free of charge if no lights can be seen on your chosen tour.

Skógafoss

AH34 South Coast & Waterfalls
 15.000 ISK



INSPIRED BY ICELAND



7 truly,
The Local Expert

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

Sales Office and Bus Terminal

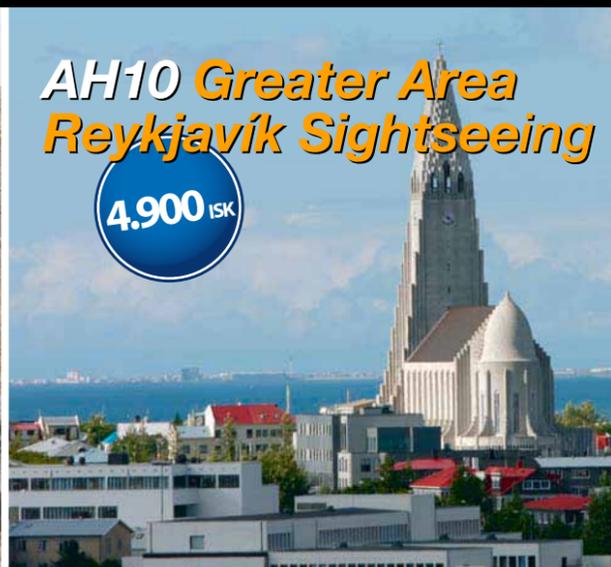


The Blue Lagoon

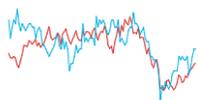
AH89
ATV & The Blue Lagoon
 15.500 ISK



AH10 Greater Area Reykjavik Sightseeing
 4.900 ISK



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



The CRAZY statistics come from our cool friends at DataMarket. They've got an almost endless amount of sexy data, free for all, at www.datamarket.com. Also check out www.grapevine.is/statistics for interactive graphs and other statistics!

Minister Malpractice F-U-N!!!

Government ministers, not the church ministers this time.



Following Iceland's financial meltdown, a Special Investigative Committee was commissioned to dig around for evidence of foul play. Nearly two years later, on April 12 of this year, the diligent committee handed over a heavy-duty 2,000-page report containing their findings.

A Parliamentary Review Committee chaired by Left Green Atli Gíslason immediately went to work on evaluating those findings with the goal of coming up with lessons learned from the government's participation in the financial collapse, suggesting legal changes to prevent another economic collapse, and determining whether any ministers failed to fulfill their ministerial duties, a legally punishable crime.

After reviewing the evidence, expert opinion and feedback from the ministers themselves, the majority of the committee recommended that four former ministers, whose names appear prominently in the investigative report, should be charged with failing to meet their responsibilities, specifically between February 2008 and the crash.

The implicated ministers are former Prime Minister Geir Haarde, former Minister of Foreign Affairs Ingibjörg

Sólrun Gísladóttir, former Minister of Finance Árni Mathiesen, and former Minister of Business Affairs Björgvin G. Sigurðsson. However, a minority of the committee disagrees with charging Sigurðsson and has put forward a separate recommendation to press charges against only the three ministers.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY EXAMINED

According to Article 14 of Iceland's Constitution, ministers are accountable for all executive acts established by law. Alþingi may impeach ministers on account of their official acts and the Court of Impeachment (Landsdómur) has competence in such cases.

The law referred to is No. 3/1963, also known as "the law about ministerial responsibility" (Lög um ráðher-raábyrgð). The law essentially states that ministers can be held responsible not only for taking actions that put the country in foreseeable danger, but also for not taking appropriate actions to prevent the country from such danger.

In their proposals to Alþingi, the committee details how the three or four aforementioned ministers respec-

tively broke this law. For instance, the committee says they are all guilty of dropping the ball on the Icesave issue by failing to ensure that Landsbanki's Icesave branch be transferred to a subsidiary whereby its depositors would have been insured by Britain.

Furthermore, the committee says they are all guilty of neglecting to hold meetings to discuss the dangerous size of the banks, and the ramifications of this, despite the Central Bank Board of Governors briefing them about it on February 7, 2008. Even if the crash was inevitable by 2008, the allegation is that the ministers failed to take any action to minimize its damage.

TRIAL BY COURT OF IMPEACHMENT

If Alþingi agrees to formally press charges against the three or four ministers, they will be tried by a special Court of Impeachment, which has never been called upon since it was written into the Constitution in 1905.

Given that there's no precedence for this in Iceland, it's not surprising that the whole affair is generating a lot of controversy. Some argue the laws are simply too antiquated and violate the

former ministers' human rights, such as the right to appeal, which is not possible in this court. Others point out that the ministers, whose job description entails reviewing existing laws, never had any qualms about them until now.

Nonetheless, if called upon, the court will convene as a fifteen-person body, including five Supreme Court justices, the Reykjavík district judge, a University of Iceland professor in constitutional law, and eight MPs who are selected by their peers in Alþingi every six years. The current MPs were selected in 2005, incidentally during Geir Haarde's heyday.

The court will then decide whether any number of the accused minister's is guilty, in which case the ministers could face fines or serve up to two years behind bars. For the time being, however, the issue is stalled in Alþingi. Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir has expressed doubts about the process and others are having a difficult time taking on the responsibility of pressing charges against their colleagues. What's going to happen next is unclear.



ANNA ANDERSEN

"Meet the new boss, same as the old boss..."



This summer's special income/tax issue of the Icelandic business magazine Frjáls Verzlun is at once a bottomless source of nauseating news and a testament to the pervasive incompetence and disgraceful cowardice of Iceland's political class. The magazine reveals that the con artists who bankrupted the nation were in 2009—the year following the collapse brought about by their spectacular ineptitude, greed, and grandiosity—pulling in salaries like 2007 had never ended. The former CEO of Glitnir bank, Lárus Welding, received in 2009 over \$3,000 per day—per day (which is a considerably higher amount than many public employees make per month after decades of work) for... for what? The magazine lists him as "Glitnir's CEO." Welding is in familiar company; most all of his bank buddies co-populate the obscene-salary list with him.

After they've squandered the nation's wealth, devastated its institutions, and ruined its reputation for generations, it is truly revolting to see these prosperity butchers still making millions, and that after Icelandic taxpayers having had to deliver first aid to their bruised and bloody handiwork.

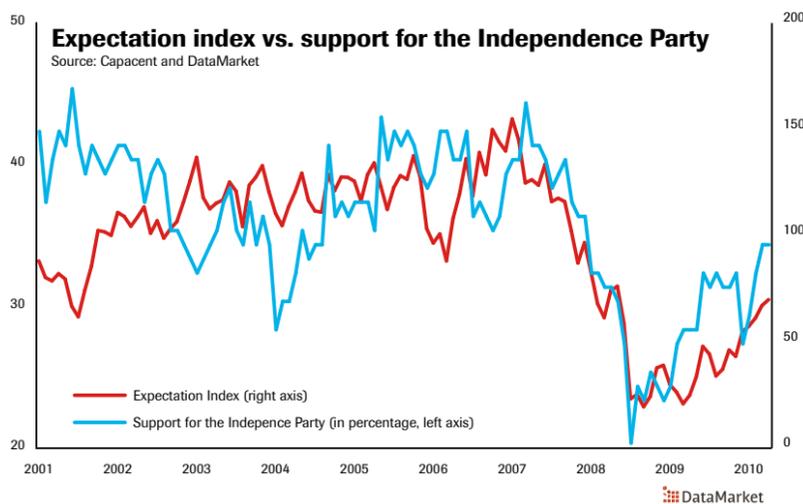
Why these incompetents are still receiving obscene payments from the state-rescued banks is absolutely mind-boggling. They're hardly being rewarded for primo performance on the job. Is it so much more difficult for the politicians to tell their buddies at the banks—as they have the labour movement—that contracts cannot be kept because there is "no money"? How about simply telling them that, considering their rotten job performance, their employment contracts are null and void ipso facto? How about demanding that they return the "bonuses" they paid themselves for their fine feats? How about slapping them with a few executive penalties, for countless violations of Icelandic law? The counting house lords at least have cash—which is more than can be said about their victims—to pay them.

According to FV, eight employees of the banks' marketing departments receive monthly salaries of over one million ISK, which is remarkable generosity for an industry that is considered overtly bloated in addition to having bankrupted a whole country. Equally astounding is the fact that most of these people have worked at the banks for years! I wonder if these employees are the same ones responsible for the "rapacious marketing" discussed in the Black Report: "Countless examples exist of how people were manipulated into doing business... In some cases these are seniors who seem to have been deceived and defrauded and feel they have been humiliated in their twilight years." And regarding the marketing of the money market accounts: "The Report seriously criticizes many of their [the accounts'] aspects... marketing to the public." It was difficult for "...individuals to realize the increased investment risk since the information from the banks was at best deceptive [...] When then the banks are all promoting the same deceptions, it is even more difficult for people to get correct/reliable information."

How wonderful to know that the people behind these kinds of "marketing efforts" are still sitting firmly in the banks that Icelandic taxpayers rescued with their blood money. I wonder if Steingrímur [Sigfússon, Minister of Finance] knows about this. Last February he said he believed that salaries of the banks' resolution committee members were "completely at odds with the current reality, what workers in general have to live with [...] I believe it is right and [the administration's] obligation to look at this and consider if the government can somehow, via the FME and the ministries of finance and business, or the state in its position as a creditor, ensure that society's salary decisions in general are in line with today's reality, not the past."

I'm still waiting for the administration to take action. But I'm not holding my breath. This administration was elected to clean up after and in the banks. For the former task they've made the public pay, and at the latter, they've utterly failed. When it comes to taking on Iceland's failed financial sector and its criminal class, this administration is no different from its right wing colleagues. However, while Icelandic voters can be forgiven for being frustrated over that fact, it is truly depressing to see that over a third of them believe that the only solution to the country's nightmarish mess is to replace the politicians currently in charge with the ones who created it.

Does Money Make The Independence Party Go Round?



For some reason, support for the Independence Party has oddly been on the rise ever since they purportedly brought about Iceland's downfall. Well, to get to the bottom of it, we decided to follow the money. Here you have people's general economic outlook graphed along side support for Iceland's Independence party. Starting in 2001, the Expectations Index begins a

steady ascent indicating that people are feeling pretty good about their economic outlook. At the same time, the Independence Party is enjoying good support. Well, that's a no-brainer.

Then, in May 2007, Icelanders realize the economy smells fishy and the Expectations Index begins a rapid descent, bottoming out in November 2008. Okay, so Iceland's banks default,

the stock market crashes, and people lose a lot of money. Icelanders aren't too positive about their future economic well-being and they aren't too thrilled with their government either. Well, that's also a no-brainer. Interestingly though, by November, just one month after the crash, it seems people are already starting to look up. Perhaps at that point things were so

bad there really was no way to go, but up. But, what's more interesting is that support for the Independence Party is also looking up. Hmmm...

Check out an interactive graph at www.datamarket.com (short link: www.url.is/41e)



ANNA ANDERSEN
PÁLL HILMARSSON

We've Got Your Steaming Hot Grapevine T-shirt Right Here!

- Impress your friends!
- Pick up men, women or both!
- Show off your impeccable tastes!
- Make friends and influence people!
- Pledge your undying allegiance to The Grapevine!
- Cover your torso in style!
- Support your local alt.magazine!
- Buy tourist merch that's less obviously touristy!

Yes, The Reykjavik Grapevine finally has a T-shirt all of its own. Pick up a copy of this sweet, limited edition item at **Havarf** on Austurstræti or **Dogma** on Laugavegur - 101 Reykjavik. And do it now. For the children.





Reykjavík
International
Film
Festival

Sept. 23
- Oct. 3



Jim Jarmusch and Noam
Chomsky will be at RIFF.
Where will you be?

→ Check us out at www.riff.is

Tickets available at the
Eymundsson bookstore
in Austurstræti from
12 to 7 every day



epli.is



Iceland Express

Learn ICELANDIC

NEXT COURSES:

PRICE:
60 CLASS HOURS
24.000 ÍSKR.

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

islenska@multi-kulti.org
Tel.: 8996570

October 4th.
Icelandic III
Tue. and Thu. 17:15-18:45
and Sat. 11:00-13:00

October 6th.
Icelandic I
Mon. Wed. and Fri.
17:15-18:45

October 20th.
Icelandic II
Mon. Wed. and Fri.
20:00-22:00

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



Barónsstígur 3 - 101 Reykjavík
tel: 8996570
islenska@multi-kulti.org / www.multi-kulti.org

Taking The Pain Out Of Public Transport

Jumping on board with Strætó's new changes

Over the last week, commuters on Strætó bs, the public transport company that operates the buses in Reykjavík, have been getting used to the sound of a new automated service announcing the name of each destination along their route. The new service is part of a recent redevelopment program by the company, aimed at improving information relay to passengers and to generally make taking the bus a much more efficient and user-friendly experience.

This might seem an unnecessary change for many regular users who already know where they are going, but could be viewed as a welcome addition for many others that don't. Grapevine spoke to project manager Bergdís Eggertsdóttir to find out what these changes will really mean for both regular users and shiny new passengers alike.

CH-CH-CH-CHANGES!

The primary change to the fleet has been a switch over to GPS equipment from the current radio system, which involves calling each driver individually, much like that in a taxi company. "A major benefit of being linked by GPS and satellite is that the whole fleet and the control centre will be on the same time," Bergdís informs me. Installed on both the buses and in Strætó's control centre, the system means that all the drivers will be working off the same time, on the same schedule and can be traced anywhere along their route. This sounds useful when you consider that before this, each driver was completely dependent upon the time on their mobile phone or watch, resulting in various discrepancies.

"We knew our system was outdated and needed to be revamped, so this upgrade has been part of an overall strategic plan," Bergdís tells me. When asked whether any of the new changes had been introduced in response to customer feedback, she added that they do receive emails and calls and log any customers complaints: "The intention has been to create a platform upon which we can integrate these suggestions".

The announcement system, which informs passengers of their next stop, has been introduced on 50 of the 120 buses in the fleet, and the company



plans to have both these systems in place on every Reykjavík bus by late November. This could be a welcome change for many tourists and out-of-towners that have no way of finding out where their stop is, other than asking the driver.

WAY OF THE FUTURE

Staying on the theme of improving information provision, Bergdís outlined the company's plan to install visual signage on board all buses in the coming months. "Similar to bus systems in other countries, the Strætó fleet will be fitted in the coming months with scrolling electronic signs that display the name of each stop as the bus approaches it", she explained, adding that this will benefit the hearing impaired, those who missed the announcement, were unable to hear it. Or just plain couldn't make out what it was saying in the first place.

Another development down the line is to introduce information updates via mobile phones. According to Bergdís, plans are also afoot to make real-time information available to passengers waiting at bus stops via their mobile phones, so they can keep themselves informed as to when their bus will ar-

rive. "As 99% of people have a mobile phone, it is an effective way to stay up-to-date," she adds.

YEAH, BUT WHAT WILL IT COST?

Now introducing sweeping changes is one thing, but all too often this can mean a price hike for the end users of the service. How does Strætó plan to avoid the cost of these redevelopments being passed on to passengers? "There is currently no plan to increase passenger fees as a result of these changes," says Bergdís, "actually they have stayed the same since 2007, approximately. The cost of the upgrades have been absorbed by building upon the existing communication system, as well as negotiating competitive pricing agreements with contractors."

Which brings us round to the issue of ticketing. Many of us have been in the following scenario. It's raining, you're waiting for your bus and you suddenly realise you've no money. So you run to the cash machine before dashing to the corner shop to buy some gum in order to get the necessary change. As you race back, the bus rushes past, drenching you with a puddle of water for good measure. So, are there any steps being taken

to make paying for your journey more convenient? Happily, Bergdís informs me that the company is currently researching the implementation of a credit/debit card payment system for passengers. "We are still in the planning stage with this, as we need to find a system of processing payments that won't cause unwanted delays for customers. But we recognise the importance of this issue and it is something that we are developing and intend to roll out in the coming months."

GOING GREEN

Encouraging people to choose public transport over cars makes pretty good environmental sense. I asked if the company had any specific plans to roll out more eco-friendliness down the line. "Alongside internal recycling policies, we currently have two buses running on methane bio-fuel, and are looking at various methods of increasing this number," Bergdís replied. Possible solutions mentioned were hybrid models or the introduction of electric buses, the latter being a solution Iceland should be in a very strong position to develop given its natural resources.

Strætó's official mission statement

seeks to encourage people to take the bus, seeing it as a more efficient, environmentally friendly and quicker solution than using a private car. Will these changes enable the company to deliver on its ambition? This remains a case of wait and see. "We've had mainly positive feedback, although a few people have voiced their annoyance at the announcements. The system is still being tested and we are working on finding a good medium for everyone," Bergdís told me. She also believed that while many might be slow to embrace these changes, they would greatly benefit many regular and new passengers, as well increase accessibility for those with hearing and visual impairments. "We can't address all of these issues overnight, but this is an important first step and we firmly believe that it is a positive one for many in the long term".

In the drive to reduce traffic congestion, encourage 'greener' transport options and generally just get from A to B with a little less hassle, let's hope so. ☺

✍ EIMEAR FITZGERALD
📷 HÖRÐUR SVEINSSON



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



MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS – EDDAS AND SAGAS
The Ancient Vellums on Display



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



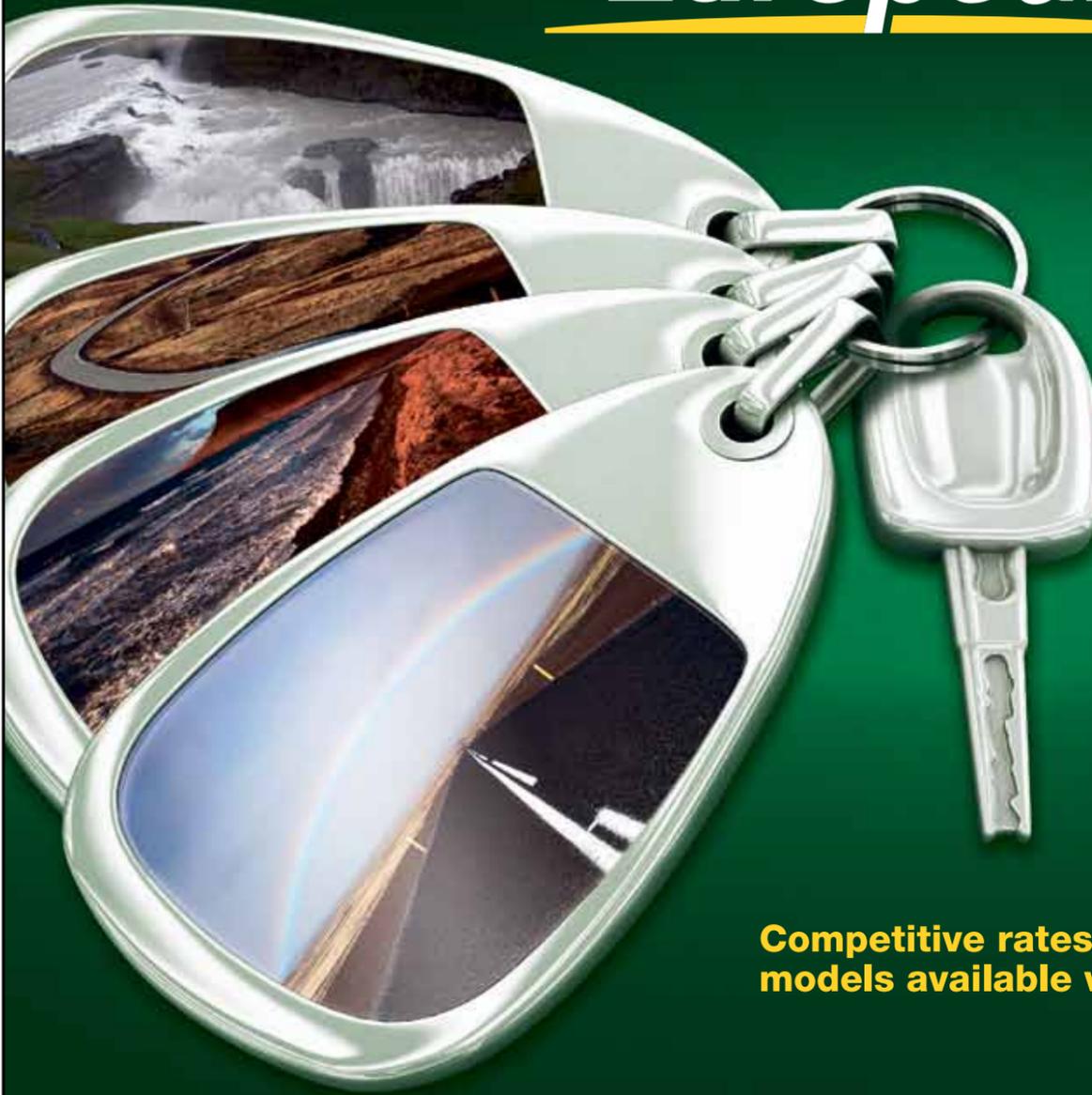
EXHIBITIONS - GUIDED TOURS
CAFETERIA - CULTURE SHOP

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

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



Europcar



ENJOY FREEDOM OF MOBILITY

Competitive rates and great choice of makes and models available wherever you're travelling.

Europcar Reservations Centre + (354) 461 6000 · holdur@holdur.is · www.holdur.is · 14 Rental locations around Iceland

BÍLALEIGA
AKUREYRAR
— Holdur —



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

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

*From the Hávamál, 1300 AD

 Icelandic
Sheep Farmers

biadur@gmail.com / photo: AJS

Egill Helgason is a man of many talents, in case you were wondering. Besides running a political talk show on Icelandic State TV, he also runs a literary programme there. And he blogs a lot for website Eyjan.is. Busy man!

Iceland Two Years After The Crash

A Case Of Revolutionary Fatigue

Iceland has gone through several phases since the crash of October 2008, when the country's banking system collapsed in the space of a week and the currency lost half its value. First there was total astonishment that such things could happen in a supposedly advanced Nordic state, then came a period of anger, culminating in the-so called 'Pots And Pans Revolution' of January 2009. There was even a period of optimism when we thought a new kind of society might emerge from this ordeal.

This might be called the phase of revolutionary fervour, when spontaneous citizens' assemblies got staged in cinemas and theatres where government ministers got booed down. But since then things have become rather more longwinded. We have gone through a stage of a total lack of trust—a left wing government that took over after elections in April 2009 is considered a huge disappointment—and now we seem to be drifting into a period of apathy.

MEGALOMANIA AND GLOOM

It came as a shock to many Icelanders to realise that they lived in a corrupt society. The people of this large but sparsely inhabited island have often nourished strange ideas about themselves. They tend to think of themselves as being quite unique in the universe—so outbursts of extreme optimism, even megalomania, are not infrequent, alternating with periods of gloom and insecurity. Icelanders are not of a stable mindset like the neighbouring peoples of Scandinavia, for example.

During the boom years, Iceland experienced the greatest stock market boom in history, and the size

Words

Egill Helgason

Illustration

Lóa Hjálmtýsdóttir

of the collapse is also unprecedented: Icelanders thought of themselves as being better, more clever, than the Scandinavians. This is even written up in a now infamous 2006 report from Iceland's Chamber of Commerce, which stated that Icelanders had nothing to learn from their Scandinavian counterparts as they were better than them in every sense.

NATIONALISTIC SENTIMENTS

Thus it has always been easy to play upon nationalistic sentiments in Iceland, even after the collapse. In fact, some claim that Iceland was a victim of an international conspiracy to bring down its economy. They refer to this alleged plot as "the siege"—it is a rather outlandish claim considering the losses incurred by Icelandic banks on foreign lenders, investors and savers. All the same it can be said that the Icelandic public was the victim of its own inexperience and cupidity.

During the great boom years from 2002 to 2008, most people were quite proud of the bankers, hailed by many, including the President of Iceland, as being financial wizards of a new kind. So people did not understand what was behind the facade: That the banks had been privatised into the hands of cronies of the political parties, that they were getting fat on cheap credit, that the financial institutions had been allowed to grow into twelve times the size of the economy—and this based on the króna, one of the smallest currencies in the world—and that finally the banks were robbed from the inside with huge bonuses and loans to their owners and their friends.

AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR CHANGE

The bankers are now outcasts, perceived as being crooks. After the crash there was a sense of purpose, things had to be investigated and put right. The new government was ambitious; this was a time of reckoning and renewal. A criminal investigation of the banks was started under the direction of the French/Norwegian prosecutor Eva Joly, a special committee of the Parliament researched

the banks as well as the failures of the government and the officialdom, an application was sent to join the European Union, it was thought necessary to change the constitution—which is an archaic piece of paper from colonial times, given to us by a Danish king in the 19th century—and there were plans to overturn the system of how fishing quotas are distributed, a very touchy subject in a country so dependent on fisheries.

All this was to be accomplished while at the same time restoring the economy and paying off huge debts, albeit under the auspices of the International Monetary Fund.

A RETURN TO THE OLD WAYS

This was very promising indeed, but now, two years after the crash, things seem a bit different. Maybe revolutionary fatigue has set in. A constitutional assembly is scheduled for this winter, but not many seem to be interested anymore. Interest groups have regained their confidence, including the powerful owners of fishing quotas—these quotas being one of the most important sources of wealth in Iceland.

The banks are being revived, mainly on the shoulders of the common debtor, there are just as many employees in the banks as before—while common people are struggling with their mountains of debt, the legal profession prospers. Traditional party bickering has returned after a period when the political parties seemed a bit subdued. The Independence Party, the party most responsible for the crash, is on the rise again.

IS NO ONE RESPONSIBLE?

What is also interesting is that nobody seems to accept any responsibility. Of almost 150 people who appeared before a committee of the parliament, not one politician or official—I repeat not one—accepted any blame for how they managed to allow the economy to run into such troubles, collapse, while apparently sleepwalking through the whole sordid affair.

Politicians also seem to share the ideas that the bankers and financiers are solely to blame, not those who set the rules and were supposed to enforce them. This is of course very convenient, as it absolves the whole political class as well as the civil service.

At the moment Parliament is debating whether to press charges for gross negligence against gov-

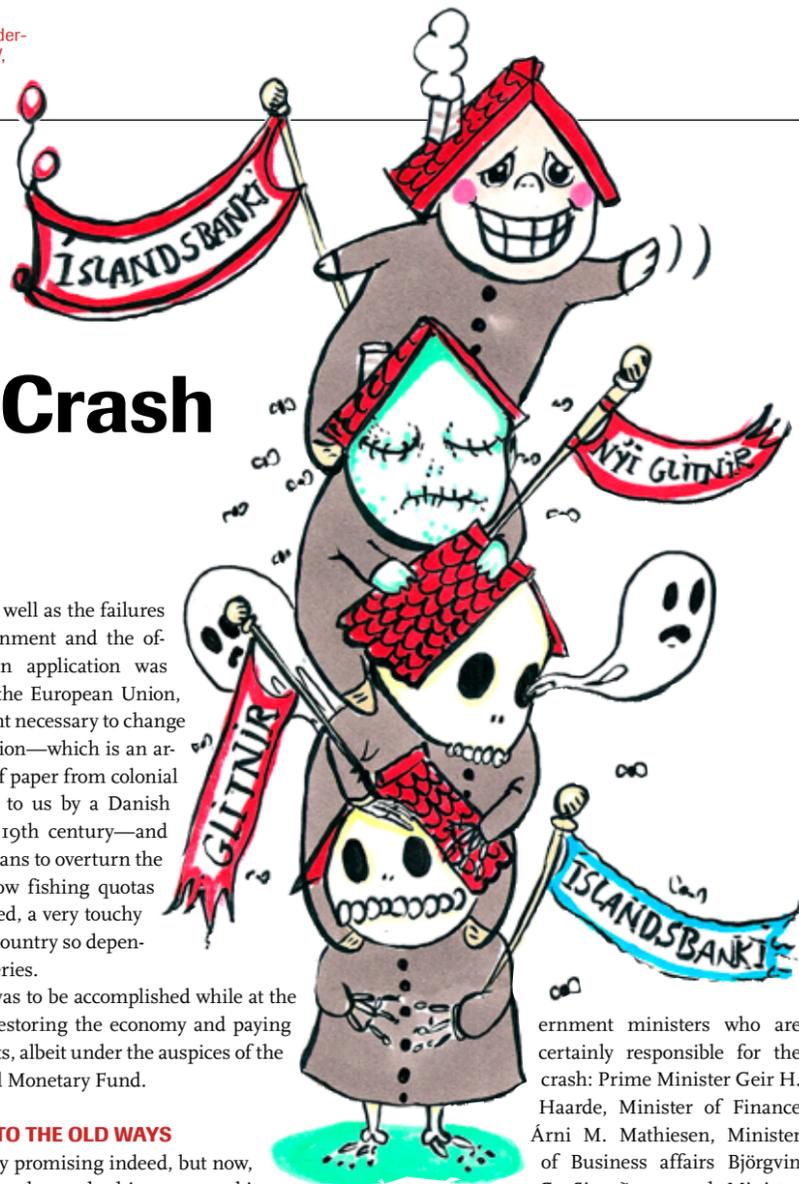
ernment ministers who are certainly responsible for the crash: Prime Minister Geir H. Haarde, Minister of Finance Árni M. Mathiesen, Minister of Business affairs Björgvin G. Sigurðsson and Minister

of Foreign Affairs Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir. They have all resigned from politics. For the Parliament this is a rather agonizing process, as these people are fellow party members and old friends. Many of those who sit in the parliament at the moment—and even in government—might also, paradoxically, share some of the responsibility for the crash.

So most likely this will come to nought. Due to statutes of limitation this court case—which should be held before a special court as stipulated in the constitution but never before convened—only reaches back to 2007, whereas the course of events that ended in the crash was put in motion much earlier, in the first years of the decade, during the privatisation of the banks and the ensuing weakening of regulation. So it seems that some of the main culprits—including former Prime Ministers Davíð Oddsson and Halldór Ásgrímsson—will get off quite lightly.

THE POLISH WAY?

Another way that has been mentioned is the Polish one. In 2003, during the reign of Davíð Oddsson, parliament voted for huge increases in pensions, especially for government ministers. In Poland, old politicians and government officials from communist times have had their pensions slashed. It might be an educating and edifying experience for some of these people to live on the pension of average Icelanders—which have had to be cut because of their misguided policies and incompetence. ☹



EXPERIENCE MORE IN ICELAND

Special Tours offers Whale and Sea Angling adventures upon request.

FOR MORE INFO: +354 892 0099
ONLINE BOOKING: www.specialtours.is



Mountaineers of Iceland

SUPER JEEP & SNOWMOBILE TOURS

Mountaineers of Iceland • Skútuvegur 12E • 104 Reykjavík • Iceland
 Telephone: +354 580 9900 Ice@mountaineers.is • www.mountaineers.is • www.activity.is

ég tala ekki íslensku

I ❤️ RVK

DON'T FUCK WITH ICELAND!
WE MAY NOT HAVE CASH, BUT WE'VE GOT ASH!

Probably the **coolest** t-shirt store in the world!

DOGMA
 laugavegur 30 - www.dogma.is

RUN FOR IT

POLAR BEER

LÉTTÖL

A Letter to Victor Blaer

From one of the Grapevine's leftist communistic hippies

Dear Victor Blaer,

I was surprised by your article in the last edition of this fine publication [Reykjavík Grapevine, issue 14: 'Foreign Investment Racism and Grapevine's Leftist Communistic Hippies']. I laughed at your loaded headline that you fail to back up with any reference to the Grapevine's coverage of the debate surrounding the private ownership of natural resources and Magma Energy Canada/Sweden. Call me a leftist communistic hippie, to use your own words, but I'm starting to feel more like a conspiracy theorist—something about your article just didn't sit right.

So I Googled you.

You see, Victor, you probably shouldn't qualify the superiority of your arguments over those of all the "stupid people [who] continue to make noise" by writing of yourself "I've worked as a geophysics researcher and as corporate finance professional focusing on geothermal power, dating back to 2001" in the age of Google if you don't want people to make some connections between you and the foreign investors to whom we hippies show prejudice. And if you don't mind the connections splayed across the table then why not just spell them out for the Grapevine's readers to better understand whose words they are digesting.

Victor, you have "been with Capacent since 2006," if I may quote the Capacent website directly. Your "area of focus is corporate and quantitative finance." Moreover, you are a research analyst for the Centre of Systems Biology of the University of

Iceland. Your own LinkedIn profile confirms these two positions. Also, I have it under good authority that you were working in a men's clothing store in 2001 and beyond, but that is neither here nor there.

My friend, it is people like you who give birth to leftist communistic hippies. It is people like you who work for Capacent, the very firm in Iceland that advised Magma Energy on the purchase of HS Orka, and then fail to mention this fact when writing a scathing critique of the "stupid" public's noise over the privatisation of their natural resources and prejudice against foreign investors—investors whose success in this country is your bread and butter—who create the need for scepticism of Icelandic business deals and foreign investors engaged in the country.

I have written in the past [see Magma Energy Lied to Us] on the need for more honesty, openness and transparency in all business dealings surrounding the sale of natural resources and all deals that would see control of Iceland's resources loaned out to foreign investors or others for lengthy periods of time. If the "stupid" public wasn't constantly having the facts of the matter hidden from them and if the "leftist communistic hippies" weren't constantly being lied to by businessmen and politicians with an inflated sense of importance and power (all the while forgetting that is the "stupid people" who elect them and truly hold all the power if ever they cared to exercise it) then perhaps there wouldn't be this societal divide where resources are concerned.

Victor Blaer, maybe you are a good guy and

maybe Ross Beaty and Magma Energy of Canada are the cleanest that a businessman and his corporation can be, but until there is honesty and transparency from the very start, you'll have to forgive us stupid people for making a little noise as we trudge through the never ending LIES and nepotistic dealings.

To move beyond your first paragraph, I, too, am no fan of the governments' action or lack thereof in this Magma situation—my own belief is that much hate is being spewed at Magma and Ross Beaty personally when the reality is that Magma and Mr. Beaty would not be in the position of being able to purchase Iceland's geothermal resources if the government grew a pair and stood up for the best long-term interest of the Icelandic nation rather than allowing private business to prioritise the short-term financial gain of a few—but for you to write "The more involved government gets in industries that are supposed to be run on a competitive basis the higher our taxes get, because they suck at it and need our money to finance their failures," makes me laugh. Was it not the PRIVATE banks and PRIVATE business that sucked so hard at doing their jobs that they have forced taxpayers to finance their failures?

I respect your right to an opinion and I respect your right to voice it within the larger sphere of communication that is the media, but if you are so sure in your opinion that you will spell it out in 1,783 words then be sure, also, that your personal interest in the success of Magma Energy, and others like it who are advised in Iceland by the compa-



That's just, like, your opinion, man.

ny that pays your salary, will raise some eyebrows. Maybe if you and others involved were honest about your affiliations stupid leftist communistic hippies like me would quit making all this noise.

Then again, maybe if we really knew what was going on we'd come to our senses and make even more.

All the best. 🍷

CATHARINE FULTON

Opinion | Dominic Rowland

What Do Jón Gnarr And Boris Johnson Have In Common?

"Anyone capable of getting themselves elected as President should on no account be allowed to do the job". So said the late author Douglas Adams. To Reykjavík's credit, it did the next best thing and elected someone who didn't really seem to be trying.



Here in London, we recognise something familiar in the unexpected rise of Jón Gnarr and The Best Party. We too have a mayor elected primarily because it seemed like a nice idea at the time. While I have high hopes for The Best Party, who seem to me like a thoughtful and progressive bunch, I fear

that the inexplicable rise of these two men—one a comedian and accidental politician, the other a politician and accidental comedian—tells us more about the state of our society than it does about them.

At first glance, Boris Johnson, the right wing Mayor of London, and Jón Gnarr, the anarchist comedian and accidental mayor of Reykjavík, have little in common. Jón, an Icelandic ex-punk singer turned anarchist comedian, rose to fame with his avant-garde comedy and his appearances in films, television and radio. Boris is a bona fide member of the British aristocracy famed for his unkempt appearance and inexplicable ability to charm his way out of a scandal.

Both men have established themselves as people who don't play by the rules and defy our lazy shortcuts to classify politicians. Jón Gnarr has an innate dislike for classifying people and deliberately refuses to be placed in a box. Boris meanwhile is the opposite of the modern polished politician. Famed for being dishevelled, disorganised and muddled, were he a Green Party member he would be written off as an environmentalist cliché. But since he is a Conservative, and breaks the

stereotype, he can do what Boris does.

But it goes beyond simply not obeying the rules; they've created their own rules. And when you create your own rules, no one judges you by the same standards as other politicians. That might explain how every scandal Boris inexplicably stumbles through makes him seem more charming and more loveable, but also explains the freedom that Jón has to be creative without fear of being judged by same standards as other politicians.

In part it may be symptomatic of a greater ill. Politics has become so discredited, and society so celebrity obsessed, that we care more about who a person is than what they'll do. Neither Boris nor Jón ran on any real platform, but somehow it didn't matter. The main thrust of Boris' campaign was to bring back the famous London red bus—a sincere pledge, but one no less ludicrous or irrelevant to the people than Gnarr's promise to put a polar bear in the city zoo. Most people who voted for Boris were either unaware, or simply didn't care, that behind his shocking blond mop and affable demeanour lay a hard right politician. Nor did the voters of Reykjavík care that most The

Best Party's platform was either vague or silly—at least they were entertaining.

And here lies the nub of the matter. The politics of the centre ground killed political theatre and it took the heart out. People are tired of the same old plastic mould politics with rent-a-face politicians, which means when anybody different comes along we jump aboard—whatever they stand for. Politicians argue more and debate less. The strategy meetings, polling data and focus groups have identified the small minority of floating voters who swing an elections and now nothing else matters.

But the fault is as much ours as it is theirs. What Boris and Jón Gnarr show us is that while we continue to hold notions of what a politician should be and constrain what they can say and do, we'll be stuck with the same old second rate hacks, refusing to engage in anything more meaningful than a short term expediency. Meanwhile, thoughtful and intelligent individuals will continue to shun politics, leaving us with the same old second-rate hacks running our countries. 🍷



Get today's international papers at Eymundsson

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

AVAILABLE ONLY AT EYMUSSON AUSTURSTRÆTI



Eymundsson.is

Eymundsson
Bóksali frá 1872



EXPECT HANG OVERS...



NASA

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

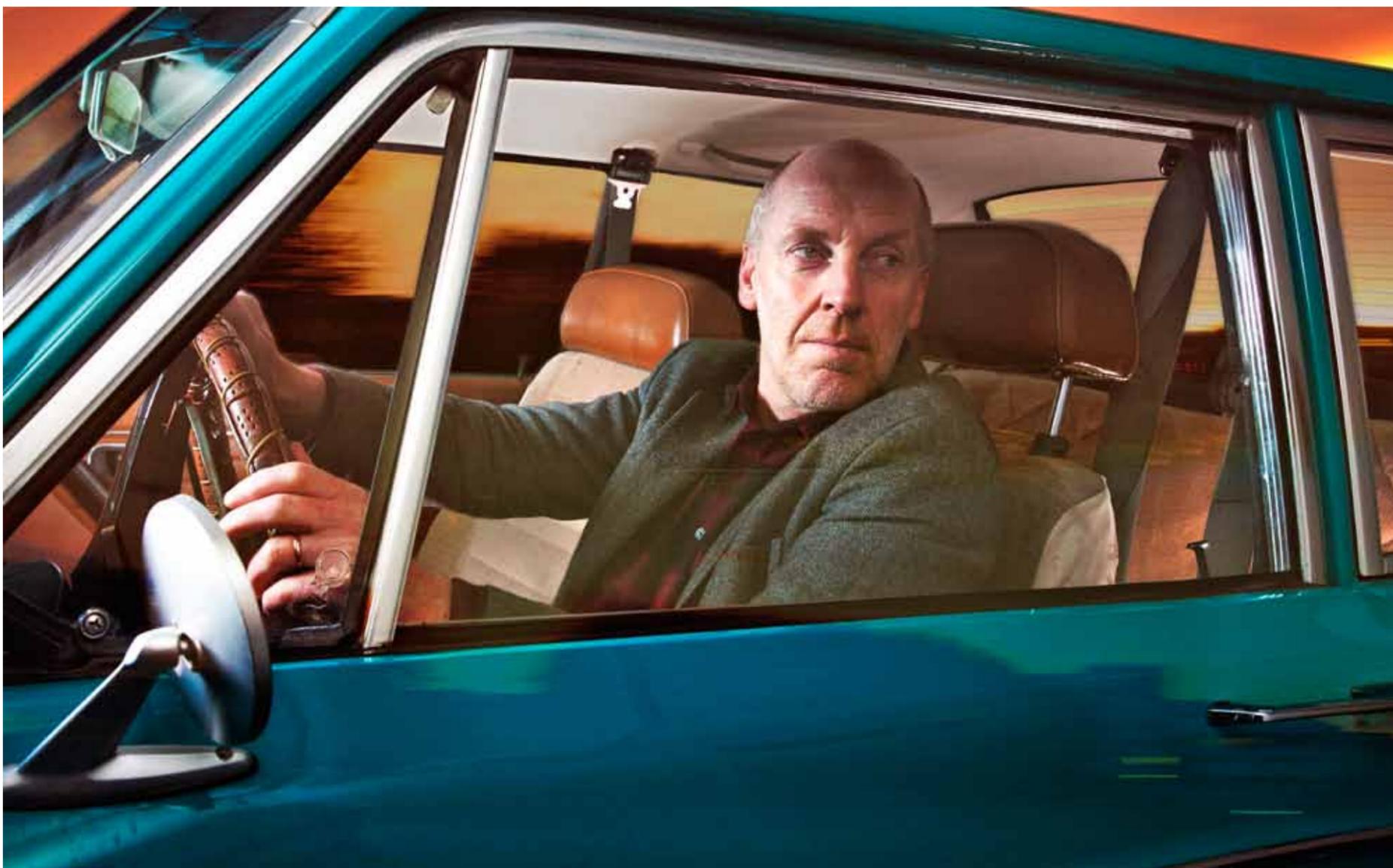
Interview | Steingrímur J. Sigfússon, Minister of Finance

We're still wondering: What happened? How did Iceland get knocked so flat on its collective ass? And what's being done about it? So we thought we'd call up our Minister of Finance, Left Green chairman Steingrímur J. Sigfússon, and ask him. To our surprise, he picked up. Here's what we talked about.

By Haukur S. Magnússon Photo Baldur Kristján

WHERE IS HE TAKING US?

Iceland's Minister of Finance is in the driver's seat



The short version

Since this is a tourist magazine, and in English, we need to start at the beginning—we can't assume that folks will know what we're talking about. You are Minister of Finance—how did that happen?

It happened thusly: a government fell here in the end of January 2009, following a bank collapse in October of 2008. This resulted in great civic and political unrest, lots of troubles and hardship and the government that was then in place was forced to admit defeat. People had been talking about possibly forming a national government [where all parties collaborate] to respond to the unrest, but the then-government was not fond of the idea. But they eventually became exhausted, their coalition shattered and a new government was formed by the Left Green Party and the Social Democratic Alliance. The

Progressive Party supported that government until that spring's election.

In the elections of April 2009, we and the Social Democrats won a pure majority combined [thus eliminating the need for the Progressives' support] and we formed a government.

I am chairman of one of the two ruling parties, and have dealt with economics and finance, so it was natural that I would become Minister of Finance. Actually, I also served as Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture during our minority government period—that was a very busy time—but since May 10, 2009, I have focused only on the state's finances. It is a big job, as a lot of the problems created by the collapse wind up on my desk. I think I can safely assert that no one got as big a portion of collapse-related problems as I did.

That's the short version.

Money. Lots of it

Can you describe taking over the job in February of 2009? What sort of estate did your predecessor leave you?

It was hard, of course, everything had been pretty much paralysed here by the horrific events that unfolded and the pressure of dealing with them. The government that burst was not very functional by the end and several matters were frozen. So we had to pull up our sleeves and get things moving, put a lot of projects into motion as soon as we started.

We resorted to various temporary measures to assist companies and homes that were experiencing trouble; we granted them various leniencies on payments and allowed taxes to be paid over a longer period of time. We greatly increased interest relief to help families that were hurt by how much their loans had gone up as a result of the collapse.

Of course we didn't manage to finish everything we intended to, such as greatly improving the state of our democracy by introducing a direct, person-based voting system, a constituent assembly, etc. We managed to complete some of those goals, but not all. However, this was in my view a diligent and energetic government that was successful in doing the best it could in the short time that it had.

As an amateur, I have to wonder what it was exactly that had to be dealt with...

On one hand all the loans skyrocket along with the interest rate, the króna collapses and there's suddenly a gaping void of money that needs to be filled... The effects on the state treasury were dramatic, and its income basis collapsed completely. It's evident when you note that in 2007 the state treasury had a surplus of 89 billion ISK, while by the end of 2008 there was a

216 billion ISK deficit. The downswing in state income was also unprecedented.

And the Central Bank went technically bankrupt and we had to refinance it. That's the largest single amount we've had to pay thus far, what the state had to shell out because of the Central Bank. We wrote off 192 billion ISK in 2008 as a result. That's a lot of money.

Imaginary assets

This money that vanished—where did it go?

A lot of the state's assets burned up; our equity lost its value and both real and imaginary assets got lost. We don't mourn the imaginary assets, the bubble assets, but a lot of very real ones burned up and became worthless overnight, in companies and banks. Unemployment skyrocketed; a lot of people that previously had well paying jobs lost them, which meant a decreased income for the

The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE --- iNFO



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

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL AND
ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND

Issue 15 - 2010

www.grapevine.is



Where's The Snow!?

Iðnó

Premieres September 26

Tickets 1000 ISK, available through RIFF

NEW STUFF FROM KIMI RECORDS!



S.H. DRAUMUR
GOD+

Juicy remastered deluxe edition with Iceland's finest indie rock album + bonus CD of 24 songs from 7", 10", 12" and cassettes.

Out October 7th



SWORDS OF CHAOS
THE END IS AS NEAR AS YOUR TEETH

Swords of Chaos debut album is finally available in your favorite record store. An instant classic!

Release concert in Factory Bar
October 1st. Ticket sales in Havarí

ALL MUSIC AVAILABLE IN HAVARÍ

www. **KIMI** records.com

MUSIC

CONCERTS & NIGHTLIFE IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

*PRESCRIBING WITH LOVE
MUSIC FOR YOUR LIVE
EXPERIENCE*

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

24 FRI

- Apótek**
22:00 DJ Fannar.
- Astur**
22:00 DJ Símon.
- B5**
22:00 DJ Leifur.
- Bar 11**
00:00 Ómar á X-inu. Live DJ
- Bakkus**
22:00 DJ Kári.
- Café Oliver**
22:00 Girls Night. DJ Maggi & Brynar Már.
- Café Rosenberg**
22:00 Varsjárbandalagið. Icelandic balkan music.
- Celtic Cross**
22:00 Live music.
- Den Danske Kro**
22:00 Live music. Sing-along night.
- Dubliner**
22:00 Live music.
- English Pub**
22:00 Live music.
- Faktorý**
21:00 Standup & DJ KGB on the first floor.
- Hressó**
22:00 Böddi and Davið Troubadours & DJ Fúsi.
- Hverfisbarinn**
Funky Fridays – old school fund and hip hop atmosphere.
- Kaffibarinn**
22:00 Alfons X. Live DJ.
- P**
22:00 Daddi Disco and Hlynur.
- Prikið**
22:00 Danni D and Rottweiler.
- Thorvaldsen**
22:00 Live DJ.
- University of Iceland**
Octóberfest. Costume competition, pretzels, beer and more.
- Vegamót**
22:00 DJ Jónas.
- Venue**
22:00 Soundtrack!
Beer 500 ISK, film loops and DJ.

25 SAT

- Apótek**
22:00 DJ Fannar.
- Astur**
22:00 DJ Jónas.
- B5**
22:00 DJ Jóhann Valur.
- Bar 11**
23:00 Óli Dóri / Weapons
- Bakkus**
22:00 DJ KGB.
- Café Oliver**
22:00 Girls Night. DJ Maggi & Brynar Már.
- Café Rosenberg**
22:00 Varsjárbandalagið. Icelandic balkan music.

- dic balkan music.
- Celtic Cross**
22:00 Live music.
- Den Danske Kro**
22:00 Live music. Sing-along night.
- Dubliner**
22:00 Live music.
- English Pub**
22:00 Live music.
- Faktorý**
23:00 Ask the Slave record release concert & DJ Logi Pedro on the first floor.
- Hressó**
22:00 Penta Band and DJ Fúsi.
- Hverfisbarinn**
DJs playin' hip hop, R&B, house and funk until the morning.
- Kaffibarinn**
22:00 Pabbahelgi #6 - Gísl Galdur & Benni B Ruff.
- P**
22:00 Daddi Disco and Hlynur.
- Prikið**
22:00 VIP party. Farewell night for Dóra.
- Sódóma**
23:00 The Diversion Sessions
Klassart and Markús
- Thorvaldsen**
22:00 Live DJ.
- University of Iceland**
Sveitaball with DJ Atli and Skítamóráll.
- Vegamót**
22:00 DJ Símon.

26 SUN

- Café Oliver**
22:00 Live music.
- Café Rosenberg**
21:00 Whistling Gypsy. Live music.
- Celtic Cross**
22:00 Live music.
- Den Danske Kro**
22:00 Live music.
- Dubliner**
22:00 Live music.
- English Pub**
22:00 Live music.
- Prikið**
22:00 Hangover Film Night. Film: Black Sheep. Free popcorn

27 MON

- Balthazar**
Tango practica.
- Bakkus**
21:00 Movie Night: Taking Tiger Mountain (1983).
- Café Oliver**
Margarita Monday. 2 for 1 margaritas. Live music by Raggi Troubadour.
- Café Rosenberg**
21:00 Dirty Deal. Blues band.
- Celtic Cross**
22:00 Live music.
- Den Danske Kro**
22:00 Live music.
- Dubliner**
22:00 Live music.
- English Pub**
22:00 Live music.
- Kaffi Zimsen**
Best friends day. Beer offer.
- Prikið**
21:00 DJ Smoke. Wine and cheese for 2, 1000 ISK.
- Sólón**
Salsa dancing night.

28 TUE

- Café Oliver**
Live karaoke night.
- Café Rosenberg**
21:00 Live music.
- Celtic Cross**
22:00 Live music.
- Den Danske Kro**
22:00 Live music & beer bingo.
- Dubliner**
22:00 Live music.
- English Pub**
22:00 Live music.
- Prikið**
Anna Brá.

29 WED

- Astur**
Live jazz groove.
- Bakkus**
22:00 Live DJ.
- Café Oliver**
22:00 JJ Group.
- Café Rosenberg**
21:00 Skúli Þórðar and band. Folk music.
- Celtic Cross**
22:00 Live music.
- Den Danske Kro**
22:00 Live music & pop-quiz.
- Dubliner**
22:00 Live music.
- English Pub**
22:00 Live music.
- Faktorý**
19:00 Fátæka leikhúsið (Icelandic theatre).
- Hverfisbarinn**
Live music, special offers.
- Kaffibarinn**
22:00 Extreme chill.
- Kaffitár café**
20:00 Tango Milonga.
- Kaffi Zimsen**
Playday. Offers at the bar when the bells rings.
- Prikið**
Beer offer - Buy large for 700 ISK and small beer comes free.
- S.L.Á.T.U.R headquarters, Njálsgata**
17:00 Sláturtíð 2010 - Festival of Experimental Music opening.
- Útgerðin, Grandagarður 16**
20:00 Sláturtíð 2010 - Ensemble Fengjastrútur, which focuses on performing "open" scores. 1500 ISK.
- Venue**
ESN.

30 THU

- B5**
Troubadours Sjonni & Hreimur.
- Bakkus**
DJ Dirty Wizard.
- Café Oliver**
Ingo Weathergod.
- Café Rosenberg**
21:00 Austin Lucas. Live jazz.
- Celtic Cross**
22:00 Live music.
- Den Danske Kro**
22:00 Live music.
- Dillon Rock Bar**
22:00 Red Square Rokk. Live music.
- Dubliner**
22:00 Live music.

Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

Amsterdam Hafnarstræti 5 D2	Celtic Cross Hverfisgata 26 E4	NASA Þorvaldsenstræti 2 E3
Apótek Austurstræti 16 E3	Dillon Laugavegur 30 F5	Nýlenduvörverzlun Hemma & Valda Laugavegur 21 E4
Astur Austurstræti 7 E3	Dubliner Hafnarstræti 4 D3	Næsti Bar Ingólfstræti 1A E3
B5 Bankastræti 5 E3	English Pub Austurstræti 12 D2	Óliver Laugavegur 20A F5
Babalú Skólavörðustígur 22 G5	Glaumbar Tryggvagata 20 D2	Ólstofan Vegamótastígur E4
Bar 11 Laugavegur 11 E4	Highlander Lækjargata 10 E3	Prikið Bankastræti E3
Barbara Laugavegur 22 F6	Hressó Austurstræti 20 E3	Rósenberg Klapparstígur 25 E4
Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20 E3	Hverfisbarinn Hverfisgata 20 E4	Sódóma Reykjavík Tryggvagata 22 D3
Boston Laugavegur 28b F5	Jacobsen Austurstræti 9 E3	Sólón Bankastræti 7A E3
Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 E4	Kaffi Zimsen Hafnarstræti 18 D3	Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 D2
Café Paris Austurstræti 14 E3	Kaffibarinn Bergstræðastræti 1 E4	Vegamót Vegamótastígur 4 E4
Balthazar Hafnarstræti 1-3 D2	Karamba Laugavegur 22 F4	Venue Tryggvagata 22 D3

HOTEL KEILIR

Best located downtown hotel
in Keflavík
5 min from the airport

Special summer offers

contact us now
tel: +354-4209800
www.airporthotel.is

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Faktorý
23:00 Göslí & guests.

Hemmi & Valdi
15:00 Svavar Knútur
21:00 Jóhann Kristinn & Bowen Staines (USA) .

Hressó
22:00 Jogvan and Hreimur Troubadours.

Hverfisbarinn
„Thirsty Thursday“. Live music and beer offer between 22:00 and 23:30.

Kaffibarinn
22:00 TBA.

Kaffi Zimsen
Ólafsvaka. Beer offer.

Kofi Tómasar Frænda
22:00 Troubadour.

Prikið
Surprise night. Beer offer.

Sódóma
22:00 Rocktober fest X-977
Mammút , Bloodgroup, Endless Dark and more
Festival Pass 2500ISK, 1500ISK per night
Limited Availability. Beer offers

Útgerðin
20:00 Sláturtíð 2010 - Ensemble Skmendanikka which specializes in performing on new/specially designed/homemade instruments.

Vegamót
Live DJ.

1 FRI

Apótek
22:00 Live DJ.

Austur
22:00 Live DJ.

B5
22:00 Live DJ.

Bar 11
00:00 Gulli Ósóma

Bakkus
22:00 DJ Öfull.

Café Oliver
Girls Night. DJ Maggi & Brynjar Már.

Café Rosenberg
22:00 Hvanndalsbræður. Live music.

Celtic Cross
22:00 Live music.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music. Sing-along night.

Dubliner
22:00 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Faktorý
22:00 Swords of Chaos
Album Release. DJ Dans Hans on the first floor.

Kaffibarinn
22:00 DBF & Terrordisco

Hemmi & Valdi
21:00 (Warm up act) & Mukkaló.

Hressó
22:00 Dalton live music & DJ Elli.

Hverfisbarinn
Funky Fridays – old school fund and hip hop atmosphere.

Kjarvalstaðir
20:00 Sláturtíð 2010
Finnish ensemble Defun. Mix of traditional instruments and computers. 1500 ISK.

P
22:00 Daddi Disco and Hlynur.

Sódóma
22:00 Rocktober fest X-977
Mammút , Bloodgroup, Endless Dark and more
Festival Pass 2500ISK, 1500ISK per night
Limited Availability. Beer offers

Thorvaldsen
22:00 Live DJ.

Vegamót
22:00 Live DJ.

Venue
23:00 Agzilla. Live music.

2 SAT

Apótek
22:00 Live DJ.

Austur
22:00 DJ Jonás

B5
22:00 DJ.

Bar 11
00:00 Ágúst Þorðarson.

Bakkus
22:00 DJ Ámi Sveins

Café Oliver
22:00 Girls Night. DJ Maggi & Brynjar Már.

Café Rosenberg
22:00 Hvanndalsbræður. Live music.

Celtic Cross
22:00 Live music.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music & sing-along night.

Dubliner
22:00 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Faktorý
23:00 Momentum record release concert & DJ Maggi Legó on the first floor.

Hemmi & Valdi
23:00 DJ Unnar Andrea.

Hressó
22:00 Mars live & DJ Elli.

Hverfisbarinn
DJs playin' hip hop, R&B, house and funk until the morning.

Kaffibarinn
22:00 DJ KGB

P
22:00 Daddi Disco and Hlynur.

Sódóma
22:00 Rocktober fest X-977
Mammút , Bloodgroup, Endless Dark and more
Festival Pass 2500ISK, 1500ISK per night
Limited Availability. Beer offers

Sölvhóll
20:00 Sláturtíð 2010 - Finnish ensemble Defun. Mix of traditional instruments and computers. 1500 ISK.

Thorvaldsen
22:00 Live DJ.

Vegamót
22:00 Live DJ.

Venue
22:00 DJ Terriers (Animal Collective)
Sunshine, weirdo beats and abrasive rhythms. 1000 ISK.

3 SUN

Café Oliver
22:00 Live music.

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Jona Byron farewell concert.

Celtic Cross
22:00 Live music.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:00 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Prikið
Hangover Movie Night. Free.

4 MON

Balthazar
20:00 Tango practica.

Bakkus
21:00 Movie night: Secret film!

Café Oliver
Margarita Monday.
Live music by Raggi Troubadour. 2 for 1 margaritas.

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Live Blues.

Celtic Cross
22:00 Live music.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dubliner
22:00 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Kaffi Zimsen
Best friends day. Beer offer.

Prikið
21:00 DJ Smoke. Wine and cheese for 2, 1000 ISK.

Sólon
20:00 Salsa Night

5 TUE

Café Oliver
Live karaoke night.

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Live music.

Celtic Cross
22:00 Live music.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music & beer bingo.

Dubliner
22:00 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Hemmi & Valdi
21:00 Myrra Rós & Gabriel Lynch (AUS).

6 WED

Astur
Live jazz groove.

Café Oliver
JJ Group.

Café Rosenberg
21:00 Hera Ólafs. Live music.

Celtic Cross
22:00 Live music.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music & pop-quiz.

Dubliner
22:00 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Hverfisbarinn
Live music, special offers.

Kaffitár café
20:00 Tango Milonga.

Kaffi Zimsen
Playday. Offers at the bar when the bells rings.

Prikið
Beer offer - Buy large for 700 ISK and small beer comes free.

Venue
21:00 Birthday Memorium for Astríður Mammút, Barujárn, Manslaughter, Catapiller, Poetry.

7 THU

Bakkus
22:00 Two Step Horror. Live DJ.

Café Oliver
Ingo Weathergod.

Café Rosenberg
21:00 South River Band. Live music.

Celtic Cross
22:00 Live music.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live music.

Dillon Rock Bar
22:00 Red Square Rokk. Live music.

Dubliner
22:00 Live music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Hressó
22:00 Jogvan and Vignir Troubadours.

Hverfisbarinn
„Thirsty Thursday“. Live music and beer offer between 22:00 and 23:30.

Kaffibarinn
22:00 Live DJ.

Kaffi Zimsen
Ólafsvaka. Beer offer.

Kofi Tómasar Frænda
22:00 Troubadour.

Venue
21:00 Kimi Records Airwaves warm-up
Just Another Snake Cult + guests.
Free.

ONGOING

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

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

LET'S TALK LOCAL REYKJAVÍK

COMEDY SHOW

WHEN: Every day at 18:00
WHERE: Restaurant Reykjavík Vesturgata 2
PRICE: 2.200 ISK

FOR BOOKING AND RESERVATION:
CALL +354 699 0740



Sláturtíð Experimental Music Festival
Various locations
Festival pass 1500 ISK

SLÁTUR, the progressive arts and music collective behind this far out project claim their goal is to host events of artistically aggressive music, promote artistically aggressive music in every way and create an artistic dialog between its members. Hence Sláturtíð 2010! Featuring artists such as, Áki Ásgeirsson, Finnish group Defun Ensemble, and Þorkell Atlason, the festival is a showcase for artists experimenting with both new and traditional instruments as well as exploring their interactions with electronics and digital sound. With support from Iceland Media Lab among others, the festival opens with a parade through downtown Reykjavík set to feature sound installations at different points along the way. Fun! For some more info on this experimental sound fest and the full programme of events, visit www.slatur.is. EF

Den Danske Kro

* Mondays *

Shot's night - all shots ISK 400.-

* Tuesdays *

Live music and Beer Bingo night

* Wednesdays *

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

* Thursdays *

Live Music / Scandinavian nights

* Fridays *

Live music / Sing-along nights

* Saturdays *

Live music / Sing-along nights

* Sundays *

Hangover & Live music night Really good prices on drinks

Den Danske Kro
Kro Bodega Pub

Ingólfsstræti 3 · 101 · Rík.
www.danskis.is

HAVARÍ DAY CLUB

SAT 25. SEPT @ 4PM
SWORDS OF CHAOS

SAT 2. OCT
HAVARÍ 1ST
BIRTHDAY PARTY!

SAT 9. OCT @ 4PM
HLJÓÐAKLETTAR

Haha
haha
haha
varí

AUSTURSTRÆTI 6 // 101 REYKJAVÍK

Sódoma

REYKJAVÍK

Sódoma Reykjavík Tryggvagata 22, 101 RVK
www.facebook.com/sodomareykjavik
www.twitter.com/sodomarvk

Music | Iceland Airwaves

ICELAND AIRWAVES HAS NEVER FEATURED AS MANY BANDS

As the Iceland Airwaves festival draws ever closer (four weeks! Four weeks!) they keep announcing new acts to the bill! Sheesh! There's not a chance we can see all we want. But that is a luxury problem.

We are really excited about this year's line-up, and the most recent additions to it are pretty amazing. There's everything from Chateau Marmont's warped seventies Euro disco to Auto-

drone, a heavy shoegaze band from the US, promising to add gothic meat to the bones of the festival. There's also FM Belfast (we know a lot of you were holding your breath for that), Dominique Young Unique, Shumi, Kenton Slash Demon, Sammi's Big Band, and dark prince of all that is hip in the electronic, no colours too bright, no sound is too loud, genius Dan Deacon. Tickets have been known to sell out

ICELAND AIRWAVES '10
 October 13-17

fast, but the last we checked they're still on sale at midi.is. The schedule is also now available online at www.icelandairwaves.is.

See y'all there!

Iceland Airwaves Warm-Up

Copenhagen



For years, the staff of the Iceland Airwaves festival has worked tirelessly to promote the festival abroad as an exciting option for a weekend get-away destination for young people on both sides of the Atlantic. As a part of this effort, Iceland Airwaves warm-up shows have been hosted regularly in both London and Copenhagen. This was my first opportunity to attend one of these festival promotion showcases and judging by the fanfare surrounding this event, I have probably been missing out.

The venue was sold out days in advance. It was not the largest of venues, truthfully, but a nice one, with the event taking place in reception loft in an old refurbished warehouse that jointly houses the Icelandic, the Greenlandic and the Faroese embassies on Nordatlantens Brygge. Inside, one can buy Icelandic beer and Maltöl, a rare taste of home, and admire the hide of an unlucky polar bear who met his maker before going on to bigger things

on a wall in Copenhagen.

The evening starts off with a very low-key performance by Danish duo Murder, who, despite their rather ominous sounding name, play stripped down folk tunes and at times evoke memories of my mother and her tireless appreciation for Simon and Garfunkel. Based around classical guitar plucking of Anders Mathiasen and interwoven by the restful voice of Jacob Bellens, their minimalistic melodies inspire a good part of their audience to simply take a seat on the floor and take in the peaceful atmosphere. But despite knowing that this will please a large part of the audience, as it probably does on most nights, I am mostly bored.

The Icelandic indie-rock outfit Dikta follow Murder on stage. Having established themselves quite admirably within Iceland, it may be their time to try their luck abroad behind the success of their third album, *Get it Together*, which was an altogether different beast from

their earlier albums. The power-chord driven indie-rock blasts have somewhat given way to a more eloquent and keyed down melodies which fit singer Haukur's vocal range a lot better, particularly in a live setting. They delivered a very solid 10-song set in front of an ecstatic crowd before returning for an encore or two. Their biggest slip-up of the night was the band members' woe-ful attempt at speaking Danish, an art best left to the locals.

Behind Dikta's performance, a DJ set has been scheduled, joining one of Iceland's more established names, DJ Margeir, with Denmark's prodigal son, Kasper Björke. But the crowd wears thin quickly, as most attendees seem to have another place to be. An hour later the party is called off.

—SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON

PHOTO BY VANDA HELLSING

Magic Thursdays

For concert information see music listings on this spread or visit us at www.sinfonia.is



ICELAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Tickets » 545 2500 » www.sinfonia.is » Concerts take place in Háskólabíó.



Sjónarhorn / A Considered View

Ljósmyndir eftir Wayne Gudmundson / The photographs of Wayne Gudmundson

18 September 2010 – 9 January 2011

LJÓSMYNDASAFN
 REYKJAVÍKUR
 Reykjavík Museum of Photography

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



BIRGIR ANDRÉSSON
 TUMI MAGNÚSSON
 ROMAN SIGNER
 10.07.2010 - 30.09.2010

Skafftjell CENTER FOR VISUAL ART

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

AUSTURVEGUR 42 | SEYDISFJÖRDUR | SKAFTFELL.IS

Outside Reykjavík | Venue finder

Keflavík
 Suðsuðvestur
www.sudsudvestur.is
 Hafnargata 22
 230 Reykjanesbær
 421-2225

Hafnarfjörður
 Hafnarborg
www.hafnarborg.is
 Strandgata 34
 220 Hafnarfjörður
 585-5790

Borgarnes
 The Icelandic Settlement Centre
www.landnam.is
 Brákarbraut 13-15
 310 Borgarnes
 437-1600

Stykkishólmur
 Vatnasafnið / Library of Water
www.libraryofwater.is

Akureyri
 Akureyri Art Museum
www.listasafn.akureyri.is
 Kaupvangsstræti 12
 600 Akureyri
 461 2610

Populus Tremula
poptrem.blogspot.com/
 Kaupvangsstræti 12
 600 Akureyri

Kunstraum Wohnraum
 Ásabyggð 2
 600 Akureyri

Mývatn
 Mývatnsstofa
 Hraunvegji 8
 660 Mývatn
 464-4390
www.visitmyvatn.is

Egilsstaðir
 Sláturhúsið
 Kaupvangi 7
 700 Egilsstaðir
 470-0692

Seyðisfjörður
 Skafftjell
www.skafftjell.is
 Austurvegur 42
 710 Seyðisfjörður
 472-1632

Hveragerði
 LÁ Art
www.listasafnarnesinga.is
 Austurmörk 21
 210 Hveragerði
 483-1727

OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

CONCERTS & EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

How to use the listings

Venues are listed alphabetically by day.

For complete listings and detailed information on venues visit

www.grapevine.is

MUSIC

24 FRI

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Hof Menningarhús, Akureyri
20:00, 4200 ISK.

25 SAT

Dance Party
800 Bar, Selfoss
23:00, Free in until 01:00.

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Hof Menningarhús, Akureyri
20:00 & 23:00, 4200 ISK.

30 THU

Hörður Torfason
Grænni Hatturinn, Akureyri
21:00 concert.

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Hof Menningarhús, Akureyri
20:00, 4200 ISK.

1 FRI

Klassart and Deep Jimi and the Zep Cream

Grænni Hatturinn, Akureyri
22:00 concert.

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Hof Menningarhús, Akureyri
20:00, 4200 ISK.

2 SAT

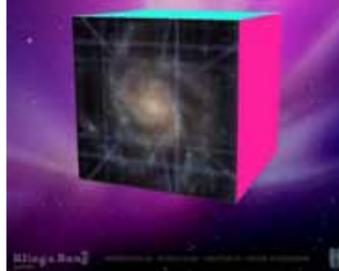
Memorial Concert William Vilhjálmsson

Hof Menningarhús, Akureyri
17:00, 3900 ISK.

Bjartmar and Bergisarnir, Valdimar og Lifun

Grænni Hatturinn, Akureyri
22:00 concert.

25 Sep - 24 Oct



Luminous

Visiting Gallery Kling & Bang is like a trip to outer space

Gallery Kling & Bang
Free

A new transcendental exhibition is opening in Gallery Kling & Bang. The exhibit's description is out of this world: "Since the beginning of time we have been fighting for our survival, this is in theory a lost cause as we are programmed to self destruct, and also to finish the great task of moving into the hyper real as a way of transformation into another space. This means that humanism will end as an unsynchronized primal provocation, and will also in the end call forth the end of the feeling of touch, smell, sight, and hearing... And then again the beauty of the cosmic world is that it will continue evolving as an identity of its own but often will use its energy sources from the activity that appear in the grid system. The fundamental truth and the real source of happening here is expansion but this is buried within every singular cell that exists within a solar system." Ragnar Jónsson and Tómas Lemarquis will exhibit videos, photographs and sculptures. Go check it out, it will definitely be mystical. **WW**

1 Oct

2 Oct



The future is now

You Are In Control conference talks creative business

October 1 & 2

Hilton Reykjavik Nordica Hotel. Admission 30.000 ISK

Creative young businesses usually operate from a laptop in a coffee house. If you happen to be one of them, grab your laptop and meet some other fellow creative café cruisers at the 'You Are In Control' conference. The conference features talks and discussions about interesting matters of business relating to creative industries, including music, media, arts, design and gaming. The Grapevine has put together a musical line-up to enjoy between conference sessions. Borgar Magnason on classical contrabass will perform in the morning of October 1. During lunch, Agent Fresco will spice up the food with some vibrant rock. With sounds that seem to penetrate to the bone, Mammút will take over as day one draws to a close. Day two will start with Sóley, the songstress who will perform some dreamy acoustic tunes. The jazz ensemble of Tómas R. Einarsson will play at what is bound to be one of the highlights of the conference, the New Nordic Food profiling and showcase event. The infamous Dikta will close day two as guests enjoy cocktails. Enjoy the music and get connected! **WW**

3 SUN

Memorial Concert William Vilhjálmsson

Hof Menningarhús, Akureyri
17:00, 3900 ISK

7 THU

Orri Harðarson

Grænni Hattur, Akureyri
21:00, concert.

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Hof Menningarhús, Akureyri
20:00, 4200 ISK.

ART OPENINGS

Café Karólína, Akureyri

Hrönn Einarsdóttir
Opening October 2

Hafnarborg, Hafnarfjörður

A Poke at Society
September 25, 15:00
Symposium - Talk discussing various forms of humour.

ART ONGOING

Akureyri Art Museum

Blaðaljósmzndarafélags Island
Runs until October 17
Photographs.

Trú/Guðir og menn

Runs until Oct ober 17
Photographs by Ken Opprann.

Byggðasafnsins Hvols, Dalvík

Fram til fortíðar (Until the Past)
Runs until November 28
Exhibits by Margrét Jónsdóttir, Þórdís Jónsdóttir, Íris Ólöf Sigurjónsdóttir and Þórarinn Blöndal.

Café Karólína, Akureyri

Margrét Buhl
Runs until October 1
Photographs

Dalir Og Hólar - Travel Drawings

Ólafsdalur, Gilsfjörður; Króksfjarðarnes; Nýp & Röðull, Skaróströnd

Gamli Baukur, Húsvík

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

The Ghost Centre, Stokkseyri

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

Gljúfrasteinn Laxness Museum

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

Hafnarborg, Hafnarfjörður

Following People and Drinking Milk
Runs until October 24th

Works by contemporary Icelandic artists from different generations dealing with humour and irony.

Hof Menningarhús, Akureyri

Guðnýr Kristmannsdóttir
Exhibition with the Art Society.

Hótel Varmahlíð

Horses & Men

Runs until January 1, 2011

Photographic exhibition which looks into the history of the horse, spanning 100 years.

The Icelandic Settlement Centre, Borgarnes

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

Öldrunarheimili, Akureyri

Warm You with the Memory
Runs until September 26
Exhibits by various artists.

Populus Tremula, Akureyri

Jared Battes
Runs until Mid October

Pompei of the North, Westman Islands

Excavation project at the site of the 1973 volcanic eruption on the island of Heimaey.

Reykjanes Art Museum, Reykjanesbær

11:00 - 17:00 every weekday, 13:00 - 17:00 every weekend.

Safnahús Museum

Aquarium & Museum of Natural History in Vestmannaeyjar
Mounted birds & fish, aquarium, and rocks & mineral display.

Skaffell Centre for Visual Art

Birgir Andrésson, Tumi Magnússon & Roman Signer

Runs until September 30

Lina Jaros, Geir Mosed & Jens Reichert

Runs until September 26

Hemmi and Valdi's Acoustic sessions

Hemmi and Valdi, Laugavegur

Every Thursday, 15:00

Free

All you lucky bunnies who aren't working on a weekday afternoon might be interested in the cosy new afternoon music sessions at Hemmi and Valdi's. Just started recently, the acoustic chill sessions are two hours of live melodies to relax and put your feet up to. The gigs feature a mix of new and established musicians with upcoming acts including Svar Knútar, Jóhannes Kristinn, and Bowen Staines from the US on September 30. The sessions will run throughout the winter, and musicians interested in playing are welcome to contact Myrra at the café. **EF**

By the sea and a delicious lobster

At the Restaurant Fjöruborðið in Stokkseyri

Fjöruborðið
and the sea said ok...



< Only 45 minutes drive from Reykjavik

Eyrarbraut 3, 825 Stokkseyri, Iceland · Tel. +354 483 1550

Fax. +354 483 1545 · info@fjorubordid.is · www.fjorubordid.is

Hafið Bláa

útsýnis & veitingastaður
restaurant



seafood restaurant

With a splendid view

(354) 483 1000 - www.hafidblaa.is



ELDUR & ÍS

FREE

TOURIST INFORMATION & BOOKING OFFICE



ELDUR & ÍS

Skólavörðustíg 2
101 Reykjavík

Ice cream

HOT Coffee & Muffins

HOT Appelpie with ice cream

HOT Pecanpie with ice cream

HOT Waffle with ice cream



Café Loki

in front of Hallgrímskirkja



Enjoy some solid homemade Icelandic food

MAP

Places We Like

1 C is for Cookie

Týsgata 8

This cosy new café owned by Polish couple Agnieszka and Stanislaw is the latest addition to the Reykjavik café scene and already looks set to become a favourite with the locals. Ideal for an early lunch or spending a lazy afternoon deciding which of Agnieszka's delicious home baked cakes you want to try next. I'd go with the cheesecake, it's pretty fabulous. EF

2 Havarí

Austurstræti 8

Even before it opened, Havarí was everybody's favourite new music and design store. Headed by Svavar Pétur and Berglind of Skakkamanage, the shop shills the musical goods of Kimi Records, Borgin Hljómplötur, gogoyoko and Skakkapopp as well as posters, art, design products and clothing. CF

3 Barbara

Laugavegur 22

At Laugavegur 22, above Karamba, Barbara serves up a lively atmosphere for Reykjavik's gay community and anybody else who just wants to dance and have a good time. The first level is made for dancing and is often packed with sweaty bodies, while the second level of the bar offers a place to sit, drink and chat and another in which to smoke. CF

4 Hemmi og Valdi

Laugavegi 21

The "colonial store" Hemmi and Valdi is a cosy hangout that has advanced from being a toasty retreat, where one can score cheap beer and have a quiet chat, into being a chock-full concert venue and an all-night party place. And believe us, the atmosphere is brilliant. SKK

5 Tíu Dropar

Laugavegur 27

If you're sick of all the arty cafés, filled with Sigur Rós wannabes browsing Facebook on their Macs - go to Tíu Dropar. It's a back-to-basics Icelandic café that hasn't changed its interior since the sixties. Really proves the old adage "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." Plus, the coffee's great and so are the pancakes. SKK

6 Habibi

Hafnarstræti 18

This small restaurant offers up a concise menu of delicious Arabic cuisine, from shawarma to kebabs and falafels. The staff is really friendly and accommodating of requests to kick up the spiciness or tone it down if the customer so desires. Habibi seriously hits the spot after hours of partying (or any other time of day) so it's convenient that the place is allegedly open until 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday (although their advertised opening hours are sometimes not adhered to). CF



7 Kaffitár

Bankastræti 8

Kaffitár on Bankastræti is a comfortable little café with a great selection of coffee, tea and baked goods on offer. Since Kaffitár is also a big-name Icelandic roasterie the caffeinated beverages on the menu are quality. The wi-fi makes this a nice place to sit and chill with your laptop as well. CF

8 Boston

Laugavegur 28

Like an older sibling to the fabled (now deceased) Sirkús, Boston is a warm and mellow second-floor bar on Laugavegur that plays host to the arty party crowd. The baroque wall dressings and deep, rich coloured décor make this bar feel pretty swank, but the mood of the place can go from great to legendary within a heartbeat. CF

9 Kisan

Laugavegur 7

This store is incredibly cool. It's stocked with really unique and quirky clothes, outerwear, accessories and handbags, plus they have an adorable section of kids clothes, kitschy vintage toys and books and even interior design items. Wicked place; definitely worth a visit. CF



Restaurante Sankta Maria
 Laugavegur 22
 Tel : 552-7775
 Brunch 11:00 to 15:00
 Brunch 9 Euro=1190 kr
 over 30 dishes+ soup and hot new bread

750 kr = 4 EURO =

Open from 11:00 to 22:00

Oktoberfest
 At the English Pub

(Special Oktober Offer)
LARGE BEER FROM 500 KR.
 LIVE SOCCER LIVE MUSIC



For a map of outside downtown Reykjavík visit www.grapevine.is or the Icelandic phonebook website www.ja.is

If you have an iPhone, check out the cool **Locatify** app in the AppStore. It's got a **FREE** guided audio tour of the downtown area, courtesy of your pals at Grapevine.

13 Café d'Haiti

Geirsgötu 7b

The first time I entered this exotic little joint, meaning to buy myself a take-away espresso, I ended up with two kilos of fresh and roasted coffee beans due to some language complications and way too much politeness. Since then I have enjoyed probably way-too-many wonderful cups of Haitian coffee, but they're always as nice, so the two kilos were definitely worth it. SKK

14 Kolaportið

Tryggvagata 19

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

15 Sushimiðjan

Geirsgötu 3

This is a seriously great place to grab a quick and quality sushi lunch. Pre-prepared boxes of maki and nigiri are reasonable priced and really well made, amply filled with deliciously fresh ingredients. The indoor seating area is limited to some stools and outward-facing wall-mounted tabletops but there are a couple of tables and chairs set up outside the front door for those wanting to watch the ships and tourists in the harbour while they eat.

16 Grænn Kostur

Skólavörðustíg 8b

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

17 Kraum

Aðalstræti 10

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

18 Borgarhjól / City Bicycle

Hverfisgata 59

For those that want to soak up the city sights and surrounding countryside at a more leisurely pace, then you should really check this place out. It's a really old school bike shop that mends as well as rents out bikes, and at really reasonable rate too. They also sell helmets, safety gear and accessories if you really want to go all out. EF

TAX FREE

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

G-STAR RAW

REYKJAVÍK STORE, LAUGAVEGUR 88-94, S: 511-2007

operated by v8 vhf

g-star.com

www.farmersmarket.is

NIKITA

Laugavegur 56
101 Reykjavík
www.nikitaclimbing.com

10 Sódóma Reykjavík

Tryggvagötu 22

Sódóma on Tryggvagötu quickly became a hit with party crowds and gig-goers alike. An extensive venue, filled with reasonably priced beverages and reasonably good looking people. Some of Iceland's finest musical ventures regularly perform there, and their schedule looks promising too. Also, make sure to visit their men's room for a glance at the "Pissior of Absolution". JB

11 Bakkus

Tryggvagata 22 - Naustarmegin

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

12 Jacobsen

Austurstræti

Jacobsen is owned by some nouveau riche Swedes, and has been providing a non-stop party over the last few months. Besides its importing foreign big-shot DJs and other niceties, it is probably most appreciated for its loooong hours; it doesn't matter if you stop partying at 2AM or way-too-much AM, Jacobsen is always forking out shots and cocktails. SKK

MANIA

LAUGAVEGUR 51, 101 RVK



ICELANDIC Fish, Lamb & Chicken
in original **PAKISTANI & INDIAN** curries,
TANDOORI dishes, **TANDOORI** Nan breads
Kebabs, Samosas, Vegetarian specialities,
LUNCH & DINNER OFFERS every day

SHALIMAR

PARISTANI - INDIAN TANDOORI & CURRY CUISINE
AUSTURSTRÆTI 4, Tel. 551 0292 www.shalimar.is

IMAGINE PEACE Tours

Every night to
Viðey island
at 20:00 from
October 9th to
December 8th

Lennon Tribute
dinner shows on
special dates
Updates on
imaginepeace.is

Elding Viðey Tours

Tel. +354 533 5055

www.imaginepeace.is

Whale Watching



- Daily whale watching tours from the Old harbour of Reykjavik
- Free entry to the Whale Watching Centre for our passengers

Make sure it's Elding!

Tel. 555 3565
www.elding.is



Pizzeria tel. 578 8555

Lækjargata 8 Downtown



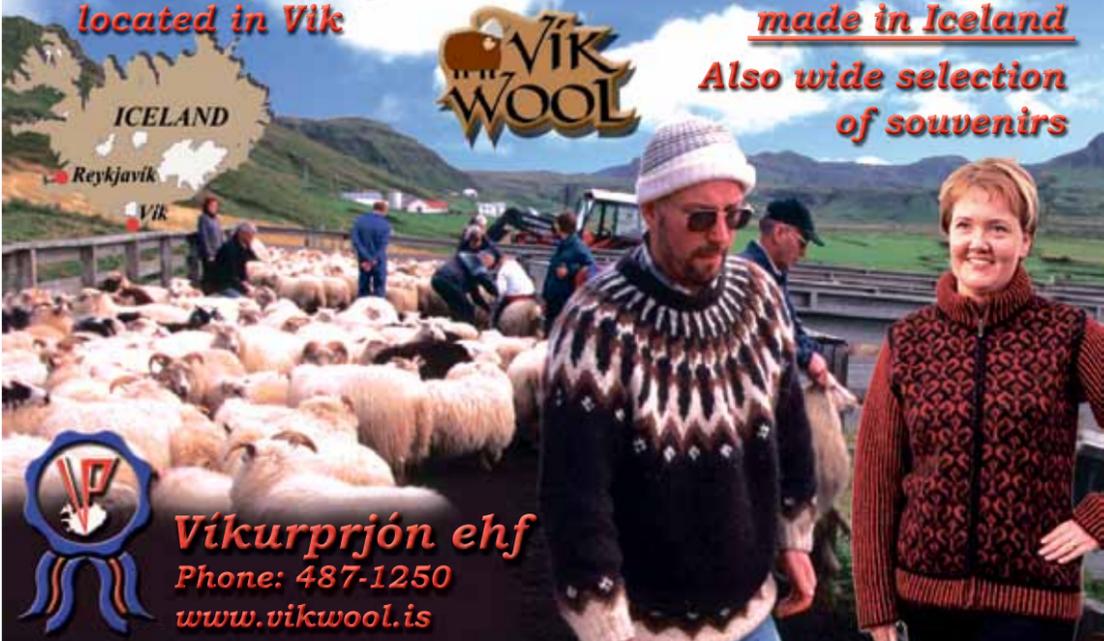
Probably the best pizza
in town



Woolens factory store,
located in Vik

Genuine woolen goods,
made in Iceland

Also wide selection
of souvenirs



Víkurprjón ehf
Phone: 487-1250
www.vikwool.is

ART

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

COCKTAIL PLEASURES AND VISUAL STIMULATION

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

OPENINGS

ASÍ Art Museum

Art Nurses

October 2 - October 24

Exhibitions by Anna Hallin and Óskvil-
hjálmisdóttir.

Gallery Kling & Bang

Luminous

Opening September 25, 17:00

Runs until October 24

Exhibits by Ragnar Jónasson & Tómas
Lemarquis.

Gerðarsafn, Art Museum Kópa-

vogur

9

September 25 & October 2, 14:00

Performance by Páll Haukur Björnsson.

Hilton Nordica Reykjavik Hotel

You Are In Control

October 1 & 2

International conference on digital
media. For schedule visit www.youarein-
control.is.

Lost Horse Gallery, Hverfisgata 71

Sara Glaxia

September 25, 20:00

Performance.

Mokka Kaffi

Hirt

Opening September 24

Runs until October 21

Exhibits by Sigurðis Harpa.

Reykjavik Art Museum

Kjarvalsstaðir

International Day of Architecture

October 2 & 3, 15:00

Programme on architect Jón Haraldsson.

Moderator artist Haraldur Jónsson.

Reykjavik International Film Festi-

val (RIFF)

September 23 - October 3

100 films screened in various venues.

For schedule visit www.riff.is

Reykjavik Museum of Photography

A Considerd View

September 18 - January 9, 2011

Photographs of Wayne Gudmundson.

Telecommunications Museum,

Suðurgata

September 19 - November 14

Exhibition on telecommunication.

Open on sundays 11:00 - 17:00.

ONGOING

ART67

Tíma mot

Ongoing

Exhibits by Stefán Hermannsson.

Árbæjarsafn / Reykjavik City Mu-

seum

Guided Tours

Runs until May 31, 2011

Guided tours Mondays, Wednesdays
and Fridays at 1 pm.

Exhibitions running year round on the
history of Reykjavik and Iceland life.

Artótek

Daði Guðbjörnsson

Runs until October 3

ASÍ Art Museum

Svava Björnsdóttir and Inga

Ragnarsdóttir

Runs until September 26

Sculptures

The Culture House

Medieval Manuscripts

Runs until January 2011

Icelanders

Ongoing exhibition

Exhibit featuring a selection of photo-
graphs from the book

"Icelanders" by Unnur Jökulsdóttir and

Sigurgeir Sigurjónsson.

Iceland::Film

Ongoing exhibition

Traces the evolution of Icelandic film-
making, exploring myths

versus modernity.

Cinema Nr. 2

The Eruption!

Monday - Friday 16:00 & 16:30

Ongoing all winter

Þorsmörk - The Hidden Valley of Þór

Monday - Friday 17:00

Ongoing all winter

Icelandic nature films.

The Dwarf Gallery

Ongoing Exhibition

An independent art gallery with ongo-
ing exhibitions. It's located in an old

basement. Do you really need to know
anymore than that?

The Einar Jónsson Museum

The work of sculptor Einar Jónsson.

Gallery Ágúst

Runs until October 10

Exhibit by Marta M. Jónsdóttir.

Gljúfrasteinn Laxness Museum

Gljúfrasteinn was the home and work-
place of Halldór Laxness (winner of the
Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955).

Gerðarsafn, Art Museum Kópa-

vogur

9

Runs until October 10

Group exhibition of nine young visual
artists at gerðarsafn Art Museum

Gerðuberg

Flights of Fancy

Runs until October 17

Paintings by Aðalbjörg Þórðardóttir of
swans as folktale motifs, part of the
natural environment and symbols of the
soul.

Responses

Runs until October 10

Artworks made of old paper by Jón
Laxdal Halldórsson.

In Four Corners

Runs until October 31

18

Thór Vigfússon

Runs until October 16

A series of wall works made with painted
glass.

The Library Room

National Archives of Iceland - 90 years
in the museum building. Commemorating
the 100th anniversary of the Culture
House.

The Living Art Museum

Lobbyists

Runs until October 2

Exhibits by Libia Castro & Ólafur Ólaf-
sson.

Museum of Design and Applied Art

Sigríðar Heimisdóttir

Runs until January 30, 2011

The National Gallery of Iceland

Imported Landscapes

Runs until November 7

Photos by Pétur Thomsen tracing
changes in the natural landscape at
Hafravammagljúfur.

Cars in Rivers

Runs until November 7

Photos by Ólafur Eliasson - series
evoking the artist's connection with the
Icelandic wilderness.

Strides

Runs until December 31, 2012.

A selection of the Gallery's collection
from the 20th and 21st
century.

The National Museum

The Making of a Nation

Heritage and History in Iceland is
intended to provide insight into the
history of the Icelandic nation from the
Settlement to the present day.

Ása Wright - From Iceland to Trini-

dad

Collection of objects that belonged to
the adventuress Ása Guðmundsdóttir.

Embroidery of Life

Embroidery by Guðrún Guðmundsdóttir,
inspired by old manuscripts.

The Nordic House

Land Of Experiments

Runs until September 30

Interactive exhibit based on scientific
contraptions from Tom Tits Experimen-
tarium in Sweden. Play!

Ráðhús Reykjavíkur

Dulín Himintungl

Kim Linnet exhibits her 360° panorama
photos of Iceland.

The Settlement Exhibition

Permanent exhibition.

Reykjavik Art Museum

Ásmundarsafn

Sleep Light

Runs until April 17, 2011.

Multimedia installation by Ráðhildur
Ingadóttir.

Thoughts In Forms

Runs until April 17, 2011.

The workshop of sculptor Ásmundur
Sveinsson, recreated.

"I choose blossoming women ..."

Runs until April 17, 2011

Woman as Symbol in the Art of Ásmun-
dur Sveinsson.

Hafnarhús

Mel Ramos

Runs until November 7

Lithographs and silkscreens, created by
the American artist between 1996 and
2009.

Erró - Collage

Runs until August 28, 2011

September 26, 15:00 Gallery talk.

A holistic selection of Erró's collages
from Reykjavik Art Museum's Erró col-
lection.

ART

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Indian Highway

Runs until October 10
Contemporary Indian Art Video.

D17 Magnús Helgason – Im not a Compost, I'm an Earthworm

Runs until October 24
Gardening with Paint.

Kjarvalsstaðir

The Will as a Weapon

Runs until October 24

(Fe)male workshop

Runs until November 7

Family workshop in connection with the exhibition The Will as a Weapon.

Kjarval – Key works

Runs until January 16, 2011

Extensive collection of works by Jóhannes S. Kjarval.

Reykjavík Maritime Museum

The Coast Guard vessel Óðinn

Permanent exhibition

The Óðinn took part in all three Cod Wars and is open for exhibition.

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

"What are you up to now, my dear Erlingur"

Runs until November 28

Sculptures by Erlingur Jónsson and Sigurjón Ólafsson.

Spark, Design Space

Vík Þrjónsdóttir

Runs until October 30

Design and fashion.

7
Oct

31
Oct



Transaqlania – Into Thin Air

The Evolution of a new tribe of men

Premiers October 7

Reykjavík City Theatre

5200 ISK

In April 2009, the evolution of a new tribe of men, the Transaqlanians, began. The first part of this production, "Transaqlania – Out Of The Blue", took place at the Blue Lagoon, where new life unexpectedly emerged from the silky water. Taking the concept further, "Transaqlania – Into Thin Air" will showcase those magical creatures at a later state in their evolution. The cooperation of dancers and choreographers, Erna Órmarsdóttir and Damien Jalet with visual artist, Gabriela Friðriksdóttir and experimental musician Ben Frost turns, "Transaqlania" into a synaesthetic experience. **WW**

Art | Venue finder

ART67

Laugavegur 67 | **F6**
Mon - Fri 12 - 18 / Sat
12 - 16

Artótek

Tryggvagata 15 | **D2**
Mon 10-21, Tue-Thu 10-19, Fri
11-19, Sat and Sun 13-17
www.sim.is/Index/Isenska/
Artotek

ASÍ Art Museum

Freygata 41 | **G4**
Tue-Sun 13-17

Árbæjarsafn

Kistuhylur 4

The Culture House

Hverfisgata 15 | **E4**
Open daily 11-17
www.thjodmenning.is

Dwarf Gallery

Grundarstígur 21 | **H6**
Opening Hours: Fri and Sat
18-20
www.this.is/birta/dwarfgallery/
dwarfgallery1.html

The Einar Jónsson

Eiríksgröta | **G4**
Tue-Sun 14-17
www.skulptur.is

Gallery Ágúst

Baldursgröta 12 | **F4**
Wed-Sat 12-17
www.galleriagust.is

Gallery Fold

Rauðarástígur 14-16 | **G7**
Mon-Fri 10-18 / Sat 11-16 /
Sun 14-16
www.myndlist.is

Gallery Kling & Bang

Hverfisgata 42 | **E5**
Thurs-Sun from 14-18
this.is/klingogbang/

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre

Gerðuberg 3-5
Mon-Thu 11-17 / Wed 11-21 /
Thu-Fri 11-17 / Sat-Sun 13-16
www.gerduberg.is

Hitt Húsið

- Gallery Tukt
Pósthússtræti 3-5 | **E3**
www.hittusid.is

i8 Gallery

Tryggvagata 16 | **D2**
Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and
by appointment. www.i8.is

Living Art Museum

Skúlagata 28 | **F6**
Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17 / Thu
13-22. www.nylo.is

Hafnarborg

Strandgötu 34,
Hafnarfjörður

Mokka Kaffi

Skólavörðustígur 3A | **F4**

The National Gallery of Iceland

Friðrikjuvegur 7 | **F3**
Tue-Sun 11-17
www.listasafn.is

The National Museum

Suðurgata 41 | **G1**
Open daily 10-17
natmus.is

The Nordic House

Sturlugata 5 | **H1**
Tue-Sun 12-17
www.nordice.is/

Restaurant Reykjavík

Vesturgata 2 | **D2**

Reykjavík 871+/-2

Aðalstræti 17 | **D2**
Open daily 10-17

Reykjavík Art Gallery

Skúlagata 28 | **F6**
Tuesday through Sunday 14-18

Reykjavík Art Museum

Open daily 10-16
www.listasafnreykjavikur.is

Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum

Sigtún
Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17 | **D2**
Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagata | **I7**

Reykjavík Maritime Museum

Grandagarður 8 | **C3**

Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Tryggvagata 16 | **D2**
Weekdays 12-19 / Sat-Sun
13-17 - www.ljosmyndasafn-
reykjavikur.is

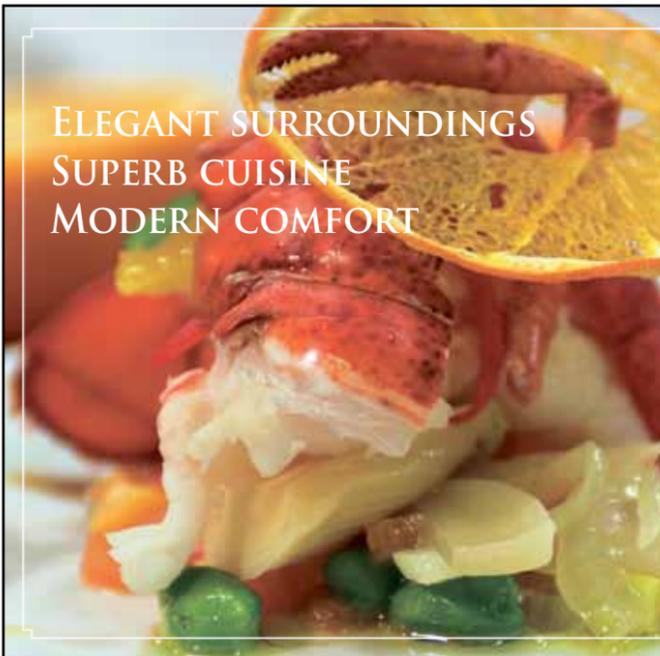
Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

Laugarnestangi 70

Spark, Design Space

Klapparstígur 33 | **E4**
www.sparkdesignspace.com

ELEGANT SURROUNDINGS
SUPERB CUISINE
MODERN COMFORT



Gallery
Restaurant

PRESERVING QUALITY
IS OUR BUSINESS

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

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



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

HOW TO DRIVE SAFELY IN ICELAND

ALCOHOL & DRUGS

Under no circumstances, is it permitted to drive when alcohol or other drugs have been consumed. Severe penalties can be expected if you commit such a crime.

If driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs you will not be entitled to compensation in case of an accident and will have to bear the total cost of the accident yourself.

SPEED LIMITS

High-speed cameras are present on most roads and the police also keep a scrupulous eye on speeding.

Fines for drunk driving or exceeding speed limits can be very high not to mention a possible suspension of driving license.



Unpaid fines are not waived simply because a driver has left the country and returned home.

The speed limit is as follow:

- 50 km/hr in urban areas except when speed limit sign show something else.
- The main rule on highways is that gravel roads have a speed limit of 80 km/hr.
- Paved highwayroads have a speed limit of 90 km/hr. Signs indicate if other speed limits apply.

See further instruction on www.drive.is



ROAD TRAFFIC DIRECTORATE



GLACIER ADVENTURES

AND OTHER EXCITING DAY TOURS FROM REYKJAVÍK

Walk on the Ice side
Glacier walk: 19.900 ISK

Walk through Ice and Fire
Glacier walk and hot spring: 22.900 ISK



ICELANDIC MOUNTAINGUIDES
TEL: +354 587 9999 · mountainguides.is

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

Not quite breakfast, not quite lunch

Brunching in Reykjavík

Is there anything quite as decadent as spoiling oneself with a luxurious brunch late on a weekend morning? The very thought of rolling out of bed later than usual and dolling oneself up first thing, starting out with a fresh and bubbly mimosa and nibbling on fluffy omelettes, grilled tomatoes and fresh and juicy fruit slices is just heavenly. Plus, brunch is a free pass for some slight gluttony—it kinda counts as two meals in one, right? For those who care to indulge a little over the weekend, brunch is served in various restaurants, including the somewhat-swank Nauthóll and, if you'd rather stay downtown, Café Paris.

Bulls-eye in Nauthólsvík



Nauthóll

Nauthólsvegur 106

What we think: Wonderfully decadent brunch.

Flavour: Simple, fresh and smartly combined.

Ambiance: Bright white and airy, but slightly cramped seating

Service: Professional and polite.



breast freshly sliced to order by a Nauthóll chef, which I accompanied with a savoury mushroom sauce. The turkey breast was a gorgeous touch and, with the scent of autumn in the air, reminded me of traditional holiday meals of my childhood.

While I was entirely too satisfied to consider a heaping plate of sweets, I still strolled back to the buffet room where a more modestly sized table displayed tiramisu, a caramel cream cake, chocolate fudge squares a trio of fruit (strawberry, pineapple and melon) ready to be skewered and passed beneath the streaming milk-chocolate fountain.

OK, I ended up caving and tasting the caramel cream cake (holy moly was it ever good) and some strawberries in liquid chocolate from the fountain, which were every bit as wonderful as one would think fresh strawberries in chocolate to be.

Satisfactorily sated, my date and I happily strolled home along the water, already planning to spoil ourselves at Nauthóll again sometime very soon. Possibly next Sunday. 🍴

Reviews

Catharine Fulton

Photography

Hörður Sveinsson

- 🍴 Should not be considered food
- 🍴 Edible, but not more than once
- 🍴🍴 OK; not good, but not horrible either
- 🍴🍴🍴 Good, but not great.
- 🍴🍴🍴🍴 Pretty damn good
- 🍴🍴🍴🍴🍴 Extraordinary

It was a gorgeously sunny and crisp mid-morning when my date and I ventured out to Nauthólsvík for the Sunday brunch at the bright and airy Nauthóll Bistro. With the expansive deck that wraps around the one-storey building set aside the water one would expect to cross the threshold and enter a particularly posh summerhouse. Instead, waiting on the other side of the large glass doors is a stark white retreat bustling with groups of girlfriends, tri-generational families and lovey-dovey couples all dressed sharply to sample the ample spread of salads and other continental fare and hot cases brimming with bacon, eggs, roast potatoes and even grilled turkey breast and accompanying sauces (3.300 ISK for adults and 1.650 ISK for children 12 and under).

Having arrived beyond the midway point of their serving period (11:00–15:00 every Sunday) my date and I spied that out fellow diners, who were squeezed in rather tightly, had already devoured their first plates and were rising from their seats for seconds (or

thirds). We followed the hallway to the adjoining room where the buffet was set up and had a hard time deciding what to go with first. It was then and there that I developed my brunch buffet strategy: cold stuff, followed by hot stuff, followed by dessert (yes, there was dessert).

From my cold plate I sampled delightful little rolls of smoked trout; two cold salads, one barley based with onion, tomatoes, bell pepper and olives and the other comprised of many of the same veggies but based on miniature balls of pasta that I likened to overgrown couscous; a small round of bread topped with cocktail shrimp; and the most delicious deep red and delicate prosciutto that was drizzled with a Dijon, balsamic blend and crowned with rucola and pine nuts— heavenly!

From the warm selection I sampled the omelette, which was light and fluffy and laced with greens and burst cherry tomatoes; a couple large wedges of roast potato, which I found to be slightly dry; and succulent turkey

Food & Drink | Venue finder

3 Frakkar Baldursgata 14 G4	Balthazar Hafnarstræti 1-3 D2	Geysir Bar/Bistro Aðalstræti 2 D2	Icelandic Fish & Chips Tryggvagata 8 B2	E4	Sjárvakjallarinn Aðalstræti 2 D2
Aktu Taktu Skúlugata 15 E6	Bæjarinn Beztu Tryggvagata D3	Garðurinn Klappastígur 37 F4	Indian Mango Frakkastígur 12 F5	Nonnabiti Hafnarstræti 9 D3	Sólón Bankastræti 7a E3
Alibaba Veltusund 3b D2	Brons Pósthússtræti 9 E3	Gletan book café Laugavegur 19 F5	Jómfrúin Lækjargata 4 E3	O Sushi Lækjargata 2A E3	Sushibarinn Laugavegur 2 E4
American Style Tryggvagata 26 D2	Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 E4	Grái Kötturinn Hverfisgata 16A E4	Kaffi Hjómáland Laugavegur 21 E4	Pisa Lækjargötu 6b E3	Sushismiðjan Geirsgötu 3 B2
Argentina Steakhouse Barónstígur F6	Café d'Haiti Tryggvagata 12 D2	Grillhúsið Tryggvagata 20 D2	Kaffifélagið Skólavörðustígur 10 F5	Pizza King Hafnarstræti 18 D3	Svarta Kaffi Laugavegur 54 F5
Austurlanda-hraðlestin Hverfisgata 64A F5	Café Loki Lokastígur 28 G4	Habibi Hafnarstræti 20 E3	Kaffitár Bankastræti 8 E4	Pizza Pronto Vallarstræti 4 E2	Sægreifinn Verbúð 8, Geirsgata B2
Á Næstu Grösom Laugavegur 20B E4	Café Paris Austurstræti 14 E3	Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar ("Bullan") Geirsgata 1 B2	Kaffivagninn Grandagarður 10 A1	Pizzaverksmiðjan Lækjargötu 8 E3	Tapas Vesturgata 3B D2
B5 Bankastræti 5 E3	Café Roma Rauðarárstígur 8 G7	Híðilla Bátar Ingólfstorg D2	Kofi Tómasar Frænda Laugavegur 2 E4	Prikið Bankastræti 12 E3	Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 D2
Bakkus Tryggvagata 22 D2	Deli Bankastræti 14 E5	Hómið Hafnarstræti 15 D3	Kornið Lækjargata 4 E3	Ráðhúskaffi E2 Tjarnargata 11	Tíu Dropar Laugavegur 27 E5
Ban Thai Laugavegur 130 G7	Domo Pínghóltsstræti 5 E3	Hótel Holt Bergstaðarstræti 37 G3	Krua Thai Tryggvagata 14 D2	Santa María Laugavegur 22A F5	Tivolí Laugavegur 3 E4
Basil & Lime Klappastíg 38 E4	Einar Ben Veltusundi E2	Humarhúsið Amtmanstígur 1 E3	La Primavera Austurstræti 9 D2	Shalimar Austurstræti 4 D2	Vegamót Vegamótastígur 4 E4
Babalú Skólavörðustígur 22A G5	Eldsmiðjan Bragagata 38A G4	Hressó Austurstræti 20 E4	Lystin Laugavegur 73 F6	Silfur Pósthússtræti 11 E3	Við Tjörnina Templararund 3 E2
	Fiskmarkaðurinn Aðalstræti 12 D2		Mokka Skólavörðustígur 3A	Vitabar Bergþórugata 21 G5	

Icelandic Cuisine
Rauðarárstíg 37

RAUÐARÁ
RESTAURANT

Rauðará
s: 562-6766
raudara@raudara.is

Icelandic home cooking with a modern flair
Shark • lobster • Lamb • Whale • Puffin • fish • Wild game
ALL the icelandic beers Kitchen open till midnight!

Íslenski barinn
Restaurant

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

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

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

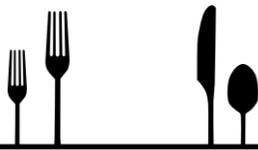
AUSTURSTRÆTI 9. Tel: 561 8555

icelandic
FISH & CHIPS

Organic bistro

Creating a tradition

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



Not so Luxurious in Paris



Did you know that Café Paris serves brunch every Saturday and Sunday? Assuming you just shouted out a surprised 'no!' I'll admit that neither did I until a short while before my brunch-mate and I walked across Austurvöllur headed there for that very thing. While there are three brunches from which to choose—Healthy, Standard and Luxury—my dining companion and I were both feeling rather self-important on this particular Saturday noon-hour and ordered two Luxury Brunches (1.790 ISK) and a refreshing glass of orange juice each (390 ISK).

The two brunch platters and the auspiciously pale juice were delivered one after the other by a waiter with off-puttingly filthy hands as though he was just strapped on an apron after topping up the oil in his car and recalibrating the engine, and a waitress with a certain knack for slamming orders as hard as can be onto the table. Maybe she thought we weren't paying her enough attention. Maybe she was just hired for her subtlety. I don't know.

Our Luxury Brunches came in the form of a large square platter on which was arranged an omelette, bacon, sliced fruit, a crêpe, roast potatoes, bread, meat, cheeses, marinated veggies and a smoothie. It certainly looked nice and some of the meals components were, but others could have been better.

Starting with the good, the roast potatoes were really lovely and golden brown and were not at all greasy, as 'home fries' in other breakfast establishments can be. The smoothie

Café Paris

Austurstræti 14

What we think: Not so luxurious, but still good

Flavour: Sometimes good, sometimes bland and spongy

Ambiance: Generic café

Service: Disinterested and dirty.



tasted of sweet strawberries and skyr and was a really nice and refreshing treat, as was the sliced melon. The crêpe was also pretty good, especially when spread with the strawberry jam that came with the meal.

The omelette, on the other hand, was a tasteless rectangle of spongy egg topped with a crispy brown layer that separated from the rest when cut into. The marinated veggies were in actuality a blend of artichokes, sundried tomatoes and whole cloves of garlic so drenched in herbed oil that they may as well have just been served in the jar from whence they so clearly were sprung. Also, that pale juice we were served was actually an extremely diluted pineapple juice, not the orange juice that had been ordered in both English and Icelandic.

For a casual, no frills brunch this one really wasn't bad, and the price was alright. But when the name says 'luxury', you tend to expect more and, in this case, that's not what was served.

EAT AND DRINK

3 X BAKERY

1 SANDHOLT

This classy little bakery on Laugavegur is a feast for the senses. The glass case stocked with snúður, danishes, pain au raisin, chocolate lava cakes, etc. are very hard to resist. The sandwiches are pretty wonderful too. Laugavegur 36

2 MOSFELLSBAKARÍ

While not conveniently located in the 101 area, this well-known bakery is well worth the drive to Mosfellsbær (or their other shop in 108). Their baked goods are always flaky and moist and gooey and sweet and delicious. Also, they deliver. Háholt 13-15, Mosfellsbær or Háaleitisbraut 58-60, Reykjavík

3 KVOSIN

Nestled down on Aðalstræti next door to a small grocery shop of the same name, this is the latest addition to Reykjavík's baking scene. The big perk about this place is that they've got ample seating at which to enjoy the spoils of the confectioner's ovens. Aðalstræti 6-8

3 X AMERICAN BREAKFAST

1 GRÁI KÖTTURINN

The Truck is the very embodiment of the all-American breakfast – larger than life and gluttonous to the extreme. Grái Kötturinn does the dish right, with fluffy pancakes, eggs done the way you like 'em, bacon, toast and home fries stacked high, and served with complimentary coffee. If you wake up dying of hunger, you know where to go. Hverfisgata 16a

2 PRIKID

Not to be outdone, Prikid's got a Truck of its own – bacon, eggs, pancakes, potatoes, toast – to stop hunger in its tracks. For those of the British persuasion, the Station Wagon has your hankering for baked beans covered. Bankastræti 12

3 HRESSÓ

While the big-breakfast item on Hressó's menu is called "English Breakfast" it's the size that counts where American breakfasts are concerned and this is big enough to get the job done. Bacon, eggs, toast, satisfaction. Austurstræti 20

3 X STUFF YOU CAN'T GET AT BÓNUS

1 MAI THAI

If you're looking for a clean break from gaudy yellow wrappers, pink pigs and Euro Shopper and your diet could use a flavour infusion look no further than Mai Thai. Chilli paste? Check. A selection of fish sauces? You got it. Fun labels with jovial, smiling Buddha's on them? Of course! Laugavegur 116

2 NÓATÚN

Nóatún has got you covered on that all too familiar occasion when you find yourself desperately in need of artichokes and canned mussels, or one of the many other "specialty" items not stocked in the ubiquitous grocery chains. Hringbraut 121

3 OSTABÚÐIN

Cheese and meat aren't meant to be vacuum packed. Ostabúðin gets that. It's nice to see cheeses on offer other than Gouda of varying fat content and the odd havarti, and it's even nicer to see it smack dab in the middle of 101. Skólavörðustígur 8

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

Home of the best noodle soup!

Skólavörðustígur 21A

Madonna

Ristorante Italiano

6 course Seafood Lunch Buffet
 Only 2,690 kr

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

Madonna Rauðarárstíg 27 445-9500 www.madonna.is

FISKFÉLAGIÐ FISH COMPANY

THE BEST OF REYKJAVÍK 2010 BEST SEAFOOD

Drop in for our lunch offers or take the plunge and book a table for a culinary experience without a match!

AROUND ICELAND without ever leaving your table. We look forward to seating you in our dreamlike surroundings and handing you the a la carte menu we take great pride in. If you are in a mood for an adventure, allow us to point out "Around Iceland" a set menu with all the best the sea and land has to offer spiced with herbs found around the island.

Reservations 552 5300 - info@fishcompany.is - fishcompany.is
 Grófarborg - Vesturgata 2a - 101 Reykjavík

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

We exceed high expectations

DILL restaurant

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

Space & Poetry

Ljóðarými
空间与诗意

Asian & Nordic Poetry
4.-8. október 2010
Í Norræna húsinu



CHINA - ICELAND
CULTURAL FUND

norraenahusid.is/nubo

state. This is a vicious circle. The public's spending power decreases, so income based on tolling and taxing imports is lost—and then we have to pay interest of our debts.

A lot of what we need to do to accomplish this can be hard and painful—and we're not finished yet—but we've made some great advances. Things are going well, and the situation now is a lot better than was predicted in the direct aftermath of the collapse. Inflation is fast receding and our economy is straightening out, so despite everything that's gone down in the past eighteen months we are definitely on the right track, even if it is a big struggle. I don't want to credit the state treasury or me as Finance Minister with our success, but we have still managed to solve a lot of problems connected to the ministry.

This is where the biggest and hardest problems created by the banking collapse wound up to be resolved—aside from running the state treasury and managing problems related to that, our banks went bankrupt so we needed to reconstruct them. The Ministry of Finance handled all that work and the negotiations connected to it.

Processing the collapse

We also are in charge of the horrible IceSave affair that remains unsolved, and we needed to negotiate with foreign states and central banks to receive currency loans. We also handle a big part of the International Monetary Fund negotiations, we're restoring the savings banks... these are all hard and complicated tasks that are added to the ministry's day to day duties.

We've worked towards assisting the economy, helping businesses and homes through troubles. We're trying to work beyond just putting out fires and solving problems, presenting new ideas such as tax breaks for start-ups and innovators, and we introduced stimulating measures to increase demand for contractors, raising VAT rebates for construction and restoration work. We are sending out the message that now is a good time to build or renovate, and the state is supporting that with tax breaks... I could go on.

We've started an innumerable amount of these kinds of measures, and any claims that this government has been inactive are wrong, simply put. We have worked very hard, under very difficult circumstances. Of course this has been trying; it has been a busy and unbelievable time. And on top all this, we have been investigating the collapse and what lead to it, the SIC [Special Investigative Committee] Report, the Special Prosecutor; there are a lot of things to tend to in terms of processing the collapse.

So to sum it up, you could say our task is threefold: to keep things running, to investigate the collapse and its causes, and laying the foundations of a renaissance. And I think it's going very well, even though the situation is still fragile...

No room for ideology

Following the discourse, and especially in terms of what the opposition is saying, it wouldn't seem like you're doing all that much, nor that you've had any success. Based on their criticisms and their track record, can you imagine what a coalition between the Progressives and The Independents would be doing? Would their measures be any different, in your view?

I am not sure of that. As I have said, reality takes over in the end. You may foster an ideology and lots of ideas on how to do things, but they ultimately clash with reality.

In a situation such as ours, people have to be realistic, face it as it is and seek out the solutions and methods that are available, to pick the comparatively best ones. That leaves little room for ideolo-

gies.

I am not saying that how things are done isn't important, it certainly is, but to some extent our options are very much limited by our circumstances. I am convinced that any government would have chosen a mixed way as we are doing—it's the only option, really. Reality takes over, and even the most hardline neo-liberals would realise that you cannot solve these problems without resorting to every measure. The choice to be political and ideological in these times simply isn't an option.

It does matter, however, how you choose to do the things that need to be done, how you implement the necessary changes. For instance, we are trying our utmost to preserve our welfare system and shield it from cutbacks—we are cutting half as much from the budget of social services, education and police than other areas. We are showing it through our taxation methods by adding taxation to those in the highest income bracket while sparing the lowest one by introducing a special low-income bracket. We are trying to preserve the standard of living for those that make the least money. This is where politics enters the sphere; this is where they're important.

We haven't had a lot of choices, and I am totally convinced that the Independence Party, that bears so much responsibility for the collapse after its eighteen years in power, isn't fit to undertake this task. They don't have the credibility, people would remember. A change in government back in 2009 wasn't only inevitable, it was absolutely necessary.

McDonalds no more?

There seems to be a certain determinism at work when you claim you don't have a choice, yet it is evident that many of your party members are ideologically motivated. Were you ever tempted to... try something new? Don't you imagine some of them had hopes you would?

You can't place too deep a meaning in my words when I say that we are subject to our circumstances. In this instance we do not get to choose the battlefield or the tasks at hand, the collapse determined that. We have a job to do, and our first responsibility is to defend our society and its interiors, to ensure that every aspect of it is functioning and that we see our way out of these troubles. That's number one.

That's not to say we don't have convictions on how society should work, we have plenty of those and no one should imagine even for a second that we are rebuilding the same society that collapsed, or the same economy. We aren't. We are for instance re-building banks at a tenth of the size they were when they crashed. The financial system will now be owned by the state again, after it had been privatised with horrible results. We have a clear vision of where we are heading: towards a Nordic welfare society, away from toying with neo-liberal ideas and Americanisation.

We are experiencing a clear turning point in our political history; Iceland is heading in a different direction than it was in the years before the crash. I say that we are returning home. And where is home? It is in the Nordic family, with a strong Nordic, mutually responsible welfare system. These are our politics, just so that's clear.

Quick change?

Just how fast we can accomplish these changes—can we revolutionise the system while we are trying to keep it from collapsing entirely—that is an altogether trickier subject. I think we are going to have to accept that this is a long road to recovery we are on. When we are done restoring and rebuilding our politics and ideologies will be clear. We want a society that is entirely different from what we

had back in 2006, free of the greed and the overconfidence in the market that prevailed. The gospel said: “no supervision, the market will correct itself, it is infallible!”

That ideology has crumbled to the ground. We now know what to do, and I think Iceland has changed a lot both in terms of political ideology and also public opinion. Try walking the streets and asking pedestrians whether they support privatisation. I predict that 90% of those you poll will answer with a resounding no. Four years ago, I think you would have gotten reverse results. An ideology had been bashed into the nation's head, the state had been relentlessly talked down and the market glorified. They laid a lot of groundwork for that ideology, which has now collapsed.

Damaged

It is pleasing to note that the discourse now is more open and critical than it used to be. We are not going to be treated like this again. This is good, and I won't complain that us in the government or me personally are subject to constant criticism. People are keeping a close and critical watch, and this is good. The only thing that worries me is that the Kreppa is now stuck in our heads, that we are too focused on our problems. A lot of good things are happening, and we must not ignore that.

But many pillars of our society are damaged by the collapse. Our politics are in a state of shock, you could say our entire political system is damaged, as the municipal elections in Reykjavik showed. One of the things that crashed is faith in society. There is a lot of suspicion and distrust around; it is inevitable when such things happen, when something happens that shouldn't happen, that must not happen.

And people naturally feel like they've been betrayed. That a lot of people let them down, and there is a lot of truth in that, as the SIC Report reveals very clearly. We have a lot of work on our hands reclaiming what was lost, to reconstruct not only the material entities but also restore trust and faith in our community, so people can start trusting Parliament, regulatory agencies and the media again.

“I will keep at this”

Do you honestly believe that you'll be given a chance to finish your work? The Independence Party hasn't polled higher since before the collapse, it seems to be widely accepted that you will finish this term and then return to your former place in the opposition...

Well, if we manage to finish this term, which I hope, I do believe we are best suited to follow this work through. If we manage to get Iceland through these difficulties, which we are well on our way to doing, we can look back on that work and say: See! We took over their ruins, and we restored order, we resurrected Iceland.

That will be a decent reward in itself. I can't really ask for more than when all this is through I can stand proud and rightfully exclaim: I did all I could, I sacrificed myself to this task, I spent all my time, my energy, my efforts on restoring Iceland. I did my best.

And I do believe that if one compares the current situation to what we were facing by the end of 2008, to what was predicted in terms of the economy, it gives great reason for optimism. We need to keep that in mind.

I am both a mountain climber and a

marathon runner, and I do not give up easily. I've said it before and I can repeat it for Grapevine: I will resign the day I lose faith in our ability to solve the problems at hand, but while I still believe it is doable—and I am convinced that it is—I will keep right at it.

Marathon man

You speak of marathons, climbing mountains and sacrificing yourself for the cause of rebuilding Iceland... I am sure folks are generally grateful for your hard work, but are you sure this is a healthy way to work? What is your average workday like? People say you're always on the job...

I am at the office from before eight in the morning and usually at least until dinnertime, often I spend the evening here too. I frequently work weekends, and you could say that I barely took a day off last year. I have no vacation to speak of; I get the occasional weekend off. I avoid going abroad unless it's absolutely necessary, when I need to protect our interests or negotiate with foreign nations or international foundations.

This year, I've made an effort to maintain a slightly more normal working routine, and that's working so and so... the workday is long, and of course it's tiring. I wouldn't want to burn myself out, but fortunately I am relatively healthy and I have good stamina.

So I plan on maintaining the juice in my batteries. I can't hide that it's trying, and it's not just the work that affects you. The environment and atmosphere surrounding the job is also a factor. We are not immune to the discourse and various jabs pointed at us, but I try to maintain an understanding that the public's vocal dissatisfaction and our status in the polls doesn't necessarily mean that people are unhappy with what we're doing or that it could be any different.

I try to remember that there is so much repressed rage and unhappiness, people are angry over what happened and it is normal to criticise the powers that be at any time.

Of course there are many that believe we could have done more, for instance to assist families with their debt. There a lot of talk regarding that, and it is hard to be in the position to have to say that we are trying our best but we simply cannot do more. This is our reality. There are limits to what we can do; we are in a difficult position. We will have to slowly defeat this thing, we will have to be patient, understanding and maintain unity. We gain nothing from strife and struggle; we need to row together on the same boat, in the right direction. We can do this.

But all marathons have a finishing line... where do you see yours?

Our ultimate goal is to get our society and our economy back in working order, to envision being on top of our debt and not needing outside help, to get unemployment down to reasonable numbers. There is more than one goal; we will measure our success incrementally. A nation does not live to fulfil a single goal; it is a constant evolving story with peaks and valleys.

WTF!

What happened? You are privy to a lot of information that the general public isn't, so it seems fair to ask: What happened?

How do we explain it to our international readership?

What I think happened is that firstly, we got addicted to an ideology. The ideology of neo-liberalism and blind faith in “the market” was steadily promoted to the nation, and Icelanders adopted its attitudes and tenets to an extreme and blindly trod forth.

Iceland was, for all purposes, transformed into a laboratory, a testing ground for greedy neo-liberal, privatisation ideals. They privatised the banks and various other state enterprises alongside pushing an environment of deregulation and lax supervision. A group of young and energetic men surfaced that took advantage of this environment to the full extent. All of the sudden we were the best in the world, we were experts at banking and finance and thought we could teach established nations, like Denmark, how to do business. We were beset by a puerile and nouveau riche arrogance, an entire generation lost all moral restraint. People flaunted their wealth and boasted of it, they could only travel in private jets and the flamboyance and vulgarity surrounding Iceland was such that it got noticed the world round.

Their dishonest business practices along with the government's many failures in managing the economy added to a problem that was too big to handle. One only needed to look at the gauges to see where we were headed in 2006-7, to see things were going seriously wrong.

Some people tried to point this out, the occasional banker or scholar—and myself. I wrote articles, I gave speeches, I wrote an entire book where I warned of the path we were taking. But we were too few. The environment and zeitgeist at the time was such that warning voices were laughed off, at best. This was a dangerous atmosphere, any healthy introspection or self-criticism was totally absent. I have remarked that what happened at the core was the complete defeat of critical thinking. We lost control of ourselves and of the situation, and it can never be allowed to happen again.

You can analyse this from various perspectives. The economical one, but also from a political, ideological and social standpoint. It is important that we don't overlook any of these factors when we try to understand what happened here.

The never-ending party

You say you warned that this would happen, but you evidently had no success. Do you feel you should have employed different methods?

Well... [laughs]... I've thought a lot about that. Truth be told, I am troubled by it and feel like I need to look inwards, just like others. Why did we, who saw the signs, who knew something was deeply wrong, why did we fail in getting our voices heard.

When I try to seek explanation I feel it isn't because I didn't try hard enough. I resorted to every mean at my disposal, I wrote articles, I gave speeches, I put forth several motions in Parliament to try and reclaim economic stability. I submitted the first one in 2005, I was deeply worried about the situation back then and in the accompanying statement I portrayed the risks facing us. I even explicitly say in one place: “All the same signs are appearing in Iceland that lead to the Scandinavian banking recession around 1990. We are headed for the same kind of bubble, which is very dangerous.”

One of the reasons this was so hard was that there were so few of us that actively opposed this ideology. It had a nice ring to it, and claimed to usher in a new era of globalisation, innovation and evolution. The party was so fun that nobody wanted to ruin it and say: “Alright, it's two in the morning and we all need to go home.” It was like everyone thought the party would last forever; that there would

always be enough champagne and we would never have to pay the tab.

But all parties come to an end, and then you need to clean up the mess and pay your bills. This is what we're doing.

And of course it is remarkable that my party and I—who were the most vocal critics of this ideology and really the only party that actively opposed it—that it would be up to us to clean the house and foot the bill. But that's just how it is. Someone needs to do it, and it's important that it's done well. I do think, however, that the people that threw the party and sent out the invitations are not the right people to clean it up.

Rumours

I heard a rumour shortly after you took over, which said you were trying to make sense of what had happened to Iceland, that you are trying to clean up the mess but it simply wasn't possible. That you were telling folks it was the biggest bank robbery in the history of the world, worse than anything people had heard happened in Argentina and other places we'd heard horror stories about... is this true?

Well, the events that unfolded here... they are unparalleled in world history. We keep hearing that our banks account for the sixth, ninth and tenth largest bankruptcies ever. It is nonsensical that such a small economy can foster three bankruptcies out of the top ten. The banks had grown so absurdly large and inflated.

So in that sense these events will certainly go down in world history, that such a tiny economy can experience such a vast collapse. I will not compare us to other countries, but I advise people to read the SIC Report's findings about the banks, and to read the charges being pressed by Glitnir's estate against that bank's managers—where they straight out say that they robbed the bank from within. That they used their ownership to fleece it from the inside. And they did this with large, established companies too.

They bought firms in good standing, like Eimskip and Icelandair, and in a matter of years they had transformed them into empty shells encasing a pile of debt. Their methodology, of extracting the valuables from the companies, accumulating debt and using it as leverage for other investments, etc., it was truly an unbelievable culture. And it is surely unparalleled in the world, at least at such a hypercharged version.

IMF! IMF! IMF! OMG! OMG!

What about the IMF. One hears many ugly stories of their involvement with developing nations and nations in crisis, of selling off resources, privatisation and the like. Now they've opened an office here and are working with the government... do you think it's strange that people are afraid of this fund with its track record, and do you believe what is said about it internationally?

It is true that it has a spotty track record and I'll be the first to admit that. I was against seeking its assistance, I would have liked to explore every other option, but we had already entered an agreement with them when we took over. And I do think that a lot has changed within the IMF. It is very aware that it is working with one of the Nordic welfare states, an open, democratic Nordic society. This is a new school for the IMF; they are well aware that they are being watched by the international community and they would be disgraced if they behaved belligerently.

I honestly can't complain about our cooperation thus far, it's been an objective one and we have been able to affect their plan and adapt it to our wishes in many ways. But of course it isn't anything anyone would wish for, to be dependent on such an organisation, and I will celebrate the day we are through with their program and aren't reliant on them anymore.

Will Parliament ever grow up?

Speaking of Parliament, I as a citizen—along with many of my friends—often cringe when observing Parliament at work and noting the work methods that seem to be employed. From my perspective—and I am not alone—it reeks of amateurism, especially during debates. Watching this group of adults attempt to work is a baffling and embarrassing experience, one sometimes wishes they would just shut up and do their jobs already...

This is a rather tricky subject... the aforementioned Parliamentary committee makes remarks that Parliament's position needs to be strengthened and the conditions for sophisticated work methods improved. And they also severely criticise the political culture—if one could call it a culture—that has been dominant here. I think that there's a lot of truth to what they're saying. We need to make serious amends.

And the criticism that's being directed at Parliament and the public's lack of trust in it is partially justified... but partially not.

One of the problems is the image the media portrays of Parliament and the face it frequently shows the nation. It is negative. Attention is most often directed at debates that occur at the start of Parliamentary sessions, and what happens there honestly won't win us any respect. That doesn't change the fact our MPs are turning in a lot of work that's generally well prepared and thought out. And the greater part of our MPs contribute substantially to important tasks regarding legislation and resolving issues. The majority of the cases we handle we handle in agreement.

Maybe this is where Parliament needs to get a grip; we need to resolve these minor issues using the platforms we have, in our committees and during party meetings instead of bickering about them in Parliamentary sessions. If we did that, I believe the public's perception of Parliament would be very different. As it is now, we are spending way too much time publicly arguing about work methods, procedure, scheduling and the like. With all due respect, but you do realise the people are sending around clips of [Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture] Jón Bjarnason being interviewed... and laughing at him. He seems to be widely considered a joke...

That's an entirely different matter. We are all different, we all have our own style of communicating and talking. People are free to amuse themselves however they want, but I do not want to standardise Parliament and fill it with cloned types that are all the same. It is important that Parliament represents all aspects of society and provides a cross-section of it, that it contains both men and women, young people and older people. Folks with different backgrounds that come from different sectors of society. The last thing I want to see is Parliament being filled with male lawyers aged 35–45, which has sometimes seemed to be the ambition of certain parties. That's not the Parliament I want to see.

Cooperation, compromise

As an MP throughout the years—and let's not forget you are the longest serving MP aside from our Prime Minister—you've seemed very ideologically driven. You abandoned the formative talks for the Social Democratic Alliance back in the '90s—an attempt to unify the left under one banner—opting to start a party that would be closer to your ideals, to name one example. Yet now you are part of a government that has done many things that seem to directly counter what you've made yourself out to stand for.

You said earlier that during times of crisis there may not be a lot of room for ideology, but how can you remain convincing when you say one thing when you're an MP and quite another when you've become a minister and finally have the power to instigate change. There are many examples, like your government apparently allowing ECA, a private military training corporation, to set up shop here.

Well. We are part of a coalition government, and such cooperation always calls for some compromise. It's a natural part of being in government and working with other parties, you won't accomplish everything you would like. And this means you have a choice: are you willing to make that sacrifice, to serve your higher ideals, to never be willing to negotiate with others or make a compromise...?

That is a stance in itself, but it follows that parties that revert to this method are permanently relinquishing any attempts at influence through being in power and in government. It means abandoning the chance of acquiring a position to make a lot of things on their wish list happen, it means settling for a life in opposition. I happen to be familiar with both being in opposition and part of a government, this is not my first time as a minister, and I know what each role entails. As soon as you cooperate with someone, you are going to have to compromise your ideals.

If you are putting out a fire, you don't care so much what colour your water bucket is. You just have to keep your house from burning down. But once the fire starts dying down you can be more picky with your buckets, maybe purchase some environmentally friendly buckets for the next round of firefighting.

And it might be noted that even despite these difficult circumstances we as a government and Parliamentary majority have made several reformatory changes, for instance in the field of human rights and women's rights, changes that were inconceivable during the reign of our previous governments as the Independence Party would veto them every time.

Can you name specific examples?

We criminalised the purchase of prostitution, we outlawed stripping, we now have one matrimony law for everyone. The Minister of Justice no longer can arbitrarily appoint judges according to his will, we abolished that power and now judges are appointed by a committee of professionals. I could go on...

Human rights

Staying on the theme of human rights. The brunt of our readers are foreigners from all over the world, and many of them have a mind to make Iceland their home, to work here, raise families and contribute to our society. And it seems—according to what a lot

of them are saying in their letters and phone calls to us—that our Directorate of Immigration is one of the most inhumane institutions currently operating. That it shows no regard for personal situations of individuals, opting instead to treat them as numbers on a piece of paper. People are being deported with some very questionable reasoning, and then the process of immigrating to Iceland from outside of the Schengen area seems all but impossible. It seems like the island has been fenced off with barbed wire...

Yes, there might be something to all this... However, I don't want to accept that the Directorate of Immigration's procedures are as bleak as you say; on the contrary we were determined to fix a lot of things there. And I think that despite everything, our former Minister of Justice Ragna Arnadóttir did a lot of good things in this field. She took over a difficult ministry after [former Minister of Justice, Independence Party member] Björn Bjarnason's long stint there. But we have accomplished a lot of reform in this field since taking over, that is a fact. We paid a lot of attention to the topic and worked together with the minister on amending several problems.

We set out to put these matters in as good a condition as is possible, but our possibilities are certainly limited by the fact that we are cooperating with Europe on these matters and Europe has instated certain rules that we have committed to following. We chose to look to Norway, because it is our opinion that they are doing the best job of handling their immigration affairs. And we for instance ceased deporting refugees to Greece. Like the Norwegians, we waited for an assessment on the situation in Greece before proceeding. We now work under the rule that every case be looked at individually and family circumstances and others be taken into account.

I do know that a lot of people are unhappy with these affairs still, and deporting someone will always be painful and difficult. But we have to work within some sort of regulatory framework.

We also must remember that if we plan on hosting international refugees, we need to do it in a decent manner, and we must be capable and equipped to do so. There needs to be an ambition to do it well and the oversight to handle every unique case so that new Icelanders are capable of easily adapting to our society and building a new life here.

Are there any plans to reconsider our current regulatory structure concerning immigration?

Yes, I think that's rather likely and as I have said we are first and foremost trying to ensure that we are handling these affairs in the best possible way. The discourse around it needs to be calm and informed, and we need to realise that there are two opposing factors that need consideration. On one hand we want to be able to contribute to aiding those in need, to offer suffering refugees a place to stay and live their lives; and to keep Iceland open to international influence and immigration. On the other there is a risk that if we do not carefully tend to these affairs that they will wind up fanning the flames of racism, prejudice and social unrest.

Adding to that, I must admit, I have always had certain worries regarding Icelanders in those matters. An unpleasant feeling in the back of my neck tells me that we maybe would not display exemplary behaviour...

Herding cats

PM Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir allegedly said that working with the Left Greens was like herding cats... do you have an equally poetic description of your cooperation with the Social Democrats?

This comment, it was something that someone supposedly said at some time and the PM repeated. Oh, I don't really pay attention to such nonsense. As a whole, our cooperation has worked well, at least things have always been good between the PM and I, which is important. I believe that we have full confidence in one another and that our relationship an honest one. And in general our people are working well together in committees and elsewhere.

Then we have our differences and problems; it's no secret that we have been faced with some very taxing problems, and that has added strain to the relationship between the parties.

But I don't believe that us Left Greens are constantly forced to compromise according the Social Democrats will, as some have insinuated.

The current situation would strain any government. That is self-evident. We have been regularly subject to a different and major catastrophe, day after day, month after month—it is important to remain calm and sensible, to confront the issues as they come along and try solving them without resorting to panic.

It has been like this for almost two years now. I frequently wake up in the morning without any idea what trouble lurks ahead, it's been one major event after the other and I just try to leave the house with that in mind. A volcano might erupt, a Supreme Court verdict might cause severe civil unrest, IceSave, herding disease... you just try to remain calm and do your job. This has been an eventful and demanding time, one I think no Member of Parliament—no Icelander for that matter—will ever forget.

Anger, rage, sorrow

Do you ever get angry about the situation? About the way things turned out?

Anger is not a big motivating factor for me. I think it's important to remain calm and serene, that is the only way I can do my job. That said, yes, of course I get angry. When confronted with information or evidence of gross misconduct or criminal negligence. Sorrow is a more common reaction with me when I learn how things were done here, how the nation's well-being was continually and recklessly endangered. I get sad or angry.

I was furious the day I read the SIC report. I had planned on being coolheaded about it but wound up really angry. You could probably tell from my speech at Alþingi that day. Why was I angry? It screamed out at me. It was all so familiar. Everything I was trying to say, all the ignored warning signs. In hindsight, it was so evident that we were headed for catastrophe, literally all the signs were pointing towards that. When I was reminded of that, I was furious.

At who? Your predecessors? Voters?

At everything, really. Things happened that should not and cannot and may not happen. Things should never turn out so badly at the cost of so many, requiring such great sacrifices. It is clear that a lot of people failed tremendously, one cannot reach any other conclusion. And of course it's easy to get outraged or depressed over such events. But it is important to remain calm. To wrestle each problem as it comes along. No one will gain anything from empty anger. 🍷



WELCOME TO
ICELANDS
BIGGEST
RECORD
STORE!

S·K·Í·F·A·N

KRINGLAN · 591-5320 · WWW.SKIFAN.IS

Grapevine Oct 2
Grassroots Concert

**DJ flugvél og
geimskip
ThizOne
Corvus
Crackers
and more!**

20th EDITION!

Yay! Grapevine Grassroots is twenty!
Join us for an awesome night at
Hemmi & Valdi (Laugavegur 21) for
sweet performances by some of the
most memorable bands from past
Grassroots nights, along with some
fresh, new ones.
Show starts promptly at 20:30!



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.



Life Outside The Mainstream (1982–1985)

Bubbi Morthens and Utangarðsmenn hit the dull sugarcoated Icelandic pop scene in 1980, spreading raw excitement in their wake. Almost overnight all the seventies pop stars seemed passé. In 1981, the new rock scene exploded with bands such as Þeyr, Purrkur Pillnikk, Tappi Tíkarrass, Fræbbblarnir and Jonee Jonee doing their best stuff. The wave was perfectly captured in the documentary film 'Rokk í Reykjavík,' which was premiered in April of 1982. After that, things started to fade out. The rise and demise of Kukl has already been documented in these pages, and next time I plan to tell the story of my own band, S. H. Draumur, which struggled on in 1982–1986 to little fanfare.

THE 'MAINSTREAM' RETURNS - DISAPPOINTMENT

Things were getting seriously "mainstream" all over again. Rás 2, a "pop" branch of Icelandic State Radio, commenced broadcasting in December 1983. Up to that point, "pop music" had not been a priority on the only radio station in Iceland, 'The Steam,' as it was nicknamed. Some people thought the new station would tend to fresh sounds, but soon it was obvious that it mainly took care of what was already popular. The seventies fun rockers Stuðmenn—who had been dormant since 1976—had a massive comeback with their musical comedy 'Með allt á hreinu' (aka 'On Top'). It premiered before Christmas in 1982 and more than half the island's population would eventually go see it at the cinemas. Stuðmenn would go on to be the nation's darlings during the eighties and nineties—often referred to as "The band of the people". Stuðmenn lay the foundation for the "Icelandic pop sound," a well that many bands have drunk from ever since.

Vonbrigði ("Disappointment") were four young guys that came from the Breiðholt suburbs. Brothers Tóti and Árni on drums and guitar, bassist Gunni and cocky singer Jói. They had gained some fame belting out the opening tune of Rokk í Reykjavík—the anthem "Ó Reykjavík," with lyrics by poet Didda, who wrote many of the band's lyrics. Vonbrigði leaned towards the Gang of Four/Killing Joke-school of hard post punk and were furiously excellent. The band released two records during their eighties life span, a 4 track 7" EP in 1982 and the seven track 'Kakófónía' EP in 1983. Neither managed to capture the true essence of the band as they recorded the newest songs in their repertoire and were too in awe of the studio effect possibilities to just keep it real. Vonbrigði split up in 1985 but reformed in the '00s. The band has released two CDs of new music and new, almost heavy metal versions of their old songs.

THE RISE OF 'KILLEMBILLY'

Oxsmá was about the most exciting thing in Iceland from 1982–1985. The group had formed in the Reykjavík Art School in 1980, but didn't start to play live until 1982. Hrafnkell "Keli" Sigurðsson sang, Axel "Seli" Jóhannes-



"Oxsmá was about the most exciting thing in Iceland from 1982–1985"

son played guitar, and Óskar "Skari" Jónasson occasionally blew a sax and behaved like an idiot. When drummer Kormákur "Kommi" Geirharðsson was added to the equation the band finally clicked. Kommi had played with a cool new wave group, Taugaeildin ("The Neurotic Ward" – one fine EP released in 1981), and punk group turned new romantic band Q4U. Lead by singer Elly this fine group released a 12" EP in 1983 and is in the midst of a comeback right now.

Oxsmá took their cue from The Cramps and the other punk rockabilly acts of the early eighties and at first tended more to their looks than to their music. After doing ultra slow versions of "Fire" and other rockabilly classics, original material started to pop up in Oxsmá's program. They called their music "Killembilly," and tellingly their lyrics (written by Keli) were tongue in cheek funny, often about horrible stuff and sex with titles (in Icelandic) like "Bibi's Tits" and "Bits of Elsa." More members joined, Danny Pollock fresh from his Utangarðsmenn stint played guitar for a while, and bassist Jón Skuggi and

Hörður "Popcorn" Bragason on Hammond organ became steady members.

"CLEVER KITTY, DRUNK IN A BATH TUB"

The Oxsmá guys were multi talents. They made two films, first the sci-fi horror short 'The Oxsmá Planet,' followed by the ambitious feature 'Suck Me Nina,' a drama comedy that was set in the Icelandic hippie years. The "feel" of this film would some years later be repeated in Óskar Jónasson's much loved Sódóma Reykjavík comedy. Besides "normal" concerts Oxsmá would stage arty theatre shows and make environmental sculptures.

Oxsmá released a cassette in 1983 entitled 'Bible For The Blind.' It had sixty minutes of exciting lo-fi killembilly, including a song sung by an uncredited Bubbi Morthens, who just happened to come by the rehearsal space. A cassette of the 'Suck Me Nina' soundtrack was also released (Oxsmá doing their own take on Icelandic hippie rock). 1985 saw the band's only record, a 3 track EP called 'Rip Rap Rup.' On the A side Keli sang once more about a girl, this time she was called Kitty (in Icelandic, of course): "Thirteen years old / kinky costume / what a perfume / clever Kitty / drunk in a bath tub / chocolate."

Oxsmá's final concert was at Hótel Borg in July 1985. Soon afterwards, Keli and Skari went to London to attend art and film schools. The coolest looking Icelandic band ever hasn't returned since, and unfortunately none of their music or films are available to the general public. You can hear some of it on YouTube, though. ☺

Top Vonbrigði on a rare occasion outside of Reykjavík. From left: Gunni, Jói, Árni (squatting) and Tóti.

Left Oxsmá at Laugavegur in 1985. They often busked in Reykjavík. From left: Hörður, Kommi, Jón, Seli, Skari and Keli. Surrealistic poet Sjón – a big fan – stands wearing cool shades between Seli and Skari.



Licensing and registration of travel-related services

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

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

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



Music | CD Reviews



Ólöf Arnalds

Innundir skinni

www.olofarnalds.com

Acoustic and mellow, but not boring

Ólöf Arnalds sounds less mainstream than other Icelandic singer-songwriters such as Emiliana Torrini or Lay Low; however, her music remains no less relatable. She pieces songs together with more craftsmanship than other acoustic musicians concerned with just verses, bridges, and choruses. 'Innundir skinni', a collection of nine well-composed songs, is no exception. Ólöf smartly chose Kjartan Sveinsson of Sigur Rós to reprise his role as producer on her second album. As a result, 'Innundir skinni' sounds more polished than 'Við og við', with more instrumentation while still staying true to Ólöf's modest acoustic sound.

Stand out tracks include 'Crazy Car', 'Vinkonur', 'Svíf birki' and 'Surrender'. 'Crazy Car' showcases Ólöf's talent for writing simple yet compelling lyrics in English, while 'Vinkonur' and 'Svíf Birki' are excellent minimalist compositions featuring finger-picked, stringed instruments. And Ólöf holds her own singing a duet with Björk on 'Surrender'. The songs without lyrics (in Icelandic or English), 'Vinur minn' and 'Allt í guddi', don't sound as finished as the rest of the tracks on the album.

Ólöf treats her voices as another instrument and are not afraid to indulge in their higher pitched vocal ranges. Never stagnant or dull, 'Innundir skinni' conjures a number of moods—playful, curious, melancholy, ethereal—making the album a solid second release. It's an album you can listen to over and over and pick out new sounds and instruments every time.

✉ - EMILY BURTON



Amiina

puzzle

amiina

Exciting, evocative melodies

Amiina venture into new musical horizons with 'puzzle', their second full-length album. The male infusion of Magnús Trygvason Elfassen on drums and electronic artist Kippi Kaninus brings a notably bigger, gutsier sound, progressing from the lighter, string based arrangements many might be familiar with from their previous work, as well as their collaborations with Sigur Rós.

The albums' fusion of drums, electronic compositions and subtle strings makes for a stunningly good effect. The opening track 'ásinn', perhaps one of the best, combines fresh electronic beats with an almost oriental accordion riff, in a blend that excites and surprises in equal measure. It's one of those tinglers that get the hair standing on the back of the neck. On 'over and again', delicate vocals and strings are cleverly offset with a well-balanced drumbeat, similarly on 'púsl'. Amiina manage to maintain this momentum and, enjoyably darker, atmosphere for much of the album, particularly on the track 'sicsak'.

However, just at the mid-way point when its got you right in the palm of its hands and you're just dying to know what happens next, the album pulls back into more familiar territory, with a notable increase in the use of twinkly glockenspiel-like bells and saws. A bit of a downer after the previous highs, it's almost like they got a bit scared of how expansive it sounded and pulled back into their comfort zone. This feeling peaks at 'mambó', which with its electronic drone, repetitive tambourine and lackadaisical 'la-la-laaing' makes for a boring track and the albums low point. Overall though, Amiina have dipped their toes into a really fresh sound with 'puzzle', and when they just let go and really commit to that transition it works incredibly well.

✉ - EIMEAR FITZGERALD



TRACK OF THE ISSUE

Download your free copy at grapevine.is

TRACK OF THE ISSUE

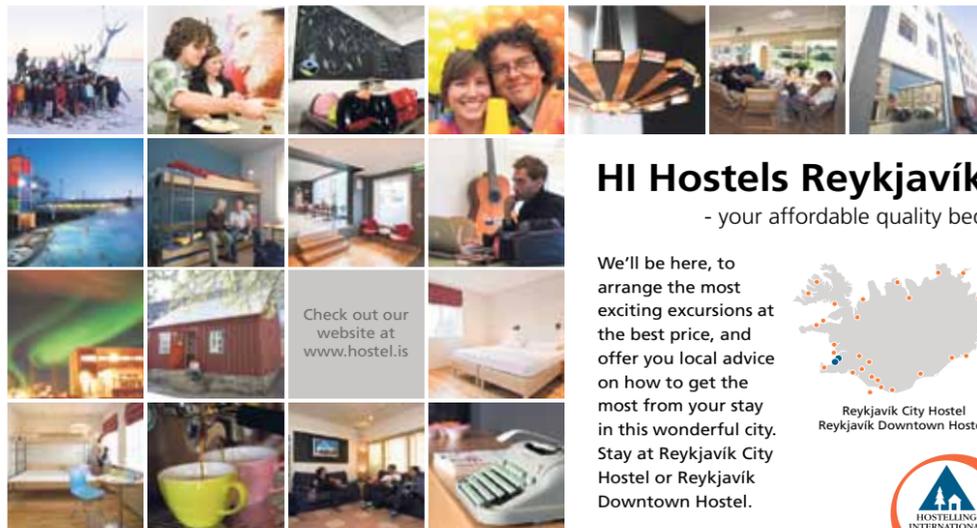
Amiina

In The Sun

amiina

Download at www.grapevine.is

As winter draws closer and the thermometers start to veer south, it might be hard to imagine standing in a cornfield in summer with a gentle breeze blowing through your hair. However listening to 'In the sun', the fifth track from Amiina's new album, it's almost possible. For just over four minutes, gently plucked strings and delicate vocals twist and turn beautifully through its subtle drum beat. The deep hum of double bass from the midway point, and uplifting horn addition all combine to create a wonderfully evocative track. It's insulation for the soul. **EF**



HI Hostels Reykjavík

- your affordable quality bed

We'll be here, to arrange the most exciting excursions at the best price, and offer you local advice on how to get the most from your stay in this wonderful city. Stay at Reykjavik City Hostel or Reykjavik Downtown Hostel.



Reykjavik City Hostel
Reykjavik Downtown Hostel.





BEZT Í HEIMI! LOBSTER SOUP
1100.- kr

SEA-AGRA SOUP
850.- kr

MOBY DICK ON A STICK

PURTRIFIED SHARK
marinated in Icelandic schnapps

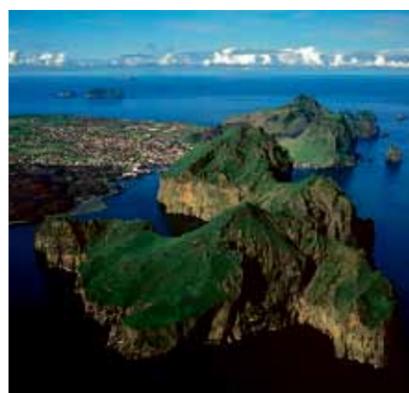
HARD FISH



SÆGREIFINN

Verbúð 8 / tel.553 1500 / Geirsgata

— OPENING HOURS : 1130-2200 —




Adventure tours Scheduled flights Air charter services

Visit the Westman Islands

Scheduled flights and day tours every day

tel.: +354 562 4200
e-mail: info@eagleair.is
web: www.eagleair.is





ENJOY AND RELAX

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

5 course tasting menu: 5990,-

1919

RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE

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

Cinema Paradiso

Iceland's first art house cinema opens its doors to film buffs, and the rest of us

Words

Wiebke Wolter

Photography

Hörður Sveinsson

A few left over champagne glasses on the counter are the sole evidence of the previous night's big opening party for Bíó Paradís. Without yesterday's crowd of housewarming guests, we are able to view the new cinema in all its glory. Images of Alfred Hitchcock, Marilyn Monroe and other icons of film history look down on the visitors from the red-painted walls. Retro couches, an old piano and a collection of film posters turn this unspectacular building into a cosy place to hang out. The Grapevine is here to learn about Bíó Paradís from the new cinema's programme director, filmmaker and -critic Ásgrímur Sverrisson.

This cinema was known as Regnboginn until finally closing down last June. Now it's re-opening as Bíó Paradís. Why didn't you keep the old name? We have a completely different mission. This is the first cinema of its kind in Iceland. It's true, Regnboginn started as kind of an art cinema, but not by choice. When it opened in 1977, the other cinemas had the big studio contracts, so basically Regnboginn couldn't get any of their films and had no choice but to buy independent films. Independent doesn't simply mean just art films. A lot of big event movies were actually independent, like Rambo, for example. Regnboginn didn't have an arthouse profile, and eventually become more and more a mainstream cinema. Although the name Regnboginn actually describes our ethos well—a rainbow has many colours and stands for variety—we changed the name to Bíó Paradís to have a clean break.

Can you describe these 'different colours' of Bíó Paradís?

We have four things we want to emphasise. Firstly, we are going to screen the latest arthouse films from world cinema. Two, we are going to have a big repertory section, starting with the French New Wave films—the big guns. Third we are going to act as home to the film festivals in Reykjavík, including the Reykjavík International Film



Festival (RIFF), starting next week, and smaller festivals like Reykjavík Short Film Days, Short & Docs and the Nordisk Panorama. We also want to put on our own festivals, by showing films according to themes, such as the ones we are now showing about Reykjavík and its music scene. Fourth, providing film history education is a very important part of our mission. Next year we will hopefully start screening films for children, both in elementary school and high school, as part of the curriculum. Education about film history has been completely neglected in Iceland.

Do you think there will be an audience for the kinds of films you plan on showing here?

This is what we are excited about finding out—will anybody come? In Iceland, cinemas get 5.3 visits per capita, which is the highest rate in the world. But this is very deceptive. The main audience is comprised of 15–25 year olds, and they make about 20, 30 or 40 visits per year. Older people go quite infrequently. Also the films on offer are around 85% from Hollywood, 10% Icelandic, and only 5% are art films or documentaries. The result is that

interest and regard for film culture is very low.

But there are a few people here—I would guess that it is about 10–15,000 people—that appreciate a variety in film. I think this is a large percentage, compared to the population. We want to bring these people together to create a growing community. That's our mission, and it is a very ambitious one. We have no idea if it will work or not. But what we are really worried about is, that people will say: "Oh it's so nice to have this cinema, yeah, I will definitely go!"—and then they never go. Now it is 17:15, (turns around to the young men selling tickets by the entrance) did anyone buy a ticket? Oh, yes? We sold a couple of tickets? So we are not completely dead!

Ásgrímur looked like he was joking, but he displayed hints of concern at the same time. Bíó Paradís got a grant from the city council to get the cinema started, but if the theatre manages to establish itself it will depend only on a paying audience for sustenance. 🍷

Ticket Prices & Discount Cards

Bíó Paradís offers a range of discounts for regular visitors.

Regular price : 1150 ISK.

Member card: 2500 ISK

You get 10% of every ticket you buy; one ticket is included in the price.

Bronze subscription: 13 800 ISK

You buy fifteen tickets, that is 920 ISK per ticket (20% off).

Silver subscription: 17 500 ISK

You buy twenty tickets, that is 875 ISK per ticket (24% off).

Gold subscription: 23 250 ISK

You buy thirty tickets, that is 775 ISK per ticket (32% off).

There are also special subscription cards available for RIFF.

It's My Responsibility To Focus on Unknown Bands

Vincent Moon visits Iceland



Parisian filmmaker Mathieu Saura, better known as Vincent Moon, catapulted to fame after shooting The Arcade Fire playing in an elevator, resulting in collaborations with artists such as REM, Sufjan Stevens and Sigur Rós. His 'Take Away Shows,' are informal studies of bands that he encounters across the world in a personal quest to act as an intermediary between artist and audience. Moon is currently in Iceland as a guest of the Reykjavík Film Festival and is using his visit as an opportunity to shoot local artists such as Helgi Jónsson, Bárújárn and Kría Brekkan.

How did you first get into the business of making music videos?

I was interested in all kinds of diverse art forms when I started out and didn't know what the fuck I was doing. Most people are probably like that today, hybrid creatures. We know a lot about music, art, dance and cinema because things are readily available to us. Hybrid art, hybrid forms. It's impossible to put things in a box like we used to or define things by words anymore. The present is a beautiful moment for creation. My origins are in photography. I

grew up in Paris and after high school I ended up by accident in film school. After a year there I attended a photo class for four hours, one night a week. It changed my life. That's where I discovered the situationist movement and it totally transformed my way of seeing things. It's all about making one's life an art piece. I grew up in Paris, and studied there and had access to so many things. I was nineteen when I decided to give myself six years to learn as much as possible and then become someone else. That was pretty clear in my mind. I was a nobody. I didn't have a personality. I was a transparent, extremely shy guy and I decided to change myself and learn more than other people. It was my revenge on the world.

Was your name change to Vincent Moon part of this metamorphosis?

Absolutely. And for years I went to see all movies, art exhibitions and dance performances. I was like a bulimic, gorging myself. I became more and more interested in music, especially live music. I became a fan of a band called The National and became friends with them. I found that cool: "wow I'm friends with a musician." I asked them if I could take photos of them, and that's how it started. They used my photo on their album cover. Then I decided to try

my hand at music videos. I was especially inspired by the photographer Antoine d'Agatha, who does some really violent, radical stuff. I knew there was something missing for me, it was the interaction. Not just putting images on mp3 and making films from songs. That's not collaboration. At this time I met up with the founder of La Blogothèque, Chryde, who was doing podcast interviews with bands and I started to make these live music recordings, which became the Take Away Shows. We would meet up with foreign bands playing in Paris who were mostly sick of stupid questions from journalists. When we arrived we'd say: "Hey we're not going to ask you any questions, just play some music." This is what my work evolved from, sharing a moment with a musician, improvising, capturing that pure energy.

And Arcade Fire was your big break?

Well, our first really well known band was Grizzly Bear, but yes, everything changed when we did a video for Arcade Fire, which was shot in a freight elevator. That video went everywhere. That's when people started coining me as a filmmaker who liked to shoot bands in weird places. Which, in fact, is not right. The idea was just to try out new things off stage. It doesn't have to be a particularly weird place. But yeah,

New Visions

A closer look at the films in RIFF's main competition category

Twelve up-and-coming directors will present their first or second films in the 'New Visions' category at The Reykjavík International Film Festival (RIFF), one of which will go home with the festival's Golden Puffin Award. This year's films represent a diverse worldview—from Greece to the United States and Iraq to Romania. Shot with a subjective camera or narrated without any dialogue, many of this year's 'New Visions' focus on innovative forms of filmmaking. Still, most of the films manage to capture aspects of real life without feeling like abstract concept films.

I undertook the task of viewing the entire 1.089 minutes screened in the 'New Visions' category to try and help you choose which films and directors to check out. If I had a say in who's taking the Golden Puffin home, I'd vote for 'The Four Times' from Italy and 'Flowers Of Evil' from France.

Words

Wiebke Wolter

'Aardvak'

(Kitao Sakurai, USA/Argentina)

What's it about?

A blind recovering alcoholic befriends his Jiu Jitsu teacher and descends into the dark underworld his teacher inhabits.

What's it really about?

Issues of control and losing control, and the different levels of strength and weakness.

What makes it special?

Most scenes begin with sounds from a black screen, giving the audience a sense of what it's like to be blind.



DON'T MISS!

'The Four Times'

(Michelangelo Frammartino, Italy)

What's it about?

An old lonesome shepherd lives his last days in a quiet small village in the south of Italy, herding his goats.

What's it really about?

The circle of life—but not in a Lion-King kinda way. Wow!

What makes it special?

The focus of the film shifts from one unpredictable protagonist to another, not using any dialogue at all. And there is one amazingly choreographed scene in which a dog makes a car crash into the goat stall. How did they manage to train a dog like that (or was it maybe a tiny actor in a dog suit)?

'Song of Tomorrow'

(Jonas Bergergård/Jonas Holmström, Sweden)

What's it about?

Stig Manner collects items he finds and tries unsuccessfully to help his friend Janos, a broke street musician, to get his career started.

What's it really about?

Those who fail in society.

What makes it special?

Digital films shot with a hand-held-camera aren't visually exciting, but in this case it works fine. Narration, characters and camera seem so painfully realistic that this film feels like a documentary.

after that success came quickly and shortly after the Arcade Fire video, REM called me and asked me to do a video. But now I refuse a lot of things and I'm not really interested in doing very successful bands. Why should I? They don't need it. I feel it's my responsibility to focus on unknown bands, to be an intermediary and to promote all the wonderful things that I encounter around the world and make them known to others.

But aren't consumers becoming more choosy, refusing to be fed by the mass industries and picking out things on the internet?

I wish that were the case. But the golden age of the internet was, like, five years ago when unknown bands were able to surface and become famous in this way. But now, the industry is back in business. It took the big guys a few years but now they understand how it works. Take Pitchforkmedia for example. I recently spoke to the guy who started up Pitchfork and he said he hoped he hadn't created a monster. But yes, he did create a monster! In the end people will read Pitchfork and Pitchfork will tell them what to listen to. People don't have much initiative or imagination. They don't use the internet like they could or should. They just wait to be fed.

Are you done with the idea of the Take Away Shows now?

No, right now I'm not done with this idea. I still have to continue doing my little things. I do portraits of people I love around the world. I travel, spend a few hours with people, they play their music, and they get a beautiful film. Sometimes I get a nice dinner

or something in return. That's how things should work. I'm trying to prove to myself that I can get by on virtually no money at all. What I'd like to continue exploring is my fascination of the relationship of man and images and how we play with images in this age of information.

What I'm scared of is that I don't think people are taught enough about images and new technologies. It seemed that the internet was an easy tool but it's not. People are not being educated on the subject. We go to school to read text but we don't know how to read images. People are becoming numb to images. My point is that the only way to save our souls is by going so far into the images that they cease to exist. Icelandic people have been very inspiring to me, especially how they create. Creation is an everyday thing. People make so many images constantly that they don't make any sense. It's the actual creation of the images that makes sense and not the end result. It's something I've been trying to do as much as I can in my work. I say to the musicians I record: "Let's just have a really good time, whatever the result of the movie may be." Artists interact with their audiences and everyone is a part of the creation. Let's reach the ultimate point where everybody is making films and nobody is watching them. 🍷

ANNA MARGRÉT BJÖRNSSON

'Attenberg'

(Athina Rachel Tsangari, Greece)

What's it about?

Unworldly Marina is 23 years old and lives with her ailing father. She has never felt sexual desire, until she makes out with her experienced friend Bella, and later on with a man.

What's it really about?

Letting go of the first love, the father, and finding grown-up love, a man (and let's be honest, it's also about vicarious embarrassment, watching people having clumsy sex.)

What makes it special?

Little bizarre and humorous sequences of Marina and Bella promenading up and down a street that have no relevance to the story. But, is it really necessary to have the actors spit all the time and make farting noises with their mouths?



DON'T MISS!

'Inside America'

(Barbara Eder, Austria)

What's it about?

Mexican-American teens in Texas, struggling with life, bereft of future prospects.

What's it really about?

Mexican-American teens in Texas, struggling with life, without future prospects.

What makes it special?

This film succeeds in dealing with this politically explosive subject without being cheesy or judgmental!

'Jo For Jonathan'

(Maxime Giroux, Canada)

What's it about?

Jonathan and his older brother, who he admires, attend dangerous illegal car races.

What's it really about?

A young man who tries to be someone he is not.

What makes it special?

The antithetical use of music. You see a car race but instead of hearing car noises, you hear very slow music. Or you see a party scene, but instead of hearing music, you hear a very serious voice-over.



DON'T MISS!

'Littlerock'

(Mike Ott, USA)

What's it about?

When her car breaks down on a road trip through California, a Japanese student winds up stranded in a small desert down.

What's it really about?

The foreign and language barriers.

What makes it special?

Nobody understands what anybody else is saying, so there is no real dialogue in this film, but a lot of simultaneous monologues.

'The Christening'

(Marcin Wrona, Poland)

What's it about?

Michael has everything he could dream of—a beautiful wife, a newborn son and a good job. Unfortunately, there is a mafia vendetta against him, and Michael tries to save his family.

(There was no copy of the film available to screen in advance, so you'll have to find out yourself what it's really about.)



DON'T MISS!

'Mandoo'

(Ebrahim Saedi, Iraq)

What's it about?

A small Iranian family, including an injured old man, tries to cross the Iraqi-Iranian border.

What's it really about?

The terrors of war and mortal fear.

What makes it special?

The whole film is shot through the eyes of the old man. That provokes very unusual camera perspectives: If he lies down the camera tilts with him, if he closes his eyes the screen turns black, and we only actually see his face is when he looks into a mirror.

'At Ellen's Age'

(Pia Marais, Germany)

What's it about?

Ellen is a stewardess in steady relationship. When she finds out that her boyfriend impregnated another woman, she loses it and winds up living with a collective of vegan activists.

What's it really about?

Drifting around and trusting strangers.

What makes it special?

This film is narrated in a very realistic fashion. Not everyone who appears is meaningful to the plot and the end of the story is unpredictable, like in real life. Unfortunately, the dialogue sounds a little stilted—didn't the actors have vocal coaches?



DON'T MISS!

Flowers Of Evil

(David Dusa, France)

What's it about?

A young woman from Teheran's high society is sent to Paris and falls in love with the bellhop at her hotel.

What's it really about?

Love and war in times of YouTube and Facebook.

What makes it special?

The mix of film and YouTube videos, along with the question of how the internet changes our perceptions of the world in general. Oh, and of course the extraordinary breakdance sequences!

'Tomorrow'

(Marian Crisan, France/Romania/Hungary)

What's it about?

Nelu lives in a small town on the Romanian-Hungarian border. He decides to help a Turkish man cross the border on his way to Germany.

What's it really about?

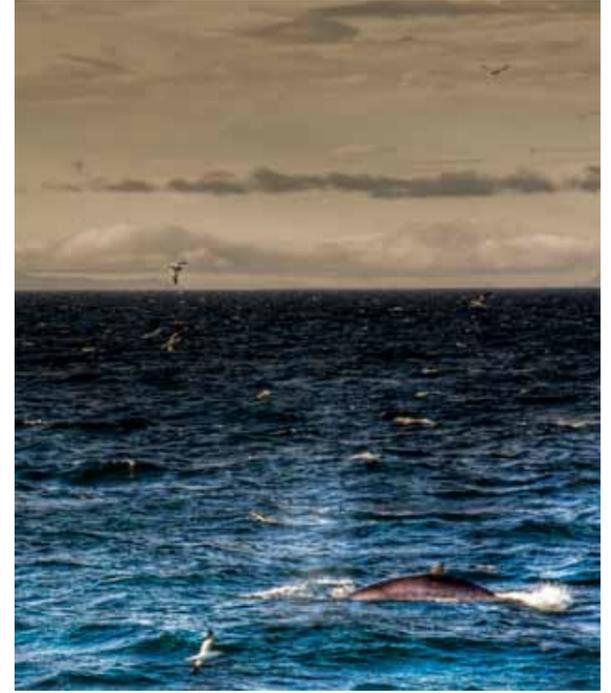
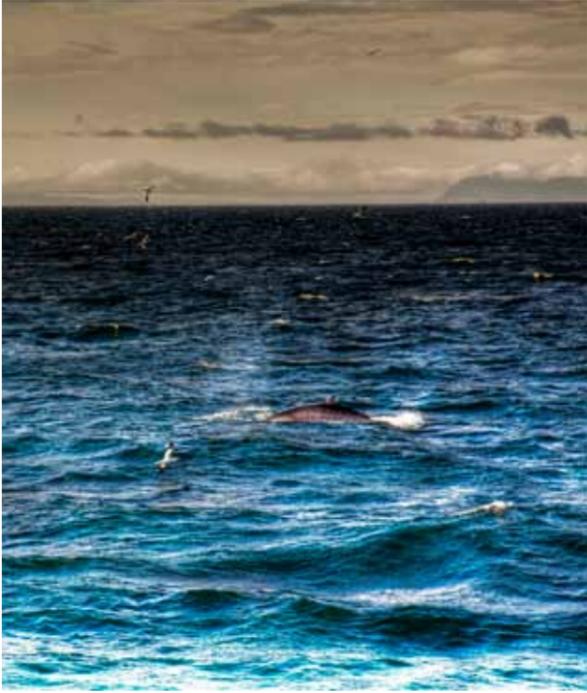
Dreary life and despair on the eastern edge of the EU.

What makes it special?

The film tells its story in a very quiet and humble way, but makes you want to cry out loud.

Dinner Party In Faxaflói Bay

Whale watching actually means watching a lot of whales



Words

Wiebke Wolter

Photography

Hvalreki

We knew we were in the right place as we spotted a bunch of funny looking tourists dressed up in warm suits provided by Elding tours looking prepared for a rough afternoon in Faxaflói bay. As we boarded the double decker tourist boat, I felt a surge of excitement at the thought of seeing some whales, the majestic kings of the sea (or was that sharks?). The boat sailed out of the harbour, and our guide came onto the intercom to explain the best way to spot a whale. "Look out for white crests or blows", she told us. "Birds flying around are also a good sign, because they might be looking for the same fish to eat."

DEAD SEA...

The first thirty minutes, I concentrated on the surface of the ocean. Surrounded by nothing but water and a few birds, I got more and more impatient. Our guide explained how to inform the others if we spotted something. "Whale at twelve o'clock" means right in front of us, and "whale at three o'clock", on the right side of the boat (or starboard, to say it in a more nautical way). She sounded surprisingly optimistic. But I was convinced we wouldn't see anything at all, so I decided to just hang out in the sun and at least enjoy some wave watching.

DOLPHIN SPOTTED

Then, all of a sudden, I heard someone shouting: "White-beaked dolphins at eleven o'clock". Everybody moved to the left side of the boat, holding on to the rail or the next person or anything else they could grab, because the boat was rocking quite a bit by now. My stomach churned and I really wished I had taken the anti-seasickness pill offered by the girl at the Elding ticket office.

Arriving on the other side of the boat, I was disappointed to catch only a small glimpse of something grey disappearing into the water. However, my disappointment didn't last long, because the speakers soon announced more dolphins were to be seen. The whole crowd moved from one side of the boat to the other to see them. The dolphins kept running us back and forth from on one side to the other—well, except for those taking a closer look at their seasickness bags.

UNDERWATER DINNER PARTY!

"Blow of a whale twelve o'clock!" The boat sped up in pursuit of something splashing about ahead of us. As we got closer, our guide told us it was a minke whale, a type of baleen whale, which filters food from the water. Our guide was explaining that minke whales measure an average of seven metres, can dive for around twenty minutes and swim up to 40 km/h, when she interrupted herself, announcing a cascade of uncountable "one o'clock, two o'clock, three o'clock whales".

We found ourselves in the middle of a whale of a dinner party: minke whales, white-beaked dolphins and dozens of gannets all feeding together. This scene totally made up for the slow beginning. A group of gannets hovered above until—out of nowhere—the whole swarm plunged into the water, head first, in a suicidal fashion. Gannets dive up to 100 km/h to catch fish in very deep water. It was extremely entertaining to watch these fascinating birds. I'm not sure if I'm supposed to say it, this being about a whale watching tour, but the suicidal gannets were the secret stars of this trip. 🐦

Elding offers whale-watching tours every day at 9:00 and 13:00 during September, and in October daily at 13:00. Adults pay 8.000 ISK, for children the price is 3.500 ISK.



AIR ICELAND

Always best price online.
Various online-offers to all Air Iceland's

www.airiceland.is

websales@airiceland.is / tel. +354 570 3030



Vitamin Sea

Rowing the serene coast of Álftanes makes for a breath of fresh air



Words

Eimear Fitzgerald

Photography

Hvalreki

Driving down to Ægisíða to meet our guide, Skúli Guðbjarnarson, I had a feeling that my eager team of rowers and I were in for something special. The autumn sun hung low in the evening sky, throwing its pale glow over the bay. Surveying our sturdy Faroese fishing boat, all agreed it looked a reliable vessel for our evening's trip, particularly in the calm conditions that stretched out before us.

Skúli duly arrived complete with all the necessities: safety gear, waders, picnic basket (contents to be revealed later), as well as complete repertoire of local history, wildlife facts and the obligatory seaman's story or two. As we set off, any doubts about rowing ability were allayed, as Skúli was very

much on hand to advise and take over as and when our initial enthusiasm began to wane and our tripeps began to wonder what the hell was going on. Being out on the water brought a very different perspective to Reykjavík. Out of the hustle and bustle of downtown, the gentle giant, Mt Esja, almost hugged the city, sheltering it from the brunt of the cold easterlies. The majestic Snæfellsjökull was visible to the north and Bláfjöll, the Blue Mountains, stretched out to the south-east.

Being on the water also brought a very different perspective to the word hunger. It wasn't long before the sea air brought a Neanderthal-esque grumble to my stomach that needed attention, and fast. The plan? Crabs! The process of hauling in Skúli's mid-ocean crab trap provided much giggles and excitement, especially when we discovered five wonderful examples that would become dinner. After a time musing over where we would shore up and cook the little critters, we decided upon an isolated skerry of rocks, home to a gaggle of arctic geese and a few suspicious looking puffins.

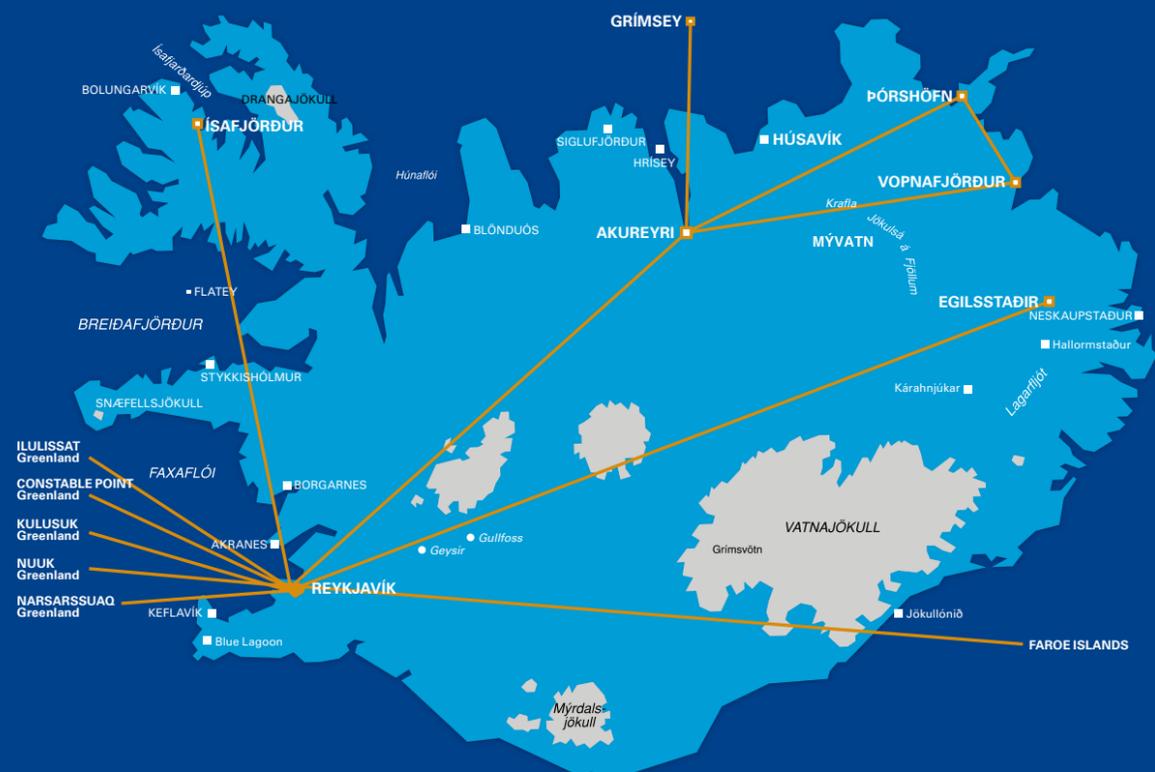
With the sun beginning its descent on the horizon, we sat down to enjoy what had to be in my top five list of 'most delicious meals in random locations, ever'. As our crabs met their sad end in a large pot of boiling water, we warmed our hands and bellies with a hearty, steaming barley soup, mopped up with some crusty bread. All the while Skúli entertained us with stories about Álftanes, Viking settlers, growing up on Viðey and attempts to translate untranslatable wildlife names. However, all talk stopped as soon as the crabs were ready to serve, and we descended like a pack of hungry seagulls on our gloriously tasty victims. Washing it down with a refreshing French chardonnay added a further touch of "je ne sais quoi" to our already exotic location.

However, our delightful pit-stop had made contemplating the row back a harrowing one for our lazy legs and aching arms. Again we needn't have worried. The trusty Skúli was ten steps ahead and had brought an outboard motor for the home stretch. Sitting back to take in the glorious explo-

sion of pink and orange in the sky around us, the seabirds trailing us in the freezing air and the lap of the darkening ocean against the boat, time seemed to stand still. Venus twinkled above our heads in the glow of a green solar splash that appeared from nowhere, and which melted away almost as soon into the haze of city lights. As we reached shore, the last orange flare of day faded over the horizon and we gathered ourselves for home, tired and a little chilly, but thoroughly pleased with an evening's adventuring and a job well done. 🍷

www.airiceland.is

destinations.



ISLENSKA SÍÐIS PÓL 01/2010 09/2010



Contact Air Iceland or travel agent for reservation.



Reykjavík Is Dancing

For several years now, Iceland has been building an international reputation for producing a rich and diverse range of independent dance makers. The depth of this relatively new community is growing at a fascinating rate, and taking huge strides towards building an environment upon which the art form can be sustained.

The trend up until now has been that equal numbers of Icelandic dance artists have chosen to work abroad as much as they do at home—largely because the conditions for making and sharing dance in Reykjavík have a long way to go before this city can offer the sort of fertile soil that some of its European neighbours can offer (think Berlin, or Brussels). Of course Reykjavík will never become the New Berlin, nor should it aim to be, but in its own way, the city is demonstrating great ambition and has the potential to offer a wholly different type of breeding ground for dance making in Iceland.

Much of the appeal attached to continental cities such as Berlin is the geographical location, which permits artists quick access to other hotspots, enormously improving touring possibilities and providing natural meeting points for the roaming international community. The qualities of Reykjavík are in many ways the stark opposite. Reykjavík, rather than large and central, is small and isolated, but these qualities are not to be sneered at, and by no means to be misconstrued as negative. On the contrary, Reykjavík's qualities are an opportunity, as well as a challenge. The city's isolation can be an advantage, allowing the dance community to nurture a unique environment that is left to develop undisturbed, and the size of the city makes the arts community incredibly localised (every artist working in walking distance of every other), which makes the possibilities for collaboration and creative encounters unavoidable.

ISOLATION

This being said, the risk with isolation is that a scene becomes out of touch and two dimensional—remaining continually unchallenged by developments taking place elsewhere. Plus, local tight-knit, everyone-knows-everyone communities can lack the critical space that is required to be able to openly access the successes and failures of individual artists and their work, leaving the scene vulnerable to stagnation and thirsty for criticism.

Currently Reykjavík is not characterised by either of these extremes, and plenty of groundwork has been done already to push the scene in the right direction; many exciting groups and dance makers have been coming out of the woodwork, including Hnoð, Hreyfiþróunarsamsteypan, Leifur Þór Þorvaldsson, and Margrét Sara Guðjóns-

“The city’s isolation can be an advantage, allowing the dance community to nurture a unique environment that is left to develop undisturbed, and the size of the city makes the arts community incredibly localised”

dotir (to name just a few); the last seven years have seen a strong festival legacy develop: artFart and The Reykjavík Dance Festival; and courses such as the Contemporary Dance BA and Theatre – Theory and Practice BA, established by Iceland's University of the Arts, have all helped tackle the challenges that Reykjavík faces. Yet there is plenty more to be done and the dance community and its wider supporters are waking up to this. Cue the autumn and winter of 2010.

The final quarter of this year is now being heralded by many as an era of change, and an opportunity to shift the way in which dance is made and shared in Iceland. Signý Palsdóttir, Office Manager of Iceland's Department of Culture, declared at a public forum hosted by the Reykjavík Dance Festival that “Now is the time for dance!”—a statement that is hard to refute when considering the array of events and developments taking hold in the coming months.

VITAL PLATFORMS

Firstly, although now past, it seems important to flag up The Reykjavík Dance Festival, which took place over the first weekend in September. At its best, the festival serves as a vital platform bringing together a national and international dance community to share and explore the best that Iceland's dance scene has to offer. The festival, crucially, provides a pretty comprehensive overview of the dance activity that has been taking place in Iceland over the year and provides a space for reflection on the current state of the Icelandic dance scene. The most exciting element of the festival is that much of the work presented is being shown for the first time, making it much less predictable what the overall quality of the work will be.

The second event in the coming months is the fascinating development that is taking place at the National Theatre this winter which, for the first time in the playhouse's history, is presenting four new independent dance works as part of one season—a move that is described by Karen María Jónsdóttir, President of the National Dance Association, as “an unprecedented shift”. Thirdly, and possibly the most groundbreaking news, is the City of Reykjavík's move to provide initial funds for the first ever National Dance House to be created. Opening at the beginning of October, the new dance space will be installed in an old biscuit factory on Skúlagata and will immediately serve

as a vital resource for the independent dance scene. Ásgerður Gunnarsdóttir of Hreyfiþróunarsamsteypan—one of the four groups presenting a new dance work at the National Theatre—explains that “this development is enormous. Before this news was announced, Hreyfiþróunarsamsteypan were struggling to find a space to start working on their new piece. Now we will be the first of many to make use of this new opportunity.”

Finally, the fourth big event taking place this autumn and winter is Keðja—running from 8th–11th October. Ása Richardsdóttir, who managed the event, described it “first and foremost, as an opportunity for all involved in the performing arts to explore, question and celebrate the art of dance”. With sixteen artistic events of various shapes and sizes, plus various seminars and talks, this international encounter is an opportunity for dance professionals to mingle with their counter-parts from across the oceans; an invitation to the curious beginners to check out some of the most exciting contemporary performance work taking place in Iceland at the moment. And according to Ása Richardsdóttir, it is also about something a lot bigger. She explains “I think this is an opportunity for all Icelanders to begin to rethink, reshape and recharge their future; to treat society in the coming year as an open, critical, and constructive laboratory—bearing in mind that our success will, to a large extent, depend on our ability to unleash the true creative forces we have.”

The question of whether or not Keðja will be able to reach those heights will not be answered of course until after the event, but from looking at the programme of events—with highlights including Saga and Friðgeir, Leifur Þór Þorvaldsson, Erna Ómarsdóttir, Kviss Búm Bang and many more—it seems safe to say that this event is going to provide some thrilling encounters, and should be marked on the calendar as a “DO NOT MISS!”

Overall the final quarter of 2010 looks unavoidably like a period of fervent activity and exciting possibilities. It is clear that there is a lot of work to do, but it is easy to feel hopeful when you look at the track record. 🍷

Now offering catering service!

sushibarinn

laugavegur 2 101 reykjavík ☎ 552 4444

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

HORNIÐ

Restaurant – Pizzeria

Hornið opened in 1979 was the first restaurant of its kind in Iceland, a restaurant with a true Italian atmosphere. Hornið is known for good food made out of fresh raw materials, good pizzas baked in front of the guests, good coffee and comfortable service.

Lunch offers every day.
Open every day from 11.00 to 23.30
For reservations call 551-3340

Restaurant Hornið – Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavík – s. 551 3340 – www.horni.is

GEISIR

FRESH ICELANDIC SPECIALITIES

Wide variety of international dishes

ADALSTRÆTI 2
101 REYKJAVÍK
TEL 517 4500
geysirbistrobar.is

Friendly family restaurant in the City Center

Tryggvagata 20
101 Reykjavík
Tel 562 3456
grillhusid.is

A menu where everyone has a great variety to choose from

Italian cuisine

Fresh home made pasta

Basil & Lime
Ristorante/Bar

Klappanastígur 38 - 101 Reykjavík - Tel 555 3696 - basil.is

Reykjavík WELCOME CARD

See more and save more when visiting Reykjavík.

Free admissions and discounts off tours, shopping and services for 24, 48 or 72 hours.

Great value for money.

The Welcome Card can be purchased at:
The Centre, major hotels, museums, tourist information centres and Hlemmur and BSÍ bus stations.

INCLUDING CITY BUS TRANSPORT, FREE ADMISSIONS, DISCOUNTS OFF TOURS, SHOPPING AND SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR 24, 48 AND 72 HOURS.

THE CENTRE
The Official Tourist Information Centre in Reykjavík

Adalstræti 2 • 101 Reykjavík • Tel +354 990 1550 • info@visitreykjavik.is
www.visitreykjavik.is



Psychics, ADHD And Alcoholism

Psychologist Paola Cardenas answers your dilemmas



I have always been quite sceptical about psychics and their supernatural power of seeing beyond what the rest of us mortals can see, but it is difficult to live in Iceland and not believe in this sort of thing. A large percentage of Icelanders have gone at least once in their lives to a psychic and stories of the supernatural power of these intuitive people can be heard at most social gatherings. As the saying goes, "when in Rome, do as the Romans do," I decided to do as the Icelanders do and go and find out what the fuss was all about and uncover an impostor at work.

So I ordered an appointment with a well-known psychic and arrived there quite suspicious, but as I entered the room I was quite taken aback by my own reaction. The moment he started speaking I let my guard down and became hopelessly attentive. He described my personality as only my closest friends would and told me things about myself that I had even forgotten. He told me things about my future as well but although his words were quite impressive, I am aware that there is the possibility that they might be fabricated. Nonetheless, this was an instructive experience that might help me be more open-minded about this mystical business and definitely give me the opportunity to have something to talk about the next time the subject is brought up.

Enough of my experience, here are your dilemmas and my answers to them.

I am usually distracted and forgetful and my friend says I might have ADHD. Could you please explain to me what ADHD is and what I can do to fix it?

ADHD, or attention-deficit and hyperactivity disorder, is a psychological problem of childhood characterised by inappropriate levels of hyperactivity, inattention and impulsivity. These essential features need to be seen across situations before a diagnosis can be made; that is, at home, at work and in social situations. Although ADHD is usually diagnosed in childhood, it is not just a problem in children. Even though you might not have been diagnosed as a child, it does not mean that you can't have it as an adult.

In the past ADHD went usually unnoticed and kids who were affected by it were considered to be troublemakers and annoying. Fortunately things have changed and these children are met with more understanding. The most common symptoms of ADHD in adults are the following: having trouble concentrating and staying focused, being disorganised, having difficulty following directions, impulsiveness and chronic lateness and forgetfulness among others. In order to get a diagnosis you might need to see a psychologist but that sort of evaluation can be quite expensive. Nevertheless, if you have some of the symptoms there are some things that you can do that might help you. For instance, it can be good to exercise regularly in order to work off excess energy, limit your sugar and caffeine intake and get enough sleep. Lists, clocks, calendars and notes-to-self can also help you manage better your time and improve your work environment.

I think my girlfriend has a drinking problem. She drinks on most week-ends and always gets too drunk. We have argued a few times about this but she says I exaggerate. How do I know what is "normal" drinking and what is the best way to help her?

It sounds to me as if your girlfriend has been binge drinking. Binge drinking is a term used to describe the very common behaviour of drinking alcoholic beverages with the primary purpose of getting drunk. This pattern of drinking usually refers to consuming five or more drinks on a single occasion for men or four or more drinks on a single occasion for women, generally within a time span of about two hours. This drinking style is quite popular in many countries, including Iceland, but that does not make it acceptable. Binge drinking can have negative consequences to our physical and mental health. There are researches that associate binge drinking with alcoholism but the fact of the matter is that drinking is a problem if it causes trouble in your relationships, at work, in social situations, or in how you think and feel. If you are still worried that your girlfriend has a drinking problem I suggest you have another talk with her, when she is sober, and tell her how you really feel about her drinking and how it affects you. It also might be helpful for you to meet with your family doctor and get additional information on the matter. 🍷

✍ PAOLA CARDENAS
📧 ED SCHIPUL

Opinion | "Travis Bickle"

Winter Awaits: Down the Rabbit Hole of Cabbie Depression

Soon darkness will envelope all for months on end and snow will fall mingled with hail, sheeting the windshield in freezing cold white. Such is the time for the depressed to wallow, for the forlorn to simmer in deep funk. The inching lapse of time and creeping stretches of wait pile up infinitely as the mind softens and slowly turns to mush. I vowed once for an end to this but my means are meagre and the coins call for me to claim them, the bills beg to be bound in my billfold.

I long ever to be the drunken lout whom I serve, as alcohol keeps the wolves at bay. I know indeed that it is a fine custom for a man to lock tight his heart's coffer, keep closed the hoard case of his mind, whatever his thoughts may be. Yet I bare these feelings freely without care of being judged. Only by distribution can sadness be cast away, or by infecting others, my state be made



to seem less wretched. Bereft of joy, I, by sorrowful utterance, bereave others of theirs.

Finally I catch a fare. Why does this please me, I wonder. Once safely shipped to whatever destination only more futility awaits. Safely shipping

briefly considers ceasing as carelessly crashing presents a final solution. Might it be I'm listening to too much Neurosis? Should I perhaps switch to FM 957 and for a while become a happy zombie with its gleeful head swimming in sickeningly sweet and frothy pop culture hell bent on ever discovering a lower common denominator on which to breed a bleached hair generation of functional retards? Should I rather be happily monosyllabic than sadly eloquent? I probably will never know.

Tonight I spark an incorrigible flame and take a jay. I get high on hate and loaded with bile, contempt and loathing. I run lights and ignore stop signs. I heed no limits and strive to end this ruined life continuum. I'm playing a game you see. Whoever is the biggest dick fare tonight gets to join me in the great beyond with a high-speed crash gasoline fire as the expedient. You just try me you cunts! 🍷

Buy directly from the people who make them

The Handknitting Association of Iceland

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

TAX FREE

PURE NEW WOOL



THE VIKING
FAMILY BUSINESS FOR 50 YEARS

THE VIKING : INFO

Laugavegur 1 • Reykjavík • 581 1250
Hafnarstræti 3 • Reykjavík • 551 1250
Hafnarstræti 104 • Akureyri • 4615551

email: theviking@simnet.is



CHECK OUT - WWW.THEVIKING.COM

Literature | Review



Jón Kalman Stefánsson's first work in English translation, 'Heaven and Hell' ('Himnaríki og helvíti', Bjartur, October 2007), was released on September 2 by MacLehose Press (an imprint of Quercus). This is a rough gem of a novel which reads almost as fluid and poetic as the very ocean on which it unfolds. Set sometime at the turn of the last century in a Westfjords' fishing village, Heaven and Hell chronicles three coming-of-age days and nights in an unnamed boy's life. Yet, this is certainly no young man's av-

erage journey into adulthood; Jón Kalman is addressing the very nature of existence.

The sea as a metaphor for the transience of life is almost expected in Icelandic literature—and certainly plentiful among the old classics of world literature (Melville and Hemingway come to mind)—yet, somehow, Jón Kalman pulls it off with his own unique voice: rugged, folklore-imbued, but with a poet's sensitive touch. Stern has called the German translation an absolute treasure of a book. Die Welt said, "Upon reading the last sentence in this unexpected, beautiful novel, the reader will be struck in silent awe."

The novel is not driven by plot, but by the sheer will of Jón Kalman's poetic prose. It may take the reader a while to find the rhythm of the work, with its unusual punctuation and unexpected switching of tenses, yet slowly but surely one gets drawn into this simple and surprising world:

"They had seen every crack and crevice in the mountains many kilometres from the boat and the sky arched over them like the roof of a church, the roof that protects us.

The six men had been silent, humble and thankful of their existence. But it isn't natural for a person to feel thankful or humble for too long: some had started thinking about tobacco and forgotten eternal life."

The story opens with the boy and his friend Bárður returning to the isolated fishermen's huts on the coast where they wait for calm weather to head out for the catch. Bárður passes his time enrapt in a translation of Milton's Paradise Lost. He and the boy are the two youngest and least experienced of their six-man, six-oared crew; but by the time the men are four hours from the shore and setting their fishing lines, the wind has picked up and it begins to snow. Bárður suddenly realises that he has forgotten his waterproof. What seems at first seems a mere inconvenience becomes the only thing between life and death. Ice begins to form on the sails and Bárður is soaked through to the skin. Despite the boy's desperate efforts to save his friend, Bárður is doomed.

Back on land, incensed by the indifference of the other fisherman (who appear

more concerned with salting and gutting the catch), the boy sets out for the village in the middle of the snowstorm. His goal is to return Bárður's book to its rightful owner. For the boy, it is the poetry of John Milton that has killed his friend. It is almost as if until he returns this book, Bárður's spirit cannot rest. The boy soon begins questioning his own existence and resolves to join his friend in the afterlife, only to come to realise that there may well be other things worth living for:

"It is easy to let oneself be covered in snow, easy to die, but let's not forget that the night and the snowfall deceive, the boy thinks he lies down far from all human habitation, in the wilderness, but is then perhaps on a slope above a little farm..."

Although mostly written in the third person, there is a strange, yet compelling Other, a group of omniscient narrators—possibly gods or the spirits of the ancestors—who call themselves "We Are Nearly Darkness". These voices intermittently interject with philosophical comments and reflections on the boy's actions. As a narrative device this

might well have pushed the credibility of the novel over the edge, but here it works well; in fact, it lends the work a whiff of ancient Icelandic magic.

Jón Kalman, who won the Icelandic Prize for Literature in 2005 for his short story collection, 'Súmarljós og svo kemur nóttin' ('Summer Light, Enter Night'), is strongly influenced by poetics. Not surprisingly, before turning his hand to fiction, he published three poetry collections. Originally planned as a stand-alone novel, 'Heaven And Hell' is now part of a trilogy, the second of which, 'Harmur englanna' ('The Sorrow of Angels'), was released last year in Icelandic and has already met with praise.

'Heaven And Hell' is a universal tale of man's fragility amidst the gargantuan power of nature, about the enduring strength of friendship and the individual will to survive. This is a moving, timeless, intense novel deserving of all the attention it gets. ♡

MARC VINCENZ

Poetry | Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl

Quiet, You Ignorant Booby!

Anything an author does (or says) is viable to be used as evidence against (or for) her (or him). Their actions and words are commonly seen as shedding an invaluable light on the work they've given the world—and to a certain extent this is of course true. It's hard to understand the poetry of Ezra Pound if one refuses to see his (personal) fascist tendencies—they may not detract from the poetry, per se, but they do belong to it, they do inform it, enliven it.

Lifestyles and opinions impregnate the poetry of poets from Jack Spicer to Emily Dickinson to Li Po to Gertrude Stein to Sylvia Plath to William Carlos Williams, Tor Ulven, Ingeborg Bachman and Pablo Neruda. We could for instance ask ourselves what would've become of Allen Ginsberg had he succeeded with his original plan of becoming a lawyer—or had he just been hetero? What would an Indian summer of peyote abuse have done to someone like TS Eliot? Where would the Flarf poets be if they were pastoral hermits deprived of Wi-Fi's and iPhones? What would a Margaret Atwood sound like, if

she had the opinions of an F.T. Marinetti?

We live in times of continuously repeated 15 minutes of fame for everybody—we're all bloggers, tweeters, facebookers, tumblers, flickrers; exceedingly sophisticated self-promoters, and we're all famous ALL THE TIME. This is a well-known and well-documented fact ("nauseamus igitur"). And in this system of self-promotion no one is as suspect as he or she who actually has something to promote. Celebrious Tweeters, like British author and comedian Stephen Fry, can't possibly tweet without a hidden agenda of also peddling their crap, no matter that their crap sold out weeks ago and actually sounds kinda interesting. It's still suspect. We know this and they know this.

Most authors (or artists /entertainers in general) live in a universe where they're forced to admit that even though they might be irrelevant small potatoes today, their Twitter feed, their emails, their scribbled grocery lists and the rate of their production of used-condoms and /or bastard children might be used to "devise their

literary intentions" if luck (good or bad) would happen to make them famous. And if they happen to become VERY famous, the devising will be maniacally thorough and the exegeses increasingly inspired.

This, as you may imagine, is a recipe for paranoia and permanently suspended intellectual animation for all partakers, which is why so many contemporary authors stay silent on matters concerning anything under the sun: you know you're just gonna use it against them. Most authors are even scared witless of writing their own books. It doesn't mean that the boos will be bad—but the myth that neurosis is a helpful tool for increasing creativity is about as true as poets having to be alcoholics to write interesting poetry. That is to say, it's mostly a funny anecdote—a part of 20th century mythmaking and image-related careerisms. Not only was it never true, as an idea it's also totally passé.

Self-doubt? Yes. – Paranoid delusions? No, not really.

As everyone knows, the founding document of Ice-

landic thought is the Elder Edda—a curiously repetitious ode about the importance of never seeming stupid. In Auden's translation: "The ignorant booby had best be silent / When he moves among other men, / No one will know what a nit-wit he is / Until he begins to talk; / No one knows less what a nit-wit he is / Than the man who talks too much [...] Wise is he not who is never silent, / Mousing meaningless words: / A glib tongue that goes on chattering / Sings to its own harm [...] Of his knowledge a man should never boast, / Rather be sparing of speech / When to his house a wiser comes: / Seldom do those who are silent / Make mistakes; mother wit / Is ever a faithful friend" and so forth.

These are the verses etched in the wretched souls of Icelandic poets—and poets worldwide. For us, the bitches of Icelandic tradition, that's where it all began. With a clear and concise precept: Booby, behave! Booby, be still!

And Booby, be sure to be quiet. ♡

Opinion | The internets

Learn The Internets, Dammit!

The IceWeb conference could help with that

The good people behind the IceWeb 2010 conference called us up the other day and asked us to write something about it in our paper so you, our readers, might take an interest in participating. While we really like the internet, we couldn't seem to find time to make the article. So we invited one of IceWeb's organisers, Brian Suda, to write us a short article explaining why he thinks everybody should go. This is what he came up with:

As Iceland positions itself as a technological hub with cheap power and talented individuals, it need opportunities to show-off and bring influential movers-and-shakers from abroad. Over the last five years, Iceland has played host three times to the IceWeb conference, an international web technology conference. In good times and in bad, SVEF (The Icelandic Web Industry Association - www.svef.is) has been bringing high calibre speakers to come and talk on a wide

range of web related topics, from marketing and branding to new technologies and exciting developments.

Einar Þór Gústafsson, current chairman of SVEF, planned the first IceWeb conference in 2006 as part of a school group project in a project management course at the continuing education program at the University of Iceland. Having some experience organising events while living in New York City, he wanted to bring in experts to an international conference focusing on web design and development.

Since Iceland sits nicely between North America and Europe, it's easy to entice some of the world's best technologists to visit. "Over the years, we have managed to invite speakers such as Kathy Sierra. The largest draw for her, and many of the other speakers, is the opportunity to visit an exotic place, see the nature, ride some Icelandic horses and enjoy the nightlife." says Einar.

October is a busy time in Reykjavík as it shows itself off to the world. The IceWeb takes place the 7th-8th of October sandwiched between the "You are in Control" conference and Iceland Airwaves.

If Iceland wants to be part of the 21st Century technological revolution, then it needs to step-up and learn about new advances, then innovate. "Going overseas for a conference is very expensive and it's difficult to convince your boss to spend a few hundred thousand krónur on tickets, flights, hotels, per diem etc." Einar explains.

This year Julien Smith will grace us with his presence. He's a dot com maven working hard to advance the community. His recent book, Trust Agents, was lucky #13 on the New York Times bestseller list. It focuses on how to use your social networks to build your brand's influence, reputation and profits.

After the collapse, Iceland needs to rebuild its social capital with the rest of the world. It burned more than a few bridges with both IceSave and then Eyjafjallajökull. Whether it's in your home life or international relations, influence counts. Iceland needs to rebuild its trust and Julien is coming to help us learn more.

But there is much more to the Web than just LIKE buttons! As we troll Facebook for last weekend's pictures, we

forget about all the time and effort that has gone into all the tiny snippets of text. Do you get more clicks if you say "Click Here for More Info" or "To see more info, click here"? There are people who specialise in the tedious world of micro-copy. Really. Rely Annett-Baker is one such person. I have been assured that everything I think I know about smart, short, witty copy is wrong, but that's OK, she's come to set me straight. Now if we could only get her to sit down with some of Iceland's politicians, then we might seem quite so confusing to the foreign press!

If there is anything that you know for certain, it's that you never know enough. Having opportunities to educate, advance and innovate are paramount in this fast-paced changing world. Everyone should take advantage of these opportunities and learn what the next wave, trend and innovation will be and be sure to make Iceland its home. ♡

BRIAN SUDA

ICELAND
AIRWAVES

October 13 -17



www.icelandairwaves.com

TUNNG
AMIINA
BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB
DIKTA
EFTERKLANG
EVERYTHING EVERYTHING
FM BELFAST
HERCULES & LOVE AFFAIR
HAM
HJÁLMAR
HJALTALÍN
HURTS
MODERAT
ROBYN
S.H. DRAUMUR
+240 MORE

ICELANDAIR



ICELAND
AIRWAVES '10
October 13 -17



*Taste the
best of
Iceland*

Try our famous
Icelandic
Gourmet Fiest

- » Starts with a shot of the infamous Icelandic spirit Brennivín
- » Smoked puffin with blueberry "brennivín" sauce
- » Icelandic sea-trout with peppers-salsa
 - » Lobster tails baked in garlic
- » Pan-fried monkfish with lobster sauce
 - » Grilled Icelandic lamb Samfaina
- » Minke Whale with cranberry-sauce
- » World famous chocolate cake with berry compoté and whipped cream

5.890 ikr.



RESTAURANT- BAR
Vesturgata 3B | 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 551 2344 | www.tapas.is

The only kitchen
in Reykjavík open
to 23:30 on weekdays
and 01:00 on weekends

THE GREAT TRAVELLER
2009
READERS' SPA AWARDS
WINNER
MEDICAL/THERMAL SPAS/NATURAL SPA
BLUE LAGOON
ICELAND

BLUE LAGOON
ICELAND

Energy for life
through forces of nature

Blue Lagoon is open daily
www.bluelagoon.com



PAGE 19

We were beset by a puerile and nouveau riche arrogance, an entire generation lost all moral restraint. People flaunted their wealth and boasted of it, they could only travel in private jets and the flamboyance and vulgarity surrounding Iceland was such that it got noticed the world round.

Steingrímur J. Sigfússon has a lot to say

PAGE 6

“The former CEO of Glitnir bank, Lárus Welding, received in 2009 over \$3.000 per day—per day (which is a considerably higher amount than many public employees make per month after decades of work) for... for what?”

Wow, bankers make a shitload of money, huh? Hope they deserve it

PAGE 12

So I Googled you.

Leftist communist hippie Catharine Fulton is on to Victor Blær...

PAGE 24

I was a nobody. I didn't have a personality. I was a transparent, extremely shy guy and I decided to change myself and learn more than other people. It was my revenge on the world.

Director Vincent Moon's 'revenge on the world' is surprisingly pleasant

PAGE 8

We knew our system was outdated and needed to be revamped, so this upgrade has been part of an overall strategic plan.

Strætó's Bergdís Eggertsdóttir tells us how they're trying to fix everything

PAGE 12

The main thrust of Boris' campaign was to bring back the famous London red bus—a sincere pledge, but one no less ludicrous or irrelevant to the people than Gnarr's promise to put a polar bear in the city zoo.

London's Dominic Rowland digs Jón Gnarr

Welcome to Iceland's largest booking service



Custom Vacation Packages Around Iceland

Visit our nearest information centre

Tourist Information Centre · Aðalstræti 2, 101 Reykjavík
Hilton Reykjavík · Suðurlandsbraut 2, 108 Reykjavík
Radisson Blu · Hagatorg, 107 Reykjavík
Hotel Loftleirir · Hlíðarfótur, 101 Reykjavík

BSI Bus Terminal · Vatnsmýrarvegur 10, 101 Reykjavík
IDA Bookstore · Lækjargata 2a, 2nd floor, 101 Reykjavík
Skarfabakki · Cruise Liner Visitor Centre, 104 Reykjavík



ITA ICELAND TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

www.icelandonline.com

Grapevine Grassroots Concert – 20th EDITION!

Yay! Grapevine Grassroots is twenty! Join us for an awesome night at Hemmi & Valdi (Laugavegur 21) for sweet performances by some of the most memorable bands from past Grassroots nights, along with some fresh, new ones.

Show starts promptly at 20:30, and we ain't leavin' til one in the morning...

This party is being thrown in conjunction with YOU ARE IN CONTROL, y'all!

