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GRAPEVINE**

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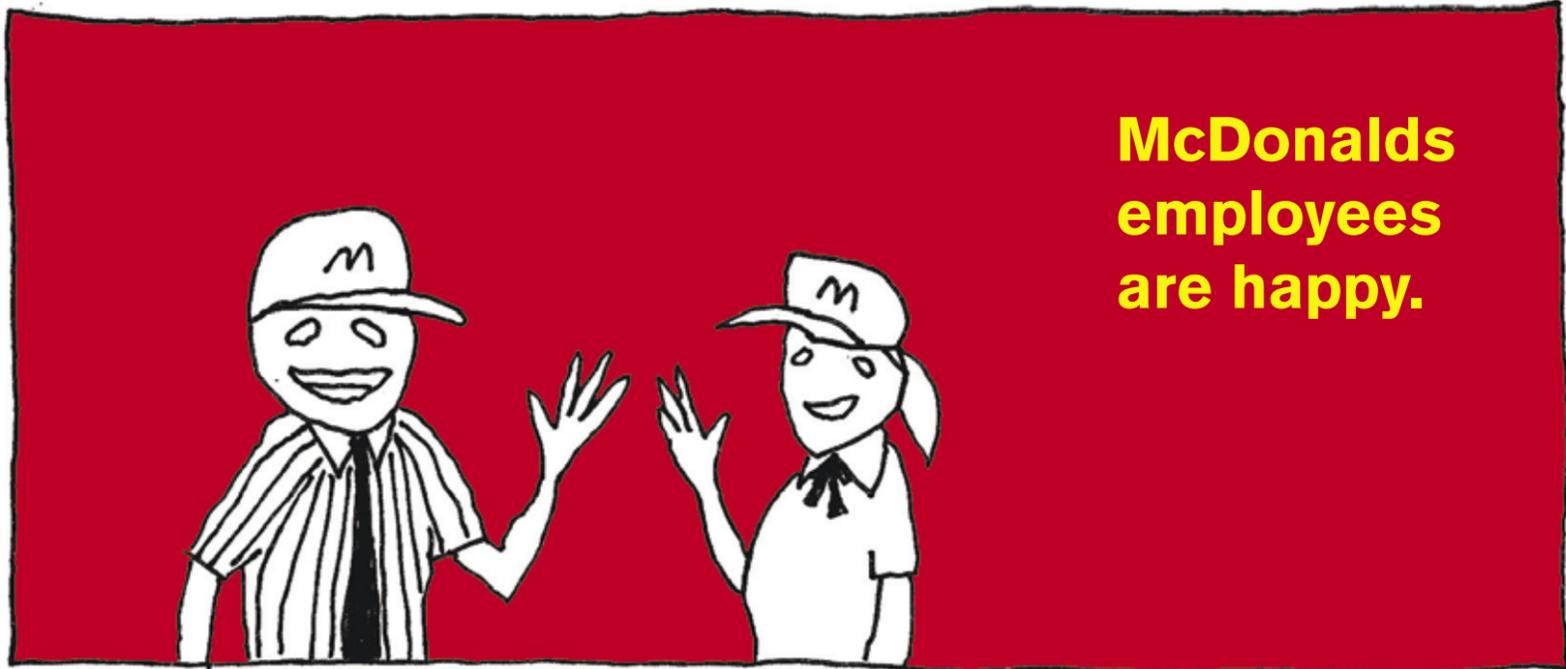
THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND

Issue 17 - November 6 - December 3 - 2009

www.grapevine.is

+ COMPLETE CITY LISTINGS - INSIDE!

Three reasons why Icelanders will miss McDonalds



Haukur's 17th Editorial

Now Is A Great Time To Believe In Nothing

So, they're throwing this National Assembly event next weekend. The idea is to round up a random selection of 1.500 folks and attempt to siphon from them an idea of Icelanders' shared core values, beliefs and ambitions for the future of their nation, so as to decipher what sort of society the people wish to build. They then plan on devising how we can best achieve these shared goals and visions for a mutual future.

The organisers pledge to make the outcome easily accessible and publicly available, so politicians and authorities can consult with it when forming policy. The idea is to try and build a better society, one that reflects the shared goals and ideas of its citizens.

I don't know about the methods they plan on using, and I've no idea if this assembly will produce valuable – or indeed any – results. In fact, some of the terms they're using to promote the event ('Open Source Government,' and 'The Wisdom of the Crowd' for instance) sound like empty catchphrases or vapid pop psychologies.

I'm not really sure what to think about any of this. I have my doubts. I still gladly

support this experiment, and I really do hope it provides some results we can work with. Because frankly, we need all the fucking help we can get here. Right. Now.

Let me elaborate: I cannot imagine that anyone that has been closely following the discourse in Iceland – whether it takes place in Alþingi, in the news, on blogs or at the bar – is able to do so without turning hopeless, apathetic or outright nihilistic.

Every politician seems to be working strictly under the M.O. of securing and safeguarding PARTY INTERESTS and their own position, of gaining or retaining power, of scoring points and winning arguments. Of course there are exceptions. They are not many.

Every pundit seems intent on ignoring what every other pundit has to say, to type louder than the next one, to align him or herself with a faction of choice and upholding their line or their PARTY INTERESTS without any attempt at discussion at all. Of course there are exceptions. They are not many.

Of course this isn't news to anyone over the age of twelve.

Repeated exposure to all this begets an urge to turn on, tune in, drop out. To retreat to slackerdom, to empty cynicism, partying and bullshit (as if my generation could retreat even further into those areas – I suppose it's possible). To abandon all ideas of seeking social justice, of building a fair society, of any sort of vision for the future.

To lock the doors, pull the drapes, shut the blinds and try and forget about the rest of the world.

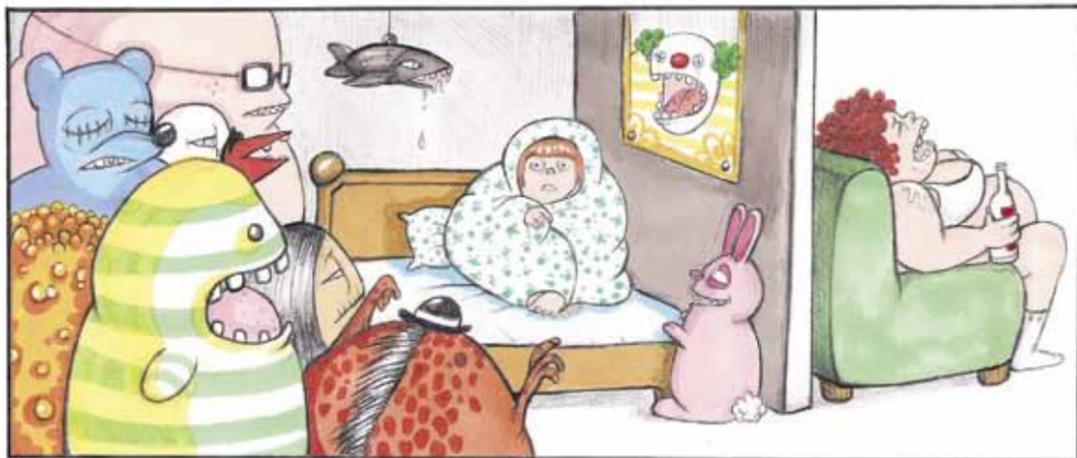
If you cannot turn down the static, maybe create some of your own.

I seriously hope this National Assembly event yields some results. Or that something yields some results. Anything at all. That we can once again instil faith in our people that someone out there isn't solely motivated by self-preservation and the will to power.

For if we carry on the route we've been treading for the past year, future generations of Icelanders may become even more cynical, jaded and indifferent than the current ones.

And that would be totally uncool, I guess. Learn more about the National Assembly at www.thjodfundur2009.is

Comic | Lóa Hjálmtýsdóttir



Are You A 'Blogger'? Do You 'Blog'? If so, Grapevine wants you. Maybe.

www.grapevine.is

We hear blogging is all the rage these days. We hear blogs can provide the modern individual with a refuge for contemplation and joy, that they are fine places to get a daily dose of studied discourse and enlightening commentary on day to day issues, as well as profound questions that have haunted man for aeons.

We hear blogs are great places to get informed on such varied topics as The Arts, Politics, The Entertainment Industry, Gossip, Vast Global Conspiracies and People's Lives.

We hear you can make some money off blogs, too.

We want in on all this sweet, sweet money... er... discourse. So as of RIGHT NOW, we are calling out to active bloggers that blog in English and are based in Iceland or write about Iceland-related topics. We wish to post their blogs on our web-site, www.grapevine.is, so we may score advertising cash and promote enlightened dialogue within our community.

If you believe your blog does not suck, and that it should be featured on our site, do drop us a line to editor@grapevine.is.

It would be great if you could use "HAPPY BLOG" as a subject line. Thanks.



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Huggleikur Dagsson

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MISTAKES, REGRETS
Last issue, we inadvertently attributed Lóa's review of the graphic novel Dungeon to Huggleikur Dagsson. Sorry, Lóa.

We also left out the names of some of the restaurants the Bedroom Community crew recommended. They were as follows: Sturla Mio Þórisson's favourite is Boston; Valgeir Sigurðsson's is 101 Hotel.

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').

Snorri Helgason

Don't Let Her

[snorrihelgason](http://www.snorrihelgason.com)

Download the track of the issue DON'T LET HER at www.grapevine.is

You will know Snorri Helgason from his outstanding songwriting for Sprengjuhöllin (not to mention his singing and guitar work in that same band). Having toured the world twice over and released two well received albums within the confines of Sprengjuhöllin, Snorri is now hard at work finishing his first solo album, to be released this month via Borgin Records. We got a sneak preview of the, frankly, strangely titled I'm Gonna Put My Name On Your Door, and we are happy to report that the record sounds all sorts of excellent.

Our free track of the month, Don't Let Her, is one of the album's standout songs, a soulful monster of a country ballad that brings to mind vintage Gram Parsons or even Wilco. Try it out for yourself!



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09-17

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RE-15 - 09:00

South Shore Adventure

All Year

09-19

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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PRICE **12300** ISK
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RE-44 - 09:00

Gullfoss - Geysir & Langjökull Snowmobiling

Seasonal

09-19

SUN THU FRI SAT

Our Gullfoss - Geysir & Langjökull Snowmobiling tour puts you in touch with some of Iceland's most famous and exciting natural phenomena. Piece de resistance an exhilarating 1 hour snowmobile ride across endless white snowfields.

A valid driver's licence is required.

PRICE **24500** ISK

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RE-24 - 12:30

Gullfoss - Geysir Direct

All Year

12:30-18

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

In one afternoon you spend your time encountering across-section of Iceland's natural wonders and geological phenomena: the historical Þingvellir national park, Geysir geothermal area and the amazing Gullfoss waterfall.

Due to road conditions during the hardest winter months the stop at Þingvellir national park might be skipped.

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All Year

09-19

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RE-62 - 21:00

Northern Lights Tour

Winter

21-24

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

On a chilly Icelandic winter night there is nothing more breathtaking than the Northern Lights. Relax on board a bus with us and we will take you to a place where you can enjoy this phenomenon dancing around the sky.

This tour depends on weather and sightings are not guaranteed.

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RE-08 - 09:00

Saga Circle

All Year

09-18

SAT

This tour is perfect for all Saga enthusiasts. On this tour we take you around the area where one of the Icelandic Sagas took place - along with enjoying spectacular landscape. Come and follow in the footsteps of the Vikings with us.

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RE-05 - 13:00

Reykjavik Grand Excursion

All Year

13-15:30

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RE-80 - 09:00

Glacier Adventure

All Year

09-19

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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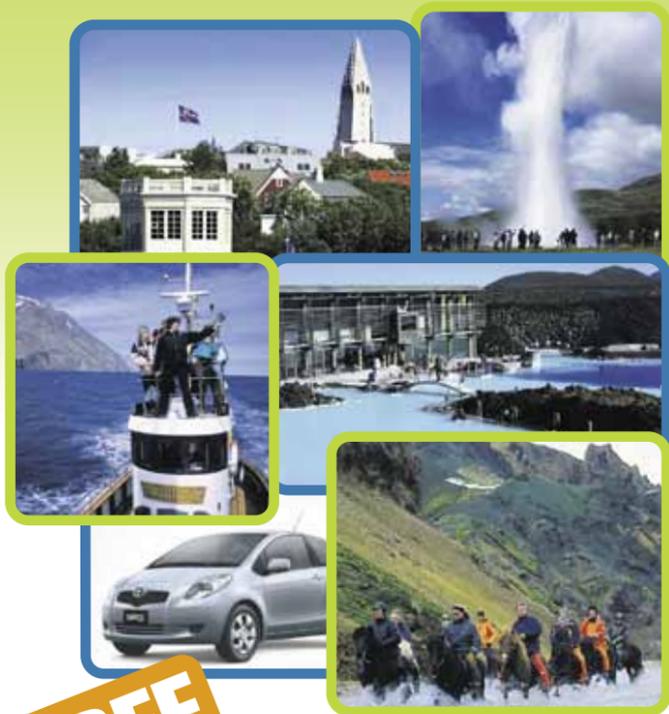


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Sour grapes and stuff

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

4
Letters

MOST AWESOME LETTER:

Hello Grapevine,
As a concerned citizen who has had the displeasure of reading your rag of a publication, I have to express my disconcertion over the repeatedly offensive and racist comics produced by the inept Huggleikur Dagsson. I feel that it is in extremely poor taste to publish this lowbrow tripe, and it is an insult to the intelligence of not only the readership of this paper but the editorial staff to allow this to continue. Huggleikur's newest comic in which he repeatedly uses the word 'nigga' is deplorable, and I immediately lose all respect for this paper in allowing that shit to be printed. It is outrageously racist and he should be ashamed of himself. Either fire him, or continue to be the most disrespected, amateurish paper that this fine country has ever seen!

Sincerely
Joel Fridfinnsson

P.S. If you would like to continue this debate feel free to email me at jbfridfinnsson@hotmail.com

Dear Joel,

Feel free not to read our rag of a publication.

Best,

Haukur S Magnússon

Hello Haukur,

Thank you for totally disregard to the point of my email, and FUCK YOU, show some respect for your readers in regards to the racism that your paper apparently promotes.

By the way in your futue editorials, if you are going to write in english, maybe take a fuckin english language course.

JOEL

Look, Joel, you've got to lighten up a second here, man, and cut us some slack. What the hell did we ever do to deserve such an impolite, intolerant and generally angry message from you?

I honestly thought you were one of my friends kidding around initially. Alas.

Now, I seriously considered your initial comments, even though you made them very hard to take seriously (folks that want to bestow friendly advice - or any advice - upon you generally don't start by telling you how much you suck and how everything you do sucks; why would you care what such people think?), and I do admit that I was concerned pre-publication about using Huggleikur's strip with the word 'Nigga' in it.

You never want to toy with being racist. That's not cool. So yeah, I did consider the strip prior to publication, and I did give your letter some thought when it arrived.

But then I remembered one thing:

-We strive to maintain and uphold artistic and expressional freedom, so long as it is not slanderous or willfully damaging.

Reading Huggleikur's comic, it is very clear that it is not in any way meant to disparage or slander any particular race, creed or gender. He is clearly using words and phrases common to 'gangsta rap' music to depict the absurd personalities of the made-up wannabe-gangstas in his comic. There are untold examples of this in arts and literature throughout the ages. So we let it slip, and I am happy we let it slip. It was a funny comic (and if Huggleikur's sense of humour is not your bag, then that's fine, too. Lots of other folks out there like it fine).

Now, again, you start your letter with saying you had the "displeasure of reading our rag of a publication," and then close it by saying we may yet continue to be the most "disrespected, amateurish paper that this fine country has ever seen!" (sic!)

That is, if we fail to follow your demands and fire our good friend and long-time contributor Huggleikur Dagsson.

It seems to me that you already view our publication (sorry, rag) with great animosity and distaste, so why on earth would I consider doing something as drastic as firing our resident comic just because you don't like what he has to say? If he's gone, we're still a rag, we're still disrespected and we're still 'amateurish' (whatever that means) in your eyes.

Ehrm. So. Yeah. There are plenty of people out there that like our paper just fine,

What? No Free Beer?

Yes, there's no free beer for this issue's MOST AWESOME LETTER, even though the guy that wrote it probably needs a cold one more than most people out there. We're sorry about this lack of free beer. What happened is that our deal with the kind, kind sponsors that provided us with free cases of beer expired last month and we haven't been able to locate any more free beer.



We're still looking, though. If you read this and you happen to be in the beer business, why not drop us a line? The first one that does will secure this nifty space to get his name out. We also pledge to start vocally liking your particular brand of beer more than any other brand of beer out there.

they pick up every publication or download it on-line, and they write us letters telling us how much they enjoy the various contributions of our devoted and lovely contributors.

So I don't see why we need to break our backs getting you to like us. You clearly have a problem with us, and that's fine. People are different, and there are different media outlets to serve their tastes. So my initial response to you was to simply point out that you were free not to read our paper that you didn't like. Nothing wrong or disrespectful with that.

Then you retort with a big FUCK YOU and accuse me of not showing you or your views respect? Now. This strikes me as odd and slightly unnerving. Why, Ehrm. Yeah. Just think about it for a second. Who's being disrespectful here? I do show respect for my readers, as does the rest of the Grapevine's staff and contributors. You have a whole lot of people here doing a whole lot of work every day (and often at night and on weekends), for little pay, so our readers may have something to read. And if they send us comments or suggestions on how things might be better done, we generally try and listen hard.

And if they want to submit contributions of their own, we happily accept them and often publish them. This paper really isn't anything except the sum of its readers and contributors (often interchangeable positions) and the advertisers that enable us to print the thing.

We do respect our readers greatly, and we work hard to please them. But if they want their opinions/rants acknowledged, regarded and responded to in a respectful manner, they better show some fucking respect when they give them, and not act like sugar-crashed three year olds in a shopping mall (or whatever).

So fuck you too, sir.

Now, to address the points of your e-mail, so as to show you the respect you apparently deserve:

-The Reykjavik Grapevine is not racist, has never been racist and will never be racist.

-Huggleikur Dagsson is not racist, has never been racist and will never be racist.

-The world we live in, and the art that seeks to reflect it, aren't dualistic, black or white, right or wrong. Thankfully, both are much more complex than that. A rose is not always a rose.

-No, I will not fire Huggleikur Dagsson.

-Fuck you too.

Finally, about my 'futue editorials.' I would love for them to be more proper and in better English. If you would maybe give me a 'fucking english language course' so I will sound less 'amateurish', then that would be great. I 'apparently' haven't mastered the 'english' language as well as your fine self.

P.S - if you ever feel like growing up and having a calm, adult conversation about these issues and others that concern you, you can feel free to write us again. We encourage discourse of all kinds.

Hi.

I visited Iceland in September and enjoyed reading your paper. The articles were well-written, the art work fantastic. However, missing from your paper (or indeed any local source that I could find) were classical music listings. I know there was some going on (including an opera performance and several recitals) but from your paper it would seem that rock and club music were the only things worth covering--or even listing!

You owe your readers and visitors--not to mention local and visiting performers--a little better coverage! (I'd move there and do it for you, but from your article on immigration, that appears not to be an option.)

Damon Miller
Washington, DC, USA

Dear Damon,

thank you for your letter and your kind words. We must say, you are absolutely right. We do list classical events when we get word of them, and we have reviewed them on occasion, but the rock- and clubsters just seem more promotion savvy, that is, they always let us know when they are doing stuff.

That said, we will from now on try to list classical and opera events better and give them the coverage/exposure they deserve.

Dear Grapevine,

something has been bothering me for a while now. I am an immigrant from Africa and have lived in Iceland for four years.

I always thought of Iceland as a country of equal opportunities until recently. Let me cut the drama and say what is on my mind and possibly minds of other foreigners, if not only those from Africa.

If you have been to the Immigrations office or have a friend who has, you know how well protected this nation is against unwanted foreigners. One has to meet a number of things in order to be granted a visa or permit, work or resident.

Recently, I had to renew my residence permit, as usual I presented all that was required of me, including three payslips from the last three months. The receptionist asked me if I had lost my job and I was glad to inform her I was still blessed with one.

I waited for three months as always, but this time I did not get any answer, so I decided to keep waiting. I thought to myself "too many foreigners, a lot of files for those guys to take care of."

After four months, I decided to contact the office. I met a kind lady at the reception who informed me I did not have enough money to get my permit renewed. You should have seen the expression on my face as I tried to explain to the lady that I had been earning the same amount of money for all the years I have been here but had no problem renewing the permit.

She didn't let me take up more of her time since she had finished telling me what the problem was. So, as it was I needed more money to renew my permit. I wondered to myself if anyone would explain to me when this new rule had been put into action and if it was why it had to be now when the country is in a financial crisis.

As I drove home, a friend who is currently dating an American lady called to inform me about how the Lord had been so good to his girlfriend in regards to her permit. He told me that on her visit to the Immigrations office, she had been told that she only needed to apply for a renewal of her permit a few days before the old one expired. Also she had to accompany the application with just one payslip. Being that they are my friends, I know for a fact that she earns as much as I do.

I was happy for them but kept wondering whether some laws applied to only Africans or some officials simply dealt with each file as they please. I do not want to give you the impression that I need special treatment, but I am not the only African that has had the same experience. Is there some office that can explain how or maybe why applications are handled differently?

I will understand if you can not print this letter but atleast you or someone else who has seen it has his mind thinking and above all, I have told someone.

Momo

Dear Momo,

thank you for your letter. Of course we're printing it - yours is a story that needs to be heard. It is baffling and saddening, and makes us question some of the ideas we've fostered about our home.

Even worse is the fact that this isn't the first word we get of local authorities' unfair or inconsistent treatment of immigrants or would-be immigrants (not to mention asylum seekers). It's all kinda nauseating, really.

We urge others out there that have similar stories to share them with our readers. Let's spread the word.

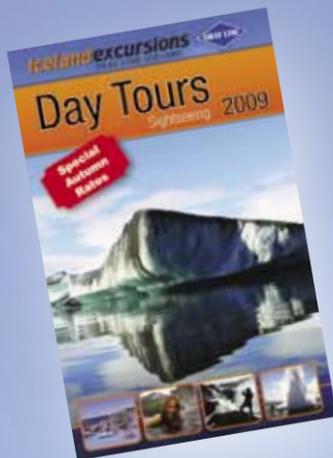
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Inflated Crowns

"She's fat, she's thin, she's fat, she's thin – I mean, come on, pick a body and go with it!" - Jerry Seinfeld on Oprah, Saturday Night Live, 1992

I know where yams come from. I can name every country through which the Danube runs. I can even bake a quiche from scratch. But when it comes to monetary policy, financial indexation, so-called external shocks and wage formation, I feel like a beached whale. A rotting beached whale. Asking around for answers led to the realisation that the general population is equally informed about these subjects—which is to say not at all. We are a pod of putrid beached whales. This is dangerous in a country that has experienced one of the most severe economic collapses in modern history—a country where money and the economy sometimes feel like the only relevant topics of conversation.

I tried to address the issue by starting from a familiar, but too-often empty locale—my wallet. My question was simple: How come I have 3 grand in my pocket and still feel like a pauper?

"I'M MUCH TOO FAST TO TAKE THAT TEST"

The simplest answer to that question is inflation, or the steady rise in the general price of goods and services and the subsequent erosion of a currency's purchasing power. The general consensus between economists is that inflation is not altogether a negative phenomenon, but a natural by-product of the economy and dependent on wages, prices for goods and interest rates. Inflation has both pros (debt relief, the balancing of labour markets) and cons (purchasing power and investment uncertainty). Most countries aim for low inflation, somewhere in the 1%–3% range.

Extreme inflation, on the other hand—otherwise known as "hyperinflation"—tends to have catastrophic effects. Commonly defined as a cumulative inflation rate of 100% over three years, hyperinflation is characterized by a central bank printing successively greater denominations of currency, rendering previous bills worthless. The

best example of hyperinflation might be Hungary during the summer of 1946, when the post-war government crumpled under an inflation rate of 41,900,000,000,000,000%—the highest ever recorded. The value of the Hungarian pengo doubled nearly every 13 hours and led to the printing of the largest banknote denomination ever issued: the 100 quintillion (100,000,000,000,000,000,000) pengo note.

While the Icelandic króna has never reached such eye-gouging extremes, the history of Iceland's currency is volatile enough to lead a number of experts to question whether the country shouldn't abandon it altogether.

"AND MY TIME WAS RUNNING WILD"

Throughout the post-war period, Iceland's inflation has been well above the average of other members OECD (the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, a collection of democratic, free-market economies). From 1945 to 1973, yearly inflation hovered in the moderate 10–15% range.

All that changed in the early 70s. With a population of just over 200,000 and an economy dependent on export trade, Iceland was particularly vulnerable to the oil crisis of 1973. Import prices grew and inflation followed fast on its tracks. A second oil shock in 1980 only exacerbated the situation. A fall in the fish catch of 1982 was the third wheel of an inflation tricycle wildly out of control. Although the government cut two zeroes off the króna in 1981 in order to maintain some sense of normalcy, no substantial policy steps were taken to address the issue.

By the early months of 1983, inflation was pushing 100%. Bjarni Brynjólfsson, editor of the Iceland Review, recalled the era in a 2008 opinion piece:

"I remember getting a weekly pay

in cash and the envelope was as thick as a leather wallet. It was a jolly good time. You felt like a king but the many krónas were swiftly washed away as prices kept getting higher."

Hyperinflation loomed on the horizon and the government was forced to take a number of stabilizing measures: a temporary suspension of wage indexation, a ceiling on wage increases and a compensatory social security and tax exchange to protect individuals. In early 1990, a historic agreement was reached: wage increases would be severely limited nationwide in exchange for the government's promise to curb inflation. Miraculously, it worked. Inflation dropped to reasonable figures and remained that way until 2008, when the króna and the Icelandic economy went to hell in a hand basket.

"The króna fell like a stone" Ólafur Ísleifsson, assistant professor at Reykjavík University's business school, recently said. He wasn't exaggerating: the króna lost half of its value in a matter of days. Inflation reared its ugly head again and topped out at over 18% as Icelanders wearily celebrated the arrival of 2009.

"CH-CH-CHANGES, JUST GONNA HAVE TO BE A DIFFERENT MAN"

"The basic economic lesson is that a free-floating currency in the smallest currency area known to man—consisting of 300,000 people—is a recipe for disaster," Ólafur commented. "I think that history suggests quite strongly that we would have been better off if we had accepted the offer in 1993 to get into the fast track for EU membership. If we had had the Euro, the economic collapse of 2008 would not have happened."

Looking ahead, assistant professor Katrín Ólafsdóttir, Ólafur's colleague at the University, goes one step further: "I don't think there's a future for the króna. Absolutely not."

We should do whatever we can to change the currency to the Euro—the sooner, the better... Yes, we would have less economic growth, but we'd also be more stable."

With a recent poll indicating less than a third of Icelanders wanting to join the EU—much less adopting the Euro—that switch might be easier imagined than realized any time soon. Until then, we might as well indulge in all the zeros in our pockets. ☺

"We are a pod of putrid beached whales"

MICHAEL ZELENKO

Topological Travelogue



It's a tad sad that topics of discussion on band tours tend to get increasingly scatological as they progress. Maybe it's the ever-smelly toilet on the bus or the persistent smell of morning farts that tends to linger on the top floor of the tour bus, incidentally where the folks do their sleeping.

The worst instances involve a still morning, as they are called, when you wake up sweating in your coffin. This happens when you don't have air blowing into your bunk, which is screened off with curtains and normally very cosy when properly ventilated. However, sometimes the engine is turned off—effectively shutting off the air supply. The bus may have been sitting in a location in front of a venue for hours or local staff might have bungled the ever important power cable that is supposed to be sitting outside the venue, ready to hook up to the bus, so as to keep the air flowing.

God help you if the above fails, and the sun has been shining on the top of the bus for hours. You wake up in something resembling a cross between a sauna and a foul crypt. Seeing as bus toilets are merely designed for number one rather than number two, queues tend to form for the venue toilets when people rise to their feet in the morning. These gatherings naturally tend to bring out stories connected with the matter at hand, and so the stories come like laxative.

I will spare you the details, but will include a wonderful story that is nicely unconnected to the bus at hand, yet takes the cake so to speak in stories of this sordid, often comical nature.

No matter how lofty you want to get, you can always laugh at a good poo story. My

friend, the brilliant Icelandic saxophonist and recent knitwear fashion mogul Jóel Pálsson, told me this one a few years ago. Some years ago, he was lounging in a seedy jazz joint in lower Manhattan, listening to one of his heroes blow the horn, as one does. During the intermission, he wandered down to the men's toilet to relieve himself of a few beers, also as one does.

As he is standing by the urinal tending to the business at hand, an older man of indiscriminate age enters the men's room and takes a stance by the urinal right next to our man. He was obviously drunk, and his state indicated he had probably been that way for quite a while. He had on a very dirty white suit, stained to perfection, and mumbled an incoherent sax solo as he proceeded to relieve himself. As everyone knows, the unwritten law of men's rooms states that you never stand right next to a guy at the urinal if it can be avoided. Personal space and all that jazz. The man in the white suit is obviously in his own little world, which happens if you drink enough.

Jóel minds his own business, making an effort to not look at the guy next to him. The guy lets out a huge fart while urinating and humming and Jóel tries hard not to breathe, concentrating on looking at his shoes. This leads him to notice the man's shoes are of a tattered brown variety, and around the left one a small yellowish-brown puddle is slowly forming. At this disgusting revelation, Jóel loses his concentration and sneaks a look at the man next to him, who is ready for that look and says with a demonic grin: "I gambled, and I lost!" That phrase has since become a classic amongst my travelling companions.

Áfram veginni! ☺



Absolutely Fable-ous!

Fables and Jack of Fables
By Bill Willingham
and various artists

HUGLEIKUR DAGSSON

Twelve volumes and counting, with no end in sight, Fables by Bill Willingham is probably Vertigo's finest on-going series. It tells the story of a particularly special community of immigrants in New York—namely, characters out of fables. Snow White, Prince Charming, Beauty, Beast, Pinocchio, the big bad wolf and basically every other one you can think of. These fine people have been disguised as New Yorkers for over a century now, ever since an unknown adversary forced them out of the fairytale lands.

It's like if all your favourite fairytale characters were produced by HBO. Sex, violence and soap opera. And above all: wonderful characters. That's all a good story needs, really. Fantastical characters that feel like real people. You know, like in Buffy. Willingham's ability to make you care about whether Snow White and Bigby Wolf end up together, or whether Prince Charming will one day outgrow being a douche, is close to magic. Pick up the first volume now, and it's pretty much guaranteed that you'll be spending your last dope money on the twelfth volume within a month.

But that's not all. For those of us who can't get enough of contemporary fantasy, there's also a Fables spin-off. Jack of Fables (up to 6 volumes now) follows the Loki / Han Solo / trickster type of the Fableverse: Jack (the one from Jack and the Beanstalk). A narcissistic con-man who's hard to love but even harder to loathe. His exploits are not as beautifully written as the Fables, but a fun, fun addition to a lovely, well crafted, good old fashioned comic book universe for people who like their entertainment smart. ☺

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7.Laugardagur/Saturday
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Óli Ofur

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Article | Seasonal Affective Disorder



SADland

The Winter Blues unleash the fury

Imagine a morning in the middle of December. Your alarm clock goes off, beckoning you to get out of bed and get your ass to work. You pull up the blinds hoping the morning light will wash over you and perk you up. Except it's pitch black out there, and it will remain so, all fucking day long. What is one to do? How is one to proceed?

It's pretty tempting to throw oneself back into bed and cocoon under the blankets, but the truth is we must forge ahead. For many, though, that is much easier said than done. They truly cannot find neither the willpower nor physical strength to fight the darkness.

This is a small idea of what it's like to live with seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a debilitating mood condition that can affect up to 10% of the population in countries in high latitudes, such as Iceland. The condition is thought to be brought on by a decreased amount of daylight and the suppression of serotonin produced in the brain.

The most common symptoms are an increased need for sleep, increased appetite and feeling generally miserable. Other common symptoms can include cravings for carbohydrates, increased stress, irritability, social reclusion and a lack of interest in sex. Some extreme cases can even trigger manic episodes and suicidal feelings. Sounds fun, right?

WHO GETS BUMMED OUT?

In general, women are two to four times likelier than men to be affected. Young adults are more vulnerable than the middle-aged. Those with a history of clinical depression in their family are at risk. People who have never been exposed to long and consistent periods of darkness are also more prone to falling prey to the

seasonal beast, and should watch out for signs of it rearing its ugly head.

So if you just moved here from, oh I don't know, let's say Florida, you might be in for a boring, awful treat.

As for actual Icelanders, they seem to have some luck. A study conducted in 1999 shows that as a general population, Icelanders have a fairly low prominence to get SAD compared to other high latitudinal countries. In addition, a concurrent study of Canadians of purely Icelandic descent in Manitoba showed that they had less frequency of having seasonal affective disorder than other Canadians, even in Manitoba. So there may be a genetic tolerance for darkness in Icelandic blood.

Speaking with Andrés Magnússon, a psychiatrist at Landspítali hospital, he told me that the prevalence of SAD in Icelanders is uncertain, although it seems to be no worse than in more southern locations, such as the North-Eastern United States. According to him, the condition seems to be an increasing problem the more north one goes up to a certain latitude, but it seems to taper off around the 50° mark. Still, he does not think that there is absolute immunity to it, and many Icelanders become plagued with lethargy and have difficulty functioning in the darkened months.

HOW TO COPE

If you suspects you are experiencing SAD, that is to say, a depression in direct relation to the change of season with no depression during other seasons, then there are several ways to power through. Andrés recommends that one simply tries to expose themselves to as much natural daylight as possible. Although this is a bit of a challenge in Icelandic

winters, there is still a bit of time to see some light in the middle of the day. The exposure to vitamin D is important in the production and release of serotonin from our neurotransmitters, so use your lunch hour to go to an outdoor pool, go skating on the weekends and ditch your curtains entirely.

If exposure to the little daylight there is isn't sufficient, the most common and non-invasive form of treatment is light therapy. Using a full spectrum light bulb, one is to sit and stare into the light for 30 minutes to 2 hours a day, depending on the bulb's intensity and the severity of SADness. Andrés tells me that specialists are unsure why this treatment is so successful, but it seems that the stimulation of the optical nerve resynchronizes the body clock, improving sleep patterns and energy levels.

One should consider medical treatment by a specialist if they have a prior psychiatric condition or mood disorder that is exacerbated by the seasonal change. For example, Andrés says that a person afflicted by manic depression can be strongly affected by the seasonal change, and this can have heavy repercussions. If shit gets really rough, don't suffer in silence. Turn that winter frown upside down! ☺

✍ REBECCA LAUDER
📷 JULIA STAPLES

Opinion | Étienne Ljóni Poisson

When The Sun Stops Shining



Iceland is not the best place in the world to visit during the winter. Especially if you crave long, sunny

days with still winds and a nice crisp, dry cold. Where I come from, winter is hell—it snows so much that you actually cannot get to school. We have temperatures like -20° C, snow is black from pollution, and it just goes on and on for months. Living in a country where people are still relatively new to this sort of hellish winter-infinity (we only got there about 400 years ago—you guessed it: Canada) means that no one is ever happy and people complain all of the time. And that doesn't make things any easier.

When I came to Iceland, all set to spend my first winter here, I thought: "Yes, this will be so much easier..."

Oh, how I erred.

Winters in Iceland are much milder, this is true. They have amazing northern lights, beautiful white snow and swans. Indeed it is not so much the temperature that affected me, but the overwhelming feeling that I just kept missing the little sunshine I was offered, day after day.

You see, when winter came and the days started getting shorter (what Icelanders call skammdegi), I had no way of knowing that these would be the last minutes of sunshine I would see for weeks. The darkness took such a toll on me that my sleep cycle was turned around completely (which means I didn't really go to school—don't worry, I got away with it). I was sleeping until 2 pm, and by then, if it wasn't grey, the sun was already disappearing. For four weeks, I did not see any sun. And I went insane, and it was no fun. I felt like that guy from The Shining. I watched all the worst movies from the 90s, I almost exclusively ate rice, and I didn't come out of my room.

It was difficult, but the following spring was the best I have ever seen. I didn't expect darkness to have so much power over how I felt and what I did, but it did. Now I know. I go to the gym, I go out to cafés, I do my best to see my friends, I go out as soon as it gets sunny (even slightly cloudy will do it) and I'm careful about when I go to sleep and when I wake up.

So my words of advice to those of you who plan on staying over the winter are as follows: Wake up early and do everything you can to catch the sun. It will be your best friend.

Do not underestimate its power. ☺

Opinion | Paul F Nikolov

McDonald's Leaves Iceland



I have to admit, it's been a little surprising seeing the reactions to the

news that McDonald's have closed their doors in Iceland. One popular right-wing TV show host on FOX News made quite a big deal about it, using this as the sign of a failing economy. That's right, guys – when an American fast food chain can no longer compete against the hundreds of other tastier hamburger joints in any given country, then that country is clearly in a state of complete and utter financial collapse.

When I first came to Iceland, there was a McDonald's in downtown Reykjavík. When it closed down, and was replaced by the restaurant Hressó, I thought, "Wow, good for Iceland."

The consumers decided they'd rather eat domestic food than what passes for food at McDonald's. In fact, the McDonald's that's now gone has been replaced by a new restaurant called Metro, which serves much the same fare that McDonald's did, only all the ingredients are domestic, even the packaging. This will even create some new jobs.

Isn't that a good thing? I mean, regardless of Iceland's economic situation, the fact that at least the fast food industry has taken this tiny baby step from imported to domestic is encouraging. And even though unemployment has been steadily dropping since April, we could still use all the job creation we can get.

Come to think of it, maybe fast food is the answer to Iceland's economic troubles. Close Domino's, replace with yet another Icelandic pizza chain. Close KFC, replace it with the resurrection of Akureyri's legendary Crown Chicken. Close TGI Friday's, Ruby Tuesday's, Taco Bell, go right on down the list, replace them all with good ol' Icelandic fast food. Sure, we won't get any healthier, but the jobs created to supply these restaurants – instead of importing goods – will surely help.

And then who knows? Maybe Iceland can start exporting fast food chains to other countries. Sharing our fast food with the world is arguably a more noble cause than setting up investment firms and online banks. No matter how bad things get, the demand for food served in paper bags seldom wanes.

Man, I hope the government's taking notes here. Climbing obesity rates and cholesterol levels be damned, forget exporting clean, renewable energy – fast food is clearly the future of Iceland's economic comeback. ☺



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Report | Global Concerns



Machine Gun Democracy

Letter from Athens

 If you are not from the part of the world that implicitly denotes itself as “the first world,” then whatever brought you here, whether you are a migrant worker in Europe or a refugee, there is a 50% chance that your first destination within the zone was Greece.

There is also a good chance that you have left Greece at least once, tried going somewhere else, but then bumped into the Dublin agreement, and realize why the Greek police scanned your fingerprints. You were then shipped back to Greece. Greek authorities told you can stay, give you show up by the gate of the Immigrant Office once per month, to verify that you are still hanging in there, get a stamp, and wait. Forever, according to statistics.

You sing the blues, the Dublin-agreement-international-fingerprint-database-I-have-no-passport-got-no-job-got-no-home-and-they-won't-let-me-unite-with-my-family-blues.

It is quite possible, then, that you sometimes sleep by the wall surrounding the Immigrant Office, since it sometimes takes days to get to speak with anyone in there, and if you are caught on the bus without a ticket, you already know by experience that the police might bang your head to the pavement several times, for a laugh, no matter how you plea.

Your wakeup call will be when the office-workers arrive, since you are sleeping in their parking lot. You will then line up or loiter by the gate, where a man stands with a machine gun – not by his side – but ready in his hands, finger by the trigger, replying to those who address him: What do you want, asshole?

The photograph above is from your own reality show, where you struggle for the right to have rights. You who thought Europe was what they show you on TV.

WOW, REAL FASCISTS!

Greek politics take place on the street. On Monday, November 2, a group of neighbourhood fascists occupied the square Agios Panteleimonas in Central Athens. Fascist is not a slanderous name imposed by their opponents, but

1. Nour-aldin Al-azzawi, 19, recently deported from Iceland, leads the journalist around the wall of the Immigration office. Another Iraqi deported from Iceland did not have the good fortune of friends in Iceland and Greece, and no place to stay, and headed back to Iraq, where his life is threatened, rather than play dead outside the fences in Europe. Nour-aldin has kept in touch with his friends and campaigners through Facebook, which is making it a bit harder for governments everywhere to ‘disappear’ people.

their explicit identity. The reason, this time around, was an anti-racist concert to be held in that square that same night. Less than a year ago, the fascists occupied this same square and kept it long into the year, beating and knifing those foreigners and leftists who dared enter the square. They did so in cooperation with police authorities.

The leftists’ intentions to throw an anti-racist concert precisely in that square were to reclaim the place and its surrounding area for all its inhabitants and visitors. The fascists showed up at 1 PM. This time, however, things had changed, even if only slightly. After October’s elections, a left wing government is now in charge in Greece. ‘Nominally left wing,’ say the activists, furious about increased police presence in their neighbourhoods.

Police presence – it’s actually more as if the city is under siege. On a casual walk through anarchist stronghold Exarchia, you will see a gang of four to five policemen every 3-4 minutes, sporting full armour. Now, before the concert, the police never escapes your line of vision, in at least a kilometre’s radius from the square. Apart from those armoured packs that visibly do not differ much from an army, the concert would seem like a sweet little neighbourhood gathering. Inside the square you can even forget the tension surrounding it. On the way home, however, you remember that there is a war. This was strategic music.

There is a long tradition in Greece of fascists and police fighting side by side against subversive groups. Athens last boiled over after police shot and killed a 15-year-old boy, an anarchist, in Exarchia in December 2008.

CHANGE?

The new socialist government seems intent on keeping up right wing policies on refugees. It means they are left in limbo, as mere bodies on the streets, bereft of all civil rights. If the more centrist parties of the coalition government have little trouble leaving the square in Exarchia to the fascists, the Communist party obviously has a reputation to defend. This time, the police were sent in to remove the fascists. Which they did. According to a witness, “they know each other by nicknames, so it wasn’t really any hard fighting, but you know, bumping and pushing.”

There were clashes also with the concert’s promoters and its audience. There were incidents. But all in all, according to most witnesses, the police was neutral this evening, and kept the fascists from disrupting the gathering. Most of the organizers and guests were surprised, almost shocked. “It’s historical,” the told me. “This has not happened for, I don’t know, many, many – many – years.”

Perhaps the fact that 1,000 policemen armed with guns and gas

don’t directly attack a group of people when they hold an anti-racist gathering is what the Icelandic Ministry of Justice and Human Rights has in mind when it says that reports and pleas issued by the Red Cross and the UN Human Rights Committee in 2008 and 2009 are already outdated – so there is no need to fear for the asylum seekers we dispose of on the streets of Athens.

There are no animals in the picture above, except in the perverse mind of machine-gun endowed state bureaucracies. In the foreground of the picture is Nour-aldin Al-azzawi. He is a man. Since a large group of state-acknowledged people have testified to this, the Minister of Justice and Human rights decided last week to let Nour enjoy the benefit of her doubt, at least temporarily. Meanwhile, nonetheless, the state doesn’t dare turn the machine off—the Deportation Dogomat 2000 keeps on shouting: Out! as they arrive. Out! 🐾

✍️ HAUKUR MÁR HELGASON
📧 HAUKUR MÁR HELGASON

Article | Immigration

Bringing Nour Home

Collectives organise to challenge recent deportations

The Icelandic government’s hasty and unfortunate move to deport four refugees seeking asylum two weeks ago came as a shock to both the refugees and the Icelanders working on their behalf. In mid-October, 19-year old Nour Al-din Alazzawi, whose story the Grapevine profiled this summer, was arrested in his home after a 14-month period of limbo and given 15 minutes to pack his belongings. The next morning, police escorted him onto a plane and accompanied him on his flight to Athens, Greece. Hearing word of the deportation, Wali Safi, an Afghani-refugee with a girlfriend and stepchildren here in Iceland, went into immediate hiding. Until the Ministry of Justice re-opens his case and grants him asylum, Wali writes, “I must remain in hiding.”

For activists and sympathizers here in Reykjavík, the event was a call to arms—a reminder of the severity of the refugee situation. The Hljómalind Collective, born out of the now defunct Kaffi Hljómalind—where Nour worked from July 2009 until the cafe’s recent closing—banded together with the stated goal of assisting Nour during his stay in Athens and bringing him back to Reykjavík for good. Helena Stefánsdóttir, one of the original owners of Kaffi Hljómalind and a founding member of the collective, was in a state of disbelief when she heard of the deportation. “He was one of the best people we ever had at Hljómalind,” she said.

Stefánsdóttir set up a bank account where people could donate money that very night. By the next morning, the collective had gathered 100,000 ISK to send to Nour. By the time Helena came home from wiring the money, another 70,000 ISK had been raised. The four original owners subsequently met with the Minister of Justice and asked for assistance. The minister agreed, and has since been guiding the collective through the immigration process in order to bring Nour back.

Although Nour recently received permission from the Icelandic government to stay in Iceland while his immigration and work papers are

processed, the Norwegian Embassy in Greece (Iceland has no Greek embassy) advised Nour that he might still need a visa to return, adding another layer of uncertainty. Nour is currently still awaiting the arrival of his Iraqi passport in Athens.

“The chances are pretty high that [Nour] will be coming back very soon,” Stefánsdóttir says, claiming it is a matter of days, not weeks or months.

Meanwhile, a separate collective has been working on keeping the refugee issue in the spotlight. Initially a branch of the international organization No Borders, the nameless collective is composed of roughly 100 activists updating each other and running www.this.is/refugees, a website dedicated to tracking refugee conditions within Iceland. Along with raising funds, the collective also aims to raise awareness through demonstrations, marches and benefit concerts, including one planned for the 14th of November at Grand Rökk.

Living conditions at the refugee hostel in Keflavík are trying, they say, with asylum-seekers often rubbing shoulders with young travellers on vacation. Even though the refugees are free to leave, their meagre stipends leave them isolated for all practical purposes. Uncertainty about their asylum status only compounds their insecurity. Members of the collective try to alleviate the situation by visiting the refugees, cooking meals, spending time with them and creating personal connections.

Nour’s case is not unique, but it is important. The publicity “raises the problem to a personal level,” Stefánsdóttir said, while holding a packet of immigration papers meant for the Ministry of Justice. Instead of approaching each case individually, “we put refugees, criminals and gangsters under one hat.” 🐾

✍️ MICHAEL ZELENKO

Opinion | Valur Gunnarsson

Why I Don’t Want to Grow Up

 To celebrate my 33rd birthday, I went to see the GI Joe movie. What’s wrong with this sentence? Sure, the movie was crap, but I knew that going in. Still, I felt compelled to see it. This may sound like an alcoholic after another drink, wondering why he expected a different outcome this time. But see it I did.

Being in your mid-30s, childless, and still going to see movies based on 80s toy franchises is indicative of a larger trend: our basic refusal to grow up. Why is this? Sure, your hair falls out, your hangovers last three days instead of three hours and you keep moving closer to death. Still, it’s not all bad. Is it?

Last year in Estonia I went to see Rambo IV. Apart from Sly’s botched face job, my biggest surprise was that I was twice the age of everyone else in the cinema. This rarely happens to me in NATO countries. What gives? Then it hit me. Estonians my age grew up in the Soviet Union. They weren’t saturated by Cold War Hollywood culture as we were. And so, they aren’t stuck in it anymore. They grew up. When they go to the cinema, they see adult movies. No, not those. You know what I mean.

In Eastern Europe, people over 20 get offended if you say they go to school. They instantly correct you, pointing out that they go to “the University” or “the Institute.” School is for children. We, however, quite like the idea of going to school. It makes us feel young.



So the question remains. Why are we so afraid to grow up? When did being young stop being the means to an end and start becoming an end in itself?

Youth culture started, as everything did, with Elvis. Small wonder that people are reluctant to grow up (and out) when they see what happened to him. Still, youth culture really took off in the 60s. Almost as soon as the 60s were over, people started getting nostalgic about them. Just listen to (or have someone translate) the song “Öll mín bestu ár” from 1976. All together now, “Árið 69, þegar Trúbrot var og hét...”

The 60s generation was the first that refused to grow up, and every

generation since has taken their lead. Coming-of-age stories of the kind that Nick Hornby specialises in used to be about teenagers, then 20-somethings. Now they deal with 35 year olds trying to find their way.

Why?

Perhaps the reason is rather simple. As the hippies knew, we are living in a morally bankrupt society. Capitalist employers, from the banks to the advertising agencies, force everyone to do things they don’t really like doing. To be true to our natures, to be curious and creative, we either have to stay in school as long as possible or pursue a career in the arts, which will most likely fail. Both pursuits best become the young. Small wonder then that artists, actors, and rock stars are the biggest heroes of our culture. They are the lucky few who have managed to get paid, as Springsteen said, “a king’s ransom for doing what comes naturally.” Accountants, who do nothing but count money, should be the superstars of capitalism if the system felt natural to us. It doesn’t, and so we rightly see them as the most boring people about.

For those doomed to adulthood, nothing awaits but debt, mortgages and dreary jobs. Small wonder that most people think of their school years as the best time of their lives. Learning something new every day is in our nature. 🐾



Special Prosecutor: Investigation progressing, maturing

Ólafur Hauksson, the Special Prosecutor in charge of investigating the financial crimes that helped bring Iceland's banking system to its knees, has said that his office is making progress in its inquiry, though it still faces challenges in its quest to bring criminal bankers to justice.

To date, although about seven or eight cases have either already been wrapped up or dismissed in court. Hauksson says that his team has worked on roughly fifty cases in total. With a report from Alþingi set to be released in February about financial crimes in the run-up to the *kreppa*, it would not be a stretch to say the number of cases that land on Hauksson's desk may grow in the coming months. "The institution is expanding and growing with the workload," he said, adding that three new prosecutors have recently joined the team at its Laugavegur office.

Not surprisingly, one reason that the Special Prosecutor's office is expanding is because investigations have taken on a global scope. Hauksson said that Akranes resident Hauksson has already been to London, where he met with British officials from the Serious Fraud Office (SFO). Though he was unable to divulge too much information about where in the world the investigation will lead him, Hauksson revealed that Luxembourg—that bastion of financial integrity—is a real place of interest for the Special Prosecutor's office. Hauksson's partner-in-crime, Eva Joly, also told national broadcaster RÚV that the Norwegian State Prosecutor has offered assistance. Both the British and Norwegian assistance were described by Hauksson as being "very positive."

"HEAVY BURDEN"

The Special Prosecutor's office has already been successful in recovering some tainted assets. Hauksson said that a "serious amount" of cash in connection to Kaupþing's takeover of Sainsbury has already been recovered, for example, but some assets may never be recovered. "A heavy burden of proof is on the state before it can make a decision [to freeze assets]," he explained. Though some of the money may be sufficiently hidden or spent by the time criminal financiers

have been charged, this will not entice him to act rashly.

"You have to be thorough. We cannot afford to have cases thrown out in court." The October 1st raid of accounting firms KPMG and PricewaterhouseCooper's Reykjavik offices, for example, has not yet yielded leads to other monetary mischief. "There is a huge amount of information to go over," Hauksson said. "It is much too soon to give information about that."

As the name suggests, forensic accounting is a painstaking process.

Pesky journalists aren't much of a help either to a man whose job it is to be as discreet as possible for as long as possible. Has the Special Prosecutor been working with Russian law enforcement? "There have been news stories abroad that we haven't commented on," he said, in a possible reference to a 2006 Danish newspaper report that Icelandic banks were helping Russians launder money.

What about [former Kaupþing executive] Sigurður Einarsson, who, according to the Guardian, has been named as a suspect and is currently in London? Are you worried he may try to avoid extradition?

"We haven't given any information about individual's statuses and who has been asked to come in for questioning," he replied. "Most of those we have requested to come to Iceland have appeared."

Thus the responsibility of being Iceland's top cop in charge of going after arguably the country's most hated criminals in its history does not seem to get to Hauksson, who has been working in law enforcement since 1989. "Pressure in this line of work isn't a new thing," he exclaimed with a chuckle when asked if he found it difficult to maintain objectivity in such troubled times.

But there is only so much that Hauksson and his team of financial cops can do. The Special Prosecutor's mandate does not include a fact-finding mission. Whistleblowers are welcome to directly tell the Special Prosecutor's office anything they might know, which they can do either by phone or online, but information comes to the office primarily from the Financial Services Authority and task forces established by the new banks.

Though it might seem a bit odd that Hauksson's team must rely on information provided to it by people with some connection to the old banks, he described the new banks' information as 'helpful.' "Glitnir, for example, has hired auditors to run over everything to see if money was loaned illegally. Kaupþing has done the same," he said, adding that the old Landsbanki winding-up committee has also cooperated.

HOW FAR DOES THIS RABBIT HOLE GO?

Just how long the Special Prosecutor's office will remain in existence is unclear, though more will be known when parliament issues its report in February. At first, the Special Prosecutor's office was only supposed to cover the time just before and after the collapse. It has since broadened its investigation, and the office may still exist after February 1st, 2011, when a review by the Alþingi on the status of the Special Prosecutor's office will take place.

Much of Hauksson's work is currently focused on stock market manipulation facilitated by illegal loans, though as the investigation matures, even the privatization of the banks themselves may come under his scrutiny. Hauksson, however, will have to wait on orders from above to see where the inquest is going. "It is a matter that will be touched upon by the Parliament committee's report," he said in closing. ☞

SAMUEL KNIGHT
JULIA STAPLES

Refilling 101

Making use of the abandoned spaces in Reykjavík



Up until a year ago, Reykjavík was in the throes of a serious building boom. Projects all over town planned to tear down the old and put in new shopping malls and high-rises. Tenants of older buildings were being forced out by rising rent prices and the owners were chomping at the bit of sweet deals being offered to them for their properties.

When the shit hit the fan last October, the construction industry took one of the first big hits on the chin. From one day to the next, the money was gone and projects were immediately put on ice. Businesses all throughout downtown were going bankrupt and closing up shop, buildings that were sold to be demolished stood vacant and forgotten. However, some people began to see the potential for the phoenix to rise from the flames of these deserted shells. Groups of artists and creatively inclined individuals began appropriating spaces into workshops and galleries. This did not necessarily fly over too well with building owners and obstacles were thrown in the path of those trying to bring new life into the quickly dying city centre. I recently spoke with two of these industrious individuals about their projects and the challenges they faced.

Doing it by the book

Hlín Helga Guðlaugsdóttir, managing director of the Aurora Design Fund, set up the Design March in March 2009. She told me that the group targeted empty, abandoned spaces all along Laugavegur with the aim to bring new life to the street that was rapidly losing air and show that these spaces could be used for something else. However, over the course of January to March, more and more empty spaces were cropping up and it started to look like they bit off more than they could chew. "It was so difficult," Hlín told me, "when we started there were thirty designers wanting to do something, and there were five or seven empty spaces. By the time we did it in March, there were thirty."

The group went about acquiring these spaces by contacting the building owners to borrow the space, but were immediately challenged. "It was quite difficult to get them to lend the spaces for a couple of days," she says, "finding the building owners by going through real estate agents to talk to them, that was the headache." Hlín attributes the reluctance of building owners to lend them the space to indifference. "I think they couldn't be bothered in a way," she goes on, "I think they were also afraid that we would do something and mess it up. Some of them were instantly positive and understood that it was an opportunity, but others just didn't see the point."

Eventually it all came together and the group got eight spaces up and running, all of which they worked hard to clean and give a fresh coat of paint. They then threw an opening party which led into a walk along Laugavegur to visit all their locations. Hlín tells me that she received lots of positive feedback from people who were glad to see the street alive again. Reykjavík mayor Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir paid a visit to the event as well. A couple of days later, Hlín was asked by the city to continue a project to revitalize Laugavegur's empty spaces. She worked with designers to split them into small groups that would occupy spaces together and has now stepped back from the project, but continues to oversee the situation in 101 and assess if they need to become more proactive.

"We took it."

Not everyone has chosen to go about the most legal means of acquiring space. A group of young street artists, The Pretty Boys, recently opened the Gallery Bosnia at Hverfisgata 34. The group had taken notice of the amount of abandoned space in 101. They

had originally planned to covertly take spaces a week at a time, quickly set up their display, throw one big party and move on to another location. They busted their way into the locale on Hverfisgata in June, cleaned and white-washed it in one week and threw an opening party, where a dozen cops showed up asking them to shut off the music and get the party-goers out. They boarded up that night and came back the next day with fresh plans.

"We started to look into the prospect of making it ongoing," Pretty Boy Geoffrey Thor Huntingdon-Williams told me, "we were getting quite attached to the place and we didn't want to leave, basically. There was no one who was ripping us out, so we said 'okay, let's just stay here a bit longer.'"

The group then contacted Central City Director Jakob Frímann Magnússon, who already knew the guys from their involvement with the Reykjavík graffiti scene. With his help, they managed to get the go-ahead from the building owners to occupy the space rent free and properly open a gallery. The group did a second clean up of the space, working day and night until they finally opened their doors on Menningarnótt, which Geoffrey feels went very well.

Bust in vs. call ahead

So which method is simpler and most effective? It seems as though the going about the legal process of finding the owners and requesting permission for use of the spaces can be a pain in the ass, but the pay off is worth it. Hlín stressed this point to me as well. After gaining the mayor's approval and speaking to people on the city council about her new project on Laugavegur, she placed fresh calls to the building owners she had spoken with to prior to her project and was met with an overwhelming positive response. "I'm pro-activism, but I think there is a line where you have to have credibility to make good things happen," she says. "Taking a space might be a good and necessary means to communicate what you believe in and make a statement, but I think that if you want to build something up, I believe in getting direct dialogue and selling your ideas."

She also suggests that a young artist without a degree and no money can build legitimacy by grouping with other artists and getting a spokesperson.

Hlín does see the other side of the coin though. "In some cases I think it's necessary to take over houses," she goes on, "Some houses are really neglected, in really bad shape and people are just letting them rot. They don't care about the property, they care about the land, so they let them rot so they can get permission to build earlier." This was the case with Gallery Bosnia's space. The building was a run-down eyesore that the owners were neglecting, according to Geoffrey, and despite a few snags with the law, he says they ultimately didn't face any real hassles when it came to getting permission to use it.

He also points out that his group didn't take their space to make a political statement, but rather they went about this route to make something beautiful out of something that was rotting away.

"I'm not squatting and we're not waving black flags," he says, "it's not a political manoeuvre. We just wanted to make something nice and do something fun." One thing both Geoffrey and Hlín agree on is that people need to take initiative to transform these spaces into worthwhile endeavours, and not let abandoned space go to waste. ☞

REBECCA LOUDER
DÓRSTEINN SIGURÐSSON

New albums and Rafskinna

NOV 13th



ME, THE SLUMBERING NAPOLEON

The Bloody Core Of It

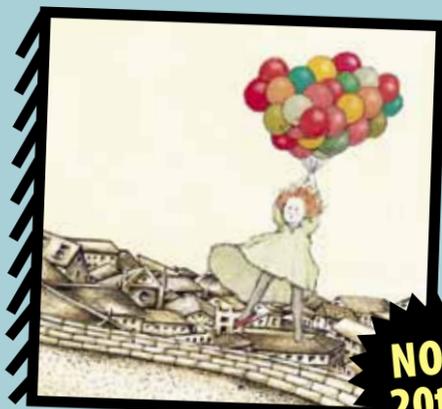
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NOV 20th



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Reflections

DVD magazine

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FRI

Bakkus
22:00 DJ Laufey

B5
22:00 Live DJs.

Bar 11
22:00 DJ Biggi Maus.

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Mogaðon.

Celtic Cross
01:00 Live Music.

Cultura
22:00 House DJs.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Hreimur.

Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.

English Pub
22:00 Live Music.

Hemmi & Valdi
22:00 Local DJs.

Hitt Húsið
19:00 Ljósvaki, Bróðir Svartúlfs, Ramses and Nóra.

Hressó
22:00 Troubadours Eyþór and Andri, DJ Bjarni.

Jacobsen
22:00 TræAngular featuring Casanova, Ben Sol and Diddi Luv.

Kaffibarinn
22:00 DJ Kári.

Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 DJs Nino and Dramatík.

NASA
21:30 Ljótu hálfvitarnir and Hvanndalsbræður.

Prikið
22:00 Árni.

Salurinn Kópavogur
21:00 The 2009 Guitar Festival: Gitarveizla Bjóssa Thor.

Sódóma
22:00 Jack Live: Who Knew, Biggi Bix, Sing For Me Sandra.

Thorvaldsen
22:00 Live DJs.

7 SAT

Bakkus
22:00 DJ The Hand that Rocks the Cradle.

B5
22:00 Live DJs.

Bar 11
22:00 DJ Óli Dóri.

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Mogaðon.

Café Rót
13:00 Classical Dance School Performance

Celtic Cross
01:00 Live Music.

Cultura
22:00 House DJs.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Hreimur.

Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.

English Pub
22:00 Live Music.

Hafnarfjörður Theatre
20:00 Dance Performance "Crazy Love Butter".

Hemmi & Valdi
22:00 Local DJs.

Hressó
22:00 Menn Ársins, DJ Fannar.

Jacobsen
22:00 Ladies Night with Óli Ofur.

Kaffibarinn
23:45 Kangos Stein Massiv & FKNHDSM DJs.

Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 DJs Nino and Dramatík.

Prikið
22:00 DJ Danni..

Sódóma
22:00 Duplex: Retro Stefson, Nolo + guests.

Thorvaldsen
22:00 Live DJs.

8 SUN

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Misery Loves Company.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Raggi.

Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.

Hafnarfjörður Theatre
20:00 Dance Performance "Crazy Love Butter".

Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 Movie night.

Nordic House
20:00 Classical Concert with participants from music schools in Reykjavík.

Prikið
23:00 Hangover Cinema presents: La Haine.

9 MON

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Þóra Björk album release show.

Kaffi Zimsen
21:00 Best Friends Day. 2 for 1 beer.

10 TUE

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Maggi.

Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.

11 WED

Bakkus
22:00 Rafskinna DVD-Magazine - Örvar Þóreyjarsón Smárason in Ennimánaskin 2.

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Jagúar.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Pop-quiz.

Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.

Kaffibarinn
22:00 Grapevine Night - Daníel Ágúst (Gus Gus) DJs.

12 THU

B5
21:00 Live Music.

Bakkus
22:00 DJ Einar Sonic

Bar 11
22:00 Kreppa Nights with live music. Beer and shots for 400ISK.

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Myrra Rós and Elín Ey.

Cultura
22:00 House DJs.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Scandinavian Night with Troubadour Raggi.

Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.

English Pub
22:00 Live Music.

Hitt Húsið
19:00 Ljóðatónn and Sykur.

Hressó
22:00 Troubadours Jogvan and Vignir.

Jacobsen
22:00 CoxButter Night.

Kaffibarinn
22:00 Ívar Pétur.

Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 Ólafsvaka night. Beer for 490 ISK.

NASA
20:00 Finlandía Vodka Cup.

Prikið
22:00 DJ Moonshine, large beers

for 800ISK.

Sódóma
22:00 Stereo Hypnosis CD Release gig.

Thorvaldsen
20:30 Salsa & Mojito night. Free salsa lessons and mojitos for 1000ISK.

13 FRI

Bakkus
22:00 DJ Arni Sveins

B5
22:00 Live DJs.

Bar 11
22:00 Óli Dóri.

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Varsjárbandalagið.

Celtic Cross
01:00 Live Music.

Cultura
22:00 House DJs.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Halldór Gunnar Fjallabróðir & Sverrir Bergmann.

Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.

English Pub
22:00 Live music.

Grand Rokk
21:00 Grapevine Concert.

Hemmi & Valdi
22:00 Local DJs.

Hressó
22:00 Silfur, DJ Elli.

Jacobsen
22:00 Ekkert Rugl.

Kaffibarinn
22:00 DJ Casanova.

Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 DJs Nino and Dramatík.

Nordic House
20:00 World Music Festival: The World Music Safari Explosion.

Prikið
22:00 DJs Kocoon and Introbeats.

Sódóma
22:00 Pulling Teeth (USA), BUMMER, Celestine, Plastic Gods, Gone Postal.

Thorvaldsen
22:00 Live DJs.

14 SAT

Bakkus
22:00 DJ Maggi Leggo

B5
22:00 Live DJs.

Bar 11
22:00 DJ Biggi Maus.

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Varsjárbandalagið.

Celtic Cross
01:00 Live Music.

Cultura
22:00 House DJs.

Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Hreimur.

Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.

English Pub
22:00 Live Music.

Grand Rokk
21:00 Benefit Concert: Legal aid for refugees.

Hemmi & Valdi
22:00 Local DJs.

Hressó
22:00 Menn Ársins, DJ Elli.

Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

Amsterdam Hafnarstræti 5 D3	Dubliner Hafnarstræti 4 D3	Nýlenduvörurverzlun Hemma & Valda Laugavegur 21 F5
Apótek Austurstræti 16 E3	English Pub Austurstræti 12 E3	Næsti Bar Ingólfstræti 1A E5
B5 Bankastræti 5 E4	Glaubar Tryggvagata 20 D3	Óliver Laugavegur 20A F5
Babalú Skólavörðustígur 22 F5	Grand Rokk Smiðjustígur E5	Ólstofan Vegamótastígur F5
Batteri Hafnarstræti 1-3 D3	Highlander Lækjargata 10 F3	Prikið Bankastræti F5
Bar 11 Laugavegur 11 E5	Hressó Austurstræti 20 E4	Rósenberg Klapparstígur 25 F6
Barbara Laugavegur 22 F6	Hverfisbarinn Hverfisgata 20 E5	Sódóma Reykjavík Tryggvagata 22 D3
Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20 E4	Jacobsen Austurstræti 9 E3	Sólón Bankastræti 7A E4
Boston Laugavegur 28b F6	Kaffi Hljómáland Laugavegur 23 F6	Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 E3
Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 E5	Kaffi Zimsen Hafnarstræti 18 E4	Vegamót Vegamótastígur 4 F5
Café Paris Austurstræti 14 E3	Kaffibarinn Bergstræti 1 F5	
Balthazar Hafnarstræti 1-3 D3	Karamba Laugavegur 22 F6	
Celtic Cross Hverfisgata 26 E5	London/Reykjavík Tryggvagata 22 D3	
Dillon Laugavegur 30 F6	NASA Þorvaldsenstræti 2 E3	

Jacobsen
22:00 Gianni Vitiello a.k.a Digi-
talverkehr (DE) and FKNHDSM.
Kaffibarinn
22:00 Captain Fufanu, Rabbi Ba-
nanas and Alfons X live.
Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 DJs Nino and Dramatík.
NASA
00:00 Techno.is
Nordic House
15:00 World Music Festival: The
World Music Safari Explosion.
Prikið
22:00 DJ Deluxee.
Sódóma
22:00 BB & BLAKE CD Release gig.
Thorvaldsen
22:00 Live DJs.

15 SUN

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Svavar Knútur and Mijó.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Raggi.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 Movie night.
Prikið
23:00 Hangover Cinema presents:
The Big Lebowski.

16 MON

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Dúó Hörpuverk.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
Kaffi Zimsen
21:00 Best Friends Day. 2 for 1 beer.

17 TUE

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Hjaltalin.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Maggi.

18 WED

Bakkus
22:00 Kino Klúbbur presents "Home
Movie" by Chris Smith
Café Rósenberg
22:00 Jóm Múla (Hjaltalin)
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Pop-quiz Night.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
Kaffibarinn
22:00 FKNHDSM DJs.
Prikið
22:00 Fight Night.

19 THU

B5
21:00 Live Music.
Bakkus
22:00 DJ set Two Step Horror.
Bar 11
22:00 Kreppa Nights with live music.
Beer and shots for 400ISK.
Café Rósenberg
22:00 Árstíðir.
Cultura
22:00 House DJs.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Magni & Hre-
imur.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
English Pub
22:00 Live Music.
Hitt Húsið
20:00 Boba and guests.
Hressó
22:00 Gummi, Richard Scobie.
Iceland Symphony Orchestra
19:30 Schumann and Brahms,
conducted by Eva Ollikainen with
Antti Siirala soloing.
Jacobsen
22:00 Weirdcore Night.
Kaffibarinn
22:00 Alfons X, Stereo Hypnosis
live.
Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 Ólafsvaka night. Beer for
490ISK.
Prikið
22:00 DJ Árma, large beers for
800ISK.
Sódóma
22:00 Eldhúsparty FM957.
Thorvaldsen
22:00 Mojito Night. Mojitos for
1000ISK and beer for 500ISK.

20 FRI

B5
22:00 Live DJs.
Bar 11
22:00 DJ Matti.
Café Rósenberg
22:00 Þórir Baldurs and Jazz
Group.

Celtic Cross
01:00 Live Music.
Cultura
22:00 House DJs.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Hreimur.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
English Pub
22:00 Live Music.
Hemmi & Valdi
22:00 Local DJs.
Hressó
22:00 Ímynd, DJ Bjarni.
Jacobsen
22:00 Kári, Funky Moses and
Arnar Ingi.
Kaffibarinn
22:00 B Ruff & Gísli Galdur.
Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 DJs Nino and Dramatík.
Prikið
22:00 They call him Mr. D...
Sódóma
22:00 TBA
Thorvaldsen
22:00 Live DJs.

21 SAT

B5
22:00 Live DJs.
Bar 11
22:00 DJ Óli Dóri.
Bakkus
22:00 DJ Öfull
Café Rósenberg
22:00 Þonin Balurs and Jazz
Group.
Celtic Cross
01:00 Live Music.
Cultura
22:00 House DJs.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live Music.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
English Pub
22:00 Live Music.
Grand Rokk
21:00 Deep Jimi and the Zep
Creams.
Hemmi & Valdi
22:00 Local DJs.
Hressó
22:00 Dalton, DJ Bjarni.
Jacobsen
22:00 Chicago Warehouse.
Kaffibarinn
23:45 Maggi Legó.
Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 DJs Nino and Dramatík.
Prikið
22:00 Puff Daddy Night with Gísli
and Benna.
Sódóma
22:00 TBA
Thorvaldsen
22:00 Live DJs.

22 SUN

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Bóka Uppléstur and Ljóa.
Cultura
22:00 House DJs.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Raggi.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
Hallgrímskirkja
16:00 World Premiere of St. Cecilia
Oratorio.
Prikið
23:00 Hangover Cinema presents:
The Thing.

23 MON

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Tom Hannay.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
Kaffi Zimsen
21:00 Best Friends Day. 2 for 1 beer.

24 TUE

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Lána, Koi and Hjórvar.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Maggi.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.

25 WED

Bakkus
22:00 Kino Klúbbur presents Euro-
pean Premiere "Modus Operandi"
by Frankie Latina.
Café Rósenberg
22:00 Kristinn.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Pop-quiz.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
Kaffibarinn
23:45 DJ Indjání.
Prikið
22:00 Poetry Night with Dóra DNA.

26 THU

B5
21:00 Live Music.
Bar 11
22:00 Kreppa Nights with live music.
Beer and shots for 400ISK.
Bakkus
22:00 DJ Einar Sonic.
Café Rósenberg
22:00 Thin Jim and the Cast-
aways.
Cultura
22:00 House DJs.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Magni.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
English Pub
22:00 Live Music.
Hitt Húsið
20:00 Draumhvörf.
Hressó
22:00 Troubadours Jogvan and
Vignir.
Iceland Symphony Orchestra
19:30 Romantic Favorites,
conducted by Rumon Gamba with
Inessa Galante soloing.
Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 Ólafsvaka night. Beer for 490
ISK.
Prikið
22:00 Gin'n'Juice Night. Polyester
Pimp Prospect and Eazy-E Tribute
with Erp and Sesar A.
Sódóma
22:00 Eldhúsparty FM957.
Thorvaldsen
22:00 Mojito Night. Mojitos for
1000ISK and beer for 500ISK.

27 FRI

B5
22:00 Live DJs.
Bar 11
22:00 DJ Matti.
Bakkus
22:00 DJ Kári.
Café Rósenberg
22:00 Ljótu Hálfvitarnir.
Celtic Cross
01:00 Live Music.
Cultura
22:00 House DJs.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Hreimur.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
English Pub
22:00 Live Music.
Hemmi & Valdi
22:00 Local DJs.
Hressó
22:00 Troubadours Jogvan and
Vignir, DJ Fannar.
Kaffibarinn
22:00 Alfons X.
Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 DJs Nino and Dramatík.
Prikið
21:00 V.I.P. Night with Danna.
Sódóma
22:00 Kimono + guests.
Thorvaldsen
22:00 Live DJs.

28 SAT

B5
22:00 Live DJs.
Bar 11
22:00 DJ Gulli Ósama.
Bakkus
22:00 DJ Ívar Pétur
Café Rósenberg
22:00 Ljótu Hálfvitarnir.
Celtic Cross
01:00 Live Music.
Cultura
22:00 House DJs.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Halldór Gunnar Fjallabróðir
& Sverrir Bergman.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
English Pub
22:00 Live Music.
Grand Rokk
21:00 Gæðablóð: Debut album
release concert.
Hemmi & Valdi
22:00 Local DJs.
Hressó
22:00 Ímynd, DJ Fannar.
Kaffibarinn
22:00 Sexy Lazer.
Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 DJs Nino and Dramatík.
Prikið
21:00 V.I.P. Night with Introbeats,
Didda Fel and Homies.
Sódóma
22:00 Iron Maiden Tribute gig.
Thorvaldsen
22:00 Live DJs.

Sódóma
REYKJAVÍK

6/11
**Jack Live: Who Knew,
Biggi Bix, Sing For Me Sandra**
7/11
**Duplex: Retro Stefson
Nolo + guests**
12/11
Stereo Hypnosis CD Release gig
13/11
**Pulling Teeth (USA), Bummer,
Celestine, Plastic Gods, Gone Postal**
14/11
BB & BLAKE CD Release gig
19/11
Eldhúsparty FM957
20-21/11
TBA
26/11
Eldhúsparty FM957
27/11
Kimono + guests
28/11
Iron Maiden Tribute gig
3/12
Eldhúsparty FM957

Sódóma Reykjavík - Live Music Venue
Tryggvagata 22 101 Reykjavík

Live Music

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER
» Grapevine Concert

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER
» Benefit Concert:
Legal Aid for Refugees

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER
» Deep Jimi and the Zep Creams

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER
» Gæðablóð
Concert to Celebrate the Release
of their Debut Album



Grand Rokk
Reykjavík

Grand Rokk » Smiðjustigur 6 » 101 Reykjavík

gogoyoko presents:

Grapevine Grand Rock



Lights On The Highway

Snorri Helgason

Markús Bjarnason &
The Diversion Sessions

Prins Póló



Grand Rokk

22:00

Friday November 13

1.000 ISK



gogoyo
yoko

 The
REYKJAVÍK
GRAPEVINE

MUSIC NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER

- continued -

29 SUN

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Bóka Uppléstur and Ljóa.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Troubadour Raggi.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
Hafnarborg
20:00 The Reykjavík Trio.
Prikið
23:00 Hangover Cinema presents:
The Cable Guy.

30 MON

Café Rósenberg
22:00 Ellen Kristjans album release
concert.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
Kaffi Zimsen
21:00 Best Friends Day. 2 for 1 beer.

1 TUE

Café Rósenberg
22:00. Reynir Sig and Jazz Band.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Live Music.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.

2 WED

Bakkus
22:00 Slash & Gore Video Night.
Café Rósenberg
22:00 BUFF.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Pop-quiz Night.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
Kaffibarinn
22:00 Bedroom Community 18 -
Ben Frost & Valgeir Sigurðsson.

3 THU

B5
22:00 Live Music.
Bar 11
22:00 Kreppa Nights with live music.
Beer and shots for 400ISK.
Café Rósenberg
22:00 BUFF.
Cultura
22:00 House DJs.
Den Danske Kro
22:00 Scandinavian Night with
Troubadour Raggi.
Dubliner
22:30 Live Music.
English Pub
22:00 Live Music.
Hafnarborg
12:00 Lunch Time Concert with
Antonia Hevesi and Disella
Lárusdóttir.
Iceland Symphony Orchestra
19:30 Chopin & Beethoven,
conducted by Robert Spano with
Ástríður Alda Sigurðardóttir soloing.
Kaffi Zimsen
22:00 Ólafsvaka night. Beer for 490
ISK.
Sódóma
22:00 Eldhúsparty FM957.
Thorvaldsen
22:00 Mojito Night. Mojitos for
1000ISK and beer for 500ISK.



2009 Guitar Festival

Salurinn Kópavogi ☺ 21:00
2500 ISK

For those who do in fact enjoy venturing out of the Reykjavík 101 area and are into guitars - this is for you. The 2009 Guitar Festival will be held at Salurinn in the suburb of Kópavogur and is lead by none other than Björn Thoroddsen, one of Iceland's leading jazz guitarists. The country's finest and most famed jazz, blues and rock guitarists join forces to please the crowds. LP



Stereo Hypnosis - Album Release Concert

Sódóma Reykjavík ☺ 22:00
1.000 ISK

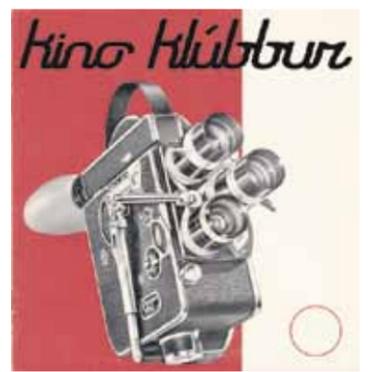
Amicable father-son ambient project Stereo Hypnosis invite you to their release concert, in exchange for a measly 1.000 krónur. This admittance fee comes with an alcoholic beverage to warm you up and if you add another, pathetic thousand-krónur bill, you'll get their latest CD, Hypnogogia, too. And if that isn't enough for you, they'll be joined by Ruxpin & the West End happy pin DJ AnDre! If you're still not happy, well, then you're just ungrateful. C'mon! Don't be like that, they're awesome! AJ



God's Song

Hallgrim's Church ☺ 17:00
3500 ISK

No trip to Reykjavík, or Iceland for that matter, is complete without a visit to Hallgrim's Church. Perched atop one of the tallest hills in the city, the shiny white church resembles a tiara, or a rocket ship taking off. Either way, this church is awesome in almost every regard. But there's awesome, and then there's fucking awesome. The Friends of the Arts Society Hallgrímskirkja have



Movie Nights

Bakkus ☺ 22:00

Every Wednesday, Free

Seems there's a whole lot of various movie nights popping up at venues around Reykjavík. Perhaps there is a need to fill the void of independent film screenings since the movie theatres in this town only tend to show lame blockbusters. Or maybe it's because darkness is dawning upon us and the need to snuggle up with popcorn and a movie is growing greater. Whatever the reason, we're loving it.

Latest to join the movie night bunch is Bakkus. Every Wednesday the groups Rafskinna, Kino Klúbbur and Slash & Gore Video take turns presenting quality films. Among the movies coming up is Modus Operandi by Frankie Latina which will be screened by Kino Klúbbur on November 18. It's been raved about since its premiere and received critical acclaim from all over. And it's all for free! LP



Go Out, Kinda

Hressó, Den Danske Kro, Café Rosenberg, and More
All Month! (November)

November strikes Iceland and with it comes the urge to hibernate: night falls quickly, the bars quiet down, and taking it easy - or cosy - starts sounding terribly appealing. But sitting at home is dull, your cat keeps shitting on the floor and you're tired of surfing the filth, trash and idiocy of the Internet. What to do? Well, it's time to take a lesson from the Cold War.

While some historians may have you believe there were only two sides to the Cold War - the Soviets, and, well, the rest of the world - this is untrue. Take Tito's Yugoslavia, which considered itself an unaligned state and practiced what was labeled "a third way."

So this month, the Grapevine suggests you adopt the "third way." Don't build yourself an impenetrable cocoon, but don't rage like a freak either. Compromise instead, and come see one of Reykjavík's renowned troubadours! Acoustic melodies, warm voices and rambling lyrics: this is what winter's all about. Hressó, Den Danske Kro and Rósenberg all feature troubadour performances regularly. Grab a beer, get cosy, and enjoy time away from your filthy cat. MZ



Young Art Festival 2009 (Unglist)

Various Locations in Reykjavík

Free

The Young Art Festival is an annual event dedicated to those youngsters who live and breathe creativity. This cultural feast takes place just over a week at various locations in Reykjavík and it is organized by Hitt Húsið, the cultural centre for young people.

The schedule is diverse with music, design, fine art, happenings and theatre all mixed together and served by young artists. You can discover classical dance, compete in an art marathon or a theatre competition, check out a fashion show...it's all there for your likings and it's all for free! **LP**

Young Art Festival 2009 Schedule:

Friday November 6

Hitt Húsið 1-5 pm

Art Marathon

The fabulous art marathon will start here. Participants are given info about the marathon. Nice prizes are given away for the best artwork from our friends at Myndlistarskólinn í Reykjavík and Lucas art products.

Hitt Húsið 3pm

Black & white are colours!

Some people state that black & white are not colours but photographer Birta Rán Björgvinsdóttir disagrees. She has recently been working on this theme of black & white; the gray of everyday life and the beauty of winter.

Hitt Húsið 8pm

Musicbox #1

Concert at Unglist 2009

Ljósavaki, Bróðir Svartúlfs, Ramses and Nóra

Saturday November 7

Café Rót 1-2:30pm

Foaming cup of coffee

Students from the Classical Dance School will be performing.

Café Rót 8pm

Beat&Brass

Beat&Brass is a musical buffet loaded with goodies: jazz, improvisation, experimental and whatever the moment will give us.

Sunday November 8

Borgarleikhúsið (The City Theater) 2pm

And now we dance

There is obviously no recession among the new & young dancers in Reykjavík; creativity and power will be all over the place...and now we dance!

The Nordic House 8pm

Classic Young art

Classical concert with participants from various music schools in the city.

Monday November 9

Dómkirkjan 8pm

Students from LHÍ perform the beautiful piano quartet nr.3 by Brahms.

Wednesday November 11

The Icelandic Opera House 8pm

The Theatre Competition - Theatre Sport

Welcome to Leiktu Betur, the acting improvising competition of the collages in Reykjavík. The main goal is to entertain and be entertained.

Thursday November 12

Hitt Húsið 8pm

Musicbox #2

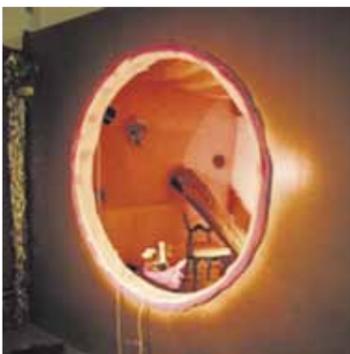
Concert at Unglist 2009

Bárujárn, Ljóðatónn, Sykur and Me, the Slumbering Napoleon.

Saturday November 14

The Hall of Skates in Laugardalur 8pm

Fashion show from Reykjavík Technical College.



Hnykill

Bygggarðar 5, Seltjarnarnes

☺ 20:00

November 6, 9, 13, 15 and 22

Admission 3.000ISK

This spring, audiences were left deeply moved by actress/director Margrét Vilhjálmsdóttir's presentation of her experimental theatre piece Orbis Terræ - ORA. She's doing it again. Premiering at an industrial warehouse in Gróttu today, Vilhjálmsdóttir's latest multimedia epic, Hnykill, will run until December and is sure to poke, provoke and raise a number of questions with the viewer.

Dealing with themes such as the subconscious, perception, dreams vs. reality and the human mind, Hnykill is presented in a similar fashion to Orbis Terræ, where each audience member is individually lead through the world crafted by Vilhjálmsdóttir and the participating team of actors, musicians and visual artists. Check out Hnykill for some true food for thought in November - more information available at www.facebook.com/hnykill-listafelag.



Pop in at the Laxness residence

Gljúfrasteinn Laxness Museum
Permanent Exhibition 500ISK

Did you know that the home and workplace of legendary Icelandic author Halldór Laxness is open for all? Visitors can explore the unchanged home of the Nobel Prize winner and take a stroll in its beautiful countryside surroundings. Laxness' literature reflects the cultural, political and intellectual movements that transformed the world at the time and at the museum the tale of his life is told through photographs and video footage. The mere twenty minute trip to Gljúfrasteinn in the valley of Mosfellsdalur is well worth it. **LP**



To Build a Room of One's Own

Reykjavík Art Museum

November 7 - January 31

Free

Högn Sigurðardóttir, who turns 80 this year, is widely-recognized as the first woman to practice architecture in Iceland. An internationally-acclaimed master, Sigurðardóttir is known for addressing her structures as integral wholes and this approach has distinct ramifications: accessories, furniture, flora and the surrounding environment are all harnessed to create beautifully geometric buildings. Although Sigurðardóttir resides in France, some of her best works are right here in Iceland.

A recent donation of her works will be on display alongside a complete catalogue at the Reykjavík Art Museum until the end of January, 2010. Stop by on the 14th at 14:00 for a panel discussion. **MZ**



Spirit of Place and Narrative

Reykjavík Art Museum

Hafnarhús

October 29 - January 3

Free

All round artsy character Egill Sæbjörnsson is known for his unusual fusion of music, sound, video and installations. This time he graces The Reykjavík Art Museum with his exhibit "Spirit of Place and Narrative," a display of his works dating from 2006. The exhibit features a dialogue between characters or objects that express events or time and Egill explores the thought of each person knowing what will cross his or her path through prior knowledge. It's an exhibit that will get you thinking. **LP**



Multicultural Music Extravaganza

The Nordic House Friday ☺ 20:00 and Saturday ☺ 15:00

Tickets: 2500ISK Festival Pass: 4500ISK

The Nordic House has been more conspicuous in recent times than ever before. The good institution has hosted vast segments of art festivals such as RIFF, Iceland Airwaves and Sequences. In November, this pack of energetic event hosts will offer us some new fruit from their grand basket: a multicultural music festival that takes place over the course of a weekend.

Some of you readers might immediately get hung-over when a music festival is mentioned, with Airwaves but a fortnight in our past. Don't be alarmed - this is not one of those drunken hipsterfests. This is actually a very interesting event, as it combines the North and the South: The World Music Safari Explosion.

The fest boasts of an interesting fusion line-up of Nordic Artists that all play music styles originated in the Southern hemisphere. Every performer originates from a more Southern country and is (or was at one time) an immigrant to the North. This phenomenon is of course brought to life late in Icelandic wintertime to cheer folks up and let them enjoy a taste of art derived from warmer climates, as well as to show how these expats have incorporated Scandinavian elements into their music.

Some interesting acts in the line up include Finland's Shava and DJ Nad Jee from Norway. Shava plays Bhangra in Finnish and has been described thusly: "Shava, Shava! The Sound of Finnish Bhangra: What you get when you fuse Finnish rap style chanting with Pun..."

DJ Nad Jee also plays Bhangra, but infuses in with rougher beats and touches even on Indian pop-culture songs. Be sure to bring your dancing shoes, 'cause you might be lured into the groove into a crazy evening of Bhangra, Bollywood, beats and beer. **SKK**



André Kertész

Ma France

26 September 2009 - 17 January 2010



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MAP

Places We Like

1 Á Næstu Grösum

Laugavegi 20b

Á Næstu Grösum is an all vegetarian restaurant right in the city centre that features a friendly atmosphere and fair prices. There is always at least one vegan soup on offer and the daily special portions are big and always satisfying. There is even some organic wine on offer.

2 Hemmi og Valdi

Laugavegur 21

The "colonial store" Hemmi and Valdi was probably 2008's most surprising crowd pleaser. The cosy hangout advanced from being a toasty retreat, where you could get cheap beer and have a quiet chat, into being a chock-full concert venue and an all-night party place. And believe me, the new atmosphere is brilliant. SKK

3 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 open until 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday. CF

4 Krua Thai

Tryggvagötu 14

This is the best affordable Thai food on offer in Reykjavík. Rice is always fluffy, the spicy kick is just right and the spring rolls are always crispy cylinders of deliciousness. The servings are hearty too, so you're bound to leave satisfied. CF

5 Kaffitár

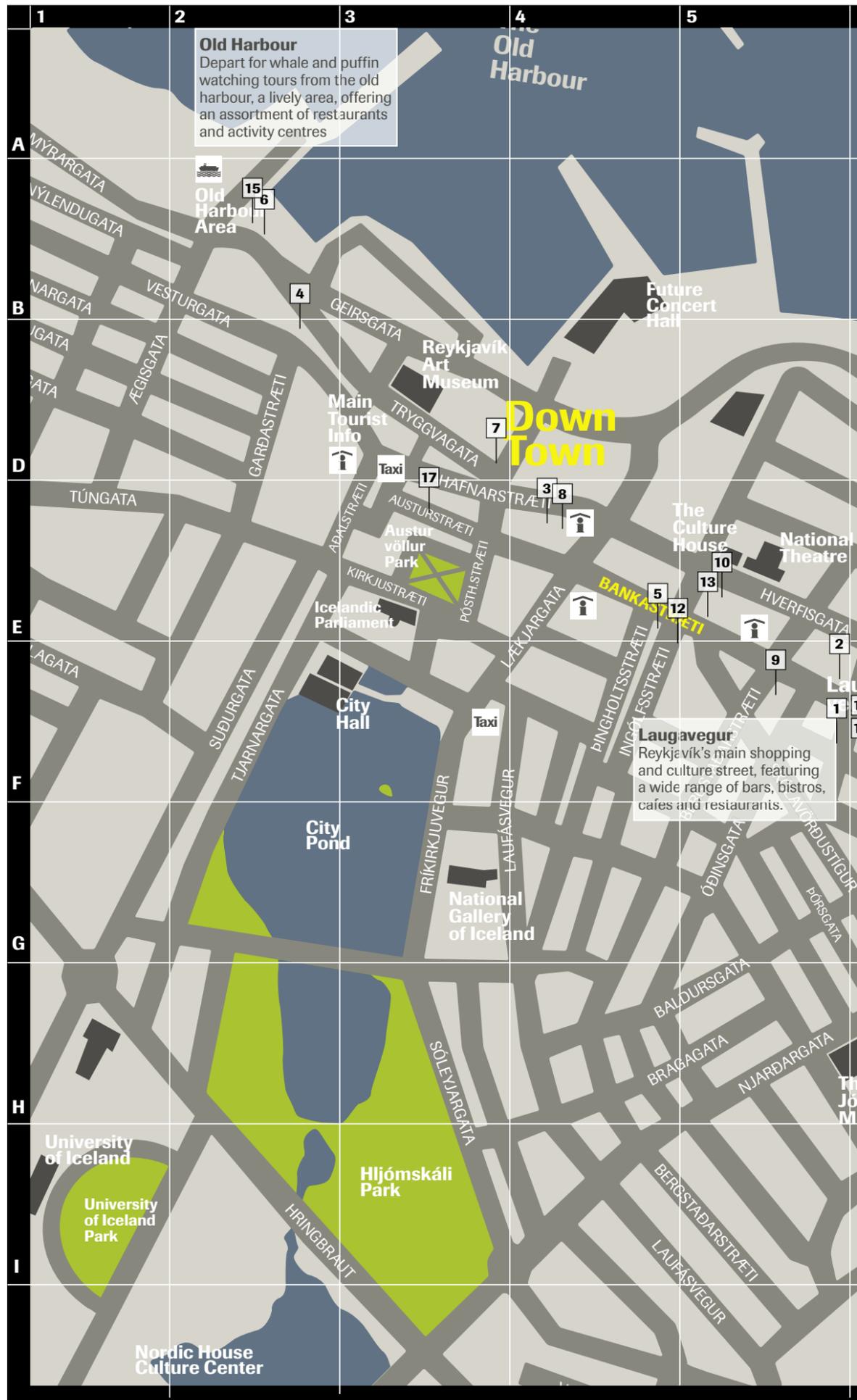
Bankastræti 8

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

6 Sægreifinn

Verbúð 8, Geirsgata

Down by the Reykjavík harbour, Sægreifinn fish shop and restaurant is truly a unique establishment. The menu features various fish dishes (including most of the "crazy Icelandic food" you'll want to tell your friends you had) and a rich portion of the best lobster soup we've ever tasted. Good food and welcoming service make this place a must-try.



7 Kolaportið

Tryggvagata 19

Reykjavík's massive 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

8 Pizza King

Hafnarstræti 18

To be honest, this isn't the best pizza up for grabs, but it's cheap, not pre-heated (like at various other pizza places downtown), and the guys are rather cool. Their pizzas are always bulletproof, and they offer various great offers on top of it, which you should definitely check out. SKK

9 Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

Weekends are somewhat overrated at Kaffibarinn if you ask me. Don't get me wrong, they can be brilliant if you're completely pissed, the DJ is fresh and the crowd is full-blooded, still the weekdays are better. It doesn't matter when you pop in, you're always treated like a pal rather than a customer, and you should always expect get caught in some shenanigan, whether it's a crazy Monday bender or a wacko Tuesday... well... bender. SKK

Christmas Beer arrives 12. November!

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at Austursræti

We're open all day during the holidays!



For a map of outside downtown Reykjavík check out links on www.grapevine.is or the Icelandic phonebook website www.ja.is

10 Grái Kötturinn

Hverfisgata 16a

Super relaxed and cozy diner/café below street level. This place makes the best hangover breakfast ever (the truck!) and any-other-day breakfast as well. It's a nice and relaxing place to eat and increase your caffeine intake and chill with friends or with some reading material. CF

11 Santa Maria

Laugavegur 22

On Laugavegur, Santa Maria offers a fairly extensive menu of Mexican dishes and drinks at a really reasonable price – possibly some of the best in the city. The décor is colourful and welcoming, the portions are generous and the service is fast and friendly. Recommended. CF

12 Prikið

Bankastræti 12

Prikið is one of those places that shape-shifts. It's a warm café with photographs of their senior frequenters on weekday mornings, a hung-over hangout on weekend afternoons, and during nights it's filled to the brim with what remains of Iceland's hip hop scene. Go there in daytime for the cheap burgers; enter at night for some OTT hip-hop debauchery, old skool and the latest bangers alike. SKK

13 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

14 Barbara

Laugavegur 22

At Laugavegur 22, above Karamba, Barbara serves up a lively atmosphere for Reykjavík'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

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. CF

16 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 Boston also serves up some reasonably priced food earlier in the evening, so it's not too swank. CF

17 Austur

Austurstræti 7

Sleek and shiny, this new restaurant and bar is a straight-up boutique hot spot for stylish kids and trendy professionals alike. Appropriate for formal business meetings but casual enough for the roll-out-bed-at-5pm crowd, they serve up ample, satisfying, modern dishes at reasonable prices. This is also one of the rare places to get a full breakfast all day long! It's really fucking good too. RL

18 Karamba

Laugavegur 22

Hotspot in town Karamba is a colourful and eclectic bar on Laugavegur with a comfortable atmosphere, typically great music and a chill crowd. This is a good place to relax or to do some serious drinking. Plus, their decors are done strictly by Grapevine-friendly artists, such as Lóa (who does our comics), Hugleikur Dagsson (who illustrates the monster column) and Bobby Breiðholt (who's done a lot of nice illustrations for us); they are truly a sight to behold. CF

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

OPENING

NOVEMBER

6 ☺ 3pm

Hitt Húsið

Black & White Are Colours!

Exhibit featuring the works of photographer Birta Rán Björgvinsdóttir. Ongoing until November 17.

7 ☺ 11am

Hafnarborg (Hafnarfjörður Centre of Culture and Fine Art)

The Selection

Exhibit featuring Icelandic photographs 1866-2009 by 13 Icelandic photographers. A curator's talk with Einar Falur Ingólfsson will be held on November 15 at 3pm. Ongoing until January 3 2010.

Where is the clock?

Paintings and installations by Davíð Þór Halldórsson. An artist's talk will be held on November 22 at 3pm. Ongoing until January 3 2010.

7 ☺ 4pm

Nordic House

Icelandic Printmakers Association 40th Anniversary

Exhibit featuring the works of forty members of the Icelandic Printmakers Association. Showing new prints ranging from lithographs to digital prints. Ongoing until December 5.

7 ☺ 4pm

Reykjavík Art Museum Kjarvalsstaðir

Högná Sigurðardóttir – Matter and Spirit in Architecture

The first retrospective of the works of architect Högná Sigurðardóttir, the first woman to practice architecture in Iceland. Ongoing until January 31.

7 ☺ 3pm

Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Alliance Francaise presents "Paris á l'Affiche!"

A free screening of "Les dites Cari-

atides" (1984), "Les fiancées du Pont Mac Donald" (1961) and "Paris, je t'aime" (2006).

14 ☺ 1pm

Gerðuberg Cultural Center

Through the years

Folk artist Sigurbjörg Sigurjónsdóttir exhibits pastel, watercolors and painted china in Boginn. Ongoing until January 3.

14 ☺ 3pm

Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Alliance Francaise presents "Paris á l'Affiche!"

A free screening of "Quai Bourbon" (1986), "Au Père-Lachaise" (1986) and "Le Ballon Rouge" (1956).

21 ☺ 1pm

ASÍ Art Museum

Luminous Flux

Exhibit featuring the works of Jóhanna H. Þorkeldsdóttir. The artist studies light in various forms and how it affects us. In the darkness of the arctic winter she invites guests to a photosynthesis at the museum. Ongoing until December 13.

Halldór Ragnarsson

Installation by Halldór Ragnarsson in Gryfjan. Ongoing until December 13.

21 ☺ 10am

Reykjavík Art Museum Kjarvalsstaðir

Steinunn

Exhibit offering a look at designer editions of unique garments not previously displayed in Iceland. Ongoing until January 31 2010.

Stoneworks

At this workshop, guests are invited to try their hands at projects related to design, weaving methods, and clothing. Ongoing until January 31 2010.

ONGOING

ASÍ Art Museum

October 24 - November 15

Gunnfríður Jónsdóttir

An exhibition of the works of sculptor Gunnfríður Jónsdóttir.

Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum

Permanent Exhibition:

The Shape of Line.

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

May 01 - April 30 2010

RHYTHM - Ásmundur and Our Age

Art | Venue finder

101 Gallery

Hverfisgata 18A | F6
Thu-Sat 14-17 and by appointment
www.101hotel.is/101hotel/101gallery/

Artotek

Tryggvagata 15 | D5
Mon 10-21, Tue-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-19, Sat and Sun 13-17
www.sim.is/Index/Islenka/Artotek

ASÍ Art Museum

Freygata 41 | G10
Tue-Sun 13-17

Árbæjarsafn

Kistuhylur 4

The Culture House

Hverfisgata 15 | F6
Open daily 11-17
www.thjodmenning.is

Dwarf Gallery

Grundarstígur 21 | H8
Opening Hours: Fri and Sat 18-20
www.this.is/birta

The Einar Jónsson Museum

Eiriksgata | G9
Tue-Sun 14-17
www.skulptur.is

Fótógrafi

Skólavörðustígur 4a | F7
www.fotografi.is

Gallery 100°

Bæjarháls 1
www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100/
Open weekdays from 08:30-16:00

Gallery Auga fyrir Auga

Hverfisgata 35 | G7

Gallery StartArt

Laugavegur 12B | G7
Tue-Sat 1-17
www.startart.is

Gallery Ágúst

Baldursgata 12 | F9
Wed-Sat 12-17
www.galleriagust.is

Gallery Fold

Rauðarástígur 14-16 | J9
Mon-Fri 10-18 / Sat 11-16 / Sun 14-16
www.myndlist.is

Gallery Kling & Bang

Hverfisgata 42 | G7
Thurs-Sun from 14-18
this.is/klingogbang/

Gallery Turpentine

Ingólfstræti 5 | F7
Tue-Fri 12-18 / Sat 11-16
www.turpentine.is

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre

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

Hitt Húsið

- Gallery Tukt
Pósthússtræti 3-5 | E6
www.hithusid.is

i8 Gallery

Klapparstígur 33 | G7
Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and by appointment. www.i8.is

Living Art Museum

Vatnsstígur 3 - G7
Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17 / Thu 13-22. www.nylo.is

Lost Horse Gallery

Skólástræti 1 | F6
Weekends from 13-19 and by appointment on weekdays.

Hafnarborg

Strandgötu 34,
Hafnarfjörður

The National Gallery of Iceland

Frikkirkjuvegur 7 | E8

Tue-Sun 11-17

www listasafn.is

The National Museum

Suðurgata 41 | C9
Open daily 10-17
natmus.is/

The Nordic House

Sturlugata 5 | C11
Tue-Sun 12-17
www.nordice.is/

The Numismatic Museum

Einholt 4 | K9
Open Mon-Fri 13:30-15:30.

Reykjavík 871+/-2

Aðalstræti 17 | D6
Open daily 10-17

Reykjavík Art Gallery

Skúlagata 28 | H6
Tuesday through Sunday 14-18

Reykjavík Art Museum

Open daily 10-16
www listasafnreykjavikur.is

Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum Sigtún

Hafnarhús

Tryggvagata 17 | E5

Kjarvalsstaðir

Flókagata | K11

Reykjavík City Theatre

Listabraut 3

Reykjavík Maritime Museum

Grandagarður 8 | C3

Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Tryggvagata 16 | D5

Weekdays 12-19 / Sat-Sun 13-17

www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

Laugarnestangi 70

This exhibition showcases contemporary artists that tackle similar issues as Ásmundur did in his time, but in a context of a new age.

The Culture House

Permanent Exhibition:

Medieval Manuscripts

March 28 - January 10 2010

ICELAND::FILM

This exhibition traces for the first time the development of Icelandic filmmaking from its origins around 1904 to the year 2008.

September 16 - December 1

Postal History and Transport

September 25 - November 25

Goðar Islands and Múmíumúsín

Sigurður Gunnarsson and Kristín Elva Rögnvaldsdóttir exhibit their works.

October 12 - November 31

Flora Islandica

The Culture House exhibits the book Flora Islandica, containing 271 drawings by Eggert Pétursson.

The Library Room

Current exhibitions:

August 12 - ongoing

National Archives of Iceland - 90 years in the museum building.

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Culture House.

Sheepskin, Saffian and Shirting

Exhibiting the tools and equipment used in book binding.

Exhibition Series:

Paintings by Hulda Viljálmsdóttir.

The Einar Jónsson Museum

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

Gallery Ágúst

October 24 - December 12

Photos from Iceland 1930-1945

In this exhibition Unnar Örn has worked with a collection of photographs taken by the late Sigurdur Guttormsson between 1930-1945. The photographs are a rare insight into living conditions and architectural history of Iceland in the years around 1940.

Gallerí Tukt

October 31 - November 16

Crude Visions

Exhibit featuring the works of Óskar Bragi Stefánsson.

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre

October 17-January 3

Where Pleasure Lives

Exhibition on Halla Einarisdóttir's life and poetry.

October 31-January 3

Art Exhibition

Art in the life and fiction of Kristín Marja Baldursdóttir.

October 31 - January 3

The world of Karitas

Exhibition based on the books by Kristín Marja Baldursdóttir about the artist Karitas.

Gljúfrasteinn Laxness Museum

Gljúfrasteinn was the home and workplace of Halldór Laxness (winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955) and his family for more than half a century. It has now been opened to the public as a museum, unchanged from when Laxness lived there.

Living Art Museum

The museum is closed for restoration and will open on a new location in January 2010.

National Gallery of Iceland

October 30 - January 3

Svavar Guðnason

The exhibition is a retrospective of the works of Svavar Guðnason, one of Iceland's most prominent painters through his close connection with Danish abstract art between 1936 and 1946.

The National Museum

Permanent exhibition:

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.

January 31 - November 30.

Encounters.

Archaeological excavations at many locations around Iceland have been

funded by Kristnihátíðarsjóður (the Millennium Fund). Finds from some of these excavations are on display in an exhibition suitable for the whole family.

The Numismatic Museum

Permanent exhibition:

The Central Bank of Iceland and the National Museum of Iceland jointly operate a numismatic collection consisting of Icelandic notes and coins.

Ráðhús Reykjavíkur

Dulin Himintungl

Kim Linnet exhibits her 360° panorama photos of Iceland.

Reykjavík 871 +/- 2

Permanent exhibition:

The Settlement Exhibition

Reykjavík Art Museum

Hafnarhús

September 17 - January 3 2010

The Crated Rooms in Iceland

A new installation by world-renowned artist Yoshitomo Nara in collaboration with Hideki Toyoshima. The room-sized installation, which consists of shipping crates and billboards, places Nara's iconic images in a new and unexpected context.

29 October 2009 - 3 January 2010

Egill Sæbjörnsson - Spirit of Place and Narrative

The narrative side of Egill Sæbjörnsson's work comes to the fore in this exhibition which displays works featuring dialogue between characters or objects that convey unfolding events or time.

29 October 2009 - 3 January 2010

D14 Ryan Parteka

In D14, Ryan Parteka intends to capture the metaphysical dimension characteristic of the German landscape painter Casper David Friedrich's (1774-1840).

Reykjavík Art Museum

Kjarvalsstaðir

September 12 - November 8

Blink

The exhibition explores the role of visual illusion in Icelandic art from the middle of the 1960s until today. Included are paintings and sculptures by the artists Eybor Guðmundsdóttir, Hreinn Friðfinnsson, Ólafur Eliasson, JBK Ransu and others. The way artists use colors, lights and shapes in a variety of media to create a feeling of disorientation is examined. Curated by Helgi Már Kristinsson

September 12 - November 8

Blinkworks

Blinkworks is an educational, family-oriented workshop in the North Gallery in conjunction with the exhibition Blink. Guests are invited to try their hand at enjoyable projects related to op-art, optical illusion, and science.

Reykjavík Maritime Museum

Current Exhibitions:

Living Museum by the Sea; Arterial for Country and City; From Poverty to Abundance; The Shark - Light and Life Energy; Hidden Craftsman.

The Reykjavík Museum of Photography

September 26 - January 17 2010

André Kertész - Ma France

Exhibit of André Kertész's photographs of France.

October 22 - December 15

MYICELAND

Exhibit featuring the results of French photographer Grégory Gerault's many visits to Iceland.

Boutique STEINUNN

November 5 - November 30

Snow Queen

Exhibit featuring Özden Dóra's head-pieces. The collection is mainly inspired by Icelandic winter landscapes.

Tónlistarsafn Íslands

November 3 - November 17

Guitar Exhibition

Icelandic jazz, rock and blues guitars on exhibit.



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Minke Whale with cranberry-sauce

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and whipped cream



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Outside Reykjavik | Venue finder

Keflavik

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

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

Mývatnssstofa

Egilsstaðir

Sláturhúsið

Seyðisfjörður

Skaftfell
www.skaftfell.is
Austurvegur 42
710 Seyðisfjörður
472-1632

Hveragerði

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

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* Tuesdays *

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* Wednesdays *

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* Thursdays *

Live Music / Scandinavian nights

* Fridays *

Live music / Sing-along nights

* Saturdays *

Live music / Sing-along nights

* Sundays *

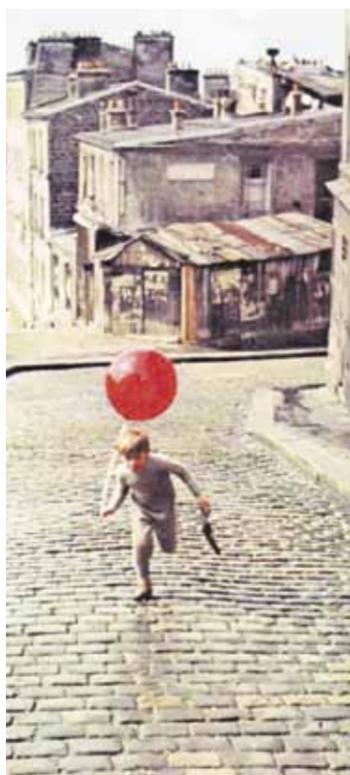
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www.danskekro.is

ART PICKS

- continued -



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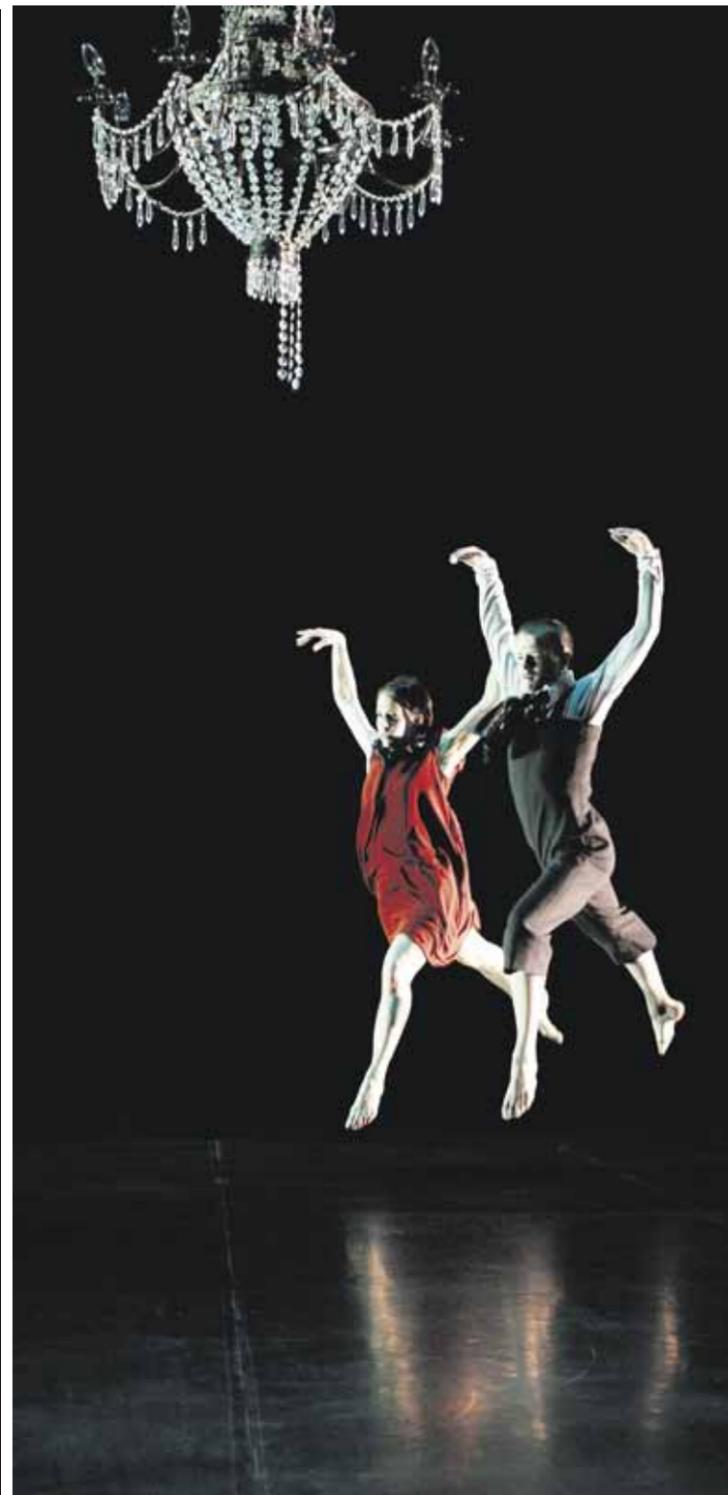
Reykjavik Museum of Photography ☺ 15:00

November 7 & 14

Free

Trade in your pylsur for some crêpes this month during Alliance Française's screening of films that celebrate Paris, the city of lights. Twenty-five short films and one feature will be screened at the Reykjavik Museum of Photography, located on the fifth floor of the city library, over two consecutive Saturdays. The event kicks off with two shorts by Agnès Varda (the mastermind behind Cléo from 5 to 7) before launching into Paris je t'aime, the 2006 film composed of 18 short works crafted by 21 different directors - including the Coen brothers, Gérard Depardieu, Wes Craven and more.

One week later screenings resume with two shorts from 1986 - Quai Bourbon and Au Père-Lachaise - and wrap up with the children's classic, Le Ballon Rouge (1956). The story of a boy and his trusty, helium-filled companion is a heartening tale and equally well-suited for adults. Watching this boy chase his balloon around town is so god-damn adorable it makes you stop and re-evaluate your drunken, good-for-nothing, put-on-deodorant-instead-of-bathe, don't-even-call-your-mom-on-her-birthday lifestyle. What happened to us? We used to be so cute. **MZ**



Crazy Love Butter

The Hafnarfjörður Theatre - November 7 - 8 ☺ 20:00

1500 ISK

The Hafnarfjörður Theatre is famed for its innovative work. Carrying on this tradition, the dance performance Crazy Love Butter brings together choreographers Steinunn Ketilsdóttir and Brian Gerke who have made a name for themselves by mixing dance and theatre in quite the clever way. This particular performance is a trilogy on love, where Steinunn and Brian will perform three duets: "Crazy in Love with Mr. Perfect," "Love always, Debbie and Susan" and "The Butterface." The works are all about love in one way or another and there is an emotionally

covered undertone which is hidden in daily situations.

Steinunn and Brian are a dance couple well worth watching and they promise to deliver more than just the performance itself - there'll be partying, DJs and a whole heap of fun. **LP**

250 kr. 350 kr.
200 kr. 275 kr. 375 kr.
400 kr.

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Food & Drink | Venue finder

3 Frakkar Baldursgata 14 | **F9**
Aktu Taktu Skúlagata 15 | **K8**
Alibaba Veltusund 3b | **E3**
American Style Tryggvgata 26 | **E5**
Argentína Steak-house Barónstígur | **I8**
Austurlanda-hraðlestin Hverfisgata 64A | **H7**
Á Næstu Grösum Laugavegur 20B | **G7**
B5 Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
Bakkus Tryggvgata 22 | **D3**
Basil & Lime Klapparstíg 38 | **G7**
Babalú Skólavörðustígur 22A | **G8**
Balthazar Hafnarstræti 1-3 |

D6/E6
Bæjarins Beztu Tryggvgata | **E6**
Brons Pósthússtræti 9 | **E6**
Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**
Café Loki Lokastígur 28 | **G9**
Café Paris Austurstræti 14 | **E6**
Café Roma Rauðarárstígur 8 | **J9**
Domo Þinghóltsstræti 5 | **F7**
Einar Ben Veltusundi | **E6**
Eldsmíðjan Bragagata 38A | **G9**
Fiskmarkaðurinn Aðalstræti 12 | **D6**
Geysir Bar/Bistro Aðalstræti 2 | **D6**
Garðurinn Klappastígur 37 | **G7**
Glætan book café Laugavegur 19 | **F5**

Grái Kötturinn Hverfisgata 16A | **G7**
Grillhúsið Tryggvgata 20 | **E5/E6**
Habibi Hafnarstræti 20 | **D5**
Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar ("Bullán") Geirsgata 1 | **D5**
Hílla Bátar Ingólfstorg | **D6**
Hornið Hafnarstræti 15 | **E6**
Hótel Holt Bergstaðarstræti 37 | **F7**
Humarhúsið Ammtmanstígur 1 | **E7**
Hressó Austurstræti 20 | **E6**
Icelandic Fish & Chips Tryggvgata 8 | **E5**
Indian Mango Frakkastígur 12 | **G6**

Jómfrúin Lækjargata 4 | **E6**
Kaffi Hjómáland Laugavegur 21 | **G7**
Kaffitár Bankastræti 8 | **F6**
Kaffivagninn Grandagarður 10 | **D1**
Kebabhúsið Austurstræti 2 | **E6**
Kofi Tómasar Frænda Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Krua Thai Tryggvgata 14 | **D5**
La Primavera Austurstræti 9 | **E6**
Lystin Laugavegur 73 | **H7**
Mokka Skólavörðustígur 3A | **F7**
Nonnabiti Hafnarstræti 9 | **E6**
O Sushi Lækjargata 2A | **E6**

Pisa Lækjargötu 6b | **E6**
Pizza King Hafnarstræti 18 | **E6**
Pizza Pronto Vallarstræti 4 | **D6**
Pizzaverksmiðjan Lækjargötu 8 | **E6**
Prikið Bankastræti 12 | **F6**
Ráðhúskaffi | **D7** Tjarnargata 11
Santa María Laugavegur 22A, | **F7**
Segafredo Lækjartorg | **E6**
Serrano Hringbraut 12 | **I3**

Sushibarinn Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Svarta Kaffi Laugavegur 54 | **H8**
Sægreifinn Verbuð 8, Geirsgata | **D5**
Tapas Vesturgata 3B | **D5**
Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 | **E6**
Tíu Dropar Laugavegur 27 | **G7**
Tívoli Laugavegur 3 | **F7**
Vegamót Vegamótastígur 4 | **G7**
Við Tjörmina Templarasund 3 | **E7**
Vitabar Bergþórugata 21 | **H9**



REVIEWS



Food For Thought

Garðurinn

Klapparstígur 37

What we think: Interesting concept, healthy food

Flavour: Healthy

Ambiance: Calm

Service: Friendly



Garðurinn ("Ecstasy's Heart Garden") is a small family run vegetarian restaurant, calm and serene enough to make even our conversation about movie classics Anonymous Rex and Mega Shark vs. Giant Octopus seem spiritual.

The owners spend their time more virtuously, practicing meditation together with the staff of the health shop next door and following the principles of Sri Chinmoy—a Bangladesh born meditation guru whose thoughts and obituaries are also available for lunch reading. Faithful to Chinmoy's principles, neither meat nor alcohol is on offer, and the TV screens a strict diet of relaxation tapes.

The menu is simple—a soup (650 ISK for half a portion / 900 ISK for a full one) and a portion of the day (900 / 1.450 ISK), or a shared dish-soup set for 1.500 / 2.200 ISK.

On our visit, the soup was basil and the portion of the day lentil lasagne. I ate my two male dates under the table, trying both soup and lasagne, while they were perfectly stuffed on just the lasagne.

The soup had fresh basil with



GRAPEVINE FOOD REVIEW KEY

- 0 God-awful
- ☹ Awful
- ☹☹ Passable. Much room for improvement
- ☹☹☹ Good, but not great.
- ☹☹☹☹ Really rather good
- ☹☹☹☹☹ Extraordinary

The food is rated in three categories:
Fast food: Pizza, pylsa and kebab, food on the go (0-2000 ISK)
Mid-range: Everyday eateries, sit-in. (mains 2000-4000 ISK)
Fine dining: Fancy, expensive-type food. (3-course dinners 6000 and up)

To best judge the restaurant experience, the Grapevine conducts its reviews anonymously. The sole exception is the payment

method: When the bill arrives, the reviewer presents a written statement, previously signed by the restaurant management, allowing the reviewer and one companion a meal on the house for review purposes.

Using this approach, we aim to best preserve the reviewer's objectivity (and the restaurants' consistency), within the humble means of a free newspaper.

The Grapevine does not favour foie gras over fast food. Restaurants are reviewed for what they are; both burger and beluga can be extraordinary in their own right. In all evaluations, the food is key: Does it taste good? Is it properly prepared? Are the ingredients fresh and of high quality? Secondary considerations include setting, service and value for money.

All opinions expressed are the critic's own. **SP**

**SHOP AND EAT:
INDIAN, HEALTHY, CAKE!**

3 X INDIAN

1 SHALIMAR

A firm favourite among the Grapevine staff for years, Shalimar's old slogan "Where hot means hot," still bears some truth to it. **Austurstræti 4**

2 AUSTUR-INDÍA FÉLAGIÐ

Austur-Índía Félagið has been the crème de la crop of Icelandic-Indian restaurants for the past 15 years. And if Harrison Ford likes it, it must be good. Reservations recommended. **Hverfisgata 56**

3 AUSTURLANDA HRADLESTIN

A take away chain with brilliant Indian. Everything on the menu is good. Tandoori Lamb and Tikka Masala downright great. Several locations, see www.hradlestin.is **Hverfisgata 64a**

3X HEALTHY

4 MAÐUR LIFANDI

The organic market on Borgartún has a great selection including fresh fruit and veg. There is also a lunch restaurant with dish and soup of the day. **Borgartún 24**

5 FRÚ LAUGA

A rare treat on the island—a farmers market stocking products of the season. Located in Laugardalur, open Wednesdays through Saturdays. Doors are open 12-6pm, but go early—the store gets busy and the goods go quickly. For information on new batches, check them on Facebook. **Laugalækur 6**

6 JURTAAPÓTEK

A herbal pharmacy with a huge selection of all kinds of natural remedies. A great place to pick up Icelandic herbs such as angelica, yarrow and Icelandic moss—or the topical hit-product mimir, which at 2140 ISK could help to counter even the swiniest of flues. **Laugavegur 2**

2X CAKE!

7 SÚFISTINN

Home-made monster cakes—think meringue, chocolate and immense sugar rushes. Star of the moment is the all-Icelandic granola cake. **Íða bookstore, Laekjargata.**

8 SANDHOLT

Passion cheese cake to die for, plus a good assortment of buns, rolls, chocolate and ice cream to drool over. Sandholt is a good bet for stocking up ahead of a picnic in the park. **Laugavegur 36**

For full restaurant and food listings and venue finder visit www.grapevine.is for detailed information.



sushimi  jan

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101 Reykjavík - Iceland



The spontaneous brilliance of Stuðmenn



The same core players are involved in three of the best Icelandic bands from the seventies, Stuðmenn, Spilverk Þjóðanna and Pursaflokkurinn. All are veritable institutions of Icelandic rock history. In the newest 'Best Icelandic albums list,' published in 2009, those three bands have a total of thirteen albums on the top 100. While Spilverk Þjóðanna ('Plaything of the Nations') and Pursaflokkurinn ('The Band of Titans') are kind of serious, Stuðmenn ('Funmen') are anything but.

Like many good bands, Stuðmenn were conceived as a joke. In locally infamous artsy college MH, guitarist/singer Valgeir Guðjónsson and keyboardist Jakob Frímagn Magnússon, along with two friends, decided to form the corniest band they could imagine. The year was 1970, and their sole objective was to entertain their classmates at an upcoming dance. In the age of long hair, astrology and 20 minute guitar solos, Stuðmenn was the corniest band name they could think of. The band dressed accordingly in old black suits and skinny ties, slicking their hair back with brilliantine. This was some years before American Graffiti, so looking like it was 1959 was a spunky move.

Their fellow students got the joke and the first gig was a hit. The Stuðmenn joke lingered on, but the members wanted to do more contemporary music. Valgeir formed the folk group Spilverk Þjóðanna with Sigurður Bjóla and Egill Ólafsson (later to be the front man of Stuðmenn),

1. Stuðmenn promote Tívoli in 1976
3. Stuðmenn's core members Valgeir, Egill and Jakob in 1984, promoting their second movie, Hvítir mávar (aka 'Cool Jazz and Coconuts').
4. Stuðmenn in 2005: During the heights of the "good years" ("góðæri"), Stuðmenn performed at the Royal Albert Hall in London. The place was full of Icelanders—no doubt getting ready to take over the British Empire—and a Queen Elizabeth look-alike was brought on stage for fun.
5. The Sumar á Sýrlandi and Tívoli albums

while Jakob went to London with his pals in the heavy rock group Rífsberja. The idea was to check out all the possibilities the big city had to offer. Alas, nothing came out of Rífsberja's London trip except poverty and near-hunger. Jakob got a gig, though, playing with old blues dog Long John Baldry, while the rest of the group had to leave when their visas expired.

Fast forward to 1974. For some reason, a label named ÁÁ records saw commercial potential in Stuðmenn and ordered two singles from the group. Thus Valgeir met Jakob in London to record four songs with Cliff Richard's rhythm section on hire in the studio. The singles did OK in Iceland, and thus Stuðmenn were on the agenda again. Next up was a whole album recorded in London in early spring 1975. Valgeir's Spilverk friends came along, and Icelandic musicians living in London at the time (and playing with Change, an Icelandic band trying to break through) put in their share. Famous musicians like Chris Speeding and Bill Bruford dropped by as well. The resulting LP, Sumar á Sýrlandi ('Summer in Syria'), became an instant classic when it was re-released in Iceland in the summer of 1975.

"For the first time," reviewers would say, "a truly original Icelandic pop tone has been found." The album contains songs that have lived with the nation ever since, and the lyrics are funny in a clever and tongue-in-cheek kind of way. The band played wearing masks, as it initially presented itself as a secret group (like KISS). All the members were unknown, though, so nobody thought much of it when the masks eventually came off.

Stuðmenn followed suit in 1976 with a nostalgic concept album about an amusement park that had been a Reykjavík attraction in the fifties. The band promoted the album with an outdoor gig in the centre of Reykjavík. During the concert's climax, an aeroplane flew over and showered caramels over the crowd. The Tívoli album was considered another pop masterpiece and sold well. However, the members weren't interested in making further Stuðmenn albums. The Spilverk Þjóðanna people were to make few masterpieces in the years to come and Jakob Frímagn concentrated on his solo career, playing fusion influenced synth pop.

The third and last Stuðmenn masterpiece happened in 1982, when an old dream of the members, of making a film,

finally came true. Originally, the idea had been to make a film based on either of their first two albums, but when it was finally made, the storyline and dialogue was mostly improvised on the spot. "We try to stay true to the modus operandi that worked well for us making music, to let the moment take over, to be spontaneous. We do not rehearse a lot, and we try to get the Stuðmenn humour and mirth on film," said Valgeir at the time of filming.

That's exactly what happened. The film, Með allt á hreinu (aka 'On Top'), was premiered to glowing reviews right before Christmas in 1982. When the film finally left theatres, almost half the nation, 115,000 people, had seen it. Long since a classic and one of the most loved Icelandic films, Með allt á hreinu follows the antics of Stuðmenn whilst on tour in Iceland, and the band's on-going feud with real life girl group, Grýlurnar (appearing as 'Gærurnar' in the film).

Fired up with this wondrous success Stuðmenn went into overdrive—and somehow the band is still running on that tank. Stuðmenn have long since hit pay dirt with various monster hits and played gigantic concerts for large portions of the nation. The band has also had various flops on their hands, including two poorly received sequels to the Með allt á hreinu. Tellingly, the youthful magic of the band's earliest work has never been matched. In their most tiresome moments, the group has been accused of severely flogging a dead horse.

Jakob is the only original member of Stuðmenn – "Every Icelander's group," as the band is fondly nicknamed. Stuðmenn's last moderate hit came recently, when they went for milking the Icesave-debate with a song called... "Icesave".

Next up: Spilverk Þjóðanna and Pursaflokkurinn. ♪ - DR. GUNNI

By Dr. Gunn, based on his 2000 book Eru ekki allir í stuði? (Rock in Iceland). A revised update of the book is forthcoming in 2010.

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Music | Album Reviews



GusGus

24/7 (2009)

gusgus

Saying that the GusGus party has come to an end would be premature and unfair, but this is still their weakest record to date.

The core members of GusGus have ruled the Icelandic club scene for an obscenely long time (15 years?). And the miraculous thing is that they've stayed that course without altering their sound nor updating their image in any significant way. The sound that started out cutting-edge, became dependable and finally retro devil-may-care with their 2002 parasol-pink drug-pop-meisterwerk Attention, managing to sidestep the purgatory of obligatory embarrassing obsolescence.

But with their recent move to Kompakt it seems they felt the need to impress their po-faced brethren with lacklustre results. I applaud them trying out new things; the male catalogue model image is spot on, and on-and-off member Daníel Ágúst is still a masterful singer. But the ratio of playful to stern is off, and they come off as distant. Where are the grooves? Even Add This Song takes off as a rohypnol rager but peters out into the krautrock swamps that seem to claim most musicians eventually.

24/7 is a hit-and-miss attempt at following the experimental sideroads of their first album and finding that they double back to a giant neon sign pointing at Nasa, saying "GusGus – stop fiddling and get back to dominating!"

- RAGNAR EGILSSON



Lady and Bird

La Ballade of Lady and Bird (2009)

ladyandbirdband

Intimate songs with a rich, big sound on top.

Lady and Bird is the collaborative project of singer-songwriter Keren Ann Zeidel and Barði Jóhannsson of Bang Gang. Their latest album is taken from a live concert they performed with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra in 2008, and contains both original compositions and reworked tracks from Bang Gang's latest album, Ghosts From The Past. The result is a mix of lush, textured pop songs that gain an extra dimension from having the weight of a full orchestra behind them. Old tracks such as One More Trip sound like adult fairytales with a large streak of melancholy, while the opening track Malmo Lives wouldn't sound out of place in a Pedro Almodovar thriller. There are one or two flat moments though. Sailor and Widow, for example, has a Beatles style "oompah" chorus that makes me fast forward to the next track.

Overall, however, this is a great album for losing yourself on a winter's night. Possibly naked with chocolate smeared over yourself, although that's optional... - BOB CLUNESS



Worm is Green

Glow (2009)

wormisgreen

An album that's moody, dark and loves to stay there...

One of the interesting things about Arkranes (apart from the road out of it) is the variety of music that is coming from there. Such as Worm is Green with their new album, Glow. Their downtempo electronic sound is reminiscent of Massive Attack and groups such as The Knife and Fever Ray. Whereas other Icelandic electro bands like Bloodgroup and FM Belfast aim to lift the spirit and get you moving, Glow feels more like the flipside of a weekend comedown in an abandoned farm on a snowy January morning. Their opening track "Hopeful," for example, has an oppressive baseline that is lifted by the lilting vocals of singer Guðridur Ringsted. The rest of the album contains a mix of soft pianos, deep synths, minimal clicky percussion and whispered vocals. However there isn't a lot of variety in the tracks and the album does feel to be stuck on the same tempo and minor key throughout. That's not to say that it's bad but sometimes it wouldn't hurt to let the sunshine in and expand their sound.

- BOB CLUNESS



Caterpillarmen

Adopt a Monkey (2009)

Available via www.Gogoyoko.com

Iceland in Psychedelic Monkey Trafficking Shock Horror!

There are some truly evil people out there. You had a man Like Josef Fritzl who kept his daughter and their children hidden from the world in a basement for eighteen years. And there is apparently a monster in Reykjavík right now who kidnapped 4 young men from birth, kept them in a basement and only gave them access to early Pink Floyd, King Crimson and Can records. The bastard must be stopped! But as for his "victims," they became Caterpillarmen and they've created their debut EP.

To say it reeks of late 60s/early 70s prog rock would be a massive understatement. With sprawling Hammond organs, spidery guitar lines and a thumping bass, it creates a weirdly British picture of old BBC children's programmes, occult Aristocracy and psychedelic tea. That's not to say it's perfect. Some of the songs have some jarring changes in pace and tone. Now The Man Can Can Can't Not Cat should have been split into two songs. And the 12 minute opus of Idle Hands/Monkey See, Monkey Do doesn't really sound OPUS enough to grab me. But wait 'til these guys discover 70s Krautrock and Komische. They're going to blow our fucking heads off! - BOB CLUNESS



Ben Frost

By The Throat (2009)

theghostofbenfrost

On By The Throat, artwork and music unfolds like a Scandinavian thriller.

On Ben Frost's new album, artwork and music unfolds like a Scandinavian thriller. Headlights claw their way into the nothingness, ambient werewolves slice through shadows and echo the nervous swells of secret instruments bark by guttural bark. Blood-soaked snowbanks feed crystallized plasma into porous ice.

Ben's music has always been cinematic but lately he's been ploughing into it with a mad fever. Between composing for miniseries and Australian thrillers, it seems he may be slipping away from us. It's a pity, since he's one of the most visual (and visceral) musicians working out of Iceland these days. If nature is a playground to Sigur Rós, then to Ben it's a battlefield. His Iceland is the kind of arid plane where religion is born—desperate chants to smother an unforgiving climate.

His music doesn't pulsate or tick—it flows and merges. It's the sound of clenching and unclenching, of tension and release. Sounds are fed, sustained and brought to slaughter. - RAGNAR EGILSSON



Stereo Hypnosis

Hypnogogia (2009)

stereohypnosis

Best enjoyed whilst lying on the floor, staring at the ceiling.

Father-son duo Stereo Hypnosis was formed in 2006 by Jafet Melge (Óskar Thorarensen) and Beatmakin' Troopa (Pan Thorarensen). The pair are based in the remote island of Flatey in Breiðafjörður, where they mix and record their music. This latest offering of theirs offers an almost abstract experience.

Ambient, at times bordering on dark, there is an elusive quality to the music that makes it difficult to pin down. It is nonetheless an interesting album, progressing slowly but surely across the flat plains of some enigmatic other world. The outfit's name, Stereo Hypnosis, is very apt, as although their music is down tempo, there is something mysteriously compelling about it, which keeps it engrossing. It could be the combination of slow, rhythmic beats with a measured progression of carefully woven samples and loops, or the way that one track slides almost seamlessly into the next. If you want something very earthy and down-tempo to listen to, give it a go.

- BERGRÚN ANNA HALLSTEINSDÓTTIR

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Article | Espionage

Iceland's Greatest Spy: The Real James Bond



You've seen him in the movies. Most famously, he has been played by Sean Connery, Roger Moore and lately Daniel Craig. There he appears as Bond, James Bond. He appears under his own name in *A Man Called Intrepid*, played by David Niven. He also appears in the Ian Fleming biopic *Goldeneye* (not to be confused with the Bond film of the same title). There, William Stephenson is portrayed as the real M to Ian Fleming's James Bond. There is much to suggest, however, that Stephenson is not only the model for M, but also for Bond himself. Fleming's own career as a WW2 spy is somewhat less than glorious. The inspiration for the first Bond novel, *Casino Royale*, came from when Fleming was stationed in Spain in World War II. He decided to trick Nazi spies into losing a large amount of money in a poker game. Fleming, however, lost the game, and had to live with the German agents being to a large extent bankrolled by His Majesty's government through him. In the book, of course, Bond later wins the game.

FIGHTER PLANES AND CAN OPENERS

Stephenson's war record is more impressive. He first entered service in World War I as an infantryman in the Canadian Army. His service number was 007. He later moved on to the Royal Air Force, shooting down 12 enemy fighters (18 by his own account). A statue of him as an Ace stands outside City Hall in Winnipeg. However, his impact in World War II was to be far greater.

William Stephenson was born in 1897 (1896, by his own account) in Winnipeg to Sara Guðfinna Johnston, an Iceland-born Canadian, and William Hunter Stanger, who hails from the Orkney Islands. His father died when William was four years old (as a soldier in the Boer War, by his account), and the child was adopted by West Icelanders Vigfús and Kristín.

During the final months of World War I, Stephenson was shot down and captured by the Germans. He escaped from captivity with a can opener stolen from his captors. After the war, the good man patented the can opener. The business he sets up around the patent at the end of the war proved to be a failure, so

Stephenson left to Canada in the twenties and next appeared in London. There, he patented a technique to transmit photographs through the wireless. He became filthy rich, setting up companies such as General Radio, General Aircraft, Sound City Film (which make more than half of all British movies in the period), Shepperton studios, Earls court cinemas, and Prest Steel, which manufactured cars such as Jaguar.

FOOLING ROOSEVELT

Through the course of his activities he befriended Winston Churchill, then a Member of Parliament, who was almost a lone voice in warning against the German arms build-up. On his frequent travels to Germany as a steel manufacturer, he witnessed the build-up first hand and became alarmed. After the outbreak of war Stephenson moved to New York, where he became head of the British Security Coordination in the Western Hemisphere. His main task was to mobilise the US government and population for intervention. One of his major coups is to present Roosevelt with a document showing German plans to take over South America. This convinced Roosevelt, on Stephenson's recommendation, to move US troops to Iceland. The document was later proven to be a forgery. As Stephenson would later say: "Nothing deceives like a document." Stephenson played a part in securing the lend-lease aid for the British, and along with the Americans set up the training facilities Camp X in Southern Ontario. It was here that saboteurs were trained to destroy German attempts to make a nuclear bomb in Norway, and to assassinate Heydrich, one of the architects of the Holocaust, in Prague. He is even credited with having a hand in breaking the German enigma code.

Hans Kristján Arnason, who is currently making a documentary on Stephenson, calls Camp X "the world's first terrorist training camp." One story has it that Ian Fleming trained at the camp. In any case, Fleming worked with Stephenson in World War II, as did writer Roald Dahl and one of the fathers of modern advertising, David Ogilvie (with all the people killed in World War II, you'd

think they could have spared a bullet for the father of advertising). Dahl later wrote a history of the British Security Coordination, which was first published only ten years ago.

FOUNDING THE CIA

At the outbreak of war, the US Army and Navy had their own intelligence services, and the FBI specialised in internal intelligence. However, the US was lacking a unified organisation to spy abroad. Stephenson helped set up the Organisation of Secret Services, OSS, which later became the CIA. "Wild" Bill Donovan, the founder of the CIA, later said that he learned all there was to know from Stephenson. Bill Donovan (renamed Bill Sullivan) is played by Robert De Niro in the 2006 film *The Good Shepherd*.

After the war, Stephenson retired to Jamaica. His neighbour there was none other than Ian Fleming, who bought a house he called "Goldeneye" for the purpose of writing spy novels in. Stephenson and Fleming undoubtedly shared many a drink, Stephenson's favourite being a dry martini, shaken, not stirred. Fleming later remarked: "James Bond is a romanticized version of a true spy. The real thing is Bill Stephenson."

There are many stories about William Stephenson. These often contradict one another and Stephenson, the master of disinformation, is not the most reliable source. One aspect he repeatedly downplayed was his Icelandic origin, probably because this did not go too well with his new status as a member of the British upper classes. Many books have been written about him, both before and after his death in 1989 (a date not contradicted by himself, for once), including *The Quiet Canadian* from 1963, *Wild Bill and Intrepid* from 1996 and *The True Intrepid* from 1998. One version of his story, the documentary *The True Intrepid*, will be released on DVD in early November in Iceland. The package will also include the radio broadcast "The West-Icelander William Stephenson: Hero or Villain?" from 2001, by historian Vigfús Geirdal. ♡

VALUR GUNNARSSON

Shopping | Rebecca Louder

Fresh Stock

The new crop of shops in 101

Say, have y'all noticed how many new stores have sprouted from the soil over the last few months? Who woulda thunk we would get such a great retail harvest during this economic drought! Shucks. There are all sorts of cool stores opening up on the main drag, selling everything from clothing to books, music, footwear and god-knows-what. I reckon you should go out there and take a gander at all the goods. Here are a few of the juiciest picks.



EYMUÐSSON

Skólavörðustígur 11

Raised from the ashes of a true *Kreppa Kasualty*, the new Eymundsson shop on Skólavörðustígur opened up in August in the remnants of the old SPRON bank. Unlike its monolithic sister-store on Austurstræti, the new shop is one cosy level with couches and tables in two corners of the place and an adorable patio outside. The whole place feels much more like a library than a bookshop. Plus, they've got the old Mál and Menning staff, sell coffee, have free wireless and are open until 10pm. That totally kicks the library's ass!



LUCKY RECORDS

Hverfisgata 82

After running his own vinyl booth at the Kolaportíð flea market, Ingvar Geirsson decided it was high time to open up a real vinyl store in Reykjavík. Located on Hverfisgata (adjacent to Laugavegur), this new shop houses a collection of 20,000 used LPs, 8,000 twelve-inch records, as well as an extensive collection of new and used CDs and DVDs. The man also buys music and movie collections, large and small, so go get rid of all those old Limp Bizkit and Staind albums once and for all. Best of all, the store has the extremely humane opening hours of 11am to 9pm. Party on.



MUNDI

Laugavegur 12

Always on the cutting edge of Reykjavík's style scene, young designer Mundi has

garnered international attention with his wild designs and effortless, high street-fashion. After a year of planning, he opened his own flagship outlet last month on Laugavegur. Located above another new store, women's footwear shop Manía, Mundi sells versatile, unisex clothing geared for colourful people who like to have fun with their wardrobe, as well as two other local brands.



NIKITA

Laugavegur 56

This purely Icelandic line of women's streetwear was started by designer Heiða Birgisdóttir in 2000 and rapidly took off to now being sold in about 1,500 stores in thirty countries. The line has been sold in various shops in Reykjavík but they have finally opened up their first flagship store, right on Laugavegur. It opened with a huge bang in late September, hosting the GusGus album release show in their backyard skate park. Full of quirky, classy and comfortable gear, their designs could be worn as easily at a club as on the slopes. A lot of it is pretty gender neutral too. Look for the bright pink shop.

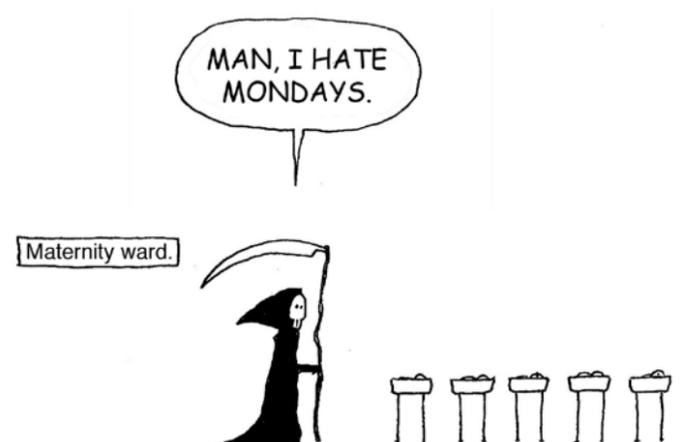


HAVARÍ

Austurstræti 6

Opened by Svavar Pétur Eysteinnsson and Berglind Häsler of the band Skakkamanage, this new fair-play music shop is a collaborative effort between four important entities in Icelandic indie: Kimi Records, Kimi co-label (or whatever) Borgin, gogoyoko.com and Skakkapop. They have set up a cohesive space in which they can pool their efforts and support each others' endeavours. The store opened up in mid-September, right before the Réttir festival, for which it served as ticketing headquarters and a daytime off-venue location. In addition to CDs and records, one can purchase band T-shirts and art made by local musicians. Expect lots of in-store appearances and stuff until Christmas. ♡

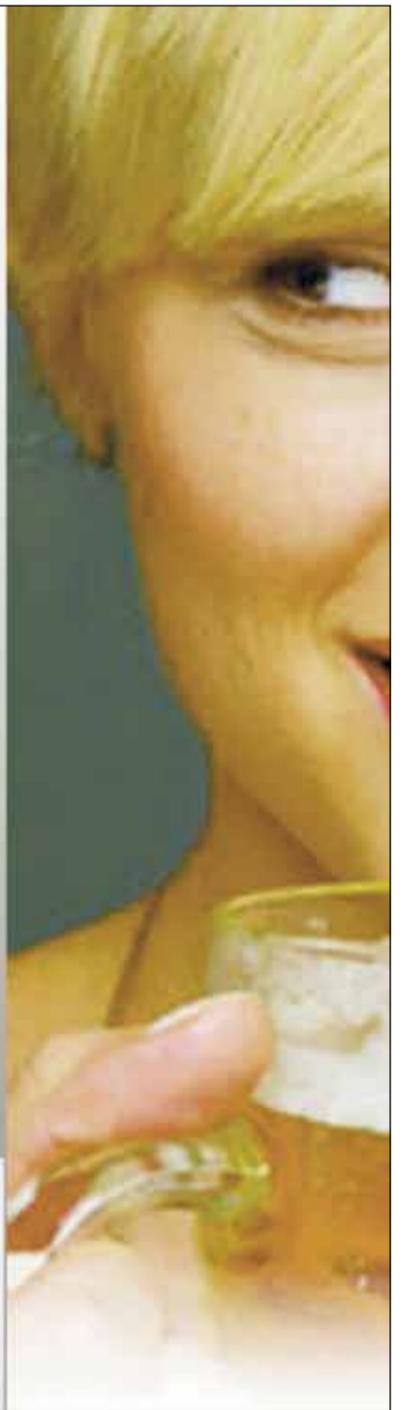
Comic | Hugleikur Dagsson



Hressingarskálinn

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Brilliant Hike On The Rocks

“For how many gin and tonics you could get ice from this glacier?” asks one co-traveller as our group of hikers makes its way towards Sólheimajökull, an outlet glacier in Southern Iceland.

“Uhm... that’s a tough one,” ponders our glacier guide for the day, Björgvin Hilmarsson from Icelandic Mountain Guides.

“I guess it’s possible to calculate an approximate value. On the average, Sólheimajökull is 270 metres thick. It is about eight kilometres long, and over a kilometre wide at its widest point. And one cubic meter of ice should do for quite a lot of G&Ts.”

I am on cloud nine: there is no wind, no rain. It was raining in Reykjavík from where we embarked on our journey three hours ago. It also rained in Hveragerði, Selfoss looked grey and gloomy as always. But as soon as we had driven past Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss, a miracle happened. The skies cleared.

“I’m sorry for all this sunshine... Especially you guys from Australia, I’m sure you are pretty bored with all the sun and would rather like to experience some strong winds and pouring rain,” says our guide, grinning.

Nobody agrees with the sentiment.

We are standing in front of Sólheimajökull, an outlet glacier of Mýrdalsjökull, the fourth biggest glacier in Iceland. When I spot the boxes full of ice axes and crampons, I begin to wonder whether we are going to march across the entire glacier ice cap instead of setting off on a nice, relaxing three-hour hike.

First we try on the crampons and are given a short lesson on how to walk on the ice.

“Walk with your legs wider apart than normally—as if you had been horseback riding for a week. Lean backwards with your feet pointing straight ahead when walking downwards. When walking uphill, spread your legs and walk like a duck. A duck that has been horseback riding for a week,” our guide explains.

More rules follow. The guide always goes first. If he disappears, do not attempt to trace him. If you drop your ice axe and you see it gliding away, do not go after it.

“It’s easier for me to go down a crevasse to pick up an axe than to go picking up an axe and you,” Björgvin explains, laughing. He seems to know

what he is doing.

Okay, up we go... walking like a duck.

Just after we have taken our first 50 steps or so we bump into a bunch of tourists trying to explore the glacier—with sneakers on! Their feet are slipping on the icy surface rather worryingly. The grandpa of the group looks like he is about to trip and fall in a matter of seconds. There is a small hole in the ice close by... I decide not to look. Calmly our guide advises them to step down slowly. Without crampons and ice axes, situations can get out of hand pretty quickly.

The breathtaking glaciers can be fatal if you attempt to go there on your own without proper equipment and a guide. On the way up we take a block of ice and drop it into one of the cracks in the ice, and it takes a while until we hear it hit the bottom. Deep holes in the ice, so called cold-runs, and crevasses dozens of metres deep are simply not good places to fall into.

Yet somehow, the feeling of danger is fascinating. I am a two-hour drive from Reykjavík, walking on a glacier amidst a wonderland of ice sculptures, discovering hidden openings and deep



crevasses while wondering when the next volcanic eruption will take place.

Under Mýrdalsjökull lies Katla, an active volcano. She has been showing signs of unrest recently, and geologists have voiced concerns that it could erupt anytime in the near future.

The most active volcano in Iceland, Hekla, also stands nearby. It has erupted over 20 times since 874. Scientists say she is preparing herself for yet another eruption.

Along the way we see layers of ash that past eruptions of the nearby volcanoes have left behind. The colour spectrum changes from white to clear blue and black, with the ash creating strong contrasts.

“I know the glaciers in some other countries are whiter than here in Iceland. But I’m proud of my colourful glaciers, and having the volcanic ash all around makes them special,” our guide states.

Then, all of a sudden, we hear a strong, thunder-like sound. A new crevasse just formed somewhere. Glaciers are constantly changing. They are expanding and melting. Waterholes and pipe-like passages form a sort of plumbing system inside the glacier, from where the melted water pools on the surface and ends up as a glacial river. Constantly flowing water is forming new ice sculptures daily. Like life, glaciers never stay the same.

Because of the constant changing, a lost ice axe or even an airplane can disappear into the glacier for decades. A glacier usually gives back what it takes,

though—it just might take a while. In 1952, an American airplane with five crewmembers onboard crashed down on Eyjafjallajökull. One body was found at the scene of the accident. The glacier brought in the remaining bodies over ten years later. Pieces of the aircraft have been appearing gradually since then.

Even though over ten percent of Iceland is covered by ice, it should not be taken for granted that the glaciers will stay there forever. Due to the changes in climate and rise in temperatures, glaciers begin to diminish. Currently, the average receding rate of Sólheimajökull is around 100 metres a year.

“Now is the time to go to a glacier, while they still exist.”

Safe and easy nine-hour “Take a Walk on the Ice Side” trip was provided by Icelandic Mountain Guides and Reykjavík Excursions. Tour includes bus guide and experienced glacier guide services, pick-ups from Reykjavík hotels at 8:30am, and stops in Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss waterfalls, 19.900 ISK. Glacier hike, without transport, is 9.500 ISK. Minimum age: 10 years.

Wear warm clothes and good shoes. Besides crampons and ice axes, guides have extra shoes, gloves and waterproof trousers you can borrow. 🇮🇸

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Travel | Viðey



Yoko's Tower of Power

How peaceful is a column of light?

I like Yoko Ono. In fact, I like Yoko Ono far more than I've ever liked John Lennon. I once worked in a museum and watched Ono's "Cut Piece" almost every day. I appreciated the way she felt it necessary to include the audience in her work and wondered at the small but revealing results of that dialogue.

I was thus looking forward to seeing the Imagine Peace Tower. A five-minute boat ride later, I stepped off the pier and onto Viðey Island. It's a rugged crop of land, but handsome too, featuring two 18th century structures: one of the oldest churches in Iceland and the stately residence of Treasurer Skúli Magnússon, which is used these days for weddings, banquet celebrations and the communal eating of sheep heads. The guided tour bypassed all this at first, opting instead for the Imagine Peace Tower.

Despite resembling a death laser, there is something calming about the Imagine Peace Tower from up close. Six powerful beams shoot through the ground, bounce off 45-degree mirrors, join nine more lights, and launch into the sky forming a brilliant white column. The base structure, known as the 'Wishing Well' is panelled by opaque glass with the words 'Imagine Peace' etched in 24 languages. Born out of a conceptual artwork known as the 'Light House,' I wonder if the tower wasn't an intergalactic weapon after all, but a beacon of hope. At the instruction of the guide, the tourists joined hands in a human chain around the Wishing Well and respected a minute of silence. It was all very...

peaceful, for lack of a better word.

Back at Magnússon's pad, we write peace wishes on little cards meant to be buried under the tower, drink hot chocolate and listen as our tour guide weaves history and humour, extracting laughter with rehashed zingers. Back to the boat and back to town before 23:00—all in all, a peaceful, pleasant and painless tour.

In Reykjavík, however, things are a bit more complicated. I live downtown, where I can see the Imagine Peace Tower every time I go out for a beer. It's always there, burning bright between houses and trees. It frustrates me: unlike her other work, Ono's Imagine Peace Tower doesn't need my participation, it's a blinding monologue I can't silence.

A few days ago I stepped outside my house for a smoke and saw what every foreigner dreams of seeing in Iceland: the glowing ribbons of the northern lights. Seeing them in Reykjavík is rare, and seeing them this bright is rarer still. I grabbed my coat and ran to the shore, the darkest place I could think of. Sitting on the breakers with the city at my back, the northern lights were brighter and faster than I'd expected. But I couldn't help thinking that without a gigantic beam of light shooting aimlessly at the sky, they would've been brighter and faster still—that sometimes, Reykjavík might be a more peaceful place without the Peace Tower. ☺

MICHAEL ZELENKO

Travel | Waterfalls

Tres Foss

Dettifoss v. Gullfoss v. Goðafoss: which foss reigns supreme?

This country sure has a lot of water: trapped in glaciers, flowing from glaciers, trickling down mountainsides, raging through canyons. And all that water sure is something nice to look at. But what watery spectacle is the nicest to look at? The most magnificent? Which foss is the mother of all fosses*?



1. DETTIFOSS

Without a doubt, Dettifoss is one impressive foss. The thing is huge, at 100 metres wide and 44 metres high, carving out the gorgeous Jökulsárgljúfur canyon with its powerful surge of water. In fact, Dettifoss is the wateriest foss in all of Europe, spewing 200 cubic metres per second of the wet stuff. While unrelated to the foss, this well-visited tourist attraction not far from Mývatn is made all the more enjoyable by the hilarious signage above the restroom sinks warning of a water shortage in the area, despite there being a raging waterfall right there. How delightfully ironic.

2. GOÐAFOSS

While it is a relatively small foss, Goðafoss makes up for what it lacks in size in pure natural beauty. Here the Skjálfandafljót river tumbles 12 metres over the horseshoe-shaped ridge, with one main powerful chute and a gentler trickle reaching around to the right of it, where the river is shallow and dotted with mossy rocks peaking up through its surface. Goðafoss is also special for its role in Iceland's history—after spending some time wrapped in fur and deep in thought, Þorgeir Ljósvetningagoði decided that



3. GULLFOSS

The most visited foss in Iceland, Gullfoss is just a hop and a skip from Reykjavík and is one of three attractions of the famed Golden Circle—in fact, Gullfoss translates to "golden falls." From a distance this mid-size foss appears to not be a foss at all, instead the Hvítá river seems to just vanish. But upon closer inspection tourists—and there are always a lot of those—notice that this multi-level foss is just obscured by the curved canyon that it has carved out over the centuries. Another high point of this foss is the ample and delicious lamb soup available for consumption on site. Gullfoss and meat soup is a recipe for good times.

So which foss is the best foss? It's a tough decision and all fosses have their pros and cons, but this round goes to Goðafoss. Goddamn, that's one



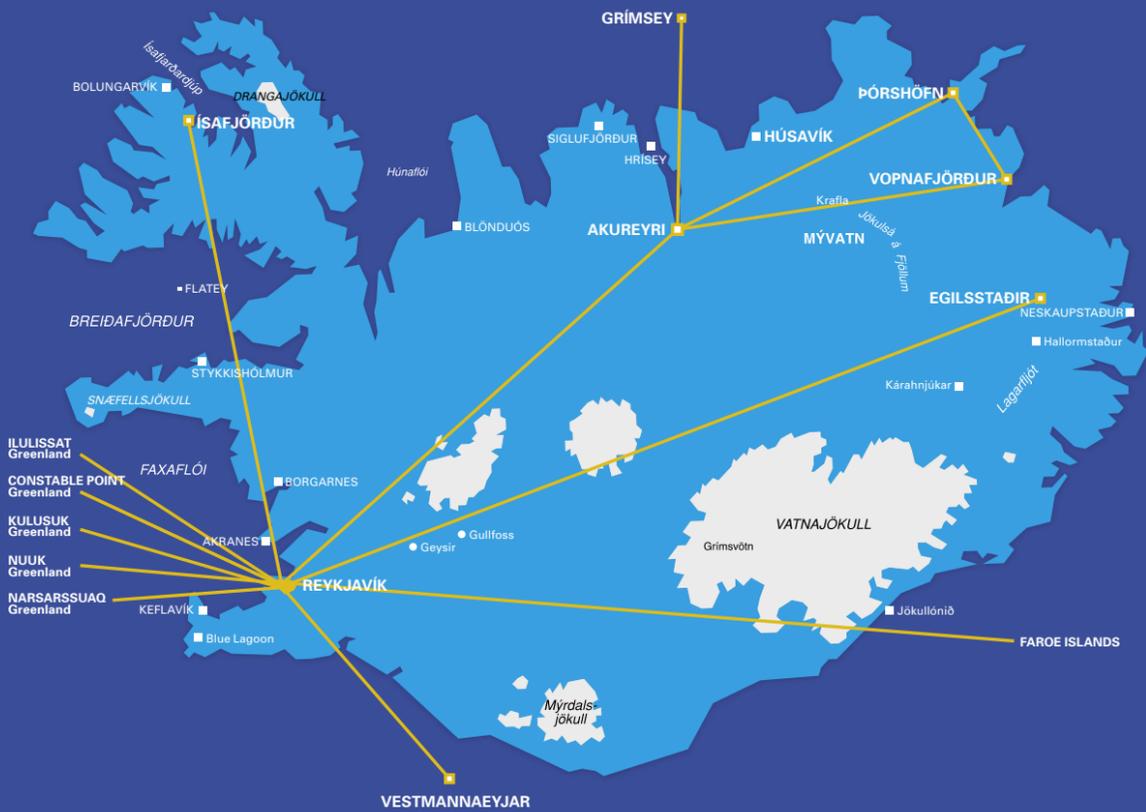
beautiful foss. It may not have made as massive a dent in the earth and it may not be accompanied by some seriously tasty meat soup, but Goðafoss is so spectacular it could bring a tear to the eye of even the most cold-hearted tourist traveller there. Apologies to the losing fosses and to the fosses that didn't even make the list, you're all very nice too. ☺

*Foss means waterfall and fosses is not the actual plural of foss. But it sounds fun.

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Artist Vs. Artist

Egill Sæbjörnsson meets Davíð Örn Halldórsson

Egill Sæbjörnsson and Davíð Örn Halldórsson are both prominent young artists that have been raising eyebrows all over for a while now. With good reason, too, as their art is, in all honesty, pretty damn good. Lucky for us denizens of Reykjavík, then, that both artists are displaying their works in the area this month. To celebrate the occasion, we got them to do brief QnA sessions with one another.

Davíð asks Egill...

If you had the opportunity to write and direct a full-length feature film, what sort of film would you make?

I was recently thinking of how fun it would be to make a movie that's set in Berlin around 1998, when I was in the process of moving there. They had a lot of underground bars and a great music scene that later begat artists like Peaches, Gonzales, Mignon, The Puppetmastaz, Angie Reed, Kobrakillers and even Feist. They would open clubs at the tram conductors' bathroom facilities on Rosenthaler Platz, and on Monday's they'd open a bar in

one apartment, then it would move to another one on Tuesdays. You had no money, resided in coal heated apartments and if you went out to eat it was for a döner that set you back around 150 krónur. They'll make that movie eventually.

I've also envisioned a sci-fi flick set in Reykjavík and would be around the band The End and their theories on the end of the world. It was to be based on the lives of Dóri and Maggi from the band and their music, they are great musicians.

Dóri had a lot of theories on the end of the world, and he wrote a book about it. He also thought he was Frodo from Lord of the Rings at some point. This would be a true story biopic based on Dóri's imagination and the awesome singing talents of Maggi. I want Brad Pitt to play Dóri. The world is FILLED with stories. I could write an endless amount of scripts, I think.

I heard you had a bunch of new songs – will you be releasing them in the coming seasons?

No question. I'll try. It's so fun. There's

also a bunch of stuff that I'm uploading to gogoyoko.com. It's so easy to put stuff up there. Soon, you can find a few of the homemade records that I've been releasing in fifty copies, some rarities and also my first record, The International Rock 'n' Roll Summer of Egill Sæbjörnsson

What is Donald Judd doing in your new exhibition?

In one of the works in the exhibition I've put up a "fake show" with red walls and all sorts of items and artefacts. It is meant to look like a typical museum display. Two walls in the hall then start talking about the items on display. They are thus like props on a stage. The Donald Judd sculpture is one of the items they talk about. It also has, for instance, a poster of the Harry Potter film, a doll of "The Internet Kid" and a videocassette of The Matrix film, a framed spider, a quartz spear from the stone age, a cornet, etc.

After all the wandering, is there anything you miss about Reykjavík?

I have to say, I think Reykjavík is an incredibly beautiful city. During the economic boom years, a lot of the houses downtown were worked on and remodelled, now the houses in Þingholt remind me more and more of Kardimommubærinn. For a person that's raised in Paris, where the average building is seven stories high, and most of the houses were built 120 years ago, it's like visiting a magic city. I've lived abroad for almost fifteen years, eleven of them in Berlin, and have started viewing Reykjavík in a completely different light.

Are you in good spirits?

I think being in good spirits is a fundamental thing. When so much is happening, as is the case now, you are in really good spirits. Not a question.

Egill Sæbjörnsson's exhibit, Spirit of Place and Narrative, is on display at the Reykjavík Art Museum – Hafnarhús until January 3 2010.

Egill asks Davíð...

What are you showing now in Ásmundarsafn? What is the works' state of mind?

It's a co-exhibit where several Icelandic artists display works based on the works of Ásmundur Sveinsson and Ásmundarsafn in general. My work is based on a piece entitled Pýramíðsk abstraksjón ("Pyramidic Abstraction"), I painted a single little painting on the wall there.

My painting is called "dos pyramidos" because there are four pyramids in the installation and I am trying to work with the same train of thought as Ásmundur, mixing the two-dimensional and the three-dimensional. It was a lot of fun getting to work within the context of Ásmundarsafn and the

works on display there, it was a little bit like sharing a conversation with Ásmundur.

And your forthcoming show at Hafnarborg?

The show is divided in two. In the first hall, I am working with prints of my paintings, or a specific pattern that appeared in one of my works. The inner hall features little clusters of paintings that are unusually shaped. We'll see if that works.

In the paintings, I am trying out new things, even though the methods may look familiar to some. The idea is to simplify the works, so that the spectator may clearly discern the first stroke, so the idea is transparent. I am also publishing a book of my works that's called Ofhlæði/Overload and will be out on the Ok bæ(!)kur imprint.

Do you have a studio for painting? Do you think it's important to have one?

Yes, I've got a really nice studio. It's downtown and serves me really well. It's totally imperative for my creation to have a workshop. I've got so many materials; paint, wood, my books and music. It's like a home away from home. Or as I called it when I lived there: STUDIOHOUSEAPARTMENT.

When will Iceland's economy start recovering? Why?

It will, if we take up different values and attitudes. It became evident that endless greed did not work out. We have one of the best social welfare systems in the world, so we shouldn't complain, just keep our calm and we'll sail through this.

That doesn't mean that all is forgiven, I want to see some people punished for their actions. And the arrogance of some of the politicians that got us here is embarrassing. This time around, Icelanders should not forget so easily. That's what seems to plague us, we're always so quick to fucking forget.

What kind of music do you listen to?

In music, I am a total novelty whore, that is, I like to follow what's going on and take in new things constantly. So I try and read up on what's going on and buy a lot of music, I don't really know how to download. I have a big record collection that is very important to me, I always listen to my music when I work and I am certain that it is a big part of my creative process.

Davíð Örn Halldórsson's exhibit of paintings and installations, Hvar er klukkan?, opens in Hafnarborg, Hafnarfjörður, on November 7.

HAUKUR S MAGNÚSSON
JULIA STAPLES

Music | Aðalsteinn Jörundsson

I'm No Expert #1

The Gerðuberg Matinée Series

Apparently there are no mandatory rock show-like delays at a classical lunch hour concert, so luckily I arrived just in time. Pianist and curator **Nína Margrét Grímsdóttir** took the stage, welcomed the audience and explained the day's concept: a non-verbal poetry or instrumental song music. This, she said, was a popular style in the 19th century, where locating an unsung melody is required of the listener. A good concept, a kind of musical audience participation. In Grímsdóttir's delivery of Mendelssohn's **Liede ohne Worte, op. 19 no 1**, though, I experienced trouble placing the melody, but the song itself was pleasantly played, short and delightful. Maybe I just didn't connect with the piece. Maybe it is best unsung, anyway.

Margrét Árnadóttir then joined with her cello and together they played **Beethoven's variation in E flat major on Mozart's Bei mannern, WoO 46**, or, in layman's terms: Mozart's Magic Flute – Beethoven Remix. Really nice, actually. This is a song originally written with lyrics, since it is a part of the famous opera, and I could definitely hear the poetry coming from the Cello. Árnadóttir did it justice, playing both passionately and technically proficient. Nína, however, felt stiff and possibly under-rehearsed. Not that she made any obvious mistakes, but I felt her delivery was not as confident as Margrét's.

I may not be a Mendelssohn fan and given Margrét's and Nína's delivery of **Romance Sans Paroles, op. 109** neither are they, but since the title actually translates as 'A Song without Words' they probably felt it should be on the program.

The headlining number, Beethoven's **Sonata in A-major, op. 69** is a good piece. I've been listening to it on Groovespark for a couple of weeks, and Grímsdóttir and Árnadóttir worked it well. Obviously this one had been rehearsed the most, but I feel I would have gotten better into it if Grímsdóttir had done a couple of warm up exercises before the gig, as the stiffness was apparently getting in her way again, which really put a damper on an otherwise good delivery.

The Gerðuberg Matinée Series is a regular occurrence with free admittance—I urge you to check it out this winter. A full schedule may be found at www.gerduberg.is

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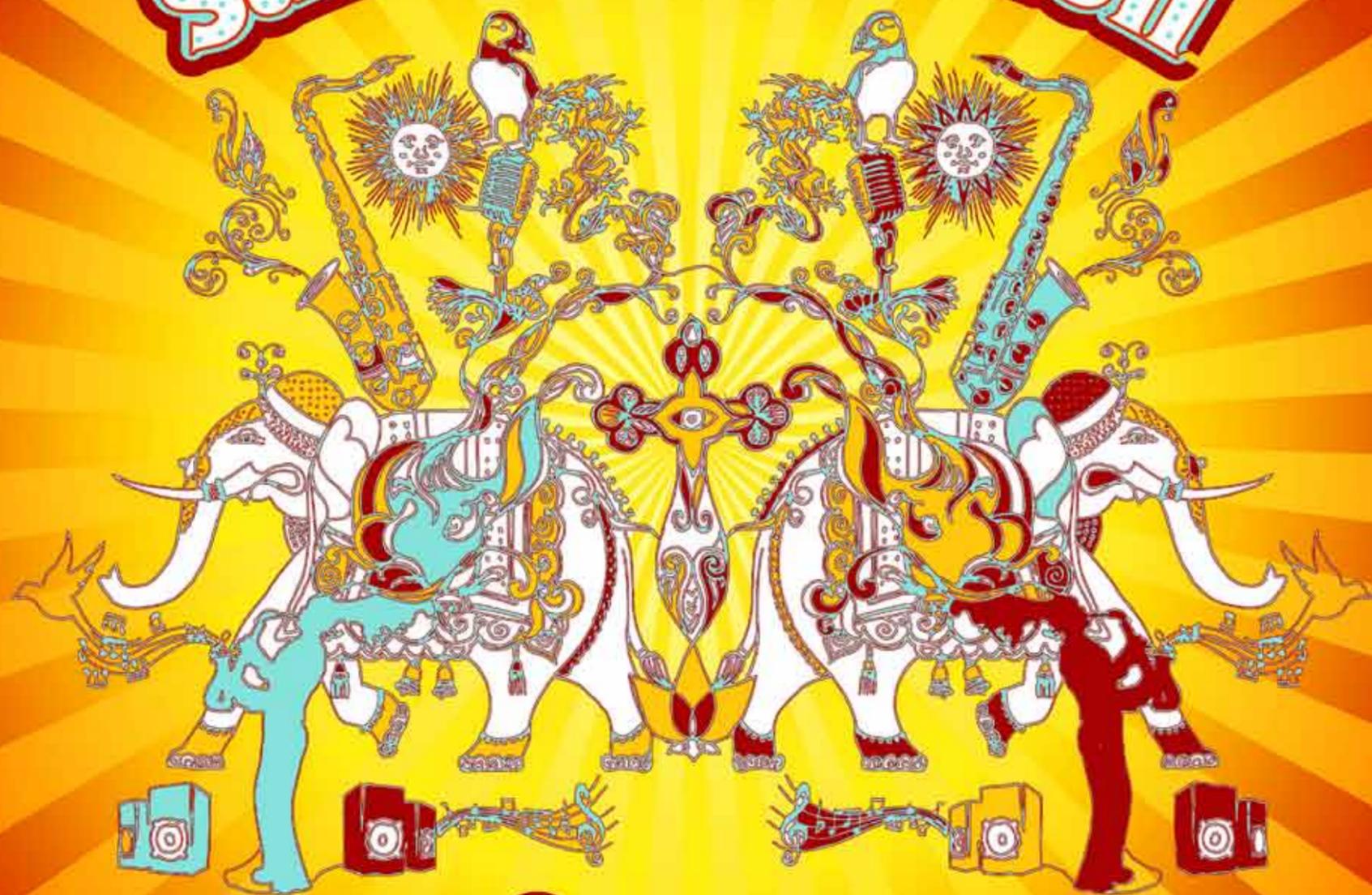
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ISLAND PANORAMA



Technical Difficulties

My weekend at Sequences 2009

The Sequences festival was formally launched a week ago, on Friday October 30th. I had heard that major sponsors had been backing out throughout last year due to the financial crisis. I don't know if this is true, but it would certainly explain some things. My experiences at the festival led me to believe that it was severely understaffed—at times it also seemed unorganised and chaotic.

Due to prior engagements, I missed out on the opening night celebrations. I later heard that the best thing on offer was **Sigurður Guðjónsson's** live event, consisting of a gigantic video projection, men smashing rocks and the great death metal band Severed Crotch.

WAITING AROUND ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON

On Saturday my art walk began by the harbour, at the beautiful Maritime Museum, which I was visiting for the first time. I was there for a performance by a couple of Danish artists that call themselves **Prinz Gholam**. The event was supposed to start at 14:00. Half an hour later, nothing had happened. Nothing at all.

A person I assumed to be one of the artists walked around in circles, looking all stressed. Nobody said a word. The 25-strong audience said nothing, and for a moment I found myself thinking: "Wow, art can be so hard to understand, this is so post-modern! A happening that imbues in the viewer a feeling of inferiority and insecurity."

This was not the case. After poking around with a TV set for quite a while, talking about technical difficulties and scolding a six year old for treading too near the TV, the artist finally set the piece in motion. It consisted of these two Danes doing physical therapy exercises for twenty some minutes. "Suspended time and absorption are central in our performative work," I read about this piece. It is true, that is what it is. It felt self-absorbed, and time sure was

suspended. But I did not like it so much.

From the Maritime museum I went to see **The Spartacus Chetwynd Mime Troupe**. I was excited to see them. The name of their piece got to me, **Feminism: Little Tales of Misogyny**. But at the House of Ideas, my friends and I waited around for forty minutes before giving up and leaving. We did not want to be late for the airing of the video instillations at the Regnboginn movie theatre.

When we got there, we sat around in the dark for 25 minutes before hearing a voice in the dark saying the show was not happening due to technical difficulties. Turns out we missed the only thing that had actually been screened.

See now. Three events visited, and three suffered from technical difficulties. That is understandable. Technology will sometimes fail you. Not so understandable, though, is the fact that not a single representative of the festival was to be found at any of these events. No one stepped forth and told the waiting audience what was happening or why they were waiting

This is not cool. Sequences is a major cultural event, and there was nobody there to represent it. In my book, that is seriously amateurish.

What saved my Saturday at Sequences was the **Parfyme** group. In the programme, the group says that they work with "immediate actions carried out - without too much planning." The event seemed super organised and together compared to the other events visited. Their post office was a friendly place to visit, the postmen were all smiles and their concept is a great one. Write your friend in the countryside a line, they deliver it on a gigantic postcard, videotaping the journey and bringing it back in a week. I loved it!

SUNDAY AT THE REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM

My Sequences Sunday began at the Reykjavík Art Museum, at an artist

talk with **Egill Sæbjörnsson** and **Macia Moraes**. The two shared a relaxed and nice chat about the elements in Egill's work. It was actually really good. Egill managed to wear a wig and eyeliner without being pretentious, and his ideas where utterly interesting, the way he tries to put our presence into a larger scale of time and ideology. Well done! Afterwards Egill walked the audience through his show, and it was great. His piece **The Mind** is mixed media of theatrics, sound and images, all brimming with meaning. I loved it!

The honorary artist of the festival, **Magnús Pálsson**, was next up. His operetta, **Taðskegglingar**, was surely the main event of the weekend, as was indicated by the mass of people lining up to see it.

The Icelandic sound poetry choir performed the piece to a packed room of spectators. It was boring. It took too long, and it was hard to follow. There was a pretty cool scene where everything clicked, when the group formed into an airplane with suiting soundscapes. The rest was just incoherent and confusing. **Magnús Pálsson** is for sure a major figure in the world of performance art in Iceland, but still this was not as good as it should have been.

Halldór Úlfarsson was next on the schedule. His work in the Icelandic Graphic Gallery, entitled **Almost Nothing**, was interesting, a circling video camera and a monitor videotaping the room, looping it in time. This set quite a nice scene, and the artist's presence was not to spoil it.

The last event on my list was **S.C.O.U.R.G.E** by **Melkorka Hulduóttir** at Dwarf Gallery, a tiny Basement in Pingholt. The piece was nicely overwhelming in the very fitting room. A black helmet connected to tubes giving out a mechanical breathing sound while different lights lit up the small space, the artist sticking her head into the helmet and pulling it back out repeatedly.

LAZY ARTISTS

The last thing I managed to fit into my Sequences schedule was **Páll Haukur Björnsson's** **This Dumb Region of the Heart**, which turned out to be one the weekend's highlights. His companions picked me up in a shady looking car, the driver put on his driving gloves and his cohort put a portable DVD system in my lap. The drive began and so did the piece. It is in some ways a road film, these video recordings of Venice-scapes. His take on death, travelling, the repeating patterns in reality and God. I loved it!

This about sums up my experiences at the first weekend of Sequences. I wish I could have made more of it. Then again, not so much. I witnessed too many things that led me to believe that performance art is the platform of choice for lazy people, or those just plain not ready for other things. ☹

✍ **BÓAS HALLGRÍMSSON**
📷 **JULIA STAPLES**

Poetry | Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl

READ THIS COLUMN DON'T READ THIS COLUMN NOW READ



I recently saw a Norwegian sketch on Youtube about the invention of the book. A medieval man has just gotten his first book and can't seem to get it to work, so he has to ask for help. A help desk employee shows up to guide him through this new state-of-the-art technology, showing him how to flip the pages back and forth, read from left to right etc. The dim-witted book-owner has trouble understanding the instructions and the irritated help desk employee asks if he never considered consulting the manual.

The manual, of course, is another book.

Instructional poetry is a modern day verse form in which the reader is told to do certain things in a certain order, often "ridiculous" things which cannot be done or don't seem to serve a "purpose". One of the most famous examples of such poetry is to be found in Yoko Ono's book **Grapefruit**.

"Make all the clocks in the world fast by two seconds without letting anyone know about it" it says in one of the poems. "Decide not to use one particular syllable for the rest of your life. Record things that happened to you in result of that," says another.

One of the most quoted sayings of conceptual poetry is from the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein: "Do not forget that a poem, although it is composed in the language of information, is not used in the language-game of giving information"—I'm even pretty sure I've let it grace these fine pages of the Reykjavík Grapevine in some earlier column. Instructional poetry takes this idea to task and uses the language of information to give information (i.e. instructions) which deviates from the thinkable and thereby (literally) bends reality.

While Yoko Ono provides the reader with well nigh impossible tasks, Canadian poet Darren Wershler-Henry, in his book **The Tapeworm Foundry**, feeds the reader with ideas for art-works and poetry books, some possible and others impossible and many borderline: "find the threads in redhats and/or litter keyboard with milletseed so that exotic songbirds might tap out their odes to a nightingale and/or transcribe the letters pressed onto the platen when stalactites drip on the homerow keys and/or reconstruct the ruins of a bombedout capital i."

The imperative form of instructional poetry is a dizzying tool which can easily send the reader spinning. Instructions are made to make sense,

they are there to guide us, and yet they can so easily be used to fuck with our heads—when they leave the realm of the expected. Do not finish this sentence. Before proceeding with the article, go back to the previous sentence (which you obviously finished, you fool!) and read it again, this time without finishing. Do not read the following sentence. If all goes well you should not be reading this. Then jump to this sentence and continue from there.

For an Icelandic example I'd recommend **Sigurður Pálsson's** **Nokkrar verklegar æfingar í atburðaskáldskap** (tr. A few practical exercises in performance poetry) from **Ljóð námu völd**.

Italian-American poet and artist Vito Acconci once wrote a famous instructional poem, which contrary to most instructional poems could easily be followed. So easily, in fact, that not doing what it says proves to be impossible even for the most agile readers, the most cunning minds:

"READ THIS WORD THEN READ THIS WORD READ THIS WORD NEXT READ THIS WORD NOW" etc. etc.

This is the pataphysical, the sphere beyond the merely metaphysical. Like in the book-manual-book problem of our medieval reader mentioned earlier, instructional poetry deliberately breaches the social code of messaging. It undermines the trust we naturally put in the imperative, and thereby manages to rid us (at least partially) of our ridiculous obsession with obeying everyone that sounds like an authority, while simultaneously entertaining us with the sweet, humorous sound of chains breaking. ☹

*Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl's third novel, **Gæska (Kindness)**, has just been published by **Mál & menning**.*



ICELAND :: FILM – Berlin – Copenhagen – Reykjavík
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MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS – EDDAS AND SAGAS
The Ancient Vellums on Display



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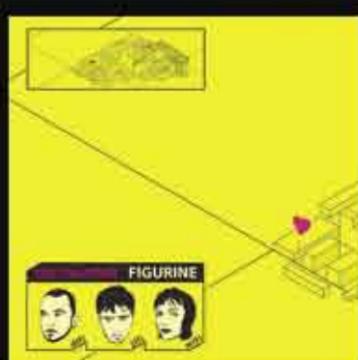
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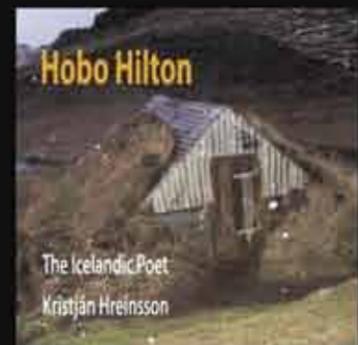
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Hobo Hilton

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Through a Century

by Bolywool



Amanita Muscaria

by Lights On The Highway

PAGE 8:

Sharing our fast food with the world is arguably a more noble cause than setting up investment firms and online banks. No matter how bad things get, the demand for food served in paper bags seldom wanes.

Paul F Nikolov thinks Icelanders should go on the offensive in The Fast Food Wars.

PAGE 10:

Greek politics take place on the street. On Monday, a group of neighbourhood fascists attempted to occupy the square Agios Pan-teleimonas. Fascist is not a slanderous name imposed on them by their opponents, but their explicit identity.

The Grapevine went to Greece, where they have some pretty real fascists.

PAGE 24:

Stephenson and Fleming undoubtedly shared many a drink, Stephenson's favourite being a dry martini, shaken, not stirred. Fleming later remarked: "James Bond is a romanticized version of a true spy. The real thing is Bill Stephenson.

Turns out James Bond is based on an Icelandic. Who'd have thought it?

PAGE 28:

I've also envisioned a sci-fi flick set in Reykjavík and would be around the band The End and their theories on the end of the world. It was to be based on the lives of Dóri and Maggi from the band and their music, they are great musicians.

Egill Sæbjörnsson on the movie he wants to make.

PAGE 11:

You have to be thorough. We cannot afford to have cases thrown out in court.

We are all pretty glad Special Prosecutor Ólafur Hauksson is being thorough.

PAGE 27:

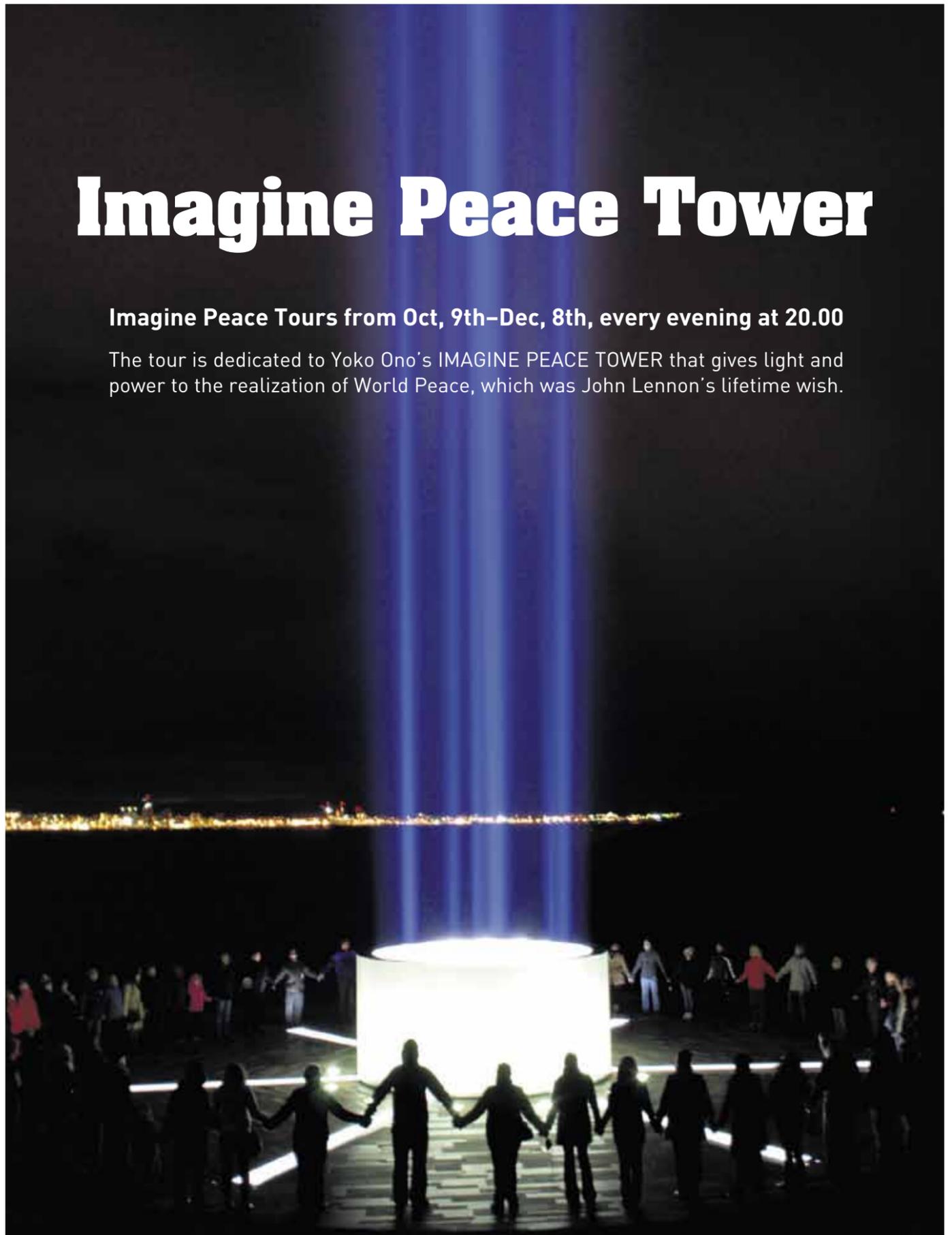
Despite resembling a death laser, there is something calming about the Imagine Peace Tower from up close.

Grapevine checked out the Peace Tower up close.

Imagine Peace Tower

Imagine Peace Tours from Oct, 9th–Dec, 8th, every evening at 20.00

The tour is dedicated to Yoko Ono's IMAGINE PEACE TOWER that gives light and power to the realization of World Peace, which was John Lennon's lifetime wish.



Pick up from your hotel, guided tour and sailing:

Adult	30 € / 5000 ISK
Child (7–15 years old)	20 € / 3500 ISK
Child (0–6 years old)	FREE

Reservation is necessary:

tel. 555-3565 or on www.elding.is
We recommend to dress warmly.

Elding
Adventures
from Reykjavík harbour

gogoyoko presents:

Grapevine Grand Rock

Lights On The Highway, Snorri Helgason, Markús Bjarnason & The Diversion Sessions, Prins Póló

Grand Rokk 22:00 / Friday November 13 / 1.000 ISK

Grapevine Grassroots

Awesome young talent and upcoming artists - check Grapevine.is for info!

Hemmi & Valdi 21:00 / Friday November 27 / FREE

