



# The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

Issue 16 × 2012

October 5 - November 8

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**Editorial | Anna Andersen**

# Whoops-a-daisy, I Fell Down!

## ...And other ways to get drunk in Iceland

### Anna's 17th Editorial

You've probably noticed it too. Icelanders who go downtown after midnight on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday night tend to drink like college freshmen who aim to become dead drunk. If you're unaware, stay out until 3 AM or even 6 AM and observe.



But while college freshmen talk about "getting smashed," "hammered," "destroyed" or "wasted," which imply some kind of bodily harm or self-destruction, Icelanders use phrases that imply something a bit different.

Take for instance "að detta í það" and "að hrynja í það," or "to fall into it" and "to crash into it," as these phrases can be respectively translated. While they imply a certain bodily harm, they also imply accident: Whoops-a-daisy, I fell. Oops, I ran into it. Even if you planned to do it, it's like it's really somehow not your fault.

Many of these phrases are also pretty euphemistic. For instance, there's "að fara á túr" or "to go on a journey," which is also something ships and women do. This is used to describe a serious drinking stint that may go on for days and days. But somehow it's still okay. It's a just a trip, you'll be back and it'll be over.

And then there's "að fá sér í tánna" which is literally "to have some in your toe," and "að fá sér í glas," which is "to have a glass," but who are you kidding, you're not about to have just a little bit or

one glass. You're going to get drunk.

Whatever the origin of these terms, a proponent of linguistic determinism might conclude that they explain the type of drinking that goes on here. And maybe if they were changed or removed in Orwellian fashion, we wouldn't be sending something like 10% of living males to treatment at Iceland's AA equivalent. Okay, now I'm only kidding.

If anything, this stat is a measure of success for SÁÁ, Iceland's Center of Addiction Medicine, which celebrates its 35-year anniversary the very day this paper prints. But we won't put a damper on your fun with more talk of alcoholism. Go out and enjoy Airwaves in all its greatness! As they say, "When in Rome..."

#### Ten Ways To Get Drunk, the literal translations

- Að detta í það – to fall into it
- Að hrynja í það – to crash into it
- Að liggja í því – to lay in it
- Að fá sér í glas – to have a glass
- Að fá sér í tána – to have some in your toe
- Að fara á kenderí – to get intoxicated
- Að fara út á lífið – to go out on the life
- Að drekka sig fullan – to drink yourself full
- Að fara á fyllirí – to get drunk
- Að vera blautur – to be wet



## What's The Deal With Those Crazy Icelandic Letters Yo?

# Þ þ Æ æ Ö ö

We thought we'd explain. We're ripping the idea off from the Icelandic magazine. Go read that magazine if you can. It's free.

We like spelling things using Icelandic letters like 'æ' and 'þ' and also those crazy accents over the vowels. Like Icelandair's inflight magazine—IcelandairInfo—says, the Icelandic language can use accents on all of the vowels, making them look all unique, like this: á, é, í, ó, ú, ö, ý (the accent also changes the pronunciation of the letters. The á in "kjáni" sounds quite different from the a in "asni", for instance). We also have an additional three letters. As IcelandairInfo notes:

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### The Grapevine's Fancy Airwaves Compilation 2012!

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Aw yes folks, it's that time of the year! This wonderful month when Airwaves rolls around and we get to bring you not one, not two, not three, but SIXTY-FIVE terrific songs by some awesome Icelandic bands! And it makes us happy to give it out and share these great songs! If you're flying over for the festival, we hope you'll be listening to this on the plane! And if you're already in town, blast it out of your boomboxes until October 31 rolls around.

#### Fancy download instructions:

- 1) Download the mix in a snappy .zip folder or torrent at [airwaves.grapevine.is](http://airwaves.grapevine.is). It will be available for download starting on October 22.
- 2) Unzip or open it and burn the tracks onto a bunch of CDs or upload them to your mp3 player.
- 3) You can print out the cool cover we made with it too!

**LEGEND** - City / **BERNSEN** - Do You Remember / **NOLO** - Passion / **TILBURY** - Tenderloin / **BARUJARN** - Þögn / **SINDRI ELDON** - America, An Ode / **OYAMA** - Shade  
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**æ** (often written as ae) is pronounced like the i in tide.

**ð** (often written as d) is pronounced like the th in there

**þ** (often written as th) is pronounced like the th in think

### Here Is Your Kreisi Æcelandic Frase For Þis Issue!

**"Afsakið, er þetta Hafnarfjörður? Ég ætlaði að leita að álfum í álverinu."**

(Afs-ai-kith, err- thedd-a Havn-ar-fjorth-ur? leg i-dla-thi ath lay-ta ath au-l-fum e au-l-ver-inu)

Excuse me, is this Hafnarfjörður? I was going to go and look for elves in the aluminum smelter.

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opinion, send your letters to:  
letters@grapevine.is

## Sour grapes & stuff

### Most Awesome Letter of the Issue

Dear editor,

We are 25 sixth-grade students writing to you from the Quatre Vents Elementary School in Manlleu, a city located in Catalonia, Spain, about 70Km from Barcelona. Our class has students from Catalonia, other countries in Europe and Africa. Together with our teacher, we are working on a project title WE LOVE EUROPE. The goal of this project is to know as many cultures, countries, landscapes, and customs as possible from all over Europe. For our project we would like to receive as many postcards as possible from all over Europe to know what your city is like (or your landscape, your food, culture, etc.). We promise to work really hard with the postcards and with the project. Please send the postcards with your information about where you live to the following address: WE LOVE EUROPE PROJECT. 6th-grade class. Quatre Vents Elementary School. Avinguda Pirineus, 19, 08560-Manlleu. Barcelona. Catalonia, Spain. Thank you for your cooperation. We Love Europe!

On the tourists complaining about whale-watching tours and whaling, do the same tourists get warm and fuzzy about the sheep in the snow and then go for lamb dinner in town? Hypocrisy is a human failing...  
TW

Dear TW,

You may have a point there, but we think the debate has more to do with animal cruelty and humane methods of slaughtering. People have easier time stomaching a quick death after a wholesome life than a slow and a painful one. Whether or not the whales are killed quickly seems to be a topic of on-going debate. But in any case, who's not a hypocrite every once in a while? Them's the breaks!

Dear Grapevine Editor,

I visited Reykjavik with my boyfriend early in August. We loved having the Grapevine to read over beverages of varying toxicity (depending on the time of day, not that one could really tell, which happily enabled us to err on the side of Reyka and the local stout. Your publication has a critical edge that is hard to come by at our end of the world (the "arse end", in fact, according to a previous Prime Minister). We particularly appreciated your willingness to ask the reader (i.e. white, middle-class, university educated travellers like us)

### MOST AWESOME LETTER FREE ICELANDIC GOURMET FEAST



There's prize for all your **MOST AWESOME LETTERS**. And it's a scorcher! No, really! It's a goddamn scorcher is what it is! Whoever sends us **THE MOST AWESOME LETTER** this issue will receive **A FRIGGIN GOURMET FEAST FOR TWO** at **TAPAS BARINN**. Did you hear that? Write in and complain about something (in an admirable way), win a gourmet feast at one of Reykjavik's finest?

### THIS IS THE DEAL OF THE CENTURY IS WHAT IT IS!

What's in a 'lobster feast'? Well, one has to assume that it has lobster-a-plenty. Is there more? Probably, but still... Gourmet feast? Wow! **DON'T PANIC** if your letter wasn't picked **AWESOME LETTER**. There's always next month! Now, if you're in the market for free goodies next month, write us some sort of letter. Give us your worst: **letters@grapevine.is**

Hi kids! Thank you for your letter.

That sounds like a really nice project you're doing! We're not sure we Icelanders share your patriotism to Europe, or at least a lot of them aren't too thrilled about the prospect of joining the European Union. It seems we'd much rather be our own little island here. But hopefully people will get past this and send postcards your way. Good luck and may you receive some nice postcards of glaciers, elves, puffins and beautiful sunny landscapes!

LOVE,  
Grapevine

Ann, we are high-fiving you through the computer screen right now.

We know exactly the place with the sign you speak of – it is actually not Dillon Rock Bar, a fine and diverse establishment – but a similar looking old building about a block up on the main drag. Why aren't we naming it here? Well, that would be the same reason we can't exactly launch this campaign you propose.

Although it might not always seem like it, what with some of our articles being pretty heavily slanted one way or another, but it is our duty as a magazine simply to report what's happening and publish the views of our writers. If one of our militant writers felt like answering your call to arms of investigating and wielding their pen against the visible forms of casual racism that exist in our city (and country), then by all means we would publish. However, just as we don't covertly donate our profits to certain political parties, we also can't lend our name to political causes. Sorry if it sounds like a cop out, it's just how it goes.

We really applaud you for calling out this bullshit though. It's something that people have noticed and pointed out to each other for a long time and it's just not cool. IT'S RACIST!

With love from Sydney,

Ann Deslandes.



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# Where Has The Love Gone? *The proposed destruction of Hjartagarðurinn & Faktory, and why Reykjavík risks becoming the cookie-cutter capital of the North*

Words and photos by Bowen Staines

Music pounds from a hand-made, wooden DJ booth, friends congregate on a set of vibrantly painted picnic tables and local artists fry up Icelandic pylsa on a small, stone grill. Tibetan prayer flags flap quietly amongst tree branches and skateboarders carve across a selection of hand-poured cement obstacles that they helped design.

Located in an abandoned square between Laugavegur and Hverfisgata, Hjartagarðurinn ("Heart Park") is one of Reykjavík's most colourful and culturally appealing areas. It is a communal space with a large brick heart, built right into the ground, and is surrounded on all sides by massive graffiti murals, colourfully masking the plaza's austere, grey walls.

But it wasn't always such a nice place. As the square is privately owned by a subsidiary of the facilities management company Reginn, the city is not responsible for its upkeep. Enter Tómas Magnússon, Tanya Pollock, and Örn Tönsberg—three people who took it upon themselves to revive and renovate the park. "We saw the potential, and we wanted to be here with our kids, but it was totally trashed," Tanya told us over the summer.

"People referred to it as the 'crack park,' because of some of the things we'd find during our clean-ups. The only thing that kept the place from looking like a total hellhole was the graffiti. Citizens and tourists still came by in droves to enjoy the artwork. Everyone wanted to be there because of the art, the location and the sun, but it was hard to be there with our children due to the filth, and broken glass in every step. Something had to be done."

Last summer they began their clean-up to transform the rundown lot into a community park, and slowly, Hjartagarðurinn was born. However, just as renovation nears completion, the square—along with a large part of Reykjavík's cultural scene—faces demolition.

## Plans for yet another hotel

As tourism continues to grow in the 101 area, so does the need for hotels and space to plant those hotels. Thus, Reykjavík's City Planning Committee recently introduced a proposal that would get rid of Hjartagarðurinn and its surrounding buildings to make way for the construction of a new hotel under the direction of the architecture firm, Arkitektúr.

"We had a vision and plan for the garden based on what the community wanted to see and we tried to materialise this," Tanya says. "The owners gave us permission, as did the city. We were also told that any future plans for the area would be discussed with the community—that we could present our visions for the place, and that it would be taken into consideration. But they didn't do that. Their current plan doesn't coincide with what the community wants and needs. They should have invited us to those meetings."



## These places will be missed

One of the allures of Hjartagarðurinn is the small cement skatepark, which was constructed this past summer, and will likely be destroyed if the city's current plan passes. "The skatepark was one of our first visions for the place because there is no free, outdoor skate park in the city," Tanya says. "Initially, the hotel adjoining the garden told us that we would not be allowed to have it. But when the hotel owner noticed how wonderful Hjartagarðurinn had become, he gave us his blessing to build a small skatepark."

Local rider Daníel Freyr Elíasson tells me adamantly, "Hjartagarðurinn is a place where everyone, regardless of their age or gender, can come together to cultivate their art, totally free of judgment. I am shocked that our city would let this happen."

Unfortunately, Hjartagarðurinn is not the only spot threatened by this proposal, but also the surrounding buildings; the bar and venue Faktory, on Smiðjustigur, is among these likely to be demolished. This comes as a shock, and an extremely hard hit to the city's musicians—especially following the closing of one of Reykjavík's largest venues, NASA, earlier this year.

"After we lost NASA, Reykjavík's musical community sees Faktory as sort of a 'last stand,'" Agent Fresco drummer Hrafnkell Örn Guðjónsson says. "If we keep losing these large venues, soon there will be nothing left for us." Prolific rapper Emmsjé Gauti adds, "Everyone talks about just moving everything into Harpa, but the acoustics are really terrible if you're a rock band. It's basically impossible to get a good mix. It was built with an orchestra in mind."

Iceland Airwaves, the country's largest musical event, and a main attraction for tourists in October and November, continues to grow larger every year. Tickets sold out in record time this year, and nearly every hotel in 101 was completely booked months in advance. The venue at Faktory is repeatedly used each

*Hjartagarðurinn is a place where everyone, regardless of their age or gender, can come together to cultivate their art, totally free of judgment. I am shocked that our city would let this happen.*

year by Airwaves to showcase the country's best and brightest.

"I fear that someday, Icelanders will grow to hate all those tourists for facilitating the need to destroy their alternative culture sites—and Faktory is definitely one of those," German photographer and Airwaves veteran Florian Trykowski says. "As a tourist, I don't need another huge, modern building built downtown. Nothing against Harpa, but I truly hope the organisers of Airwaves aren't planning on moving the festival exclusively into Harpa. Reykjavík is on its way to losing some of the rough, scratchy edges I love so much."

## We should have a say

Tanya, Tómas and Örn are currently in the process of negotiating with the Reykjavík City Council in hopes of finding common ground. "We want them to back up a bit on the construction in the area, leaving alone the businesses that are well alone. There is no logic in tearing down Faktory; the house is in good condition and it's booming with music and life," Tanya says. "Since our government wants to construct buildings for private owners to buy and make their businesses, perhaps the government can support us by buying one house for a grassroots cultural centre. There can be a coffee house and gallery, a place for concerts, possibly an indoor market, de-

signer store, and so on. I would rather see a hostel there than one more hotel."

Travellers come to see Iceland, meet Icelanders, and experience Icelandic culture. Hjartagarðurinn is the embodiment of this, as there are few other places in the city that are as frequently visited by citizens and repeatedly photographed by tourists. It is the most active public park in Reykjavík because people are inspired to let the arts bloom. "People need to remember that we are paying the government salary—they work for us," Tanya concludes. "We want NASA, Faktory and the Hjartagarðurinn—and even though the area is privately owned, the government should help us work with the owners to find a mutual agreement."

Unlike the petitions to save NASA, which despite good intentions were far too little and much too late, this chorus of disapproval is shared by artists, musicians, and tourists alike. "It's rare for a city to give that amount of surface area to urban art of different styles and mediums, and the city will lose a piece of its character if it's replaced with more typical tourist fare," says Jeff Obermeyer, a Washington State resident, who visits Iceland and attends the annual Airwaves music festival regularly. "Iceland's tourism succeeds in part because of the conscious effort people make to go there and experience the small things." Hjartagarðurinn is an example of privately owned land being allocated as private parties see fit.

However, companies like Reginn (which is also a part of Landsbankinn, one of the three major commercial banks to collapse at the start of Iceland's economic recession in 2008) are only ever private until they need the public to bail them out. "We shouldn't only have a say in things once it's time to foot the bill," says food critic Ragnar Egilsson. "This is our capital, our skyline, our nightlife, and our culture. We should all have a say in it."

## Not So Fast!

Project Manager Hannes Frímann Sigurðsson says it's not so simple  
By Thomas L. Moir

Laugavegsreitir's Project Manager Hannes Frímann Sigurðsson paints a slightly different picture.

Hannes does not deny that they're going through with plans to develop the area which Hjartagarðurinn is part of, but he says that Laugavegsreitir, the subsidiary of the company which owns Hjartagarðurinn, did not break any promises made to Tómas Magnússon, Tanya Pollock and Örn Tönsberg.

He says it was made clear to the trio from the onset that their use of Hjartagarðurinn was a temporary arrangement.

"They're saying now that they didn't know, but it was crystal clear from the beginning that it would be only this summer," Hannes emphasises. "The only thing that I said to them, repeatedly, was don't do too much because eventually, either this fall or this spring, we'd have to take it away."

Furthermore, Hannes says he doesn't recall agreeing to discuss changes before taking action. "That was definitely not our statement. And there was no one else capable of making any promises," Hannes says of the claims.

Hannes says the City came up with the idea to hand Hjartagarðurinn over to the community in the first place and he is actually complimentary of what has been achieved in this space. "What they've shown is that they're capable of taking on an area like this in Reykjavík, and there are many of them."

The project manager believes that what Tómas, Tanya and Örn have achieved has opened the eyes of the Reykjavík City Council to the benefits of handing such spaces over to the community. "I told Tanya that I thought they had proved that they are capable of taking a large area like this on, and if The Council would give them another spot like this, they could make the place as beautiful as they made Hjartagarðurinn," he says.

Now the agenda is, according to Hannes, to make a new square for similar purposes. "It'll be a public park and every individual can use the square for his own purposes. I'm not sure if they can spray paint the walls, but the hope is that they can use it for music, theatre, whatever they like," he assures.

Hannes believes the new square will be an improvement on Hjartagarðurinn as it'll appeal to a wider cross-section of the community. "Not everyone in Reykjavík likes Hjartagarðurinn," he says.

"It's a common misunderstanding I think. A lot of people who contact us say what's happening there has to end. But we are not opinion makers. We don't take sides."

Hannes says nothing has been confirmed as to exactly how the space will be developed. Laugavegsreitir have been in contact with several different parties, including a hotel, about the space, but nothing is set in stone. "It's going to be beautiful in its own way," he concludes of the upcoming development.



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# So What's This Icelandic Drug Smuggling Ring I Keep Hearing About?

## Words

Kári Tulinius

## Illustration

Lóa Hjálmtýsdóttir

**Which one do you mean? There is the most recent one in Denmark. The Icelandic gang was caught with 35 kilos of amphetamines, and half a kilo of ecstasy. According to the media, Icelandic, Norwegian, Danish, Dutch and Spanish police were involved in cracking the case. And earlier this year an Icelandic man was arrested for organising ecstasy trafficking from Spain to Brazil.**

Ah, the magic of globalization.

Icelandic criminals have been busy in the last few years. Like ethnic gangs everywhere, Icelanders often trust other Icelanders more than fellow crooks of other nationalities. And if you are a criminal, it can help to speak a language that is spoken by only three hundred thousand people world-wide.

Whoa, I didn't know you guys were the Sicily of the North.

The medieval Kingdom of Sicily was founded by descendants of Vikings, so there is some relation. Vikings were obsessed with honour, and so are mobsters, at least according to the movies. And movies would not lie to us. Perhaps these criminal gangs just took to heart the President of Iceland's words in a 2005, pre-financial crash speech, that Icelanders interpret "modern business ventures as an extension of the Viking spirit."

What, Vikings were drug smugglers?

No, though that is more because there were no illegal drugs to smuggle. Vikings were happy to do anything that would get them some money and had few, if any, scruples when it came to



landic drug smugglers are, to quote the President again, "heirs of this proud tradition."

I thought Vikings were fun. That doesn't sound like any fun at all.

Vikings were gigantic cocknozzles, but outlaws are often romanticised. The same has happened with modern Icelandic criminals. The media have reported rather breathlessly on the underworld, some crooks have become media darlings. And this year, an Icelandic film called 'Svartur á leik' ("Black's Game"), based on a true crime book, showed the rise and fall of a Reykjavík drug syndicate, with plenty of time given over to parties, sex and the high life. Though to the film's credit, it did not flinch from showing the bad parts too.

How bad were the bad parts? I don't think I want to know.

Bad enough to not mention in a family

magazine. The main focus of the film, however, is to portray the drug syndicate as a model corporation. The main guys are shrewd and ruthless businessmen who enter a staid, traditional market and upend everything with new ways of doing business. The heroic Business-Viking of the Icelandic bubble is reborn as a cold-blooded, hard-partying drug baron. In many ways, he is the ideal of Icelandic society, at least the one that existed before the financial crash.

Oh, so if that's what some people aspire to, I guess it isn't surprising that there are bunches of Icelandic drug smuggling rings.

No, it is very surprising. As recently as the '90s, the idea of Icelandic organised crime was a joke. People were more likely to believe in the existence of elves than Icelandic drug syndicates. Films generally portrayed Icelandic criminals as fools. Not that there were no career criminals, but they were of the small time sort and sometimes even charming. Once, while burgling a house, a noted crook came across a book by the great Icelandic poet Steininn Steinarr on the nightstand. He lay down on the bed to look up a poem, got engrossed and drifted off to sleep, later to be found by the owners who called the police. This was the image of the Icelandic criminal, bumbling and basically good at heart.

Isn't that just the Viking way, spitting rhymes out of one side of your mouth and jugulars out the other?

Perhaps it is, and some of the criminal media darlings have gained fame for having a way with words. It has been a long time since the Age of the Vikings, but that has not stopped many Icelanders from thinking of themselves as modern Vikings. The problem with that is of course that while being a Viking is a splendid thing, until you die a gruesome and violent death, living next to one is dangerous to your well being. Alcoholic axe murderers are not desirable neighbours, even if you are one yourself.



The latter part of this month saw four of Iceland's female MPs announce their retirement, which is pretty unprecedented to say the least. First, Progressive Party MP Siv Friðleifsdóttir announced she would not seek reelection. This made headlines for maybe one or two news cycles before it was completely eclipsed by Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir retiring, resulting in a mad scramble among Social Democrat MPs over who their next party chairperson will be. Also, Þórgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir, from The Independence Party, and Þúríður Bachmann, from the Leftist-Green, announced they weren't running again, either. All of these women have been members of parliament for at least a decade, with Jóhanna being in office since the '70s. No male politician in office offered to retire.



Foreigners living in Iceland reached a record 25,000. Not that this should provoke any xenophobic panic because the percentage of foreign-born residents has remained at 8% for years. Interestingly enough, though, Statistics Iceland has varying degrees of foreign-ness: there are straight-up immigrants, those born to immigrant parents, and those born to one foreign parent and one Icelandic. They're all foreigners, apparently; even the ones born here. Go figure.

While some move to Iceland, others leave—sometimes against their will.

This month, Iraqi asylum seeker Ahmed Kamel al-Rubaie was sent to Norway, where he will likely be sent back to Iraq. Icelandic authorities once again evoked the Dublin Regulation in this case, as they have in nearly every other asylum seeker case. This treaty gives countries the right to deport asylum seekers back to their last point of departure. And since there are no direct flights from war-torn, totalitarian, or crippling poor countries to Iceland, the Dublin Regulation sure comes



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# Farewell Jóhanna *Looking back at the long political career of PM Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir*

## Words

Sveinn Birkir Björnsson

## Photo

Örlygur Hnefill

Iceland's incumbent Prime Minister and longest serving active Member of Parliament Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir announced her retirement from politics last week. In a letter to members of her party, The Social Democratic Alliance, she said she would not seek re-election and would retire as chair of the party at the end of the current term this spring, closing a political career that spans over 40 years.

Jóhanna first became involved in politics in 1966, when she occupied the fifth seat on the ticket for Reykjavík City Council with the now-defunct Social Democratic Party. She had then recently been elected head of the Stewardess Union. Jóhanna remained active in the union struggle for years, before (and after) taking a seat in Parliament in 1978 as a member of the Social Democratic Party.

In 1987, Jóhanna, by then the vice-chair of the party, was appointed to the cabinet, as Minister for Social Affairs, a post she held until 1994, which was a turbulent year in her political career. She formed her own political party, National Awakening, after losing an in-party election for the leadership of Social Democratic Party (the two parties would later re-emerge, along with other small parties from the left wing to form the current Social Democratic Alliance). In a fiery farewell speech to the 1994 Social Democratic Party congress, Jóhanna made the famous claim that "her time would come," (since then an Icelandic catchphrase) before storming off stage.

And that it did. Following the near-collapse of Icelandic society in the wake of the financial meltdown of 2008, Jóhanna was called upon to take charge of the rebuilding efforts. For the 2009 parliamentary election, she was asked to lead the Social Democratic Alliance, a party that was likely to be in a key position after the election. Citing her long-standing reputation as a champion of social welfare and just causes, her party claimed that she was



“*She has been one of the most colourful Icelandic politicians of the era, and transgressed boundaries for both women and gay people*”

the one person who could unite a fragmented nation after the uproar of 2008.

Following the election of 2009, Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir became the first female prime minister in the history of Iceland, and the first openly gay person to become the head of government in the world. Jóhanna and her spouse were also one of the first gay couples to become legally wedded in Iceland after her government voted, unopposed, to allow it in 2010.

No Icelandic politician has ever been faced with a task quite like the one Jóhanna took on in leading the government post-financial collapse of 2008. The results of Jóhanna's reform government are up for debate, and in all fairness, it is probably too early to pass judgment on her accomplishments as prime minister, one way or the other.

But ideology and methodology aside, there is no denying that the Icelandic political landscape just became a little flatter with Jóhanna's retirement. She has been one of the most colourful Icelandic politicians of the era, and transgressed boundaries for both women and gay people. However the judgment of history will come down on her government, she always fought the good fight.

## Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir CV

Date of Birth: October 4th, 1942  
Homepage: [www.althingi.is/johanna](http://www.althingi.is/johanna)  
E-mail: [johanna@althingi.is](mailto:johanna@althingi.is)  
Party: The Social Democratic Alliance

Prime Minister.  
Chairman of the Social Democratic Alliance since 2009.

**Parliamentary Career**  
Member of Althingi for the Reykjavík Constituency 1978-2003, for the Reykjavík South Constituency 2003-2007 and for the Reykjavík North Constituency since 2007.  
Deputy Speaker of Althingi 1979, 1983-1984 and 2003-2007.

**Ministerial Career**  
Prime Minister since 2009.  
Minister of Social Affairs and Social Security 2007-2009.  
Minister of Social Affairs 1987-1994.



- Continued -

in handy when it comes to kicking out people who want a better life for themselves.

Iceland's drug policy is notoriously strict, but at least the medical community is for the most part sane. This month, the Icelandic Medicines Agency (IMA) approved the sale of Sativex, a marijuana-based medication. Sativex comes in the form of a throat spray, and contains THC, the ingredient in marijuana that produces the high. But before you dreadlocked, hacky-sack playing tourists book your ticket to Iceland, you should bear in mind that the sale of Sativex comes with some strict controls: it's prescription based, only available for those with muscular dystrophy, and can only be prescribed by approved neurological experts. You're better off just buying beer instead.



Rabbits made the news again! As you've no doubt been following, domesticated Icelandic rabbits that were released into the wild have been thriving through our relatively warmer winters. The rabbits have been experiencing a population boom that has extended from the capital to across southwest Iceland. They are estimated to number in the thousands at this point. They are in fact so numerous that Ævar Petersen, an expert at The Icelandic Institute of Natural History, told reporters that these rabbits are a part of Iceland's natural world, or may as well be considered as such, even if they aren't native to the country. The institute itself quickly issued a statement saying that Ævar was just expressing a personal opinion, and that they consider rabbits to be an invasive species. Those institute guys are no fun.



That's all right, though, as there was more than enough fun to go around in Mosfellsbær. In response the town

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## Does Icelandic Music Need More Support?

*Radio host turned MP Skúli Helgason calls for sound check on Icelandic music scene*

### Words

Mark O'Brien

### Photography

Alisa Kalyanova

When the crowds gather in Reykjavík for this year's Iceland Airwaves, **Alþingi** may not be the first item on their sight-seeing 'to do' list. But a handful of Members of Parliament are nonetheless working to institute a comprehensive review of the country's music scene, to provide greater government support for young, up-and-coming artists plying their trade.

A parliamentary motion proposed by former radio host and music industry bigwig Skúli Helgason is calling for the creation of a taskforce to explore what the government can do to support and strengthen music publishing, promotion, research and development, the live scene and exportation of Icelandic music.

Signed by 15 MPs from all parties, the resolution highlights the importance of the Icelandic music scene in attracting tourists to the country as well as the impact of music on the national economy, responsible for as much as a quarter of jobs in the cultural sector. The motion cites Iceland Airwaves as a player, bringing in almost a billion ISK in 2012.

### Lack of support

"Other cultural genres have traditionally had far more support than the music industry—especially what you'd call popular music," Skúli insists. "The visual arts, literature, even classical music have more support, for example through funding for the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra or the Iceland Opera. I'm all for that obviously, but we cannot expect the music scene to be self-sufficient."

"The live scene is especially important," he says. "It is only a couple of years since Iceland Airwaves began to be supported by the national government. If Icelandic artists are to be successful abroad, they need to get some experience from touring locally."



"At the moment," he points out, "there are only a handful of venues available for them to play—most of them in Reykjavík. You can count on one hand the number of places where artists can go in the rest of the country and expect to get a decent audience."

The government already supports the work of the Iceland Music Export office, which promotes and produces Iceland Airwaves. The annual festival was, however, founded by Icelandair, which Skúli says might explain the lack of early government support.

"People said it was a private event run by a successful company and so didn't deserve support. But this wasn't the case, as it was running a deficit for some years. That's changed now, and the support Iceland Airwaves has had from the Icelandic government in 2010 and 2011 has done a lot of good."

### More than funding

It is however not a question of more funding for Icelandic music. "I want to see people who have expertise in the field study all aspects of the industry," he says. Despite the skyrocketing suc-

“  
*You can count on one hand the number of places where artists can go in the rest of the country and expect to get a decent audience.*  
”

cess in recent years both in Icelandic exports and the local scene, Skúli and the supporting parliamentarians maintain that there are huge challenges still facing the industry.

The rapid expansion in online music distribution is one such major issue Skúli says needs to be addressed. For instance, it is estimated that as much as 1.7 billion ISK is lost every year through illegal downloading in Iceland, according to the resolution. "We still haven't found an effective way of tackling the problem," he admits. "It is important to make sure artists and publishers get their fair share for their work, at the

same time as ensuring users retain the access to music they presently enjoy."

Skúli insists there is broad support across the industry for a full study. "I've spoken to a lot of people and had a great deal of support for doing this," he says. "That includes the publishing industry, the live scene, and artists themselves—it's crucial to have the support of the business."

Whether or not the resolution finds political support in the last parliamentary session before next spring's general election is another question. "I've been successful in securing the support of MPs of all parties," Skúli says, "but the resolution has not yet been put on the agenda for discussion. There is a lot of competition in the final year of a term, but I'm hopeful the resolution will get some time and eventually be approved."



– Continued –

council's proposal to build a wild animal museum, the town's residents association argued that they should instead build a "vulva museum." They said it would provide a nice counterbalance to Reykjavík's famous penis museum. They also said a local slaughterhouse had already offered to donate several animal vulvae, and that Pussy Riot could maybe be booked to perform at the opening. However, the whole thing turned out to be pure satire meant to poke fun at the town council. Kudos, Mosfellsbær. You win this round.

➤ Norwegian retail chain Europris announced that it would be shutting its doors in Iceland. Every employee received a letter stating they would be sent packing at the end of October. Also, the store announced a 50-70% sale, provoking throngs of shoppers to make a mad rush to buy the last remaining garden torches and tacky plastic flowers. Essentially, employees were told, "You have a month left, and you will have to work harder than ever during that time." Here's hoping they move on to greener pastures, such as Krónan, or possibly Tiger.



➤ Apparently it was wrong of us to put former Prime Minister Geir H. Haarde on trial all along. Pieter Omtzigt, an EMP for the center-right European People's Party, wrote a memo for the EU parliament's committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, arguing that the trial blurred the line between political and criminal prosecution. Article 14 of the Constitution of Iceland holds ministers accountable for executive acts, and Geir opted to willfully ignore information about the instability of Iceland's economy as one of his executive acts. But hey, the whole thing was just a leftist revenge fantasy and Geir was flogged for the sins of others. That is, if you count receiving no punishment whatsoever and being handed a cushy job at a law firm almost immediately after the trial, a form of martyrdom. Poor guy.



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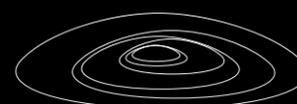


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# Iceland's Article 36 *Former Miss World leads the fight for animal rights*

## Words

Mark O'Brien

## Photography

Isabella Cohen

Long before the Miss World crown was a mere glint in her eye, Linda Pétursdóttir was unafraid of speaking up. When she was ten years old, her family moved to Vopnafjörður on Iceland's east coast where she remembers she immediately had to fight for her beloved pet dog's very existence.

"There were no dogs allowed in the town, but I still brought mine, and one day it ran out without a leash. The mayor came and told my dad that if it happened again he would have to shoot the dog."

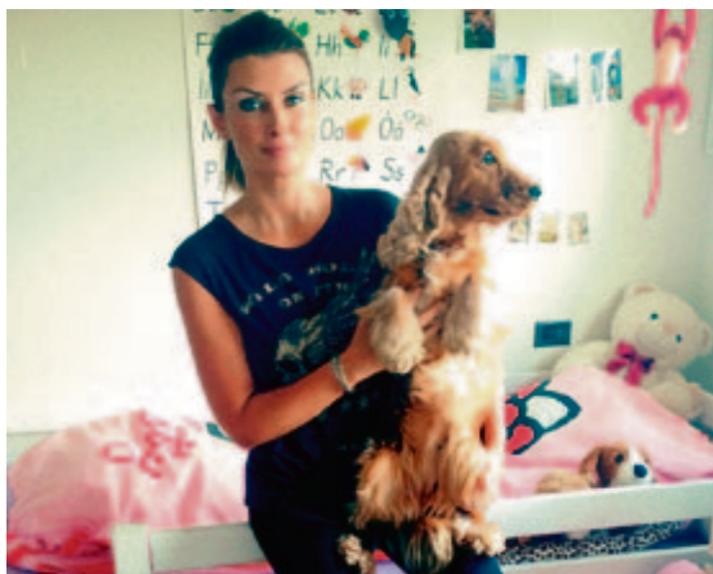
Any other girl might quietly yield to her elders—but not Linda. "When my dad came and told me, I said to him: 'If the mayor comes here with a rifle, I'll take it off him and I'll shoot him!'"

### Constitutional guarantee

She has always been a dog lover: today she has a cocker spaniel called Sterna. The pictures of other pooches she has kept through the years adorn the walls of her office at Baðhúsið, the Reykjavík beauty spa she has been running for almost two decades after winning Miss Iceland and Miss World beauty pageant crowns in 1988. And it is this that drives her to speak out for animal welfare, most recently campaigning for the rights of animals to be enshrined in the Iceland's new constitution.

This October, voters in Iceland are set to be asked what they think of the draft for the new constitution—the product of almost two years' work by the Icelandic Constitutional Assembly—before it returns to Alþingi for full discussion. Article 36 of the current draft explicitly states: "The protection of animals against maltreatment as well as animal species in danger of extinction shall be ensured by law."

Linda is among the many animal rights activists calling on voters and parliamentarians to guarantee that this protection is built into the new constitution. "We have a very old-fashioned way of thinking about animals in Iceland," she laments. "I used to live in Vancouver and there it's like heaven for dogs. There are



special beaches for dogs; outside the banks and cafes they have bowls of water; if you go to the petrol station they'll give you a biscuit if you've got a dog in your car. We don't have any of that here."

### Animal welfare laws

Linda works closely with Árni Stefán Arnason, a lawyer who specialises in animal rights and welfare. "It's important to have animal rights in the constitution because a constitutional act is of higher authority than statute parliamentary law, but also because the law as it stands is not being upheld," he says. "We have had animal welfare legislation since 1914, but authorities are not following the law as it stands. The law stipulates a two-year limit on jail-time for cases of animal cruelty, but in many cases anyone convicted only faces a minor fine."

Like Linda, Árni has history of taking on the law and winning. "I got my first dog when I was about twelve or thirteen. My father was in the town council at Hafnarfjörður, and I made a deal that I would look after the dog if he worked to change the rules to permit dogs in the town." The ownership of dogs in urban areas in Iceland was restricted for many years until surprisingly recently: "Dogs were restricted in some areas because of fears about tapeworm which they could carry and pass on to humans, potentially causing death."

For activists however, the issues of animal rights in Iceland go much further than the quality of life for domestic pets. "Factory farming has been increasing rapidly in Iceland in recent decades,

and this is our main target because the environments in which farm animals are kept are unnatural and they are made to suffer in tight spaces," Árni says.

### Factory farming

"I'm lending my voice to this campaign because it's important to educate people about the way animals are being treated in this country. I would like consumers to ask themselves how their dinner ended up on their plate: the way animals are kept, how they are raised, how they are killed," Linda adds.

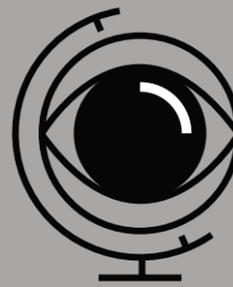
"Some farmers insist that animals don't feel things, that they're not sentient beings, but they're so wrong. I've been campaigning for animal rights for thirty-five years, and when I look into their eyes as they're being taken to the slaughterhouse, I can tell that they sense something is coming," Árni laments.

"Imagine if another race came from Mars that was more intelligent than human beings, and they saw us as animals. They put humans in factories, raise them, kill them and then grill them. What would their argument be to that?"

Persuading consumers to shoulder the higher cost of organic farm produce may seem a challenge, but they believe if consumers were aware of the treatment of animals in factory farms, they would probably reject the product.

Animal rights are already guaranteed in the constitutions of both Germany and India. Even after the public has its say on October 20, Linda and Árni will continue the struggle to make Iceland the next land on the list.

By Marc Vincenz



## Iceland In The International Eye September



This month Peter Day of the BBC World Service attempts to get to the bottom of Iceland's so-called miracle economic recovery. Interviewing Icelandic officials, businessmen, writers and the man on the street, he manages to unpeel a few layers. Is this claim that Iceland's unemployment has gone from about 11% to below 5% in two years even mildly credible?

Business Editor of Morgunblaðið, Agnes Bragadóttir, tells Peter that what the Icelandic government is informing the international media is simply untrue. Iceland is no role model for unburdening debt-laden economies, she says. "The IMF wants everything to be wonderful here, to make an example of us; but we are not an example. And of course our government want to claim that everything is going so well."

Interviewing Jón Sveinsson, a former taxi driver, Peter comes to the conclusion that much of this Arctic nation is heavily in debt and suffering deep depression.

Strangely, it was only last month that The Atlantic Monthly ran a feature on Icelandic happiness. Supposedly Iceland still ranks as one of the most joyful nations in the world. Dóra Guðmundsdóttir, Head of the Division of Determinants of Health in Iceland, told The Atlantic that, "the impact of the economic crisis on happiness in Iceland showed almost no decrease in happiness measures from 2007 to 2012."

This does not tally at all with what Jón Sveinsson has to say: "Very many households in Iceland (somewhere around 30%), have a negative equity status, very often causing people to contemplate just returning the key and moving to Europe. There is a big problem. A mental, social, economical problem... There have been three long years of depression, mental depression with people also."

Writer and activist Andri Snær Magnason concurs: "People are broken, you know. It takes a few years for people to go through these psychological traumas."

As Agnes points out: "...we have not been creating any new jobs in this country so we have lost so many people to Norway, to Sweden. They had just given

up. And therefore the government can claim very proudly the unemployment is only 4.6% now. I think approximately 10,000 people have left [the country]."

And understandably so, when there are no new jobs being created, when household debt is the way it is, and when, as RTT News confirmed this month, the price of grocery items has risen nearly 4% this last year alone.

So is there anyone benefitting from this "crisis" aside from the IMF?—or, as Jón wryly points out—those "who have sheltered their money."

Apparently not quite everybody is suffering.

Sigurgeir Kristgeirsson, CEO of VSV, a fishing company in Vestmannaeyjar, explains that fishermen now receive double the salary they had before the crisis, as the króna is so weak, more of the actual fish processing is taking place domestically (which of course means more jobs).

Yet, even for the well-paid fishermen, there's a dark cloud looming on the horizon. "Our future is terrible, absolutely terrible," Sigurgeir sighs. "Because the government is increasing the tax on the fishing industry. If we don't see this bill changed, in three years from now you'll see 50–70% of the whole fishing industry bankrupt. This taxation will wipe out all the value of the fishing industry as a whole."

And by now, most of us know about that planned VAT hike on Iceland's growing tourism industry—a trebling of the tax rate would you believe!

So, tell me—anyone at all—what on earth are these politicians thinking? Just when they claim things are on the up and the IMF is blowing kisses across the Atlantic, they begin milking the very industries that are keeping the people in jobs.

Back to Andri Snær: "[In Iceland now], you will find this great distrust in politics, distrust in the media, cynicism towards institutions." And as Jón says, it's the common man who bears the brunt of Iceland's massive debt. (If Bloomberg is right, all told it's something like \$85 billion.) "It creates anger and resentment towards our own countrymen. For example, a banker was knocked down in the street not long ago because he dared show himself."

When Peter asks Iceland's Central Bank Governor Már Guðmundsson if Iceland actually has anything to teach the battered countries of Euroland, he answers: "The lesson in terms of how to manage a crisis like this is that we should not make a 'bailing out the bond holders' some kind of a religion."

I don't know about you, but these seem rather bizarre words coming from the governor of the central bank of a debt-burdened nation. Now what exactly is Már recommending those European governments do? Oh yes, never mind the creditors.

As Peter rightly concludes: "Yes, there is life after disaster, provided you've got a plan." And, ehem—what plan would that be? Anyone?

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# Shine A Light *A new whistle-blowing site aims to uncover corruption in Icelandic society*

Words by Anna Andersen  @nnaandersen Photo by Simon Steel



A media organisation called Associated Whistle-blowing Press has just launched a site called [Ljost.is](http://Ljost.is) (ljóst is Icelandic for “clear” or “illuminated”). Its objectives are similar to those of WikiLeaks, but Ljóst aims to go a step further, playing a greater role in the analysis of documents and denouncing wrongdoing.

The founders are a couple of journalists from South America—Pedro Noel and Santiago Carrion—who previously wrote for [WikiLeakscentral.org](http://WikiLeakscentral.org) before defecting to start their own media organisation in Iceland with the help of internet pioneer and former International Modern Media Institute (IMMI) board member Guðmundur Ragnar Guðmundsson.

Pedro tells me more about it over a cup of coffee at a downtown café not far from the Grapevine offices.

## A RIFT WITH WIKILEAKS CENTRAL

**Tell me more about yourselves. How did you get into this?**

When we came up with the idea in December 2011, we had been working as journalists in Spain, writing for WikiLeaks Central, analysing documents, covering the Arab Spring and movements in Spain as well.

WikiLeaks Central was created at

the end of 2010 when rumours surfaced that Sweden was preparing an attack on Julian [Assange]. The idea was that WikiLeaks would create its own news portal to balance reports, giving more first-hand accounts. But it soon grew into something bigger than expected—we started analysing cables, denouncing wrongdoing, covering uprisings, talking about human rights—and for a year and half it worked very nicely like this.

At some point though, the editorial policy changed. A decision was made to only cover news about WikiLeaks and Julian Assange. But we didn't want to be there simply as fans saying that WikiLeaks was cool and that Julian Assange was cool and that he was not a rapist.

**Why didn't they want to have you writing stories about the documents that they were releasing?**

That was precisely our question, which is why we decided to create this new project.

We think that acquiring material and analysing and publishing it should go together. We don't know why WikiLeaks made the decision to give documents to mainstream media and rely on them to publish stories.

**Right, certain media were hand-picked...**

Yeah in the beginning with the cables there were just four media outlets—The Guardian, The Times, Le Monde, El

País in Spain. It was a journalistic decision that we don't agree with.

**Why not?**

It's wrong because mainstream media have political and economic agendas. We are doing this as volunteers and our beliefs go strictly against these agendas.

## LJÓST VS. WIKILEAKS

**How will Ljóst be different than WikiLeaks then?**

I think there are three things. First, we are going to build teams to analyse the documents, which means recruiting journalists, some that were already analysing WikiLeaks cables. Second, we are also going to partner with media organisations, but not exclusively, as WikiLeaks did. Third, we are going to focus more on local communities.

So its objective is largely the same, but we want to go one step further to denounce wrongdoing, crimes and corruption. If you think about the latest releases from WikiLeaks, they weren't really denouncing wrongdoing. There were no real cases of corruption in the State Department cables; the files simply explained the structure and logistics of how something works. It was the same with the Stratfor release; they revealed how something works.

**You're not really interested in those documents?**

We are open to receiving those kinds of documents as well, but we

want to incentivise people to denounce wrongdoing. Like we say here [reads from mission statement], we only accept restricted or censored material of political, scientific, ethical, diplomatic or historical significance. Rumour, opinion, stories and other kinds of firsthand accounts or material that is publicly available elsewhere will not be accepted.

So if it's relevant to public interest, we will receive it. But we want to incentivise people to denounce corruption, crime, and wrongdoing.

## THE ICELAND CONNECTION

**I find it curious that you came to Iceland. You mentioned as we were walking over here that you feel it's safe here...**

Simply because of IMMI.

**But IMMI doesn't REALLY exist. Yet.**

...Yet.

Even though IMMI hasn't implemented all of the legal changes that it would like to implement—changing 16 laws—it is making progress, succeeding, for instance, in getting source protection. That has been totally implemented. But if you think about the whole world, Iceland is the safest place.

**How do you see it working in Iceland's tightly knit society?**

First, I think there is a tendency here to adopt innovative things, as Iceland became world-renowned for its revolution. I think Icelanders are proud of this, to have done things that other countries only wanted to do.

Second, as Iceland is small, power is concentrated in the hands of a few people who often times wear multiple hats. This may be a bad thing, because it can be easy to find out who leaked information, but it can also be a good thing, as it means that there are people out there who have access to relevant information.

**Give me an example of what somebody might submit here in Reykjavik.**

Suppose that the owners of this café aren't paying taxes or they are putting them in somebody else's name. Somebody who works here, who has access to this information, could scan those documents and send them to this platform, proving that the café is washing money or evading taxes. And this can be applied to private and government institutions.

**What kinds of documents do you think you'll see most? What do you think is most corrupt**

**today?**

I would really like information about the aluminium companies. I think this may be most important. But I would also like to see diplomatic documents and inside communication from the government proving malpractice, corruption or wrongdoing. I would personally find that most interesting. But it's not right to want big leaks. Every leak is important if it denounces wrongdoing.

## Their Mission Statement

**What is it?**

Ljost.is will be a citizen whistle-blowing platform destined to open for the Icelandic public. Through this platform, any person will be able to submit documents reporting wrongdoing, crimes and abuses (both in private and governmental field) in an anonymous way.

**Why are they doing it?**

The main goal of the Associated Whistle-blowing Press is to generate social awareness about problems that are normally hidden from the public, hoping that concrete action to solve them will follow. We believe in the traditional idea, lately forgotten, that media must be an active player in correctly informing the population about relevant facts.

They believe a transparent and free flow of information is something essential for self governance. They believe that citizens have the right to know what their political and economic leaders are doing that directly or indirectly affect them.

For journalists, researchers and media activists, this is a very powerful way to lead people to take action against repression, oppression, brutality, censorship, social inequality and corporate greed in every society of this planet.

**What kind of documents will they accept?**

The AWP only accepts restricted or censored material of political, scientific, ethical, diplomatic or historical significance. Rumour, opinion, stories and other kinds of firsthand accounts or material that is publicly available elsewhere will not be accepted. Materials that violate individual privacy will not be accepted unless they speak up on violations and abuses that affect the public sphere.

## SCHEDULE

**Whale-Watching Tour** Duration: 3 hours

The tour includes a stop by Puffin Island 15th May - 20th August

| APR | MAY   | JUN   | JUL   | AUG   | SEPT  | OCT   | NOV-MAR |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
|     | 08:55 | 08:55 | 08:55 | 08:55 | 08:55 |       |         |
|     | 12:55 | 12:55 | 12:55 | 12:55 | 12:55 | 12:55 | 12:55   |
|     |       | 16:55 | 16:55 | 16:55 |       |       |         |

ADULTS: 47€ / 7.500 ISK  
CHILDREN: 7-15 22€ / 3.500 ISK  
CHILDREN: 0-6 FREE

### Other Tours

**Puffin Island Tours** Duration: 1-1,5 hours

15th May - 20th August Every day  
10:00 | 12:00 | 14:00

ADULTS: 3.800 ISK • CHILDREN: 1.900 ISK • CHILDREN: 0-6 FREE

**Sea Angling and Grill** Duration: 3 hours

May - September Every day  
17:00

ADULTS: 10.500 ISK • CHILDREN: 5.000 ISK • CHILDREN: 0-6 FREE

# Whale Watching

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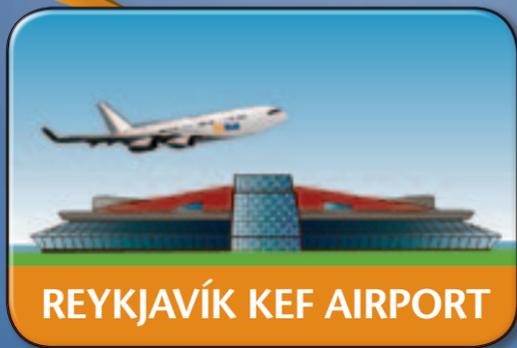


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| 0-11 years<br>FREE OF CHARGE        | 0-11 years<br>FREE OF CHARGE         |

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
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| 12-15 years<br>PRICE <b>1250</b> ISK | 12-15 years<br>PRICE <b>2250</b> ISK |
| 0-11 years<br>FREE OF CHARGE         | 0-11 years<br>FREE OF CHARGE         |

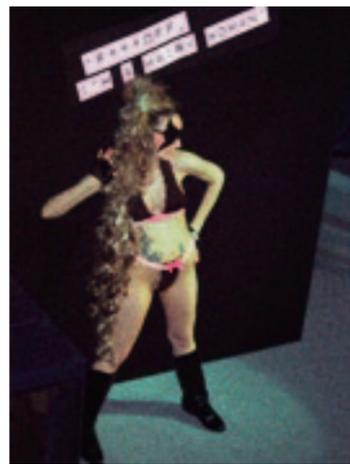


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INTERVIEW

## Anyone Can Be The One UK artist Tracey Moberly talks activist art and offers a tip on how to save NASA



Though she's never been to Iceland, artist Tracey Moberly can relate to the residents of Reykjavík.

In 1999, Tracey co-opened the Foundry in an old two-story bank building in Shoreditch, London. It served as a bar, art gallery, performance space and underground political meeting place for the East End until the building owners, the extremely wealthy Reuben Brothers (worth seven billion euros) decided to turn the bar into a hotel. To anyone who remembers concerts in NASA or fears the tall shadow of a new hotel on Austurvöllur square, the story is familiar.

Her visit this November has nothing to do with NASA or the Foundry, but everything to do with the state of the arts and creative communities. As a speaker at this year's You Are In Control (YAIC) conference, Tracey will discuss her recent text message based memoir, as well as "the interaction of environment, population expansion and personality with the continued development of digital communication and querying the place of the creative within this process."

### TEXT ME UP

Tracey has saved every single text message she has received since her first in 1999, which she got while eating lunch with colleagues from Manchester Metropolitan University. "I was due to meet a friend and he texted me saying that he couldn't make it because he was going to a funeral," Tracey says. "None of us could work out what this little envelope symbol was."

At the time, Tracey was experiencing a difficult break-up, and as further texts continued to stream in that week she said she found herself being cheered up by the words of encouragement filling her inbox. "You never get nasty texts, or at least I don't. People are far more likely to say nasty things down a phone line," Tracey says. "People just don't seem to text aggression."

She decided to preserve the texts for posterity and her own viewing pleasure, on scraps of paper. The scraps became books, then journals, then, as technol-

ogy caught up with her project, digitally downloaded data. The collection has inspired a number of projects including five rounds of exhibitions around England, a live installation at Tate Modern and her 2011 memoir 'Text-Me-Up!'

In her memoir the texts serve to ground the events of her life. The first section contains randomly selected texts. The second, more strictly autobiographical section makes sense of a series of specific texts chosen to open and close each chapter. In the final section Tracey uses conversations, similar to the kind that appear on iPhone text conversations.

### ART VS TECHNOLOGY

Tracey earned her bachelor's degree in fine arts, but it's been years since she's actually touched paint to a canvas. Expanding technologies and new apps have transformed the way she approaches and creates art. "I started using Instagram," Tracey says, for instance. "So I'm taking a photo and putting that on the social network site and then basically turning it into a painting, so I don't need to make a painting of that anymore."

Tracey believes the new technologies available to artists will increase artistic

"I must have been the only person desecrating Banksy two years ago. I literally gouged them out of the walls. I gouged millions of pounds out of the walls."

output. "I wouldn't say it influences what constitutes art, but I think working within an artistic framework and using new technologies, specifically a mobile phone, as your tool, really complements art," Tracey says. "You can really progress with it and take things further."

While Tracey's artistic output is now primarily through technology, she still believes in the value handcrafts. In March 2007 she unofficially opened London Fashion Week with a collection of 80 lingerie pieces that she hand wove. The project combined the digital medium of television with the more hands on project of creating clothing.

"Using those skills with new digital technology creates other things," Tracey says. "So you're not just relying on technology, you're using other methods as well. That's creating a different type of art."

Her unofficial fashion week collection also included another important aspect of Tracey's work: her activist tendencies. The project was in conjunction with the program 'F\*\*\* Off, I'm a Hairy Woman,' and dealt with issues of body image among women. As befitted the theme, she chose human hair to complete the project.

"The whole program was a social/political thing on women and how young girls have started to think that getting waxed is really normal."

### ACTIVISM ART

One of Tracey's earliest acts of activism art occurred in 1995, when she took on an offensive advertising campaign in Manchester.

"I was driving in the car with my two children who were really little at the time and my one son in the back goes 'Mummy, Mummy, what's the summer of 69?' And I'm thinking it must be the summer of love," Tracey says. "Then I saw Beaver Espana. You can't turn the channel off like you can a TV. You have to look at these billboard posters."

Club 18-30 offers vacation packages for young adults, many travelling alone for the first time. Their ads at the time featured a series of humorous sexual innuendos. The company received several complaints from local residents in Manchester, and especially bothered Tracey, who noted the lack of safe sex warnings. At the time, the UK government was heavily promoting safe sex in the face of the AIDS epidemic and the advertisements seemed irresponsible for leaving out that message, she says.

So Tracey, along with two other friends, decided to fix this glaring oversight. They woke up early one morning and tagged all of the Club 18-30 billboards in Manchester with safe sex messages, and helped end the campaign altogether.

"Everybody's got a right to express what they think is wrong or what they think is right," Tracey says. "I think if a person takes a stand and does something then things will happen. It just takes one person to start people up, and I think that anyone can be that one per-

son."

All of Tracey's artwork is grounded in social and political issues. Her various projects have addressed domestic violence, Hepatitis C, gun control and human trafficking. In 2007 she and Mark Thomas ("the UK's Michael Moore") responded to a UK law banning protesting near the Parliament building by founding McDemos, a for-hire protest company. For five Euros the company would stage a protest for the client and send them a photo.

Not all the protests have been successful. The Foundry is still closed and the building owners have kept the building locked tight. There was, however, one small victory. The walls of the Foundry contained eight original Banksy drawings, collectively worth millions of euros and when a company partnered with the Reuben Brothers showed interest in the artwork, Tracey painted over each and every one.

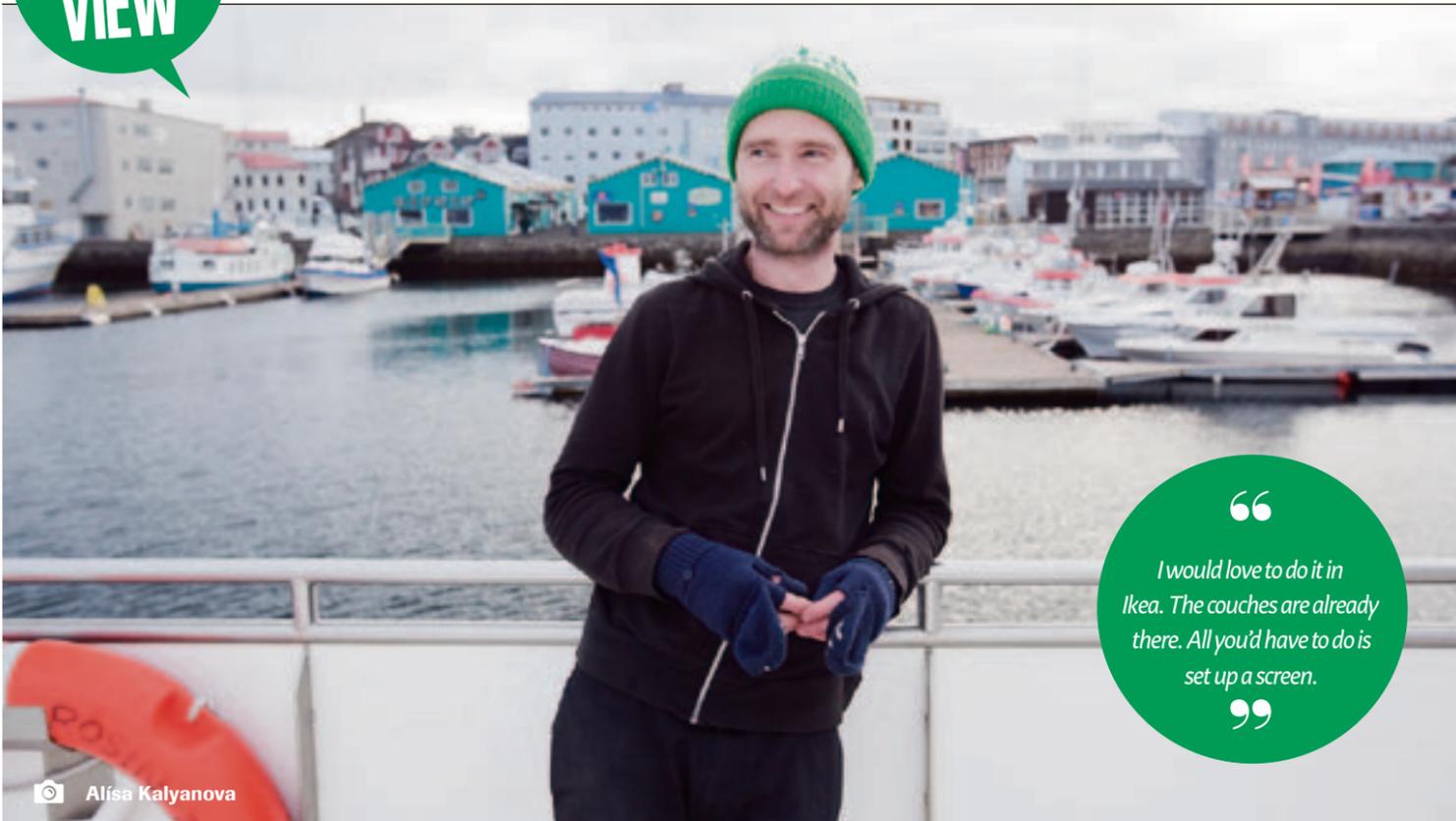
"I must have been the only person desecrating Banksy two years ago," Tracey says. "I literally gouged them out of the walls. I gouged millions of pounds out of the walls."

As for Reykjavík locals hoping to save NASA, she thinks the opposite might work. If Banksy's artwork was valuable to the Reuben Brothers' partners, then similar artists might make NASA valuable enough to save. "If those artists were invited to paint all over the building, then the building would be worth more," Tracey says. "Or you could get a collection of artists from around the world... that would be great."

✉ - ARIT JOHN

INTERVIEW

# Awkwardly Awesome! Festival Director Craig Downing rolls out the welcome mat for Couch Fest Films



Alisa Kalyanova

“I would love to do it in Ikea. The couches are already there. All you'd have to do is set up a screen.”

A not so authentic seagull “ca-caw, ca-caw” steals my attention as I wait outside a whale watching tour office at the Reykjavík Harbour. I initially write it off as a species of rare Icelandic bird I am yet to come into contact with, but it gets louder and louder until I turn and discover said rare bird is Craig Downing: Festival Director of Couch Fest Films. He rolls in astride his bicycle, still ca-cawing, then executes a mid-motion dismount, parks the bike against a nearby pole, de-helmets and introduces himself.

“We have come to steal your boat,” Craig grandly announces as we enter the tour office. The lady behind the desk isn’t startled in the slightest; she and Craig have been acquainted. “Follow me,” she says and we are promptly shown to Rosin: Special Tours’ whale watching boat, one of the Reykjavík locations playing host to Couch Fest screenings around the world on November 10.

We stumble aboard and get comfortable just as the sun begins to set over the harbour. Craig is very likeable. He speaks quickly and energetically about everything and anything that comes to mind. Within minutes of meeting me he’d already told me how he’d once spent two months in my hometown of Melbourne. Why was he there? He was being paid to regularly poop in a bag for medical research.

The topic he speaks most passionately about though is Couch Fest Films, now into its fifth year of screening some of the world’s best short films in ordinary people’s homes across the globe. “Take your favourite film festival, take everything about it. The chaos, the voting, the drama, all of it, and just take out the theatres and replace it with living rooms,” Craig explains. “We’re a very legitimate film festival, it just happens to be in your living room.”

### Tricking Seattleites into loosening up

Craig moved to Austin, Texas when he landed a job as a screener for the SXSW Festival, but later relocated to Seattle where the idea for Couch Fest Films was born.

“Austin is really casual. You can go to the bus stop and the next thing you know you meet your best friend, you’ve quit work and you’ve started a band. Everyone’s very open and casual. Seattle is a very creative town but it wasn’t quite as open as I was used to. And I kept thinking ‘what can I do to get people to motherfuckin’ open up a little bit?’

He tricked Seattleites into opening

their doors to strangers by creating what he calls a ‘community development programme’ disguised as a film festival, luring them in with the promise of world-class short films. And it worked. “Next thing you know, there’s an intermission and they find themselves so awkward in five minutes so they start talking. It was just a way for them to get over themselves and find other cinephiles and have a shared experience to kind of connect over.”

The selection process for Couch Fest Films isn’t a technical one. Films are not marked against any formal criteria and there is certainly no vote tallying. “Realistically we say to ourselves, ‘would we take a bottle over the head for this film?’ It’s just kind of a gut reaction,” Craig says.

“We’ve rejected films from professionals. But on the other end you’ve got films that’ve been totally shot with a cell phone and you could tell the roommates got tired of being in the film so then halfway through it suddenly becomes an animation. But that is a testament to someone who is obsessed with this film and is going to finish it no matter what. And he pulled it off.”

### Bros watching shitty YouTube videos?

Despite having such a relatable staple of modern life as the couch to use as a marketing tool, Craig says selling the idea to people can be challenging.

“We got a grant from the Seattle City Council, but we almost didn’t get it. They were like ‘Why the fuck are we gonna pay a bunch of bros. down in the basement to like order pizza and watch shitty YouTube videos?’ There’s this idea that it’s just cheap couch films. That’s why we do try to get the very best films to combat that. But our mission has always been to bring people together with mind-blowing films.”

I tell Craig I’m not sure how I would fare watching a film with complete strangers in such a social atmosphere.

Mid-film discussion annoys me. As do people who ask me to explain details of the plot, and I abhor people chewing, crunching, chomping, or doing anything audible with food while a film is on.

“When I go to the cinema it’s dark, I have this experience,” Craig says. “I think people are more relaxed in the living room environment. There isn’t an usher that’s going to tell you to be quiet. There isn’t a screen to tell you to turn your cell phone off. It’s a very casual environment and I think that encourages people to talk.”

So just how cosy is one permitted to get in a stranger’s home?

“I think it’s pretty much up to the host how casual or cosy they want to get,” Craig says. “One year this one woman did this whole theme. She called it ‘the swinging ‘70s’ or something and she dressed up in a velvet jumpsuit. Everyone had to put keys in a bowl and whoever’s keys got pulled out got a fondue cheese kit. I was like that’s cute, but you know we’re going to be showing films? And she was like ‘oh yeah, but I accidentally bought like 50 cheese kits a year ago and I just want to get rid of them.’ “So it’s the host’s prerogative to make it as cosy or eclectic or as comfortable or as thematic as they want. But if someone just wants to open the door, turn the TV on and press play on the DVD, they’re already a winner.”

### Growing pains in Iceland

Last year Couch Fest Films made its Icelandic debut, although it didn’t receive the kind of support Craig had anticipated. A number of factors could have been responsible. Craig believes there was a lot of reservation about letting complete strangers into your living room and then being expected to host them socially.

“Iceland is a fishing country, not a chatty loud American country unless you’re out at 4 AM throwing bottles down Laugavegur. I think it was a little bit new for the community and a little

bit on the edge of the comfort zone. This year I think they recognise that we’re not a Chinese company trying to take over real estate inside their living room,” he says, laughing.

And support this year they have received. Aside from the whale watching tour boat, the festival has secured screening locations as diverse as “the motherfucking Harpa,” in Craig’s own excited words and a downtown bike workshop.

“Last year there was no way we could have got into Harpa. This year the response has been amazing. We’ve contacted people and they’ve been like, ‘Totally, awesome, when can we meet?’ This boat, it was one phone call. They were like, ‘a film festival on the boat? That’d be great. And how do you feel about taking the guests out on the water?’ We were like, ‘Umm, yeah!’ Like we’re gonna say, ‘Oh no, don’t take the guests out on the whale watching tour for fucking free!’” he laughs.

### Expanding all the way to Oman

The 2011 festival opened Craig’s eyes to the possibilities of hosting screenings in locations that are a bit out of the ordinary. Last year, for instance, they secured a host in Oman, a country where all media must be cleared by the ministry of censors before being broadcast.

“We delivered what ostensibly is western Satan media and had a film festival in someone’s house. I would like for this person to email me and let me know he’s still alive at this point. He hasn’t emailed me since. I think he’s ok. But I mean we delivered a film festival in Oman with Western media. I think that’s pretty fun.”

Logistically, the biggest difference in the 2012 festival programme will be the number of unique locations organised for screenings. “In Germany we’re fucking hosting in a castle, we’re hosting in a media arts centre in Nepal and we’re going to be hosting on this boat.”

Craig talks with contagious excitement about possible future directions for the festival. “I would love to do an open-air screening in an old city in Poland. I would love to do it in Ikea. The couches are already there. All you’d have to do is set up a screen. Everybody sits down while they’re taking a break from shopping. Kind of like a flash-mob film festival. A planned flash-mob film festival in Ikea.” **✎ - THOMAS L. MOIR**

### Don’t Miss These Five Couch Fest Films

There are two rules to follow when submitting a film to Couch Fest Films: Rule One, films must not suck. Rule two, films must be less than 8 minutes. That’s it, but they’re even kind of flexible with the second rule.

This year the festival received hundreds of entries from all over the world and organisers have put themselves through hour upon gruelling hour of film-watching to narrow it down to 40 finalists (to be honest, it’s probably what they’d be doing anyway). These top 40 films will be shown at screenings worldwide on November 10.

None of the films suck, but here are five that we think especially don’t suck! Locations have yet to be confirmed so you might want to visit [www.couchfestfilms.com](http://www.couchfestfilms.com) to find out where they will be shown as November 10 approaches.

### The Maker



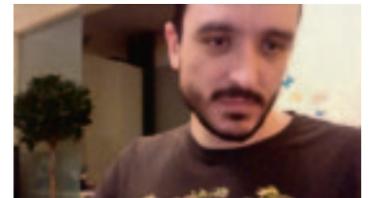
A strange creature races against time to make the most important and beautiful creation of his life.

### We Refuse To Be Cold



A couple from Montreal make a pact for the winter.

### Funny Web Cam Effects



A moment witnessed through the eyes of a web cam.

### Voice Over



A stranded astronaut struggles to return to his ship as he runs out of oxygen, but then...

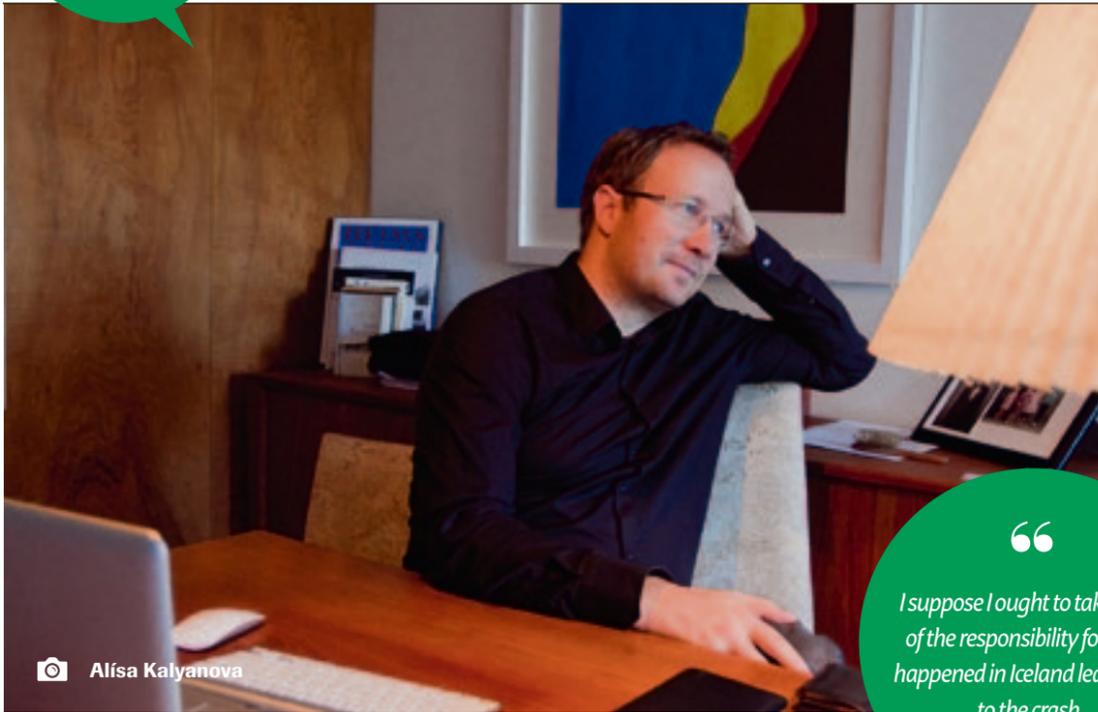
### Thumb Snatchers



A carnivorous Texan sheriff defends his right to eat meat from extra-terrestrial beings.



# Andri Snær Magnason: The First Capitalist-Realist Poet? Dystopian novel by Iceland's prophet to be published in English



Alísa Kalyanova

“  
I suppose I ought to take some of the responsibility for what happened in Iceland leading up to the crash.  
”

For a wily writer who has always known his market, Andri Snær Magnason is late again. Three weeks have passed since his publisher's deadline for the manuscript of his next novel—a story about a king who has conquered the world but now wants to control time too—and Andri has decided to overhaul the structure and write a new ending. Next month, his epic dystopian allegory 'LoveStar' is at long last to be published in English—a full ten years after it was first released to rave reviews from Icelandic readers.

Years too late, his many followers might say. From the pen of a man whose early poetry was once published by Bónus supermarket founder Jón Ásgeir Jóhannesson, 'LoveStar' is the story of an enigmatic and obsessive corporate plutocrat who now has a dream to control how human beings think and communicate, all for the profit of his business.

### ENTERPRISING POET

**Your writing career began when you were still studying at university in the early '90s. How did you make your name as such a young writer?**

I published my own poetry, and I sold that to support myself through university rather than taking out student loans. I was like a drug dealer. My first book of poetry was well-received, so that helped spread word of mouth. My family was also helpful; they worked at hospitals with big groups of friends and they all bought copies. I would go to the cafes, walk up to each table and ask, 'Do you want to buy a poetry book for 1,000 krónur?' That was only about one per cent of the monthly wages of a high-school teacher, so lots of people bought it.

**That must have been good practice for selling your Bónus poetry collection?**

That came out in 1996—it was actually published by the supermarket chain Bónus. I made a deal with the notorious boss Jón Ásgeir himself when he had about three people in his office running a handful of stores in Reykjavík. Ten years later he had 40,000 employees, the most expensive apartment in New York, a private jet and a super-yacht. So I suppose I ought to take some of the responsibility for what happened in Iceland leading up to the crash! Mr Bónus really liked the cover, but I'm not sure if he read the whole book. It was on sale in the supermarkets—and you got a free copy if you bought something like 50 kilos of pork.

**Does that make you a sort of capitalist poet?**

For me it was an ironic statement—a literary prank. Every ideology comes with poetry: communism has socialist realism; the church has psalms and songs. Why doesn't capitalism have poetry? Why are there no poets writing about economic growth and buying products? I saw it as perhaps the first in the genre of capitalist realism, giving confidence to the consumer, praising the products and enhancing loyalty to the store.

### PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS

**Didn't you feel like you were selling out?**

Every idol that I had, all the big names like Britney Spears and David Beckham, they were selling themselves to Pepsi and Coke and the big brands. My childhood role models were on my

wall as advertisements, trying to sell me something. I thought this was the most vulgar thing you could do to poetry. But even then I wanted there to be social awareness in my writing; I'd always approached my big themes as allegories until I finally addressed the issues Iceland was facing in 'Dreamland.'

**Yes, 'Dreamland: A Self-Help Manual For A Frightened Nation.' You released that in 2006 at the height of the boom years. Did the country listen to what you said?**

'Dreamland' was primarily about the great destruction of the Icelandic environment and natural landscape.

I was only part of a big grassroots movement—there were many people putting all their spare time and more into stopping this. We raised awareness and prevented exploitation in parts of the country, which energy companies thought they had the right to plunder with heavy machinery. I think there is less arrogance in the energy industry these days, but still it takes a very courageous politician to stop someone who's out to make money.

**'LoveStar' is coming out in English this November, but it was published in Icelandic ten years ago, four years before 'Dreamland.' Do they have much in common?**

I think it asks similar questions about what philosophical ground you stand on. LoveStar is the boss of a company—and it's the name of his company. He is a serial entrepreneur. He has an ego that I can see in myself and other writers, as he becomes consumed by his own ideas. He has a very weak immune system, so he's almost body-snatched by them. He wants more and more, like an engineer who wants to dam every single river or tap oil everywhere just because he can. This is a world where everything is taken to the full extreme.

LoveStar is always infected by an idea, and without one he's an empty shell—like a writer with writer's block, without any use for his existence. Characters like these mess up everything around them, every relationship, their family, their life. When I read Steve Jobs' biography, I thought he was like this character I was creating—even on his death-bed he was talking about the next iPhone! Steve Jobs though only revolutionised music, communication and film; LoveStar revolutionises love, death and god.

### DYSTOPIA NOW

**So the destructive power of technology is a key theme. But surely technology also brings us together—not to mention helping you sell your books?**

I was exploring the possibility of technology becoming a regime. Every ideology, whether through a church or a political rally, can bring people together. LoveStar develops a regime where almost every single interaction has some kind of incentive or reward. People belong in different classes, so the poorest are 'howlers' and only have commercials attached to their speech drives to say basic things like 'Good Coke, Good Coke, Good Coke.' The wealthier have more sophisticated drives which help them work out what will appeal to you which in turn helps build their rating.

**Is this becoming reality?**

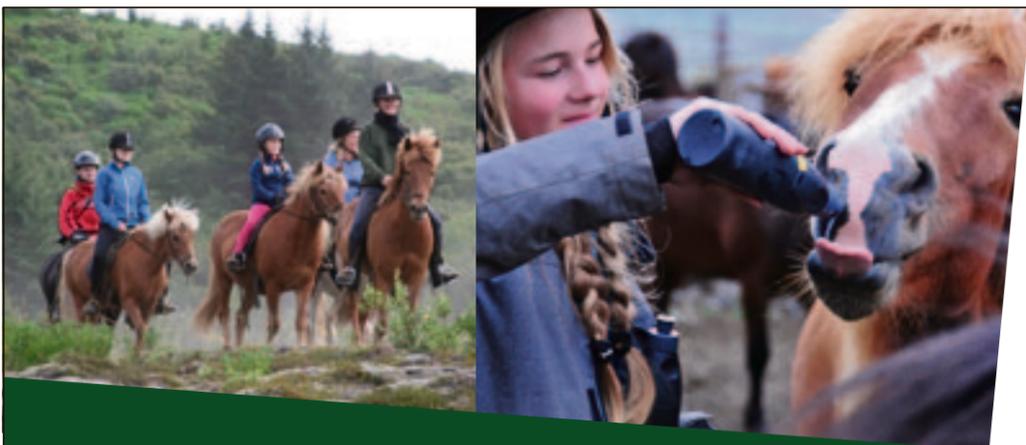
This was written before the days of Facebook and Twitter. Now we live in a world of likes. There's now even something called Klout, which gives you a score based on your social networking influence. In the book, individuals have ratings like that, so I suppose I could be bold and say I invented Klout.

I've started using Twitter because I had to promote my book. I've found myself tweeting self-congratulatory things about the book, seeking out retweets and Facebook likes. I started following Neil Gaiman, and wondered how he can write anymore—he's tweeting every thirty seconds! I wondered where the potential to map and track all our interactions was going. The ability to map our movements and check in to locations is growing fast. If I can check in and tag you to say I've just recommended you buy this Philips phone and you then go off and do that, the store could give me a cut rather than having someone in the store to sell their phones. That's the world of LoveStar.

**How do people's reactions now compare to those when it was first released?**

When it came out in 2002 it was called a dystopian novel; now it's being called a parody. We seem to have already reached that dystopia. It got a lot of great reviews back then, but I've always had interesting responses. I've had teenage boys calling me, telling me they've never read a book before this but were blown away—and then they ask, "What drugs were you taking?"

✂ - MARK O'BRIEN



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# LoveStar

by Andri Snær Magnason

## CHAPTER 1: A CORDLESS MODERN MAN

The cordless modern world had as little as possible to do with cords and cables — not that they were called cords or cables anymore. They were known as chains, and gadgets were known as weights or burdens. People looked at the chains and burdens of the past and thanked their lucky stars. In the old days, people said, we were wire-slaves chained to the office chair, far from birdsong and sunshine. But things had changed. When men in suits talked to themselves out in the street and reeled off figures, no one took them for lunatics: they were probably doing business with some unseen client. The man who sat in rapt concentration on a riverbank might be an engineer designing a bridge. When a sunbathing woman piped up out of the blue that she wanted to buy a two-ton cod quota, bystanders wouldn't automatically assume this was addressed to them, and when a teenager made strange humming noises on the bus, nodding his head to and fro, he was probably listening to an invisible radio. The man who breathed rapidly or got an erection at an inappropriate time and place probably had his visual nerve connected to some hard-core material or was listening to a sex line. (There was no limit to the filth that flooded through the connected minds of some people, but of course it was impossible to ban them from filling their heads with obscenity and violence. You might as well ban thinking.) If someone stood beside you and asked: "What time is it?" and you answered right away: "It's half past nine," the person would respond, even though there was no one else in sight: "Thanks, but I wasn't talking to you."

Indridi Haraldsson was a cordless modern man, so the average person could not tell if he was going mad or not. When he spoke to himself in public there might be someone on the other end of the line. When he laughed and laughed it might be for the same reason, or he might be listening to a comedy station, or he could have a funny video playing on the lens. In fact it was impossible to tell what was going on in his head but there was no reason why it should be anything abnormal.



If he ran down the street shouting: "The end of the world is here! The end of the world is here!" most people assumed he was taking part in a radio station competition for a prize of free hamburgers. When he rode naked up and down the shopping center escalator seven times in a row people assumed something similar. It was difficult to tell what prize he was competing for because he was naked and people could only guess his target group from his hairstyle, age, and physical build. Indridi was twenty-one, thin, and pale-skinned, with fair,

dishevelled hair, so he was definitely not the target audience of a radio station that advertised bodybuilding, sports cars, highlights, and solariums. He had no tattoos or piercings, so he wasn't the target of the station that played rock and punk and advertised raw beer, unfiltered moonshine, and high tar cigarettes. He was naked and unkempt and definitely didn't belong to any of the more sober target groups. Maybe he was a performance artist. Artists were always busy performing. Perhaps the escalator scene was worth three points on the College of Art's performance art course. Or he could, of course, be in an isolated minority target group. There were plenty of them around, but generally an attempt was made to direct people into a popular area where they could be reached more economically.

If Indridi suddenly barked at someone: "IIIIICE -COLD CO KE! IIICCCCE -COLD CO KE!!!" for ten seconds without his eyes or body seeming to match his words, the reason for this behaviour was simple: the advertisements being transmitted to him were directly connected to his speech center. People assumed he must be an ad howler. He was probably broke enough to fall outside most target groups, so it wasn't worth sending him personal advertisements. But it was possible to send ads through him to others by using his mouth as a loudspeaker. Those who walked past howlers could expect an announcement like:

"IIIIICE -COLD COKE!"

This was more effective than conventional reminders on ad hoardings or the radio. So when Indridi met a man on his way to the parking lot, he howled:

"FASTEN YO UR SEAT BELT ! SLOW DOWN !"

The man had been arrested for speeding without a seat belt. As a punishment he was made to listen to and pay for two thousand edifying reminders from ad howlers. That was probably the best thing about the new technology. It could be used to improve society.

"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR !" howled a shady-looking man at half-hourly intervals. A rehabilitated murderer, people would correctly assume, giving him a wide berth. Prisoners could be released early if they howled for charities or religious groups.

Howlers were not all broke. Many were simply scrounging for discounts or perks, and some only became howlers for the first three months of the year while they paid for the latest upgrade of the cordless operating system. Those who didn't get their system upgraded could have problems with their business or communication. Cordless home appliances and auto door-openers only recognized the latest system, and the same applied to the latest car models, so they wouldn't automatically slow down if someone with the old system crossed the road. [This is just part of chapter one. Read the rest after it comes out on November 13!]

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|                       |       |        | 10:00   | 10:00 | 10:00   |        |         |  |
| 13:00                 | 13:00 | 13:00  | 13:00   | 13:00 | 13:00   | 13:00  | 13:00   |  |
|                       |       | 17:00* | 17:00   | 17:00 | 17:00   | 17:00* |         |  |
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## Fashion, Music And Moving House

Snoop-Around talks to Bára Hólmgeirsdóttir, fashion designer and owner of Aftur



**Snoop-Around**  
Nanna Dís

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Founded in 1999 by sisters Bára and Hrafnhildur Hólmgeirsdóttir, Aftur is a fashion label made with a strong environmental conscience. Its motto, “Recycle or die,” can be seen in the deconstructed rock ‘n’ roll look that has come to characterise the label. Aftur is now run by Bára, who has designed for Icelandic music royalty such as Björk, Sigur Rós and Emilíana Torrini. We caught up with her to hear about upcoming changes to her shop and her recent collaboration with Sigur Rós.

### So what’s happening with the shop, are you moving?

Yeah, I’m moving the shop to Laugavegur 39 mid-October. The building that we’re in at the moment, where the shop and the workshop have been, is supposed to be moved or torn down in the near future. I also want to separate the workshop from the shop and begin carrying new labels. It’s time to expand and make the shop more accessible to everyone.

### So you’ll be carrying a variety of brands at the new store?

Yes, I’m not making an Aftur flagship store; it’s more Bára’s shop with a representation of things I like. Aftur is my brand and it will of course be the main focus of the store, but I also plan to carry a variety of other brands that I feel compliment Aftur.

### Aftur seems to have a strong connection with musicians. Is that something that you were striving for?

Well, it’s been more accidental than anything else; it just happened. I’ve found it really interesting to collaborate with such talented people. When I work with someone else I have to consider their thoughts and opinions, and that obviously has an effect on my designs for Aftur.

Ultimately everyone is happy with the end result and the main goal is that the artist feels good on stage. It’s healthy to have to do that because in the end it pushes you in new direc-

tions and brings you a new perspective to work from. That’s what I find most interesting when doing these collaborations.

### You’ve been working with Sigur Rós on their stage look for their tour their latest album, ‘Valtari.’ How has that collaboration been?

Well, I’ve worked with Jónsi before and I understand him quite well, but this is the first time I’m designing for Georg and Orri, so I had to get to know them. It’s been great working with them. They all have

### How does the fall look for you and Aftur?

Right now I’m working with musician Beth Orton to get her ready for her tour. I made the dress she wore in the video ‘Magpie’ and Hrafnhildur did her styling. And since then I’ve made some outfits for her to wear for interviews and TV appearances. But of course my main focus is on the new store.

✦ - ERLA BJÖRK BALDURSDÓTTIR

“  
I’m not making an Aftur flagship store; it’s more Bára’s shop with a representation of things I like.  
”

opinions about what they like and don’t like. And of course Sigur Rós is Sigur Rós so you know what you are working with. I had to make clothes that would make them feel and look good on stage; they wanted to be able to wear these clothes off stage too, so basically it’s not a big costume thing.

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# Surrendering To Time “The Power of Passage” at the Reykjavík Art Museum

“The Power of Passage” at Reykjavík Art Museum’s Hafnarhús is centred around Jóhann Eyfells’ “Cloth Collapsion,” a monumental metres-long canvas steeped in industrial effluvia. The nearly 90-year-old Reykjavík born sculptor made his name working with metals, forging them industrially or welcoming in varying degrees of organic imperfection.

## The Power of Passage

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Reykjavík Art Museum  
Hafnarhús

www.artmuseum.is



Unfurled at majestic full length across the middle of the gallery, stained with oily pockmarks and rusty striations, “Cloth Collapsion” looks like some kind of ancient, time-worn scroll—a key document from a not quite lost civilisation, rescued from the ravages of the elements and displayed as an artefact for curious museumgoers. The only thing missing, really, is the writing. There is a kind of history inscribed, but it’s a record of biological time, not of human civilization.

### Leaving art to nature and chance

A similarly humble pose, in a more specifically art-historical context, is struck on one of the facing walls by Harpa Árnadóttir’s white paintings. Harpa coated her canvasses in layers of pigment and glue so that they would crack; the crisscross of hairline fractures maps a molecular logic too fine for any painter to replicate. The artist has forsaken all visual content

save for the material properties of her medium itself. And, as with Jóhann, what results is a ghostly vision from the future. The mixtures Harpa applies to her canvas merely speed up, rather than delay, the fate they share with all paintings. Despite the heroic dedication of art restorers and the generators keeping the exhibition and storage spaces cool and dry, canvasses crack and colours dim.

Harpa is among four Icelandic artists whose work was selected by curator Hafþór Yngvason to surround “Cloth Collapsion.” All have devised processes by which nature and chance might take their course. For her “Material Landscape Project,” Guðrún Einaradóttir blended her oil paint with chemicals so that it would, when splashed onto a canvas, stay wet and continue to disperse in unpredictable ways for as long as a year or more. Very close-up, the coagulated veins of paint look like packages of Ramen noodles. Ragna Róbertsdóttir

contributes a piece of tarnished silver, like an occluded mirror, and several glass plates onto which she has poured salt water and let dry. In a more inorganic way, Sólveig Aðalsteinsdóttir prints film exposed and handled in a dark room, capturing the play of stray ambient light.

There are a number of parallels to be drawn. In his notes, curator Hafþór invokes a couple of rather cheeky predecessors: Marcel Duchamp, who allowed dust to gather on a glass plate left out in his studio, and the Icelandic Kristján Guðmundsson who, in 1969, exhibited an ironing board covered in chickenshit deposited there by his hens. He titled it “Environmental Sculpture.” Removed from debates over the artistic methods and valuations, “Cloth Collapsion” also has a whiff of the archaeological grandeur of Richard Serra’s oxidized monoliths. And Jóhann’s use of industrial waste in his sculpture, and the facing walls’

patterns of decomposition, spreading oil and salt water recall J. Henry Fair and Edward Burtynsky, whose large-format photographs frame landscape-despoiling pollution as alarmingly beautiful abstract compositions.

### The most inexorable process of all

Additionally, the random-access methods on display here have an inverse in the Conceptual and Minimal schools, wherein artists will sometimes surrender their decision-making process to some kind of schema, whether technological or a logic of their own devising. From 1960, François Morellet’s “Random Distribution of 40,000 Squares Using the Odd and Even Numbers of a Telephone Directory” is an obsessive, impersonal, red-and-blue static array made exactly as it sounds like it was made. Sol LeWitt produced instructions for geometrical wall drawings to be executed by installers. The point is to efface the agency of the human artist, often in the face of some encroaching impersonal technology—or else, as is happening at Hafnarhús, to contest any such timeline of succession by reverting to eternal orders.

What all these abstract pieces have in common, though, is the beautiful, uncanny impression they give of corresponding to some kind of secret law of nature, regardless of how advanced and man-made the materials. And it’s nature that all of these “material landscapes”—to borrow Guðrún’s title—evoke, as in Ragna’s islands of crystal formations, or the wavy splashes of illumination, like the Northern Lights in Sólveig’s photo prints. This natural beauty, with its minimal colour and embellishment, is spare, even weathered, and perhaps stereotypically Icelandic. In their deference to, and articulation of, natural and inexorable processes, the works in “The Power of Passage” are more than a little stoic. They genuflect towards the most inexorable process of all: time.

✂ - MARK ASCH



## WHAT THE EFF IS GOING ON???

October

### SOUND THE ALARMS

While a lot of local bands take the weeks before Airwaves to rest and recuperate for the upcoming madness, others are taking the opportunity to get their new material out there. Our cover guy **Skúli Sverrisson** just released an album with **Óskar Guðjónsson** named “The Box Tree” on September 21. Folkster singer **Jóhann Kristinnsson** has just put out his new album ‘Headphones’ which is now available on Gogoyoko, where you can also find the first single from **Pórir Georg**’s upcoming record ‘I Will Die and You Will Die and it Will be Alright’. Then there’s **Nóra**, who have a fresh new album hitting the shelves in November right after they come off their Airwaves gig.



### CALIFORNIA HERE WE COME

Meanwhile, in addition to their new album ‘Elegy’ coming out on October 8, hip hop band **Epic Rain** are on tour through France and Italy all month until they come home for the festival. Also on tour is **Sudden Weather Change** doing a clean sweep of the American west coast. They play their first show tonight at The Echo in Los Angeles and finish up in Brooklyn at the Grand Victory. We wish them grandeur and victories!

### CELLULOID VS. COUCH POTATO

In the world of visual entertainment, **RIFF** is still on for a couple of days and then the movies will be back to good ol’ popcorn munching fare. Over at the **Sambíó Reykjavík** theatre you can catch (among others) **Lawless**, a crime film written by Gothic gunslinger **Nick Cave**, political-spoof **The Campaign** starring **Will Ferrell** and **Zach Galifianakis**, and the booty-shaking madness of **Step Up Revolution** (aka Step Up 4Ever!). If the last one is as great as the first three Step Ups, we smell a Razzie award!



If you’d rather not put on pants and leave the house, **RÚV** (Icelandic National Broadcasting) has you all set up with stories. Tuesday evenings have season 3 of the Showtime series **The Big C** starring Laura Linney as a cancer-ridden woman hiding her illness from her family. On Wednesday nights you have the Lifetime TV drama **Army Wives**, following the lives of, well... army wives. On the same night there’s also the Grey’s Anatomy spin-off **Private Practice**, but lagging one season behind at number 5. Weekend nights are all set too, with movies like **Pretty in Pink**, **Broken Flowers** and (speaking of Razzies) **Jersey Girl!**

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# What's So Super About Supergroups? From Cream to GRM and beyond, Valur Gunnarsson explores the supergroup phenomenon and lists Icelanders' attempts at forming such outfits

There was a time when supergroups walked the Earth. Their first recorded appearance dates back to the late '60s, and they tended to include Eric Clapton, who formed Cream, Blind Faith and Derek and the Dominos in quick succession with other big name musicians. By definition, a supergroup is comprised of previously famous people, so bands such as The Beatles and the Stones, whose members later became household names in their own right, don't qualify. However, a short-lived supergroup called The Dirty Mac did include John Lennon, Keith Richards and, perhaps inevitably, Eric Clapton.

The rise of the supergroups continued unabated into the '70s, with the sound of clashing egos so loud that even names for the bands could not be agreed upon. Instead, everyone got a name check in Crosby, Stills, Nash and (sometimes) Young, or Emerson, Lake and Palmer. Much like the dinosaurs, supergroups either imploded under their own weight or were destroyed by the meteor of punk rock in the later '70s, but have periodically re-emerged in most forms of musical styles. Country has given us The Highwaymen

(including among others Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson), grunge Mad Season (featuring members of Alice in Chains and Pearl Jam), and rap Bad Meets Evil (featuring Eminem and Royce da 5'9"), to name but a few.

### Metal's last stand

Of all musical styles, it is metal that is most prone to inspire supergroups, often bearing silly names such as Wondergirls or Brides of Destruction. Supergrouping might take place out of

sheer necessity, as metal periodically falls out of fashion, forcing the survivors to band together. For example, some of the most diligent supergroup joiners are members of Guns 'n' Roses who aren't Axl Rose. Their projects include Neurotic Outsiders (also featuring members of the Sex Pistols and Duran Duran), Slash's Snakepit (featuring members of Alice in Chains and Jellyfish), Rock Star Supernova (featuring members of Metallica, Motley Crue and—almost—our own Magni Ásgeirsson), and of course Velvet Revolver, fronted by Scott Weiland of Stone Temple Pilots.

Even children of famous musicians have been known to go the supergroup route in an attempt to grab attention, an example being Bloodlines, made up of the sons of Miles Davis and Robby Krieger of the Doors, or Wilson Philips, made up of the daughters of the Beach Boys and The Mamas and the Papas.

### The really super supergroups

Perhaps the supergroup most deserving of the name is The Travelling Wilburys, featuring Bob

Dylan, Roy Orbison, Tom Petty, Jeff Lynne and former Beatle George Harrison (Eric Clapton thankfully absent). Perhaps the only way to top this would be to put Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins together, which of course happened in 1956, their Million Dollar Quartet being the first, if accidental, supergroup. Then again, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. performing together as the Rat Pack predates them all.

By their nature, supergroups tend to be short lived due to oversized egos and, more often than not, a lack of musical direction other than the bringing together of said egos. However, at least one great band, Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, started out life as an underground supergroup of sorts, comprising members of Australia's Birthday Party and German bands Die Haut and Einstürzende Neubauten.

The actual impact of supergroups on popular music may be considerably smaller than the sum of its parts, but in Iceland, the story is different.

✦ - VALUR GUNNARSSON



### The '70s: Trúbrot

Perhaps due to the smallness of the scene, Iceland has proved fertile ground for supergroup creation. It sometimes seems that everyone plays with everyone at some point. The first was Trúbrot, which was formed in 1969 by members of two of the most popular Icelandic bands at the time, Hljómar and Flowers. Their album 'Lifun' was long regarded as the best Icelandic rock album of all time, but the group disbanded in 1973 after failing to reach international acclaim. Some members went on to another supergroup, *Þe lónlí blú bojs*, less musically ambitious but more commercially successful locally. Organist Magnús Kjartansson made another bid for world stardom with his band Change in 1974, dressing the boys up in Bay City Rollers outfits, but the band was dismissed as "the girls from Iceland" in the British press due to their high-pitched harmonies and the attempt fizzled out.



### The '80s: Sugarcubes

Perhaps the idea of a punk supergroup is a contradiction in terms, but this is in fact how the Sugarcubes, Iceland's first band to achieve notable international success, started. As the Icelandic punk scene was dying out in 1983/84, members of the three most notable bands, Tappi Tíkarrass, Þeyr and Þurkur Pillnikk (all of which can be seen in the great documentary 'Rokk í Reykjavík') came together to form Kukl. They made two albums and toured with British punk band Crass, before transforming into the Sugarcubes in 1987. The rest, as you know, is history. Apart from Björk, members of Kukl/Sugarcubes continue to be influential in Iceland. Drummer Sigtryggur Baldursson hosts the music show Hljómskálinn on RÚV TV while occasionally appearing on stage as his crooner persona Bogomil Font, bassist Bragi Ólafsson is a novelist and vocalist Einar Örn (now of Ghostigital) helped get Jón Gnarr elected to city hall, where he remains to this day.



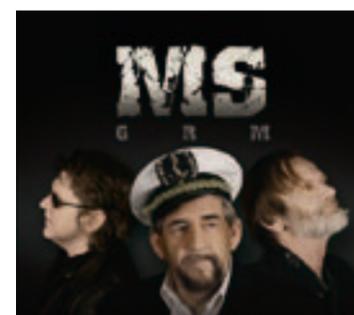
### The '90s: GCD

The mother of them all. Unlike previously mentioned supergroups, which brought together artists early in their careers in order to form actual bands, GCD was a supergroup in the truest sense, bringing together two of the largest figures in Icelandic rock. In 1991, Bubbi was at the peak of his success, having been the biggest selling Icelandic artist of the '80s, but just about to begin his decline. Rúnar Júlíusson, previously of Trúbrot, *Þe lónlí blú bojs* and Hljómar (known as "Iceland's Beatles"), was not as frequent a guest on the airwaves at this point, but GCD provided him with a platform for a considerable comeback. The band was rounded out by drummer Gulli Briem, who had earlier had some international success with his band Mezzoforte, and guitarist Bergþór Morthens, Bubbi's brother and former member of Bubbi's band, EGÓ. Their first album was a major hit, while two later albums gave diminishing returns, with the final one seeing release in 1995. Bubbi continues to perform, while Rúnar sadly died in 2008 at the age of 63.



### The '00s: Mercedes Club

Mercedes Club was, it must be said, a strange beast. Acclaimed composer Barði Jóhannsson of the electronica band Bang Gang got together a group of celebrity bloggers, TV personalities and body builders known as Gillz, Gaz-Man and Party-Hanz to sing his entry for the Eurovision Song Contest. The line-up was completed with 19-year-old songstress Rebekka and rapper Ceres 4. The song, which was called "Ho Ho Ho, We Say Hey Hey Hey," placed second in the preliminaries and did not make it to the actual contest, but became a number one hit here and reportedly did well. An album, perhaps just as inevitably called 'I Wanna Touch You,' followed. Other than this, the band is best known for having been contracted to make a video and a song called "Meira frelsi" ("More Freedom") for phone company Síminn, generating controversy as indirect advertising is forbidden by Icelandic law. The band was only active in 2007-08, but somehow seems symbolic of the time when the Icelandic boom was nearing its peak and eventual collapse.



### The '10s: GRM

Gylfi Ægisson, though often performing alone with a pre-recorded tape as his backing band, is no stranger to supergroups. In the early '80s, Áhöfnin á Halastjörnunni ("The Crew of the Comet"), formed with Rúnar Júlíusson in order to play Gylfi's sailor-themed songs, was one of the most popular bands in Iceland. The all-star band included among others former footballer and talk-show host Hemmi Gunn and a teen called Páll Óskar, who seems to be everywhere these days.

This time, Gylfi has gotten no lesser a personality than Megas, better known for the brilliance of his lyrics than the clarity of his voice, to help out on the aptly titled album 'Þrjár stjörnur' ("Three Stars"). Gylfi returns the favour, singing along on Megas classics like "Fatlafól" and "Ef þú smælur." The third of the trio is '80s rocker Rúnar Þór, omnipresent shades and leather jacket included. More harmonious singing groups can no doubt be found, but these three older gentlemen still ooze charm.

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## Album Reviews

### The Heavy Experience

Slowscope  
2012  
facebook.com/theheavyexperience

Calm and commendable. Supplementary dynamics, such as a surprise tempo change or bombastic instances of some sort, would have made this Slowscope perfect.



**+** It's all in the name. Six slow, stripped down instrumental songs. The scope is that of great space, distance and depth. This is a journey of cinematic proportions. It could score a film as well as providing the soundtrack. With my eyes closed, I feel as if I am drifting in space. I wonder the desert aimlessly, only to congregate with sea creatures that live on the ocean floor.

'Slowscope' is the loner's music. If you aren't a loner, The Heavy Experience helps you feel cool imagining you're one. That is, if you're willing to give yourself to it in peace and quiet. If preoccupied while listening, you will certainly miss out on the album's subtle nuances. The album builds on drawn-out transitions, silent breaks, timing and free-flowing give-and-takes that only a collective soul such as this five-piece can pull off.

Dial into the improvisational vibe that's anchored with recurring schemas and motifs that give each song foundation to build on. But due to the samey mood and tempo throughout, 'Slowscope' must be enjoyed as a whole rather than in increments, although "Hiatus" and "Elephants" manage to break away to some extent. With this in mind, featuring more than six songs would have broken the camel's back.

✂ - BIRKIR FJALAR VIÐARSSON

### Kiasmos

Thrown EP  
2012  
facebook.com/beatmakintroopa

Cool, clean, polished, electronic music that's a little bit distant.



**+** A side project of melancholy orchestral maestro Ólafur Arnalds and Bloodgroup member Janus Rasmussen, Kiasmos explores the pair's shared interest in minimal techno and electronic sounds. Their first release, '65,' had a dry, hard production that hinted at the sounds of Robert Hood and Jeff Mills, but their latest release has jettisoned a lot of the techno harshness for a style that's softer and less aggressive.

The opening track "Thrown" slowly builds a three note bassline and 4/4 rhythm around a trademark Óli Arnalds string signature (plus, do I hear a sample of a lighter being used for the rhythm track?). It sounds good, but left me a bit cold and does lack something, a real sense of punch or tension. "Wrecked" though has a much stronger sense of urgency to it, with some queasy off-centre synth lines and whipped, blocky beats being thrown in the mix.

While it might not have true dancefloor glory written all over it, 'Thrown' is a decent listen that will easily appeal to fans of the Kompakt label aesthetic.

✂ - BOB CLUNESS

### Oléna

Made In Hurt By Heart  
2012  
gogoyoko.com/artist/Olena

Painfully familiar



**-** On the surface of things, Reykjavík-based French singer Oléna appears to fit in well with the myriad of other kooky (in a good way) electronic artisans that verge on being a dime a dozen in these northern climes. Her debut album, 'Made In Hurt By Heart,' follows a familiar tradition of nice crunchy beats coupled with tender vocals, thus fitting in well with the aforementioned kooky electronic ménage. Musically speaking it is possible to appreciate the album, simply from the perspective that it is possible to appreciate any of Oléna's very obvious influences, most notably, Björk. And that is Björk in glaring neon, not in subtle hints of lavender. Overtones, not undertones.

Herein, unfortunately, lies the rather large problem with the whole thing: it is altogether devoid of any kind of spirit of its own. It floats along on the debris of its own derivations, almost to the point where it is uncertain who actually made the album. This factor alone is enough to detract from any possible enjoyment of the music, without going into the other more minor problems to be found lyrically and thematically. All in all, there is sadly a lot being lost here with an album that doesn't sound half bad, but loses itself in its own influences.

✂ - BERGRÚN ANNA HALLSTEINSDÓTTIR

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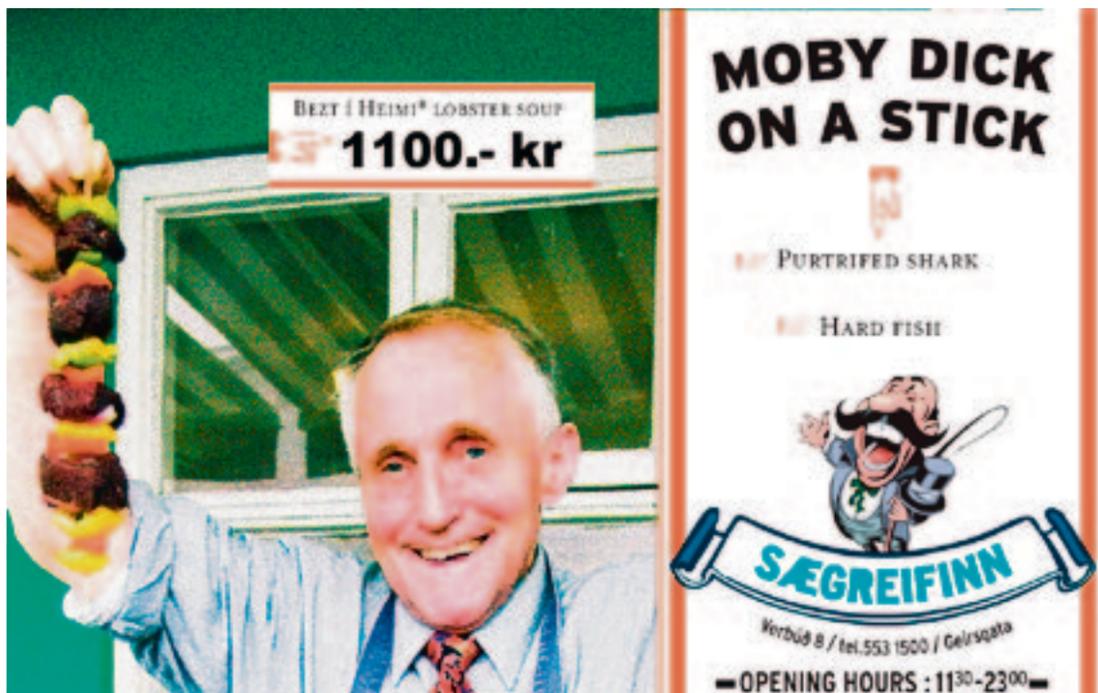
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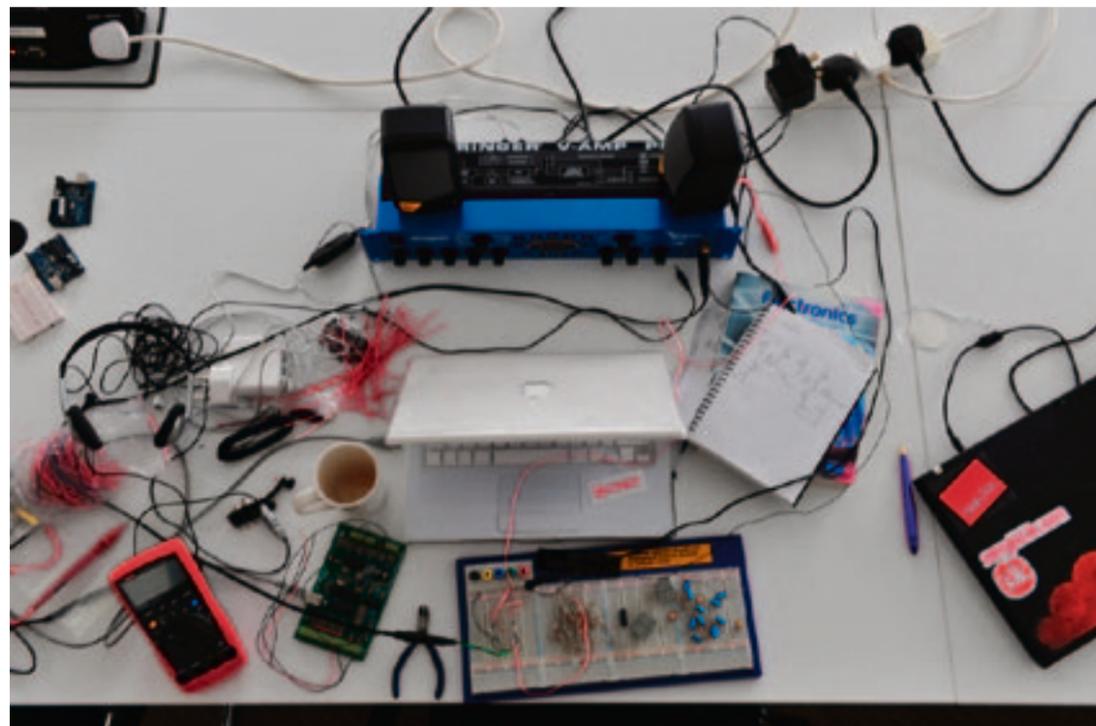
## Hacking Their Way To The Future Of Music

### Reykjavík Music Hack Day

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Reykjavík Music Hack Day encourages programmers and music fans to come together to build a new wave of music apps and programmes.

It's been said that music expresses emotions that words cannot, but what if there was a scale to quantify exactly how "sentimental" a song was? A programme called Senti(Com)ment does just that.

Created by software developer Nikola Chochkov, the programme analyses user-submitted comments from music web service Soundcloud, and then gives the track a "sentiment" score using code taken from Musicmetric, a data and music analysis service. With this piece of code, Nikola has effectively created a way to express the heart-breaking sadness of Nina Simone's "Don't Explain," or the sweeping, atmospheric beauty of Grizzly Bear's "While You Wait for the Others." Granted, the emotion in these songs can't be fully captured in the one to five scale the programme assigns them, but the software is just one example of the limitless, exciting and ever-expanding possibilities that can occur when music meets technology.

Nikola created his program at a 2011 Music Hack Day in Berlin. This 24-hour "hackathon" event began in London 2009, and allows developers, programmers, artists and music aficionados to come together to build the future of the music industry. On October 28, computer geeks and music nerds in Reykjavík will have their own opportunity to try their hand at creating the next big thing in music.

"The idea is to bring together like-minded people to hack on fun stuff related to music and technology," says Karl Tryggvason, one of Music Hack Day Reykjavík's organisers. "The goal is to build something in 24 hours and then present it. Of course it's only 24 hours, so it might not be a complete or finished version, but at least ideas have been moulded and connections and programmes have been made."

#### REDEFINING HACK

Karl says despite the event's name, there is nothing subversive or illegal about Hack Day. Instead, participants will be given free access to the code and programming that are the nuts and bolts of some of the most popular web-based music services, including Soundcloud

and Spotify. This code, called the application programming interface—or API—contains the structured data, analysis software, streaming capabilities and anything and everything else that makes a music web service work. With this information, the possibilities to create are endless.

While participants are encouraged to use existing APIs, it's not required. "APIs are then introduced to the participants, and people can use those in their hacks, but they don't have to. If you want to hack on something else, it's completely open," he says. "The companies attend because they want to foster a network of developers, but it's not mandatory to work using only their tools."

In this way, Hack Days are redefining an industry once closely guarded by massive music labels and promoters. As new technologies have been developed and refined, the pearly gates of the music industry have been opened to everyone, and now anyone with coding skills can go forth and 'hack' the music industry as they see fit. Ultimately, not only does the event redefine an industry, it redefines the very word itself.

"To a lot of outside people, 'hack' has a negative connotation. It's not about hacking or breaking in or breaking anyone's copyright," he says. "It's 'hacking' in the sense of making your own stuff. The event is meant to provide new ways of looking at, thinking about, or interacting with music."

In an age where digital music services are popping up faster than the time it takes to download an mp3, these so-called "hackers" are using technologies that would have been unheard of five years ago to create programmes at lightning speed.

"Some years ago, we weren't able to work that fast, because we lacked the tools to prototype with this rapid speed," says Johan Uhle, the coordinator of several Music Hack Days in Berlin and one of the co-coordinators of Music Hack Day Reykjavík, in an email. "But with the advancement of technology as well as its drive towards open ecosystems and APIs, it is very feasible today to conceive an idea and build it within a weekend."

#### SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

While participants in Hack Day need to have the technical know-how in order to conceptualise and carry out their ideas, even the non-tech savvy have a place at Hack Day. Not all creations at Hack Day are purely digital, and perhaps some of the most interesting creations—including an Amsterdam Hack Day original where participants created an umbrella that used sensors to play a random 8-bit tune when hit by rain—require an entirely different set of skills to execute.

"Everyone should bring something to the table. It's not all programming. There are designers and artists, engineers and people who make instruments," Karl says. "So if you have a music and tech related idea that you want to try and sketch out, it can be a good place to look."

For those who would rather observe, there will be an opportunity to come and see the creations at the end of the 24-hour period when each participant gets two minutes to explain their "hack," which Johan says tends to have a very positive reception with even the most technologically inept.

Creations presented at past Hack Days have included Tracks on a Map, which allows users to listen and find Soundcloud tracks from any genre by clicking on a map of the world; Berlin Transit Pulse, which offers a real-time visualisation of public transit in Berlin through an audio piece that changes with traffic flow; and Drinkify, which allows users to input what they're listening to and get a suggestion of what to drink in return.

#### IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT THE HARDWARE

Although it may be focused on technology, Hack Day is not entirely about anti-social developers sitting silently behind their computers, pounding madly away on their keyboards, and writing hundreds of lines of complex code. Karl hopes Hack Day will spawn not only new music programmes, but new friendships and connections as well.

"It brings a social offline or meet space aspect to it. I know a lot of people—myself included—sit at home tinkering with stuff, so it's a good chance to learn from likeminded people and get your idea out there," he said. "And then, it should be a fun time, if a bit nerdy!"

✂ - KIRSTEN O'BRIEN

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"It's not about hacking or breaking in or breaking anyone's copyright or something," he said. "It's 'hacking' in the sense of making your own stuff. Hacking is negative to many, and it's not about that at all."

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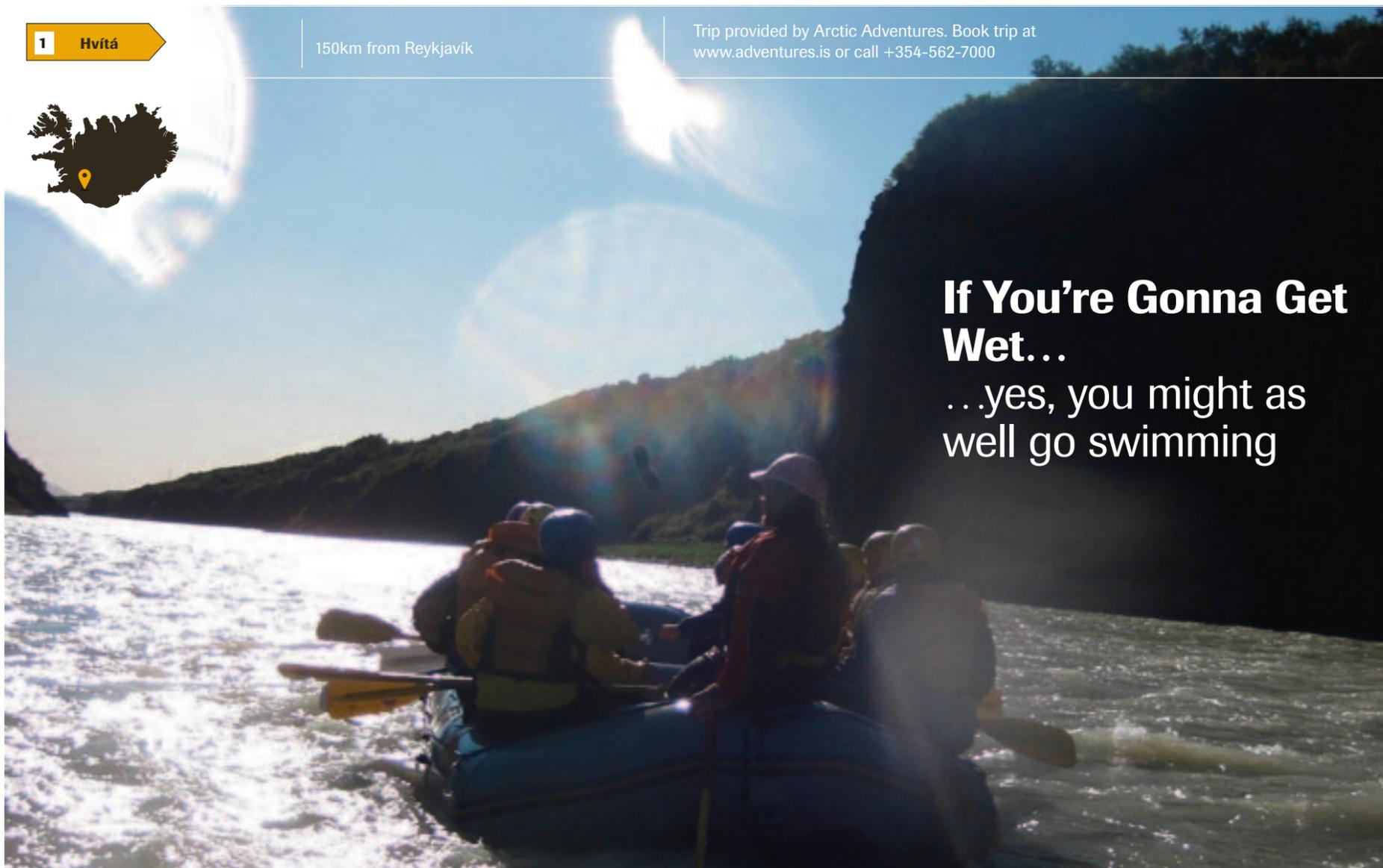


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## If You're Gonna Get Wet...

...yes, you might as well go swimming

Words by Anna Andersen

📍 Natsha Nandabhiwat

It was almost noon on a windy weekday at the end of August. A steady stream of Gortex-clad travellers filed into the Arctic Adventures office in Reykjavík, passing by the couch where I sat mindlessly turning the pages of a tourist brochure.

I sometimes wonder why Icelanders are not more avid tourists in their own country. I wonder how many of them have never driven around the island or gone snowmobiling on a glacier. And of those, I wonder how many have instead been to mainland

Europe where they've done similar trips.

Rafting is perhaps one of the few tourist activities that attract Icelanders. In 1983, long before Iceland's tourist boom, a rafting company started operating out of the Drumbó base camp

on Hvítá River. And since then, 150,000 Icelanders—roughly half of today's population—have gone rafting. Even now, with Iceland welcoming nearly double its population in visitors—40% of rafters remain locals.

Ever since learning this in an interview with Arctic Adventures founder and CEO Torfi G. Yngvason last year, I had been planning on trying it. And it was about time.

### Taking in South Iceland

A few minutes past noon, Grapevine's photographer Natsha walked in. I put down the magazine and an Arctic Adventures guide led us to a large van parked on nearby Hverfisgata. We picked up a couple of other travellers and made our way out

of town.

On our way over the Hellisheiði plateau, we were stuck behind a bus whose driver had left his right blinker on, as if he were going to steer off road at any minute. Meanwhile the Swedes behind me sang along to Jessie J's "Price Tag": "...It's not about the money, money, money..."

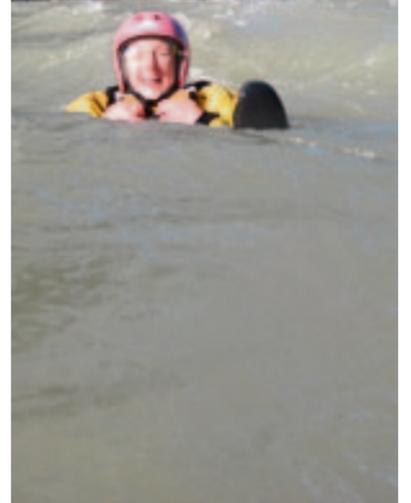
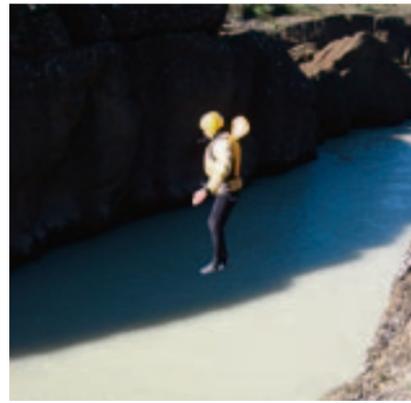
We descended into South Iceland, eventually making a left hand turn, past throngs of summerhouses in the direction of Geysir before turning right toward Drumbó. Upon arriving it was clear that we wouldn't be the only ones rafting that afternoon. Base camp was packed with Icelanders who seemed to be on a company outing.

In a big room full of equipment hanging on racks, we were instructed to put on a sleeveless

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wetsuit, a splash-proof jacket, a life jacket, booties and a helmet. “To make everyone’s life easier, all of the Velcro closes to the left,” the instructor told the amused crowd. “You laugh, but you’d be surprised...”

All suited up, we piled into a big yellow school bus and were chauffeured to our starting point on Hvítá, a glacial river with class II rapids. A biting wind blew in our faces as we received a short tutorial and were divided up into four boats.

#### Going down Hvítá River

Once in the water, we were more or less alone with our boat and the fact that we had arrived with a busload of tourists became a non-issue. Grapevine photographer and I wound up with a family of five and unfortunately the little boy in front of me was a bit paddling-challenged, but awkwardly clashing paddles wouldn’t prove to be a big problem.

Our guide Frikki kept things interesting, calling out simple commands like “forward,” “back,” “stop” and “down,” and building suspense as we headed into parts of the river called ominous things like “Bad Omen” and “Titanic Turn.”

There was never any real danger though and

the chances of falling overboard were slim to none. For those who dared, the most exciting part of the trip was probably jumping off the cliff into the frigid water below. Like a drill sergeant, Frikki sent people over the edge: “Go. Go. Go. Go...” And one by one like lemmings they went.

For those who share my morbid fear of heights, there would still be a chance to get wet. As we approached the last set of rapids before the final calm in the river, Frikki offered us the chance to float down the rapids. As he said, “Why go rafting if you don’t want to be wet and cold, right?”

#### Shivering back to base camp

I put down my paddle and jumped out of the boat. The glacial water immediately spilled in through my splash-proof jacket and soaked through my suit. I hugged my life jacket and tried to stay in proper form on my back as the water repeatedly splashed me in the face.

After getting back on the boat, the adrenaline wore off and I proceeded to shiver my way back to base camp. I struggled to remove my booties with numb fingers, uncomfortably stripped off the rest of my sopping wet clothes, put on a bathing

suit and b-lined for the sauna where my fellow rafters were already packing in like sardines.

We downed cups of hot chocolate and filled up on BBQ lamb while Frikki played guitar in true camp-style fashion. I chatted with one of the other instructors about the rafting operation, which I learned had taken 13,000 people down the river this summer. At some point in our conversation he asked me, “So, why are you doing this?” And I thought for a second before replying: “Well, I guess I just like doing it.”

By the time we arrived in Reykjavík it was late evening and I still hadn’t shaken the cold, but it had nonetheless been another great day at work for me.

#### Tips

**Don’t wear cotton because when cotton gets wet it gets cold. That’s what cotton does.**

**Wear woollen long underwear and socks.**

**Wear a fleece sweater. If you forget, they have some lost and found ones for loan. But they are apparently smelly and most likely damp from the last person borrowing it.**

**Jump in and get wet! Because why not? It’s not every day that you get the chance to go swimming in a glacial river.**

**Bring an underwater camera! Those are always fun!**

**Don’t forget to bring extra clothes. You will be dearly disappointed if you forget. Despite the post-rafting sauna and hot shower, you will be cold if for instance you don’t have a pair of dry socks.**

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## I Get My Kicks On Route 57

### Words

Mark O'Brien

### Illustration

Straetó



“  
I did awkwardly make eyes at the girl one seat ahead and at the other side of the aisle to me, but there were no ratty elderly widows or online romantics—it didn't look set to be a particularly great novel. But then neither was Steinbeck's.”

Public buses have never had much of a tradition in the western literary canon. One of Steinbeck's lesser-beloved novels 'The Wayward Bus' is a rare example: a story-less tapestry of internal monologues telling the secret passions and the sexual politics between the motley gang of passengers on a small country bus as it wends its way through wildest California.

Bradford-born man of letters J.B. Priestley once took a tour of 1930s Britain and chronicled the voyage in his book 'An English Journey,' boarding a series of "motor coaches," described indulgently as "voluptuous, sybaritic, of doubtful morality." Locals may have to consult a dictionary for the first two words; the last two shouldn't be a problem.

### Icelanders don't do public transport

Priestley, of course, never had to take the number 12 from Breiðholt to Hlemmur on a leaden-skied midweek morning. Icelanders do many things better than anyone; however they don't do public transport.

First of all, this is a land without trains. Back home in Britain, the railways were what helped us take over the world—it was only when we stopped doing them well that we lost everything. Every English train journey is a novel in its own right, replete with characters and stories: the chirpy ticket-stamper, the bookish student girl returning home for the weekend; the lonely thirty-something on business who awkwardly makes eyes at her; the bored single journeying across the country for a weekend with her online romance; the ratty elderly widow holidaying alone.

If I were Mayor of Reykjavík, I'd build a railway track over the urban desert of Vatnsmýri just so young Icelanders might know the thrill of taking the train. It would be an absurd luxury and a massive waste of money—so it would probably suit this city rather well.

Public buses may be a familiar sight, but are still looked down upon: the dominion of early morning minimum wage workers, daytime vodka connoisseurs and carless students. One of many quotes attributed (almost certainly falsely) to Margaret Thatcher goes: "Any man who takes the bus to work after the age of 26 is a failure." The Icelanders are several degrees less sympathetic.

### Taking the new route 57 to Akureyri

So the only good reason I can suggest why the city's bus operator Straetó has just extended its Route 57 to go all the way up north to Akureyri—Iceland's "capital of the north," population 17,000—is because it could make a great novel.

It would however be a novel without too many characters—we would pick up about half a dozen on our way. When I boarded the bus for Akureyri at Mjódd

station on a chilly Saturday morning for a prompt 09:00 departure, I was one of only three passengers. I did awkwardly make eyes at the girl one seat ahead and at the other side of the aisle to me, but there were no ratty elderly widows or online romantics—it didn't look set to be a particularly great novel. But then neither was Steinbeck's.

The vehicles that take on the temperamental surfaces of Iceland's north-bound ring road are fortunately not the mostly empty municipal yellow city buses that swarm round Reykjavík from morning till night.

That Saturday morning, the bus to the north was a Hópbílar Renault Ilade, over ten metres long, weighing well over 11,000 kilos, decked out with a Euro 3 engine, and packing a wallop punch at 340hp. The only similarity it bears to the metropolitan bus fleet is the red-and-yellow capital S symbol and the electronic sign on board telling the name of the next stop accompanied by the dutiful lady's voice announcing it.

### Taking in the scenic drive

The unpromising dawn gave way to a fresh, sunlit morning as we left the capital area and headed for the centre of Akranes. We travelled almost six kilometres through the Hvalfjörður Tunnel which forges underneath the notorious fjord where folklore has it the Evil Whale Redhead once resided—an amateur fishmonger who drove himself crazy and was transformed into a whale by an angry elf-woman he had impregnated. (You've got to be very careful not to get on the wrong side of the elf-women around here.)

In sleepy Akranes, we paused at the feet of the grandiose, great-footed seaman statue on the town's central roundabout. By 10:00 we were away from the city, and finally pushing ahead on the long drive up Iceland's Route 1.

When you see the steady stream of traffic coursing through downtown Reykjavík, it is easy to forget just how far the Icelandic wilderness spreads. For miles seemingly unending, the view from the coach window was of a desolate, murky, rugged outback—an occasional farmhouse the only sign of habitation all the way to the rising mountainous horizon. Even on the country's largest arterial highway, only rarely did another car pass by; somewhere near Varmahlíð, we had to overtake a tractor.

At Bifröst, a small settlement about an hour's ride from Akranes, a pair of pale, white-blond youngsters on bikes

stopped in their tracks and watched with dropped jaws as our coach drew monstrosly into town like a vast warship harbouring at some tiny fishing village.

We stopped for a respite at the Staðarskáli service station nearly three hours into our journey, taking a break for a pylsa and a visit to the restroom (in case the coach's on-board toilet facilities weren't to the taste of respectable passengers). From then we carried on towards Hvammstangi, Blönduós and Varmahlíð.

### The last chapter of the novel

Along with the mainline coach service, Straetó operates a fleet of private cars, which take passengers from pre-selected stops to destinations out in the country. A couple of teenagers on the coach alit at Hvammstangavegur and took a car marked with the Straetó 'S' for their final homebound leg.

The white-dusted peaks and ridges that line up on either side of Road 1 on the final strait towards Akureyri were all that shared the vista for the last hour or so. I was the only passenger that morning to stay the course from Reykjavík all the way to our final destination. I could stay there for a little longer; my chauffeur had to take passengers straight back to Reykjavík for the 15.45 from Akureyri Hof.

The new service, paid for by municipalities in West, Northwest and Northeast Iceland, has attracted critics. Tour company Sterna had previously been charging as much as 11,800 ISK for the one-way journey; now that Straetó, which charges 7,700 ISK, has taken control of the route, some have complained that it doesn't serve rural areas as well, with time-wasting stops in the Reykjavík suburbs and long waits for buses from Mjódd on to Kringlan or BSÍ where many head. Not to mention, there's no bus from Akureyri until Saturday afternoon, meaning weekend visitors have to take Friday afternoon off in order to make the trip.

But hey, you could always spend the time on the road writing a novel about the journey instead.

### Track The Bus

You can see where the buses are in realtime at [www.straeto.is/rauntimkort](http://www.straeto.is/rauntimkort) and [www.gulur.is](http://www.gulur.is) shows you when a bus is due to arrive at a stop near you, if you have a location aware smartphone.

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# Let's talk

## The City of Reykjavík's Multicultural discussion meeting



Reykjavík City Theatre  
(Borgarleikhús),  
Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>  
from 10 am-3 pm.  
The theatre opens at 09.15 am.

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INTERVIEW

# The Less You Know About Iceland, The More Powerful The Experience Is

Photographer Sigurgeir Sigurjónsson interviewed



Alísa Kalyanova

“When you’re not thinking about pleasing a customer, you’re only doing what you think is right. If you’re always chasing other people’s taste, it will become a bad mixture.”

Sigurgeir Sigurjónsson is one of Iceland’s best photographers, acclaimed for his unique pictures of Iceland and Icelanders. I sat down with him in his studio in downtown Reykjavík. It’s beginning to smell of autumn and the leaves are starting to shiver on their branches, never forgetting their cruel fate. But forget the leaves, remember the photographs.

Why, I ask Sigurgeir, did you start taking photos?

“It started as a hobby in school,” Sigurgeir says, “I was taking pictures of my friends. I was a drummer in a band and later a manager. I was asked to take some photos for an album cover and I kind of started a career as a rock photographer.”

Sigurgeir went on in the world of photography and studied, first in Iceland, then in Stockholm and later in San Diego. He was one of the local pioneers of commercial photography and worked in advertising for many years, he says. “In Iceland you have to be very versatile, you can’t focus on just one kind of photography. When I was working for the advertising business I had to take photos of food, cars, fashion—everything. We were very ambitious, if the project was taking photos of a can of beans, we would do everything we could to make it good.”

When he’s not pleasing a customer, however, Sigurgeir says he has more

freedom to do what he feels is right. “Things won’t turn out well if you’re always chasing other people’s taste,” he says.

While he is no longer a rock photographer, there is a certain music in his photos. He explains: “There is music in the photos, but I don’t always choose what music it is. Different kinds of music can control where I stop my car and go out to take photos. I think Mahler was composing his Fifth Symphony when his publisher approached him, wanting to talk about the landscape around him. Mahler answered briefly that he could find all this landscape in his music.”

### LOST IN ICELAND

Sigurgeir is best known for his landscape photography today. His book ‘Landscapes,’ published in 1998, was a breakthrough in local landscape photography.

“At first I thought landscape photography was cheap, I looked down on

that kind of photography,” Sigurgeir says. He was nevertheless commissioned, mostly because of his advertising experience, to take photos for a calendar for one of Iceland’s biggest firms. He did that for nine years, and that’s when his passion for Icelandic landscape was born.

Following ‘Landscapes,’ he published his most famous book, ‘Lost In Iceland,’ which radically changed the way Iceland was promoted abroad. “It was unheard of to promote Iceland with a dark photo full of rain! I think I’m getting closer to the experience of tourists visiting Iceland. We must not get over-touristic. People come to Iceland to get to know themselves through Iceland and the circumstances are often challenging.”

Sigurgeir says this experience is changing. “I remember when I first came to Dettifoss waterfall. You had to walk narrow paths to get close to it and it somehow helped you experience the greatness. It’s a different experience now when you drive a paved road all the way down,” he says.

“I have travelled a lot and one thing that makes Iceland so special is that you don’t have to drive for hours before you see the next spectacular place. It has a special dimension, a unique horizon and diversity you learn to appreciate when you travel in parts of the world.”

This is a quality that he says we must not lose. “Icelandic tourism is quite greedy at the moment. I can’t imagine the experience of travelling around Iceland in a bus for ten days listening to a guide talking all day in the speakers, telling you how Iceland is. You don’t have to tell people anything about Iceland. Iceland is an experience that happens. The less you know about Iceland, the more powerful the experience is.”

### WHO ARE ICELANDERS?

In 2004, Sigurgeir teamed up with writer Unnur Jökulsdóttir to make the wonderful portrait book, ‘Icelanders.’ In this book, Sigurgeir and Unnur documented lives and opinions of Icelanders all around Iceland.

“Many people were surprised that we were going around Iceland taking photographs and interviewing people that they thought were odd,” Sigurgeir says. “We didn’t find the people odd; they were really close to nature and maybe a little eccentric. It was remark-

able, the strong opinions that many of the people we met had. They weren’t holding their thoughts back.”

“This was a book that was quite a surprise for many people, including our publishers,” Sigurgeir says and smiles. Originally 4000 copies of the book were printed, but 25,000 copies have since been sold.

### IT’S A SMALL WORLD

Most recently, Sigurgeir published a book he calls ‘Iceland—A Small World,’ which is quite literally small. In fact, it fits easily in your pocket. He came up with the title after visiting Disney World and hearing the “It’s A Small World” song.

And in some ways, he says, Iceland is like being in another world, like Disney World in another dimension. “This is how I experience Iceland. I think Iceland is a world of its own. You can see so many elements in this small world,” he says.

“I tried to fill the book with photos to match what I was thinking. It was when I found this photo of a house in Hofsós, a house my wife told me to photograph, that everything clicked. It’s a happy and unusual photo that shows independent people, two families living in one house, and they don’t imitate each other; they keep their own style. This photo fits the title perfectly, as it could be a doll-house.”

You could say that the book has grown though, because Sigurgeir has since then also published a larger version. “I must admit that I wanted to see the photos in a bigger book,” Sigurgeir says. “It has come as a surprise that many people actually buy both versions.”

Back to the studio. It is in an old house in the centre of Reykjavík. The walls show some of the highlights from Sigurgeir’s career. We talk about the photographer’s point of view.

“A photo freezes the moment, stops the time, and all of a sudden you have taken the picture out of a bigger context,” Sigurgeir says. “No photo is really true. You just see what the photographer wanted you to see. There is a photo by Diane Arbus of a little boy with a hand grenade in his hands and he’s terrified. I have seen all twelve photos from this sequence and the other photos don’t say anything, they’re lifeless. There is just this one photo that shows this deep feeling that is so magnificently powerful.”

✚ SIGTRYGGUR MAGNASON

### Horses (2008)



### Lost in Argentina (2011)



### Lost in Iceland (2002)



### Iceland - small world (2012)



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STUFFED WITH STUFF

Issue 16

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**P.6** “ It’s not right to want big leaks. Every leak is important if it denounces wrongdoing. ”

We talk leaks of every size with the people behind Ljost.is, a new citizen whistle-blowing platform.



**P.12** “ At the moment there are only a handful of venues available for musicians to play—



most of them in Reykjavík. You can count on one hand the number of places where artists can go in the rest of the country

expect to get a decent audience.

With Iceland Airwaves right round the corner, 15 MPs are fighting to get the government to do more for the country’s music scene

**P.26** “ Perhaps the idea of a punk supergroup is a contradiction in terms, but this is



in fact how the Sugarcubes, Iceland’s first band to achieve notable international success, started

From Cream to GRM via the Sugarcubes—we run through the history of global supergroups, and Icelandic performers’ attempts to get in on the action.

**P.30** “ Like a drill sergeant,

Frikki sent people over the edge: ‘Go. Go. Go. Go...’ And one by one like lemmings they went ”



We go rafting (and swimming) down Hvítá river.

# Glacier Walking & Ice Climbing Day Tour from Reykjavík!

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+ Eating, Drinking and Shopping + Map



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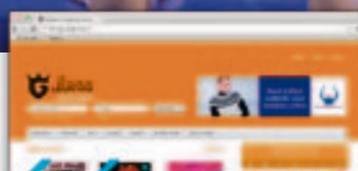
## Dance Season Kicks Off!

**Borgarleikhús (Reykjavík City Theatre),**

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**5**  
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The 2012-2013 dance season kicks off with two brand new performances on the IDC roster. One is 'Let Hel Hold What She Has' by French dancer and choreographer Jérôme Delbey, a piece inspired by the Norse mythologies and Eddas. The second is 'It Is Not a Metaphor' by Cameron Corbett, based loosely around concepts from the modernist movement of the early 20th century. Both challenge the cultural barriers placed between dance and other forms of art, widening the scope of access and enjoyment for all audiences. For more information and to buy tickets visit [www.id.is](http://www.id.is).



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# MUSIC

## CONCERTS & NIGHTLIFE

### OCTOBER

**How to use the listings**  
Venues are listed alphabetically by day.  
For complete listings and detailed  
information on venues or to add your own  
listing, visit [www.listings.grapevine.is](http://www.listings.grapevine.is)

#### Friday October 5

- Bakkus**  
• 23:00 DJ Krummi  
Krummi's the singer of LEGEND! They are cool!
- Café Rosenberg**  
• 22:00 Halli Reynis and orchestra
- Faktóry**  
• 23:00 Mammút, 1860, Ylja  
Check out this show to get yourself warmed-up for Airwaves!
- Gamli Gaukurinn**  
• 22:00 Jack Live
- Glaumbar**  
• 23:00 College Night with DJ Egill
- Hemmi og Valdi**  
• 22:30 Plan B  
No, not the contraceptive...
- Kaffibarinn**  
• 23:00 Captain Fufanu
- Lebowski Bar**  
• 23:00 Lindy Hop/Anna Rakel & Halli
- Prikið**  
• 22:00 Húsbandið  
• 00:00 DJ Danni Deluxe

#### Saturday October 6

- Bakkus**  
• 23:00 DJ Dauði  
That means 'death', folks. Go dance yourselves to DEATH.
- Café Rosenberg**  
• 22:00 KK and Maggi
- Faktóry**  
• 23:00 Ghostigital  
You might not get into their Airwaves gig so check this out.
- Kaffibarinn**  
• 23:00 Dansa Meira - Már & Nielsen
- Gamli Gaukurinn**  
• 22:00 Jack Live
- Hemmi og Valdi**  
• 22:30 Djarri
- Lebowski Bar**  
• 23:00 Boggie Trouble, Jesús & Elvis, Fritt Inn  
Jesus AND Elvis!? Aren't they the same dude?
- Prikið**  
• 00:00 DJ Krúsi Moonshine

#### Sunday October 7

- Kaffibarinn**  
• 22:00 Kristinn Pálsson
- Lebowski Bar**  
• 23:00 Halli
- Obladi Oblada**  
• 16:00 Andrea Jónsdóttir  
Grandma Rock kicks out the jams...
- Prikið**  
• 22:00 Þynnukubíó Priksins

#### Monday October 8

- Kaffibarinn**  
• 22:00 DJ 2.25 a.k.a Pilsner
- Lebowski Bar**  
• 23:00 Holy T  
Do you guys know where I can get one of those necklaces with a 'T'?
- Prikið**  
• 22:00 DJ Bob & Mánudagsklúb-  
burinn

#### Tuesday October 9

- Bakkus**  
• 22:00 DJ Katla  
She's the apocalypse volcano of DJs!
- Café Rosenberg**  
• 21:00 Pan Thorarensen  
aka Beatmakin Troopa doing some chill acoustic stuff. Pretty neat!
- Kaffibarinn**  
• 22:00 Paul Evans
- Lebowski Bar**  
• 23:00 Halli

#### Wednesday October 10

- Bakkus**  
• 22:00 Einar Sonic
- Café Rosenberg**  
• 22:00 Dúkkulísur - afmælishátíð
- Faktóry**  
• 22:00 Sóley, Samaris, 1860



### Spooky shorts *Sonnet of Delirium*

**Poka,**

*Laugavegur 25 | Runs until October 25*

When Iranian artist Majeed Beenteha contacted Icelandic director Una Lorenzen, they didn't expect to end up with a short film. "Sonnet of Delirium" was born out of nine months of collaboration between the pair. At first glance it seems like something Tim Burton would make if he weren't working for Disney. The hand drawn film composed of cut outs and charcoal animations tells the story of a woman haunted by a traumatic memory. An encounter with a mysterious creature propels her into madness. It's just too bad that Poka, who partnered with RIFF, isn't screening the film on Halloween.

Another Airwaves warm-up gig!? Fun!

- Hemmi og Valdi**  
• 21:00 Dusty Miller
- Lebowski Bar**  
• 23:00 Anna Brá
- Prikið**  
• 22:00 Dungeon Massive  
... are they massive Dungeons & Dragons players?

#### Thursday October 11

- Bakkus**  
• 22:00 Narko Nilkovsky
- Café Rosenberg**  
• 21:00 Árstíðir  
The seasons change, but this acoustic band stays great.
- Faktóry**  
• 22:00 DJ Logi Pedro
- Kaffibarinn**  
• 21:00 HúsDJús - DJ Kári
- Glaumbar**  
• 22:00 Eypóri Inga
- Hemmi og Valdi**  
• 22:00 Rix + Kerr
- Lebowski Bar**  
• 23:00 Svenni Rockabilly  
Rock out in your bowling shoes.
- Obladi Oblada**  
• 22:00 Bítladrengirnir Blíðu

#### Friday October 12

- Café Rosenberg**  
• 22:00 Ómar Diðriks - CD release
- Faktóry**  
• 22:00 DJ Housekell  
Move along with the Movida Corona DJ champion.
- Glaumbar**  
• 23:00 College Night with DJ Atlas
- Gamli Gaukurinn**  
• 22:00 Valdimar
- Hemmi og Valdi**  
• 22:00 Grapevine Grassroots  
HEY THAT'S US! HOW VERY COOL.
- Prikið**  
• 00:00 DJ Danni Deluxe
- Vegamót**  
• 22:00 Jónas

#### Saturday October 13

- Café Rosenberg**  
• 22:00 Óráðið
- Faktóry**  
• 22:00 Lockerbie and guests  
• 23:00 Hausar breakbeat night
- Kaffibarinn**  
• 23:00 Hunk of a Man  
Oh he's a hunk alright. A pink mustachioed hunk!
- Gamli Gaukurinn**  
• 22:00 White Night
- Glaumbar**  
• 00:00 DJ Cyprie
- Hemmi og Valdi**  
• 22:00 RVK Soundsystem
- Prikið**  
• 22:00 Rapquiz  
• 00:00 DJ Egill  
"Rapquiz" sounds like it should have been an 80s B-movie.

- Hemmi og Valdi**  
• 22:00 RVK Soundsystem's Reggae Night

#### Sunday October 14

- Bakkus**  
• 23:00 Exotic Club (US)  
Exotic Club? Isn't that illegal here?
- Lebowski Bar**  
• 23:00 Halli
- Prikið**  
• 22:00 Þynnukubíó Priksins

#### Monday October 15

- Café Rosenberg**  
• 21:00 Elín Ey
- Kaffibarinn**  
• 22:00 Simon FKNHNSM
- Prikið**  
• 22:00 DJ Gay Latino Man  
This is also the subject of his Craigslist personal ad...

#### Tuesday October 16

- Café Rosenberg**  
• 21:00 Leifur Gunnarsson and orchestra
- Kaffibarinn**  
• 22:00 Óli Dóri
- Prikið**  
• 22:00 Súrur Þriðjudagar with Berndsen

#### Wednesday October 17

- Bakkus**  
• 22:00 Ási & Raxel
- Café Rosenberg**  
• 21:00 Björgvin Gíslason and orchestra
- Faktóry**  
• 21:00 Sykur, RetRoBot, Berndsen, Sykur  
Whoa whoa check out this crazy electro explosion!
- Hemmi og Valdi**  
• 22:00 Color Me

#### Thursday October 18

- Austurbær**  
• 21:00 Rusty Anderson & Friends
- Bakkus**  
• 22:00 Creature of the Night  
Toucha-toucha-toucha touch me!
- Café Rosenberg**  
• 21:00 South River Band  
Sounds like you'll be needing moonshine...
- Gamli Gaukurinn**  
• 22:00 KIMI Records anniversary concert  
Happy Birthday KIMI! Thanks for all the fun music and good times!
- Glaumbar**  
• 22:00 Trúbbakvöld with Arnari
- Friðriks**  
**Hemmi og Valdi**  
• 22:00 Heiladans
- Prikið**  
• 22:00 DJ Addi Intró

## Friday October 19

### Café Rosenberg

- 22:00 Ljótu hálfvitarnir

### Faktorý

- 22:00 DJ Pabbi
- 22:00 Frikirkjan

20:00 The Heavy Experience, release show

We've been waiting for new stuff from this superb band for a while.

### Kaffibarinn

- 23:00 Housekell

### Gamli Gaukurinn

- 22:00 Aeterna, Blood Feud, Wistaria, Angist

METAAAL UUUUURRRRGGHHH!

### Glaumbar

- 23:00 College Night with DJ Seth

### Hemmi og Valdi

- 22:30 Kanilsnældur

Want some coffee with your cinnamon?

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Anna Brá

### Prikið

- 22:00 Húsbandið

- 00:00 DJ Pedro

### Vegamót

- 22:00 Jónas

## Saturday October 20

### Faktorý

- 23:00 Óli Ofur special night

### Kaffibarinn

- 23:00 KGB

### Gamli Gaukurinn

- 23:00 Járnstjarna (CAN)

The Iron Star of the icy, Gothic night!

### Hemmi og Valdi

- 22:30 Housekell

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Jesús & Elvis

### Prikið

- 00:00 DJ Benni B Ruff

## Sunday October 21

### Kaffibarinn

- 22:00 Kristinn Pálsson

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Halli

### Prikið

- 22:00 Þynnukubíó Prikisins

## Monday October 22

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Holy T

### Prikið

- 22:00 DJ Bob & Mánudagsklúbburinn

The Monday Club sounds like it's very very exclusive.

## Tuesday October 23

### Bakkus

- 22:00 DJ Katla

### Café Rosenberg

- 21:00 Svavar Knútur

Let the funniest troubadour in town sing you a song.

### Kaffibarinn

- 22:00 DJ 2.25 a.k.a. Pilsner

## Wednesday October 24

### Bakkus

- 22:00 Einar Sonic

### Café Rosenberg

- 21:00 Bræðrabandið

### Faktorý

- 22:00 Tilbury, Stafrænn Hákon

Okay now we're almost all warmed-up for Airwaves...

### Hemmi og Valdi

- 21:00 Elín Ey

### Kaffibarinn

- 21:00 Kiasmos, Two Step Horror, Rafsteinn, DJ Andre & Beatmakin Troopa

Put on your dancing shoes and dance to the grooves!

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Birgitta

### Prikið

- 22:00 Dungeon Massive

## Thursday October 25

### Bakkus

- 22:00 DJ Dauði

### Café Rosenberg

- 21:00 Fuglabúrið

Not the same birdcage as Nathan Lane was in, but still...

### Faktorý

- 22:00 DJ Logi Pedro

### Kaffibarinn

- 21:00 Símon FKNHNSM

### Glaumbar

- 21:00 Bingó & Dj Cyprie

### Hemmi og Valdi

- 22:00 Kerema

### Obladi Oblada

- 22:00 Bítladregirnir Blíðu

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Svenni Rockabilly

### Prikið

- 22:00 Beats, Blunts & Burgers with Alla Abstrakt

4:20 truly is the best time to get high!

## Friday October 26

### Bakkus

- 23:00 DJ KGB

### Café Rosenberg

- 22:00 Kristjana Stefáns & orchestra

### Faktorý

- 22:00 DJ Benni B-ruff

- 00:00 Human Woman

Human, animal, android, all women are fine by us.

### Kaffibarinn

- 23:00 Alfons X

### Glaumbar

- 23:00 College Night with DJ Atlas

Kegger! Let's go streaking through the quad!

### Hemmi og Valdi

- 22:30 Retro Stefson Block Party

HOLY SHITBALLS!

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Anna Rakel & Halli

### Prikið

- 00:00 College Night DJ Egill & Bjóssi

## Saturday October 27

### Bakkus

- 23:00 DJ Atli Kanill

### Café Rosenberg

- 22:00 KK og Maggi

### Faktorý

- 23:00 ReykVeek Halloween party

We sure hope there's some wrestling in tub of fake blood!

### Hemmi og Valdi

- 22:30 Borg 003

### Kaffibarinn

- 23:00 Kári

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Halloween Party ft. Jesús & Elvis

The two coolest zombies ever will crank out the Monster Mash!

### Prikið

- 00:00 DJ Pedro

## Sunday October 28

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Halli

### Obladi Oblada

- 16:00 Andrea Jónsdóttir

### Prikið

- 22:00 Þynnukubíó Prikisins

## Monday October 29

### Café Rosenberg

- 21:00 Líbarít

### Kaffibarinn

- 22:00 Hunk of a Man

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Þorsteinn

### Prikið

- 22:00 DJ Adda Intró

## Tuesday October 30

### Bakkus

- 21:00 B-Waves 2012

- 22:00 DJ Katla

### Café Rosenberg

- 21:00 Alma Rut and orchestra

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Halli

### Prikið

- 22:00 Súrir Þriðjudagar with Berndsen

## Wednesday October 31

### Bakkus

- 18:00 B-Waves Offvenue

Too cool for school, so hip it hurts.

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Anna Brá

## Thursday November 1

### Bakkus

- 18:00 Karaoke101

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Kári

## Friday November 2

### Bakkus

- 18:00 B-Waves: Crunchy Frog

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Jólaljórinn, Anna Brá

## Saturday November 3

### Bakkus

- 18:00 B-Waves

- 23:00 DJ KGB

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Jesús & Elvis

## Sunday November 4

### Lebowski Bar

- 23:00 Halli

### Obladi Oblada

- 16:00 Andrea Jónsdóttir

## Monday November 5

### Bakkus

- 21:00 B-Waves

## Tuesday November 6

### Kaffibarinn

- 22:00 Pétur Eggertsson

## Wednesday November 7

### Bakkus

- 22:00 DJ Katla

## Thursday November 8

### Vegamót

- 22:00 Jónas



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i8

i8 Gallery  
Tryggvagata 16  
101 Reykjavík  
Iceland  
www.i8.is



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20 September - 20 October 2012

i8 was founded in 1995 and represents an eclectic mix of Icelandic and international contemporary artists.

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|----------------------|----------------------|
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| ÓLAFUR ELÍASSON      | RAGNA RÓBERTSDÓTTIR  |
| HREINN FRÍÐFINNSSON  | EGILL SÆBJÖRNSSON    |
| KRISTJÁN GUÐMUNDSSON | KARIN SANDER         |
| SIGURÐUR GUÐMUNDSSON | HRAFNKELL SIGURÐSSON |
| ELÍN HANSDÓTTIR      | IGNACIO URIARTE      |
| RONI HORN            | ÍVAR VALGARÐSSON     |
| RAGNAR KJARTANSSON   | ÞÓR VALGARGSSON      |
| EGGERT PÉTURSSON     | LAWRENCE WEINER      |

Opening hours: Tuesday - Friday, 11-5pm, Saturday, 1-5pm.  
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# ART

## OPENINGS AND ONGOING

### OCTOBER

**How to use the listings:** Venues are listed alphabetically by day. For complete listings and detailed information on venues visit [www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is). Send us your listings: [listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is)

### Opening

#### ART 67

October 6, 14:00

#### Guðríði Halldórsdóttir

A one-day only exhibition of her works.

#### ASÍ Art Museum

#### Ragnheiður Jónsdóttir - Slíð

October 6

An exhibition of 16 large charcoal drawings and eight works from the artist's first graphics show.

Runs until October 28

November 3

#### The Quiet Museum

Works from the collection.

Runs until December 16

#### Gerðuberg Cultural Centre

November 4

#### The Beginning

An exhibition in the Boginn exhibition area of oil paintings of Icelandic landscapes and birds by Kolbrún Ingimarsdóttir.

Runs until January 13

November 7

#### Ikons - A Window to Heaven

An exhibition of ikons in the traditional Byzantine style by Konstantínos Zaponidis, using egg tempera and acrylic media.

Runs until January 13

#### Gallery Ágúst

October 6

#### Three Locations - Sigtryggur Bjarni Baldvinsson

The exhibition consists of new paintings inspired by photographs of water surfaces, taken at three different locations.

Runs until November 11

### Ongoing

#### The Culture House

#### Medieval Manuscripts Eddas and Sagas

It includes principal medieval manuscripts, such as Codices Regii of the Poetic Edda, Prose Edda, law codices and Christian works, not forgetting the Icelandic Sagas.

On permanent view

#### Child of Hope - Youth and Jón Sigurðsson

Exploring the life of Icelandic national hero Jón Sigurðsson, made especially accessible to children, families and school groups.

On permanent view

#### Millennium - phase one

A selection of pieces from the collection of the National Gallery displaying a variety of works by Icelandic artists in the last two centuries.

On permanent view

#### The Library Room

The old reading room of the National Library displays books of Icelandic cultural history dating from the 16th century to the present day. Works include the oldest published versions of the Sagas, Edda Poems and more.

On permanent view

#### The Einar Jónsson Museum

The museum contains close to 300 art works spanning a 60-year career: carvings from the artist's youth, sculptures, paintings and drawings. A beautiful tree-clad garden adorned with 26 bronze casts of the artist's works is located behind the museum.

On permanent view

#### Gerðuberg Cultural Centre

#### A Time of Joy

Colourful and exuberant acrylics by Kristján Jón Guðnason in the Boginn exhibition area.

Runs until October 28

#### Twilight Poems and Stories

American book artist Rebecca Goodale showcases her works in this exhibition. She extends the conventional ideas about books' shape, size and function.

Runs until October 28

#### Hafnarborg

#### Shadow2012

Gudni Tomasson's 'Shadow' exhibition headlines this autumn's



### Swan song Live From London 2007 - Led Zeppelin

#### Háskólabíó-Salur 1,

Hagatorg | ☺ 20:00 - 22:00 | ISK 2.500

For those looking for their own personal stairway to heaven, 'Led Zeppelin Live From London 2007' provides an intimate look at a concert that brought one of the world's most influential rock bands together for one last blistering performance. The film documents the band's legendary December 2007 concert at the O2 arena in London. It was the group's first performance after a 27-year hiatus, and the show was so highly anticipated that 20 million people worldwide applied for tickets, but only 18,000 were fortunate enough to receive them. The two-hour set spans the group's lengthy musical career, and includes hits such as "Black Dog," "Dazed and Confused," and of course, "Stairway to Heaven."

set-piece showcase, looking at Icelandic art through a historical lens to present a culturally relevant exhibit.

Runs until October 28

#### Galleri Kling & Bang

#### Home in Basel and Bar

Five hundred years in the making, this exhibit is an homage to a printing business first set up in 1500.

Runs until October 28

#### i8 Gallery

#### Birgir Andrésson

Andrésson's work (1955-2007) explores the relationships between visual perception and spoken language, thought, and Icelandic cultural identity.

Runs until October 20

#### Knitting Iceland

Come and knit at Laugavegur 25, 3rd floor, every Thursday, 14:00 - 18:00.

On permanent view

#### Latin Dance Studio, Faxafen 12

#### Guided Practica

Argentine tango, Sundays from 17:30-19:30. Register by phone 821 6929 or email [tangoadventure@gmail.com](mailto:tangoadventure@gmail.com), 500 ISK for students, 800 ISK for others. Six-week courses are also available.

On permanent view

#### The Living Art Museum

#### You Can't Stand In The Way Of Progress

Angeli Novi attempts to create a kaleidoscopic time machine, examining the plight of generations which, one after the other, become tools and puppets of economic and historical structures.

Runs until December 2

#### Museum of Design -

#### Hönnunarsafn Íslands

**Something To Write Home About**  
The emerging changes in Icelandic design are on display to highlight how product designers are embracing more collaboration.

Runs until October 14

#### National Gallery of Iceland

#### Hypnotized by Iceland

Works by artists inspired by Iceland's powerful, dangerous and endangered waterfalls.

Runs until November 4

#### Inspired by Iceland

This exhibit explores visually the non-verbal, non-narrative beauty of Iceland's natural landscapes.

Runs until November 4

#### Musée Islandique

Inspired by the discovery of plaster casts of Icelandic people from the 19th century, artist Ólöf Nordal has followed up her finds with months of research at Musée de l'homme in Paris.

Runs until November 4

#### The National Museum

#### Advent in the Highlands -

#### Photographs by Sigurjón Pétursson

Photographs by Sigurjón Pétursson and Þóra Hrönn Njálsóttir, inspired by the book 'The Good Shepherd' by Gunnar Gunnarsson.

Runs until October 28

#### Cliffhanger Rescue at Látrabjarg -

**Photographs by Óskar Gíslason**  
In December 1947 a British trawler, the Dhoo, ran aground in a storm in the northwest of Iceland. The photographs in the exhibit show the re-enactment of the rescue of the crew.

Runs until October 28

#### Drawing Across Time and Space

See sketches of Iceland from as far back as 1789, when Scottish scientist John Baine took part in an expedition to Iceland, up to the present.

Runs until January 27, 2013

#### The Making of a Nation -

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

On permanent view

#### Tvær í Einni/Two in One

Sverris Björnsson's photos capture Iceland during its two most extreme seasons, summer and winter.

Runs until January 27, 2013

#### The Nordic House

#### The Library

The collection centers around new Nordic literature, both fiction and nonfiction. The library lends out novels, academic publications, audio books and more.

On permanent view

#### Life in the Vatnsmyri

An exhibition on birds, plants and people in the Vatnsmyri moor, the role of nature in the city and the importance of reclaiming wetlands.

Runs until November 4

#### Ulrike Ottinger - selected

**photographs**  
The German artist and filmmaker Ulrike Ottinger exhibits selected photographs from throughout her career. The exhibition is in coincides with the Reykjavík International Film Festival, which is screening films by Ulrike Ottinger.

Runs until October 7

#### Reykjavík Art Museum -

#### Ásmundarsafn

**The Fire Within**  
A collection of sculptures by Ásmundur Sveinsson housed in his former home. The pieces explore three major themes: the woman as lover, the brutality of war and the unknown frontier of outer space.

Runs until April 14, 2013

#### Reykjavík Art Museum -

#### Hafnarhús

**Erró - Graphic Art, 1949-2009**



The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

# IN YOUR POCKET

WHATS INSIDE

Reykjavík Map

Happy Hour Guide

Places we like

Best of Reykjavík

Practical Info

Reykjavík Area

October 5 - November 8

Keep it in your pocket

## Five Weeks

The Grapevine picks the events, places and what to experience the next five weeks

GO

ART  
Bound To Books

**20 THU MUSIC Jarnstjarna/ICE-GOTH.** The Icelandic-Canadian DJ is being hosted by ICE-GOTH, a group that promotes goth culture in Iceland. 500 ISK

**60 ART From the fishing Grounds to the Market Stalls** These images follow the entire process of salt fish production.

**60 MUSIC Bubbi Morthens concert series.** Much loved singer/songwriter Bubbi Morthens is on the move again, performing songs from his newest solo album, *Porpið* ("Town"). 2500 ISK

12  
FRI

FILM  
Seeking Vengeance



**Blóðhefnd ("Vendetta")**  
Prices Vary

*Various theatres*  
Because Icelanders spend their time making daisy crowns, drawing rainbows and cuddling baby bunnies, *Blóðhefnd*, a gory action thriller, gives movie-goers the perfect excuse to indulge their inner crime mob kingpin (everyone has one of those, right?)

The film, directed by Ingo Ingólfsson, follows a young man named Trausti. Trausti returns home after a seven-year absence to find that his brother is caught up in a dangerous underground crime organization that is slave trafficking young women (and you thought your siblings were bad). He meets his own personal damsel in distress, Maria, and soon he must not only save Maria from the gang, but get revenge for his family as well. The film is action-packed to the core, and even the title itself was inspired by the Icelandic "saga" times, when the Vikings sought revenge if a family member was killed. Action! Drama! A LOVE STORY!! What more could you ask for? After four years in the making, and hailed as one of Iceland's first action films, *Blóðhefnd* is unlike anything Icelandic cinema has seen before. *In Icelandic with English subtitles.* **KO**



**Ballast (Kjölfesta)**  
Free

*Reykjavík Art Gallery, Skúlagata 30*  
If you're the type of person who wishes someone would bottle up the musky aroma of old books, then this exhibition is for you. Heiðrún Kristjánsdóttir's "Ballast" is a tribute to books and the way they help preserve Icelandic culture. A former art teacher, Heiðrún earned an art and graphics degree from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1984. In the exhibition she has preserved old Icelandic books in beeswax. Heiðrún was inspired by seeing old and forgotten books lying on bookshelves, collecting dust in storage boxes or being tossed in the garbage. "Ballast" is a chance for these old books to regain some of their former glory and let their stories be told. **AJ**

GO

MUSIC  
JD And Music



**Jack Live**  
1.000-1.500 ISK

*Gamli Gaukurinn, Tryggvagata 22*  
Didn't get a ticket to Airwaves? Yeah, me neither, I feel your pain man. This really couldn't get any worse could it, right? Wrong! Before you take out those safety pins and stitch up your ripped jeans, here's some good news for you, dear rock fan. There's another music festival in town. It's called Jack Live and it's currently in full swing! Jack Live is a three day rock music festival playing host to thirteen great local acts with varied styles, but a consistently high degree of awesomeness. Doors open at 21:00 and bands start at 22:00. Featured bands include Agent Fresco, Axeorder and Brain Police. Quick, grab your air guitar. You have no time to lose! **TM**

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-Samantha

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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 10:00 | 10:00 | 10:00 | 10:00 | 10:00 | 10:00 | 10:00 |
| 14:00 | 14:00 | 14:00 | 14:00 | 14:00 | 14:00 |       |
| 18:00 | 18:00 | 18:00 |       |       |       |       |



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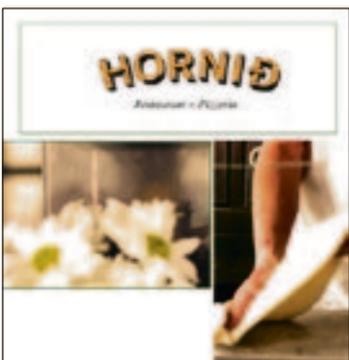


Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Exhibitions all year round  
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Reykjavík Museum of Photography

GRÓFARHÚS 6th Floor  
Tryggvagata 15, 101 Reykjavík  
Opening Hours: Mon-Thu 12-19  
Fridays 12-18, Weekends 13-17  
[www.photomuseum.is](http://www.photomuseum.is)



**Hornid**  
Áframfarir • Fiskur

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

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

**A**

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SKÓLAVÖRÐUSTÍGUR 10**

**Café Loki**  
in front of  
Hallgrímskirkja



**Enjoy some solid  
homemade  
Icelandic food  
Open 10 - 21**



**BARCLAYS  
PREMIER LEAGUE**

# MAP

## Places We Like

### Food

**1 Fish Company**  
Vesturgata 2a

The Fish Company (Fiskifélagið) is acclaimed as one of Reykjavík's best 'fancy' restaurants. Located in a charmingly dark space underground at Vesturgata 2a, this bustling, cave-like locale provides fine sanctuary from the cold winds outside in the winter, and respite from the sometimes sticky heat of summer.

**2 Icelandic Fish & Chips**  
Tryggvagata 8

Not your average fish 'n' chips joint, this healthy restaurant uses only organic vegetables and quality fish products to serve their fancy take on a fast-food classic. The spiced 'Skyronnaise' sauce is a special treat, and their clean, casual location by the harbour is full of charm.

**3 Kebab Grill**  
Lækjargata 10

You'd never think people would argue about where to find the best kebab in Reykjavík, but the city's slowly growing kebab scene has people doing just that. Kebab Grill serves savoury kebabs wrapped in pita bread with or without French fries.

**4 Kaffismiðja Íslands**  
Kárástígur 1

Old fashioned charm is the style of Kaffismiðja, in everything from the decor to the coffee grinders. Off the beaten track, this popular coffee shop is a great spot to sit and read or have a chat with friends. They also serve the best coffee in town—we keep picking 'em "BEST DAMN COFFEESHOP" in our annual BEST OF REYKJAVÍK issues.

**5 Grái Kötturinn**  
Hverfisgata 16a

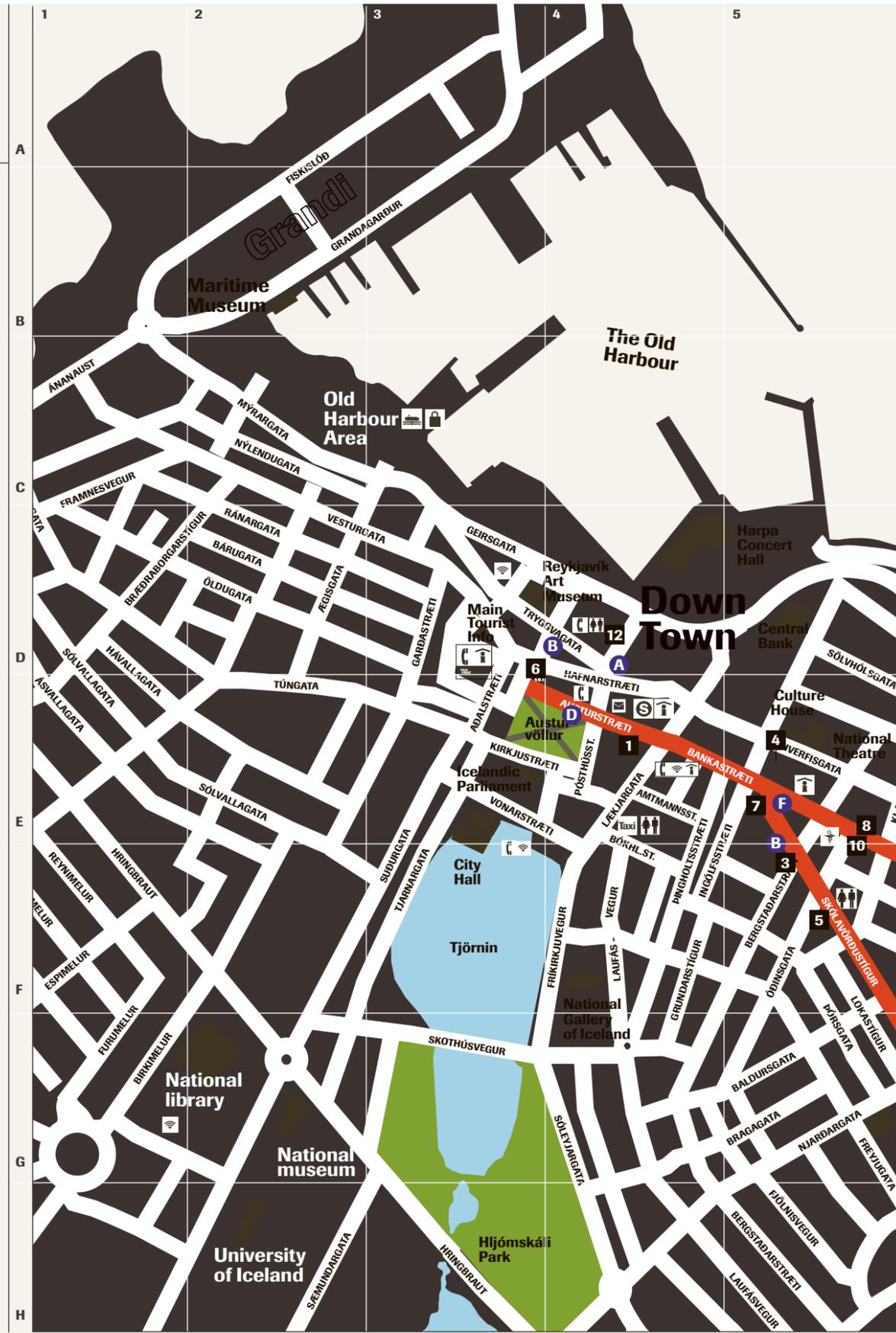
Super relaxed and cosy diner/café below street level. This place makes the best hangover breakfast ever (the truck!) and any-other-day breakfast as well. It's a nice and relaxing place to eat and increase your caffeine intake and chill with friends or with some reading material.

### Drinking

**6 KEX**  
Skúlagata 28

Located literally steps away from Reykjavík harbour, with a gorgeous view of Esja, KEX Hostel is a popular hangout amongst Icelanders who go there to enjoy the restaurant and bar as well as tourists who go there to sleep (and enjoy the restaurant and bar). Close enough to the main drag downtown, but far enough away from weekend festivities, we recommend KEX Hostel as a nice hangout spot.

**Useful numbers**  
Emergency number: **112**  
Medical help: **1770**  
Dental emergency: **575 0505**  
Information: **118**  
Taxi: Hreyfill-Bæjarleiðir: **588 5522**  
BSR: **561 0000**  
**Tax Free Refund**  
Iceland Refund, Aðalstræti 2, tel: 564 6400  
**Tourist information**  
Arctic Adventures, Laugavegur 11, tel: 562 7000  
City Centre, Aðalstræti 2, tel: 590 1550  
Iceland Excursions – Grayline Iceland,



**7 Den Danske Kro**  
Ingólfsstræti 3

This Danish-themed bar is located on Ingólfsstræti, just off Laugavegur. They serve up Danish favourites, such as open faced smørrebrød sandwiches, Tuborg beer and Akavit schnapps. Their 'Happy Hour', every day between 16–19, is a great source of fun. How to ask for a large beer in Danish: "Hej, jeg vil gerne ha' en stor øl, tak".

Hafnarstræti 20, tel: 540 1313  
**The Icelandic Travel Market**, Bankastræti 2, tel: 522 4979  
Trip, Laugavegur 54, tel: 433 8747  
**Pharmacies**  
**Lyf og heilsa**, Egilsgata 3, tel: 563 1020  
**Lyfja**, Laugavegur 16, tel: 552 4045 and Lágmúla 5, tel: 533-2300  
**Coach terminal**  
BSÍ, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10, tel: 562 1011, www.bsi.is  
**Domestic airlines**  
**Air Iceland**, Reykjavíkflugvöllur, tel: 570 3030, www.flugfelag.is  
**Eagle Air**, Hótel Loftleiðir, tel: 562-4200

**8 English Pub**  
Austurstræti 12

True to its name, the English Pub offers many different kinds of lager on tap and a whiff of that genuine UK feel. Try the famous "wheel of fortune" where one can win up to a metre of beer with a single spin.

**Public transport**  
The only public transport available in Reykjavík is the bus. Most buses run every 20–30 minutes (the wait may be longer on weekends) and the price per fare is 350 ISK for adults and children. Multiple day passes are available for purchase at select locations. Complete route map available at: www.bus.is. Tel: 540 2700. Buses run from 07:00–24:00 on weekdays and 10:00–24:00 on weekends. Main terminals are: Hlemmur and Lækjartorg  
**Opening Hours**  
**Bars and clubs:** According to regulations, bars can stay open until 01:00 on weekdays and 05:30 on weekends.  
**Shops:** Mon.–Fri. 10:00–18:00, Sat.

**9 Café Rósenberg**  
Klapparstígur 25

A cosy, candlelit live music venue that has something to offer every single night, ranging from rock to jazz to poetry. You name it, they got it.

10:00–16:00, Sun. closed. The shopping centres Kringlan and Smáralind as well as most supermarkets and tourist shops have longer opening hours.  
**Swimming pools:** Weekdays 06:30–22:00 and weekends 09:00–17:00, although each pool varies plus or minus a few hours.  
**Banks** in the centre are open Mon.–Fri. 09:00–16:00.  
**Post Offices**  
Post offices are located around the city. The downtown post office is at Pósthússtræti 3–5, open Mon.–Fri. 09:00–18:00. Stamps are also sold at bookstores, gas stations, tourist shops and some grocery stores.

**All the events and all the action.  
Live music every night.  
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**D**

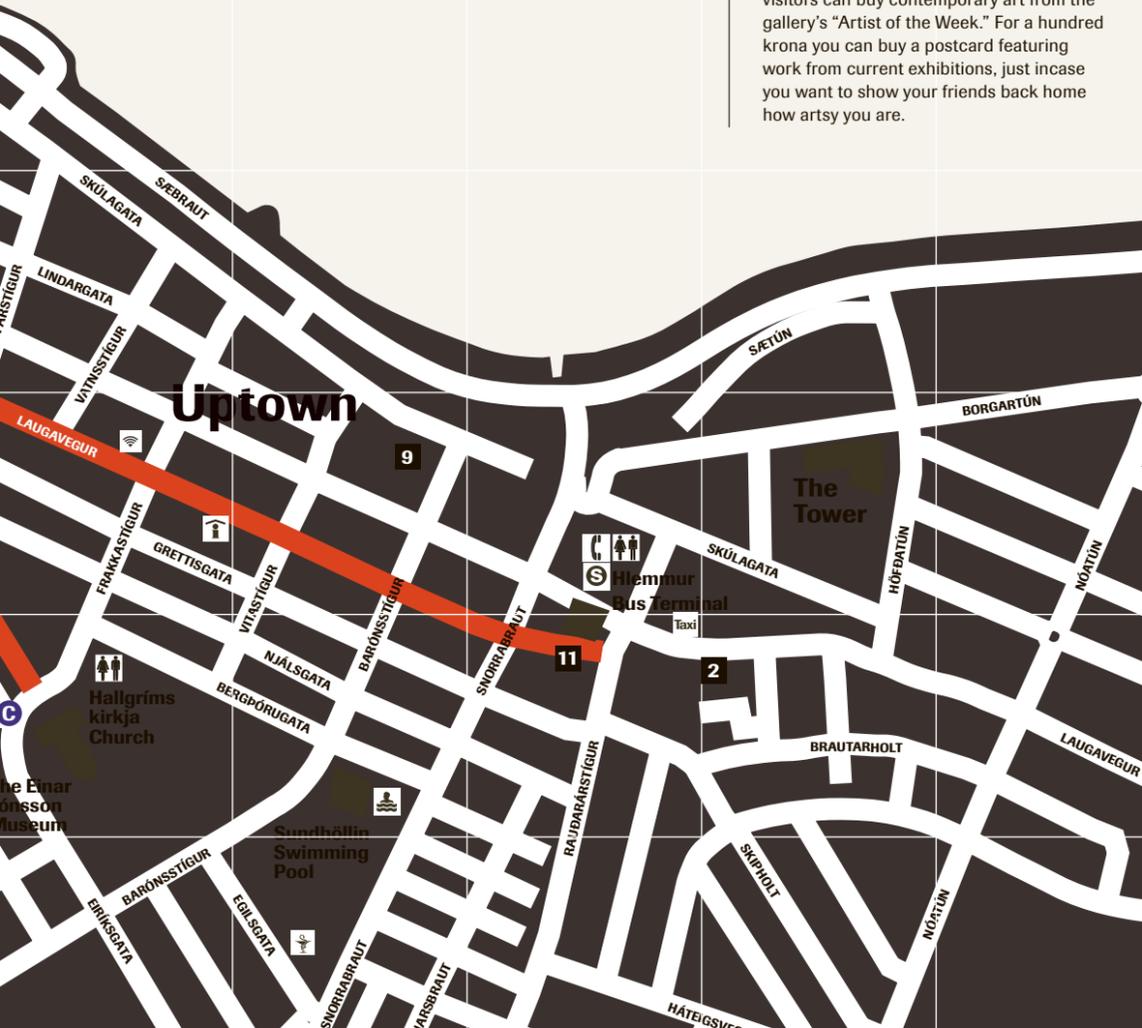
## New In Town



### 13 Kunstschlager

Rauðarárstígur 1

Located around the corner from Hlemmur, Kunstschlager is the newest addition to Reykjavík's art scene. The gallery offers space for up and coming artists to display their work and also has a store where visitors can buy contemporary art from the gallery's "Artist of the Week." For a hundred krona you can buy a postcard featuring work from current exhibitions, just incase you want to show your friends back home how artsy you are.



## Venue Finder Music & Entertainment

- Amsterdam**  
Hafnarstræti 5 | D4
- Austur**  
Austurstræti 7 | E4
- B5**  
Bankastræti 5 | E4
- Babalú**  
Skólavörðustígur 22 | F5
- Bar 11**  
Hverfisgötu 18 | E5
- Bjarni Fel**  
Austurstræti 20 | E4
- Boston**  
Laugavegur 28b | F6
- Café Paris**  
Austurstræti 14 | E4
- Celtic Cross**  
Hverfisgata 26 | E5
- Den Danske Kro**  
Ingólfsstræti 3 | F5
- Dillon**  
Laugavegur 30 | F7
- Dolly**  
Hafnarstræti 4 | D4
- Dubliner**  
Hafnarstræti 1-3 | D4
- Esja**  
Austurstræti 16 | E4
- English Pub**  
Austurstræti 12 | E4
- Faktory**  
Smíðjustígur 6 | E5
- Gamli Gaukurinn**  
Tryggvagata 22 | D4
- Gay 46**  
Hverfisgata 46 | E4
- Ölsmiðjan**  
Lækjargata 10 | E6
- Hressó**  
Austurstræti 20 | E4
- Mánabar**  
Hverfisgata 20 | E5
- Kaffi Zimsen**  
Hafnarstræti 18 | D4
- Kaffibarinn**  
Bergstaðastræti 1 | E5
- Nýlenduvöruverzlun Hemma & Valda**  
Laugavegur 21 | F5
- Næsti Bar**  
Ingólfsstræti 1A | E5
- Östofan**  
Vegamótastígur | F5
- Prikið**  
Bankastræti | E5
- Rósenberg**  
Klapparstígur 25 | E6
- Sólon**  
Bankastræti 7A | E5
- Thorvaldsen**  
Austurstræti 8 | E4
- Vegamót**  
Vegamótastígur 4 | F6

## Museums & Galleries

- ART67**  
Laugavegur 67 | F7  
Mon - Fri 12 - 18 / Sat 12 - 16
- ASÍ Art Museum**  
Freygata 41 | H6  
Tue-Sun 13-17  
www.listsafn.is
- Árbæjarsafn**  
Kistuhylur 4
- The Culture House**  
Hverfisgata 15 | E5  
Open daily 11-17  
www.thjodmenning.is
- The Einar Jónsson Museum**  
Eiríksgröta | G6  
Tue-Sun 14-17  
www.skulptur.is
- Galleri Ágúst**  
Baldursgröta 12 | G5  
Wed-Sat 12-17  
www.galleriagust.is
- Galleri Fold**  
Rauðarárstígur 14-16 | G8  
Mon-Fri 10-18 / Sat 11-16 / Sun 14-16  
www.myndlist.is
- Kaolin**  
Skólavörðustígur 22 | E5  
www.kaolingallery.com
- Galleri Kling & Bang**  
Hverfisgata 42 | E6  
Thurs-Sun from 14-18  
this.is/klingogbang/
- Ásgrímur Jónsson Museum**  
Bergstaðastræti 74  
Mon-Fri through Sept. 1
- Gerðuberg Cultural Centre**  
Gerðuberg 3-5  
Mon-Thu 11-17 / Wed 11-21 / Thu-Fri 11-17 / Sat-Sun 13-16  
www.gerduberg.is
- Hitt Húsið**  
Gallery Tukt  
Pósthússtræti 3-5 | E4  
www.hitthusid.is
- i8 Gallery**  
Tryggvagata 16 | D3  
Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and by appointment. www.i8.is
- Living Art Museum**  
Skúlagata 28 | E7  
Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17 / Thu 13-22. www.nylo.is
- Hafnarborg**  
Strandgata 34, Hafnarfjörður  
www.hafnarborg.is
- Mokka Kaffi**  
Skólavörðustígur 3A | E5  
www.mokka.is
- The National Gallery of Iceland**
- Frikkirkjuvegur 7 | F4**  
Tue-Sun 11-17  
www.listsafn.is
- The National Museum**  
Suðurgata 41 | G2  
Open daily 10-17  
natmus.is
- The Nordic House**  
Sturlugata 5  
Tue-Sun 12-17  
www.nordice.is
- Restaurant Reykjavík**  
Vesturgata 2 | D3  
www.restaurantreykjavik.is
- Reykjavík 871+/-2**  
Aðalstræti 17 | E3  
Open daily 10-17
- Reykjavík Art Gallery**  
Skúlagata 30 | F9  
Tuesday through Sunday 14-18
- Reykjavík Art Museum composed of Hafnarhús**  
Tryggvagata 17 | D3  
Open 10-17  
Thursday 10 - 20
- Kjarvalsstaðir**  
Flókagata 24  
Open 10 - 17
- Ásmundarsafn**  
Sigtún  
Open 10 - 17  
More info on www.listsafnreykjavikur.is
- Reykjavík City Library**  
Tryggvagata 15 | D3  
Mon 10-21, Tue-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-19, Sat and Sun 13-17  
www.sim.is/Index/Islen-ska/Artotek
- Reykjavík Maritime Museum**  
Grandagarður 8 | B2  
www.maritimemuseum.is
- Reykjavík Museum of Photography**  
Tryggvagata 16 | D3  
Weekdays 12-19 / Sat-Sun 13-17 - www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is
- Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum**  
Laugarnestangi 70  
www.lso.is
- SÍM**  
Hafnarstræti 16 | E4  
Mon-Fri 10-16
- Skörin**  
Aðalstræti 10
- Spark Design Space**  
Klapparstígur 33 | F5  
www.sparkdesignspace.com

check out

**classifieds.grapevine.is**

## Shopping

### 10 Brynja

Laugavegur 29

In business for more than 90 years now (and with good reason), this Laugavegur hardware store offers everything you need to fix up your house, and compliments it with some helpful and knowledgeable clerks that can even guide you through simple repairs. So good, you'll forget Bauhaus even exists!

### 11 Kolaportið

Tryggvagata 19

Reykjavík's massive indoor flea market is a wonderful place to get lost for a few hours, rummaging through stall upon stall of potential treasures. There are heaps of used clothing, knitwear and other yard-sale type goods from decades of yore, and a large food section with fish, meats and baked goods.

### 12 12 Tónar

Skólavörðustígur 15

Both a record label and a store, 12 Tónar stocks all the best new Icelandic music on CDs. Also, check out their Facebook page for information about in-store gigs.

#### Public phones

There aren't many public payphones in the city centre. The tourist information centre at Aðalstræti 2, City Hall, Kolaportið, entrance at Landsbankinn and in Lækjargata. Prepaid international phone cards are recommended for int'l callers.

#### Internet Access

Most cafés offer free wireless internet access. Computers with internet connections are available to use at:

- Ráðhúskaffi City Hall, Tjarnargata 11
- Ground Zero, Frakkastígur 8, near Laugavegur 45
- The Reykjavík City Library, Tryggvagata 15

The National and University Library, Arngrímsgata 3

Tourist Information Centre, Aðalstræti 2  
Icelandic Travel Market, Bankastræti 2  
Reykjavík Backpackers, Laugavegur 28

#### Swimming Pools

There are several swimming pools in Reykjavík. The one in 101 Reykjavík, Sundhöll Reykjavíkur, is an indoor one, located at Barónsstígur. That pool features a nice sunbathing area and some outdoor hot tubs. Opening hours: Monday to Thursday from 06:30-22:00, Friday from 06:30-20:00, Saturday from 08:00-16:00, and Sunday from 10:00-18:00.

#### Public Toilets

Public toilets in the centre can be found inside the green poster covered towers located, for example, at Hlemmur, Ingólfsstorg, by Hallgrímskirkja, by Reykjavík Art Museum, Lækjargata and by Eymundsson on Skólavörðustígur. Toilets can also be found inside the Reykjavík City Hall and the Reykjavík Library.

# Gandhi Indian restaurant



Example from our menu:

## Indian adventure

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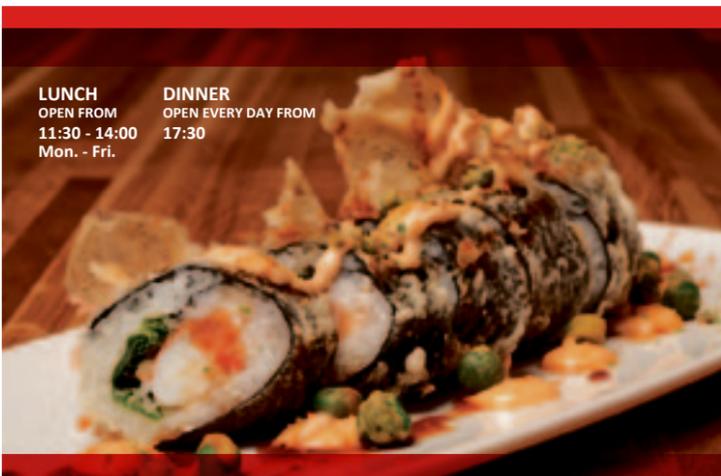
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Phone: +354 462 2223 | rub23@rub23.is

www.rub23.is

# Best Of Reykjavík

Every year around the beginning of July, we make a BEST OF REYKJAVÍK ISSUE celebrating some of what makes Reykjavík-life worthwhile, posting some good entries into a hopefully never-ending discussion. The primary purpose of BEST OF REYKJAVÍK is celebration! It's about big-upping stuff, giving mad props to it and patting it on the shoulder. The following are some nice tips we culled from BEST OF REYKJAVÍK 2012, which you can find in full at [www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is)



## BEST PLACE TO GET COCKTAILS: KOLABRAUTIN



Lebowski Bar might make 150 types of White Russians, but like most bars in Iceland, it is lacking a diverse cocktail menu. People overwhelmingly go to bars to drink beer after all. Hótel Marína, Hótel 101 and Harpa's Kolabrautin seem to be the best places to get cocktails. After some back and forth about this, we decided that Kolabrautin should get the award. Their lipstick pink cocktail, the house cocktail, is to DIE FOR and Harpa is just a really awesome building to be inside. The bar doesn't stay open super late, but it's a swanky place to get a before dinner drink. Runner-up: Hotel 101 ("It's loaded with people at happy hour. They know how to make them.")



## BEST PLACE TO SHOP FOR TOURISTY STUFF: GEYSIR

Downtown Reykjavík is starting to feel like some sort of Disneyland puffin mall, what with all the numerous new stores that cater exclusively to tourists in dire need of puffin or volcano related souvenirs. It's understandable, though, because all you wonderful travellers need to bring back items for your loved ones and—who are we kidding—puffins and volcanoes are the most interesting things Iceland has going for it. Tourist shops are necessary, and it is thus important to commend those that go an ambitious route in serving up the coveted trinkets and stuffed dolls.

All decked out in salvaged wood and decorated with found photographs from Iceland's past, Geysir on Skólavörðustígur does a commendable job of catering to tourists in a tasteful, yet quirky manner. Locally crafted goods, lopi sweaters and everything you'll need to hike across the island can all be found there—seek out Vík Þrjónsdóttir's playful line of woollen goods for an example of current local design.



## BEST ART MUSEUM: REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM

The Reykjavík Art Museum at Hafnarhúsi has had a great year, hosting some intriguing and thought-provoking displays from premier league artists as well as up-and-comers from the art-world's underbelly. The permanent exhibit of Erró's works is "mind-blowing," and by making themselves open and available to the public by hosting various parties and events, they ensure a steady dialogue with the local community. Add to that the constant lectures and workshops on offer and you've got yourself a pretty vibrant art museum. Good work, Reykjavík Art Museum, keep it up!



## A GUIDE THAT FUCKS YOU UP

A list of every Happy Hour in 101 Reykjavík

- 101 Hótel**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00, 50 percent off beer and wine.
- Austur**  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 18:00 to 00:00. Beer 495 ISK and wine 550 ISK.
- B5**  
Every day from 16:00 to 22:00, beer and wine for 550 ISK.
- Bakkus**  
Every day from 19:00 to 21:00. Beer 500 ISK and wine 600 ISK.
- Bjarni Fel**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00, 2 for 1 beer for 890 ISK.
- Boston**  
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00, Beer 500 ISK and wine 500 ISK.
- Celtic Cross**  
Weekdays from 17:00 to 20:00, 2 for 1 beer for 800 ISK.
- Den Danske Kro**  
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00, 2 for 1 beer for 850 ISK and wine for 950 ISK.
- Dillon**  
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00, 2 for 1 beer for 850 ISK.
- Dolly**  
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00. Beer 500 ISK and wine 700 ISK.
- Dubliner**  
Weekdays from 11:30 to 19:00, 2 for 1 beer for 800 ISK.
- Esja**  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 17:00 to 19:00, all drinks 50% off, beer for 600 ISK and wine for 40% off
- Faktorý**  
Every day from 15:00 to 20:00. Beer 500 ISK.



## Download the FREE Grapevine Appy Hour app!

Every happy hour in town in your pocket. Available in the App store and on the Android Market.

- Hemmi og Valdi**  
Every day from 12:00 to 20:00 draft beer for 550 ISK.
- Hilton Hotel Bar**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00, 2 for 1 beer for 950 ISK and wine for 1150 ISK.
- Hótel 1919**  
Every day from 17:00 to 20:00, 2 for 1 beer for 850 ISK and wine for 1290 ISK.

- Hótel Holt Gallery Bar**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00, beer for 475 ISK, wine for 575 ISK, champagne and cocktails half off.
- Hótel Plaza Bar**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00, beer for 500 ISK.
- Kaffi Zimsen**  
Every day from 16:00 to 20:00, large beer and shot for 500 ISK.
- Kolabrautin**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00, Beer for 450 ISK, wine for 525 ISK.
- Lebowski Bar**  
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00, 2 for 1 beer for 850 ISK and wine for 900 ISK.
- Micro Bar**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00, 500 ISK for a draft beer.
- Miðgarður Bistro bar**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. 50 percent off all drinks.
- Obladi Oblada**  
Beer 500 ISK, Jakob Steiner Schnapps 500 ISK
- Prikið**  
Weekdays from 16:00 to 20:00, 2 for 1 beer for 690 ISK.
- Slippbarinn**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00, 50% off beer and wine.
- Stofan**  
Every day from 17:00 to 20:00, beer for 500 ISK and wine for 600 ISK.
- Uppsalar - Bar & Café**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. 50% off all drinks.
- Pingholtsbar**  
Every day from 17:00 to 19:00. All drinks are half off: beer for 400 ISK, wine for 550 ISK.

# ART ONGOING

— continued —

For the first time the general public are able to view Erró's graphic art spanning half a century. The exhibition is the result of three years' work researching and collating the artist's entire collection of graphic pieces undertaken by curator Danielle Kvaran.

*Runs until August 25, 2013*

### HA – Sara Björnsdóttir

In this high concept installation, Sara Björnsdóttir fills the exhibition room with images of the room itself.

*Runs until January 6, 2013*

### News from the Island - Dan Perjovschi

Dan Perjovschi draws directly on walls and floors at different locations. His "indoor graffiti" criticizes all manner of popular opposites that flood the mass media.

*Runs until January 6, 2013*

### The Power of Passage

The passing of time is the subject of this collaborative installation.

*Runs until January 6, 2013*

### Reykjavík Art Museum - Kjarvalsstaðir

#### Kjarval - Key Works

Reykjavík Art Museum draws on its extensive collection of works by Jóhannes S. Kjarval for ongoing exhibitions at Kjarvalsstaðir. The current exhibition in the Kjarval Gallery features key works of Kjarval's oeuvre and offers a unique and powerful retrospective from Iceland's most beloved painter.

*Permanent exhibition*

#### The Lyric Vision - Abstract-Expressionism in Icelandic Art, 1957-1970

As the first retrospective exhibition of Icelandic abstract expressionism, this exhibition marks a watershed in the history of exhibitions of Icelandic artists in this country.

*Runs until November 4*

#### Please Touch Workshop

The "Please Touch Workshop" for families at Kjarvalsstaðir focuses on a collection of different textures that resemble the works of Jóhannes S. Kjarval, the master of texture through pattern.

*Runs until January 3, 2013*

### Reykjavík City Hall

#### Welcome On Board for 75 Years

Icelandair Group's historical exhibition in Reykjavík City Hall reflects last 75 years of the airline regarding design. Series of airline crew costumes through the years are being exhibit along with airline products and cutlery.

*Runs until October 7*

### Reykjavík City Museum

#### Reykjavík 871 +/- 2

#### The Settlement Exhibition

Archaeological findings from ruins of one of the first houses in Iceland and other excavations in the city centre, open daily 10:00-17:00, 1.100 ISK per adult, 650 ISK per person in groups (10+) and free for children 18 and under.

*On permanent view*

### Reykjavík Maritime Museum

#### From Poverty to Abundance

Photos documenting Icelandic fishermen at the turn of the 20th century.

*On permanent view*

#### The History of Sailing



**The First Chapter  
Mats 1956-1978**

### Reykjavík Photography Museum,

Tryggvagata 16 (C3) | *Runs until January 20, 2013*

Norwegian-born photographer Mats Wibe Lund first visited Iceland in 1954 to take part in an archaeological excavation at Skálholt. Twelve years later he settled down in Reykjavík and began a five-decade career documenting Iceland's landscapes and history. His photographs hang on living room walls, including those of foreign dignitaries to whom they've been gifted from the Icelandic government. This exhibit will cover the first chapter of his career, including twenty-two years of his work as an aerial photographer (he trained at the Royal Norwegian Air Force) and his photographs of the country.



Find all art listings online  
[listings.grapevine.is](http://listings.grapevine.is)

Iceland's maritime history and the growth of the Reykjavík Harbour.

*On permanent view*

#### The Coast Guard Vessel Óðinn

This vessel sailed through all three Cod Wars and also served as a rescue ship to over 200 ships.

*On permanent view*

#### From the Fishing Grounds to the Market Stalls

Photographs of salt fish production, from when the fish is caught to when it's sold in the market.

*Ongoing until December*

### Rúri

#### Archive - Endangered Waters

An interactive installation by Icelandic artist Rúri, which features 52 photographs of waterfalls around the country, developed on transparent film, mounted on sliding plates in a large archive. When pulled out from the archive, the particular sound of each waterfall plays, as recorded by Rúri at the location.

*Runs until December 31*

### Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

#### Milestones: Sigurjón Ólafsson's Key Sculptures

An exhibition with some of Sigurjón Ólafsson's key works from different periods of his prolific career as a

sculptor. The earliest work on the exhibition is a newly acquired relief of two sisters, which he made at his first year at the Royal Academy of Art in Copenhagen. This relief has not been exhibited in Iceland before.

*Runs until November 25*

### Spark Design Space

#### PRÍK - Brynjar Sigurðarson

Brynjar Sigurðarson has revisited his previous project making furniture objects inspired by the tools of daily working life in a small rural community in north-east Iceland - now adding to his work with this collection of sticks as weapons, tools, and toys.

*Runs until October 10*

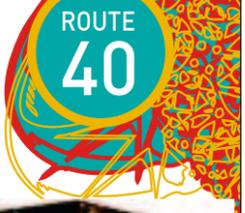
### Vikingakráin

#### Let's Talk Iceland

A comedy show about Iceland's Viking history in English, performed in a pub mocked up as a Viking longhouse.

*Every day at 20:00 at Vikingakráin*

# Experience Icelandic Art and Design



### Kópavogur

#### Art Museum- Gerðarsafn

Hamraborg 4, Kópavogur

Tel. +354 570 0440

Open 11-17

Closed on Mondays

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

#### Helgi Gíslason Sculptures

#### Sigrún Ó. Einarsdóttir and

#### Sören S. Larsen 30 Years Of

#### Hot Glass

#### Torfi Jónsson

#### Watercolors & Living Letters



### Hönnunarsafn Íslands

#### Museum of Design and Applied Art

Garðatorg 1, Garðabær

Tel. +354 512 1525

Open 12-17

Closed on Mondays

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

#### Product designers

Something to write  
home about



### Hafnarborg

#### The Hafnarfjörður Centre of Culture and Fine Art

Strandgata 34, Hafnarfjörður

Tel. +354 585 5790

Open 12-17

Thursdays 12-21

Closed on Tuesdays

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

#### SKIA - shadow

Icelandic art from mid 20th  
century to the present

To the Blue Lagoon

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F   D

FOR YOUR MIND, BODY AND SOUL

by Ragnar Egilsson

## A Bareknuckle Trolley Ride Through Iceland's Supermarkets

You are riding a blue light of compassion after communicating with the crystal flower at the bottom of the crawling man-lake of Ungh-Fwak. You have travelled the maggot wastes of Khwæ-lak as the three red suns licked the blisters on your shoulders. With nothing but the last of the kwa-koo roots to sustain you and the caterpillar men fast on your heels, you pray to the thousand-elbowed god that commands Tau Boötis x. What are those strange lights ahead?

Alrighty, so you've had your first magic mushroom trip in Iceland! It seems you've shat yourself in three places and haven't eaten in two days—maybe it's time for a spot of sensible grocery shopping?

As a connoisseur of terrifying food, you are probably standing in front of one of the downtown Bónus stores (the discount ones with the drunk pig in the logo)—either at Hallveigarstígur 1 or at Laugavegur 59. Or possibly at one of the hilariously expensive 10-11 convenience stores staffed by security guards.

First you will be greeted by the fruit and vegetable section and you're thinking "Fantastic, I'll get a **banana** then." WRONG! The bananas are either green or black. **Red peppers** are green, **green peppers** are white. You have found yourself in a topsy-turvy land where nothing is what it seems! **Red Icelandic potatoes**, **leeks** and **mackintosh apples** are normally a safe bet, but you should escape this place immediately (unless it's a Wednesday which is when they get a fresh shipment).

Remember to pick up **hot dog buns** in the bread section right after the fruit and veggies. You will also be able to find decent additive-free **whole-grain breads** (but the bakeries in Iceland are awesome and you should visit them).

Next will be the meat/dairy section. There are no coolers in Bónus except for this walk in freezer so you should dress warm.

Beware of meat that says "**reykt**" (smoked) or "**salt**" (brined) anything—those usually require more advanced cooking techniques than your drug-addled mind is capable of. But Icelandic **hot dogs** are awesome despite being lightly smoked—get some of those. There are some other forms of tubed mystery meat on offer, such as "**bjúgu**"—large logs of fatty forcemeat in plastic casing that are always boiled and eaten with **bechamel sauce** and **pickled sweet red cabbage** (get some of that in the canned section later). The weirdest type of mystery meat will probably be "**sviðasulta**" which is jellied sheep head meat (head cheese or Sülze in German).

Icelandic supermarkets don't offer raw sausages so forget all about that.



No minced lamb either, but plenty of "**nautgripakjöt**" (cattle meat), which is usually any old thing they threw in the grinder. Make sure to get some lovely **smoked salmon** or trout but be aware that "**grafinn**" or "**grafið**" refers to meat or fish that has been lightly cured (not smoked)—lovely stuff in its own right but tastes different.

Raw milk was recently made legal but you will find nothing but pasteurized stuff here. Cream and butter are cheap and tasty. **Icelandic butter** is a must buy and comes salted (silver packaging) or unsalted (green). **Icelandic milk** comes in three main categories: blue (**whole milk**), yellow (**semi-skimmed**) and white (**skimmed**). Be careful not to buy yogurt by mistake as a lot of the yogurt comes in large carton containers.

Quick yogurt primer: **AB-mjólk** is a type of thick yogurt-ish thing, based on whole milk, but a bit thinner and a little sour. **Súrmjólk** is buttermilk. Anything labelled "**létt**" is skimmed or low-fat. **Skyr** is the real winner here and make sure to buy a lot of it. It is high in protein and low in fat, but make sure to check the sugar content. Skyr is technically a type of cheese, but it's more like yogurt in consistency and is eaten as such.

You won't find any high quality, affordable cold cuts or ham, and the

watery pink crap called "**skinka**" (also a local term for women that use too much foundation or self tanners) should be avoided at all costs. Cheap **pâté** spreads are available and are not a terrible choice. Novelty choices include **Swedish tubes of caviar** (normally creamed and smoked cod roe) and "**Mysingur**," which is with whey and caramel but tastes nothing like any caramel I have ever tasted. Some people swear by it. I don't.

Not much to say about the canned stuff other than to not be fooled by Ora's lovely old timey design as most of their products are inedible.

There's lots of frozen stuff, which you probably won't be interested in after going through the meat chamber of endless winter.

The candy section will be frighteningly massive. Enter at your own risk as Icelanders are fond of strange combos like **liquorice** and **chocolate**. Try the **whipped egg white** (Americans should think marshmallow fluff) in chocolate called "**kókosbolla**." I love that shit.

Make sure to get the expensive toilet paper because your tuckus will thank you later. Lines at the register are aggressive and be prepared to fight your way out – you'll regret not buying some bjúgu and using them like nunchuks.

✂ - RAGNAR EGILSSON

## THE FRESHEST FISH ...AND IDEAS!

After years of study, strings of awards and having led kitchens of some of Reykjavík's most esteemed restaurants, Gústav still sees himself as just a kid from up north, with a lifetime passion for fish.



**WWW.SEAFOODGRILL.IS**

SKÓLAVÖRÐUSTÍGUR 14 - 101 REYKJAVÍK - 571 1100

# Hangover Grub In 101

Five days of music in the heart of Reykjavík. Five days of getting sandblasted by arctic winds in a queue of adorable teenagers in waddling up to the balrog in front of the door while trying to hide the bulge of duty free vodka in their impractical trousers. Well, they may have confiscated that vodka but they couldn't confiscate your will to drink until that Belgian afro-folk-noise collective started to make sense. And now it's the day after and your body is undergoing a surprisingly thorough and punishing metabolic collapse and your synapses feel like precious conflict minerals in a muddy quarry belonging to a failed African state run by a junta of fiercely motivated fire goblins. You need solids and liquids and you need them fast!

By Ragnar Egilsson

## The Greasy Approach

There is more than one way to staple the skin back on a throbbing cat, but the most popular way of curing a hangover is to attack the feeling of dysphoria and regret by giving into every fat-infused urge. It's what your mind desires and recent studies indicate it may just benefit your body as well.

### 1 Mamma Steina Skólavörðustígur 23 (F5)



We at the Grapevine may have sung its praises too much in the past. Don't go in there expecting a culinary epiphany. It's basic Icelandic soul food. Meatballs, lamb stew, fish gratin, breaded pork chops.  
**Pros:** Clean place, greasy food  
**Cons:** Some smells may trigger upset stomachs

### 2 Úrilla Górrillan Austurstræti 12 (E4)



Again, nothing mind-blowing, but they benefit from a small selection of tasty burgers, sandwiches and fried chicken strips (I hate huge menus during recovery) and you can watch a game as you eat and thereby avoid eye-contact with whatever you managed to drag out/home with you.  
**Pros:** Neutral, TVs, moderately greasy  
**Cons:** Might not be in the mood to see a bar ever again

### 3 Kebab Grill Lækjargötu 10 (E4)

This is my favourite kebab place in Reykjavík although it doesn't quite reach the yogurt speckled, chilli-dusted, rotisserie heights that I know kebab can reach, but good enough the day after. Correctly seasoned, good bread, fresh ingredients, selection of strange European fruit sodas at the till.  
**Pros:** Located in a warm and womblike basement  
**Cons:** Service is friendly, but a bit slow sometimes

#### Other notable choices:

##### Gamla smíðjan

Fiery pizza  
[www.gamlasmidjan.is](http://www.gamlasmidjan.is)

##### Núðluskálin

Assorted bowls of noodles  
[www.nudluskalin.com](http://www.nudluskalin.com)

##### Nonnabiti

Iceland's greasy take on the Subway sub  
[www.nonnabiti.is/](http://www.nonnabiti.is/)

##### Aktu Taktu

Burger drive-thru. The menu is only in Icelandic  
[aktutaktu.is/matsedill.htm](http://aktutaktu.is/matsedill.htm)

## The Healthy(ish) Approach

So, you have decided that your body has taken enough punishment for one day? Maybe you're a vegematerian, maybe you want to whip up a rudimentary detox before collapsing back into the fray, or maybe you're simply not in the mood for a stack of processed meat fried in canola?

### 1 Bergsson Templarásund 3 (E4)



Received a slightly under enthused review in our regular food column

recently, but we may have been a little hard on them. Bergsson may be the perfect alternative to the greasy hangover meal. It's a clean, bright and friendly place with a pretty fresh and healthy brunch option along with some tasty soups. Prepare to encounter jams, breads, salads and oven-baked protein. Not sure if they offer any fizzy ginger drinks, but they feel very fizzy and gingery.

### 2 Happ Höfðatorg



This is not strictly speaking 101 Reykjavík, but why not go for a bit of a jog while you're being all healthy and stuff. Stock up on detox juice, soups, wraps, salads, whole grain, roasted veggies and meals entirely based on the perceived curative properties of the individual ingredients. None of the meals are available in enema-form (yet), but they are sure to cleanse or clench you up real nice (whichever you prefer).

### 3 Kaffi Loki Lokastígur 28 (G6)

It's not particularly healthy, but something about the place feels restorative. Overlooking the church dildo on the hill (probably for beckoning unsuspecting children from the nearby school, am I right!?), it's brimming with cosy and patriotic dishes. Grab some flatbread with pickled herring, spelt bagel with hard-boiled eggs, quinoa and feta salad or a skyr cake.

#### Other notable choices

##### Kex hostel

Sit at the bar with a beet salad or just grab a porridge breakfast  
[www.kexhostel.is/saemundur](http://www.kexhostel.is/saemundur)

##### Kryddlegin hjörtu

Organic soups and salads  
[www.kryddleginhjortu.is](http://www.kryddleginhjortu.is)

##### Durum

Soups and fresh juices are usually nice in this mediocre safe haven  
[www.durum.is](http://www.durum.is)



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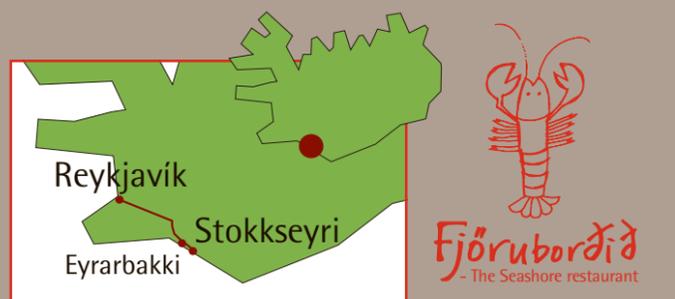
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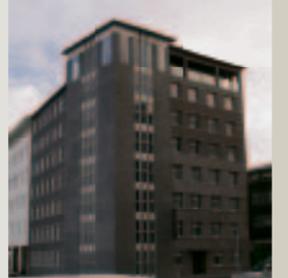
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