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## EDITORIAL

I think I speak for everyone here when I write this: HOLY FUCK! The last few weeks have wrecked more havoc on this country than anything that's not directly caused by a natural disaster. Our economy has been reduced to the standards Eastern Europe at end of the Cold War. As a nation, we are more or less bankrupt.

Credit crunch. It almost has nice ring to it, doesn't it? Sounds like it could be a cereal brand rather than the end of an era. Currency crisis. It's a little alarming, but still. Cancel Christmas. Now, that is a serious statement, but right now, it seems to be the only viable option we have.

Thousands of people will be affected by this crisis, both in Iceland and abroad. Homes are facing unemployment; unbearable mortgage payments, inflation and massive disruption to daily life caused the uncertainty of the situation. I keep hearing that this is not the time to assign blame or look for culprits, but I don't agree. I want to... nay – I need to – see someone hang for this.

But there is not much we can do at this point. Except try our best to forget about the whole thing and party like there is no tomorrow, which at this point seems like a possible outcome. Luckily, Iceland Airwaves is just around the corner.

I'll see you there. I'll be the guy at the end of the bar, counting his last krona and crying into his beer.

## MASTHEAD

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LETTERS

# Sour Grapes

SAY YOUR PIECE, VOICE YOUR OPINION, SEND YOUR LETTERS TO LETTERS@GRAPEVINE.IS OR TEXT +354 893 9589

I was very interested to read the article published in the March edition regarding racism in Iceland. I moved to Iceland from the UK 13 months ago and left after 10 months. During that time I worked in a highly professional and well regarded capacity and dutifully payed my taxes. I did make an initial effort to learn the language but received several dispiriting setbacks very early on that has reduced my enthusiasm. I find Icelanders initially very friendly but only to a point and it seems impossible to pass this point. Whenever I have tried to use Icelandic my pronunciation has intentionally or unintentionally not been understood and several times I have been asked why I don't just speak English! I find Iceland very insular and the views of many of its inhabitants discriminatory. I have been especially disappointed with treatment of Polish immigrants who seem to be blamed for all that is wrong in Icelandic society. In the UK we have a long proud tradition of integrating other nationalities and cultures and I feel that Iceland has some learning and growing up to do before it can be included in a modern Europe. Of course this is not everybody, as I have met and worked with some fantastic Icelandic people whom I hope to keep in touch with. My views expressed here refer to the society as a whole and in no way reflect my opinion of individuals.

Many thanks for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Regards  
Simon Fayers

*Greetings Simon,  
Thank you for your informative letter. It's also good to hear you paid your taxes. Maybe they will help in subsidizing the black hole of debt some of our well-meaning billionaire playboys have plunged us into.*

*Your points on racism are also welcomed. It is kind of amusing to read so many grand statements about an entire nation of people in a letter denouncing racism. But I digress. There are some real pricks floating around downtown, and I am sorry to hear you had to confront some of them. So, on behalf of my bankrupt nation, I apologize.*

*It was good to have you.*

DUDE ARE BANKS STILL IN CONTROL?

I am reading some crazy stuff :( How are things?

Anthony Johnson

*Dear Anthony,  
To be honest, I don't really have any idea. None of us do. We are all pretty much at a loss here, and in more ways than one.*

*That said, things are fine – life is good. The weather today was beautiful, I just stole the new Jesu EP off some blog and us at the office also figured out that even if everything goes to hell, we still have enough fish, sheep and potatoes around to feed the 300.000 of us for a long, long time.*

*So let's celebrate and have us some drinks, yeah?*

.....

Hey Grapevine!

First, let me thank you for running such an excellent publication. I have been visiting your country on and off for the past decade, and I can proudly say I've been following you guys since your first issue. It's proven a tremendous resource on what's going on over there and has helped me make some great choices when it comes to travel and nightlife (thanks for the Greenland tip, BTW). Your web-site is also looking swell these days.

The reason I write you now is to enquire whether I can submit an article for print in the paper. I have been keeping extensive travelogues of my visits, and some of them are pretty funny if I say so myself. Do you take reader submissions? Do you pay for them? Can I be a part of your team?

Sincerely,  
Stephen Lewis

*Dear Stephen,  
Thank you for your kind and encouraging words. We try our best to make the paper as good as possible, and sometimes we succeed. It's good to know you're paying attention.*

*Of course we welcome and encourage any and all reader submissions. Just send whatever's on your mind to editor@grapevine.is - and that goes for the rest of you as well. We pay as much as we can, which isn't a lot, but I guess it depends on where you live.*



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EXPO



## Culture of Waste

Before arriving here, my strongest impressions of Iceland came from news panoramas about this geothermal-powered, arctic paradise. This is a country that brings the environmentally laced version of the word "green" to a whole new, inspirational level. Yet, upon actually stepping foot into an otherwise lovely Nordic society, I encountered this glaring paradox: a "green" country whose small roads are crowded with almost as many cars as there are Icelandic people (most of them being gas-guzzling SUV's), and whose worldly duty to separate the trash into recyclables seems sparse, at best. I mean, really, I've never seen so many Styrofoam cups used, without remorse, to simply feed a country's caffeine addiction.

As a New Yorker, my ability to judge too quickly is simultaneously an instinct, a talent, and an Achilles heel that I've attempted to shed upon relocation. So, in spite of these offenses, I retract said judgments. I rationalise by highlighting Iceland's knack for carbon neutralizing, (planting enough trees for every person in multitude). And okay, perhaps the rocky landscape and unpredictable weather necessitate the use of such monster cars.

There remains one paradox, however, that I simply cannot overlook because it strikes, what I consider, the most prized parts and processes of my body: my stomach, my taste buds, and my ability to enjoy food to an almost criminal level. I'm not talking about traditional Icelandic cuisine, which I've come to embrace with my daily helpings of Sýr and Hardfisk. I'm talking about food waste.

I can only assume that with slogans like "Choose Icelandic," the people couldn't be prouder of their ability to grow food in this difficult, temperate climate. Why, then, oh fabulous land that I now call home, do I encounter so much food waste here?

In a food waste survey of approximately 500 families, conducted by Sorpa, 70% of Icelandic households admit to regularly throwing away some portion of their food. Compound this for every household in Iceland, and suddenly that seemingly little bit of trash accounts for a landfill full of unnecessary waste, and a hole in your bank account that could have been otherwise spent on your Saturday night beers.

Of course, there's the added implication that all this wasted food came in some form of plastic, glass, or paper packaging that most likely didn't get recycled, and only exacerbates the problem. This is a violation that renders the environmental movement in Iceland a shade no richer than "diet green."

And, how did the food buying culture of modern day Iceland come so far from its roots of maximizing the utility of food? It's fun for tourists and natives alike to delve into the wonders of slatur and revel in the adventuresome eating of ram testicles and sheep's head, but the obvious must be pointed out: this is a tradition founded upon the very principal of preventing food waste. Should we not re-embrace some of these rituals simply for their practical value? Come now, everyone! Follow up that juicy lamb steak tonight with the sheep's eyes and you not only have a soothing palate cleanser, you've prevented a bit of waste and stretched your kronur that little bit further.

Okay, preaching over and scathing New York attitude put away, I promise. I guess the only thing I can do is to put my own words into practice and try to see the silver lining here. Maybe this economic crisis, the ever-escalating price of food, and my personal effort to prevent food waste can finally help me fit into those skinny jeans everyone seems to be so fond of. 🍷



## Getting More Serious

Director Óskar Jónasson talks about the flaky storytelling business and his latest offspring, *Reykjavík-Rotterdam*

**Rumours had been going around that the roughest Icelandic flick to date was being screened in cinemas near you, so Grapevine caught up with the man who created all the fuss, Óskar Jónasson, who happily invited us into his safe haven.**

**Tell me, how did you end up making movies?**

It all started when I studied at the predecessor of what's nowadays called the Icelandic Academy of the Arts, but at the time me and a couple of my friends were in this band called Oxmó. Making music wasn't our only task though, we'd make gigantic sculptures all over town and several other deeds but at last we made a film called "Oxmóplánetan", a sort of a sci-fi flick, extremely raw and barbaric but nevertheless very amusing. This turned out to be such a blast that we decided to keep at it and so when we finished shooting we decided to fabricate a full-length film which bore the arousing name "Suck me, Nína". It told the story of a few hippies in the year 1973, but we were, on the contrary, punkers in the year 1983, so we basically made a movie of what was in our opinion the tackiest thing imaginable. We managed to produce this film with great aggressiveness and the result was surprisingly successful. Soon after this adventure I decided to attain some education in the field. So you could say that me becoming a director was an aftermath of "Suck me, Nína"

**Did you move home as soon as you finished your studies in England?**

Yeah, I came home and made my final assignment, a movie called "SSL 25" which deals with a privately operated task force. Subsequently, I started making music videos for several artists, such as the Sugarcubes, Bubbi etc. but alongside with that work I was preparing a movie that had been for some time on my mind: "Sódóma Reykjavík". I was extremely eager to start working on it, and the preparing process was so successful that I could begin shooting in relatively short time.

**What made you so passionate about Sódóma Reykjavík?**

In my opinion all the movies that were made here at the time were rather dull and I didn't see any need for such a vast selection of boring flicks, so an amusing film was really called for at the time. It was gratifying to go through all the professional production process that surrounded the shooting

but at the end I realised that it hadn't been funded as properly as it should have and when I ended up penniless I decided to emphasize more on television for some time. Soon I was able to forge myself into the TV business and later I directed series such as "Fóstbræður" and "Svínasúpan"

**Comedy has always surrounded your work but your most recent pieces, i.e. *Reykjavík-Rotterdam* and also "*Svartir Englar*" is dead serious, what made you switch tracks?**

I think it inevitably happens when you get older, when you start taking things more seriously. But to tell you the truth it was never a particular aim to be a comedy director, it kind of just happened. Recently I wanted to change course and start to take on things that actually matter to people in real life, things that are closer and more powerful. Comedy tends to be a bit transient, all about the moment, then it's over. Somewhat like fast food.

**To move over to your new piece "*Reykjavík-Rotterdam*", could you tell me how it all began?**

The process started about 7 years ago when I heard an interview with an old sailor and a smuggler who had for sure 'been around' over his years and it immediately aroused my attention. I later called up Arnaldur Indriðason, and after I had explained the idea to him he grew fond of it as well. Subsequently we sat down to write a story. The story was always a subject to change but the journey between Reykjavík and Rotterdam was always its milestone. The time it took to write was exhaustive but I don't regret a minute of it. It's always easy to write about the first two thirds of a screenplay but when you have to finalise it, things tend to get complicated. All in all, with intermissions, it took about five years to write, which clearly gave us the time to make it proper. We considered many times over the process that the screenplay was decent enough to start shooting it, but we could never make peace with it being simply decent, we wanted it to be perfect. To make that happen we had a lot of people read it and comment on it and we also created a special workshop down at the Icelandic Film Centre, whose sole purpose was to make the script better. I think the worst mistake of a filmmaker is to believe his job is to make movies, but not to tell stories. And if you want to tell a story you have to make it credible. Nowadays people don't give themselves enough time, and just go out and shoot some half finished pieces, and as soon as they begin shooting they realise that they're in over their heads but there's nothing they can do at that point.

**Have you ever made that mistake?**

Actually, I always feel I'm making that mistake.

I think, in my case at least, you always think afterwards that you should've given yourself more time in the preparation process. Once you begin rehearsing and shooting you see your script mistakes materialise before your eyes. Even sometimes when you're doing a scene you know already you're never going to use it, not in a million years, that's really an untenable feeling. It's of course difficult to write a good screenplay but it's just as hard to read it right, to understand what those replicas really stand for and how this will look on the screen. It's really hard to tell.

**And how do you like the final result of *Reykjavík-Rotterdam*? Are you at peace with it?**

I am, really. But you don't stop meditating your work even though you've already premiered and I'm always spotting a few new things that could've worked out better. When I watch old pieces I've made I honestly squirm around, there are so many scenes that could've been better. I try hard to avoid seeing my old works, it's intolerable. 🍷

"I THINK THE WORST MISTAKE OF A FILMMAKER IS TO BELIEVE HIS JOB IS TO MAKE MOVIES, BUT NOT TO TELL STORIES.", "I TRY HARD TO AVOID SEEING MY OLD WORKS, IT'S INTOLERABLE."



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## ARTICLE



## Blades of Glory

Despite its lack of “ice,” Iceland is fast becoming an international hockey powerhouse

BY JAMES CRUGNALE

Disney movie buffs will cheekily remember that Iceland played the villainous top-ranked team in the Junior Goodwill Games against Emilio Estevez’s Mighty Ducks. Their slick-moussed coach, Wolf “The Dentist” Stansson, and his burly, mini-dynamo Icelandic youth hockey team were so convincingly good that many audiences may have been fooled into thinking that hockey is second nature to the youth of the nation.

However, despite the portrayal of Iceland as Vikings on Ice, the country’s soggy, windy weather conditions over the decades have made for a poor environment to maintain outdoor ice rinks. The first successful Icelandic hockey team had to exist on another continent during the 1920s: the mostly-Icelandic comprised Winnipeg Falcons, which represented Canada in its first Olympic hockey games. Since then, climate and lack of proper facilities have made it difficult for Iceland to maintain a strong hockey tradition. Fortunately, for Icelandic hockey fans, all of that could be changing quickly.

Starting their national competitive league in 1991, Iceland has crosschecked their way to a formidable position in the global standings. The International Ice Hockey Federation promoted the team up to Division II after a solid performance in the 2007 Men’s World Ice Hockey Championships. The IIHF now (as of 2008) ranks Iceland 38th in the world, a power play goal of an accomplishment.

Viðar Garðarsson, president of Ice Hockey Iceland, attests to the rise of the sport with the growing availability of indoor ice venues and noted that several hockey games were televised on Icelandic television last year. “It’s been only a little over 10 years since getting the first indoor rink,” Garðarsson says. “Iceland now has three indoor ice rinks.”

Despite this initial success, Garðarsson feels that hockey can continue to grow in the nation, with the evidence of enthusiastic youth becoming dedicated rink rats, and is calling for further construction of new indoor rinks. “We still need more facilities. At the present time, at many rinks, there’s a lot of competition for ice time between open skate (times where rinks are open to the public) and figure skating.”

Garðarsson notes that success always starts at a junior level and bringing hockey to the youth of Iceland has helped the growth of the sport. “It’s amazing to see a player who started practicing young and now are talented when they’re 18, 19 or 20. It seems that hockey is very suitable for Icelanders,” Garðarsson says. “You need to be quick and strong, perfect sport for Icelandic boys and girls.”

## INTERVIEW BY DESIREE ANDREWS — PHOTO BY GAS



## BOMBING THE CITY

Director Jon Reiss talks graffiti

**The graffiti film *Bomb It!* premiered in Iceland at the Reykjavik film festival. Los Angeles director Jon Reiss attended the first screening and took part in a Q&A afterwards. He also sat on a panel with a few of Reykjavik’s artists, activists and the Central City Director, Jakob Frímagn Magnússon, to discuss the issue of graffiti in the city. After the panel, Grapevine sat down with Jon to learn a little more about his film and the graffiti scene in general.**

**Your film focuses on both graffiti tags—the basic writing of an artist’s name—and full on graffiti art including wall murals and stencils. During the Q&A at the screening of your film you said that before you started filming you, like most people, didn’t like tags and that your were more drawn to graffiti art. Has that opinion changed?**

Now I actually prefer a really good tag to a, quote-unquote, beautiful piece that people have spent days on. It depends, because I think that a tag, when it’s done really well, has immediacy and energy, and also artistry to it. And, it’s not saying that the wall murals don’t have artistry as well, but I think that sometimes on the legal walls it’s almost like they spend too much time and the energy is taken away from it. It’s almost too much like mural art and it isn’t really street art anymore, even though it’s on the street. There is a certain energy that is caused by the immediacy of doing something in the moment. In any art form, as you delve into it, you develop a certain taste and the ability to see things that maybe people who aren’t familiar with the art form can’t see. And that’s why I think there’s an appreciation, and sure there are ugly tags, but to appreciate a really nice tag, you have to have a little bit of experience with that before you can see it.

**And you came to that conclusion while making the film?**

In the beginning of the film we weren’t even going to deal with tags. But, we realized that that was our ignorance or naivety and that they really can’t be separated.

**You film covers several cities around the world starting in New York. There seemed to be a lot more tags in New York and LA as opposed to the more vibrant artistic pieces in other cities like Amsterdam and Paris. Do you**

**think there’s a reason for this?**

[It’s] probably what we showed. I mean you can find pretty much all forms of graffiti in all cities. But, we looked for differences and we tried to find what was special to that city. To just find Wild Style over and over again, it’s kind of boring. To be perfectly honest, I’m a little bored with Wild Style and I appreciate people who are pushing the boundaries of form and taking it to a different level; they see what’s been done before and go “wow how am I going to do something different?” If anything, sometimes I think graffiti writers are a little lazy.

**Can you define Wild Style?**

Wild style is actually a crew that Tracy168 ran in the 70s, and it was for him, how he lived, as he says in [our] film. And, that name got applied to the New York style of graffiti because of the film called Wild Style, and because of that, everything in the New York style became Wild Style—basically big letters with arrows intertwined where you couldn’t really read it very well.

**You have said that a lot of graffiti writers were apprehensive to be in your film because there are so many “bad graffiti films” and they didn’t want to be involved in that. What makes a graffiti film bad and why do you think there are so many of them?**

I wouldn’t say they are bad; they just serve a specific purpose. People can watch endless amounts of graffiti just like pornography; you can watch endless amounts of sex with bad production value but there’s no context to the films. And I think people are reticent to be in movies because they’re not sure what you are going to do with what they say. They are trusting you with their work and what is about. A lot of time that has been betrayed by people. People have taken things out of context.

**What is the mission of your movie?**

I think the mission of our movie is several fold, one to show the richness of the movement—that it’s not any one thing, that it’s actually a multitude of things. And, if there is any one point, it’s to get people to look at public space differently than how they have thought of it. That, to me, is most successful when, after seeing the movie, people come up to me and say “wow I look at the landscape of the city totally differently after seeing your movie” — that is the greatest compliment.

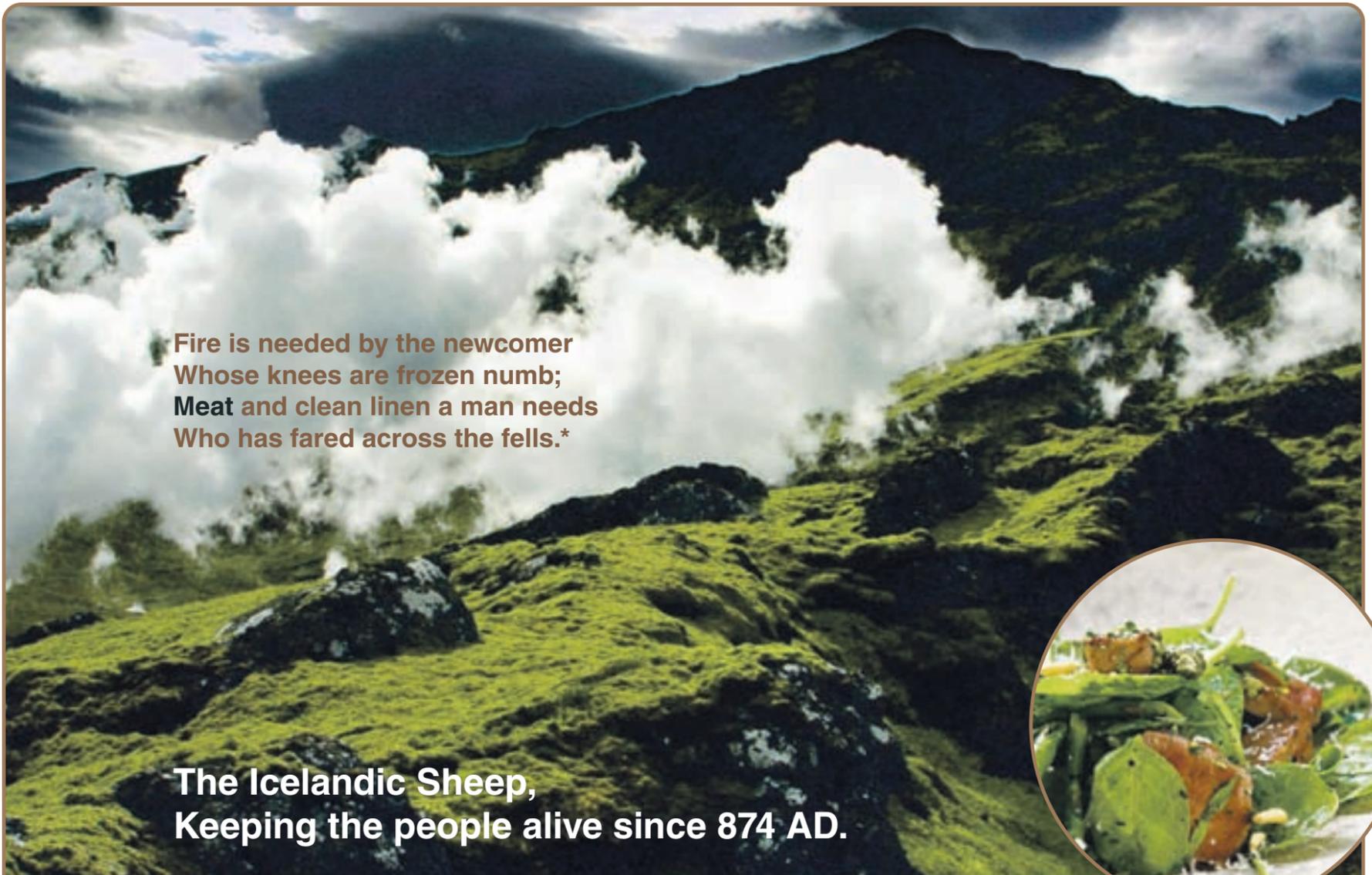
**There is a so-called “war on graffiti” here in Reykjavik. There is strict enforcement against tagging and mural writing alike. After attending the panel with the Central City Director who came out against graffiti, do you think Reykjavik can strike a balance between the people who want it and the people who don’t?**

I think so. Very few cities wouldn’t even have a [Government official] come out and talk to anyone. Most cities are just against graffiti and “fuck you guys.” So, the fact that there was someone there trying to do something was a good first step. To be honest the issue with Reykjavik is it’s such a small town that if you keep the centre clean you’re basically keeping everything clean. In large cities you have areas that are artisan places where if you have places covered in graffiti it’s more tolerated. Here, it’s doesn’t seem like that exist—that I’ve seen.

**I know you’ve only been here for three days but can you give your impressions of Reykjavik as far as the graffiti scene goes and what you think the future might hold?**

I have no idea. It seems pretty varied. I always like it when people push the boundaries and explore different mediums. There is a recent issue of Over-spray, an international graffiti magazine, and they have so many different kinds of graffiti that you can do like there’s knitting graffiti, people who knit on street posts, there’s people who do metal sculptures and illegally place them. There’s so many different forms of graffiti besides ink and spray paint especially when there’s a crackdown. Be creative, do something else—find a way to do work. And, the other thing that’s interesting is that there’s very little stickering here. I mean maybe those are expensive to make but I didn’t see any stickers here and they are easy to put up and hard to get off.

THERE’S SO MANY DIFFERENT FORMS OF GRAFFITI BESIDES INK AND SPRAY PAINT ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE’S A CRACKDOWN. BE CREATIVE, DO SOMETHING ELSE—FIND A WAY TO DO WORK.



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

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

\*From the Hávamál, 1300 AD



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## The Angry Young Men of the 2010's

The times ahead will be interesting. Initially, the catastrophe will bring out the best in people. We will all band together as one to pull through. It will be a good time for the arts. Artists will no longer be vying to get support from a bank. People will turn their backs on the froth that has consumed the airwaves for so long, and go for a shot of good, strong coffee. Those with something to say will be listened to, and those with nothing to say will become irrelevant. It is perhaps likely that a whole generation of artists will be swept aside, as those who relied on sponsorship from the banks will go down with them.

The new generation, those who have had their future swept away in front of their eyes through no fault of their own, they will be angry. And it is good for artists to be angry if the situation merits it. When we think of the Great Depression, we think of artists such as John Steinbeck and Woody Guthrie, or in Iceland Halldór Laxness and Þórbergur Þórðarson. But the entertainment that people actually sought at the time was of a different ilk, screwball comedies about nothing, anything to forget. As the general public will start to tire of hearing of the Depression that permeates their lives on a daily basis, they will again look for lighter materials to distract themselves.

The brain drain will be immense. Already, everyone with skills that can be utilised elsewhere is leaving the country, along with many immigrants. Those who remain will be those who have nowhere else to go. The population of Iceland will no doubt drop below the 300,000 figure yet again. On the other hand, there will, finally, be plenty of cheap housing in Reykjavik. For those who can afford it.

The gyms will be empty and the bars will be full. On the upside, people will probably start to have more sex. No more wining and dining, people will move right on to the only entertainment that they can have for free. A lot of people will form relationships, something to cling onto in the dark times ahead. At the same time, a lot of older relationships will disintegrate due to the stress caused by financial worries.

Hopefully, the next generation will learn from the mistakes that have now been committed. 🇮🇸



## More Monsters and Mythical Beings

*Miklabæjar-Sólveig: Unrequited love breeds unholy hatred*

***“We’ve got this database of monsters and creatures in our past. A lot of their stories are fascinating, it’s a shame that they’re not used more in modern culture,” remarked comic artist Hugleikur Dagsson in an interview this summer. This prompted the Grapevine to draft Dagsson to illustrate a series of articles on these monsters of yore. For the seventh instalment in the series, Dagsson chose to illustrate “Iceland’s most vicious ghost”, the über-scary ghost Miklabæjar-Sólveig.***

Along with the previously Dagsson-ified tale of the Deacon of Dark River (“Djákinn á Myrká” – issue 10), the story of Miklabæjar-Sólveig is probably as close to “Gothic romance” as Icelandic folklore, with all its farmers and fishermen, gets. It has been re-told countless times over the past centuries, and has been used as the base for all sorts of artistic and cultural output.

A young woman by the name of Sólveig was a resident of minister Oddur Gíslason’s manor Miklibær in Blönduhlíð, Skagafjörður in 1778. Sólveig fell madly in love with the minister and went insane when he spurned her advances. After repeated attempts at her own life, Sólveig was promptly placed under suicide watch. One day at dusk she managed to slip her captors grip and ran to a bunch of jagged rocks, where she commenced to slit her throat. As a worker ran to stop her, he saw her bleed to death and commented: “Now she’s with the devil.” Sólveig didn’t answer, but begged him to tell the minister to bury her in holy ground.

The minister sought permission from his superiors to bury Sólveig in the churchyard. They declined as Sólveig had committed the deadly sin of suicide. After receiving the answer, Gíslason dreamt Sólveig came up to him with an angry grin, saying that since he had declined her last wish, he himself would never rest in hallowed ground.

Soon after being buried outside of the churchyard Sólveig’s ghost started haunting Gíslason whenever he was alone, for instance as he rode home from performing his services. To ensure his safety, he received an escort wherever he went.

One evening when the minister was expected to return home from his duties, Miklibær’s inhabitants heard a beating on the manor’s doors. They felt the knocking had a sinister quality to it, so they didn’t answer. They then heard something stir by the window, but before they could draw the curtains the sound of being dragged away came through.

Later that night, as the housefolk went out, they saw the minister’s horse stood in front of the house. This spooked the people, as they realised that the minister had rode home but was now nowhere to be found. After undergoing an intensive search, they decided that Sólveig had finally had her revenge. The minister was never seen again, but his escort that fateful night reported that he had sent them off when his manor was in clear sight, believing himself to be in the clear.

After the search had been called off, a worker of the minister’s named Þorsteinn declared that he would not rest until he learned his employer’s fate. One night, Þorsteinn gathered a mass of the minister’s belongings and placed them under his pillow, asking a clairvoyant woman he shared a woman with to keep watch as he slept. As soon as he fell asleep, the woman saw the ghost of Sólveig approach his bed and loom over his sleeping body, fiddling with his neck. Þorsteinn started thrashing in his bed, so the woman jumped and woke him, driving the Sólveig away in the process. Þorsteinn woke up in a sweat, red marks on his neck, and said that Sólveig had screamed at him that he would never learn the minister’s fate before proceeding to slash his throat with a mighty machete.

Sólveig was not seen around after that, although the minister’s son, Rev. Gísli Oddsson, reported that she had ambushed him at his wedding night. Thus ends the sad tale of Miklabæjar-Sólveig and her doomed love. Many believe it to be true; in fact the remains of Sólveig were dug up in 1937 and placed in a proper cemetery. 🇮🇸

## Couchsurfing Culture

If not for Iceland, the largest online “hospitality service” in the world would not be around today. Couchsurfing.com operates as an international network where people open their doors and transform their sofas into replacement hostel beds for random world travellers. The site operates in over 230 countries with approximately 700,000 members, providing users with their own customizable profiles. Today, many backpackers take it for granted, using it as a tool for meeting locals in far-off places.

Couchsurfing.com founder Casey Fenton, chronicles how Iceland sparked the inspiration for the social network: “I’d gotten a cheap web-special from Boston to Iceland on a Monday and would fly that Friday. I only had one problem though. What would I do when I got there? Stick it out in a hotel? A hostel? I thought about the idea of contacting someone on the Internet and seeing if I could hang out with them and maybe sleep at their house.” The legend goes that Fenton contacted hundreds of students at the University of Iceland to ask them for a place to crash and after

getting many invites, the idea for a website was born. Couchsurfer Hanna Larsdóttir takes great pride in guiding travellers around her country and meeting people with diverse international backgrounds. “I open my door to almost anyone,” says Larsdóttir. “I always try to introduce my guests to Icelandic culture. You need to be an open-minded person and I think that’s the perfect recipe for being a couchsurfer.”

Þórgnýr Thoroddsen has hosted over 50 travellers since he began hosting couchsurfers with his wife Vala, last July. “We put a lot of effort into our profile,” says Thoroddsen. “We took in some surfers and the experience was amazing. We’ve hosted couples from the States, people from the Nordic countries... Quebecois seem to come in the hundreds, we’ve hosted about 20 of them. Also, people from France, Austria, Mexico, Italy, and the Philippines. I’ve had grown up filmmakers, 18 year old kids, a professor in ancient Nordic; it’s a cool opportunity to mix and get to meet new people and share culture.”

Larsdóttir feels the website offers her other opportunities. “I’m saving the world, one person at a time,” she says. “At the same time, I’m getting to know the world. But I can tell you this, Your parents won’t be thrilled if you say, ‘Hey Mom, I met this guy, he’s staying at my house...but he’s got a couchsurfing profile!’ 🇮🇸



A SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF ICELAND ÓLAFUR RAGNAR GRÍMSSON AT THE WALBROOK CLUB, LONDON 3RD MAY 2005

# HOW TO SUCCEED IN MODERN BUSINESS:

## Lessons From the Icelandic Voyage

Distinguished business leaders  
Representatives of the media  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Recently, I have often found myself cornered at various functions, especially here in London, and pressured to explain how and why daring Icelandic entrepreneurs are succeeding where others hesitate or fail, to reveal the secret behind the success they have achieved.

It is of course tempting to let it remain a mystery, to allow the British business world to be perplexed. This mystery would give my Icelandic friends a clear advantage, a fascinating competitive edge – but when my friend Lord Polumbo asked me to speak on this subject at the distinguished Walbrook Club, I could not decline the challenge.

It is indeed an interesting question how our small nation has in recent years been able to win so many victories on the competitive British, European and global markets, especially because for centuries we were literally the poorest nation in Europe, a community of farmers and fishermen who saw Hull and Grimsby as the main focus of their attention, a nation that only a few decades ago desperately needed to extend its fishing limit in order to survive, first to 12 miles, then to 50 and finally to 200 miles. Each time Britain sent the Navy to stop us but each time we won – the only nation on earth to defeat the British Navy, not once but three times. With this unique track record, it is no wonder that young entrepreneurial Vikings have arrived in London full of confidence and ready to take on the world!

Yes, it is indeed a fascinating question, not just with respect to Iceland, but also because it throws light on some fundamental trends in modern business. It touches on the new nature of success, and why some fail where others triumph. Globalisation and information technology have given small states opportunities on a scale never witnessed before. Obstacles to their growth have largely been abolished and replaced by an open and wide field where talent, imagination and creativity determine what is harvested.

Innovations can now emerge from any direction; individual initiative can lay the foundation for companies which establish a global presence in a short time.

In recent years Iceland has shown how a small state can make an organised and successful response to globalisation and thus boost its own business success. Every company in our country now has a unique opportunity to profile itself. Indeed, new companies can now emerge into the global market regardless of where their home base is and soon have the whole world as their market region.

There is much to suggest that in the new economy, a small state can be a very profitable basis for business innovations because in a small state it is easy to see how different elements link up, how to establish cooperation between different fields, how to gain access to information and experience and grasp solutions to difficult tasks. A small state can serve as a kind of laboratory or research station in precisely those sectors that are increasingly coming to dominate the economy of our times.

Many examples can be cited to illustrate how our business leaders have managed to establish themselves on foreign markets. In previous decades we saw the success of our seafood marketing companies through their sales networks in Europe, the U.S.A. and Asia, and the remarkable achievements of our airline companies from the 1960s onwards when Loftleiðir – now Icelandair – became the first low fare airline in the world, enabling the hippy generation to cross the Atlantic cheaply. These experiences provided an important training ground, but no one could have predicted the extraordinary success in recent years, a success which does indeed raise challenging questions about prevailing business strategies, theories and training in modern times. Let me mention a few success cases.

Baugur is indeed well known here in Britain, playing a major part in the retail sector, not only in London but also in Denmark and Sweden.

Avion Group, the specialised airline, is now the largest of its kind in the world. It recently opened its European headquarters in Crawley, close to London.

Actavis has become the fastest growing pharmaceutical company in the world, with production

facilities in Bulgaria, Malta, Serbia, India and elsewhere.

Össur, the largest prosthetics company in the world, was created by an unknown Icelander who worked on his innovations in small rooms in the oldest part of Reykjavik.

Kaupthing Bank, which only six years ago opened the first branch of an Icelandic bank abroad, is now among the largest financial institutions in the Nordic countries, with operations in Europe and America.

Bakkavör, which a decade ago started in a garage in my home municipality, is now the largest producer of fast food in Britain. It recently acquired Geest, so expanding the scope of its operations.

I could go on to mention many other examples: companies in transport and food processing, machinery and software production, telecommunications and other fields.

How has it been possible to achieve such success in so many different fields and in such a short time, in areas where we definitely had no prior competitive advantage, areas such as pharmaceuticals and prosthetics, banking and finance, retail and fashion – to name only a few.

Of course, many factors have contributed to the success of this voyage, but I am convinced that our business culture, our approach, our way of thinking and our behaviour patterns, rooted in our traditions and national identity, have played a crucial role. All of these are elements that challenge the prevailing theories taught in respected business schools and observed in practice by many of the big American and British corporations.

We are succeeding because we are different, and our track record should inspire the business establishment in other countries to re-examine their previous beliefs and the norms that they think will guarantee results. The range of Icelandic success cases provides a fertile ground for a productive dialogue on how the modern business world is indeed changing.

Let me offer you a list of a dozen or so elements that I believe have been crucial to Iceland's success story. I am not listing them in any particular order, but taken together, I am convinced that they amount to a significant framework of business success – a guide to the ground in which achievements are rooted.

First comes a strong work ethic. This is a heritage from the old society of farmers and fishermen, where necessity dictated that the fish catch had to be brought ashore and processed immediately when the boats came in to harbour and that they had to be turned and collected when the weather was favourable. When Kaupthing Bank beat the other bidders for the Danish FIH Erhvervs Bank, the disappointed English representative returned to London and informed his boss that the Icelanders had won because, as he put it: "When we go home these guys are still working."

Second, we tend to focus on the results rather than the process: to go straight to the task and do the job in the shortest time possible; to ask when it can be done rather than how.

Third, Icelanders are risk takers. They are daring and aggressive. Perhaps this is because they know that if they fail, they can always go back to Iceland where everyone can enjoy a good life in an open and secure society; the national fabric of our country provides a safety-net which enables our business leaders to take more risks than others tend to do.

Fourth, there is absence of bureaucracy in Iceland and a lack of tolerance for bureaucratic methods. Perhaps it is because there are so few of us that we have never really been able to afford extensive bureaucratic structures; when we encounter them, we prefer other means.

Fifth, there is a strong element of personal trust, almost in the classical sense of "my word is my bond." This enables people to work together in an extraordinarily effective way because they are fostered in communities where everyone knows everyone else. This trust also contributes towards:

The sixth element. This is the formation of small groups of operators who work closely and strategically together, creating a fast-moving network of key decision makers who can close a deal quicker than those who are used to working within larger and more bureaucratic corporate structures.

Seventh, we have entrepreneurship – old-fashioned entrepreneurship where the boss himself or herself stands in the front line, taking re-

sponsibility, leading the team, giving the company a visible, personal face. This style of entrepreneurship breeds leaders who know they are responsible, aware that their initiative will make or break the deal. As an Asian business executive once told me: "The reason why I like to do business with Icelanders is that the bosses themselves come to the table; they don't hide behind an army of lawyers and accountants like they do in the big European and American companies".

Eighth on my list is the heritage of discovery and exploration, fostered by the medieval Viking sagas that have been told and retold to every Icelandic child. This is a tradition that gives honour to those who venture into unknown lands, who dare to journey to foreign fields, interpreting modern business ventures as an extension of the Viking spirit, applauding the successful entrepreneurs as heirs of this proud tradition.

Ninth is the importance of personal reputation. This is partly rooted in the medieval Edda poems which emphasise that our wealth might wither away but our reputation will stay with us forever. Every Icelandic entrepreneur knows that success or failure will reflect not only on his or her own reputation but also on the reputation of the nation. They therefore see themselves as representatives of a proud people and know that their performance will determine their reputation for decades or centuries to come.

Tenth, there is the fact that the Icelandic market, although small, has turned out to be an effective training ground because it is so competitive, perhaps more so than many other European markets; therefore what succeeds in Iceland is likely to succeed everywhere else.

Eleventh, because of how small the Icelandic nation is, we do not travel the world with an extra baggage of ulterior motives or big power interests rooted in military, financial or political strength. No one is afraid to work with us; people even see us as fascinating eccentrics who can do no harm and therefore all doors are thrown wide open when we arrive.

Twelfth, the strong interaction which characterizes the Icelanders offers opportunities for people from different sectors to launch cooperative ventures without difficulties or major bureaucratic hindrances. The extensive knowledge that our business leaders have of the capabilities of others in different fields has made it easy for them to draw people into promising projects.

And finally, there is creativity, rooted in the old Icelandic culture which respected the talents of individuals who could compose poetry or tell stories, who were creative participants in companionship with others. These attitudes have been passed onto the business community, as is demonstrated by the Icelandic term used to describe a pioneer or an entrepreneur, – "athafnaskáld", which means literally "a poet of enterprise". Admiration for creative people has been transplanted from ancient times into the new global age, and originality has turned out to be a decisive resource in the global market.

Taken together, these thirteen elements have given the Icelandic business community a competitive edge, enabling us to win where others either failed or did not dare to enter. Our entrepreneurs have thus been able to move faster and more effectively, to be more original and more flexible, more reliable but also more daring than many others.

The track record that Icelandic business leaders have established is also an interesting standpoint from which to examine the validity of traditional business teaching, of the theories and practice fostered and followed by big corporations and business schools on both sides of the Atlantic. It enables us to discuss the emphasis on entrepreneurial versus structural training, on process versus results, on trust versus career competition, on creativity versus financial strength.

I have mentioned this morning only some of the lessons which the Icelandic voyage offers, but I hope that my analysis has helped to clarify what has been a big mystery to many. Let me leave you with a promise that I gave at the recent opening of the Avion Group headquarters in Crawley. I formulated it with a little help from Hollywood movies:

"You ain't seen nothing yet!" 🇮🇸



## ARTICLE

## Can We Love the US Again?

BY VALUR GUNNARSSON

We all secretly love the United States. List your top ten heroes, writers, musicians, actors, anything; chances are most of them will be citizens of the United States. As much as we may dislike its government, it's easier said than done to turn our backs on American Culture. And on what is still sometimes referred to as the American Dream. To their great credit, some of the most vocal opponents of President George W. Bush have been American citizens.

So what will change if Barack Obama becomes president? In a word, everything. Secretly or openly, we all want a US president we can really like. Al Gore would have done nicely. Clinton seemed alright, but there was just something fundamentally sleazy about him. And as for the others, well, the less said the better. So give us our Obama fix, and we'll probably forget the Iraq War as quickly as we forgot Vietnam. Given, of course, that the war can be brought to an end. Then in about ten year's time, we can expect a slew of great movies about how much of a mess the Iraq War really was, directed by future Oliver Stones and Stanley Kubricks. Then again, if we forget too easily, we might wind up with another Rambo.

So, will everything be back to normal then? Not quite. Even if we manage to forgive and forget, that doesn't mean that the colossus will be back on its feet. US dominance is being challenged by other powers. It has lost the firm hold it recently had on many parts of the world. If Obama does win, he will undoubtedly be popular in Europe, and rightly so. But he will also be the first president with a non-European sounding name. Irrespective of this, in the long run, the US is likely to spend most of its attention on the Asia Pacific Region and the Middle East. We may be willing to love the US again, but it might no longer be as eager to love us back.

The United States was at the peak of its powers in 1945. When Europe and Asia lay in ruins, the US alone accounted for more than 50% of the world's industrial production. The European nations would not rise again as global superpowers, but the US predominance was challenged militarily by the Soviet Union and financially by Japan. However, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and Japan's economic problems in the early 90's, the United States enjoyed an Indian Summer as world hegemon. Campaigns in the Balkans and in the Middle East seemed to herald a New World Order, where the US could win any war without having to face casualties on its end.

But on September 11th 2001, changed that perception. Seven years later, the War on Terror has managed to do what neither World War II nor the Cold War could, to make the US seem weak both militarily and economically. None of the nations that are now rising, China, Russia or India, seem likely to supersede it in the near future, but no longer can the US lay claim to being the world's lone Superpower.

For many, particularly those in South America who have had to bear the brunt of US domination, this is a time to rejoice. Leftist governments have come to power in Venezuela, Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay and Chile without bringing US intervention on themselves. This would have been inconceivable in the 20th Century. And it is no wonder that many people are tired of a Superpower that as often abused its position by supporting numerous dictatorships around the world, as well as with its wars in South East Asia and the Middle East.

But the Decline of the United States is not as much cause for celebration as many who have criticized it would like to think. The rising powers are even less likely to take human rights into consideration than the US was. Russia supports a dictator next door in Belorussia while it invades Georgia, and the Chinese occupy Tibet while they do business with genocidal regimes such as Sudan. The American Hydra may be humbled, but other beasts will take its place. And they will be far less tolerant of criticism, from its own people as well as from abroad.

The tragedy of the American Century is not that so much power was concentrated in the US, but how badly that power was abused. It may not yet be time to forgive the United States. But perhaps we will soon start to miss them. 

## INTERVIEW BY BERGUR EBBI BENEDIKTSSON — PHOTO BY GAS



PROFESSOR EMERITUS SIGURÐUR LÍNDAL - ALMOST AS OLD AS SNORRI STURLUSON

## A 13th Century Rebel

*Examining the politics of Snorri Sturluson*

***Snorri Sturluson was an Icelandic chieftain, historian and poet who died in Reykholt in Borgarfjörður in 1241. For some reason people talk about Snorri like he just recently passed away. His politics, wisdom and poetry stand close to the people of Iceland who talk about his assassination like a horrible contemporary event.***

Recently, professor emeritus Sigurður Líndal gave an interesting lecture on the political views of Snorri Sturluson. People flocked to see what the professor had to say. It is admirable that people have the same enthusiasm for politics of the 13th century as for what is going on at the Alþingi (Parliament) right now. It is easy to understand what draws people to see such a lecture. They are in fact meeting two interesting people: the academic Snorri Sturluson and the academic Sigurður Líndal. Although they are about 750 years apart in time they would probably understand each other easily if they were to meet. Sigurður agreed to explain the political ideas of Snorri Sturluson and why he is interested in the subject.

### A COMMUNITY OF FREE MEN

Sigurður is a 77-year old professor emeritus of law from the University of Iceland but also holds a degree in history. He knows from years of experience that the best way to present the political ideas of a past figure is to start by a thorough introduction of its times. I sit back and enjoy as Sigurður, a man of spontaneous story-telling and academic accuracy, opens a window into the Middle Ages.

"We must understand that the people of Iceland lived by the old Germanic concept of law, where laws were considered old and fair and there was no bureaucracy or central power to set new law. If the law did not comply with reality, it was considered necessary to direct the law in to its right course. The thought was that it was no need to set new law but rather to seek for the originality of the old law and apply it to the case," says Sigurður and explains that this was the way things were in Iceland up until the 13th century. "Another important thing is that nobody was bound by the law unless he agreed to it. The law was more like a contract between chieftains. If somebody did not agree to

the contract, he was detached from the law. Therefore it was important that everybody could agree to the law and compromise was an essential theme in the old Germanic legal system," says Sigurður and names the adoption of Christianity in Iceland as an example of how a compromise was necessary in order to hold the country under uniformed law. Sigurður also notes that the concept of taxation did not really exist in the old Germanic concept of law. "It was a community of free men and they were not bound to give away their earnings as tax but they would often give away money and goods as presents," says Sigurður.

### PEACE WAS IMPORTANT

"This started to change in the 12th and 13th century and the provoker was the Catholic Church with its canon law. Additional factors were that trade increased, the bourgeois class was formed and cities were built and all this was done in cooperation with the Church. A good example of the good union between trade and the Church are the rules set about certain periods, usually weekends, being times of peace and certain places, usually the town square beside the church, being places of peace. Peace was important and kings were no longer knights of war but those who could secure the peace. The Church became a worldly force with the clergy and was active in law-making. The Church could still claim that their law stemmed from God. The kings responded by building up their own bureaucracy and found ways to justify setting laws on a worldly basis. They dug up old writings like the Roman law book Corpus Juris Civilis and by these means the old Germanic concept of law faded away."

Sigurður then explains how Snorri's views, as portrayed in Heimskringla, the history of the Norwegian kings, are basically in favour of the old concept of law. He resisted the changes and wrote about the fairness of past kings. He lived in the middle of the changes and obviously contradicted himself to some degree. In 1218 he was invited to Norway by King Haakon IV. He persuaded Haakon to become king of Iceland, and he became Haakon's vassal. Snorri returned to Iceland in 1220, but in the ensuing years his relation with Haakon deteriorated. "In 1240 Snorri was in Norway and became friends with the earl Skúli Bárðarson who was Haakon's competitor. Haakon suspected that Snorri was planning a rebellion against him and ordered Snorri to stay in Norway. Snorri left the country anyway and travelled home to Iceland. Snorri was using his right of rebellion against the tyrant

Haakon by leaving," says Sigurður and adds that Heimskringla holds many examples of this right. It was Haakon who gave orders for Snorri's assassination at his home in Reykholt in 1241.

### HARALD WAS HAAKON

"Snorri was not against kings. He just favoured the kings of the past who did not rise above the law but were equal to the chieftains. He was obviously not in favour of taxation but he did not see anything wrong in paying the king respect in the form of a present. King Haakon made Norway a strong kingdom where the king had the power to set law. Snorri considered that to be tyranny and it shines through Heimskringla," says Sigurður who also has a clever theory. In Heimskringla, Snorri writes about Harald the Fairhaired who was a 9th century mythical king of Norway who is said to have united the nation. He is an important figure in Icelandic history because he is said to be one of the reasons for the settlement of Iceland. Chieftains and farmers supposedly fled Norway because of his tyranny. "I think when Snorri writes about Harald, who is a border-line mythical character, he is actually writing about King Haakon," says Sigurður.

It is obvious that Sigurður is charmed by Snorri's wisdom. He still points out to me that his ideas did not prevail. In the end of the 13th century Icelanders were given a lawbook, Jónsbók, by the king of Norway. They agreed to follow the book but maybe they did not have a choice. Traces of the old Germanic concept of law were still found in discussions in the Alþingi during the following centuries but it had mostly vanished by the end of the Middle Ages. 

KING HAAKON MADE NORWAY A STRONG KINGDOM WHERE THE KING HAD THE POWER TO SET LAW. SNORRI CONSIDERED THAT TO BE TYRANNY AND IT SHINES THROUGH HEIMSKRINGLA





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ARTICLE BY BERGUR EBBI BENEDIKTSSON AND SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON

# THE SKELETON ECONOMY

**The Icelandic economy has crashed. The government has nationalized all three of the major banks in Iceland and most Icelandic financial institutions overseas are bankrupt. The global credit crisis that has left banks in Europe and the US bankrupt has hit Iceland like a natural disaster. During a two-week period our economy was wiped out and left in ruins**

Sunday September 21, the CEO of Glitnir Bank, Lárus Welding was a guest on the political talk show Silfur Egils, where he was asked to elaborate on the international financial crisis that was hitting financial institutions hard on both sides of the Atlantic, and how it would affect the Icelandic banking industry, his own bank included. "We can see now that the flexibility in our structure and the way we have prepared ourselves has landed us a very secure position," he boasted. Today, it seems obvious that he was lying, or at best being delusional, but at least he looked good while doing it.

A week later, on Monday, September 29, the Icelandic government announced its decision to nationalise Glitnir in the face of the bank's imminent bankruptcy. Stoðir, the largest shareholder of Glitnir and one of Iceland's biggest investment companies, declared insolvency, and the exchange rate of the Icelandic Króna continued to plummet.

People were concerned when markets closed on Friday October 3. News that trickled out during the weekend suggested that the crisis was getting worse, although Prime Minister, Geir H. Haarde stated that he believed there was no cause for further intervention from the Icelandic government at the time. It was difficult to decipher the situation when markets opened on Monday morning. Despite Prime Minister Haarde's optimism, shares of all major Icelandic banks were not being traded in the Iceland Stock Exchange.

That afternoon, Prime Minister Geir H. Haarde, addressed the nation and cryptically stated that the Icelandic banks were all on the verge of bankruptcy and emergency legislation would be pushed through the parliament, allowing the government to take full control of their operations. The following days gave us news of a total governmental seizure of Landsbanki and Glitnir Bank and that Kaupthing was granted a loan of 500 million Euros to continue its operations, and at the time of print, it looks like it may fall into the hands of the government, too. In a matter of two weeks, the Icelandic financial system went from A-OK to total ruins.

## WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

Only a week passed from the seizure of Glitnir Bank until an emergency legislation was passed in Parliament, allowing the state to overtake all the. This was perhaps the most dramatic week in the history of Icelandic economy. But this eventful period had a long prologue and it will certainly leave us with a bitter aftermath. Although the meltdown was caused by a complex interplay of various economic factors, both at home and abroad, the deciding factors can be traced to a relatively simple cause.

It may have started with the privatization of the state-owned Icelandic banks and the deregulation of the banking industry that began around 2000 and the simultaneous financial influx from foreign investment in the energy and aluminum sectors. Competing with the state-run Housing Financing Fund, the newly privatized banks offered real estate mortgages to individuals at lower interest rates and financed a higher percentage the real estate prices than the Housing Financing Fund offered. This created real estate boom, and caused a rapid increase in the value of the banks. The 40-year real estate mortgages provided by the banks were financed mostly with short-term loans from international banks and financial institutions, leaving the banks dependent on frequent re-financing to keep the ball rolling. During

the economic boom of the last few years, this was an easy cycle to maintain.

Encouraged by their rapid growth of the banks, Icelandic investment bankers and companies soon started to expand to other countries, acquiring banks, retail companies, airlines, fashion stores, and professional football teams - more or less (mostly more) financed by short-term loans. New acquisition were used as collateral for further loans to bankroll further acquisition. Before the crisis, the Icelandic banks had accumulated foreign assets worth about 10 times the Icelandic gross domestic product (GDP), 80% of which was financed by foreign loans. When the credit crunch hit, following the sub-prime mortgage collapse in the US, and the cash flow to Icelandic banks dried up, investment companies found it increasingly more difficult to re-finance. Due to the disproportionate size of the banking industry, their collapse would have spelled bankruptcy for the whole country as the government was no longer able to guarantee their operation. Faced with that prospect, Icelandic authorities had little choice but to force the banks into receivership.

## WHO'S TO BLAME?

The collapse of the Icelandic economy is a highly complicated issue that involves many technical economic terms, only a part of which are even intelligible to John Q. Public. The collapse will have far-reaching effects for the foreseeable future. Although everyone involved, from bankers to government officials, have tirelessly repeated the mantra that now is not the time to assign blame, and there will be plenty of time to review the situation and find culprits sometime in the future, someone must be held responsible.

Economists in Iceland have gainfully pointed to technical errors made by the Icelandic Central Bank in dealing with inflation and the currency exchange rate of the Icelandic Króna, which may have encouraged Icelandic bankers to seek short term loans in foreign currency to re-loan in Iceland where the interest rates have been much higher than in most of the civilized world, and for failing to maintain the foreign currency reserve at a point that would suggest that the Central Bank could step in to assist the banks in a time of need.

The government should receive it's share for deregulating the financial sector to the point that they had little or no say in any matters regarding the financial market, and for failing to keep tabs on inflation, expansion and maintaining a proper supervision authority on the economy. It has also been a political decision to stash away old and defunct politicians as Governors of the Central Bank, a highly suspectible decision, given the Central Bank's role in Icelandic economic policy.

The Icelandic people obviously deserve a share of the blame. Their blatant consumerism was fueled by the easy access to cold, hard cash and the misconception that the party would last forever. Well, it was fun while it lasted, but now we will need to clean up and get our house in order.

And last, but not least, there are the adventurous investment bankers who were even more delusional than the general public when they joined the party. Greed seems to have been their guiding principle and eventually, they bit off more than they could chew.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

Despite watching our economy collapse in two weeks, the worst may be yet to come. A wave of bankruptcies is on the horizon, likely followed by unemployment, recession and general hardship.

It is a damn shame, really. We all thought we could work in big money-making factories and throw stress-balls around and make silly jokes about David Duchovny's sex addiction, but now it seems that the Icelandic voyage, as President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, called the foreign acquisitions adventure, has stranded. 



ARTICLE BY VALUR GUNNARSSON — ILLUSTRATION BY KÖDDI HRISTBJÖRNS

# THE LAST GREAT DEPRESSION

***The Great Laissez-faire Dream is over. To many, it always seemed like more of a nightmare. In any case, we must now wake up and face the facts. It beggars belief how entire nations can blindly be led towards folly by leaders who in retrospect were so obviously wrong, and how all those who knew better were brushed aside. And how this can happen again and again, in different forms.***

Thankfully, this will be the last we will hear of the market as the cure of all ills in our lifetime. Or at least until we start telling our grandchildren to beware of those who try to convince them that greed is good. Will they listen then? I doubt it. It will always be in the interests of the rich to make people believe that they should be allowed to do as they want. And those with the money will in the end control our minds. Unless something is done to stop them.

My generation will be the one hardest hit by our current predicament. The people in their late 20's and 30's, the ones who have taken out loans to buy homes at exorbitant prices that are now practically worthless. We are the ones who will never forget, in the same way that everyone who was around in the 30's learnt to have a healthy suspicion of the market. It took 50 years from the Great Depression until free market policies became dominant again. By that time, everyone who could still remember the hard times was either dead or had lost influence. The same mistakes were made all over again.

## THE RETURN OF HISTORY

So much for Libertarian Capitalism. What next? During the 20th Century, two ideologies emerged to seriously challenge capitalism. During the Great Depression, it seemed one or the other of these might win out. It took a World War to defeat Nazism. This left communism and capitalism to duke it out for the next half century until there remained, as in Highlander, only one. We who grew up in the 80's and 90's were indoctrinated in an era in which many were talking about the end of ideology. It wasn't the end, but rather that one ideology, that of the Free Market, had replaced many. And even if those who doubted the prevailing system weren't thrown into a gulag, they certainly had little stock in the marketplace of ideas.

Here in Iceland, we had the free market policies of the conservatives in the daily newspaper Morgunblaðið competing with the free market policies of the newly rich in daily newspaper Fréttablaðið. For a while, libertarian capitalism was the only game in town. It only took 20 years to blow it. History is back with a vengeance.

## THE NEW JEWS

So, will that mean that other ideologies will make a comeback? Probably. Just as we have had to deal with bad ideas from the libertarian spectrum for the past decades, we will now have to listen to bad ideas of a different kind. People are still reeling from the shock of having everything they believed in come to an end. But after shock comes anger. Just as the wealth was unevenly distributed, so will poverty. And when people see that the ones who deserve it least will be the hardest hit, anger will start to simmer.

During the Great Depression, a scapegoat had to be found and, as so often before, people started blaming the Jews. This time around, they might turn on the immigrants. Even with full employment, there is always some resentment towards those of different backgrounds. As mass unemployment spreads, the locals will be vying for the cleaning and service jobs that they wouldn't touch with a stick during better days. Anyone seen as an outsider is bound to suffer most during hard times, and the same will no doubt be true now.

## THE FASCIST MODEL?

Nazism never really took root in Iceland during the 30's. It may simply be because there was no significant Jewish community to use as scapegoats. Immigration to Iceland only really started in the 90's. We may well see some political parties on the far right emerge to take advantage of directionless anger. Hopefully, the anger will be better directed at those more deserving of it.

In any case, immigrant communities haven't really set root here, and many people will simply leave. Still, it is a bad omen that the first weekend after the collapse saw 13 violent attacks reported to the police in a single night. This may well be a record.

The main difference between Fascism now and in the 30's is that at the time, it was a new and unproven idea. We have now seen what it leads to and, hopefully, this will ensure that we don't have to go down that road again. Nevertheless, the idea of a controlled economy allied with nationalist arrogance is bound to make some sort of return. In Russia, it already has.

## THE LEFT-REDS

It is not just parties of the far right who will benefit at the polls. Parties of the left will tone down their feminism and environmentalism and start taking a greater interest in the economy. The Left-Greens are the one major party in Iceland that can be said to be blameless for our current predicament. They will now benefit by not being in power, the same way that Obama benefitted by having had no part in the Iraq War. But if they fail to offer solutions, those with more radical ideas will become louder. Instead of the Left-Greens, we may end up with the Far-left-Reds. The era of identity politics is over. We're back to class struggle now.

But history never repeats itself completely. In the 30's, when things seemed to be going well in the Soviet Union as seen from the outside, communism was a better proposition than it is now. And yet communists failed to take power in any country during the Great Depression. It will be harder to be a communist now, after we know what happened in the Soviet Union. So many people will want a new ideology for a new Depression.

## THE SECOND COMING?

But the most vibrant ideology these days goes back a long way. Even during happier times, people were starting to turn to religion when the market failed to provide them with purpose. Not only the parties of the left, but also others who have warned against the dangers of excessive greed will benefit. As people begin to lose their material wealth, they will turn for comfort to the one party that has always been willing to provide it. Now, as the rich are becoming poor, the first last, there is much in the Bible that will seem apt.

History should have taught us that giving political power to the clerics has never been a good idea. But history is no guarantee that mistakes will not be repeated. If worst comes to worst, religion will become the greatest threat to democracy, the Nazism of the 2010's.

## THE GREAT DEPRESSION OF THE 2070'S

None of this is to say that we are witnessing the end of capitalism. But we are seeing the end of its most extreme form, laissez-faire. Neither capitalism nor communism functioned very well when taken to their extremes. The social democracies of the Nordic countries became the richest countries in the world, as well as those that took the best care of its citizens. Sadly, Iceland decided to go in a different direction. It must now pay the price. In any case, this will probably be last depression caused by Wall Street. The Great Depression of the 2070's will start in Shanghai. Winter has come. We won't see spring again for a long time. 

CD REVIEWS



**THE VERDICT**  
The lights are broken on the 80's disco ball

**LISTEN**  
www.myspace.com/motionboys

**MOTION BOYS**

Hang On



REVIEWED BY MARCUS WALSH

It's very scary when a contemporary band sound like seasoned professionals from another decade, like when Scissor Sisters wail home about the dear 1980's. It's even more terrifying when a new band are a carbon copy of a carbon copy and the Motion Boys sound a lot like the Scissor Sisters. Of course there are a lot of other acts you can throw into the cauldron like Elton John or Wham and mix it together in one big sickly, cheesy poison. The trouble is you want to slurp up a bit more because you know it's bad for you and it becomes addictive. Even if 'Hold Me Closer To Your Heart' and 'Five To Love' have a couple of girly squeals that make you want to stand in front of the mirror singing into a pink glittery hairbrush, it would be much better to do this to Prince who knew the true essence of the 1980's a lot better than these boys do.



**THE VERDICT**  
Very good indie record with a few flaws

**LISTEN**  
www.myspace.com/mammut

**MAMMÚT**

Karkari



REVIEWED BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE

With "Karkari," this young quintet from Reykjavík basically follows the same direction they started on their self-titled debut two years ago. Their fundamentals – guitar-based indie-rock – have stayed the same but the body of their work seems to be less experimental. It is catchy melodies (like right at the beginning in the refrain of the opener "Endir") that set this album's character apart. This does not make "Karkari" a superficial pop-record. The songs are still complex, sometimes eccentric, and packed with ideas. It just gives you the feeling that the band got better and more to the point. The earthy production underlines the strong points of this band – primarily, the outstanding singing and excellent guitar work. The album also has a few shortcomings, for example, the quite lame "Dyradóttir" or the subsequent title-track with its somehow half-baked motif. However, apart from such smaller flaws, "Karkari" is a very, very good indie-rock record.

CONCERT REVIEW BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE— PHOTO BY GAS



THIS GUY GREW UP AMONG RATTLE SNAKES IN THE DESERT. TO HIM THE WORD OASIS ACTUALLY HAS A POSITIVE MEANING.

**Desertification Way up North**



As an avid Kyuss fan, I went to Cafe Amsterdam with mixed expectations this evening. On the one hand, I was looking forward to see a particular member of the group playing live; but then again, disappointment is never far away when you enter a show with such high hopes. Fortunately, everything went fine.

Let's start from at beginning: the opener of the night was Krummi (Mínus) and Daniel's (Gus-Gus) new band, Esja. Their bluesy Western sound fit very well into this evening's desert rock line-up that practically forced people to come in with cowboy hats and spurs. Esja's powerful beginning of their driving set started off well for half an hour. However, after that the set seemed to lose its way with dreary mid-tempo songs.

When Brain Police started, the room was packed. The band was already being celebrated before they even began playing. Their show thrilled the frenetic crowd, sometimes a little too much (did that girl in the first row really lick the singer's sweaty belly?). They served amazing 45 minutes of billowing vapour of sound. The whole

place was vibrating during their set; I don't know if it was their guitar and bass sound that caused the window next to me crack, but surely, it could have! As a bow to Brant Bjork, they played Kyuss's "100 Degrees" as the penultimate song, which brought the euphoria in the audience to its zenith.

Brant Bjork and the Bros. did a rollicking good job headlining, as their dusty 70s rock was a gnarly hybrid between hypnotic stoner tunes and harder Jimi Hendrix-style riffs which led one patron to become the first stage diver I have seen here in Iceland. Okay, it was his third try and he got carried out of the venue after he had fallen off the stage when he tried for his fourth drunken time; but still, I will remember the third! BBB even came back for an encore after their one-and-a-half hour set. So in summary, everybody had fun. 🍻

**WHO**

Esja  
Brain Police  
Brant Bjork and the Bros

**WHERE**

Amsterdam

**WHEN**

Saturday, September 27

**THE VERDICT**

Grand revelry in honour of Wahwah...



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KOLLI ROCKING THE TYPICAL SKÁTAR LOOK

## Life Will Never Suck



As capitalist society as we know it collapsed, as ways of life and modes of thought became instantly outdated, I found myself standing in the middle of Kaffibarinn, humming along to Skátar. And what a way to celebrate the end of that life sucking era of caviar-munching lightweights and their oversized fucking cars. A huge grin on my face, I was mesmerised by their skronky delight and complex rhythms, the blood curdling presence of frontman Markús and the sheer fucking delight of witnessing all those well-rehearsed spurts of creativity. My ears bled, and I was thankful for it. We all bleed. That will never change.

As guitarist Benni stumbled through yet another of his non-solos, a thought came to mind: even if Iceland devolves back to a semi-Third World country whose residents feed on boiled haddock and potatoes in-between stints of actual physical work for a living, this place will still be pretty awesome. Because we've already imported most of everything we need. So many guitars to bang on, so many drumkits to strum, keyboards, saxophones, tambourines, and all these aweso-

me people to do so – not to mention refined ways of distilling all sorts of juicy alcohol – we will be able to keep the party going for a long time still.

I missed all of closing band Sykur (had to go home to read angry blogs about the economy) and most of opening band Sudden Weather Change (was home reading angry blogs about economy). I've seen SWC a bunch of times by now and have always left impressed by their spirit as well as their songs (those two don't always mix). Judging by what I heard from the back of Kaffibarinn that night, they are still going strong. I look forward to listening to their début while reading desperate blogs about the economy.

I made my way to the front for Skátar. I stood there gaping for all of their set, only pausing briefly to jot down my cool realisation that no matter where the complete collapse of capitalism takes us, life will never suck as long as we have 1) A room, 2) people to fill it, 3) some instruments, 4) folks as unabashedly creative, disciplined and joyful as Skátar to play 'em, 5) beer. 🍺

### WHO

Skátar,  
Sudden Weather Change,  
Sykur

### WHERE

Kaffibarinn

### WHEN

Thursday, October 2

### THE VERDICT

Life is good!

## CD REVIEWS



### THE VERDICT

Convincing debut between classic rock and country

### LISTEN

[www.myspace.com/esja](http://www.myspace.com/esja)

### ESJA

Esja



REVIEWED BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE

As plain as the decent black artwork is, the music on this self-titled debut "Esja" contains dusty rock-music that you would expect more in the deserts of southern California than in the northern frostiness of Iceland. This album in its best moments combines the darkness of the Stone Temple Pilots with the nonchalance of old country heroes like Tom Petty. Unfortunately the quartet cannot keep up the enormous thrill of songs like "Wind Machine", "Hit it" or the pensive "Sound on Sound" through the whole record. The vocals are often just too simple and unimaginative. This is even more of a pity, because Daniel's voice is actually perfect for Esja's music. The songs "Till the end" or "Don't Know Anything" also disappoint for their dull song writing. However the good moments prevail, which makes this a successful debut in the end.



### THE VERDICT

Heavy metalcore in the vein of Atreyu, Devil Wears Prada or As I Lay Dying

### LISTEN

[www.myspace.com/shogunice](http://www.myspace.com/shogunice)

### SHOGUN

Charm City



REVIEWED BY MARCUS WALSH

Shogun approaches hardcore from the metal side, as you can tell by the choice of metal band T-Shirts that the fivesome from Reykjavik are wearing for the promo photo: Norma Jean, Devil Wears Prada. These are perfect examples of the direction Shogun is heading. "Charm City" has everything you would connect to a Ferret or Tooth&Nail band: ultra-heavy mosh-breakdowns, 80s metal guitar-licks, sweet emo-vocals and growls from the darkest depths. Actually Shogun has done quite a job here, the songs are diversified and crisp, and the performance and the production are both very professional. The big catch is that Shogun do not really come up with new ideas. That is why "Charm City" is a good summary of the genre in the end – and will therefore definitely find an audience – but lacks it's own memorable character.

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Great Moments  
in Icelandic History

When it comes to feats of strength, Iceland rules the world. With a world-leading eight World's Strongest Man championships, the country is internationally renowned for its formidable bodybuilding fortitude and virility. Many Icelanders proudly remember when burly Jón Páll Sigmarsson lifted the country up to become an international powerhouse in strength athletics. A master of the dead lift, Sigmarsson won the World's Strongest Man competition a groundbreaking four times (1984, 1986, 1988 and 1990).

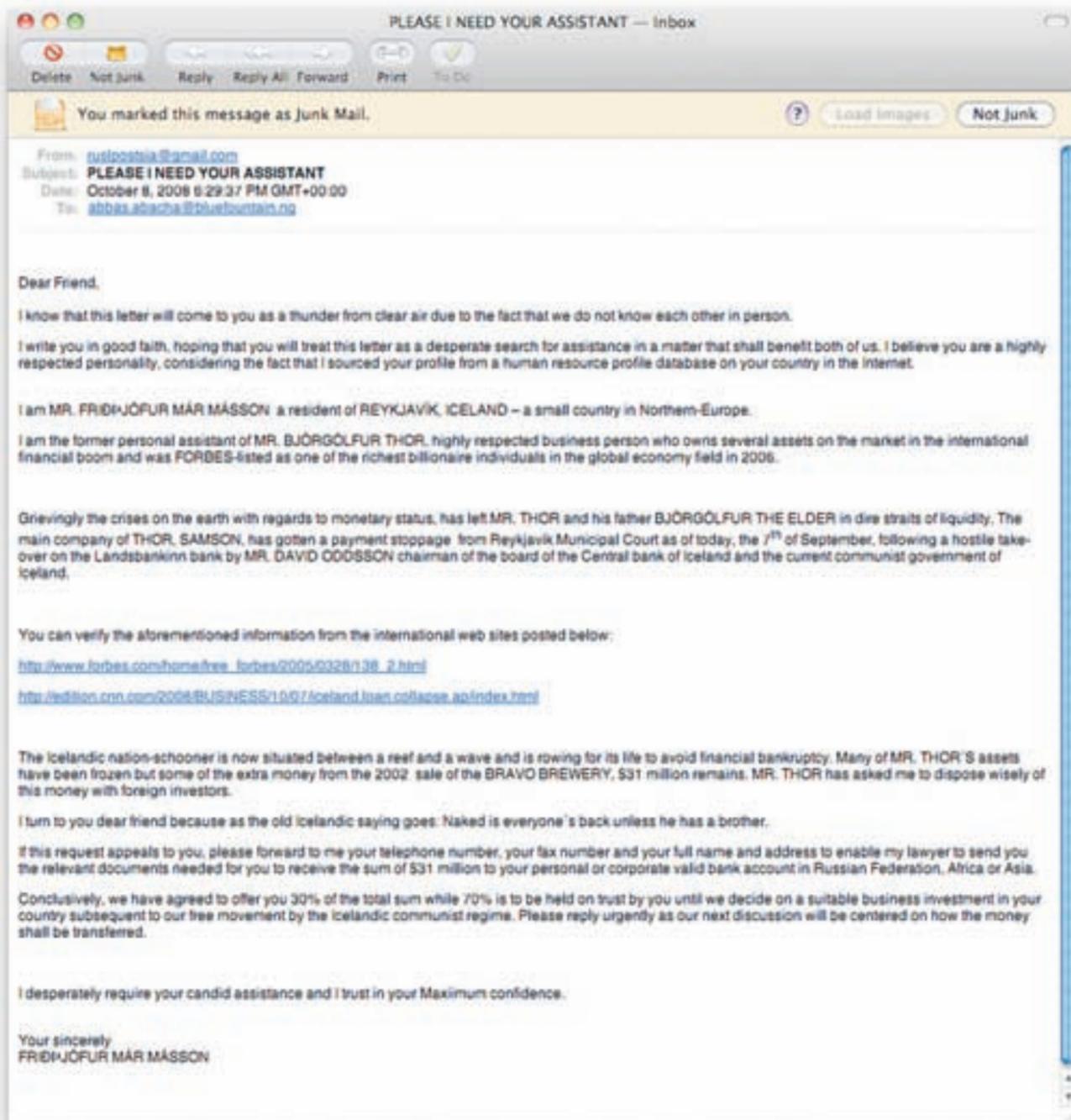
Throughout most of the 1980s, Sigmarsson was a larger-than-life figure with an ostentatious Viking persona. After bountiful powerlifting sessions, Sigmarsson became well known for busting out intimidating, heavily Icelandic-accented one-liners. According to legend, during the 1985 WSM competition, a heckler called him an Eskimo; Sigmarsson turned around, confronted the man and bellowed "I am not an Eskimo! I AM A VIKING!" This authoritative catchphrase, often imitated by WSM fans, would forever be associated with Sigmarsson.

He also, to this day, holds the record for dead-lifting at the knees, lifting a gargantuan 523 kg at the 1987 Pure Strength Ultimate Challenge Competition. In 1989, Sigmarsson famously crushed a bicycle with his bare hands on Icelandic television; the twisted metal remains are now on prominent display at the Iceland Sports Museum in Akranes. Tragically, Sigmarsson died in 1993 at age 32 from a heart attack while attempting a dead lift in his gym, doing the thing he loved to do best.

In the years that have passed since his untimely death, Sigmarsson has remained a largely influential figure in the pantheon of Icelandic sport. Iceland's other World's Strongest Man, Magnús Ver Magnússon, fondly reflected back upon his old friend, rival and fellow countryman. He vividly remembered how Sigmarsson motivated him to get involved in the sport.

"He's what you'd call a pioneer; the sport wasn't so big back then. I was inspired by him," said Magnússon. "When I started training out on the east coast, I watched him on TV, I said to my friends, one day, like Jón Páll, I'll be there."

He remembered competing amicably with Sigmarsson at many events such as the Highland Games and recollected on how he loved to interact with his fans. "I remember that he was lively, he loved to play with the crowd," said Magnússon. 🐾

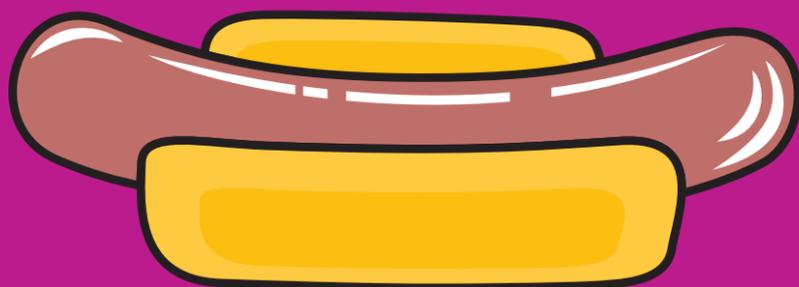
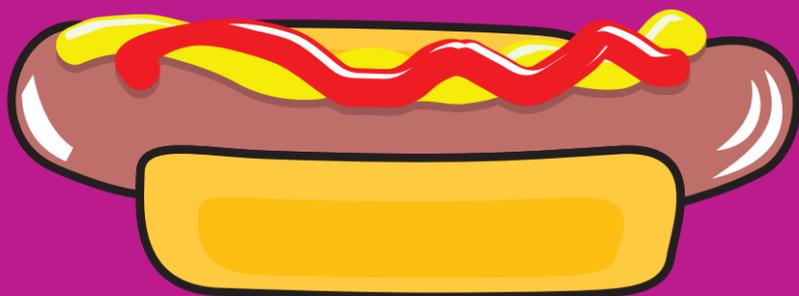


## Spam Alert!

*Icelandic criminals may try to defraud you*

Our attention has been brought to a growing number of scam e-mails stemming from Iceland following the increasing financial instability on the domestic front. The unsolicited e-mails are being sent to foreigners, seemingly in order to lure them into giving away enough personal information for the dishonest senders to be able to transfer foreign money to Icelandic accounts. The Grapevine has received one such letter from a watchful Nigerian, where the unscrupulous sender, using a false identity, claims to be a former assistant to Mr. Björgólfur Thor Björgólfsson, one

of Iceland's richest businessmen. We wish to warn against these hoax letters, especially since there is such a fine line between truth and lies, laughter and tears and belief and naïvety in moments of crisis such as the one we are currently going through in Iceland. 🐾



## Different Town?

www.visitakureyri.is

ARTICLE BY HAUKUR S. MAGNÚSSON

## Icelandic Fish In All Its Forms

*Say Hello To Your New Diet*

**You've probably heard all about our little economic collapse. For us Icelanders, it's pretty much back to basics now. No more Caviar and Brut, no more imported Kobe Beef and foie gras – we are once more at the mercy of our rich fishing grounds for grub. To prepare some of you for your future diet, we shed some light on the various fish processing methods. They come in three categories, dried, salted and rotted.**

### STOKKFISKUR

From the 17th throughout the 19th century, most fish in Iceland was processed into the so-called "Stokkfiskur." That entails it being cut open, the spine removed and it laid out for flat on rocks for drying throughout the fishing season. This was a preparation for export, as well as domestic use. Icelanders used to beat the dried fish up with a mallet and eat it thusly, whilst foreigners soaked it in oils and fluids and made soups and stews out of it.

### SKREIÐ

Icelanders don't really eat skreið, but it was a vital export of ours throughout the 20th century. In English, it is called "dried stockfish" and is made by hanging whole gutted cods to dry in special sheds for a month and a half. It is then packed up in burlap and shipped off to Nigeria, where they use it in soups and stews. These days, Nigerians can't afford the skreið so much; they rather import shipments of dried fish heads that are processed the same way.

### HARÐFISKUR

A more processed version of Stokkfiskur, Harðfiskur is a local delicacy and is even being exported to Norway these days. The fish is filleted, and the fillets are hung on a stick in a so-called "Harðfiskhjallur" (hard fish shed) for ten weeks. It is then beaten and consumed with butter. This processing method works for haddock, cod and ocean catfish. This method became popular in the latter part of the 19th century and the early 20th, and has been going strong ever since.

### SIGINN FISKUR/KÚLAÐUR STEINBÍTUR

The "half-drying" method was a popular one throughout the 20th century. It basically entails gutting the fish and letting it hang for two weeks, then boiling it and eating with butter and potatoes. When it's done to haddock or cod, it's called "sigin fiskur" ("lowered fish"), and when it's done to catfish it's called "kúlaður steinbítur" ("balled catfish"). Both courses are considered a delicacy among Icelanders past the "pizza age".

### SALTFISKUR

Around 1850, Icelanders started importing salt from Spain, and at the same time processing cod with it, often exporting it right back to Spain (where it's known as Bacalao). The cod salting methods were based on those perfected by the Basque nation, and entailed removing the cods' spines and intestines, opening them up and stacking them in a pile of salt for a month. The cod was then placed on a rocky surface, where it dried in the sun. Then they sold it to Spain, and Brazil, even. Later, they started "wet-working" it, a process where they soak the cod in saltwater for ten days or so before packing it up and sending it off to Spain. The smaller fillets go to Greece.

### NÆTURSALTADUR FISKUR

"Night salted fish" is a processing method where you take cod fillets and marinate them in saltwater for the night. The day after, you eat them with butter, sheep-fat and potatoes. A true connoisseur's meal, that is.

### KÆST SKATA & KÆSTUR HÁKARL

The skate and shark are chondrichthyes, and therefore ferment when allowed to rot, as their urine is distributed through their flesh and goes through a chemical change over time. They are in fact poisonous if eaten before the fermentation process is complete. The skate is fermented by throwing it in a box and letting it lie for three weeks. It is a popular food in certain regions, and considered vital for celebrating Christmas by many Icelanders. Shark is fermented in a similar way. First, they cut it to pieces and allow it to rot for ten weeks. Then the flesh is cut into loops and hung up for an additional six weeks, so as to give it the rough texture we know and love. It is often consumed with Brennivín, as the two make an excellent combo. 

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## 32c

### *Airwaves artist to watch*

***Iceland Airwaves has another diverse line-up this year. Here is a look at another promising new acts— local hip-hoppers 32c.***

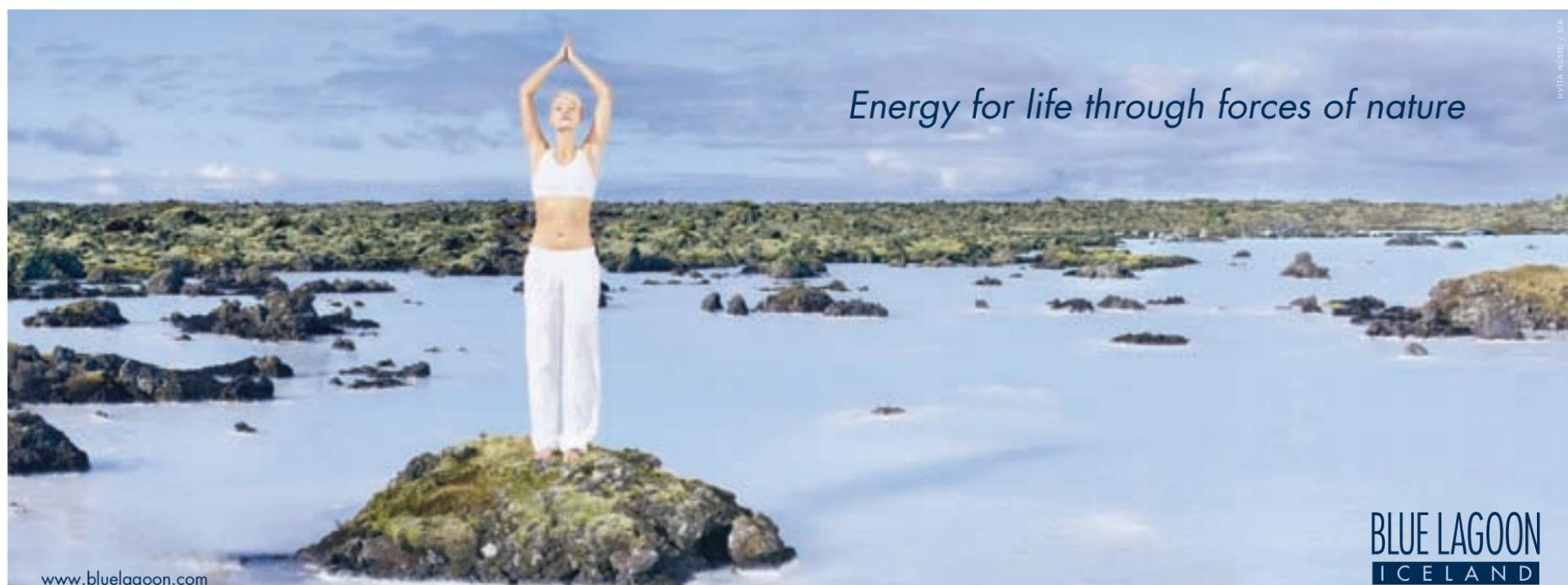
The rap duo 32c have been together for just two months. Eighteen-year-old MCs Gauti and nineteen-year-old Dabbi T have a distinguished reputation as solo rappers despite their youth.

The group was formed when Gauti and Dabbi T were drunk one night. As the boys put it, this led to all kinds of complicated feelings toward one another. “We started off by hating each other and then started loving each other. Not like that though,” reassures Dabbi T. The two rappers seem very relaxed in each other’s company as we chat at Prikið. They explain that hanging out together opened up the chance to play live shows: “We started cruising around the hood of Breiðholt. We started going to shows and doing solo sets together,” explains Gauti.

32c have already been played on a variety of radio stations around Iceland and a debut album is in the works which should help secure their place in Iceland’s small rap scene: When asked about their influences Gauti jokes, “It’s winter now, so we’re going to be emo.”

While the boys owe much of their success to dedication and the natural ability to spin lyrics, they’ve also had some help along the way. By enlisting producer Magse, also known as Nagmus, to lay down the electronic foundations for their album they have simultaneously provided themselves with a solid mentor. “He won an award at the Icelandic Music Awards in 1998 when I was 9 years old,” explains Gauti. It seems that with Nagmus on board, the group are in safe hands. “We are gonna be huge” asserts Dabbi T.

When asked what we can expect from 32c’s live show at Airwaves, Dabbi responds resolutely: “We have banging beats and fire. Just fire. Stuff you can dance to and nod your head to. The show is going to be legendary,” Gauti reinforces: “It’s going to be fire.” This is the band’s first official live show together and the hype surrounding this performance could see something set alight. [G](#)



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## DESTINATION — AKUREYRI



# A Flying Visit to Akureyri

*A day trip to Iceland's second city*

BY MARCUS WALSH - PHOTOS BY GAS

**Akureyri provides a mix of natural wonder and small town cosiness. The lofty peaks of Súgur and Hlíðarfjall overlook the pretty port and on a snowy day in early October, a day-visit was a welcome withdrawal from rickety Reykjavík.**

After a sleepy flight I quickly scored a lift into the hub of Akureyri with a girl and her uncle, who happens to make some of the most expensive ice cream in Iceland. I struck it lucky here, for there seemed to be no bus from the airport to the centre. The only options are to cab it or to indeed hitch a ride. I was dropped off at Kaupvangsstræti, reportedly the main art street.

It was cold. I was jaded. I needed coffee and paintings. The Akureyri Art Museum provided both. Inside, I discovered a curious mix of furniture, jewellery and fashion. It was like a warped-out retail space. I bypassed this visual junket as light gave way to sound. I heard a looped vocal refrain reeling me in like a helpless alevin. A tender male voice lamented the line "Sorrow Conquers Happiness," over and over again. I made my way inside the installation, through the portal that was made of pink velvet curtain. In a small private booth I found artist Ragnar Kjartansson's video installation.

Kjartansson's work, entitled 'God,' sees him fronting a chamber orchestra playing progressive, ethereal harmonies that continuously coil the same lyric around the thirty minute entirety of the piece. I didn't stay for the whole length; an artist 'playing God' in such a manner tests one's staying power. However, as I made for the exit, the allure re-emerged. Another fix was needed. I felt strangely hypnotised, looking at the artist pour his heart out into the vintage microphone. I longed to be in a different decade and this clever synthesis of 1950's attire and modern video art left a huge impression hanging over my memory of the whole trip.

Another highlight was the portrait of football player and national hero Eiður Smári Guðjohnsen of Barcelona. The artist Siggí Eggertsson

takes inspiration in everything from Lego art to a self-portrait by Henri Matisse. There was a sinister ambiance to the portrait that added a dark attribute to the nice guy that gave modest interviews during his days at Bolton Wanderers and Chelsea in England. A portrait with a dark twist indeed.

Just below the Art Museum was the Jónas Viðar Gallery which was showing the Tómt / Empty exhibit, a collection of multi-coloured stripey frames, displaying a white walled middle. This was an inverted take on the way one perceives a text, making the exterior the true subject, encouraging the viewer to literally "think outside the box". Across the street in Café Karólína, I grabbed a beer and gazed into the sub-oceanic art. There were purple swirls on the wall that made me feel like the waitress could perhaps be a mermaid herself. Karólína seemed like it could double up as a decent afternoon stop-off and a late night haunt.

Continuing my gallery crawl, I then checked out Gallery DaLí, a small studio space and workshop that's normally only available to the public during weekends. The friendly co-owner's painting of an angry polar bear holding the Icelandic flag was brilliant. She told me it was painted in response to the controversial June shooting of a polar bear in Skagafjörður, and that her art made the covers of multiple newspapers in the area. I interpreted her painting as a reputable reaction to the unfortunate shooting and I felt like the painting deserved a permanent place in a large art museum.

Afterwards, I decided to explore the town for myself and took a walk along the seafront to see the polychrome homes. It was zero degrees celsius and wrapped up warm, heading away from the hub, I felt absolute gratitude towards my location. Earlier on, when I stopped by an outdoor pursuits centre asking what they recommended doing during this early Friday evening, the rep sardonically mentioned a bowling alley about a kilometre away from the centre. Because it had been a while since I last played, I dutifully obliged. It was surreal, because there was not a soul in sight outdoors but at the alley was the local bowling contingent. Men with long hair were churning out strikes like

a process in a factory. Mixed in with the rattling of the pins was the laughter of excited children knocking down the skittles from rebounds off the bumpers. I broke through the clatter toward the shoe hire and soon started to bowl. It started well with an opening salvo of strikes but as standard in this game, everything went pear-shaped. I managed to score 92. It was only 700 ISK for a game though and was good fun.

Next, it was time for a steak. The magnificent view at Brasserie Strikið comes highly recommended. Located on the fifth floor of Skipagata 14, overlooking epic, snow-covered mountains, I could see their summits along with the pier in a sensational combination of the aquatic and alpine. I sat at the bar and had a glass of Italian house red and a Sirloin Steak with Béarnaise Sauce. Béarnaise is "an egg yolk, a shallot, a little tarragon vinegar, and butter, but it takes years of practice for the result to be perfect," said early twentieth century restaurateur Fernand Point. The chefs at Strikið were not far away from achieving this. The sauce was ambrosial in its taste and the side dish of seasoned chip-cum-wedges was mightily satisfying. The waiter didn't ask me how I liked my steak, and just served it well-done, but today I didn't mind because I was in my element. There were Oktoberfest prices for beer so 400 ISK was a bargain for a pint before my surprise birthday chocolate cake arrived at the bar. I was certainly happy but felt more stuffed than a turkey. I left in great spirits and waddled my way over to Cafe Amour whereby more Oktoberfest prices meant a couple more gluttonous beers before catching my flight back to Reykjavík. Miraculously, I didn't weigh the plane down.

Overall, I found Akureyri to be a beautiful retreat. It's not like Reykjavík has the bustle of London or Paris, or that it causes a day-to-day headache. But such a matchless place is Iceland that you can legitimately go from the largest, to the second biggest city to be at one with nature, to seek manumission from stress and to witness a humble town at the start of autumn, free from summer tourist rumble. 

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INTERVIEW BY BERGUR EBBI BENEDIKTSSON — PHOTO BY GAS



## Macbeth: Brutal and Direct

The entry hall of the Icelandic National Theatre's Smíðaverkstæði, is filled with a Shakespearean props; armor, swords and Elizabethian furniture, are scattered all over the room. The theatre-hall where the play is delivered has no props at all. It is actually more like a slaughterhouse with varnished floors and plastic covered seats. The idea behind the prop-filled entry hall versus the stripped down stage is not a coincidence.

"When people walk in they can sit down in the entry hall and have a beer surrounded by all these props that remind them of a typical Macbeth production. But when they go into the stage hall they are supposed to be stripped of everything except the play itself," explains director Stefán Hallur Stefánsson violating a long held believe that uttering the word "Macbeth" during production will curse the play.

### MACBETH: ALSO CRAZY OFFSTAGE

"Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth," says Tobias. "I don't think there is a curse. I think mishaps that take place when the play is set up have more to do with the ego of the actor playing the main role. The role is very demanding and the actor playing it has to become a maniac in some ways and that can create problems," he says and grins, perhaps because it is director Stefán Hallur who also takes on the role of the mad Scottish king and murderer. Maybe Tobias has a point though. During our conversation, Stefán Hallur has problems staying still. He walks the floors and instead of answering questions in a calm manner, he delivers short dramatic monologues about the production.

"Our goal with this production was to do something more than deliver text. We want to show rather than tell. It is supposed to be driven by action. Tobias and I examined the original English text by Shakespeare carefully and tried to find the core in the story. The dialogue was then made out of three different Icelandic translations and the outcome is

supposed to be focused on the story instead of the words," says Stefán Hallur and points out that a delivery of the original text can sometimes take more than four hours in performance but this version will be finished in about an hour and a half. "We are not dissembling the play because it is 400 years old and somebody had to do it, or because we think we are young and hip and Shakespeare is old and boring. On the contrary our goal was to show respect to the storyline and do our best to deliver that," he adds.

### STUDIED DICTATORS

So the play is not modernized or put into Icelandic context? "No it's not," says Tobias. "Still we've studied certain things that took place long after the play was written, like the relationships some Eastern-European dictators had with their wives," he says and names Ceaucescu and Milosevic as examples but their wives, like Macbeth's, played a big role in their abuse of power. "The text is not altered to put a light on contemporary events but it is so brilliantly written by Shakespeare that it does it anyway," says Stefán Hallur and points out that the play might put recent developments in Reykjavík city politics in a new perspective.

What about non-Icelandic speaking theatre-goers? Is there something in the production for them? "I think this play is more accessible to non-Icelandic speakers than many other shows in Iceland. We use stage-craft in an authentic way and at least I will enjoy the play very well though I don't speak the language," says Tobias and chuckles. ☺

### INFO

Macbeth is shown on the Smíðaverkstæðið stage of the National Theatre in November.

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DESTINATION

# South Shore Adventure

BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE — PHOTO BY GAS

Although the Golden Circle tour may include the most popular places of interest with Gullfoss, Þingvellir and the geysers, there are still a lot of things left to see in Iceland's countryside. A great opportunity to see a whole bunch of beautiful places is to travel the south shore.

Half an hour drive to the southeast from Reykjavík is the village of Hveragerði. A hot spring provides the heat for various greenhouses, where vegetables and flowers are grown. The town is like an oasis in the harsh landscape that surrounds it.

Another 50 kilometres from there you will spot Hekla, amidst the grass-farmland. The active volcano thrones majestically over green hillsides; its top is hidden by greyish clouds. It's an impressive view, which makes you understand why people in the Middle Ages assumed the entrance to hell to be under the mountain. Ascending Hekla in the summer is a popular daytrip that can be done either on foot or even better by super-jeep. Yet be aware that the time span between signalling earthquakes and an actual eruption could be less than half an hour.

Close by are the waterfalls Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss. The 66 meter high Seljalandsfoss is especially popular, because you can walk behind it. Skógafoss is not too far from the village of Skógar. It is embedded in a colourful red and green mountainscape. If you take the adventure of following the small path to the top of the waterfall you will be rewarded with an overwhelming view of the crushing water.

Iceland's southernmost town, Vík, is located about 30 kilometres from here. The town itself has not much to offer, but its hinterland has all the more. Within a few minutes' drive, you can take a walk at the black beach with a view of Reynisdrangar – black cliffs that rise sharply from the sea. You can also go trekking on Iceland's fourth biggest glacier, Mýrdalsjökull. Guided hiking tours are available all year. Thus there are good reasons to take a to the south, when leaving the capital. 🇮🇸

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## DESTINATION

## Sundhöll Reykjavíkur

BY STEVIE WARD — PHOTO BY GAS

Every village in Iceland with more than 100 inhabitants has a swimming pool, but Sundhöll Reykjavíkur on Barónsstígur is the most unforgettable. Opened in 1937 and built for 650,000 ISK, it was designed by state architect Guðjón Samúelsson, whose stunning Art Deco creations were once deemed 'too dramatic' for the Icelandic skyline. Thankfully his work has now become the classic architectural style of the capital and this building had become a muse for the remarkable photographic mural by Roni Horn, Janus and Tinna's underwater concerts in 2007 and a Gusgus's movie.

Iceland's swimming culture is vast and the popularity of the pastime is prominent in all of the venues, but the true experience at this pool in particular is in the changing room. Inspired by the countryside's turf houses, the white arched, cavernous changing rooms and 30's style locker system makes you feel like you're lost in some kind of Grecian bath or Italian labyrinth.

The naturally filtered Icelandic water means low levels of chlorine but high levels of hygiene. Although this makes for a more relaxing swim, one must wash naked before getting in; a true test of confidence for naturally prudish British or American tourists.

The inside pool is large, cool and inviting with a high diving board where you can show off your athletic prowess by doing barrel-rolls. Outside in the open-air, the hot tubs are social and fun. You can sit in the water, stewing like a manatee at any time of year, making conversation or plotting world domination with the other inhabitants whilst the water spills over the entrance way steps like a waterfall. These little pools are even better in the winter and at night, the snow and rain making you feel even more cozy and warm, the steam evaporating like smoke up into the dark Icelandic sky. It's an ideal aquatic venue for those in Iceland's capital. [G](#)

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## TOP 5 AIRWAVES MOMENTS



**Egill Tómasson**

Egill Tómasson is a 32 year old musician and staff member of the music promotion company Mr. Destiny which organises the Iceland Airwaves Festival. It is safe to say he is busy these days, as this year's festival will hold between 150 and 170 artists. Egill says people can expect an energetic and upbeat festival. "People need energy right now," says Egill, and it is hard not to link his words to the situation of the Icelandic economy. When asked to name the biggest international acts performing on this year's festival, Egill names the dance-friendly CSS, the indie-rock group Vampire Weekend, the hip Swedish electro act Familien, as well as the Canadian bands Crystal Castles and Junior Boys. He has a harder time picking out the most interesting Icelandic acts but he encourages guests to check out as many of them as possible. "We've got it all. If people want something great with an electric beat they'll find it and if they want something slow and emo it will be there for them too," says Egill.

- 1 !!! (CHK CHK CHK) AT AIRWAVES 2007**  
The concert was at Nasa and it is probably one of the best performances I've ever seen.
- 2 HOT CHIP ON NASA AT AIRWAVES 2004**  
At that time nobody really knew anything about the band. People had only heard some demos that had been circulating on the internet. Nevertheless, these guys made everybody crazy with joy.
- 3 THE RAPTURE AND MINUS AT GAUKURINN AT AIRWAVES 2002**  
Minus were performing like an Icelandic rock band had never done before and the Rapture, which had only released one single at that point, basically blew the roof away.
- 4 SIGUR RÓS PLAYED IN FRÍKIRKJAN AT AIRWAVES 2000**  
The church was filled with journalists and record company people and the band totally charmed them. It was a great moment to witness.
- 5 THE FIRST ICELAND AIRWAVES FESTIVAL**  
Gus Gus played in Hangar 4 at the Reykjavík Airport. I was just a guest then but I remember thinking: "These guys at Mr. Destiny sure are clever to organise a music festival like this in Iceland"

## TOP 5 SEQUENCES MOMENTS



**Tinna Guðmundsdóttir**

Tinna Guðmundsdóttir is a 29 year old artist and the manager of the art festival Sequences, which runs in Reykjavík from October 11 through to October 17. The festival is independent and puts focus on contemporary and avant-garde art. "This year we will have all kinds of interesting stuff," says Tinna. "I recommend a happening in Hafnarhúsið where the artist Rúri collaborates with the composer Jóhann Jóhannsson. An event in Iðnó where, among others, the French Yroyto and Transforma from Germany will do a cool interactive video-jockey set and a performance in Gróttu Lighthouse where Elín Hansdóttir and her brother Úlfur will conduct the choir of Seltjarnarnes and make it sing a scale which is hard to register whether is moving up or down," says Tinna, and points out that these examples only represent a small part of all the interesting stuff that the festival has to offer. A full schedule of events on Sequences is included in this issue of Grapevine.

- 1 THERESA HIMMER, WATERFALL, IN SEQUENCES 2006**  
A beautiful sequin wall artwork, in a superb location in Bankastræti. Very sneaky, the work has been there for two years and people are still noticing it for the first time.
- 2 RAGNAR KJARTANSSON, GOD, IN SEQUENCES 2007**  
A very ambitious and well produced solo exhibition at The Living Art Museum. Ragnar sang his philosophy in such a hypnotizing way that the artist was nominated for the Sjönlustaverðlaun, The Icelandic Visual Awards.
- 3 ANDREW BURGESS, ANOTHER PING, IN SEQUENCES 2006**  
Twisted and revolving projection on the Icelandic Parliament. Political or not, very visually pleasing and original piece.
- 4 TWISTED AND REVOLVING PROJECTION ON THE ICELANDIC PARLIAMENT**  
Political or not, very visually pleasing and original piece. Such a calm and peaceful installation on the front side of the building that Kronkron is located. Wish it could have been permanent.
- 5 CURVER THORODDSEN, JUNK FOR SALE, IN SEQUENCES 2007**  
The artist had a garage sale in the entrance of the National gallery of Iceland. The performance was very experimental and crossed institutional boundaries.

## TOP 5 FIVE GARMENTS FOR THE WINTER



**Ásta Kristjánsdóttir**

Ásta Kristjánsdóttir is a 36 year old photographer and the manager of the clothing line E-Label. She is also known for being the founder of the modelling agency Eskimo Models. Ásta's most recent project is opening a women's clothing store along with Sóley Ástudóttir. The store, which is located on Laugavegur 33, will sell products from E-Label and Sóley's clothing line Emm along with other fashion lines. "We put emphasis on classic design. Everything in the store is black and made out of strong and cosy fabrics. The garments can both be worn in a casual and dressy manner. They are supposed to be multi-purpose," says Ásta. "The target group is women from the age of 18 to 60. Women who don't have much time but always want to look stylish." Ásta also points out that people should welcome this store despite the situation in the economy. "The products are manufactured in India and are the cheapest designer's clothes in Iceland"

- 1 A DARTH VADER COAT FROM E-LABEL**  
What is better than a stylish multi-purpose garment which is also warm?
- 2 A DOWN JACKET**  
It's basically essential if you live in Iceland to own a big and warm down jacket. Instead of complaining about the weather, people should dress well. That way you enjoy the winter a lot more.
- 3 LEGGINGS FROM THE CLOTHING LINE AFTUR**  
They are good products that are made to last. It is good to own a few of them in different colours to spice up your overall style.
- 4 A HOODED SWEATER WITH A VISOR DESIGNED BY EYGLÓ**  
These sweaters come in bright and fresh colours and will make up for the lack of daylight during the winter. They are sold in Kronkron.
- 5 A GOTH SHAWL WITH A TIE-DYE PATTERN FROM E-LABEL**  
This is a type of warm and soft garment you can easily throw on if it is cold outside to make you feel better.

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## Stuffed with stuff

### *You ain't seen nothing yet...*

President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson  
teaches Brits lessons from  
"the Icelandic Economic Wonder"

**PAGE 11**

*Nazism never really took root  
in Iceland during the 30s. It  
may simply be because there  
was no significant Jewish com-  
munity to use as scapegoats.  
Immigration to Iceland only  
really started in the 90s.*

Former Grapevine editor  
Valur Gunnarsson provides an insight

**PAGE 14**

*Even if Iceland devolves back  
to a semi-Third World coun-  
try whose residents feed on  
boiled haddock and potatoes  
in-between stints of actual  
physical work for a living,  
this place will still be pretty  
awesome.*

A Grapevine journalist finds faith in life,  
the universe and everything at a Skátar gig

**PAGE 17**

*People can watch endless  
amounts of graffiti just like  
pornography; you can watch  
endless amounts of sex with  
bad production value but  
there's no context to the films.*

Bomb It' director Jon Reiss likes  
his graffiti contextual

**PAGE 8**

*I turn to you dear friend be-  
cause as the old Icelandic say-  
ing goes: Naked is everyone's  
back unless he has a brother.  
If this request appeals to you,  
please forward to me your  
telephone number, your fax  
number and your full name  
and address to enable my law-  
yer to send you the relevant  
documents needed for you to  
receive the sum of \$31 million  
to your personal or corporate  
valid bank account in Russian  
Federation, Africa or Asia.*

Friðbjófur Már Másson in a NigerIcelandic  
e-mail scam that's making the rounds

**PAGE 18**



# You are in Control

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#### Anthony Volodkin - Hype Machine

Anthony Volodkin created The Hype Machine in April 2005 in his dorm room at Hunter College and has been unable to stop thinking about how people discover music ever since. Today, more than 1 million people turn to Hype Machine to find out about new acts every month.

... and many more.

Further info and registrations at [www.icelandmusic.is/conference](http://www.icelandmusic.is/conference)

'You are in Control' is brought to you by Iceland Music Export in  
conjunction with the Trade Council of Iceland

**Special 'early bird' offer on registrations valid until September 15**

# The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE **INFO**



Music, Art, Films and Events Listings + Eating, Drinking and Shopping + Map  
+ *Stand tall with Lay Low · Jóhannes Kjarval: Master Painter · Airwaves: It's Time*

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL AND  
ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND.

Issue 16 2008

[www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is)

What:

Iceland Airwaves 2008 (B2)





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Reykjavik City Library. Tel: 563 1717. [www.borgarbokasafn.is](http://www.borgarbokasafn.is)

## Music AIRWAVES... IT'S TIME!

We've waited and waited and it's finally here. Bands from all over the world will be heading to down town Reykjavik October 15-19 to play their hearts out at the biggest music festival in Iceland. Keep your eye out for up and coming bands that will knock your socks off as well as old favourites that are ready to delight you with their killer live shows. This year's line up includes international band like Vampire Weekend, El Perro Del Mar and These New Puritans and local bands like FM Belfast, Benni Hemm Hemm and Celestine.

In addition to the music check out the special screenings of the film Electronic Reykjavik and the party at the Blue Lagoon.

With over 150 bands this year, this festival will take endurance (to hit up act after act and dance, dance, dance,) concentration (to study the schedule and know which acts you want to see,) and a high tolerance for alcohol. So start training now.

**What**  
**Music Festival**  
**Where:**  
**Several Venues in Downtown Reykjavik**  
**When:**  
**October 15-19**

Check out: [www.icelandairwaves.com](http://www.icelandairwaves.com) for more information



## Music STAND TALL WITH LAY LOW

Since 2006, Lovisa Elísabet Sigrúnardóttir, guitarist and keyboarder for the popular group Benny Crespo's Gang, has performed nationwide by her stage name Lay Low. In her short time in the limelight, Lay Low has had quite an impact on the Icelandic music scene. She won two Icelandic Music Awards in 2006 and was voted most popular Icelandic artist shortly after. Her sultry vocals and her confident stage presence make her a memorable starlet with a knack for folk rhythms. A prolific songwriter as well, Lay Low has a poetic lyricism that recalls an edgier Alison Krauss.

This will be the release show of her new album, "Farewell Good Night's Sleep", which will be released in Iceland on the 16 October. Lay Low is also performing at this year's Airwaves the same night, so consider this performance a preview.

**Where:**  
**Fríkirkjan Church**  
**Laufásvegi 13, 101 Reykjavík**  
**When:**  
**Thursday, October 16, 21:00**

**1** E8



## Art MASTER PAINTER

Johannes Sveinsson Kjarval who lived from 1885 to 1972, is know as an Icelandic art legend and is Iceland's most famous painter. He is so well respected that his portrait is depicted on the 2000 krona banknote. His work is on display now until December 31 at the Reykjavik Art Museum.

The painter grew up on the East Borgarfjord bay and much of his artwork features the soft colours and the rich texture of the bucolic countryside. He filled his work with a mixture of the rugged landscapes of Iceland and the mythical sprit of the country's culture and history. His work has been exhibited around the world at prestigious art galleries like the Chelsea in New York and the Museum of Modern Art.

**Where:**  
**Reykjavik Art Museum**  
**Tryggvagata 17**  
**When:**  
**Now - December 31**  
**Open 10:00 - 17:00 daily**

**2** E5

If you would like to be included in the Grapevine listings, free of charge, contact the Grapevine by email at [listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is).

## Music & Entertainment

### FRIDAY OCT 10

- **Apótek**  
21:00 Live Music with various DJs.
- **Café Cultura**  
23:00 DJs Karius and Bactus.
- **Café Paris**  
DJ Andri Ramirez and Stjáni.
- **Glaumbar**  
23:00 Miller Time with DJ Lurkur.
- **Hressó**  
21:00 Troubadours Gotti and Eysi live.  
23:00 DJ Kristján.
- **Kaffibarinn**  
23:00 DJ Alfons X.
- **Laugardalshöll**  
20:00 Vilhjálmur Vilhjálmsson.
- **Nordic House**  
20:00 Celtic and Scottish dance night with live band Ceilidh. Cost: 1200 ISK.
- **Oliver**  
23:30 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Retro Stefson in concert.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 DJ Manny
- **Rósenberg**  
23:00 Múlinn Jazz Comany presents another three days of live jazz.
- **Sólon**  
23:00 Party downstairs, dance upstairs.
- **Tunglið**  
23:00 DJ Tweak.
- **Vegamót**  
DJ Simon.

### SATURDAY OCT 11

- **Apótek**  
Live music with various DJs.
- **B5**  
23:00 DJ Jónas.
- **Café Cultura**  
23:00 Party Zone Party.
- **Café Paris**  
23:00 DJ Andre.
- **Glaumbar**  
DJ Stjáni.

- **Hressó**  
22:00 Live band Galaxia in concert.
- **Iðno**  
23:00 Heimilstónar.
- **Kaffibarinn**  
23:00 DJ Casanova.
- **Laugardalshöll**  
20:00 Vilhjálmur Vilhjálmsson.
- **NASA**  
23:00 DJ James Holden and Nathan Fake.
- **Oliver**  
23:30 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Skratz Showcase. Free Booze. DJs Gisli Galdur, Benny B Ruff and Addi Intro.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 DJ Shaft (House / Garage / Nu Jazz).
- **Rósenberg**  
23:00 Andres þor Trio.
- **Sólon**  
23:00 Open until red morning. DJs all night long.
- **The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra**  
14:00 Gypsies - A family concert.
- **Vegamót**  
23:00 Hannes and Benni.

### SUNDAY OCT 12

- **B5**  
Live music.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Hangover Movie Night.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 live band Misery loves Company

### MONDAY OCT 13

- **Háskólabíó**  
20:00 Ella Dís.

### TUESDAY OCT 14

- **Oliver**  
22:00 Live Music.
- **Q-Bar**  
22:00 Open Mic with Elin Ey and Myrra.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 The Memphis Mafia.

### WEDNESDAY OCT 15

- **Around Down Town Reykjavik**  
Iceland Airwaves Festival.

- **B5**  
DJ Leifur.
- **Café Cultura**  
23:00 DJ Kári
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 DJ Ási.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Sigga Dis in concert.
- **Sólon**  
23:00 DJ Andres and 110.

### THURSDAY OCT 16

- **Around Down Town Reykjavik**  
Iceland Airwaves Festival.
- **B5**  
23:00 DJ Einar.
- **Café Cultura**  
21:00 Mau Live (PT) and DJ Árni.
- **Frikirkja Church**  
21:00 Lay Low release concert.
- **Glaumbar**  
23:00 Beat Box with OjBa Rasta Dub.
- **The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra**  
19:30 Sibelius Symphony Cycle.
- **Oliver**  
21:00 Live music.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Jazz: Draumar and SpilisSpilis.
- **Sólon**  
21:00 Troubadour on second floor.
- **Vegamót**  
23:00 DJ Gorilla funk.

### FRIDAY OCT 17

- **Around Down Town Reykjavik**  
Iceland Airwaves Festival.
- **Apótek**  
23:00 Dance music with various DJs
- **B5**  
23:00 DJ Jonas.
- **Café Cultura**  
23:00 Tab 22, DJ vasco Fortes, GusGus DJ set.
- **Café Paris**  
23:00 DJ Andri Ramirex and Stjáni.
- **Glaumbar**  
23:00 DJ Valdi.
- **Hressó**  
1:00 DJ Maggi.
- **Kaffibarinn**  
23:45 Psychedelic / Alternative / Club.
- **Oliver**  
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Mike Pollock and Kentucky blues grass.

## Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

**22** Laugavegur 22 | **G7**  
A popular place among the city's party scenesters, this three storied bar makes for a great night out with chatting upstairs and dancing downstairs with regular DJs.

**Amsterdam** Hafnarstræti 5 | **E6**  
Kaffi Amsterdam seems to have been around forever, though recently it's been reinvented as a live venue. Good music, cheap beer, and colorful characters to be found.

**Apótek** Austurstræti 16 | **E5**  
Sporting a chic and pristine interior with a healthy club atmosphere.

**B5** Bankastræti 5 | **F6**  
By day a chic little bistro with good food and a prime location for Laugavegur people watching | by night a stylish bar with a "whiskey room" and manhattanesque clientele.

**Bar 11** Laugavegur 11 | **G6**  
The sweetest Rock joint on the northern hemisphere. Mötley Crüe would have played this bar 25 years ago and still be talking about it.

**Belly's** Hafnarstræti 18a | **E5**  
Belly's deserves praise for having the cheapest bar prices around.

Good for anyone looking for a deal, there are enough tables for everyone and TVs for sport | watching.

**Bjarni Fel** Austurstræti 20 | **E5**  
Named after the Iceland's most legendary sports commentator, this is the place for the three Bs: ball, burger and beer.

**Boston** Laugavegur 28b | **H6**  
A fresh addition to the Reykjavik bar scene. Roomy bar floor, nice sofas and stylish interior make this a comfy café as well as a tavern with good, unintrusive music.

**Café Cultura** Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**  
Cultura is a café/bar with a party feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.

**Café Paris** Austurstræti 14 | **E5**  
With an outdoor terrace, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.

**Café Victor** Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D4**  
Victor attracts a diverse crowd, both in age and origin, a role that extends to the musicians that play there.

**Celtic Cross** Lækjargata 26 | **H6**  
Arguably the most authentic Irish pub outside Ireland, a very lively space where you'll often find live music, sometimes two bands playing at once.

**Dillon** Laugavegur 30 | **H7**  
The quintessential rock pub Dillon serves moderately priced drinks, and has pretty good music, too. The mix of students and tattooed tough guys always creates a fun atmosphere.

**Dubliner** Hafnarstræti 4 | **E5**  
The city's main Irish pub attracts quite a lot of foreigners, though there's an influx of locals on weekends. Good if you're looking for the darker stuff on tap.

**Glaumbar** Tryggvagata 20 | **E4**  
The premier sports bar in town, though after the final whistle, DJs take the floor and begin a night of feverish dancing.

**Grand Rokk** Smiðjustígur | **G6**  
As its Viking theme accurately displays, this hardcore chess hangout is no place for the lily livered. Take the pub quiz on Fridays at 17.30, the winner gets a free case of beer!

**Highlander** Lækjargata 10 | **E7**  
If you prefer Scottish to Irish, this might be the place for a single malt.

**Hressó** Austurstræti 20 | **E5**  
With a spacious neutral interior, pleasant courtyard and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd. Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.

**Hverfisbarinn** Hverfisgata 20 | **G6**  
After a long line, you'll get in and wonder what all the fuss was about. You may end up here if you're still going at 4 on a Sunday morning, in which case it's just as good as any.

**Kaffi Hjómáland** Laugavegur 23 | **G6**  
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great food and coffee but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.

**Kaffibarinn** Bergstráðastræti 1 | **F6**  
A popular place to grab a drink after work, this daytime coffee joint rolls with night-time activity on weekends with live DJs. Parties often pound until dawn.

**NASA** Þorvaldsenstræti 2 | **E6**  
The main live venue in town. If you are look-

ing for a decent band, chances are you'll find it at NASA.

**Næsti Bar** Ingólfstræti 1A | **F6**  
On nights where queues snake down Laugavegur, Næsti Bar can be great place to sneak off to and chat with friends over a beer. Frequenting also by the literary and acting elite.

**Oliver** Laugavegur 20A | **H7**  
This nightclub attracts a crowd of crazy dancers that may not be for everyone. In which case, air conditioning and fine food make Oliver a good lunch spot.

**Ölstofan** Vegamótastígur | **G6**  
No tricks here. You'll want just simple beer in this simple pub. Also the hangout for Reykjavik intellectual circles

**Prikið** Bankastræti | **F5**  
Part of the Reykjavik bar scene for decades, this café/bar has a fairly cheap menu and attracts a mix of students and old regulars. R&B and Hip-Hop plays on weekends.

**Q-Bar** Ingólfstræti 3 | **F6**  
A roomy gay/straight bar. Some of the best DJs in town play regularly, making it an especially lively space on weekends.

**Rex** Austurstræti | **E5**  
Rex is quite fancy and you may feel out of place if you don't dress up a bit. One of the more posh spots in town.

**Rósenberg** Klappartígur 25 | **G7**  
Live music venue that has something to offer every single night, ranging from rock to jazz to poetry. You name it, they got it.

**Sólon** Bankastræti 7A | **F5**  
Truly a jack of all trades establishment. By night a decent restaurant, by day a café/bistro and on Friday and Saturday nights a nightclub. Art exhibitions on the walls to top it off.

**Thorvaldsen** Austurstræti 8 | **E5**  
Dress formally for this fancy spot, and come before 12 to avoid a long line. DJs play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

**Vegamót** Vegamótastígur 4 | **G6**  
Vegamót's kitchen is open until 22.00 daily and sports an appealing lunch menu. Come for a tasty brunch on weekends. If you like Óliver, try Vegamót and vice versa. The party goes on late.

Upcoming...  
**Releases**  
Our releases

Iceland Airwaves  
Label Night  
Oct. 15th

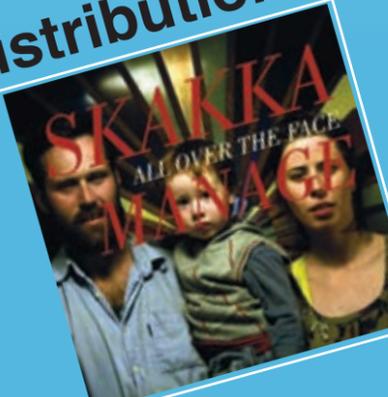


**Retro stefson - Montaña**  
Released October 15th



**Reykjavík! - The Blood**  
Released October 15th

**Distribution**



**Skakkamanage - All Over the Face**  
Released November 1st



**FM Belfast - How to Make Friends**  
Released October 15th

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Listings

- **The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra**  
19:30 Sibelius Symphony Cycle.
- **Vegamót**  
23:45 DJ Simon.

SATURDAY OCT 18

- **Around Down Town Reykjavik**  
Iceland Airwaves Festival.
- **Apótek**  
21:00 Dance music with various DJs.
- **B5**  
23:45 DJ Simon.
- **Café Cultura**  
21:00 Majjker live, DJ Nuno Lx and DJ Avanty.
- **Glaumbar**  
23:00 DJ Valdi.
- **Hressó**  
1:00 DJ Maggi
- **Oliver**  
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Hangover cinema.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Party Zone Night with Multiple DJs.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Hraun concert.
- **Sólón**  
23:00 Downstairs: Party. Upstairs: Dance.
- **The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra**  
17:00 Sibelius Symphony Cycle.
- **Vegamót**  
22:00 DJ Hannes.

SUNDAY OCT 19

- **B5**  
21:00 Live band chillout.
- **Café Cultura**  
21:00 Iberian DJ set, Avanty, Vasco Fortes, and Nuno Lx.
- **Hallgrímskirkja**  
17:00 Concert by the oratorial choir of Nidaros cathedral. from Trondheim, Norway.
- **Prikið**  
21:00 Hang-Over Cinema. Popcorn and Coke available.
- **Rósenberg**  
23:00 Andrea Gylfa.

TUESDAY OCT 21

- **Oliver**  
21:00 Live music.

- **Q-Bar**  
21:00 Open Mic with Elín Ey and Myrra.
- **Rósenberg**  
20:00 Hek band.

WEDNESDAY OCT 22

- **Café Cultura**  
23:00 DJ Gauti.
- **Kaffibarinn**  
23:00 Bedroom Community #4. Ben Frost feat. Borgar Magnússon.
- **Kaffitár Café**  
20:00 Tango Milonga.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Milk night with DJ Rósa.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 DJ Ási.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Árstíðir band.
- **Sólón**  
23:00 DJ Andres & 110.

THURSDAY OCT 23

- **B5**  
23:00 DJ Jónas.
- **Café Cultura**  
23:00 DJ Örn.
- **Glaumbar**  
23:00 Bit Box Rvk Beat Generation.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Live music by troubadours Jogan and Vignir.
- **Oliver**  
21:00 Live music.
- **Prikið**  
23:00 Milk night with DJ Gaudi.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 DJ de la rosa.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Múlinn Jazz Company present another 3 days of live jazz.
- **Sólón**  
21:00 Troubadour on second floor.
- **Salurinn**  
21:00 Svona eru Menn.
- **The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra**  
19:30 A Gypsy Gala.
- **Vegamót**  
23:00 DJ Hannes.

FRIDAY OCT 24

- **Apótek**  
23:00 Dance DJ.
- **B5**  
23:00 DJ Einar.

- **Café Cultura**  
23:00 DJ Jón Atli.
- **Café Paris**  
23:00 DJ Andri Ramirex and Stjáni.
- **Glaumbar**  
23:00 DJ Lurkur.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Live music by Mama's Handbag.
- **Oliver**  
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikið**  
21:00 HipHop Hip Hop act 32c Crew in concert. After that DJ Danni Deluxe.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 DJ de la rosa.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Hraun concert.
- **Salurinn**  
21:00 Svona eru Menn.
- **Sólón**  
23:00 Party downstairs, dance upstairs.
- **Tunglið**  
23:00 DJ Casanova.
- **Vegamót**  
23:00 DJ Jónas.

SATURDAY OCT 25

- **Apótek**  
23:00 Dance DJs.
- **B5**  
23:00 DJ Leifur.
- **Café Cultura**  
23:00 Alfons X.
- **Café Paris**  
23:00 DJ Andri Ramirex and Stjáni.
- **Glaumbar**  
23:00 DJ Lurkur.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Live music by band Ímynd followed by DJ Stjáni.
- **Kaffibarinn**  
23:00 DJ Kari.
- **Oliver**  
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Band Ultra Mega Technóbandið Stefán in concert. After that DJ Anna Brá.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Somewhere farewell concert.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Ljótu fávitarnir.
- **Sólón**  
21:00 Party downstairs, dance upstairs.
- **Tunglið**  
23:00 DJs AJ and Ghozt.



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Katrín Elvarsdóttir / Sigrún Sigurðardóttir

# HEIMA-HEIMAN

13. sept. - 23. nóv. 2008

## HOME-AWAY

LJÓSMYNDASAFN REYKJAVÍKUR  
Reykjavik Museum of Photography

Tryggvagata 15, 6th floor - 101 Reykjavik - Tel. 563 1790 - [photomuseum@reykjavik.is](mailto:photomuseum@reykjavik.is) - [www.photomuseum.is](http://www.photomuseum.is)  
Opening hours 12-19 mon-fri, 13-17 weekends - ADMISSION FREE

Art | Venue finder

101 Gallery

Hverfisgata 18A | **F6**  
Thu-Sat 14-17 and by appointment  
[www.101hotel.is/101hotel/101gallery/](http://www.101hotel.is/101hotel/101gallery/)  
Located in the 101 Hotel, features a broad selection of international and local contemporary art.

Artótek

Tryggvagata 15 | **D5**  
Mon 10-21, Tue-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-19, Sat and Sun 13-17  
[www.sim.is/index/islenska/Artotek](http://www.sim.is/index/islenska/Artotek)  
An Icelandic art exhibition space and art dealer. Pieces are available for purchase or lease.

ASÍ Art Museum

Freyrugata 41 | **G10**  
Tue-Sun 13-17  
Run by the ASÍ labour union, features mostly contemporary Icelandic art. Free entry.

Árbæjarsafn

Kistuhylur 4  
An open-air museum featuring arts-and-crafts fairs and exhibitions in the summer.

The Culture House

Hverfisgata 15 | **F6**  
Open daily 11-17  
[www.thjodmenning.is](http://www.thjodmenning.is)  
A Museum of Icelandic cultural history, with an ongoing exhibition of the original manuscripts of the sagas and eddas.

Dwarf Gallery

Grundartígur 21 | **H8**  
Opening Hours: Fri and Sat 18-20  
[www.this.is/birta](http://www.this.is/birta)  
An independently run basement Gallery,

Gallery Dwarf hosts exhibitions which speak straight to the hearts of the "cute" generation.

The Einar Jónsson Museum

Eiríksgata | **G9**  
Tue-Sun 14-17  
[www.skulptur.is](http://www.skulptur.is)  
Features a permanent exhibition on the sculptor Einar Jónsson as well as temporary exhibits.

Fótógrafi

Skólavörðustígur 4a | **F7**  
[www.fotografi.is](http://www.fotografi.is)  
Features photographic exhibitions by local photographers.

Gallery 100°

Bæjarháls 1  
[www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100/](http://www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100/)  
Open weekdays from 08:30-16:00  
An art museum run by the Orkuveita Reykjavíkur energy corporation. Features contemporary art by Icelandic and foreign artists.

Gallery Auga fyrir Auga

Hverfisgata 35 | **G7**  
Independently run art museum featuring Icelandic art.

Gallery StartArt

Laugavegur 12B | **G7**  
Tue-Sat 1-17  
[www.startart.is](http://www.startart.is)  
Contemporary Icelandic and foreign art. Admission is free and the gallery is run without any government funding.

Gallery Ágúst

Baldursgata 12 | **F9**

Wed-Sat 12-17  
[www.galleriagust.is](http://www.galleriagust.is)

Gallery Ágúst is a contemporary art gallery in the centre of Reykjavik. With an ambitious programme of exhibitions, it also presents and sells art-work of Icelandic and international artists.

Gallery Fold

Rauðarástígur 14-16 | **J9**  
Mon-Fri 10-18 / Sat 11-16 / Sun 14-16  
[www.myndlist.is](http://www.myndlist.is)  
More of an art auction than just a gallery, Fold also evaluates and exhibits art.

Gallery Kling & Bang

Hverfisgata 42 | **G7**  
Thurs-Sun from 14-18  
[this.is/klingogbang/](http://this.is/klingogbang/)  
Exhibits upcoming and established contemporary artists as well as hosting screenings, lectures and performances.

Gallery Turpentine

Ingólfrstræti 5 | **F7**  
Tue-Fri 12-18 / Sat 11-16  
[www.turpentine.is](http://www.turpentine.is)  
Houses a collection of Icelandic contemporary artwork as well as works from old Icelandic masters both for display and sale.

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre

Gerðuberg 3-5  
Mon-Thu 11-17 / Wed 11-21 / Thu-Fri 11-17 / Sat-Sun 13-16  
[www.gerduberg.is](http://www.gerduberg.is)  
Located in Breiðholt, the Gerðuberg cultural centre hosts both exhibitions and events.

Hitt Húsið

- Gallery Tukt  
Pósthússtræti 3-5 | **E6**  
[www.hitthusid.is](http://www.hitthusid.is)  
Initially thought of as a hobby centre to keep the youth from drinking, Hitt húsið is still operational and organises events as well as hosting art exhibitions in their Gallery - Gallery Tukt.

i8 Gallery

Klapparstígur 33 | **G7**  
Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and by appointment.  
[www.i8.is](http://www.i8.is)  
Represents work by an eclectic mix of Icelandic and international contemporary artists.

Living Art Museum

Vatnsstígur 3 - **G7**  
Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17 / Thu 13-22.  
[www.nylo.is](http://www.nylo.is)  
A non-profit gallery that organises 8-10 larger exhibitions every year as well as other cultural events.

Lost Horse Gallery

Skálastræti 1 | **F6**  
Weekends from 13-19 and by appointment on weekdays.  
Located in a renovated stable off Laugavegur, features work by local artists.

The National Film Archive

Hvaleyrarbraut 13  
[www.kvikmyndasafn.is](http://www.kvikmyndasafn.is)  
The National Film Archive of Iceland screens old movie classics and masterpieces twice a week for 500 ISK per ticket.

The National Gallery of Iceland

Frikirkjuvegur 7 | **E8**  
Tue-Sun 11-17  
[www.listsafn.is](http://www.listsafn.is)  
Houses the national art collection and is the centre of research and documentation of Icelandic art.

The National Museum

Suðurgata 41 | **C9**  
Open daily 10-17  
[natmus.is/](http://natmus.is/)  
Established in 1863, this museum features exhibits on Icelandic cultural heritage.

The Nordic House

Sturlugata 5 | **C11**  
Tue-Sun 12-17  
[www.nordice.is/](http://www.nordice.is/)  
Explores and promotes Scandinavian culture with regular lectures, films and exhibitions.

The Numismatic Museum

Einholt 4 | **K9**  
Open Mon-Fri 13:30-15:30.  
Presents a cultural history of Iceland through analysis of collected coins, medals and books.

Reykjavík 871+/-2

Ádalstræti 17 | **D6**  
Open daily 10-17  
Museum on the founding of Reykjavik. Located in the oldest house in the city. Tours in English on Mondays and Saturdays at 14.00

Reykjavík Art Gallery

Skólugata 28 | **H6**  
Tuesday through Sunday 14-18  
The city's public art gallery features works by Icelandic artists.

Reykjavík Art Museum

Open daily 10-16  
[www.listsafnreykjavikur.is](http://www.listsafnreykjavikur.is)  
Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum  
Sigtún Hafnarhús  
Tryggvagata 17 | **E5**  
Kjarvalsstaðir  
Flókagata | **K11**  
Specialising in contemporary art by local and international artists. Free entrance.

Reykjavík City Theatre

Listabraut 3  
Presenting Icelandic music and dance performances as well as dramatic theatre, produces six new shows each year.

Reykjavík Maritime Museum

Grandagarður 8 | **C3**  
With a fishing trawler-turned-exhibit space, educates on the maritime and fishing traditions of Iceland.

Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Tryggvagata 16 | **D5**  
Weekdays 12-19 / Sat-Sun 13-17  
[www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is](http://www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is)  
Features work by local and international photographers, as well as an archive on the history of photography.

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

Laugarnestangi 70  
Features a permanent exhibition of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson's works.

## Event

# ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME THAT WE GAVE PEACE A CHANCE?

Last year, Yoko Ono visited Viðey Island on November 9 to light the Imagine Peace Tower, a project that started in 2006 to commemorate John Lennon. She returned this year to relight the tower and rekindle the spirit for which it was created.

The beacon of light will shine on from Lennon's birthday, October 9th, until the anniversary of his death on December 8th. The tower emits a

20-metre high beam of white light that can be seen across Reykjavík with the hopes that it will remind us of her late husband and his vision of peace.

The light is projected from a white stone well carved with the words "imagine peace" in twenty-four languages. Buried beneath the tree are hundreds of thousand of written wishes from all over the world.

The light can be reached by ferry to

Viðey Island from Reykjavík's Skarfabakki pier, which depart every day at 20:00.

**What:**  
Imagine Peace Tower

**Where & When:**  
Viðey Island  
Now until December 8



## UPCOMING CONCERTS

11.10.08 @ 2 pm | GYPSIES – A FAMILY CONCERT  
Conductor | Sebastian Tewinkel  
Soloist | Rachel Barton Pine  
Host | Barbara the Clown

16.10.08 @ 7.30 pm | SIBELIUS SYMPHONY CYCLE I  
Conductor | Petri Sakari  
Soloist | Sigrún Eðvaldsdóttir  
Jean Sibelius | Violin Concerto  
Symphony nr. 1  
Symphony nr. 3

17.10.08 @ 7.30 pm | SIBELIUS SYMPHONY CYCLE II  
Conductor | Petri Sakari  
Jean Sibelius | Symphony nr. 2  
Symphony nr. 4

18.10.08 @ 5 pm | SIBELIUS SYMPHONY CYCLE III  
Conductor | Petri Sakari  
Jean Sibelius | Symphony nr. 5  
Symphony nr. 6  
Symphony nr. 7

20/21.11 @ 7.30 PM YOUR FAVORITE BAROQUE\*  
Conductor | Nicholas Kraemer  
Soloist | Dominique Labelle

Georg Friedrich Händel | Gloria  
Georg Friedrich Händel | Lascia la spina  
Georg Friedrich Händel | Ti pentirai, crudel  
Georg Friedrich Händel | Water Music, suite nr. 2  
Henry Purcell | Chacony  
Henry Purcell | Dances from King Artur  
Henry Purcell | Dido's Lament  
Johann Sebastian Bach | Orchestral Suite nr. 3  
Johann Pachelbel | Canon and Gigue

\*At Langholtskirkja Church

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## 10 COMMANDMENTS OF MENTAL HEALTH

1. Think positively; it's easier
2. Cherish the ones you love
3. Continue learning as long as you live
4. Learn from your mistakes
5. Exercise daily; it enhances your well-being
6. Do not complicate your life unnecessarily
7. Try to understand and encourage those around you
8. Do not give up; success in life is a marathon
9. Discover and nurture your talents
10. Set goals for yourself and pursue your dreams

LÝÐHEILSUSTOÐ  
- (BÍÓ HÉI)

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## Art

# EQUIVOCAL

If you have yet to see Equivocal, the simple yet striking exhibit of Icelandic photographer Katrín Elvarsdóttir latest work, it's not too late. The exhibit has been given an extension and will be showing at Gallerí Ágúst until November 11. This the second time the show has been extended since Katrín was nominated for the prestigious 2009 Deutsche Börse Photographic Prize in September.

Katrín describes her work thusly: "We are inside looking out. We are outside looking in. A woman in a red coat, a mobile home after midnight, yellow curtains – these are all clues in a fragmented narrative that raises questions rather than provides answers. In the photography series 'Equivocal' we witness enigmatic events that we inadvertently have

taken part in. Like uninvited guests in a scenario that refuses to reveal whether it is fact or fiction. The fragments combine in multiple ways and force upon us incomplete story lines of an ambiguous nature. Whether we like it or not."

**What:**  
Photo Exhibition  
**Where:**  
Gallerí Ágúst  
Baldursgötu 12  
**When:**  
Now – November 11

3 F9



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Listings

- **Vegamót**  
23:00 DJ Siman.

SUNDAY OCT 26

- **B5**  
21:00 Live band chillout.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Hangover Movie Night.
- **Kaffibarinn**  
23:00 DJ Alfons X.

TUESDAY OCT 28

- **Oliver**  
21:00 Live music.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Open Mic with Elin Ey and Myrra.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 The Memphis Mafia.

WEDNESDAY OCT 29

- **Kaffitár Café**  
21:00 Tango Milonga.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Milk night with DJ Óli Q.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 DJ Ási.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Ferlegheit band.
- **Solón**  
23:00 DJ Andres & 110.

THURSDAY OCT 30

- **B5**  
23:00 DJ Leifur.
- **Café Cultura**  
23:00 DJ Einar Sonic.
- **Glaumbar**  
23:00 Beat Box Multiphonies.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Troubadours Jogvan and Vignir.
- **Oliver**  
21:00 Live Music.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Milk night with DJ Moonshine.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Sexual Chocolate.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Múlinn: Gröndal, Johnson and more.
- **Solón**  
21:00 Troubadour on second floor.
- **Vegamót**  
23:00 DJ Simon.

FRIDAY OCT 31

- **Apótek**  
23:00 Dance DJs.
- **B5**  
23:00 DJ Einar.
- **Café Cultura**  
23:00 Halloween Party with DJ Kiki Ow.
- **Café Paris**  
23:00 DJ Andri Ramirez and Stjáni.
- **Glaumbar**  
23:00 DJ Atli.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 The Believers (UK) followed by DJ Maggi.
- **Oliver**  
21:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Coxbuster Party; Double release concert: Bands Regnsko and sampling.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Sexual Chocolate.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Krummafótur band.
- **Solón**  
23:00 Party downstairs, upstairs dance.
- **Vegamót**  
23:00 DJ Simon.

SATURDAY NOV 1

- **Apótek**  
23:00 Dance DJs.
- **B5**  
23:00 DJ Dance.
- **Babalú**  
21:00 Halloween Party with costumes and food.
- **Café Paris**  
23:00 DJ Andri Ramirez and Stjáni.

- **Glaumbar**  
23:00 DJ Valdi.
- **Hressó**  
23:00 DJ Maggi.
- **Oliver**  
21:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Halloween with Haffi Haff, DJ Karius and Baktus.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Krummafótur band.
- **Solón**  
23:00 Party downstairs, upstairs dance.
- **Vegamót**  
23:00 DJ Simon.

SUNDAY NOV 2

- **B5**  
23:00 DJ Leifur.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Andrea Gylfa / Eddi Lor.

MONDAY NOV 3

- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Blues-Band Reykjavík.

TUESDAY NOV 4

- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Blusakademia.

WEDNESDAY NOV 5

- **Solón**  
23:00 DJ Andres & 110.

THURSDAY NOV 6

- **B5**  
23:00 Party with DJ.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Troubadours Jogvan and Vignir are playing live.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Múlinn Jazz Comany.
- **Solón**  
22:00 Live music with various bands.

FRIDAY NOV 7

- **B5**  
23:00 Party with DJ
- **Café Paris**  
23:30 Party with DJ.
- **Kaffibarinn**  
23:30 Jack Schidt.

Art

- **101 Gallery**  
Aug 22 - Oct 10  
ZEDRIK - Installments by Sigga Björg Sigurðardóttir
- **Artótek**  
Sept 11 - Oct 19  
Exhibition by Ólöf Björg
- **ASÍ Art Museum**  
Sept 27- Oct 19  
Haraldur Jónsson - Myrkurlampi. An Exhibition that is both "a state of mind and an extension to ones body".
- **The Culture House**  
Permanent exhibitions:  
*Medieval Manuscripts*;  
The Library Room.  
Current exhibitions:  
*Surtsey - Genesis*  
The exhibition traces the emergence and evolution of the island Surtsey until the present day and predicts its geographical and ecological development over the next 120 years.  
*From Beyond the Oceans - Translations and original writings by Helgi Hálfðanarson*  
The thematic exhibition currently on view in the Library Room is dedicated to Helgi Hálfðanarson's translations and original writings. The Late View - Halldór Laxness' *Photographs*  
Nobel Laureate and cosmopolitan Halldór Laxness was better known for his writing but also proved to be a good photographer. This is an exhibition of his works.  
*Exhibition Series*  
Ásta Ólafsdóttir displays her artwork at the Culture Shop.

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CHECK OUT THE SAVINGS!

- **Dwarf Gallery**  
Oct 3 - Oct 6  
This is a Circle: An exhibition by Natalija Ribovic & Toru Fujita in memory of Úlfur Chaka Karlsson
- **The Einar Jónsson Museum**  
Permanent exhibition:  
The work of sculptor Einar Jónsson.
- **Fótógrafi**  
A new exhibition opens monthly with works of various photographers
- **Gallery 100°**  
Oct - Nov  
Leonardo Da Vinci. An exhibition of Da Vinci's drawings and machines.
- **Gallery Ágúst**  
Oct 4 - Nov 1  
Exhibition: IN VISIBLE INK
- **Gallery Fold**  
Current exhibition: Gallery Fold's summer exhibition. Paintings by Ásgrímur Jónsson, Jón Stefánsson, Jóhannes S. Kjarval, Finnur Jónsson, Þorvaldur Skúlason, Jóhann Briem and Nína Tryggvadóttir
- **Gallery Kling & Bang**  
Oct 4 - Oct 24  
Sequences / Trommusóla / Drum solo Trommusóla / Drumsolo
- **Gallery StartArt**  
Sept 25 - Oct 29  
Six exhibitions by Ragnhildur Stefánsdóttir, Kristín Reynisdóttir, Björn Birnir, Björn Valdimarsson, Gréta S. Guðjónsdóttir, Kristveig Halldórsdóttir, Ása Ólafsdóttir and Þórdís Alda Sigurðardóttir
- **Gallery Turpentine**  
Now - Nov 4  
Helgi Þorgils Fridjonsson
- **Gerðasafn**  
Oct 4 - Nov 16  
**Ecuadorian Cultural Festival**
- **Gerðuberg Cultural Centre**  
Sept 12 - Nov 2  
Mola. An exhibition of knitting art by Colombian Indian tribe Cuna.  
Sept 21 - Nov 2  
Video Art exhibition.
- **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.
- **i8 Gallery**  
Sept 12 - Oct 26  
Pleinairism: An exhibition of works by: Francis Alys, AA Bronson, Paul Chan, Tacita Dean and many many more.
- **Living Art Museum**  
Aug 16 - Sept 29  
Tillit - rücksicht - regards  
Exhibition by Hlynur Hallson  
Sept 9 - Oct 18  
Grassroot 2008-Björk  
Viggósdóttir-Guðmundur Vignir Karlsson-Halldór Ragnarsson-Jeanette Castroni-Jóna Hlíf Halldórsdóttir  
Oct 11 - Oct 22  
Bj Nielsen-Darri Lorenzen-Finnbogi Pétursson-Ingólfur Arnrásson-Mika Vanio-Bjorn Quiring
- **The National Film Archive of Iceland**  
The National Film Archive of Iceland screens old movie classics and masterpieces twice a week for 500 ISK per ticket.
- **The National Gallery of Iceland**  
July 10 - Sept 28  
Exhibition: Highlight of Icelandic Art  
At the annual summer exhibition at the National Gallery of Iceland the emphasis is on different periods in modern and contemporary Icelandic art. Each part of the exhibition focuses on a certain period in the short history of Icelandic art since it was first recognised as a profession, and various aspects of development in art are explored in light of social change- Ongoing  
Sept 25 - Oct 5  
An Exhibition by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat who has for decades been in the forefront of artists who use video to express her particular criticism of Iranian society. The prohibition of women singing publicly, or the fact that

mentally ill women do not have to veil their hair are examples of her keen eye for curiosities concerning reigning political system, which she reproaches for its ambiguous position in terms of sexual discrimination.  
Oct 11 - Dec 2  
Love at First Sight: Modern and temporary art from the Würth collection  
The private collection of the German industrialist Reinhold Würth has grown enormously during the last decades. It is now considered one of the largest private collections in Europe in terms of modern and contemporary art. The exhibition displays the recent acquisitions from this important private collections, where Impressionist works to contemporary German and international art will be on display.

- **The National Museum**  
Permanent exhibition:  
The Making of a Nation  
June 6 - Jan 21  
Over the Ocean and Home: Icelandic artefacts from Sweden.  
Sept 27 - Nov 30  
The Nation, the Country and the Republic: Exhibition of the works of photographer Vigfús Sigurgeirsson, both photos and videos from between 1928 and 1958.  
Sept 28 - Oct 12  
Prjónaheimur Lúka: Twin sisters Gunnhildur and Brynhildur exhibit a collection of hand knitted design clothing.
- **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.
- **Reykjavík 871 +/- 2**  
Permanent exhibition:  
The Settlement Exhibition
- **Reykjavík Art Gallery**  
Current exhibition:  
Magnús Tómasson, Pétur Már Pétursson and Tolli
- **Reykjavík Art Museum - 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.
- **Reykjavík Art Museum - Hafnarhús**  
Sept 18 - Nov 2  
Everybody is Doing What They Can:  
Libia Castro and Ólafur Ólafsson. The two artists have worked together since the late 1990s, building up a strong body of work which focuses on social issues and the sharing of life experiences. Their work has a strong political core and gives voice to people on the margins of our society, migrants and asylum seekers.  
Sept 18 - Jan 11  
Parallel Universes  
A private Exhibition by Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir  
Sept 27 - Jan 11  
Imaginary Friends:  
Exhibition by Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir
- **Reykjavík Art Museum - Kjarvalsstaðir**  
18 May - 31 Aug  
Dreams of the Sublime and Nowhere in Contemporary Icelandic Art:  
This exhibition includes many new works of photography and video art by Iceland's most outstanding artists, building on their disparate ideas about nature as a phenomenon.  
18 May - 31 Aug  
Where Am I?: An exhibition in which children and adults can contemplate their planet, their country, and the landmarks of their environment.  
18 May - 31 Dec  
Jóhannes S. Kjarval - Key Works: The current exhibition in Kjarvalsstaðir's east gallery features key works from the

- museum's collection along with works on loan from the Labour Unions' Art Gallery and from the collection of Ingibjörg Guðmundsdóttir and Þorvaldur Guðmundsson.  
13 Sept - 16 Nov  
Visual Symphony - The Art of Bragi Ásgeirsson for 60 Years
- **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.
- **Reykjavík Museum (Árbæjarsafn)**  
Current exhibitions:  
Building Techniques in Reykjavík 1840-1940; Disco and Punk - Different cultures?; Christmas is Coming; History of Reykjavík - from farm to city; Memories of a House; Living and Playing
- **The Reykjavík Museum of Photography**  
Sept 13 - Nov 23  
Home/Away Photography  
Exhibition: An exhibition documenting over 50 years of asylum seekers in Iceland, charting back to 1956.
- **Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum**  
Permanent exhibition:  
Works of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson.

## OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

For more information about art outside Reykjavík visit [grapevine.is](http://grapevine.is)

# Art THE BANK OF JOY

The summer of 2008 was a rush for many, but it would probably appear as a rather dull season compared to the lunacy that photographer Jói Kjartans experienced this summer. He has diligently captured his series of fortunate razzles on film and the whole collection will be on show on October 25 and 26 in Kolaportið, Reykjavík's flea market. At the time of print, none of the photos intended for the exhibition had been developed due to financial difficulties, so even the photographer himself

doesn't know what to expect. But if you want to find out if the rumblings about the crazy summer nightlife in Iceland are factual, check out the, probably, hazy but untamed exhibition called "The Bank of Joy".

**What:**  
**Photo Exhibition**  
**When:**  
**October 25-26** 4 **E5**  
**Where:**  
**Kolaportið Flea Market**



Listasafn Reykjavíkur  
Reykjavík Art Museum



**Kjarvalsstaðir**  
**Bragi Ásgeirsson**  
**Visual Symphony**  
13 September - 16 November



**Hafnarhús**  
**Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir**  
**Parallel Universes**  
18 September 2008 - 11 January 2009

# Reykjavík Art Museum



**Hafnarhús**  
**Ólafur Ólafsson & Libia Castro**  
**Everybody is Doing What They Can**  
18 September - 2 November



**Ásmundarsafn**  
**Water Carrier**  
22 August - 31 December  
Watercolours by eleven artists

**Hafnarhús**  
Tryggvagata 17 daily 10-17  
Thursdays to 22

**Kjarvalsstaðir**  
Flókagata, daily 10-17

**Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum,**  
Sigtún, 1.5.-30.9. daily 10-16  
1.10.-30.4. daily 13-16

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**Medical help:** 1770  
**Dental emergency:** 575 0505  
**AA:** 551 2010  
**Information:** 118  
**Telegrams:** 146

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**Iceland Refund,**  
Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 564 6400  
www.is.eurorefund.com

**Opening Hours**

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

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

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

**The State owned ÁTVR liquor stores:** Mon-Thu 11-18, Fri 11-19, Sat 11-18. Banks in the centre are open Mon-Fri 09-16.

**Tourist Information**

**Icelandic Travel Market**  
Bankastræti 2, Tel: 522 4979,

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

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

**Getting Around**

**Public Transport**  
The only public transport system in Reykjavík is the bus. Most busses run every 20 minutes and price per fare is 280 ISK for adults and 100 ISK for children. Complete route map at: www.bus.is. Tel: 540 2700

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

**Taxi**

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

**BSR,** Tel: 561 0000

**For disabled travellers:**  
Reykjavík Group Travel Service,  
Brunastaðir 3, Tel: 587 8030,  
www.randburg.com/is/reykjavik\_group\_travel\_service/

**Airlines**

**Air Iceland,** Reykjavíkflugvöllur,  
Tel: 570 3030, www.flugfelag.is

**Air Vestmannaeyjar,**  
Tel: 481 3255, www.eyjaflog.is

**Bus Terminal**

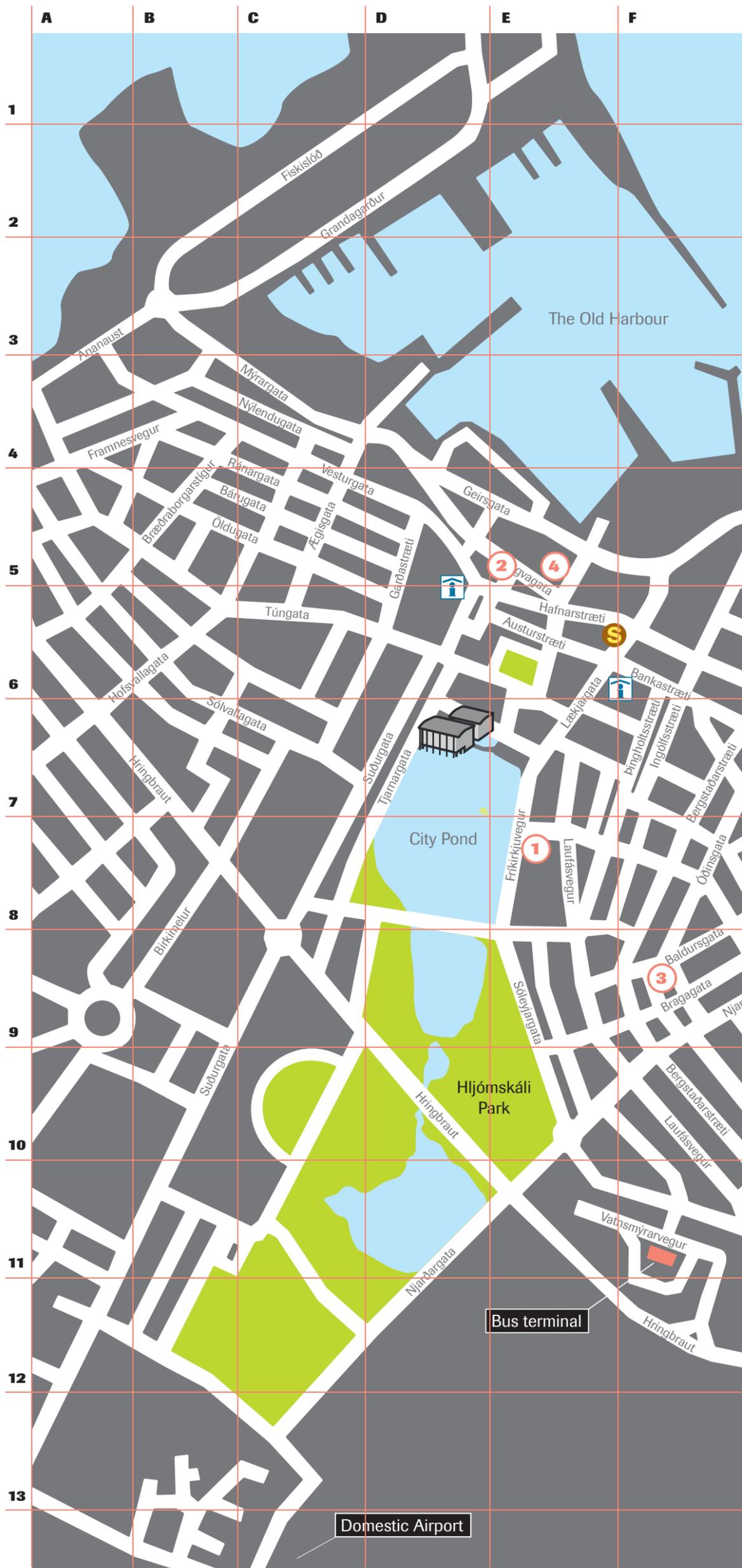
BSÍ, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10,  
Tel: 562 1011, www.bsi.is

**Flybus**

Busses run daily from the BSÍ Bus Terminal to Keflavík International Airport in connection with all departing flights. Departures daily from 04:45 to 15:00/16:30 (every 15 - 60 minutes). For Flybus time schedule see: www.flybus.is

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IN MY OPINION

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**Reykjavík  
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City Map**

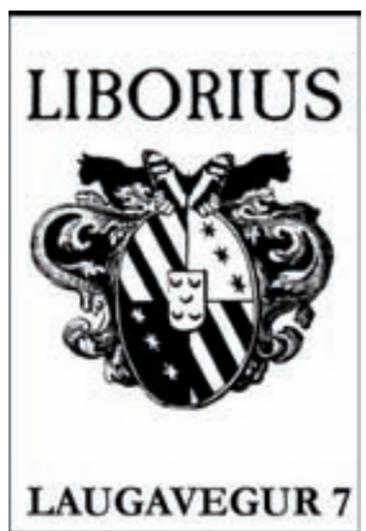
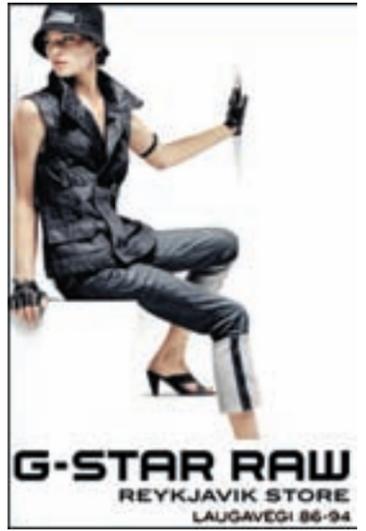
**What's this  
thing?**



These things are pretty useful, check it out: Every venue that's mentioned in our info section gets a little marker like this, which will help you locate it on our map. Say you want to try out "Lystin" after reading our review - no problem, sir, just look up the corresponding icon on the map!



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## Food SEGURMO

Reviewed by **Desiree Andrews** — Photo by GAS

Boston has been known as a staple of Reykjavík nightlife. The bar is kept busy on most nights as people pile in from the cold. And while the atmosphere is cosy and mellow during the early hours of the evening making it perfect for dinning, this place has been known more as a bar than a restaurant. But all that is about to change with the opening of Segurmo, chef Númi Thomasson's newest endeavour. The menu offers five dishes and, with the exception of the first two starters, it changes weekly. The first starter is plockfiskur, a traditional Icelandic fish stew. Its hearty texture and mild yet pleasant taste of potatoes and fish makes for the ideal winter food.

The second starter, kjötsúpa, another Icelandic favourite, was a straightforward meat soup prepared with the perfect combination of winter tubers and topped off with green onions that added just enough spice. The menu continued its seasonal theme with a mushroom filled with quinoa served with warm beet root

slices, roasted pine nuts and parmesan.

My favourite selection of the evening was a piece of fresh fish on a bed of roasted winter vegetables accented with a date and parsley-coriander salsa. In this dish, sweet flavours of caramelized onions and dates mixed with the potent roasted garlic and coriander to heighten the taste of the fish. Every ingredient worked together so well it was as if they had never been separate—a flawless entrée. The final meal was a foal steak with couscous, green cabbage and light coconut sauce. Again the accompaniments were thoughtfully and expertly chosen to highlight the delicate favour of the meat. There is a respect that goes into cooking dishes that are this simple. The chef seems to know that if something is cooked well it will be good without a smattering of spices that can disguise the natural flavour. Instead, he chooses the highest quality of ingredients to begin with and lets the food do the work for him.

Where:

**Boston,**  
**Laugavegur 28**  
**101 Reykjavík**

**6** H8

How much:

**1000-1500 ISK**

What we think:

**This comfort food will make you feel like you're back at grandma's kitchen table**



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<b>TUESDAYS:</b> Gratinated fish Lamb cutlets Meatballs	<b>THURSDAYS:</b> Lamb meat & broth Lamb cutlets	<b>SUNDAYS:</b> Roast pork Lamb cutlets
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## Food & Drink | Venue finder

### 3 Frakkar

Baldursgata 14 | **F9**  
A seriously Icelandic atmosphere and traditional Icelandic dishes prepared in the good old-fashioned way. RSVP and keep your ears pricked for wild whaling tales!

### Af lífi og sál

**Restaurant**  
Laugavegi 55b | **7H**  
A high street backyard restaurant where the menu changes every night, so who knows what's for dinner? But serving such dishes as grilled dolphin, bacalao and kangaroo, you can't go wrong by dropping by for lunch or dinner.

### Aktu Taktu

Skúlugata 15 | **K8**  
This drive-in destination in 101 Reykjavík is busy day and night and the burgers are especially tasty. The caramel shakes are a local favorite.

### American Style

Tryggvagata 26 | **E5**  
With a soft bun and lots of veggies, you can settle into a booth and eat for hours. Big portions for authentic American dining.

### Argentína Steak-house

Barónstígur | **I8**  
True to its name with tender steaks and flamingly vibrant South American décor. Generous portions, fine wine, liqueurs and ci-

gars make an excellent choice in fine dining.

### Austurlanda-hraðlestin

Hverfisgata 64A | **H7**  
Though a bit expensive for take-away, it is well worth it for a spicy bite of this Indian cuisine. A few tables to the side for those who choose to dine in.

### Á Næstu Grösum

Laugavegur 20B | **G7**  
Regarded by many to be the best vegetarian place in town, "First Vegetarian" offers a healthy and tasty menu of vegetarian and vegan dishes. Indian theme on Fridays a hit.

### B5

Bankastræti 5 | **F6**  
By day a chic little bistro with good food and a prime location for Laugavegur people watching—by night a stylish bar with a "whiskey room" and Manhattanesque clientele.

### Babalú

Skólavörðustígur 22A | **G8**  
It's tough to miss café Babalú walking up Skólavörðustígur. A cozy place for coffee and cake, the well-worn, homey ambience makes it difficult to leave.

### Bæjarins Beztu

Tryggvagata | **E6**  
The oldest fast-food in Iceland, it is feasibly

the best hot dog stand in Europe. Don't be intimidated by the perpetual line in front — an absolute must and worth the wait.

### Café Cultura

Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**  
Cultura is a café/bar with a party feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.

### Café Loki

Lokastígur 28 | **G9**  
With a splendid view of Hallgrímskirkja, Café Loki is the perfect place to take a load off your feet and enjoy some solid homemade Icelandic food.

### Café Paris

Austurstræti 14 | **E6**  
With an outdoor terrace, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.

### Café Roma

Rauðarárstígur 8 | **J9**  
Roma, an Italian deli and café, offers a variety of breads, soups as well as tempting desserts. For a good bargain, come at lunchtime for the specials.

### Café Victor

Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D6/E6**  
A hangout for older foreigners, Victor attracts a diverse crowd,

both in age and origin, a rule that extends to the musicians that play there.

### Domo

Pinghóltsstræti 5 | **F7**  
The elegantly decorated Domo serves delicious French-Asian cuisine, excellent sushi and has a great wine list. A sure choice.

### Eldsmíðjan

Bragagata 38A | **G9**  
Totally satisfying oven-baked pizza with a wide choice of toppings—snails an unusual specialty. Well worth the cost. Order, take away or eat comfortably among the paintings.

### Fiskmarkaðurinn

Aðalstræti 12 | **D6**  
Run and co-owned by the national team of chefs, this establishment specializing in Japanese cuisine has everything planned to the last detail, ensuring a relaxing evening.

### Geysir Bar/Bistro

Aðalstræti 2 | **D6**  
Sited in the dignified Geysir Building at the corner of Vesturgata and Aðalstræti, this stylish bistro is always a good place to grab a tasty bite for a reasonable price.

### Garðurinn

Klappastígur 37 | **G7**  
"Ecstasy's Heart" is a simple, friendly, family-run vegetarian restaurant on Klapp-

parstígur. Offers an ever-changing menu of specials and soup du jours, alongside a basic menu

### Grái Kötturinn

Hverfisgata 16A | **G7**  
Legendary for its early opening ours, the Gray Cat serves amazing breakfasts and coffee that packs a wallop. A splendid way to start you off on your day.

### Grillhúsið

Tryggvagata 20 | **E5/E6**  
With a menu of reasonably priced home-style food, Grillhúsið has satiated hungry regulars since 1994 with juicy burgers, sandwiches, steaks and fish dishes.

### Habibi

Hafnarstræti 20 | **D5**  
A reliable source of high quality shawarma and falafel. Important ingredient for successful living.

### Hamborgarabúlla

Tómasar ("Bullán") Geirsgata 1 | **D5**  
Considered by some to be the best real hamburger in Reykjavík, "Bullán" does serve some mysteriously delicious burgers, guaranteed to take the edge off any hangover.

### Hlõlla Batar

Ingólfstorg | **D6**  
The first sub sandwich shop in Iceland, Hlõlla Batar has a large selection of creatively

named sandwiches with equally imaginative contents. Good for an adventurous bite.

### Hornið

Hafnarstræti 15 | **E6**  
Since 1979, this Italian restaurant has been a longtime Reykjavík staple. Famous for its pizza and stuffed calzones, it proudly offers an affordable menu of high-quality dishes

### Hótel Holt

Bergstaðarstræti 37 | **F7**  
Housing Iceland's most renowned restaurant, The Gallery, an evening here is an unforgettable experience. Delicious French-inspired cuisine and fine wines await.

### Humarshúsið

Ammtmanstígur 1 | **E7**  
One of the oldest restaurants in the country, the lobster house is known of course for its lobster and also its impressive cognac lounge. Fine intimate dining.

### Hressó

Austurstræti 20 | **E6**  
With a spacious neutral interior and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd. Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.

### Icelandic Fish & Chips

Tryggvagata 8 | **E5**

## Food THORVALDSEN

Reviewed by **Marcus Walsh** – Photo by GAS

Thorvaldsen has divided its new menu up into the four points of the compass, which in theory is a nice idea but in reality turned out to be a shocker. The north section includes a Nordic perspective, including my smoked salmon starter. This was such a huge portion; it was the size of a main dish. It was satisfying though and the mustard vinaigrette was a decent touch. Then from the east was my guest's appetizer of Indian Curry Soup which was medium to spicy and a bit too heavy on the turmeric. With a little more saffron it would have been less bitter. The heavy inclusion of rice meant too many carbohydrates to start a three course meal with.

The main bellyache though came with the main course. From the western region I ordered an Alabama Burger. The bacon was singed and the burger tasted like it contained barely any pure beef. The thickly cut chips lacked any real bite as if they had been deep fried in oil that had been reused many times. My guest

was not able to order a vegetarian dish from any of the four regions, meaning a choice of the 'Middle Eastern Salad' without the meat. They could have used avocado or cheese as a replacement at least for some texture, but instead the main was just like a huge bowl of side salad. Incredible. For dessert we both ordered American Apple Pie with Ice Cream. The cinnamon was barely traceable and they didn't even peel the fruit leaving apple skin that got stuck between the teeth. To make matters worse, the Red Delicious variety of apples were simply not suitable for the dish, especially when they're not baked through properly.

Thorvaldsen has a plush décor and at first sight seems a cosy venue. Beyond the surface, however, our table rocked a little and wasn't clean in the first place. The music was way too loud and the 50 Cent tracks didn't help matters an awful lot. We wouldn't have wanted to listen to his shit at the best of times, let alone while we were eating.

**Where:**  
**Austurstræti 8**  
**101 Reykjavík**  
**Tel: 511 1413**

**7** H8

**How much:**  
**1000-1500 ISK**

**What we think:**  
**Fake style and no substance**  
**in a shocker of a meal**



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



Austurstræti 9, Reykjavík Tel: 561 8555

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



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Not your average fish'n'chips joint, but a healthy restaurant using only organic vegetables and quality fish products. The spiced skyr side a special treat.

**Indian Mango**  
Frakkarstígur 12 | **H8**  
Specializing in delicious dishes from the Goa region of India, honed to perfection in the owner's period as head chef at the Four Seasons. Incredible service as well as food.

**Jómfrúin**  
Lækjargata 4 | **E6**  
These days, good Smörbröd can be an elusive delicacy. Lucky for us out in the colonies, it's alive and well at Jómfrúin with fresh eel imported specially from Denmark.

**Kaffi Hjómaland**  
Laugavegur 21 | **G7**  
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great lunches and food but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.

**Kaffitár**  
Bankastræti 8 | **F6**  
Kaffitár celebrates good coffee, and serves it in abundance, along with sweet treats and tasty if pricy special blends. Eat in or to go, a great way to enjoy your morning boost.

**Kaffivagninn**  
Grandagarður 10 | **D1**  
By the harbor, this lunch and coffee place is a gathering place for

all sorts of tough folks. If you want traditional Icelandic food, a great place to see another side of Reykjavík.

**Kebbhúsið**  
Austurstræti 2 | **E6**  
The name says it all, really.

**Kofi Tómasar Frændu**  
Laugavegur 2 | **F7**  
Nestled in a basement location, Uncle Tom's Cabin has the feeling of a back-alley London Café. On weekends it becomes a happening and diverse bar.

**Krua Thai**  
Tryggvagata 14 | **D5**  
We dare you to find a better meal for the same price anywhere else. Every dish is delicious. Just eat what looks best to you on their colorful menu.

**La Primavera**  
Austurstræti 9 | **E6**  
Though it sounds strange, La Primavera serves delicious traditional North Italian cuisine using only local produce. A startlingly tasty combination and a local favorite.

**Mokka**  
Skólavörðustígur 3A | **F7**  
Operating since 1958, Mokka is the city center's oldest coffee joint and founder of Icelandic coffee culture. Regular art exhibits are always worth a look.

**Nonnabiti**  
Hafnarstræti 9 | **E6**  
"Nonni" is one of the more popular junk-food places in town,

renowned for its greasy sandwiches and its unique Nonni-sauce. Open late for a midnight cravings.

**O Sushi**  
Lækjargata 2A | **E6**  
Also called "The Train", O Sushi's most intriguing feature is a conveyor belt that runs around the entire restaurant delivering a buffet of authentic sushi straight to your table.

**Pizza King**  
Hafnarstræti 18 | **E6**  
This little place serves not only the cheapest but largest slices downtown. A local favorite, and open until 6 on Friday and Saturday nights.

**Pizza Pronto**  
Vallarstræti 4 | **D6**  
With a convenient location and late hours, a good place to snack in between bars. Three sizes of pizza with a good selection of toppings. A cheap, if unhealthy, choice.

**Prikið**  
Bankastræti 12 | **F6**  
Part of the Reykjavík bar scene for decades, this café/bar has a fairly cheap menu and attracts a mix of students and old regulars. Mostly R&B and Hip-Hop on weekends.

**Raðhúskaffi** | **D7**  
Tjarnargata 11  
Located in the City Hall with a great view of the pond, this café has a good selection of pastries and a good place to relax. Regular art exhibits add to the aesthetic.

**Santa Maria**  
Laugavegur 22A, | **F7**  
Authentic Mexican food, directly from the stove of the owner's mother, who is an authentic Mexican. Served with a healthy distaste for anything texmex. Also the best quality/price ratio in town with every dish under 1000 ISK.

**Segafredo**  
Lækjartorg | **E6**  
The Italian coffee chain makes its way to Lækjartorg Square, bringing strong espresso and Italian lunch snacks to grab on the way to work or just to enjoy on the spot.

**Shalimar**  
Austurstræti 4 | **E6**  
Shalimar sports the conceit of being the northernmost Indian restaurant in the world and has fine daily specials. We recommend the quite addictive chicken tikka masala.

**Sjávarkjallarinn**  
Ádalstræti 2 | **D6**  
Elegant Seafood Cellar focuses on gourmet seafood and tantalizing asian-fusion dishes. Share the exotic menu, courses selected by the chef, with a friend for the most fun.

**Sólón**  
Bankastræti 7a | **F6**  
Truly a jack-of-all trades establishment. By night a decent restaurant, by day a café/bistro and on Friday and Saturday nights a nightclub. Art exhibitions on the walls to top it off.

**Sushibarinn**  
Laugavegur 2 | **F7**  
Deceptively ordinary Sushibarinn has recently become the talk of the town among Reykjavík sushi lovers, serving, in our opinion, the very best rolls in city.

**Svarta Kaffi**  
Laugavegur 54 | **H8**  
A cosy second floor café, their fame lies partly in their tasty Súpa í Brauði (Soup in Bread) and also in their romantic atmosphere. Good for a few early evening drinks.

**Sægreifinn**  
Verbuð 8, Geirsgata | **D5**  
Right next to the harbor, Sægreifinn fish shop is like none other in the country. With a diverse fish selection, exquisite lobster soup and good service, an absolute must-try.

**Tapas**  
Vesturgata 3B | **D5**  
For those with a bit of money and time to spare, Tapas serves course after course of delightful miniature dishes. Also serves tasty and unusually affordable lobster.

**Thorvaldsen**  
Austurstræti 8 | **E6**  
Dress formally for this fancy spot, and come before 12 to avoid a long line. DJs play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

**Tíu Dropar**  
Laugavegur 27 | **G7**  
An old-fashioned café with warm atmosphere and generous coffee refills. A thoroughly

pleasant establishment.

**Tívoli**  
Laugavegur 3 | **F7**  
A stylish bistro with a wide variety of selections and positively charming atmosphere.

**Tjarnarbakkinn**  
Vonarstræti 3 | **D7**  
Right above the lóno theater, an ideal place to go before shows. Nice views of the pond and outdoor dining in the summertime. The lamb comes especially recommended.

**Vegamót**  
Vegamótastígur 4 | **G7**  
Vegamót's kitchen is open until 22.00 daily and sports an appealing lunch menu. Come for a tasty brunch on weekends. If you like Óliver, try Vegamót and vice versa.

**Við Tjörnina**  
Templarasund 3 | **E7**  
A Reykjavík classic with menu exclusively of traditional cuisine, as frequented by tourists as it is by locals. A perfect opportunity to try Icelandic delicacies.

**Vitabar**  
Bergþórugata 21 | **H9**  
Really a bar, but best known for its hamburgers. Burger and fries for 500 one of the best deals in town, but Forget-Me-Not blue cheese and Garlic Extravaganza are also winners.

**The Forget-Me-Not Burger – Simply Magical!**



**VITABAR**

Bergþórugata 21 – 101 Reykjavík – Tel.: 5517200

# SHOPPING

Stylist: **Erna Bergmann** — Hair & Makeup: **Elísabet Alma** — Models: **Eva & Geiri** — Photographer: **GAS**

**She wears:**

**Feather collar:** Kalda - Einvera  
**Leather dress:** Thelon - Trilógía  
**Necklace:** Florian - Kronkron  
**Socks:** Eley Hishimoto - Kronkron  
**Shoes:** Sonia Rykiel - Kronkron  
**Dog bag:** Hildur Yeoman - Kronkron

**He wears:**

**T-Shirt:** Raf Simmons - Belleville  
**Jeans:** G-star Raw - G-star  
**Shoes:** Raf Simmons - Belleville

**Props:**

**Toy:** Medicom toys - Belleville  
**Rug:** Pinocchio from Hay - Epal  
**Disco bowl:** Stylist's own



## Shopping | Venue finder

**12 Tónar**  
 Skólavörðust. 15 | **G8**  
 A record label as well as a store, all the best new Icelandic music on CDs or live on Fridays at 5 PM.

**66°North**  
 Bankastræti 5 | **F6**  
 High quality Icelandic outdoors clothing, designed for life at 66° North

**Aftur**  
 Laugavegur 23 | **G7**  
 Aftur's internationally acclaimed label is proudly displayed here in their shop/studio.

**Álafoss**  
 Laugavegur 1 | **F7**  
 The downtown outlet for famous makers of traditional Icelandic woollens.

**Belleville**  
 Laugavegur 25 | **G7**  
 Stuffed with trendy

streetwear designs as well as funky magazines and media.

**Blue Lagoon Store**  
 Laugavegur 15 | **G7**  
 All the natural skincare products from the famous geothermal spa at their outlet here.

**Brim**  
 Laugavegur 71 | **H7**  
 Big surf wear, skate wear, and snowboard shop.

**Börn Náttúrunnar**  
 Skólavörðustígur 17a | **G8**  
 The basement children's toy store sells clothes and toys only made of organic products as well as books about childcare and parenthood.

**Cintamani**  
 Laugavegur 11 | **F7**  
 Featuring quality Icelandic outdoor gear,

you can even book an excursion on the spot.

**Dead**  
 Laugavegur 29 | **G7**  
 Artist Jón Sæmundur Auðarson's own hand-printed Rock and Roll label, Dead, plus others.

**Dogma**  
 Laugavegur 32 | **H7**  
 Dogma offers street clothing with interesting prints. Hooded sweaters and T-shirts made by both Icelandic and foreign designers can be found.

**Figúra**  
 Skólavörðustígur | **G8**  
 This shop features Icelandic designer wear, everything from street clothes to party dresses.

**Friða Frænka**  
 Vesturgata 3 | **D5**  
 A real treasure chest of

antique furniture and vintage accoutrements to perk up your apartment.

**G-Star Raw**  
 Laugavegur 86 | **I8**  
 A store for the Dutch jeans brand, an edgy collection with innovative details and washes.

**Galleri Sautjón**  
 Laugavegur 91 | **I8**  
 Stocking many hip labels, a unisex store offering casual business wear to evening dress wear.

**Gilbert**  
 Laugavegur 62 | **H8**  
 Watchmaker Gilbert Guðjónsson has sold watches and clocks on Laugavegur for over 40 years. Recently, Gilbert designed his own line of wristwatches.

**Glamúr**  
 Laugavegur 41 | **H7**

A flashy vintage clothing shop with everything from necklaces to fur coats to kimonos.

**Green Apple**  
 Laugavegur 20 | **G7**  
 The tiny shop combines massage and other relaxation products with organic products.

**Gyllti Kötturinn**  
 Austurstræti 8 | **E6**  
 One of a few second hand shops that have popped up in recent year, Gyllti Kötturinn also offers some pieces by locals.

**Handþrjóna-sambandið**  
 Skólavörðustígur 19A | **G7**  
 All sorts of hand knit woollen clothing as well as fine yarns and knitting supplies.

**Ílóa**

Lækjargata 2A | **E6**  
 A great source for all kinds of reading material, with restaurants on the second floor.

**Kisan**  
 Laugavegur 7 | **F7**  
 An interesting mix of items from all around the world you won't find anywhere else.

**Kisuberjatræð**  
 Vesturgata 4 | **D5**  
 A lovely gallery/gift shop run by ten artists and designers where they sell their products.

**Kolaportíð**  
 Tryggvagata 19 | **E5**  
 Open on weekends, you can get a bargain on almost anything at this indoor flea market.

**Kraum**  
 Aðalstræti 10 | **D6**  
 Featuring the best in contemporary Icelandic design of everyday

items of any kind.

**Kronkron**  
 Laugavegi 63B | **I8**  
 This hip new shop stocks the latest trends in everything from socks to sweaters.

**KVK**  
 Laugavegur 27 | **G7**  
 Small yet stuffed designer shop KVK, which stocks a nice selection of local designs.

**Liborius**  
 Laugavegur 7 | **F7**  
 One of a kind, very high-end shop featuring the latest, crispest designs for both sexes.

**Marimekko**  
 Laugavegur 56 | **H8**  
 Finnish designer brand Marimekko has found its spot on Laugavegur. The Marimekko concept store stocks a wide selection of

the colourfully printed designer products.

**Mál og Menning**  
 Laugavegur 18 | **G7**  
 A multi-level store with games, books, souvenirs and a bustling café on the top floor.

**Nakti Apinn**  
 Bankastræti 14 | **F7**  
 Offers an amazing array of colourful designer wear as well as contemporary media.

**Nexus**  
 Hverfisgata 103 | **I8**  
 The biggest comic book and gaming store in Reykjavík has something for everyone.

**Noland**  
 Laugavegur 32 | **H7**  
 A new skate shop offering fresh tees and sneakers from Krew, Supra and more.

**Rökk og Rósir**  
 Laugavegur 17 | **G7**

Second-hand clothing for the fairer sex at a reasonable price.

**Skarhúsið**  
 Laugavegur 12 | **F7**  
 Glittery accessory shop stuffed with cheap jewellery, bags or other small items.

**Skífan**  
 Laugavegur 26 | **G7**  
 Selection of CDs, DVDs and computer games as well as some Icelandic films with English subtitles.

**Spútník**  
 Laugavegur 32 | **G7**  
 One of the best second-hand shops in the country, with recycled clothes at a range of prices.

**Systur**  
 Laugavegur 70 | **H7**  
 For whatever women's lingerie needs you might have, this is the

store to satisfy them.

**Trilogía**  
 Laugavegur 7 | **F7**  
 A collection of trendy designer wear fills the shop, summery dresses, sweaters and skirts.

**The Viking**  
 Hafnarstræti 3 | **E5**  
 This large tourist shop sells all sorts of smart souvenirs to bring back home.

**Þorsteinn Bergmann**  
 Skólavörðustígur 36 | **G8**  
 Since the 1940s this small store has offered a huge selection of household supplies for a laughable low price.

**Anatomie**  
 Skólavörðustígur | **G8**  
 A great little shop with an excellent selection of sportswear.

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INTERVIEW BY BEN H. MURRAY



THE BIFFY CLYRO CLAN FROM KILMARNOCK

## Great Scot! Biffy Clyro Invade Iceland

*One top Scottish export that won't be hit by the credit crunch talk dodgy food, playing hard and instigating a reverse Viking invasion.*

**Biffy Clyro have had one hell of a year. After coming somewhere near the top of many album of the year polls in late 2007, the three-piece (consisting of Simon Neil; vocals and guitar, James Johnston; bass and vocals and Ben Johnston; drums and vocals) embarked on a series of festival and concert appearances that would have seemed unlikely after spending several years knocking around the Scottish gig circuit in relative anonymity.**

Their breakthrough record, the bitter-sweet *Puzzles*, proved to be a revelation to the rest of the world. Combining a melodramatic sound that hovers between a satisfying sub-metal blast and touching acoustic numbers, the band instantly appealed to a broad demographic and hit the number two slot on the UK album list. Comparisons to Nirvana and

Weezer followed and *Puzzles* didn't even need the artistic talents of Storm Thorgerson (he designed a certain Pink Floyd record cover featuring a prism and a rainbow...) to attract adulation around the world, although his surreal style is instantly recognisable on the album artwork.

Now winding down after a packed summer touring schedule before opening Iceland Airwaves and touring the UK, lead guitarist Simon Neil took time away from a well-earned holiday to tell the Grapevine about how they're looking forward to sampling the local cuisine and reclaiming some long-lost Celtic X chromosomes in-between playing NASA at the opening night of Iceland Airwaves 10th anniversary.

**So are you looking forward to it...have you been to Iceland before?**

We've not been before, we only know a couple of people who've been to Iceland at all and all I hear is great things so we're really, really looking forward to it.

**You've been told a bit about the place, what are you expecting?**

People partying all the way through the night, I

guess. Some places effect people less than some of the other places you go to and it's so shut off that I think it'll just go off and be a lot of fun.

**I know a lot of people are looking forward to seeing you play; do you have any special plans or surprises in store?**

We're just going to turn up and play hard, we're really not a band with gimmicks, if you like. We just try to let the music do the talking. We'll definitely turn up with a lot of energy - it should be great.

**Did you know that 80% of the female gene pool in Iceland is Celtic?**

Wow, that gives us a good head start.

**The Vikings are meant to have come over to Scotland and stolen all the good looking women to take home to Iceland...**

Right, wow. I like that.

**You should reclaim some of the good ones...**

I think we should. We could have some Celtic loving going on...

**Any tactics for getting them on the plane?**

Some shots are usually a good way.

**Maybe one of the ballads from *Puzzles* would be a good start?**

Oh yeah, get all the girls crying.

**Absolutely. You could slip them on the plane and they'd never know... Anyway, your new single is called *Mountains* - why?**

It's about going through challenges in life and some of the things you can face. That's roughly where it comes from, how people in your life can help you get through things and you do it together. It's really a symbol for a struggle, but also the challenge. I think with challenges, when you conquer them, the results are that much better because things have been difficult. That's what it's about, how you get stronger through the difficult times.

**Does that idea reflect Biffy Clyro's last year or two?**

I think Simon always writes lyrics from a fairly personal point of view, it's more than likely that it's about that. It also applies to life in general even though it's quite specific about what we've been through.

**Scotland also has quite a 'diverse' (i.e. odd) cuisine, as does Iceland. Will you be trying raw whale, puffin or anything similar?**

Well we've had a few weird things. We were out in Japan and they had some really crazy food but I've never had whale before.

**There's a lot of pissed-on shark about. That's a delicacy too.**

Definitely. We're not shy, we'll eat anything.

**Surely haggis (traditional offal-based Scottish dish) contains most of those ingredients anyway?**

I think what goes in haggis is a closely-guarded secret. It's a bunch of really not good tasting stuff with a load of spice so you can't actually taste it.

**I gather you're playing a series of really big gigs later this year around the UK?**

Yeah, that's right. Should be good.

**So what's your favourite type of gig to play in terms of venue?**

Actually, it kind of varies. Over the summer we did a lot of big shows at festivals. That's always fun because you're not playing to the same crowd and you're not sure how people are going to react. You're probably playing to ten or twenty thousand people, maybe even more. We really like the big stage and that aspect but when you play a small club, there's something about the intensity. You can see the whites of people's eyes. We wouldn't like to give up one gig and totally do the other; I think it's really important to have a good mix. That's what keeps it really exciting for us.

**Iceland is quite far away but have you had any fan mail from other far-flung places?**

We had quite a lot of people from Brazil writing to us on message boards but I don't know if they sent us any fan mail. Around Japan we got some really crazy stuff given to us. People drew pictures of us, gave us silk scarves and told us all these strange stories. I think in Japan they are particularly crazy but really nice. Quite fanatical, I guess.

Biffy Clyro play NASA on Wednesday 15th at the Kerrang / Iceland Airwaves night. Their new single 'Mountains' is out now. [www.myspace.com/biffyclyro](http://www.myspace.com/biffyclyro)

WE COULD HAVE SOME CELTIC LOVING GOING ON...





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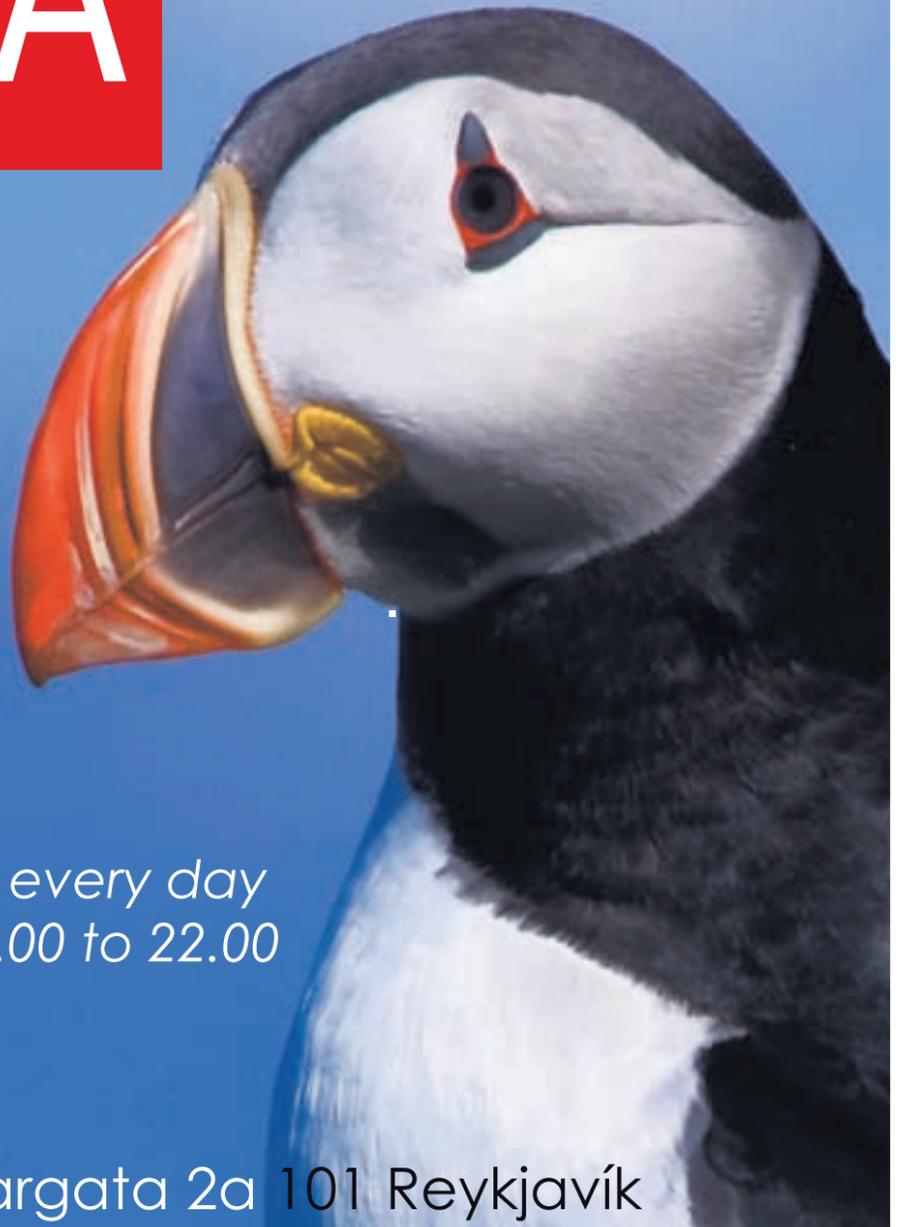





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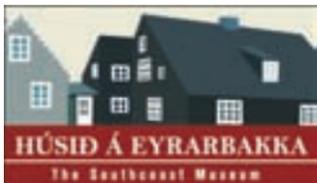
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		17:00	17:00	17:00		



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# ICELAND AIRWAVES '08

CRYSTAL CASTLES

VAMPIRE WEEKEND

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HANDSOME FURS

GUS GUS

BIFFY CLYRO

SIMIAN MOBILE DISCO

JUNIOR BOYS

YOUNG KNIVES

CSS

HJALTALÍN

(CA) Agent Fresco, Amiina/Kippi Kaninus, Ane Brun (SE), Benni Hemm Hemm, Ben Frost, Benny Crespo's Gang, Bloodgroup, Bob Justman, Borko, Boy Crisis (US), Boys in a Band (FO), Dikta, Dísa, Dr.Spock, El Perro Del Mar (SE), Esja, Final Fantasy (CA), FM Belfast, Florence & the Machine (UK), Fuck Buttons (UK), Ghostigital, Gudrun Gut (DE), Jan Mayen, Jeff Who?, Jerry Bouthier (FR), Kasper Børke (DK), Lay Low, The Mae Shi (UK), Mammút, Michael Mayer (DE), Miracle Fortress (CA), Motion Boys, Munich (DK), Nico Muhly (US), PNAU (AUS), Robots in Disguise (UK), Retro Stefson, Reykjavik!, Seabear, Singapore Sling, Skakkamanage, Skátar, Sprengjuhöllin, Steed Lord, These New Puritans (UK), Thomas Fehlmann (DE), Trailer Trash DJs (UK), Ultra Mega Technobandið Stefán, Valgeir Sigurðsson, White Denim (US), White Lies (UK), Yelle (FR) ...

Alfons X, Andrum, Anonymous, Atomstation, Audio Improvement, BB & Blake, Biogen, CasaNova, Celestine, Cocktail Vomit, Cruel Black Dove (US), DBT & Terrordisco, DJ Hero's Trial, DJ Jejr Tale (US), DJ Lynx (UK), DJ Magic, DJ Margeir and his Symphony Orchestra conducted by Samuel Samuelsson, DJ Ozy, DJ Vector, DJ Yamaho, DLX ATX, Dynamo Fog, Dýrðin, Eberg, Family Of Sound, Finn (DE), Fist Fokkers, For a Minor Reflection, Frank Murder,

Gavin Portland, Ghost (FO), Gluteus Maximus, Hairdoctor (DJ Set), Half Tiger (UK), Hellvar, Jack Schidt, Johnny and the Rest, Kap10Kurt (DE), Karius & Baktus, Klive, Lights on the Highway, Matias Tellez (NO), Mau (POR), Már & Nielsen, Miri, Mordingjarnir, Mógil, Mr. Silla, Múgsefjun, Naflakusk, Noise, Nonnimal, Nordpolen (SE), Oculus, Original Melody, Our Lives, Ólafur Arnalds, Parachutes, Perla, Planningtorock (UK) Plugg'd, Poetrix, Prince

Valium, Rökkurró, Sam Amidon (US), Sesar A, Sexy Lazer, Ske, Skurken, Slugs, Sometime, Soundspell, Southside (US), Space Vestite, Steini, Stereo Hypnosis, Steve Sampling, Sudden Weather Change, Swords of Chaos, Sykur, The Viking Giant Show, Therese Aune (NO), Tonik, Vicky, We Made God, Weapons, Who Knew, Wulfgang, XXX Rottweiler, Yagya, Yrovote (FR), Æla, -3 Svanhvít, 1985!, 32 C and more.

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**SEQUENCES 2008**

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**REAL-TIME  
ART FESTIVAL**

---

**REYKJAVIK  
11-17 OCTOBER**

---

PROGRAMME

# SEQUENCES FESTIVAL 2008

LAUNCHED FOR THE THIRD TIME  
OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>-17<sup>TH</sup>

Sequences is a real-time art festival with a focus on urban and public spaces. Its emphasis is on time-based work, performance, sound art, video and music.

Sequences 2008 strives to create a platform for dialogue and for exploring cross-disciplinary activity of local and international artists.

We'll have artwork glowing in the sewer system, in the sky and everywhere in between, in downtown artist-run galleries and museums, in the streets, up the cities' walls, in theatres and warehouses. Sequences looks forward to sprinkling some brightness around town with some of Iceland's most exciting artists with like-minded guests from Canada, France, Germany, Spain, USA, Australia, Israel, Sweden and Denmark.

*Sequence: A following of one thing after another; succession. A series of related shots that constitute a complete unit of action.*

For further information and daily updates visit:  
[www.sequences.is](http://www.sequences.is)

Office:  
Sequences  
The Living Art Museum  
Laugavegur 26  
101 Reykjavík  
Iceland  
[www.sequences.is](http://www.sequences.is)  
[info@sequences.is](mailto:info@sequences.is)

## HONORARY ARTIST: RÚRÍ RÚRÍ & JOHANN JOHANNSSON COLLABORATE

For Sequences 2008, the festival's curatorial board decided to acknowledge a renowned artist for her notable contribution to real-time art mediums. It is our privilege to present Rúrí as Sequences 2008 honorary artist. Rúrí has always worked in various mediums, focusing on performance, video and sound. She has been a dynamic force in the Icelandic art scene for the last thirty years or so, exhibiting all over the world, representing Iceland at the Venice Biennale 2003.

For Sequences 2008, Rúrí is presenting Vocal IV in collaboration with musician Jóhann Jóhannsson. Vocal IV is an elaborate performance with diverse elements: video, music, sound, waterfall swish, and texts that Rúrí has collected about water from international debate on the subject. This is the first time Rúrí has worked with a composer for a performance. Together Rúrí and Jóhann have teamed up with the Nýló choir, percussionist Matthías Hemstock and a group of electric guitarists, including Pétur Hallgrímsson, Hilmar Jensson and S. Björn Blöndal to create a vast, thunderous sound scape. The performance will take place in the Reykjavík Art Museum, Hafnarhúsið, on October 12th at 20:00.

For further information:  
[www.ruri.is](http://www.ruri.is)  
[www.johannjohannsson.com](http://www.johannjohannsson.com)

## AUDIO/VISUAL CONCERT

IN COLLABORATION WITH ICELAND  
AIRWAVES & BEDROOM COMMUNITY

On October 17th, Sequences presents an audio/visual concert dedicated to the dynamics between experimental film/video art and alternative music in a live setting.

Transforma – An experimental film collective from Berlin joins forces with Australian noise wizard Ben Frost and experimental music collective Bedroom Community in an improvised performance comprised of Ben's music and Transforma's visuals.

French visual artist Yroyoto runs an interesting video label in Paris called ExplosiveTV, dedicated to experimental video works. His offering for Sequences is an interactive audio/visual performance, celebrating live sound and video manipulation.

Further information:  
[www.icelandairwaves.com](http://www.icelandairwaves.com)  
[www.bedroomcommunity.net](http://www.bedroomcommunity.net)  
[www.yroyto.com](http://www.yroyto.com)  
[www.ethermachines.com](http://www.ethermachines.com)  
[www.transforma.de](http://www.transforma.de)

The event is supported by The Goethe Institute and The French Embassy.

## PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 11. OCTOBER

14:00 The Living Art Museum.  
Sequences 2008 reception.

14:00 The Living Art Museum.  
Dr. Björn Quiring, BJ Nilsen, Darri Lorenzen, Finnbogi Pétursson and Ingólfur Arnarsson: *Open*.

15:00 Kling & Bang Gallery  
Lortur: *Release Party - Trommusóló H42 Artist Book*.  
Lortadans directed by Gunnlaugur Egilsson under the drum beats of Friðrik Sólnes and the dolce tunes of Franz Lizst, pancakes and an open drum kit.

16:00 Belleville  
Fumiko Imano: *Icelandic Tour of Me!*

17:00 The Lost Horse Gallery  
Casper Electronics, Kippi Kaninus, Alexander Zaklinsky & Amanda Riffo.

19:00 Kronkron  
Andrew Burgess. *Andrewandyou.com*.

20:00 The Nordic House  
Magnús Árnason: *Irritation*. Magnús Helgason: *Stolen Moment* & Björk Viggósdóttir: *Reverse / Moment / Verse*.

21:00 Hverfisgata 59  
Elvar Már Kjartansson & Hanna Christel Sigurkarlsdóttir.  
*Sequence nr. (7)*.

21:30 The Living Art Museum  
– BJ Nilsen, Dr. Björn Quiring, Darri Lorenzen, Finnbogi Pétursson & Ingólfur Arnarsson: *Bilferð nr. II / Autofahrt nr. II*.

20:00 Seljavegi 32  
– SIM. *Landhelgisgæslan* – Open artist studios

22:00 Ánanaust  
– Fort.  
02:00 *Point gray*.

23:00 Café Cultura  
– *Party at Café Cultura*.  
01:00 Dj's: Mr. Silla and Gunni Tynes

### WORKS IN PUBLIC SPACE

– Útúrdúr  
Halldór Arnar Úlfarsson. *Installation for seven people*.

– Corner of Lækjargata & Austurstræti  
Haraldur Jónsson. *The moment of truth*.

– Laugarvegur 32  
Sara Riel. *Underworld*.

– The west facing gable of Kling & Bang Gallery.  
Theresa Himmer. *Volcano*.

– Skólavörðustígur  
Unnur Mjöll Leifsdóttir. *Watery Pleasure*.

### SUNDAY 12. OCTOBER

12:00 Hverfisgata 59  
– Elvar Már Kjartansson & Hanna Christel Sigurkarlsdóttir.  
*Sequence nr. (7)*.

16:00 The Living Art Museum  
Dr. Björn Quiring: *Reframing the Open Archive: A Live Show* – A lecture by Dr. Quiring with live sounds by BJ Nilsen.

17:00 The National Gallery of Iceland  
Stílluppsteypa: *Stílluppsteypa Presented By Other Beings - An Artificial Intergalactic Alien Presentation Presented By a Fantastic Wave of Other Beings*.

20:00 The Reykjavík Art Museum -Hafnarhúsið  
Performance by Sequences honorary artist Rúrí, in collaboration with Jóhann Jóhannsson. Performed by Rúrí, Jóhann, Matthías Hemstock, Pétur Hallgrímsson, Hilmar Jensson, S. Björn Blöndal & Nýlókórinn directed by Hörður Bragason. *Vocal IV*.

21:30 Gróttuviti  
Elín Hansdóttir & Úlfur Hansson *Helix*, performed by Selkórinn.

21:00 Ánanaust  
– Fort.  
02:00 *Point gray*.

### MONDAY 13. OCTOBER

21:00 Ánanaust  
– Fort.  
02:00 *Point gray*.

### TUESDAY 14. OCTOBER

14:00 Hverfisgata 59  
– Elvar Már Kjartansson & Hanna Christel Sigurkarlsdóttir.  
*Sequence nr. (7)*.

19:00 Dwarf Gallery  
Trong Gia Nguyen. *Marcel Duchamp versus Bobby Fischer*. A performance featuring Tómas Lemarquis.

21:00 Héðinshúsið  
Hildur I. Guðnadóttir in collaboration with Elín Hansdóttir: *Music For Airports 2/2* by Brian Eno arranged by Hildur and Runway written and arranged by Hildur. Performed by Hildur & Caput.

### WEDNESDAY 15. OCTOBER

18:00 Gallery Turpentine  
Moss Stories: *Affjöllum*

20:00 Kling & Bang Gallery  
Lortur: *Djöflafjúgan*: A dance performance by Gunnlaugur Egilsson. *The Artist Book in the 21st Century*: A panel discussion hosted by Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurðsson.

22:00 Kling & Bang Gallery  
Lortur: Two documentaries premiered: *Fríar fantasíur* by Guðný Rúnarsdóttir & Markús Bjarnason and *Íslensk alþýða* by Þórunn Hafstað.

### THURSDAY 16. OCTOBER

16:00 Kling & Bang Gallery  
Lortur: Orgelkvartettinn Ananas & guests, featuring: Músíkvatur, Aristocrasia, Gason Bra, Ssangyoung Musso, Hip Hop Hudson and Krulli Vespa. Iceland Airwaves off venue.

18:00 101 Projects  
Tamy Ben-Tor.

19:00 Kling & Bang Gallery  
Lortur: Klive. Iceland Airwaves off venue.

20:00 The Nordic House  
Björk Viggósdóttir concert featuring Caroline Mallonée, Hákon Aðalsteinsson, Borgar Magnason, Kippi Kaninus & Kristín Mariella Friðjónsdóttir.

21:00 Between Laugarvegur 18 and 20a  
Sara Riel. *Godsend*.

22:00 The Lost Horse Gallery  
FM Belfast & Reykjavík. Concert.

### FRIDAY 17. OCTOBER

14:00 Hverfisgata 59  
– Elvar Már Kjartansson & Hanna Christel Sigurkarlsdóttir.  
*Sequence nr. (7)*.

16:00 Kling & Bang Gallery  
Lortur: Kid Twist. Iceland Airwaves off venue.

17:00 Kling & Bang Gallery  
Lortur: Skakkamanage. Iceland Airwaves off venue.

18:00 Dwarf Gallery  
Rósa Sigrún Jónsdóttir. *Oh when*.

20:00 Iðnó  
– Fastwurms.  
24:00 *Krummi Krúnkar*.

20:00 Iðnó  
– Audio/visual concert in collaboration with Bedroom Community and Iceland Airwaves.  
Yroyto  
Ben Frost vs. Transforma  
Amiina  
Sam Amidon  
Nico Muhly  
Valgeir Sigurðsson  
Final Fantasy

## ARTISTS

ALEXANDER ZAKLYNSKY (IS/UKR)

The Lost Horse Gallery

October 11. to October 17.

Alexander Zaklynsky is an Icelandic / Ukrainian artist from Newport, Rhode Island. After moving to New York in 2001 Alexander developed his work through various shows and independent projects. Alexander apprenticed a number of highly regarded professional Artists in New York but seized the chance to move to Iceland via an Arts residency in December 2005. Alexander continues to live in Reykjavík and is a co founder of The Lost Horse Gallery. Subaqua is the pseudonym for Video + Sound work produced by Alexander Zaklynsky.

AMANDA RIFFO (FR)

The Lost Horse Gallery

October 11. to October 17.

Amanda Riffo lives and works in Paris, a graduate from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts de Paris. She has participated to workshops, residencies and exchange programs in Tokyo, Beyrouth, Helsinki and recently Iceland. She creates games from drawings, objects, video and installations, playing with the un-un-understandable.

[www.schirman-debeauce.com](http://www.schirman-debeauce.com)

ANDREW BURGESS (USA)

[Andrewandyou.com](http://Andrewandyou.com)

Kronkron, Laugarvegur 63b

October 11. to October 17.

Andrewandyou.com is an animation and web piece by architect and artist Andrew Burgess. Andrewandyou.com begins in space. Stars start to rearrange themselves to reveal otherwise unseen surfaces floating in the void. These surfaces slowly amount to invisible buildings out of thin air. This flow shapes a mirage: this building never lasts in its current state; it is constantly different and changing. It is present and not.

And then it disappears.

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

BJÖRK VIGGÓSDÓTTIR (IS)

*Reverse / Moment / Verse*

The Nordic House

October 11. to October 17.

Performance on October 16, 20:00

In her art, Björk deals with visual images, emotions, sounds and sensations in a similar way to what occurs involuntarily in the mind during certain states of consciousness, whether in dreams or while awake.

The videos in Björk's installation are inspired by poems by the artist herself, written during her travels. The images are combined with sounds composed by the artist and produced for the performance in collaboration with composers and musicians Caroline Mallonée, Hákon Aðalsteinsson, Borgar Magnason, Guðmundur Vignir Karlsson and violinist Kristín Mariella Friðjónsdóttir. During the exhibition, on October 16th there will be a performance featuring those artists.  
<http://bjorkbjork.blogspot.com/>  
<http://www.myspace.com/bjorksound>

BJ NILSEN (SWE)

DARRI LORENZEN (IS)

DR. BJÖRN QUIRING (GER)

FINNBOGI PÉTURSSON (IS)

INGÓLFUR ARNARSSON (IS)

Open

The Living Art Museum

October 11. to October 17.

"A museum has basically always been composed of an archival collection on the one hand and a gallery on the other, that is, an open, accessible area and a closed, interior area. This arrangement has a history translating in oblique ways inclusionary and exclusionary power struggles, which both frame the museum itself and open it to outside forces. Art has to engage with this structural tension between gallery and archive in one way or another. What are the chances of producing art that would situate itself neither on one side of the barrier nor on the other? What strategies would be appropriate for its passage toward an open space that is located neither outside nor inside the archival framework?"

Dr. Björn Quiring

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

[www.darrilorenzen.net](http://www.darrilorenzen.net)

[userpage.fu-berlin.de/~quirrrrr/INTRO.html](http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~quirrrrr/INTRO.html)

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

[www.nylo.is/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=429&Itemid=237](http://www.nylo.is/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=429&Itemid=237)

CASPERELECTRONICS (USA)

The Lost Horse Gallery

October 11. to October 17.

New York City based artist Peter Edwards has been building synths and circuit bending

professionally for almost a decade through his business Casperelectronics. He has worked extensively with musicians around the world including Mike Patton, Rahzel, BT and Otto Von Schirach. Edwards worked at Hampshire College from 2006-2007 where he taught a circuit bending heavy "creative electronics" course and developed a previously non-existent electronics department. He has taught numerous workshops on circuit bending and interface design at venues across America and performs regularly in New York. [www.casperelectronics.com](http://www.casperelectronics.com)

#### **ELÍN HANSDÓTTIR (IS)** **ÚLFUR HANSSON (IS)**

**Helix**  
**Gróttuviti- lighthouse in Seltjarnarnes**  
**October 12, 21:30**  
Vocal installation in Gróttu lighthouse in collaboration with local choir Selkórinn. [www.elinhansdottir.net](http://www.elinhansdottir.net)  
[www.myspace.com/kliveisklive](http://www.myspace.com/kliveisklive)

#### **ELVAR MÁR KJARTANSSON (IS)** **HANNA C. SIGURKARLSDÓTTIR (IS)**

**Sequence nr. (7)**  
**Hverfisgata 59**  
**October 11, 21:00**  
**October 12, 12:00-17:00**  
**October 14, 14:00-18:00**  
**October 17, 14:00-17:00**  
Hanna and Elvar have created something special a promise of a journey, a portal to somewhere, many kinds of love. there is no end to the tunnel. plane walkers we are going to elevate you. astral plane the journey  
Buck Owens

#### **FASTWÜRMS** **KIM KOZZI (CA), DAI SKUSE (CA)**

**Krummi Krúnkar**  
**Iðnó**  
**October 17, 20:00-24:00**  
Krummi Krúnkar brings together a relational performance, Taro-Tat, and a video presentation, Witch vs Ninja.  
Witch vs Ninja is an original Fastwürms HD video production shot on location in Venice and Scarlet Hill, Ontario. It is a radical, no-budget artist cinema project, drawing from the low-budget lineage of three legendary kung-fu films. Taro-Tat is a performance that combines tarot card readings with temporary magic marker tattoo drawings. The intimate and personal interaction between performer and public in Taro-Tat is paired with the mediated spectacle of Witch vs Ninja to make Krummi Krúnkar a unique aesthetic experience. [www.paulpetro.com/fastwurms](http://www.paulpetro.com/fastwurms)

#### **FORT** **ALBERTA NIEMANN (GER), ANNA JANDT (GER), JENNY KROPP (GER)**

**Point gray**  
**Ánanaust, Vesturbær, by the gas-station**  
**October 11, 2008, 22:00-02:00**  
**October 12-13, 2008, 21:00-02:00**  
This is a high cube coat for liquids and semi-solids. This is the optimum innings for a glance of the shore, watching your favorite ravens fly and, yes, craving your personal golden gray. This is Blind Endings In Friendly Fire. We are awaiting your arrival from the 11th to the 13th of October 2008 in Reykjavik, Iceland. [www.fortcollective.com](http://www.fortcollective.com)

#### **FUMIKO IMANO (JAP)**

**Icelandic Tour of Me! 2008**  
**Belleville**  
**October 11. to October 17.**  
Fumiko Imano is a Japanese self-portrait artist based in photography and video. As a 24-hour model, stylist, and a photographer for herself, she documents everyday life through her eye as an artist. This time in Icelandic Tour of Me! 2008, she shows a selection of photographs and video. Her mini book Fumiko Imano 1974-2004 will be available at the exhibition in Belleville. [www.fumikoimano.com](http://www.fumikoimano.com)

#### **HALLDÓR ARNAR ÚLFARSSON (IS)**

**Installation for seven people**  
**Útúrdúr, Njálsgata 14**  
**October 11. to October 17.**  
I'm finding it increasingly hard to focus on things other than people. The most real moments in my days are when I'm drinking coffee or beer with someone and having a conversation. I'm also starting to ignore problems that don't directly have to do with socializing. I like the feeling that I might make a special moment for someone in their day, something they weren't expecting. [www.myspace.com/halldorion](http://www.myspace.com/halldorion)

#### **HARALDUR JÓNSSON (IS)**

**Moment of Truth**

#### **On the corner of Lækjargata and Austurstræti** **October 11. to October 17.**

Moment of Truth is a sound installation by visual artist Haraldur Jónsson, situated behind the wooden fence that surrounds the burnt heart of Reykjavík. Every fifteen minutes during the festival, a verbal presence can be heard through this fence. The invisible sounds evoke multiple associations in the minds and bodies of the passersby. <http://www.this.is/comet>

#### **HILDUR I. GUÐNADÓTTIR (IS)** **ELÍN HANSDÓTTIR (IS)**

**Runway & Music for Airports 2/2**  
**Héðinshúsið at Mýrargata**  
**October 14, 21:00**  
Runway – by Hildur I. Guðnadóttir  
This piece was composed for the Caput chamber ensemble. It is inspired by and based on airplanes, runways and aviation communication. The setup of the piece is designed for a large space, moving live acoustic surround sound, lights and light conducting aviation-based systems—designed and built specially for this occasion. The piece was conceived in close co-operation with artist Elín Hansdóttir.  
Music for Airports 2/2 – by Brian Eno. Arranged for brass sextet by Hildur I. Guðnadóttir  
Music for Airports was first released in 1978 and therefore celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. It was the first of four records on Eno's record label, Ambient. It was originally designed to be an ongoing looped sound installation to soothe the otherwise tense atmosphere at airports. Hildur's arrangement is true to the original album version, although it adds the breath of brass and the special acoustic surround setup. [www.hildurness.com](http://www.hildurness.com)  
[www.elinhansdottir.net](http://www.elinhansdottir.net)

#### **KIPPI KANÍNUS (IS)**

**Pneumatic Shower**  
**Lost Horse Gallery**  
**October 11. to October 17.**  
Pneumatic Shower consists of a few dozen small organ pipes, an organ air motor, clear tubes and a bit of plumbing. The idea is to make a tone cluster shower with manually operated timbre faucets. [www.kippikaninus.com](http://www.kippikaninus.com)

#### **LORTUR**

**ADALHEIÐUR HALLDÓRSÓTTIR, ÁSDÍS SIF GUNNARSDÓTTIR, BJARNI MASSI, DAGMAR ATLAÐÓTTIR, DAVÍÐ ÖRN HALLDÓRSSON, HAMAR, FALLEGA GULRÓTTIN, FRÍÐRIK SÓLNES, GUÐNÝ RÚNARSDÓTTIR, GUNNLAUGUR EGILSSON, HAFSTEINN GUNNAR SIGURÐSSON, HILDIGUNNUR BIRGISDÓTTIR, HUGINN ÞÓR ARASON, INGI RAFN STEINARSSON, INGIBJÖRG MAGNADÓTTIR, JÓN THOR HANSEN, KID TWIST, KLIVE, KOLBEINN HUGI HÖSKULDSSON, KRISTJÁN LOÐMEJÖRÐ, LIBIA CASTRO & ÓLAFUR ÓLAFSSON, ORGELK-VARTETTINN ANANAS, ÓLAFUR EGILL EGILSSON, PÉTUR MÁR GUNNARSSON, SKAKKAMANAGE, STEVE LORENZ, ÞÓRUNN HAFSTAD, ÞRÁNDUR ÞÓRARINSSON**

**Drumsolo H42**  
**Kling & Bang Gallery**  
**October 11. to October 17.**  
Lortur is an informal and ever-changing group of artists, filmmakers, writers, theater practitioners, dancers, musicians and others who share an inventive sensibility and a need to create. Every two years since 2002, the group has organized and held the Trommusóló biennial art exhibition. This year's event will take place at Kling & Bang Gallery on Hverfisgata. The program will be dense, diverse and lubricated with creative joy. There will be an art show, video program, a series of concerts (organized in conjunction with Iceland Airwaves), dance performances, panel discussions, and an artist book will be published to coincide with the Biennale.

#### **MAGNÚS ÁRNASON (IS)**

**Irritation**  
**The Nordic House**  
**October 11. to October 17.**  
Irritation as a sense is the only universal sense shared by all species, even single-celled creatures. Its concept does not only live as a subjective one, such as beauty or distaste, but takes over one's bodily functions and activating our physical impulses. This art project could be seen as rendering visible the force that occurs when the irritant, a stimulus or agent which induces the state of irritation, enters the system. As to wherefrom this work draws its inspirations,

irritation is charged with curiosity about what might be occurring behind the scenes, behind our eyes that catch the images, sound and shapes that stand before us.

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

#### **MAGNÚS HELGASON (IS)**

**Stolen Moment**  
**The Nordic House**  
**October 11. to October 17.**

This is a black and white super 8 film, capturing a boy on his way home from his guitar lesson. He has no idea that he is being filmed, and therefore the piece was given the title Stolen Moment. The film is set to the music of Jóhann Jóhannsson, and has been used alongside Jóhann's live performances on a number of occasions. [www.myspace.com/magnushelgason](http://www.myspace.com/magnushelgason)

#### **MOSS STORIES**

**INGIBJÖRG BIRGISDÓTTIR (IS), SINDRI MÁR SIGFÚSSON (IS), JÓN ÞÓR BIRGISSON (IS), SCOTT ALARIO (USA), ALEX SOMERS (USA), MARGUERITE KEYES (USA)**

**Af fjöllum**  
**Gallery Turpentine**

**October 15. to October 17.**  
"Að koma af fjöllum" or "coming of mountains" means being totally bewildered, confused or uninformed. The Moss Stories artists have tried to capture this feeling of being bewildered and alone and letting your imagination run wild for better or worse. Ingibjörg and Sindri play music together in Seabear and have created videos and exhibited as a team for several years. Jón Þór and Alex have been an artist duo since 2003 making videos, music and pictures under the name of Riceboy Sleeps. Marguerite and Scott lived in Reykjavík for a year and during that time teamed up with Jónsi and Alex, exhibiting twice and forming the publishing group Moss Stories. [www.mossstories.com](http://www.mossstories.com)

#### **RÓSA SIGRÚN JÓNSDÓTTIR (IS)** **ICELAND**

**Oh when**  
**Dwarf Gallery**  
**October 17, 18:00**

At the Dwarf Gallery, Rósa Sigrún presents two videoworks. The works derive from her day job of taking care of elderly people, as well as her regular jogging sessions through the Fossvogur Cemetery in Reykjavík.

In these videos, Rósa Sigrún asks questions such as how to treat death in our daily lives: with aging, death comes closer, but is distant as well. What roles does it play in the living moment, which we all strive to experience?

Rósa graduated from The Iceland Academy of the Arts in 2001 and has since held ten solo exhibitions and participated in various art projects, including serving as the former chairman of The Reykjavík Association of Sculptors.

[english.umm.is/UMMenglish/Artists/Abouttheartist/249](http://english.umm.is/UMMenglish/Artists/Abouttheartist/249)

#### **SARA RIEL (IS)**

**Godsend & Underworld**  
**Between Laugavegur 20 and Laugavegur 18,**  
**Laugavegur 32**

**October 16, 21:00, October 11. to October 21.**  
Godsend: On the 16th of October at 22:00, we will send greetings, wishes and complaints to the sky in a ceremonious way. Women and men are urged to be there in good time and pronounce what is on their minds.

Underworld: The artwork gives an indication of the underworld, as we know it from fiction and films. It is a dangerous and slimy world, filled with creatures of the darkness. The viewer and his imagination becomes an active participant in the general idea, because it is out of his fantasy and experience that the story takes its final shape. [www.sarariel.com](http://www.sarariel.com)

#### **STILLUPPSTEYPA (IS)**

**Stilluppsteypa presented by other beings: an artificial intergalactic alien presentation presented by a fantastic wave of other beings.**  
**The National Gallery of Iceland**  
**October 12. to October 17.**

Basically in this whole presentation the Stilluppsteypa members Helgi Þórrson and Sigtryggur Berg Sigmarrson are admitting that aliens exist. [www.helenscarsdale.com/stilluppsteypa](http://www.helenscarsdale.com/stilluppsteypa)

#### **TAMY BEN-TOR (ISR)**

**Tamy Ben-Tor**  
**101 Projects**  
**October 16, 18:00**  
Artist Tamy Ben-Tor was born in Israel and lives in New York City. Ben-Tor mainly works with video and performance. She has performed

widely in theaters, performance festivals and clubs. She also performs in her much celebrated videoworks, acting out different characters based on well-known stereotypes. Though many of her works touch on inflammable issues and taboos, such as racism, the Holocaust, U.S. politics, terrorism and colonialism, they are entertaining and full of humor.

Tamy Ben-Tor's exhibition at 101 Projects will include five of her recent videoworks. Tamy Ben-Tor's exhibition at 101 Projects, curated by Birta Guðjónsdóttir, is presented in collaboration with Zach Feuer Gallery in New York. [www.zachfeuer.com/tamybentor\\_2008.html](http://www.zachfeuer.com/tamybentor_2008.html)

#### **TERESA HIMMER (DK)**

**Volcano**  
**On the facade of Kling & Bang Gallery**  
**October 11.**

Situated on the west-facing gable of Hverfisgata 42, Volcano is the latest addition to the Mountain Series that includes the Waterfall at Bankastræti 6 made for Sequences 2006, and the Glacier at Klapparstígur 28, revealed in June this year.

The series constitutes surreal meetings between highly urban walls and iconic natural phenomena. Loving tributes to Reykjavík and Iceland, they also attempt to challenge our perception of public space and the notion of culture vs. nature.

Like the two earlier pieces, Volcano is made from thousands and thousands of sequins. Being fixed very lightly on small pins, they make the lava shimmer and glow like fire, reflecting every environmental change—be it from light or weather.

Although highly artificial, this constant change gives the piece an almost supernatural glow, which, if viewed with an open mind, transforms the house at Hverfisgata into a geometric volcano, and Reykjavík into a magical man-made landscape.

#### **TRONG GIA NGUYEN (USA)**

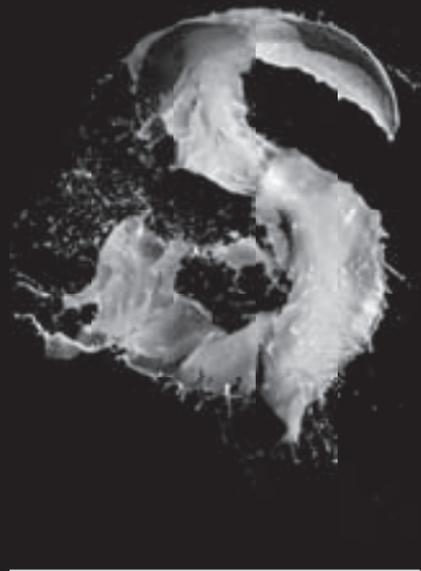
**Marcel Duchamp Versus Bobby Fischer**  
**Dwarf Gallery**  
**October 14, 19:00**

Trong Gia Nguyen is a visual artist, curator, writer and art critic. His work pits two individuals who will channel the spirits of the two masters, Bobby Fisher and Marcel Duchamp, to play a friendly game of chess. The first two duels took place in New York over the summer, with Duchamp winning one match and the second ending in a draw. The third and final match culminates at Dwarf Gallery on October 14. Actor / visual artist Tómas Lemarquis will be participating in the performance. [www.cameandwent.com/tgnprojects.html](http://www.cameandwent.com/tgnprojects.html)

#### **UNNUR MJÖLL LEIFSDÓTTIR (IS)**

**Watery pleasure**  
**Skólavörðustígur**  
**October 11.**

Fairy tales tell us of the rainbow as the bridge to a pot of gold. The key to its mystery resides in the wave properties of light in the properties of water and the spherical shape of water droplets. The basis of this phenomenon needs a sophisticated mathematical description. However, the gleaming stream that holds so many sensual delights for the urophiliacs of this world needs no such elaboration. Artist Unnur Mjöll has created a tranquil environment for the spectator, to soothe the body and rest the mind, in the commercial byway that Skólavörðustígur offers. An event that captures the warm glow of exaltation that follows the unexpected discovery of a rainbow or feeling a watery pleasure on the skin. – Hye Joung Park



## VENUES

### 1 The Living Art Museum

Laugavegur 26  
Opening hours:  
weekdays: 10:00-17:00  
saturdays: 12:00-17:00  
[www.nylo.is](http://www.nylo.is)

### 2 The Dwarf Gallery

Grundarstíg 21  
Opening hours  
Irregular, please see programme  
for further detail  
[www.myspace.com/galleridvergur](http://www.myspace.com/galleridvergur)

### 3 Kling & Bang Gallery

Hverfisgata 42  
Opening hours:  
Mon-Sat: 14:00-18:00  
[www.this.is/klingogbang/](http://www.this.is/klingogbang/)

### 4 101 projects

Hverfisgata 18a  
Opening hours:  
Wed-Sat: 14:00-17:00  
[www.101hotel.is/101hotel/101gallery](http://www.101hotel.is/101hotel/101gallery)

### 5 The Lost Horse Gallery

Skólastræti 1  
Opening hours:  
Tue-Fri: 11:00-18:00  
Sat-Sun: 13:00-18:00  
[www.losthorse.is](http://www.losthorse.is)

### 6 The National gallery of Iceland

Frikkirkjuvegi 7  
Opening hours:  
Tue-Sun: 11:00-17:00  
[www listasafn.is](http://www listasafn.is)

### 7 The Reykjavik Art Museum Hafnarhús

Tryggvagötu 17  
Opening hours:  
Mon-Sun: 10:00-17:00  
Thur: 10:00-22:00  
[www listasafnreykjavikur.is](http://www listasafnreykjavikur.is)

### 8 Gallery Turpentine

Ingólfsstræti 5  
Opening hours:  
Tue-Fri: 12:00-18:00  
Sat: 12:00-17:00  
[www.turpentine.is](http://www.turpentine.is)

### 9 The Nordic house

Sturlugata 5  
Opening hours:  
Tue-Sun: 12:00-17:00  
[www.nordice.is](http://www.nordice.is)

### 10 Kronkron

Laugavegi 63B  
Opening hours:  
Mon-Thu: 10:00-18:00  
Fri: 10:00-18:30  
Sat: 10:00-17:00  
[www.kronkron.com](http://www.kronkron.com)

### 11 Belleville

Laugavegi 55  
Opening hours:  
Weekdays: 11:00-18:00  
Sat: 11:00-17:00

### 12 Útúrdúr

Njálsgata 14  
Open hours:  
Wed-Fri: 14:00-18:00  
Sat: 14:00-17:00.  
[www.uturdur.blogspot.com](http://www.uturdur.blogspot.com)

### 13 Iðnó

Vonarstræti 3  
Open hours:  
Fri, 17. Oct: 20:00-02:00 Please  
note this is a one off event  
[www.idno.is](http://www.idno.is)

### 14 Héðinshús

Mýrgata  
Opening hours:  
Tues, 14. Oct: at 21:00. Please note  
this is a one off event

### OUTSIDE PROJECTS

#### 15 Ánanaust

#### 16 Gróttuviti-lighthouse, Seltjarnarnes

#### 17 Laugarvegur 18 and 20a

#### 18 Laugavegur 32

#### 19 Skólavörðustígur

#### 20 Hverfisgata 59



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