



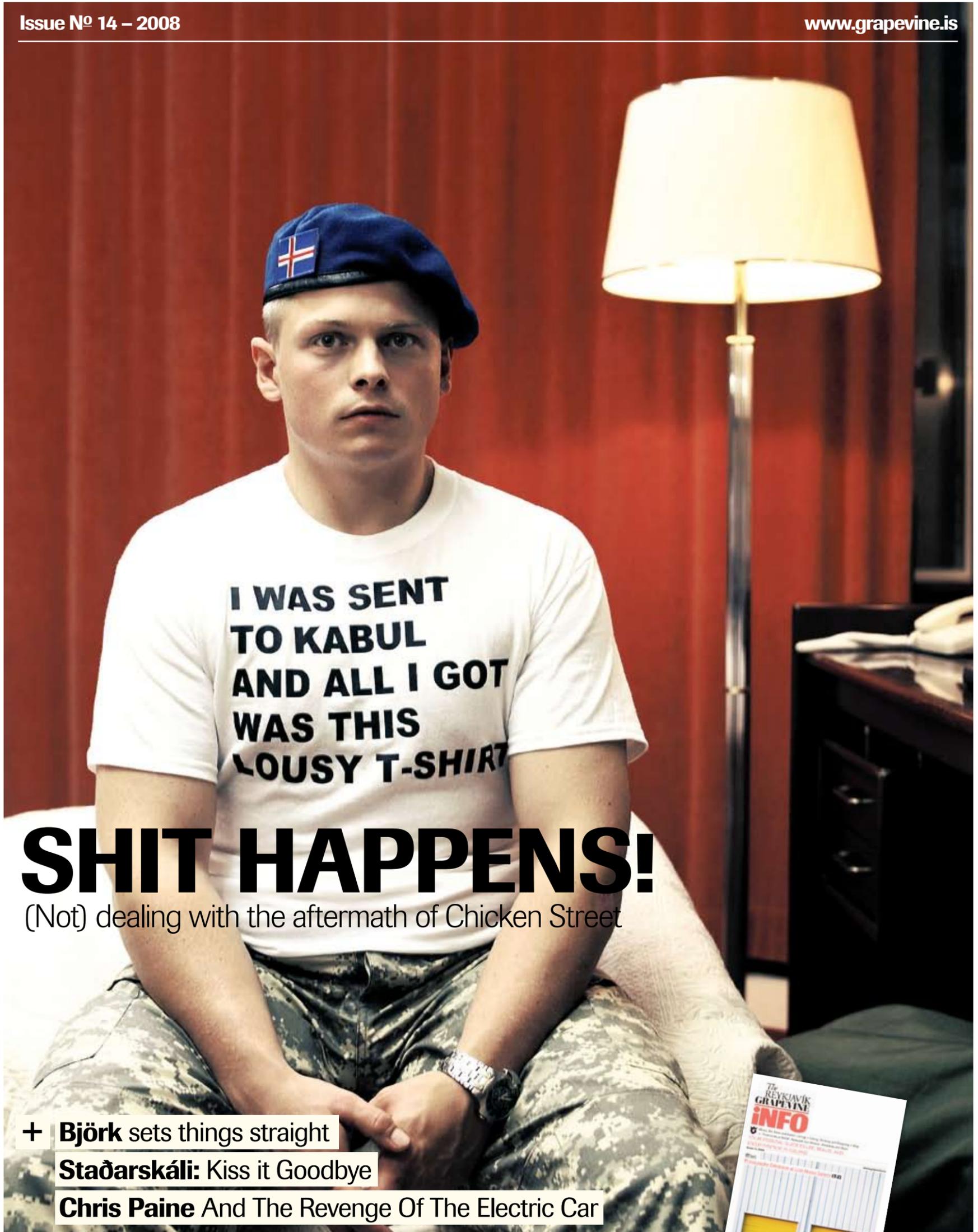
The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

FREE

Made of Iceland *Since 2003*

Issue Nº 14 – 2008

www.grapevine.is



SHIT HAPPENS!

(Not) dealing with the aftermath of Chicken Street

+ **Björk** sets things straight

Staðarskáli: Kiss it Goodbye

Chris Paine And The Revenge Of The Electric Car

The Golden Greek Arrives
Introducing: The Beer Patrol

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL
AND ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND
COMPLETE CITY LISTINGS – INSIDE!

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EDITORIAL

Iceland is a peace-loving country. Perhaps that is why it was so easy to sell the nation the idea of a peacekeeping force, which in reality turned out to be a paramilitary organisation that was almost strictly deployed on military-related mission in hostile environments. Humanitarian missions? Not so much.

The ICRU has been a matter of much debate since it was first conceived in 2001. When members of the Unit were attacked and wounded when guarding their misguided commander on a personal errand to shop for carpets in a hostile environment, it fuelled much speculation as to what our role was in peacekeeping missions around the world. Was it really our place, as an unarmed nation, to supply NATO with paramilitary units?

When a new Minister took over the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, she made it one of her first tasks on the job to announce that Icelandic peacekeeping forces would from now on be strictly civilian. This issue we take a look at the brief and somewhat violent history of the Icelandic paramilitary.

We also check in with Björk and poke her a bit on her reasons for her recent statements regarding sexism in the music industry. We preview the upcoming conference on sustainable driving, talk to Academy Awards winner Costa-Gavras who will visit the Reykjavík International Film Festival and examine the increasing homogenisation of the Icelandic road shop. So, lots of cool stuff to keep you entertained.

MASTHEAD

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

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THE COVER



PHOTOGRAPHY

GAS

MODEL

Nami

THANKS

Hotel Saga

COMIC STRIP BY LÓA HJÁLMTÝSDÓTTIR



HARALDUR ÖRN ÓLAFSSON

A MOUNTAIN GUIDE AND A LAWYER. HIS
ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:

SOUTH POLE 1998
NORTH POLE 2000
SEVEN SUMMITS 2001-2002
= ADVENTURE GRAND SLAM RECORD 2002.

3 LAYER JACKET: STEINAR CM-007

3 LAYER PANTS: BERGUR CM-005

FLEECE NECKWARMER: RUT CM-307

WOOLEN TOP: GUNNAR CM-909

WOOLEN PANTS: LANGBRÓK CM-916



DRESS CODE ICELAND



LETTERS

Sour Grapes

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

Hi Grapevine,
In Icelandic elections, what role do endorsements play? I'm not talking about party-endorsements, but endorsements from unions or well-known individuals or clubs. It irritates me that the police union issues endorsements in my state [here in the usa], and then candidate X says 'Police Endorsed.' I'd like the police to stay out of my elections, thank you. Where can I find out how this gets done over there?
Thanks, Gavin Sullivan
AFS student in Iceland – 1982

Well Gavin,
Some unions have historical ties with political parties and candidates are frequently voted for on the basis of those ties, i.e. the workers union, but I don't recall an incident where a union (especially the police union) has come out to directly endorse a candidate or a party directly in recent years. The ties are more historical and social I'd think. But, political endorsements here in Iceland often come in the form of financial contributions, and all things considered, I'd rather have those upon the table. Or preferably, not at all.

Hello,
Just a quick note from Townsville, which is on the coast of North Queensland Australia, to say thank you for printing my 'penfriend request' in your newspaper a few months ago. It was marvellous of you and the result is that I now correspond by letter, the old fashioned way, with a delightful Icelandic woman. Already we have learned a few things about each others' country so very, very far apart and so incredibly different. These across the globe exchanges are very uplifting. Thanks again and best wishes to you and everyone in your office. Cheerio.

Denise Moore

Why, thank you Denise.

Dear editor
The next time you send a journalist to a Slugs concert, make sure he knows the difference between the band and the lead singer. The next time you send a journalist to a Slugs concert make sure he notices that other bands are playing, and not just his own itching hemorrhoids. Oh yeah, by the way, the next time you send a journalist to a Slugs concert make sure the journalist isn't a self righteous pussy that's afraid of getting sloshed by beer and confuses piss with red wine.
regards,
Syndri Freyr Steinsson, slugs groupie

Dearest Sindri,
Thank you for your comments re: Marcus

Walsh's review of that Slugs show. We will make sure to stifle our reviewers' attempts at critical thought in the future. It was about damn time, too.
Now do us a favour: The next time you read the Grapevine, make sure you aren't a star-struck, self-righteous, cock-gobbling groupie motherfucker. K?

Hey,
seems like these (excuse moi le mot) touristic magazines always had to come with bad lay out, screaming out it was a free magazine. Happy to see your magazine stands out between them, adding class to the content with a great typography job. Can't wait to get my hands on one.

Hat tip to your designer(s).
Wim

Dear Wim,
Thank you for your comments on Gunnar Porvaldsson's excellent design skills. To our great regret, Gunnar has left the Grapevine for greener pastures. We already miss him, and will certainly have a rough time keeping up the impossibly high standards he set. But we will try our best to honour his vision.

Hullo,
Sindri here from Slugs. Marcus Walsh's article on our show blew my mind, and is the first and only piece of positive press this band has ever received to my knowledge. Thank you.
Although an exemplary bit of journalism in many ways, we would like to point out that the Canadian guy wasn't the only act that got an encore; we got one. Also, there was no water in the gun, only beer, and later on, I put red wine in it. Come to think of it, that was during the encore; maybe he missed it.
Finally, and also a bit unfairly, since he's not expected to know this, but I don't write the music. I arrange it, but the other guys write it.
Well, that all. Thanks again,
S. Eldon

Dear Sindri,
We suspected you'd like Marcus' take on your band of Slugs. As for the missed encore: it's probably better not to intimidate your audience if you want it to stick around for the entire show. There are fragile young Englishmen out there, you know, ones that don't take "confrontation" lightly.

Dear Reykjavik Grapevine:
On you issue no.12 you featured an article regarding the possibilities of the city of Reykjavik and Iceland in general to host the 2024 Summer Olympic Games. The

article was somewhat pessimistic over the chances of such major even happening in the city. When Athens hosted the 2004 Summer Olympic Games, Greece was one of the smallest countries in population (est. 11 million) to host such an event. The International Olympic Committee seemed to prefer cities and countries several million in population in order to secure the success and profitability of such behemoth event. On the contrary the Winter Olympic Games are smaller in scale (although in the last 10 years the organizing cities have tried to elaborate their Olympic festivities). Maybe Reykjavik needs to rethink their strategy in bidding for an Olympic event. Even if the organizing committee can secure funds to host the summer games, one major factor is the weather. Yes, Reykjavik is beautiful with clean air to breath and less traffic than other major European capital cities. But the summer is still cold for most tourists standards. Even at 15-20 degrees Celsius, it's still considered spring weather.
Which brings us to the Winter Olympics suggestion. Reykjavik has the weather, mountains and snow to host the winter games. The are less venues to accommodate and any new construction to accommodate them can be used by Icelanders a lot more than the summer games.
My suggestion to the Icelandic government and the city of Reykjavik is to make a bid for the winter games. Their chances of seriously be considered are far greater than the summer games. There are less athletes, officials, and visitors to accommodate, and would be far less expensive to organize.
I hope Reykjavik does host a major athletic event in the near future. I have faith in the city and its people that they will put forth any effort needed to ensure the event is a complete success. It will be the best marketing promotion for a city and country that are breathtaking and still undiscovered by many tourist.
I will be the first volunteer to assist.....just ask!

Best Regards,
Irene A. Wright
Louisville, KY USA
iwright@aegonusa.com

Wow, Irene. You really think we could pull that off, huh? Well, you better pack up your stuff and come on over right away: the first volunteer's job will most likely be that of convincing the rest of the world he or she isn't drugged or deranged.
And thanks for your cool dissertation. I say we go for it. Our address and phone number are on page 2 – give us a ring when you arrive.



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RE-08 Saga Circle

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RE-15 South Shore Adventure

This tour takes you along the sandy coastline of the South with a taste of Icelandic nature. On this tour you breathe in the fresh air by a black beach just before seeing striking waterfalls that mesmerize you while gazing at them.

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EXPO



Reykjavik Excursions
KYNNISFERÐIR

ARTICLE

The Tartan Army Comes to Town

BY PÁLL HILMARSSON

The qualifying rounds for the football World Cup finals in 2010, to be held in South Africa, kicked off last week. Iceland plays in a group with Holland, Macedonia FYR, Norway and Scotland. All these teams rank way above the Icelandic team, which sits rather pitiable, in position number 107 in the FIFA world rankings.

The first match saw Iceland visit Norway in Oslo and much to everyone's surprise the game ended in a 2:2 draw. Equally surprising was the 1:0 win by Macedonia over Scotland. These results laid the groundwork for an exciting match when the Scots visited Iceland on the 10th of September. The Scottish really needed a win if they were to have any chance of making it to the finals, and the draw against Norway fired up the Icelandic squad, who seemed to believe that maybe, just maybe, they could beat the Scots.

The buildup to the game started 2 days earlier when the Scottish fans, dubbed the Tartan Army, arrived in Reykjavik wearing their traditional kilts and their not so traditional clown wigs. Why is it that football fans feel that it's necessary to dress like children when they go see a game? Never mind the kilts, that's somewhat cute and quirky... but the wigs, the Viking helmets and the face paint? It's weird but mostly just stupid to see grown men parade around like that.

The Tartan Army is considered the best-behaved group of national football supporters around the world. Back in the seventies things weren't quite like that. In 1977 in a bizarre act of defiance, frustration or bewilderment, the Scottish fans stormed Wembley stadium after a match with England and tore down the goalposts. A pretty concise statement to both teams. But since then the Tartan Army has cleaned up its act and has won awards from FIFA for having a "friendly nature" as opposed to beating up children, "donating to charity" as opposed to stealing from said children and most strangely: for "vocal support" as opposed to being silent football fans - the definition of an oxymoron.

The Tartan Army, true to their nature, was indeed not so silent on the streets of Reykjavik the two days leading up to the match. They paraded around in their kilts, drawing attention wherever they went - which most of the time was just the nearest pub. One member said in a drunken television interview that he liked to drink 20 beers a day, which made me wonder what kind of jobs these lads have at home - for 20 beers in a pub in Reykjavik equals most honest men's pay.

On match day most of the Army's men and women were well sauced. True to their reputation of being friendly and contrary to the Icelanders, the Scottish seem to have fun when they drink and do not see it as their immediate goal to beat up the next unfortunate soul to cross their path. So the Scots drank, shouted and sang all through the game while the Icelanders cursed at their team when nothing went their way. The shirtless Scots behind me had made up new lyrics to some of their old fighting songs - "we will deep fry all your puffs" was one line. All in all I wish the Tartan Army would visit more often.

And the match? We lost 1:2. But that was to be expected. 🇮🇸

ARTICLE BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON — ILLUSTRATION BY HROTTI K



Chickenshit Happens

Ministry report reveals shortcomings by officials in the aftermath of the Chicken Street attack.

A report issued by a committee appointed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs finds serious faults with the aftermath of a suicide bomb attack involving members of the Icelandic Crisis Response Unit. The Grapevine takes a closer look.

Iceland does not maintain an army; but since 2001, we have maintained the paramilitary Icelandic Crisis Response Unit (ICRU), an expeditionary peacekeeping force that is deployed on peacekeeping and humanitarian aid missions around the world, mostly in an effort to bolster Iceland's participation in NATO. While the ICRU is supposedly a civilian force, due to the nature of most of their assignments all members receive basic military training, equipment and rank from NATO, mostly through the Norwegian armed forces.

In 2003, the ICRU was deployed to Afghanistan to participate in missions on behalf of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). On July 1, 2004, the ICRU took over control of the Kabul International Airport from Germany under the stern leadership of Col. Hallgrímur Sigurðsson, who had 1800 soldiers and peacekeepers under his command. This was our first notable military venture since the Viking age.

After several uneventful months at the Kabul Airport, disaster struck on October 23, 2004, when a suicide bomber attacked Icelandic peacekeeping personnel on Chicken Street in Kabul's main shopping district. The attack left three dead: the attacker, an American woman, and an 11-year old Afghan girl. Three Icelandic servicemen sustained severe injuries to their body and face from flying shrapnel. All of them recovered, but they now share five testicles.

Under different circumstances, the events surrounding the attack would best be described as comical. Despite ISAF instructions to avoid leaving the airport unless there was an urgency to do so, Col. Haraldur Sigurðsson decided to take his men shopping.

A trip was planned in advance to visit Chicken Street, where Col. Sigurðsson had learned of an excellent carpet store from Turkish co-workers. After scouting the surrounding area, Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, in charge of security at the airport, reported that Chicken Street was both narrow and busy, and could propose serious security threats. He recommended that the stop be kept brief, and the merchandise should be ready for delivery upon arrival.

SHOP N' POP

At 13:55, Six Icelandic peacekeepers rolled out in two vehicles, joined by an American co-worker and a secretary from the Turkish embassy who was invited to join them for his expertise in carpets and his previous relationship with the store owner. The group took standard security measures in front of the store. According to the report, the store owner had failed to comprehend his part in making sure the stop was brief, possibly due to a bad phone connection. While the group waited as the carpets were readied, Col. Sigurðsson and his guest enjoyed Afghan hospitality.

Meanwhile, the men standing guard outside expressed their concerns over the delay. An hour later when the group was preparing to leave, the attack came. Col. Sigurðsson, whose immediate response to the attack was to tell his men "Shit happens!", described the events to the Icelandic daily newspaper Morgunblaðið: "It all happened in less than 20 seconds. He threw two grenades at them and as soon as they exploded a giant cloud of smoke and dust appeared. He probably ran into the smoke-cloud and up to them and then exploded himself. This all happened in a matter of seconds." They never saw the assailant until after the attack.

With one operational vehicle left, the group charged to the nearest hospital, twenty minutes away, with a short stop at headquarters to drop off the secretary from the Turkish embassy. The Icelandic security force returned home soon, sporting brand new T-shirts with the group's new and rather informal slogan emblazoned across their chest: "Shit happens"

THE AFTERMATH

According to the report from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, everything indicates that the Icelandic security force guarding Col. Hallgrímur Sigurðsson maintained their composure under duress and acted in accordance with their training and standard operating procedures.

However, the committee finds that the actions of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Icelandic government in the days after the attack were anything but exemplary, and shaped by their ineptitude to deal with such matters. The report details several mistakes in the official handling of the incident as described by the members of the ICRU themselves.

No independent investigation into the attack and the events leading up to it was launched. The Ministry handled press relations poorly and made no attempts to correct obvious misstatements circulating in the media. The attitude towards the

men upon return is described as indifferent and more attention was directed to influence what they said in the media, rather than provide them with the appropriate help. Attitude towards family members is described as "random and clumsy." No plan was in place in the event of such an attack. The men criticised their commander, Col. Sigurðsson for his actions on site, and his "shit happens!" comment following the attack. The committee finds that this event has had considerable negative effects, both mentally and physically, and that the men are especially hurt by the fact that their claims for damages have been met with indifference. To this day, only one of the injured men has received any financial compensation. In short, the committee finds that all complaints by the members of the ICRU are warranted and suggests that the Ministry for Foreign Affairs take every measure to rectify the situation.

Of course, the larger question, what a paramilitary group from Iceland was doing their in the first place, remains unanswered. But the fact that today, four years later, members of the ICRU are still fighting bureaucracy over financial compensation that they are lawfully entitled to shows only one thing. Here in Iceland, shit happens! 🇮🇸

DESPITE ISAF INSTRUCTIONS TO AVOID LEAVING THE AIRPORT UNLESS THERE WAS AN URGENCY TO DO SO, COL. HARALDUR SIGURÐSSON DECIDED TO TAKE HIS MEN SHOPPING.



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ARTICLE

Start Your Engines

Iceland is going green and there's no looking back.

BY DESIREE ANDREWS

The second conference of its kind, Driving Sustainability will bring together some of the most high level and powerful minds in science and technology from around the world. They're meeting in Reykjavík to confront the serious and immediate international issues of depleting fossil fuels and the future of transportation.

The three-day summit will offer seminars on groundbreaking tools that will jet us forward into the dawn of a green day, and you're invited.

Iceland is the ideal place to hold this summit, not only because it holds a treasure trove of renewable energy but, as managing partner Teitur Þorkelsson says, "Icelanders are early adapters and we love technology."

If you think it's going to be boring, think again. There will be high-tech innovations that would make James Bond jealous, speakers who are out of this world, and a glimpse into a sustainably bright tomorrow. The star-studded list of attractions include an opening address from Iceland's President, a look at plans for a solar powered plane that can fly around the globe, and a visit from the man behind the fastest electric motorcycle on the planet.

THAT MAGNIFICENT MAN AND HIS FLYING MACHINE

Bertrand Piccard, world famous astronaut and the first man to ever circumnavigate the world in a hot air balloon, is scheduled to be the first keynote speaker. He will discuss Solar Impulse, a project that is underway to build a plane that is propelled by solar energy and can stay in the air for days at a time while producing no pollution.

ENTER, THE KILLACYCLE

If you think of dinky golf carts and powerless compacts when you think of electric vehicles, Bill Dubé, creator of the world's fastest electric motorcycle, has a surprise for you. No one, from the speed junkies to the mechanically curious, will want to miss Bill's design of high-performance electric vehicles. And while there has been no confirmation, the Killacycle itself might make special appearance on the only drag strip in Iceland.

INVASION OF THE ELECTRIC CARS

Director of the blockbuster documentary *Who Killed the Electric Car*, Chris Paine, will share his talent of taking tidbits of news and turning them into stories people actually care about. "We made that first movie a murder mystery and for this next film we're going to try and make a monster movie. I'll talk a little bit about keeping things fun because if the environment and going green is a drag, people can tune out." 🇮🇸

WHEN

18, 19, and 20 September

WHERE

Hilton Reykjavík Nordica
Suðurlandsbraut 2
108 Reykjavík

HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday 18, September

9:05 Opening Address from
Olafur Ragnar Grimsson
9:50 Bertrand Piccard
14:00 Bill Dubé

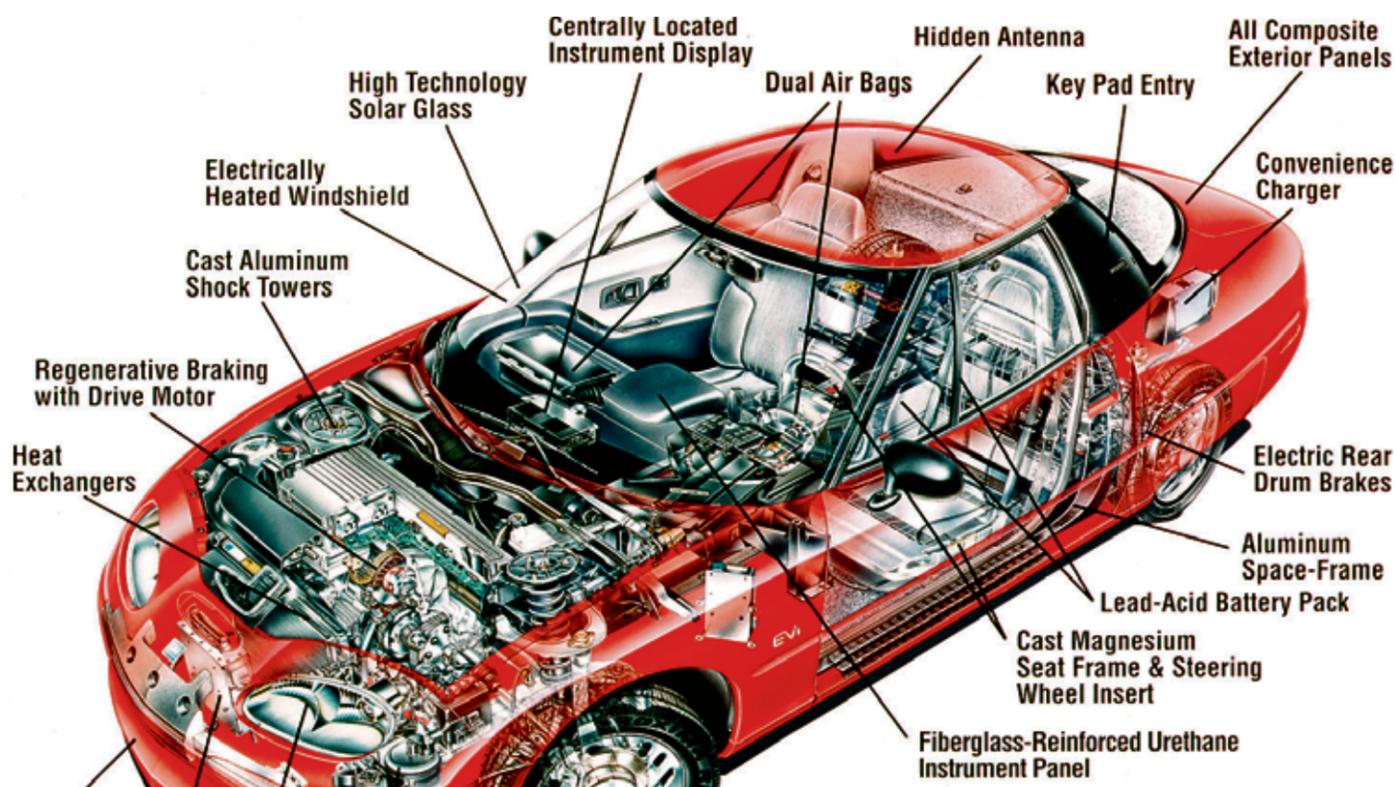
Friday 19, September

9:15 Ted Miller, Senior Manager
at Ford Motor Company
12:15 Sven Thesen, Director of A Better Place

Saturday 20, September

Screening of *Who Killed the Electric Car*
followed by Q&A with Chris Paine
For a full schedule check out www.driving.is

INTERVIEW BY DESIREE ANDREWS



THOSE ELECTRIC CARS SURE LOOK COMPLICATED

It's Electric

Chris Paine talks about the future of energy alternatives for cars in Iceland and his new film.

Chris Paine is the director of the acclaimed 2006 film *Who Killed the Electric Car*, a documentary about the decline of a technology that seems to be making a comeback in Iceland. He will be coming to Reykjavík to speak at Driving Sustainability, an international conference about alternative energy sources in transportation. In addition to screening his hit film, he will also be speaking at the conference and getting footage for his upcoming documentary *The Revenge of the Electric Car*. We gave him a call in his Los Angeles studio to find out what we can expect.

What was your reaction when you were asked to come to Iceland to speak at Driving Sustainability?

I was psyched. You know, Iceland's got a reputation for a lot of renewable energy, which is the missing link on electric cars. I've always wanted to come to Iceland, so this was a big opportunity, and then I saw the program and it looked like they'd put together a tremendous group of European, Icelandic and American expertise on these issues. It sounds like a great conference.

What does it take to make alternative transportation work?

The three secret ingredients are battery technology, renewable electricity, motivated consumers—well, I just said three and I'm already up to four—and wise government leadership. Just looking at the conference, those elements all seem to be in place.

Over 90% of Iceland's electricity comes from renewable energy so it makes sense for the country to go electric in terms of transportation. Do you think it makes as much sense for the rest of the world?

Absolutely. I mean there's no one transportation solution for everything you need to do, but for pure electric, for any place where you have 100 miles or less in a day of driving, which is really almost every urban area and every place where the daily commute of people is 60 miles or less, it's just perfect. That is a gigantic percentage of transportation.

In addition to coming to Iceland to speak at Driving Sustainability, you're also coming to film your sequel to *Who Killed the Electric Car*?

We're calling it a new film. The last film was sort

of a case study about why it's so difficult to create change. Especially when you're up against entrenched interest like petroleum and the auto industry and consumer habits. It's just difficult for people to say: "Oh am I going to start plugging my car in? Am I going to stop going the gas station? What does that mean?" These are difficult hurdles and industry doesn't want to change the way people make money so you're threatening industry: "I don't want to give up my oil revenues," or "don't let the utilities take over." So, the movie was about why it's so difficult to change.

Now that oil prices have gone up so much even Americans are dialling into global warming. A huge renaissance is happening with electric drives for cars. That's why we were calling the next film *The Revenge of the Electric Car*—the coming back from the dead, as it were. **Who killed the electric car seemed to provoke a sense of outrage and foul play. Do you think this film will be more optimistic or are you finding things that are just as daunting that stand in the way of moving forward on renewable energy in transportation?**

It's much more optimistic. It's about people saying to hell with it we're just going to do it. We'll do it with or without industry. If industry is not going to get onboard we'll do it anyway. It's about making a better future come hell or high water and to do it smartly. We want to make sure that electric transportation does not end up building coal plants everywhere, which really isn't a lot better than making gasoline.

What do you hope to find when you come to Iceland/ Driving Sustainability when it comes to content for your film or the future of renewable energy in general?

I want to look at your geothermal plant. I want to talk to ordinary folks, Icelanders, about their attitude about their cars. I know a lot of people drive Range Rovers and trucks and sort of manly-men-cars that go from place to place and I'm very much interested in the projection that cars have. Men want tough cars because they radiate a lot of power and women are attracted to that. I think there's a lot of primal stuff in cars. I'm interested in what the general population has to say about

their willingness to embrace either smaller cars or bigger cars that use electricity.

I'm interested to see what the balance is on hydrogen. I'm very sceptical about hydrogen fuel cells. I know there's been a hydrogen push in Iceland and I want to sort of investigate what the reality is on hydrogen versus batteries. I fear that the world has been severely misled about hydrogen fuel cells for cars and that this is a stalling strategy, a very expensive stalling strategy, and batteries are ready

to go today for short trips. Is Iceland buying the hydrogen hype and if so who's pushing it?

Why is the push for hydrogen a stalling strategy? What is it stalling for?

I think there's a lot of people in hydrogen that have very good intentions and it's certainly a beautiful vision for transportation in 100 years. But, the problem is there's only so many dollars for alternative transportation because new technology is expensive and batteries can do it now. Initially, the oil companies were pushing hydrogen because they want to control electricity as a fuel. Hydrogen is basically electricity as a fuel so they get to keep playing the game. They get to ship the hydrogen around in their trucks, but the problem is that it's very inefficient and very energy intensive way to do it. We don't need the fuel companies shipping hydrogen. We already have the infrastructure for electricity and when we use batteries and existing electrical infrastructure, we don't need the oil companies. We can do it ourselves and at a big savings. If the oil companies have convinced Iceland that they want hydrogen, I

think that Iceland will lose more time in efficiently getting off oil.

It's good that hydrogen is an option it just shouldn't be on the front burner. It should be on the back burner. What should be on the front burner are plug-in hybrids and plug-in electrics, in my view.

Do you think a small country like Iceland can be a role model for the rest of the world?

Of course, Iceland can definitely be a role model. I think it already is and that's why I'm looking forward to coming, to see how that role model plays out. 🇮🇸

CHRIS PAINE

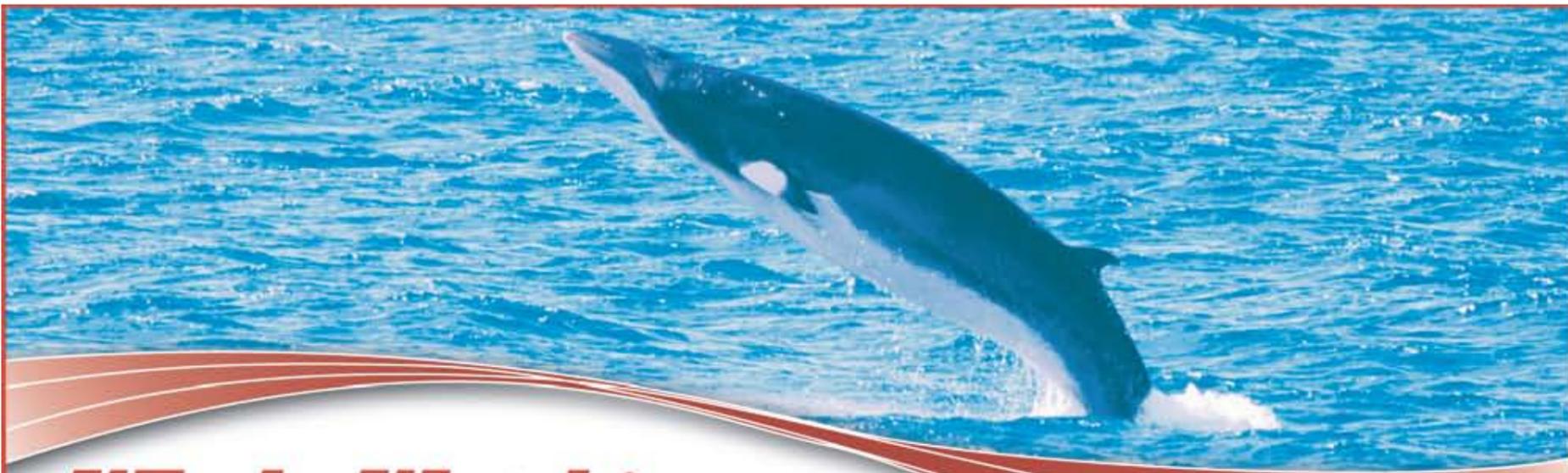
"Who Killed the Electric Car" premiered at Sundance Film Festival in 2006 and was later distributed worldwide by Sony Pictures Classic.

His other film credits include:
Faster, executive producer 2003
No Maps for These Territories, executive producer 2001

He has also directed segments for the MTV television series BUZZ and online content for Apple Computer.

In addition to his work in media, he is also an entrepreneur, environmentalist and an activist.

He will be screening "Who Killed the Electric Car" at Driving Sustainability Saturday 20, followed by a Q&A. Check www.driving.is for time.



Whale Watching and Puffin Island from Reykjavík

Take part in an adventure at sea with an unforgettable trip into the world of whales and sea birds. Conveniently located in Reykjavík's Old harbour, a three hour tour can bring you up close to whales in their natural habitat.

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- * Guiding in English
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- * Free entry to the Information Centre at the harbour

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



Our Tours:

- * **Whale Watching:** April 1st - Oct. 31st
- * **Puffin Tours:** May 15th - Aug. 15th
- * **Sea Angling:** May 1st - Sept. 30th
- * **Videy Island:** May 15th - Sept. 30th

Videy island History, Nature and Art

Videy Island is a unique site that combines history, culture and nature, and is only a few minutes away from the city by boat.

There are hiking paths around the island, which is also renowned for its varied bird life. Videy also inhabits intriguing sculptural art work, amongst them "The Imagine Peace Tower" by artist Yoko Ono.

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Viðeyjarstofa Café is open from 11:30 to 17:00.



Puffins!



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11:15	12:15	13:15	14:15	15:15	16:15	17:15			19:15
From Viðey island to Sundahöfn									
11:30	12:30	13:30	14:30	15:30	16:30	17:30		19:30	20:30
From Reykjavik Old Harbour to Viðey island									
	12:00								
From Viðey to Reykjavik Old Harbour									
				15:30					



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ARTICLE

Cheap Reykjavík

BY HAUKUR S MAGNÚSSON

Everyone knows Reykjavík isn't a cheap city. There are however plenty of ways to shave some Krónur off your monthly purchases, and "Cheap Reykjavík" is where Grapevine attempts to pass some of them on to you, loyal reader. Please send your saving tips to haukur@grapevine.is.

CHEAP LUNCH

As much as we hate admitting it, the good people of Subway often make a pretty mean sandwich – and they sometimes sell 'em for cheap, too. Should you find yourself penniless and hungry nearby a Subway franchise, it is therefore always a good idea to check if their "Sub of the month" deal is any good (even if the bastards usually only grant their least appealing subs for the deal).

It's still pretty sweet to get a six-inch sub of the month for only 329 ISK; in fact it's probably the cheapest choice of lunch available. Surely it will fill you up OK if you remember to instruct your sandwich technician to load on vegetables and condiments well past the point of reason.

CHEAP STUFF

As anyone will tell you, no weekend visit to 101 Reykjavík is complete without a sojourn to Kola-portið. Basically an indoor flea market, Kola-portið gathers bargain-hunters, penny pinchers and garage entrepreneurs in a decadent orgy of old vinyl LPs, second-hand clothes and furniture and pretty much anything else you can think of. Whether you need a tent, a bootleg Slayer T-shirt or a collection of random chotskies, you can be sure to find it at a reduced rate in Kola-portið.

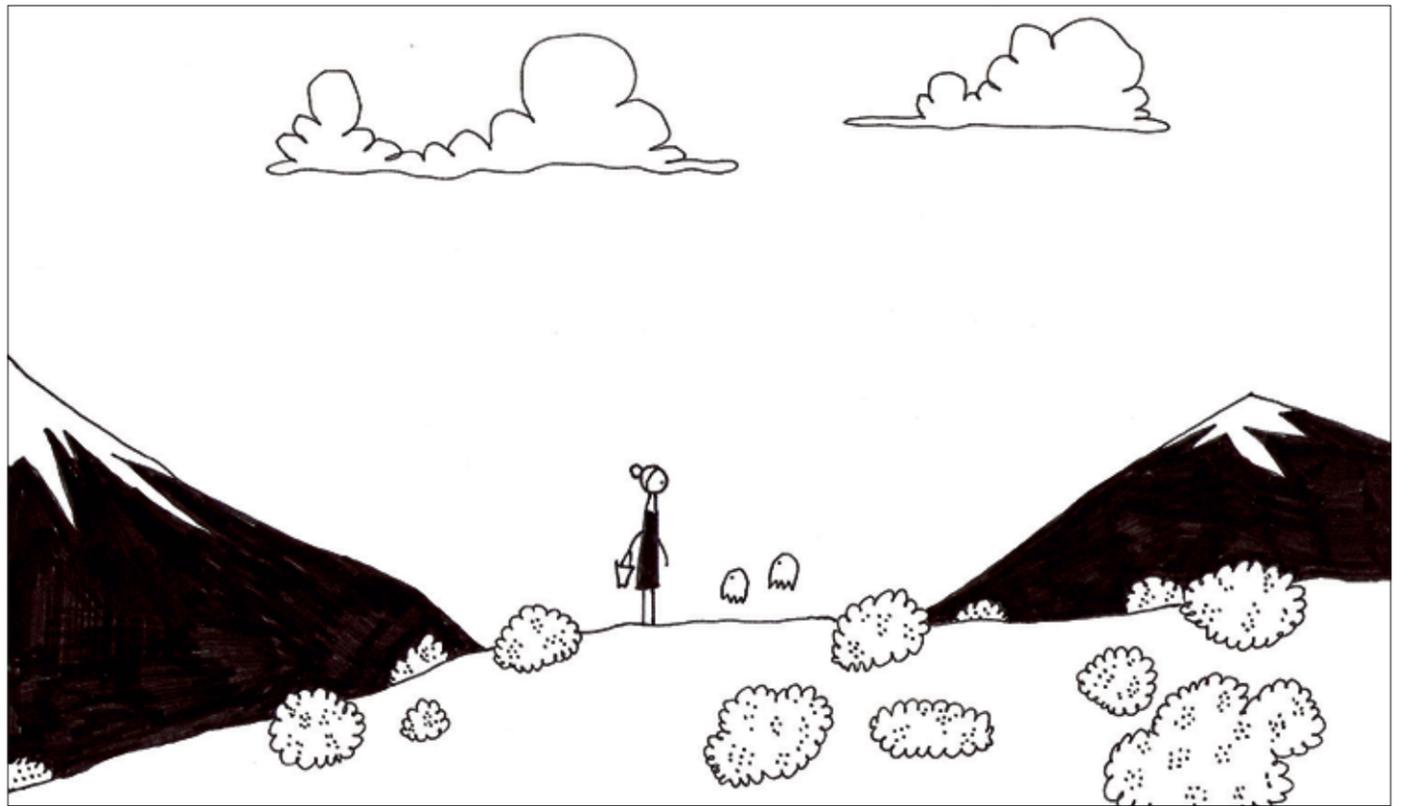
Kola-portið furthermore features a plethora of food stands, and is a great place to purchase frozen or dried fish, foal meat and fresh potatoes. Their selection of local sweets is also impressive. Finally, it is good to keep in mind that Kola-portið is one of the only establishments in Reykjavík where incessant haggling is accepted.

FREE WINE, BEER AND HORS D'OEUVRES

Long-time Grapevine fan Mikkel sent the following tip on how he scores drinks in Reykjavík:

"One of the reasons why I like the Grapevine is its excellent listings section. It does a fine job of keeping me informed of the city's music and cultural life, but more importantly lets me know where and when I can expect to score free drinks and snacks. Every weekend, you can find some sort of opening in one of 101's many galleries and showrooms, and they often offer up impressive amounts of alcohol and other treats to lure in the public. In the past month alone, I've kept down my drinking tab and feasted on some of the finest wines, crackers, beers, cheeses and vodka available. The art is often amusing, too." 🍷

ARTICLE BY HAUKUR S MAGNÚSSON — ILLUSTRATION BY HUGLEIKUR DAGSSON



A PAIR OF ÚTBURÐIR OUT ON THE PROWL

More Monsters and Mythical Beings:

*Confront the Útburður***Safe and legal abortions are a great idea. Just ask the Útburðir.**

"In our past and our stories, we've got this massive database of monsters and mythological creatures. A lot of their stories are really fascinating, and I think it's a shame that they're not used more in modern culture. Many people haven't heard about them," remarked master comic artist Hugleikur Dagsson in a Grapevine-interview this summer. The subject was his latest graphic novel, *Garðarshólmi*, in which he depicts many of the aforementioned creatures. This prompted the Grapevine – on a perpetual quest to educate the masses – to draft Dagsson to illustrate a series of articles on these monsters of yore. For this edition, we introduce the sad fate of Iceland's unwanted children, the Útburðir.

Even though the children are our future, and life is a miracle, we as a species need to uphold constant procreation in order not to perish; bringing a new child into this world isn't always easy. There are many reasons why a parent may not be able to welcome a baby into his or her life – be they

economic, domestic, temporal or spatial – and this is the main reason why abortion is an accepted and legal, if regretful, alternative in most civilised parts of the world.

While safe and legal abortion is a relatively recent addition to our society, the problems that render them necessary are not. And this is where Útburðir come in. Back when giving a baby up for adoption wasn't an option and untrained amateurs performed abortions at a great risk, parents-to-be often reverted to inhumane ways to rid themselves of unwanted pregnancies (keep in mind that bearing a child out of wedlock was often a punishable crime back then). In rural Iceland, the most common method for this was to carry the newborn out into the wilderness and leave it to its fate: i.e. to die of exposure in the unforgiving Icelandic climate.

Legend has it that parents who employed such methods of postpartum abortion were more often than not sealing their own fate in the process, as the child would inevitably come back as a ghost and haunt them for the rest of their lives – eventually driving them past the brink of sanity. Such ghosts are collectively referred to as Útburðir

and Icelandic folklore is abound with tales of their misfortune.

Útburðir can generally be divided into two camps: those who keep to their final resting places and like scaring the pants off any passers-by, and those who focus on haunting the persons responsible for their fate until they go mad. Some sources say that when in human form they can be identified by the fact that they crawl using only one of their knees and elbows, and they are said to give off a chilling howl when the mood strikes them.

The most infamous Útburður tale – *Móðir mín í kví kví* – deals with a young female farm worker whose dire circumstances forced her to abandon a newborn to exposure. A while later she was asked to a dance, and was fretting to a co-worker about not having anything to wear. At that moment, her Útburður was heard reciting a chilling poem from underneath the rafters, promising to lend her a rag to dance in. The poor woman reportedly went instantly mad, and never regained her sanity. 🍷

ARTICLE BY JAMES CRUGNALE — PHOTO BY GAS

World Class is true to their name

Upon entering the doors to World Class at Laugar, the enormity of it all will immediately leave you spellbound. In your head, Also Sprach Zarathustra (theme from 2001: A Space Odyssey) plays and then off into the distance you suddenly see hundreds of treadmills running in unison. "This is only the first floor," explains the co-owner, Disa Jonsdóttir.

What a first floor it is (!) with 250 cardio machines and 200 weight machines, this palace of a workout studio is one of the largest in Europe. Constructed in 2004, the entire facility measures up to 7,600 square meters (30,000 if you include the pools)

There are 4–5,000 daily exercisers in the sprawling three-floor facility, which boasts 18,000 members in total (nearly 10% of the entire population of the country). The features are seemingly endless with a smoothie bar, copious saunas, and a top-of-the-line beauty salon replete with facials

and pedicures. "Even men are using this as they're becoming more conscious of their appearance," Jonsdóttir says. Nearby there is a massage therapy centre that has expertise in hot stone massages, Swedish massages and even chocolate massages!

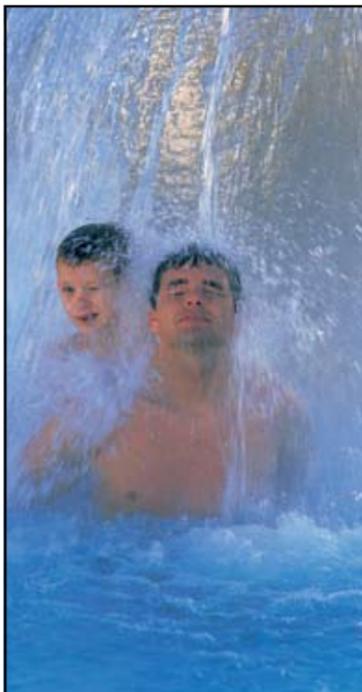
The saunas are breathtakingly detailed with a luxurious relaxation room. The spa inside could only be described as a mini-Blue Lagoon. One room away is a bar that will offer you anything your heart desires.

The silver-medal winning handball team worked out at the facility two weeks before heading to Beijing. "They can be considered a true 'World Class' team," Jonsdóttir joked. Anyone who ever questioned Olympic chances should have seen the World Class gym and there would've been no doubts.

Also included in the sprawling fitness emporium is an elaborate kid's gym called Shokk – aimed at an 8-15 demographic – with weights and other equipment. "Kids these days need to do it," Jonsdóttir says. "They're sitting behind a computer all day and their parents are driving them to school. They need specific training."

Before you go, you should make sure your bank account can handle it as a day pass is an overwhelming \$55 US dollars. Despite the costs, when asked via email whether the weakened Iceland economy has decreased turnout, the owner answers a succinct, "No." 🍷





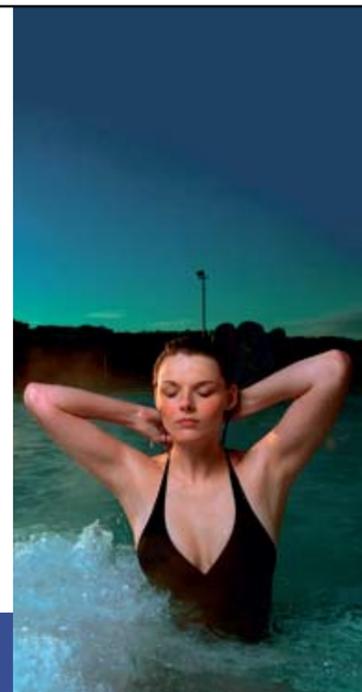
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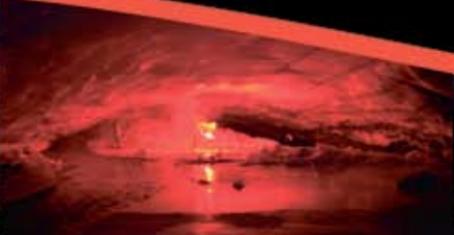
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ARTICLE



US Citizens: Here's How You Vote

BY DESIREE ANDREWS

If you're like me, perhaps you've been busy scouring the political blogs, keeping up on the gossip about Bristol Palin's baby daddy or meticulously counting down the days until the US presidential election on November 4. On the other hand, if you are an expat living in Iceland, you might also have been too busy learning salsa or hanging out in the geothermal pools to care what's going on across the pond. No matter the case, it's time to stop procrastinating and get your head in the game because the 2008 presidential election is less than two months away, and I bet you still haven't applied for an absentee ballot.

If you haven't, fear not, because the US Embassy is ready to help. There's still time to get in your request for a ballot and you don't even have to leave your house. Just check out www.usa.is and go to US citizen services. All of the important information is listed along with a link to register for your state's ballot.

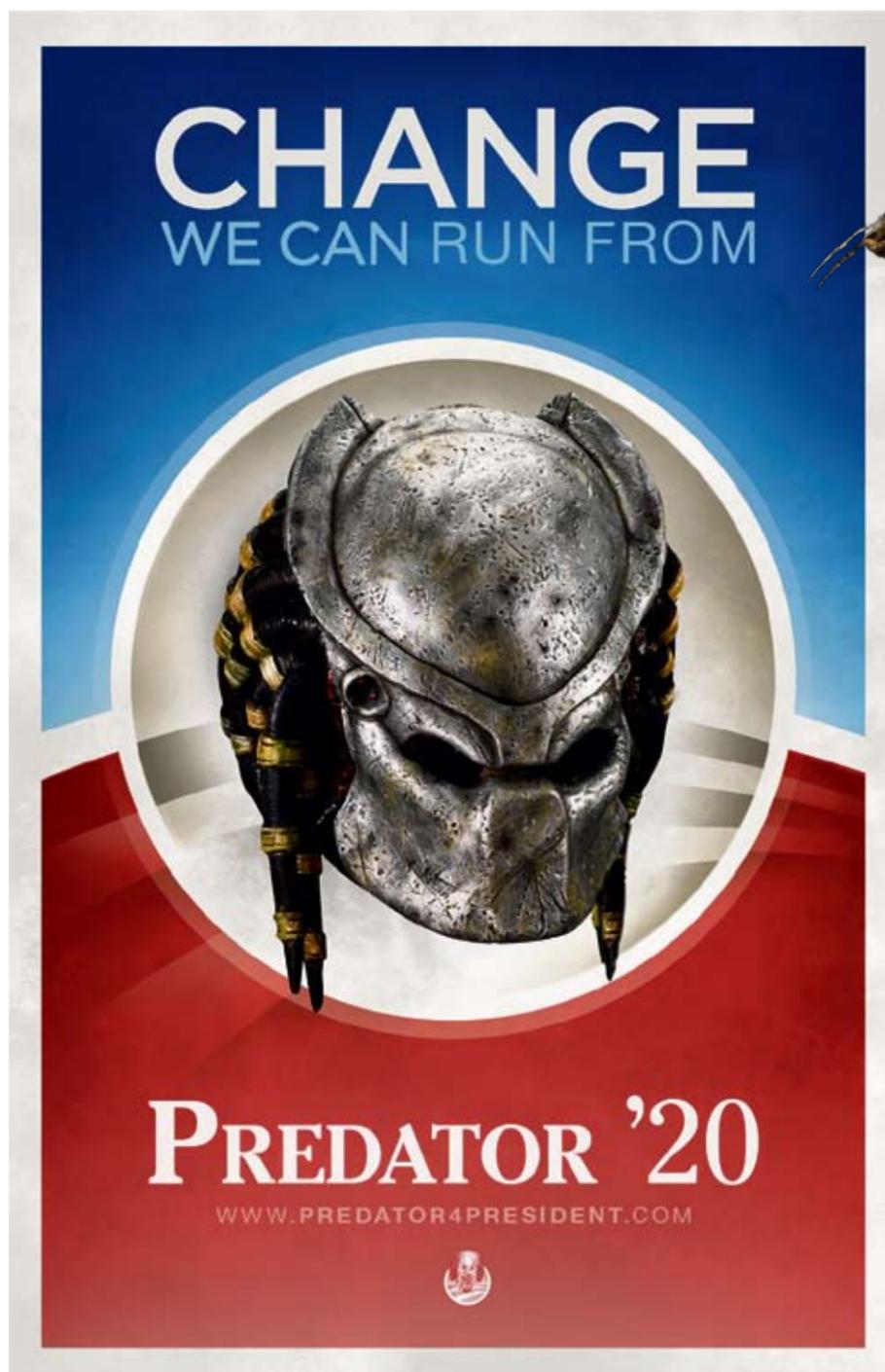
IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW:

- The US Embassy recommends applying for an absentee ballot within 30-45 days of the election.
- If you're not registered to vote in the States you can get registered by going to www.usa.is. The state that you would have to register with is the last state you lived in even if you currently have no ties there.
- If you've never lived in the US but are considered a citizen, some states will let you register if you have a parent who was a resident.
- Every state has its own deadline so check www.fvap.gov to see when that is.
- If you register to vote but you don't receive your ballot in time for the election you can fill out a write-up ballot and send it in.
- If you have questions, you can go to the US embassy. They have copies of voting forms there that they will help you fill out. You can even mail them there. Or, you can call the voting line at +354 697 4449.

The US Embassy also encourages US citizens living in Iceland to register with the State department to receive important updates and information.



ARTICLE BY VALUR GUNNARSSON



THE U.S. COULD CERTAINLY DO WORSE

Predator for President

He may be an evil monster: at least he's upfront about it

In retrospect it might seem obvious, but at the time no one really suspected that two of the stars of mid-eighties action flick Predator would become US governors. Back then, most people thought of it as a lightweight shoot 'em up about big men with big guns running through the jungle looking for a monster to blow up rather than an introduction to politics.

But this was during the Reagan era, when B-movie actors ruled the world. Perhaps the subliminal message here was that Arnie was representing Ollie North, and the monster a Central American socialist. In any case, two of the pumped up muscle men would go on to greater things. Jesse Ventura, formerly a wrestler, would become Governor of Minnesota. And Arnie, of course, is currently Governor of California. It seems that the only major character in Predator not to get his own state was poor Carl Weathers. A black guy just can't catch a break. Not only did he lose a hand in the movie itself, after having recently been beaten to death by another socialist monster in Rocky IV, but his post-Predator career highlight is spoofing himself as a failed actor in the series Arrested Development. Admittedly, Arrested is probably better than anything Arnie ever did. Still, you can't help but feel the poor guy was shafted. They could have at least given him Wisconsin or something.

STALLONE, SCHWARZENEGGER AND ARON PÁLMI

It seems that the only guy to do worse out of Predator than Carl Weathers was the monster itself. True, Predator returned in a sequel, Predator 2, but this was typecasting of the worst kind. And it got worse. While there is a certain dignity to being beaten up by Arnold Schwarzenegger, in the second film he is bested by senior citizen Danny Glover, with Mel Gibson nowhere in sight. And while Arnie went on to do the obligatory family friendly comedy, poor Pred only returned to acting by repeating his signature role in Predator vs. Aliens 1 and 2. This time, he doesn't even get to headline any more, but has to share credits with the monster from another franchise. His old foe Arnie was never reduced to the obvious battle of the 80's buff, something in the vein of Schwarzenegger vs. Stallone, but Preds seems destined to forever duke it out with the other 80's monster (yes, I know Alien first came out in 1979). Speaking of Stallone, Sly may have been prophetic when he went to the future in Demolition Man and found that Arnie had become president. However, it is highly unlikely that in the future anyone will recognise Wesley Snipes. Except, of course, for Aron Pálmi.

NO NUKES FOR AUSTRIANS

So, it seems that with his acting career in a rut, the only sensible option open to Predator would be to follow his colleagues into politics. Who knows, he might even beat Arnie to the punch, for a change. While 2008 was the year people got to choose between the possibility of the first



female and the first black president, 2012 might give us the choice between the first Austrian and the first alien President. And while some people might understandably be wary of putting Predator in charge of nuclear weapons, one would do well to remember that putting Austrians in charge of Superpowers rarely bodes well. It was, in fact, Austrians that started both World Wars 1 and 2, by invading Serbia and Poland respectively. That's one franchise we don't want Arnie to return to.

THE PREDATOR AND GUN CONTROL

But which party would Predator run for? Arnie is firmly entrenched in the Republican Party and Jesse Ventura ran as an independent for Ross Perot's Reform Party. Predator would want to appeal to his fanbase, and the people who rooted for him back in 1986 would want him to be opposed to Arnie. One possibility would be for him to join the Greens, as he seems to be more at home in the jungle than other habitats. However, the Democratic Party is the more obvious choice to get back at the Governor. The Democrats have often been accused of being soft on terrorism, but it wouldn't take more than their candidate presenting a few Taliban skulls with their backbones still attached to silence such doubts. However, he might soon have problems with his own party. It would be hard for the Predator to come out in favour of gun control without the press having a field day with images from his gun toting youth. Also, the Predator seems to be in favour of private initiative, as he always hunts alone. This might lead him to lower taxes. Attempts to reform Medicare might also be seen to be hypocritical by relatives of the people he has hospitalised.

PREDATOR VS. ALIENS 2020

It seems all in all that the Predator is a true Republican, and this would be the natural party for him. At best, he could perhaps be VP to Arnie's Prez. The poor guy seems destined to be forever in Arnie's shadow. Until, of course, his turn came up in 2020. But knowing Predator's luck, by that time Alien would be the Democratic nominee. Alien is, after all, a natural candidate for the left. He always thinks about the interests of the group rather than the individual. Also, he would be firmly opposed to guns, as this would give him a natural advantage. And he would want a good social system to take care of the young until they are old enough to leave the nest and attach themselves to other people. Predator's only response to such a strong candidate would be to declare all Aliens illegal. But this might bring about uncomfortable scrutiny into his own past. Only a firmly patriotic, all American VP might deflect this. Perhaps Carl Weathers could be convinced to bring out the old Stars and Stripes boxer shorts, and go one more round with socialist monsters after all. 

IT SEEMS ALL IN ALL THAT THE PREDATOR IS A TRUE REPUBLICAN, AND THIS WOULD BE THE NATURAL PARTY FOR HIM.



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Meat and clean linen a man needs
Who has fared across the fells.*

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COSTA-GAVRAS ON THE SET

The Golden Greek

Costa-Gavras elaborates about the staggering power of film

The Reykjavík International Film Festival, RIFF, begins September 25 and this year it should be bigger than ever. The Greek director and Oscar award winner Costa-Gavras will visit Icelanders and Grapevine was given to opportunity to converse with him before his arrival.

Costa-Gavras is one of the biggest names in modern cinema and is responsible for many of the most flabbergasting and controversial masterpieces of the last century. He was born in Greece and experienced repressive situations as his father fought with the left wing branch of the Greek resistance during World War II. When he reached the age of 18, his adventure began when he immigrated to his future home ground in Paris.

So tell me, you began studying literature but not cinema once you arrived in France, was that for some idealistic reasons?

I began studying literature at Sorbonne in Paris, but I soon discovered the charm surrounding motion pictures and subsequently that they actually had an institution providing education fit for film producing. After that great revelation I immediately ceased my literature studies and emphasized completely on my film career. It had formerly been my aim to eventually become a writer and impact people in those manners but I don't know; I probably reckoned I had a better shot at effecting people through the screen. But of course all of it was for idealistic reasons.

When you emigrated from

Greece it is said that your father's background set back your opportunity to immigrate to the USA. Why did you want to move to America in particular?

It is right that my father's past prohibited me from moving to the USA, but he fought against the Germans on the Left Wing, with the Anti-Royalists. That turned out to have a negative effect on both him and his children later on. The reason for my desire to move over to the USA was because I had several relatives over there and would have had a

genuine family, but it was impossible for me to go there. And as it turned out I am glad that I ended up in Paris in the beginning of the New-Age commotion.

And how was it making flicks in Paris during the 60s? Could you describe the prevailing atmosphere?

To me it was quite easy getting into the scene there. Everyone was welcome at the time so it was considerably painless for young idealists to produce their cinema debut. The old heroes realised the setting was constantly growing so they were giving advice to youngsters as candy and the actors were into new and different projects so they found it merely exciting starring in a film made by an unknown enthusiast. The great advantage of making films in France at the time was that the state supported the industry quite a lot, which must have opened a few doors. Paris was full of life and you could find passionate artists at every single café, enthralled with their own visions, trying to mesmerize every by-passer with their, alleged, genius.

Most of your films can undoubtedly be categorized as political, so do you have a certain message you'd like present to the world or do these controversial affairs presented in your movies solely fascinate you?

I keep saying that everything that goes on in one's mind is political, all men's relations and feelings have a political connection. A lot of my movies take on happenings that really took place in the world and most of these affairs are extremely controversial, so my movies maybe are more political than most but in my opinion every single film is political. When screenwriters, producers and directors address thousands, and sometimes-even millions, I look

at it as they have great political responsibility. The power of film is staggering.

As you say you have adapted real life scenarios into movies quite a lot, have you ever deliberated going all the way: simply making a documentary?

With the bulk of my movies it would have been tricky making a documentary for the events usually happened many years before I made them into a movie, but I've never been particularly fond of the documentary method. The elements of those

kinds of movies aren't that exciting. I think when you fictionalize a real scenario you can make it much more powerful and you can make the message maybe more as a metaphorical approach to the dysfunctions of our society rather than simply stating what went wrong at the isolated incidents presented in the movie.

Your works often have a dark look and you could even say they are rather bleak. Is it your aim to make them more enlightening than entertaining to the viewer?

Yes, why not? In my opinion entertainment isn't all about laughs and smiles but more about feeling something real. It can also be entertaining witnessing a tragedy as well as watching Americans reciting lousy jokes. I mean, what is 'entertaining?' When you go see a film you sit in the theatre for two hours and are maybe completely taken by a story, and it's much more important that you believe what's on the screen rather than you're laughing the whole time. I make movies about war, beliefs; well, basically what it is being human.

When you had established a reputation in the film industry you moved over to Hollywood and started making movies in English. What caused this transition?

No, no, no! I didn't move over to Hollywood, that is only a common misunderstanding. I had over the years been offered to direct a lot of studio movies over in LA but I always refused, I didn't feel comfortable doing it. But then there was "Missing," a story which really fascinated me about affairs that I was familiar with in Chile and I did all the shooting over there and later all the post-production was done in France. And it's the same with all my movies. I think it's quite dangerous for Europeans to go to Hollywood; they could get persuaded by the rotten industry. But it can't be denied that Universal produced Missing so it was non-Hollywood made but it was produced with Hollywood money.

Did you feel more noticed when you were doing Universal films since you received an Oscar for example?

Well, when they asked me to make a movie for them I said they would have to let me do it as I wanted to, if they wanted to do it the American way they should get an American to direct it. The relationship was very clear from the beginning. So I didn't experience any notable difference at least during shooting because I had my regular crew, but it was maybe more accessible than my previous works because of the English spoken in it.

Have you ever wanted to work back on your native ground in Greece?

I have for some time tried to find a Greek story that I'd want to film, but I haven't found it yet. But you could say I had worked there quite a lot, but for example I shot for my last film in three or four weeks in Greece. It wasn't supposed to be in Greece though; the setting was just rather ideal. But believe me, one day I will make a movie over there.

What would you say were the highlights of your career, and are you satisfied with it in whole?

Satisfied? Well, I don't know. My only regret is that I haven't done more movies already. It takes too much time to make a movie! But when I look over all my works I must say that I am proud of them all, they are like my babies and I am not ashamed of any of them. It is difficult to point out a favourite but you tend to like the ones that are a success the best. But you know, like the movie "Hanna K" which received the worst feedback of them all, I'm still proud of it.

Now that you're coming to Iceland it must be appropriate to ask whether you have seen or heard anything about the Icelandic film scene?

Very, very little. But before I come over I plan to browse through some of the Icelandic films that have been produced. I'm actually very enthusiastic about coming over and you have a cinema and all, right? Well, at least I'm excited about getting to know Iceland, but I've never been there before. Hopefully I will have the chance to travel around the whole country. 🇮🇸

A LOT OF MY MOVIES TAKE ON HAPPENINGS THAT REALLY TOOK PLACE IN THE WORLD AND MOST OF THESE AFFAIRS ARE EXTREMELY CONTROVERSIAL, SO MY MOVIES MAYBE ARE MORE POLITICAL THAN MOST BUT IN MY OPINION EVERY SINGLE FILM IS POLITICAL.



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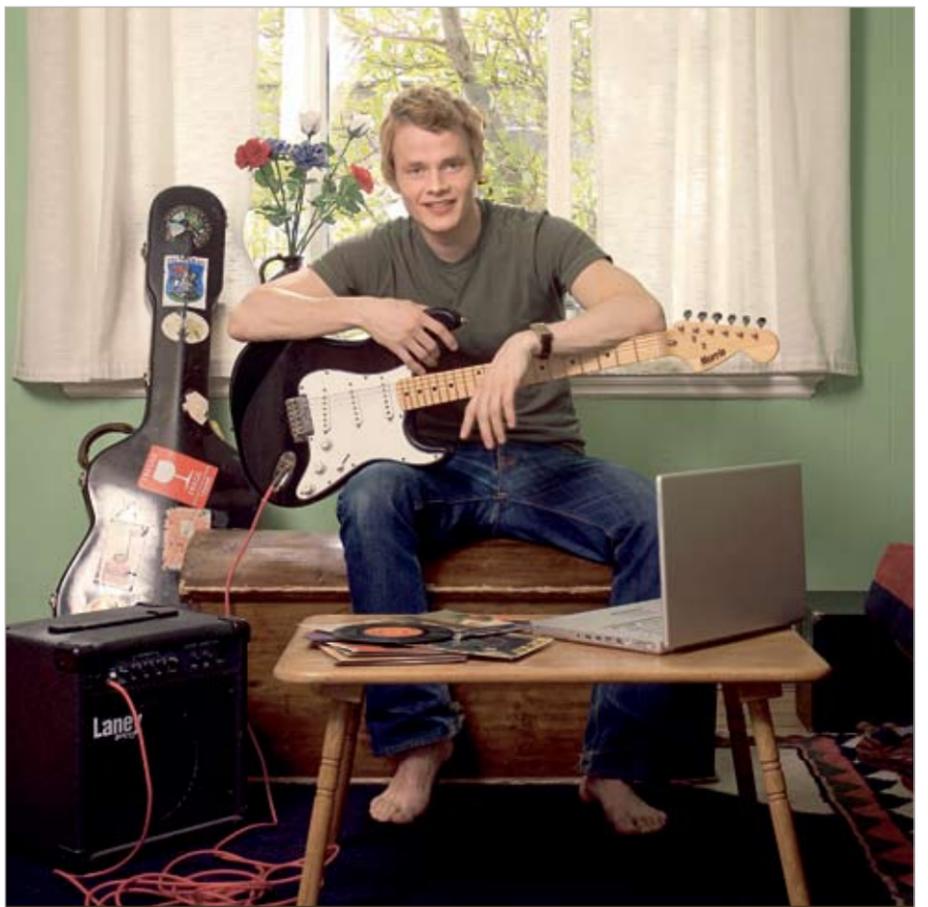
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The Inevitability of Homoge



The powers that be are turning glorious old Staðarskáli into yet another standard, boring N1 gas-mall. And they tore down Brú. Those fucks.

The walls of truck stop-cum-gas station Staðarskáli are plastered with thank-you notes and dedication shields from the community it has served for the past five decades. And that community stretches far beyond Staðarskáli's rural Hrótafjörður location; in fact it is entirely reasonable to assert that the establishment's clientele consists of Icelanders As A Whole, and most of their foreign visitors to boot. Its route 1 location ensures that those travelling from Reykjavík to pretty much anywhere else in the country have as reason to stop there, and its friendly staff, welcoming atmosphere and quaint decorations ensure that they feel happy to do so.

Glancing over the aforementioned thank-you notes, one can see that for decade upon decade, women's basketball teams, trucker's unions and Rotary clubs alike have sought refuge at Staðarskáli on their way to tournaments, tours and group outings. "One of the great things about Staðarskáli is that as a mom and pop establishment, they never had any problems bending the rules," Jón Þór, a fellow patron tells the Grapevine as we pay our final respects to the place by ordering a pretty lacklustre hamburger. "They would never hesitate to serve us after closing time, and they would go that extra mile that corporations and their lackeys never do."

But of course, progress equals change, Iceland is in a state of perpetual progress, and "old" Staðarskáli's demise is yet another indicator of the fact. We are building new roads; those roads will shave valuable kilometres off our trips. So it's only natural that Staðarskáli needs to change locations, re-model and upgrade if it is to survive in today's harsh, competitive climates. The Grapevine is not a particularly naïve journal, and it understands quite well that not everything needs to always be the same at all times. However, not everything needs to be exactly like everything else either, so we feel justified in our lament.

Also noteworthy is the fact that nearby rest stop Brúarskáli, that was just as legendary and just as quaint, has already been torn down as part of that same progress, and it is not scheduled to re-open.

INTRODUCING: THE HAMBURGER

"They've been selling gas at this location since 1929," 71-year-old Bára Guðmundsdóttir tells us. Bára founded Staðarskáli in 1960 along with her husband, Magnús Gíslason, and his brother Eiríkur, and has been on duty there for the half a century that has since passed. "In 1951, they built a small shed alongside the pumps that sold candy and refreshments, and in 1960 we built the first section



enisation

Staðarskáli makes way for yet another shrimp-dog stand

of the Staðarskáli house [starting in 1960 at 180 square metres, the rest-stop has since been added on relentlessly until it reached its currently gargantuan size].”

“The original idea was to sell minor refreshments here, coffee and cakes. But quickly after opening we realised that we would have to offer a wider selection of foodstuffs, so we started offering up eggs, bacon and ham. As the summer passed, we started adding more and more items to the menu, including hamburgers.”

It is often claimed that Staðarskáli was the first Icelandic establishment to sell the now-popular dish of “hamburger.” Jón Þór confirms: “I heard that they heard someone describe hamburgers in passing, and decided to try their hand at it. The baker in [nearby village] Blönduós supposedly had the hardest time of making a round loaf of bread that you could fit a meatball in. Staðarskáli’s hamburgers weren’t an instant hit, but once they got the truckers and bus-drivers hooked, it was a sell.”

Bára verifies that the Blönduós baker often tells the story of his first ventures into hamburger making. “We just started grounding beef and making flattened balls out of it. We just put the meat dry in the bread, no sauce or anything. They were quite wholesome. I’ve never bought that theory of “sweaty hamburgers”; I don’t know what that is. There’s nothing unhealthy about hamburgers except for the sauce. Meat is meat, lettuce is lettuce, bread is bread. I don’t know why they’re called junk food. The only unhealthy part of the meal is the mayo and the French fries,” she says and laughs heartily.

According to plan, “old” Staðarskáli will close down on September 15; at which time the sterile new N1-branded version will open for business. “It’ll feature the same menu, I hope. We will continue to operate the restaurant at the new location for a while. A year, at least, but we sold the place and only committed to working there for a year. I am 71 years old now, it isn’t even given that N1 will require my services for much longer, I’ve been doing this for fifty years. My daughter Vilborg and her husband run things now, and are doing a good job of it. But I am going to see things off to a start, at least.”

GLANCING OVER THE AFOREMENTIONED THANK-YOU NOTES, ONE CAN SEE THAT FOR DECADE UPON DECADE, WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAMS, TRUCKER’S UNIONS AND ROTARY CLUBS ALIKE HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE AT STAÐARSKÁLI ON THEIR WAY TO TOURNAMENTS, TOURS AND GROUP OUTINGS.



PROFILE — PHOTO BY GAS

The Diva of the Icelandic Tattoo Scene

BY SIGURÐUR KJARTAN KRISTINSSON

For Jón Páll, the uncrowned king of the Icelandic tattoo industry, it all started about fifteen years ago when he was just as deeply entrenched in the 90s rock-scene as the next guy; boasting long greasy hair and rugged leather pants. Getting a tattoo was an obvious next step to complete the rock n' roll image. But getting a tattoo in Iceland was not as easy then as it is now: you had to go overseas.

When traveling in Greece, the summer before he started his studies at the Icelandic School of Arts and Crafts, Jón Páll decided to get his second tattoo, and when he met his future mentor Pavlos Marmantis there was no turning back.

"I basically forced him to take me as an apprentice for stupendous amounts of money, but since I was a poor student I had to beg my parents for the complete sum. The next time I walked into his parlor I had at least 600 thousand ISK in travel checks, carefully stored in an envelope." A few months later he returned to Iceland and opened his very own tattoo parlor, JP Tattoo, at the age of nineteen. Soon after his return he mentored his friend Fjölínir who co-managed the parlor. "Our lifestyle at that time was pretty vulgar, so sometimes I ran things solo, sometimes we were in it together and sometimes I didn't show up for weeks." But although he had initiated the Icelandic tattoo scene he soon moved over to Canada to continue his studies, leaving Fjölínir in charge of the parlor.

"I have always considered myself an illustrator rather than a painter or anything alike and as soon I discovered the "Classic Animation" course they offered in Vancouver I realized it combined all my interests in art". After finishing his degree he was hired to designing characters for the PS 1 game Goblins and his work there turned out to be so promising that he was offered to design all the characters for the first edition of the MMP game EVE Online for CCP Games. After three years of work at the CCP residence he moved on to the up and comers in the children's entertainment industry, Lazy-Town, where he spent another three years designing their look.

"I thought I'd never return to doing tattoos, I was bored sick of tribal patterns, Chinese symbols and children's names, but the scene has completely turned around in the last two years. The tattoos have become more thorough, bigger and more colorful. So presently I do tattoos fulltime and I'm having the time of my life." Recently Jón Páll was given an award for the best colour-tattoo at the respected Inkbash in Stockholm. and as you might wonder he is a bit picky on tattoos he makes. "I'm not saying that those tattoos I'm refusing to do aren't chic or anything, it's just that if I can be a diva and pick those out I'm interested in of course that's what I'll do." 



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ARTICLE



Alone With a Drone

Exploring the sound of the Langspil

BY MARCUS WALSH — PHOTO BY GAS

If you have ever had the pleasure of hearing the drone of a langspil, then you can count yourself very lucky. It looks like a Jenga box and is an oblong string instrument. Örn Magnússon recently crafted a langspil after discovering his passion for the instrument a few years back. "I built my first one with my father in law about a year ago" he explained. "Langspils were first made with driftwood from the beach, but now they are made from birch or wood from the rowan tree in my garden"

The langspil is unofficially recognised as the Icelandic National Instrument, but its popularity on the continent dates back to the time of the Renaissance, somewhere between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries. In France it is known as the Epinette Des Osges or in Germany as the Scheitholt. Sources confirm that the langspil variety arrived in Iceland in the eighteenth century. Upon its arrival, the langspil was used at rituals and was not seen as a concert instrument. "It was played in small rooms in houses and sometimes on farms" explains Magnússon. "It was also played at weddings and other gatherings of joy." Upon hearing the tone, it is possible to imagine the langspil as part of a large, upbeat orchestral backing. Yet, played solo it has a sombre quality that is unlike any other instrument I have ever heard.

Magnússon started to play the langspil two years ago and was drawn to it by its unassuming nature: "It is a very simple instrument. It has frets for one string and the other two are drone strings. Some have five but mine is a simple, old version," he explained. The Icelandic way of playing the instrument is with a bow, whereas in other cultures a plectrum is used, for example Joni Mitchell plucking the Appalachian Dulcimer variety in North America in her folk songs. Current players include Diddi Fiðla, Chris Foster and Bára Grímsdóttir. Beyond the technical description, Magnússon compares the sound to a human voice: "It gives a very lonely, sweet sound. It has a special kind of pain, a little bit like a tender female sound. It has a melancholy tone and it goes straight to my heart." The droning quality of the langspil evokes a unique resonance that is uncomplicated in conveying isolation and oneness in an elongated tone. "You could say that the drone is always there. What is the true meaning of the drone? The answer is that things never change, be it in life or some kind of eternity". 🇮🇸

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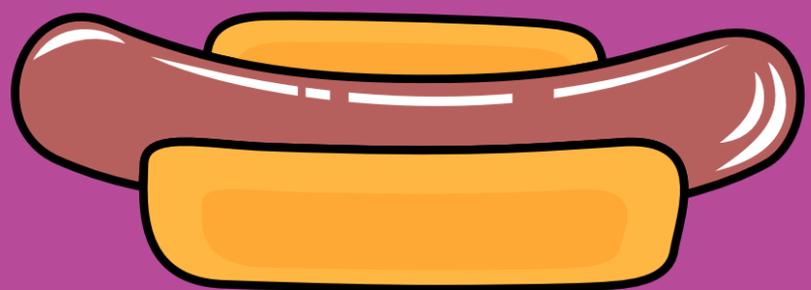
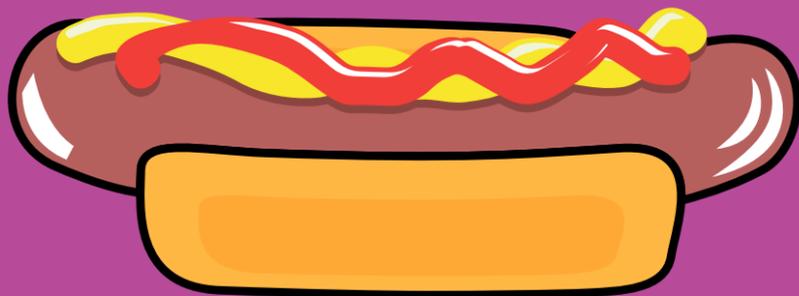
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CD REVIEWS



THE VERDICT

This record shows the talent of this young band - but it also reveals its deficits.

LISTEN & BUY

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WE MADE GOD

As we sleep



REVIEWED BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE

This record is preceded by its reputation. Before it was even released, British Kerrang selected "As we Sleep" as one of the 50 must-have albums in 2008. And the sound of the four young guys is actually catching. While settled somewhere between the epic gravity of bands like ISIS and the fragility of Sigur Rós, We Made God manage to establish their own sound, which is primarily characterized by their wide, melodic guitars and Maggi's eclectic vocals. I also like their powerful drums, though they sound a little artificial on this record. That "As we sleep" is not in my personal Top 50 list is owed to fact that the songs sometimes still sound slightly awkward, including small instrumental misplays. This does not destroy the album, which is quite good, and shows the promise of this young band. But for a perfect record We Made God will need some more grinding.



THE VERDICT

Half an hour of really bad tempered sludgecore.

LISTEN & BUY

www.myspace.com/celestinemusic

CELESTINE

This Home Will be Our Grave



REVIEWED BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE

After having just released *At the Borders of Arcadia* in May, which generated all around good reviews, Reykjavík's Celestine already serve the follow-up. Like the forerunner, they present sludgy Metalcore – in the vein of Coalesce, early Converge or ISIS – as hard-hitting and heavy as being run over by the bus. What makes Celestine really outstanding is their ability to intersperse subtle melodies, thus keeping their monotonously pounding songs from getting boring. The same is true for the two voices that bring variety in the otherwise quite monosonic (though perfectly fitting) singing. The only thing that keeps "This Home Will Become our Grave" behind its predecessor is the quite flat recording. Apart from that, this is a fiery and disturbing 30-minute trip into the dark. The perfect nihilistic soundtrack to wreck your place to: Who Cares Anyway?

CONCERT REVIEW BY ODDUR STURLUSON — PHOTO BY GAS



FRENCH SEX SYMBOL SEBASTIAN TELLIER

Tellier: The French Eargasm



Having high expectations is an almost sure-fire way to be let down and when I entered Rúbín for the Sebastien Tellier concert my expectations were sky-high. When I first heard his newest album, *Sexuality*, it awoke in me a strong, inexplicable urge to visit a shady café, find a scrumptious young au-pair and invite her back to my house for a grimey party for two (unfortunately for me Reykjavík is sadly lacking in savoury young nannies who frequent dubious establishments waiting for bored young men to woo them). The album left me with a strong sense of excitement and optimism for the upcoming concert. I was not let down.

Warming up was Óttar Proppé, dj-ing some slow tunes. The atmosphere was very peculiar by Icelandic standards. People were rather orderly, only moderately drunk and romance lay in the air like a heavy smog over the room. I was surrounded on all sides by couples who switched between cradling each other and tongue wrestling. Although such nauseating displays of affection usually bring forth a pessimistic bitterness in me,

they became bearable if not downright romantic after Tellier came on stage. Smoking and drinking on stage and telling jokes between songs with that irresistible French accent of his, he had the crowd hanging on to his every word. "Zee next song is about love, ovcourse, between mahn and... rhot". Honestly, could this man be any cooler? Shoving the microphone into his underwear and then licking it furiously, slowly unbuttoning his pants and letting the crowd caress him. Under any other circumstances people would avoid middle-aged, bearded men caressing themselves in public. But this was special. Magical even. This was Sébastien Tellier.

Sébastien and his band of über-hip Franks played together beautifully and gave the crowd exactly what they wanted. Calm yet danceable, grimey while at the same time sophisticated, Tellier is not just another Daft Punk wannabe but rather a worthy heir, taking Parisian electro in a new, erotic direction. ♪

WHO

Sebastian Tellier

WHERE

Rúbín

WHEN

Thursday, August 28

THE VERDICT

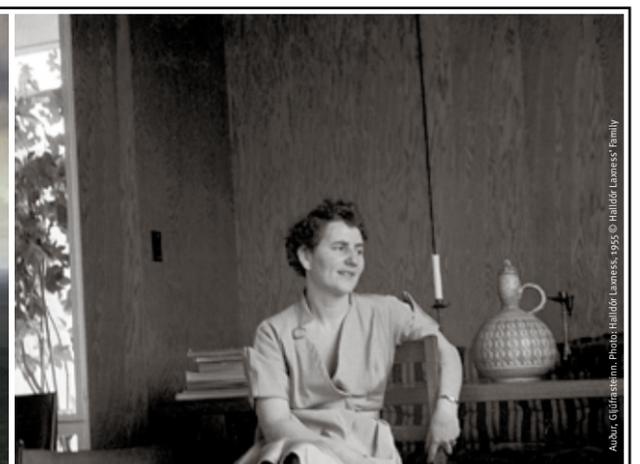
Paris electro returns in a sexy manner



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MAMMÚT IN FULL SWING

Broads and Balloons

The band Mammút have been in somewhat of a coma since they won the Icelandic version of 'Battle of the Bands' and released their debut, which received mixed feedback four years ago. Vigilant radio-listeners noticed though a few months back that their regretful coma had finally reached an end with the immensely energetic hit "Svefnsýkt" which made even the best bred suits rock their heads, slightly, to the catchy melody.

After the promising single, perching at the top of every single radio chart for weeks, the full length, baring the clunky name "Karkari", had to be sweeping to fulfil the crowd's great expectations. And upon release the matriarchal band threw a glamorous release concert in the old and noble hall at Iðnó. I must note that actually going to the concert wasn't exactly a walk in the park for we hit a few obstacles on the way. To begin with Mammút's promoter and publisher found it completely unreasonable that Grapevine actually had to send both a reporter and a photographer to the concert and was astonished that Grapevine's infrastructure was so uneconomical. Finally we

got our two tickets and after such a challenging quarrel the wisest thing you can do is of course having a beer. But when we sat down at the bar we hit another bump: the concert was apparently "All-Ages" which of course prevented the sale of everything with the slightest amount of alcohol in it. So a bottle of Coke would have to do.

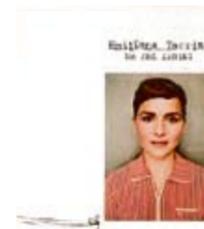
When we entered the concert hall it was hard to miss the flamboyant decorations but at the end of the dark room the lit stage was full of multi-coloured balloons and other equivalent garnishes that definitely set the mood for the coming show. Soon, Mammút appeared upon the stage and although their set didn't last long it was both powerful and passionate. The flatness surrounding their previous release had disappeared completely and although their successful single "Svefnsýkt" is both catchy and amusing, it's merely one amongst many carefully created tunes that they presented vibrantly and their front and lead songbird Kata proved undeniably that she is a rising star. [G](#)

WHO
Mammút

WHERE
Iðnó

WHEN
Friday, September 5

THE VERDICT
Mammút awakes of its exhaustive coma with dignity



THE VERDICT
Upbeat and entertaining

LISTEN & BUY
www.emilianatorrini.com

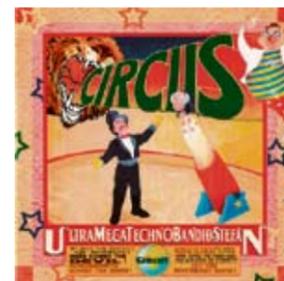
EMILIANA TORRINI

Me and Armini



REVIEWED BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON

Icelandic indie-folk singer Emiliana Torrini returns with her follow up to the 2005 success, Fisherman's Woman. While this is a little more up-beat release, and more grounded in traditional pop rather than folk music, Emiliana's voice and song writing talent remains her biggest strength and pulls her through a rather entertaining album that should prove to be just as popular as previous releases. The highlights are the atmospheric 'Gun,' which sees Torrini explore darker subjects and moods than anything since 'Gollum's Song' probably and Big Jumps, a skittish ditty that will make you glad you are awake. Certainly well worth your time.



THE VERDICT
Energetic but repetitious

LISTEN & BUY
myspace.com/umtbs

ÚLTRA MEGA TECHNOBANDIÐ STEFÁN

Circus



REVIEWED BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON

Few bands have caused more stir in Iceland than the teen-phenomenon that is Ultra Mega Technoband Stefán. Since 2006, the band has performed around the world on the strength of their live shows that remain a circus of sorts. Now they have an album to their name, and it pretty much confirms what I've always felt at their live shows, that is, this is an energetic and lively band but their synth-driven sound soon becomes really repetitive and monotonous and they could do with a few more ideas in the song writing department. While Circus is not bad, and certainly drives home the energetic point, I have a feeling this would have worked a lot better as an EP. It would have made their lack of new ideas seem a little less obvious.

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ARTICLE



The Beer Patrol

BY BERGUR EBBI BENEDIKTSSON

As a service to our readers, the Reykjavík Grapevine has decided to keep you informed on the best beer price in town. Since beer prices have skyrocketed recently, we have formed our own counter-initiative: The Beer Patrol™. We have dozens of people on the stakeout, wearing special uniforms, drinking at bars across the city and searching for the best deals.

To begin with we will give you the price of a normal draught 0,5 litre glass of lager in various bars in 101. As you can see the winner is Belly's in Hafnarstræti where the beer is 350. The loser is the 890 ISK-charging 101 Hótel. If you know of anything cheaper or more expensive please be a part of the Beer Patrol™ team and let us know.

Prices are in ISK

Belly's	350
Bar11	550
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Prikið	650
Dubliner	650
Rex	650
Geysir Bar/Bistro	695
Kaffibarinn	700
Amsterdam	700
Apótek	700
B5, Bankastræti 5	700
Café Cultura	700
Café Paris	700
Dillon	700
Hressó	700
Sólon	700
Thorvaldsen	700
Vegamót	700
Óliver	750
Brons	750
Café Victor	750
101 Hótel	890

ARTICLE BY STEVIE WARD — PHOTO BY VIKTOR SVAN



DESIGNERS: IS THERE ANYTHING THEY CAN'T IMPROVE?

The Birth of the New Icelandic Product

Designers make their mark on food

Second year product design students from the Icelandic Academy of the Arts have joined hands with farmers around the country for the 'Farmers and Designers United' initiative. Last year, the Academy received a grant to develop the entrepreneurial seven-week course that teaches Food Design to Icelandic farmers. From four student-led products, two have been selected for official launching.

Iceland relies heavily on imported goods, but there is a great deal of opportunity to develop its own products. Course teacher and member of Design Company 'Borðið,' Guðfinna Mjöll Magnúsdóttir, teaches how much value you can give to a raw material if you develop it. "Iceland finds producing new products difficult, but we are taking our design knowledge and applying it to the food industry." From the food itself to packaging and name branding, the course leaders work with raw food producers, like sheep and potato farmers, to take their products to the next level.

A NEW TYPE OF FASHION

Like many innovations, food design is a concept that has taken off in the last few years both in Europe and the US. It is a welcome addition to the vastly growing eco-centric culture. The organic trend has been a boost for farmers worldwide and

fresh 'organic' produce is imported into Iceland every day. Icelandic raw produce is of the highest and freshest quality but despite what the banana farm people may tell you, Iceland struggles to find new home-grown produce.

"There has been too much insecurity in Icelandic food production. A lot of producers have been trying to imitate classical food products with strong identity instead of creating one for their own. Therefore Icelandic food products can't often stand the comparison, it's never as the French cheeses or the Parma ham. Farmers and Designers United aspires to challenge this head on, giving the produce its own character and market brand, creating a unique food product with a strong Icelandic identity"

TWENTY WAYS TO REVOLUTIONISE YOUR RHUBARB

One of the products developed under the Farmers and Designers United initiative is a delicious Rhubarb Caramel with its own brand name "Rabarbaria." The brand name is intended as a stamp of quality, allowing the farmer to develop more and more products under their own name. This not only makes their produce more diverse, but also allows them the freedom to create and sell whatever they want.

On another scale, a haggis-like torte produced at the highest farm in Iceland has been developed to premiere exclusively in a restaurant located close to where the produce is made. The dish is not a copied version of haggis, nor should it be; it is a speciality of that Icelandic region and

should always be celebrated as such. The design for the dish, after its initial concept and recipe, evolves further to include aspects of presentation, including table cloth design and accompanying the dish with the right potatoes, wine and cutlery-like hiring your own 'food stylist' to ensure the environment fits the meal.

These designers have created completely new opportunities for Icelandic food and given the power back to the local farmer, who can now market their products to the masses or in 'limited edition'. Icelandic food design is not only a boost for them, but for tourism and Iceland as a whole.

ICELANDIC RAW PRODUCE IS OF THE HIGHEST AND FRESHEST QUALITY BUT DESPITE WHAT THE BANANA FARM PEOPLE MAY TELL YOU, ICELAND STRUGGLES TO FIND NEW HOME-GROWN PRODUCE.

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INTERVIEW BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON — PHOTO BY GAS

Sexism and Sloppy Journalism

Björk has a few well chosen words for the music press

In the last issue of the Reykjavík Grapevine we published an open letter from Björk, where she lambasted the music press collectively for being sexist and not doing their homework. Her letter provoked some controversy, and generated a lively Internet debate in the blogosphere on sexism in music and the inadequacy of the music press. As an editor of a magazine that covers music a great deal, and the recipient of her letter, I decided to sit down with her to gain further insight into some of the issues she addressed.

Let's start with a short summary of Björk's letter. Her main complaint was that for the last seven years, Valgeir Sigurðsson has been wrongly credited as a producer on her album *Vespertine* (2001), and that while he worked as computer programmer and a recording engineer on the album, he was not a part of the production or the writing process for the album. She offered four possible explanations for this misconception: 1) "The pop critics of this world have not totally yet worked out the difference between engineering, programming, writing and producing electronic music." 2) "It could be that this is some degree of sexism." 3) "I'll admit that one thing could confuse things: people have to use their ears (sic!) and actually read the credit list to get this information." 4) "One thing that could have kept this misunderstanding alive is that neither me nor Valgeir Sigurðsson have bothered to correct it. But I am doing it now."

"For a long time I thought it would be childish to correct this misunderstanding," Björk explains. "Now it has persisted so long that I am going to stop making a fool of myself. Maybe I'll be the one who gets burned for correcting this now, but maybe it means that on my next albums, the media will do their homework." So, is the media to blame? "It seems as if the music media does not have a tradition yet for interpreting how people in electronic music are credited. Everyone is just called a producer. I can understand when people look at a traditional rock group, and they can see who is playing bass and who is playing drums, so it might take some time for the music press to learn the difference between who is doing what in electronic music," she says. "I can understand that my generation might have difficulties understanding this, but I am surprised to learn that today's generation has the same problems. Electronic music is not new anymore. It is just as traditional as rock music."

Is this caused by sloppy journalism? "Hmm...



I think sometimes the standard is really not good enough. Something starts out as a rumour, and then that story circulates until it considered a fact," she says and adds that she sometimes wonders why the standard in magazines on other art forms, visual arts, film and literature, seems to be higher than in the music press.

Another possibility Björk has mentioned is sexism; does she think that there is a conscious effort to push women down? "No, not at all. I don't think anyone has any ill intentions. I mentioned four possibilities and sexism was just one of them. I was just coming trying to come up with explanations. Sexism is a very square subject, it is still sort of a taboo, and you couldn't really bring up a more boring subject," says Björk. "This happened to me with Mark Bell as well on *Homogenic*. People believe he did everything on that album, when he only did a few beats. The beats that define that album, the beats from *Jóga*, *Bachelorette* and *Five Years* for example, the distorted beats, which

I described in the media as my attempt to make volcanic beats, Mark Bell did not do those beats, but he has often been credited with making them, and producing the whole album."

"I know Goldfrapp has had the same problem. Everyone seems to think she just does vocals. She recently said that whenever she and (collaborator) Will Gregory are interviewed together, she is asked about her dress while questions about their equipment are directed at Gregory. Missy Elliott, too whenever people write about their music, they always talk about Timbaland, too. I have heard the same story from so many women, the exact same thing. M.I.A., Peaches, Missy Elliott, Joanna Newsom, they can't believe it, but it has happened to all of them. There is a reason people don't talk about this, as it might be the most boring subject ever, but I am willing to take it upon me if it means that in the future, journalists will do their research." 🐦

ELECTRONICA 101 BY BJÖRK

In an attempt to clear up some of the perceived confusion surrounding the recording process in the electronic genre, Björk agreed to write us a short description of the role of everyone involved. "I hope this will simplify things for most people," she states. So here it is, straight from the horse's mouth:

PROGRAMMER

Person who will program a computer to make patterns or sounds under instructions from producer, songwriter or arranger. This does not include song writing, arranging or production.

ENGINEER

Person who places microphones and wires in or around instruments and records them. This person also operates the mixing desk. Not to be confused with mixing engineer which is something different.

MIXING ENGINEER

This person will receive all the music that has been made and recorded and is responsible for all the sounds to sonically blend in the best possible way.

MASTERING ENGINEER

This person will take the final mix and make sure it will work in every format of equipment it will eventually be played in. like car stereos, clubs, headphones and so on...

ARRANGER

Person who does arrangements for acoustic instruments like strings, choirs, music boxes, brass, orchestras and so on. Most often written out in "classical" scores.

PRODUCER

Person who has creative musical vision how the song should be arranged/programmed/recorded. Makes decisions which instruments should be used, what structure the song should have, what kind of performance is required from the musicians and is the leader in the studio.



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Service centres provide information about social services

The department of welfare gives information and advice about social entitlements and provides support in cases of social or personal problems for registered residents in Reykjavík. For general information about operations in the City of Reykjavík and additional information on e.g. specific housing benefits, pre-school applications or financial aid, you should contact service centers in your own neighbourhood:

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- Miðborg and Hlíðar, service centre for the residents of the city centre and the district of Hlíðar, Skulagata 21, tel. 411-1600
- Laugardalur and Háaleiti, service centre for the residents of the districts of Laugardalur and Háaleiti, Sidumuli 39, tel. 411-1500
- Breiðholt, service centre for the residents of Breiðholt, Alfabakki 12, tel. 411-1300
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Waking Up in Wonderland

The Grapevine visits Electric Picnic Music Festival

After a two-hour drive from Dublin, a group of Electric Picnicers, myself included, arrived at Stradbally Hall in Laois County on Friday night. The countryside campsite was already packed but we managed to squeeze our tents into the tiny patch of grass left just in time for Sigur Rós. We had just toasted to our brilliant camping skills when we could hear 'Hoppipolla' in the distance, so we hurried along with the stream of anticipated festival-goers to the Main Stage where the band headlined the opening night of Ireland's Electric Picnic Festival this year (August 29–31).

A huge group had gathered in front of the venue for the last act of the night. They played a mix of old and new tunes, but it was the songs from their new more upbeat release 'Með suð í eyrum við spilum endalaust' that got the crowd really moving. "They evoke so many emotions. They are just amazing!" my friend said to me as they finished 'Gobbledigook' and a very proud Icelander nodded agreeing while watching them charm every single soul in the audience. When listening to 'Inní mér syngur vitleysingur' I just knew this would be an unforgettable weekend. After enjoying a long mesmerizing set, a very satisfied group of old and new Sigur Rós fans danced into the night. None of us could have prayed for a better beginning of the festival.

SO MUCH MORE THAN A MUSIC FESTIVAL

In its fifth year, the three-day outdoor music fiesta has grown in size and popularity and the bill has at the same time become bigger and better. This year, the line-up –featuring big names such as My Bloody Valentine, Wilco, The Roots, Duffy, Franz Ferdinand, Crystal Castles, Turin Brakes and The Sex Pistols among countless of intriguing smaller acts – attracted around 35,000 music-fans, party-animals and families with small children. A very diverse group of concertgoers that all shared the

same important mission: to make the most of the three days and say goodbye to summer in a proper anything-goes manner.

The organisers' aim is to cater to everyone's taste. Whether you're looking for good music, humorous theatre performances, poetry readings, movie screenings or all-night parties, you will find it at Electric Picnic. I soon realized that it wasn't the international big-shots in the music department that drew the friendly bunch to the field. The majority were there for the whole mix and when such a diverse group of creative people put their heart and soul into making something unique for attendants to enjoy, the cocktail just can't go wrong.

When we got up on Saturday the campsite was already well awake. Hungry festival-goers queued for coffee or falafels at the many appetizing food stalls, stocked up on beer-supplies or peeked inside the numerous tiny tents, all featuring some curious happenings inside. Saying that I was amazed when walking around the area would be a huge understatement. I was awestruck! The atmosphere was unlike anything I've ever witnessed.

The heart of the festival, the colourfully decorated Body and Soul village, was one giant art piece in itself, where in between concerts you could get a massage, view sand-sculptors and installations, watch fire-eaters and circus performers or just chill-out in the hammocks and chat about previous or forthcoming concerts. It was like being in a magical wonderland and all the costume-dressed (or non-dressed) people stumbling around added a good dose of confusion to the whole experience. The village boasted such a huge charisma that it was almost impossible to leave.

NOT SUCH A SILENT DISCO

Picnicers were luckily blessed with good weather and thanks to environmental activists encouraging everyone to be concerned about the environment

and use eco-beer cups and bin their empties, the area was surprisingly clean. The two eco-friendly days passed fast, and as much as we tried to hurry between acts, there was always something that caught our eyes and urged us to stop, even though we had to sacrifice the music. You can't really walk past a sign reading 'Get high on oxygen' and not try it or spot a fun-ride and not have a spin. Can you?

After lazily scouting the area we managed to see Warlords of Pez perform. The space-creatures, dressed in some extravagant animal costumes, had travelled from a galaxy far, far away just to please the large crowd gathered, and it was a total mayhem from the first scream, on-stage and off. I still have troubles wrapping my mind around the whole show. It was just too much craziness for my brain to handle.

The night only went uphill from there and when the last acts finished on Saturday night the fun was only beginning. Concert-goers aching for some more partying moved the celebration to the many indoor and outdoor bars around so there was nothing left but to join the circus and dance! Late into the night, I found myself at the Silent Disco, watching a bit shocked as a huge crowd with wireless yellow headphones jumped around in a cramped tent while screaming their lungs out, with no music playing. After putting on my headphones there was nothing stopping me from behaving just as lunatic as the others and although the DJ played some all-too-clichéd club-tunes it really didn't matter. Taking off the headphones and watching the whole scenario was the best part though. Hilarious to say the least. Something Reykjavík's bar-owners should definitely check out.

KNOWING CONOR OBERST

In desperate need of some fast recovery after last night's dancing, coffee and a healthy smoothie proved to be just enough fuel to enjoy Hercules

and Love Affair's set, early Sunday afternoon. I have to say that the timing was a bit odd but that didn't stop the band from winning the tired souls over nor the crowd from going wild when party-hit 'Blind' blasted from the speakers. The sexy Brazilians in CSS who played later in the afternoon didn't fail to impress either, oozing danceable energy just as if performing at a sweaty nightclub way past midnight.

For me, I have to say the highlight, musically, was to finally see Conor Oberst live on Sunday night. While Chromeo played the next tent and Sex Pistols headlined the Main Stage, easy-going Bright Eyes fans looking for a more relaxed ending to the weekend filled the Crawdaddy tent and Oberst sure didn't betray his many admirers. Where Sigur Rós had raised the bar high into the sky two nights before, Oberst followed easily in their footsteps with his unique fragile voice and incredible charisma. There was still plenty more partying to go but his set was such a perfect goodbye to an awesome festival that I decided to join a tired but happy group of Picnicers who dragged their tents back to the buses.

"This was some crazy weekend. I didn't really see that many concerts though," my seatmate said to me as we drove back to Dublin. "It's so much more than about the music, you know," he added. That pretty much summed up the weekend, a line I had heard repeatedly over the past three days. Electric Picnic is so much more than a music festival. It's a weekend where music meets art in a glorious attempt to celebrate life, love and friendships and all the great bands are an extra bonus. Describing the whole event would be impossible, so with nothing left to say I strongly encourage you all to check out Electric Picnic next year and experience the madness yourselves. 🍷

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INTERVIEW BY BERGUR EBBI BENEDIKTSSON — PHOTO BY VIKTOR SVAN



THAT JÓN KALMAN STEFÁNSSON SURE LIKES TO READ HIM SOME BOOKS

“The Traditional Form Does not Appeal to me”

Jón Kalman Stefánsson is a picture perfect novelist yet a sympathetic scientist.

Jón Kalman Stefánsson won the Icelandic Literary Prize for his novel *Summer Light*, and then *Comes the Night* in 2005. He is the author of seven books of prose and three volumes of poetry. His books are widely available in German, but translations to Danish, Swedish, Czech and French are forthcoming from the prestigious Gallimard publishing company. My guess is that Jón Kalman's novels will be described as full of small-town mystique and dreamy mountain fog by the international press, once they discover him. I'll even bet that the phrase 'the literary equivalent to Sigur Rós' will be tossed around. But this is a serious article. It's about literature so let's put on a checked cardigan and be quiet, shall we?

I meet Jón Kalman in his study, which he built especially in the backyard of his home in Mosfellsbær. He is the picture perfect novelist. There is no computer to be seen on his desk: only a modest lamp, a pen and an empty piece of paper. The walls are covered with bookshelves so stacked with books that it almost looks like wallpaper. Despite giving the impression of being a traditional novelist, Jón Kalman is neither traditional nor ordinary. His books do not follow the traditional struc-

ture of the novel and his style is both very mystical and yet casual. "My publisher has discussed with me how to define my books, whether they should be called novels or short stories. I usually don't mind what they are called," says Jón Kalman. Still, he understands the confusion.

A VEIN BURST

"The traditional form does not appeal to me but there are many new exciting things happening. To name an example I can't wait for new novels from the Spanish author Javier Marías. It is like he discovers something new on each page. I tried writing traditional novels but it ended with two scripts in the can. Then something happened. It was like something burst inside me, and it has been flowing out of a vein ever since".

How would you describe your style?

"I take influence from poetry. I think poetry is the deepest form and it has elements that can move you like no other form can with the possible exception of music. I have tried to apply this in my books. The way poetry can be illogical but still make sense. I must note though that this is not something

I do knowingly. I would rather say that this notion breathes through me. I guess I do it without meaning to."

At this stage of our discussion I ask if I'm putting him through hell by making him analyze his own work. He denies this, and says it's normal. Still, we agree that it is probably not the author's role to define his prose. We move on to talk about the themes and settings of his work.

INTERESTED IN ORDINARY PEOPLE

"I write about ordinary people. If I would write a book about Sturlungaöld [age of clan-warfare in medieval Iceland] I would not write about the chieftains but about the ordinary people. I try to find the casual perspective that we all understand so well," he says. I think about Bruce Springsteen's lyrics. I once heard them described as being about ordinary people in unordinary situations.

"My first three books all took place in the countryside, two mostly revolve around Reykjavík and my latest one takes place a 100 years ago in a fishing village and at sea. I just write about what comes to mind at any given time. Sometimes I think it doesn't even matter that much what books

are about but rather how they are written. For example, a book that would take place a 1000 years ago could tell you much more about modern times than a book that deals with contemporary events."

ASTROLOGIST TURNED POET

What about Jón Kalman himself? Is his life incorporated in his work? "It is up to some level. Many of my stories take place in the countryside. I grew up in Reykjavík until I was 12 but I spent a lot of time in the countryside. As a teenager and young man I did various ordinary jobs and got to know the life I sometimes write about in my books." So were you not always destined to become a writer? "No, not at all. As a teenager I wanted to be an astrologist after I saw documentary shows with Carl Sagan on television. I enrolled in school as a physics major but then I realised that it was the poetry behind the astrology that appealed to me. It is fascinating to listen to how the astrologists use words to explain the unknown parts of the universe," says Jón Kalman and we agree that extreme science can represent beautiful poetry. "Scientists and artists have one thing in common and that is the doubt. Their main role is to expand boundaries."

As he sits in his chair by the desk with the lamp, Jón Kalman looks a little bit like a scientist. His subject is the human soul with all its unpredictable longings and needs. His study is an experimental lab for literature. I decide to flee the scene before the scientist analyzes me with his professional yet sympathetic way of digging out long forgotten passions. 

ABOUT JÓN KALMAN

Jón Kalman Stefánsson was born in Reykjavík in 1963. His first published work, the poetry collection *With a Gun Permit against the Eternity* (*Með byssuleyfi á eilífðina*), came out in 1988. He is known for his distinctive style where he blends together short tales of ordinary people into a wholesome piece, mostly linked together with an invisible subtle thread that flirts with mysticism.

Main novels by Jón Kalman Stefánsson

Ditches in Rain (*Skurðir í rigningu* - 1996)
The Summer behind the Hill (*Sumarið bak við brekkuna* - 1997) - *The Light on the Mountains* (*Birtan á fjöllum* - 1999) - *A Few Things about Giant Pines and Time* (*Ýmislegt um risafurur og tímenn* - 2001) - *The Crackle in the Stars* (*Snarkið í stjörnunum* - 2003) - *Summer Light and then Comes the Night* (*Sumarljós og svo kemur nóttin* - 2005) - *Heaven and Hell* (*Himnaríki og helvíti* - 2007)

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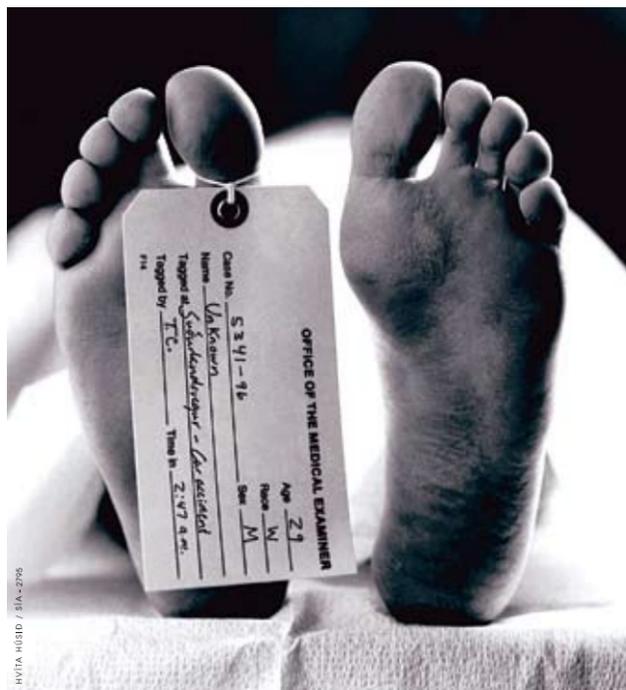
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ROAD TRAFFIC DIRECTORATE

On the Puffin Trail in Vestmannaeyjar

BY JAMES CRUGNALE — PHOTO BY GAS

Vestmannaeyjar (also known as the Westmann Islands to English-folk) is the ideal remote milieu for an exotic off-the-mainland excursion. Replete with an ethereal terrain, the island is a Mecca for Iceland's famous quirky little auk birds known as puffins. A striking off-the-beaten-path archipelago 7.4 km from the southern coast of Iceland; the largest and only inhabited of these islands is Heimaey.

After getting off the plane and heading for the “downtown” (Heimaey has a population of 4,036), the otherworld feeling of this place cannot be any starker. A quarter of this island-hamlet is draped in a hellish post-apocalyptic landscape. In 1973, the island was caked in volcanic ash expelled from Mount Eldfell, swallowing up a large segment of the village. Astonishingly, only one person died from the disaster. More than three decades later, houses still remain buried in the aftermath and are an amusing sight to behold. Besides Eldfell's vast volcanic residue, the rock formations throughout the island are especially breathtaking, especially “The Elephant” – a giant crevice shaped like a giant pachyderm head.

Nearby, on the edge of the island, somewhat campily, is a statue dedicated to emigrant Icelandic Mormons who travelled to the Promise Land of Utah. My compatriot is irreverently incredulous of the monument, noting its unusual placement. Also in the vicinity are some remnants (beer cups and party hats) from a few weeks earlier from Þjóðhátíð, one of Iceland's biggest festivals known famously as a youthful celebration of debauchery.

When it comes to the island's topography, geologists will have an igneous-rock field day here. But for others, the true excitement certainly comes from seeking out and tracking down the little native puffins. In late summer, pufflings, also called pýsjur, get lost and local rescue teams of kids and adults come together to gather them and bring them back to their homes.

Despite the overwhelming puffin kitsch that permeates Heimaey (including but not limited to trinkets, advertisements, directional signs (!) and wall murals dedicated to the diminutive sea parrot) the little birds don't wander the streets. That would be TOO easy for the puffin-obsessed tourist paparazzi. Their habitats are among the insanely treacherous steep cliffs that line the island. While hunting for puffins here, TV chef Gordon Ramsay nearly died after careening off one of the island's 85-metres high crags, tumbling into to the sea below.

I vowed not to make the same mistake as Ramsay, although the vertigo from fear of a sharp 90° drop did get to me. Attempting a peek on a peak requires grace, boots not sandals (my Crocs were barely keeping tread on the cliff!), probably a spotter and, for the extra-safety-obsessed, rope for the most ambitious puffin hunters. Frighteningly feeble grassy overhangs feel as if they're ready to collapse at any minute as you traverse the little birds' world. You just need to channel the skills of the high-altitude sheep that wedge themselves up impossibly vertical ledges. During the puffin's peak season (July to mid-August), the pointy rocks below hold thousands of the little dudes. Watch your step!

For those lightheaded around cliffs and other travellers curious about the natural exterior wall of the islands, the Vestmannaeyjar boat tour is a charming adventure, as long as you don't fall out! (I almost did after a crashing wave nearly knocked me overboard).

The little boat surprisingly roars, gliding over waves at an impressively sprightly pace around the rocky periphery as a rabble of seagulls and puffins sashay adjacently. If you're lucky, you may spot some whales overboard (trivia note: Vestmannaeyjar was where the late Keiko of Free Willy fame used to live). Prepare to be soaked as the island boasts the worst weather of the country with howling winds and torrential downpours. The drizzle though certainly adds to my giddy enchantment of this soggy nautical journey. At the end of the trip, the captain of the tour boat unleashes a surprise musical tribute to jazzman Perez Prado in a dark cave that must be witnessed for oneself to be believed.

Overall, the experience is a wonderful excursion for Iceland completists who love the complete raw outdoorsy kick that this country can provide. 🐧

PUFFIN FACTS

- There are 40 million puffins in the North Atlantic.
- The Westman Islands has the largest puffin colony in the world with between 5 to 10 million puffins.
- Puffins are approximately 10 inches (18 centimeters) tall and weigh 500 grams.
- Puffins lay only 1 egg per year.
- Puffins can fly up to 55 miles (88 kilometers) an hour.
- Puffins typically hunt small fish like herring or sand eels.



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DESTINATION

A Visit to the National Museum of Iceland

BY JAMES CRUGNALE — PHOTO BY GAS

For those who are interested in learning more about Iceland's storied past, the National Museum of Iceland (Þjóðminjasafn Íslands), located at Suðurgata 41, offers a unique treasure-trove of historic exhibits.

The museum's permanent showcase, The Making of a Nation, is an elaborate multimedia-enriched expedition into the country's olden times, beginning from the origin of settlement to today. Walking through the darkly mood-lit space, you will learn how the ways of life in Iceland evolved from century to century; for example, the nation's transition from paganism to Christianity. The Making of a Nation presents visitors with over 2,000 distinctive objects to observe. Some of the most interesting features of the exhibit include authentic Viking weapons (swords and shields), traditional religious artefacts and an actual old school vessel, Ingjaldur, which helped lay the smack down on British criminals fishing illegally in 1899. Each of the items on display typically features handy touch-screens that will help narrate their historical context.

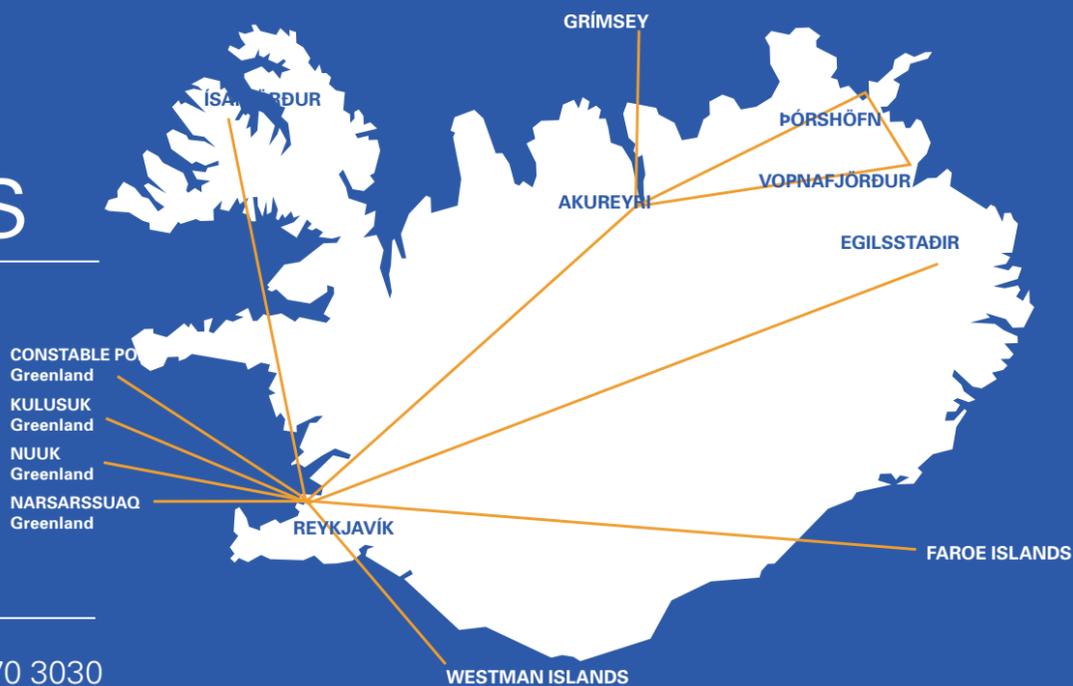
The museum enthusiastically reaches out to kids with many hands-on exhibits, including some awesome, feel-able chain mail and a clever matching-switchboard that invites one to match up historic equivalents to contemporary things (i.e. olden-day footwear made of bones matched up to some modern-day kicks)

Also included at the museum are some noteworthy new acquisitions, including, charmingly, King Frederick the VIII of Denmark's portable toilet, that he...er...used when he came to visit the country in 1907. In addition, a brand new feature near the entrance is Kristín Ragna Gunnarsdóttir's imaginatively vivid, kooky illustrations from Örlög gudanna ("Destiny of the Gods"), a children's book that creatively outlines Norse mythology.

Before departing, the Museum offers an enticing Kaffitar downstairs with mouth-wateringly delicious-looking cheesecake that will hit the spot after a long visit. 🇮🇸



Air Iceland destinations



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DESTINATION

Witch Museum

BY STEVIE WARD

The Strandir area in the West Fjords has always been notorious for witchcraft. The Strandagaldur Museum of Sorcery and Witchcraft in Hólmavík features an audio tour from museum manager Sigurdur Atlason, exploring the real story behind Iceland's history with the occult.

The museum exhibits the legacy of the people of Strandir, and its findings are mostly from records kept by villagers in the 17th century from 1654 to 1680. The number of Icelanders burned for witchcraft is still being debated; however, although most of the accused confessed to some occult knowledge or possession of runes, some confessed to nothing, claiming their innocence till death. On record, 21 burned and only one woman among them.

The witches of Strandir excelled at raising the dead. When the ghosts rose, they would be used as minions by those who raised them. These witches also used spells for catching thieves, stealing milk and changing the weather — the tools they used are all on display.

Exhibited are healing spells that were written on animal skins and wrapped around the body. In addition to two Icelandic spell books, the museum holds the recipe for 'Fireballs' that were cast in the late 17th century to sink ships and which ceased commerce to the area, as well as exhibits of Necropants, charms to win at wrestling, a weather staff and an 'invisible boy'. The showpiece of the exhibit is an authentic bloodbowl, used in 1600 to communicate with gods.

More enigmatic than the relics themselves are the accusers: the genealogy of the upper-class is heavily documented and the museum's historical merits stem from records from the clergy and one family of sheriffs (6 sons and 6 daughters). This family was linked to the witch-hunting either through being a judge, an accuser or an accused. Many of them had studied in Denmark and Germany before attempting to bring the witch-hunt craze to Iceland to rid their people of 'undesirables'.

Bring the kids. 

WITCH MUSEUM IN STRANDIR

Höfðagata 8, 510 Hólmavík
Tel: 451 3525



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TOP 5 MONUMENTS IN ICELAND



Kristín Svava

Kristín Svava Tómasdóttir studies history at the University of Iceland and works at the Þjóðarbókhlaðan, the University Library. But, first and foremost, she is a young poet who is leading the way into a bright future for contemporary Icelandic poetry. She has been a member of the local poetry scene and Reykjavík's publishing circle Nýhil for years, and has participated in Nýhil's annual International Poetry Festival since the beginning. Kristín had her breakthrough when a publisher approached her after a reading at the festival. This is how she finally came to publish her first collection of lyrical works in 2007, *Blóðgætur*, a self-acclaimed "Best-of" collection. "For me the book was not that huge a step. I have been doing this for many years, and I never really had the urge to publish a book myself. But perhaps that is also a flaw of mine, sometimes I am not very ambitious."

1 ÞOTUHREIÐUR

This one is just beautiful, like a bird coming from an egg. And it is on this very appropriate place at Keflavík airport, where it represents the wish of every islander to get away. I can really feel it, when I look at þotuhreiður.

2 STÚLKA

This one is the very small statue of a girl, sitting on her knees in a flowerbed in front of my school in Reykjavík. I like it, because it is an interactive statue due to its height. When we were around she was always holding cigarettes, flowers, or Coke-bottles or beer.

3 THE GIANT PHONE IN HAFNARFJÖRÐUR

When I was a kid and on a trip to Hafnarfjörður, I saw a giant phone, which I found hilarious. I do not know what its called, who had made it or even whether it is still there, but I still keep a photo of me sitting on it.

4 ÓÞEKKTI EMBÆTTISMAÐURINN

"The Unknown Official" is a great statue! It is humorous and sarcastic. It represents the unknown warrior, respectively as an official, because there are no warriors any more. There must be many officials walking by it every morning because it is so close to the parliament.

5 BERLÍNARBJÖRNINN

The "Berlin Bear" is in front of the German embassy, which is also close to my old school. It has the distance to Berlin in kilometers written on it. I like the thought of walking around in Reykjavík and thinking of Berlin.

TOP 5 JOBS FOR LÁRUS JÓHANNESSON



Lárus Jóhannesson

Lárus Jóhannesson was born in Reykjavík. He has enjoyed a diverse and fulfilling career which has seen him involved in the many different fields. He is a founding partner of the record shop 12 Tónar in the center of Reykjavík, together with his friend Jóhannes Ágústsson in 1998. Five years later they expanded the business releasing the album "Krákan," by popular Faroese folk singer Eivør Pálsdóttir and thereby founded the record label 12 Tónar Records. This label has become one of the most important local independent record labels not least due to their musical variety from Classic to Punk. Today, 12 Tónar is an international enterprise with worldwide releases, with offices in Reykjavík and Copenhagen. A recent addition to the enterprise is a webstore where you can buy their music in digital form from around the globe. We asked Lárus to name five of his favorite jobs through the years.

1 WORKING AT 12 TÓNAR

This job is great, because it is so diverse: You have to do everything from cleaning the toilet to being part of great music happening. On the label side of my job I work with many artists from Punk to Classic, which is very interesting.

2 BEING A CONTRACTOR

When I was studying and for a short time after that I was working as a foreman in the construction business. In the summer time it is fantastic to work outside and you start early, so it is very healthy. But when you grow older, it gets harder.

3 BEING A CORRESPONDENT FOR MORGUNBLAÐIÐ

In the 90s I was a correspondent in Russia for Morgunblaðið newspaper. It was very interesting to be there. I got to travel the country a lot on a journalist visa. My love-hate relationship for this country lasts until today, so this was a cool job.

4 CHESS COLUMNIST FOR ÞJÓÐVILJINN

When I was 19 I did a weekly chess column for Þjóðviljinn newspaper. I took over from the Icelandic chess grandmaster Helgi Ólafson, who was the best chess columnist in the country. People would buy the paper just to read his column! But I think this stopped when I started.

5 CHESS TRAINER

I started to play chess seriously when I was a teenager and even travelled abroad for tournaments. Later I started to teach chess at schools and together with my partner Jónas, we held special sessions for really gifted players. Some of them now are the strongest players in Iceland.

TOP 5 PLACES TO DINE A JOURNALIST



Anna Hildur

Anna Hildur Hildibrandsdóttir is managing director of the increasingly significant Iceland Music Export office, IMX, founded in 2007. On a shoestring budget, Hildibrandsdóttir has managed to create a vibrant and effective export agency that is the envy of others, and a positive force in the advent and promotion of Icelandic music abroad. Come October, IMX is holding an international conference dealing with new and exciting ways of mediating culture that features high profile panelists such as Hype Machine's Anthony Volodkin, Pitchforkmedia's Amy Phillips and one of the brains behind Radiohead's recent "In Rainbows" giveaway, Jane D'ball. Due to her job, Hildibrandsdóttir often escorts foreign members of the press around Reykjavík. Here are her picks for dining a journalist in Reykjavík:

1 ÞRÍR FRAKKAR

Perfect for whale meat, puffin and shark experience, which generates plenty of discussion topics for an evening out with journalists. The very tiny, very charming Þrír Frakkar is also an excellent seafood restaurant whose chefs have character and individualism that makes them unique.

2 HORNID

As I am most likely to be rushing off with music journalists to a gig, an early meal at Hornið never fails. This modest restaurant, which features an interesting blend of Icelandic and Italian cuisine, hasn't changed for 25 years.

3 ASKUR

Another great one to visit if you are having a quick but good meal before a gig in Laugardalshöllin. One of these really old style Icelandic restaurants, and possibly the first one I experienced as a kid. Generous portions, impressive buffets and moderate prices.

4 PANORAMA

My latest discovery is this penthouse style restaurant with the most breathtaking view you can find in Reykjavík. Overlooking the harbour, Esjan and the new music house, you can rest your vocal cords whilst people take it all in. The food and service is good.

5 DOMO

Snorri is not only my favorite Icelandic artist but also my dearest friend. He is the sanest person that I know. When I'm feeling down about something, what ever it is, Snorri will be the first one to hear about the problem.

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

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Stuffed with stuff

I'm actually very enthusiastic about coming over and you have a cinema and all, right?

Well, at least I'm excited...

Filmmaker Costa-Gavras is attending the Reykjavík International Film Festival.

PAGE 14

Also, the Predator seems to be in favour of private initiative, as he always hunts alone. This might lead him to lower taxes.

Attempts to reform Medicare might also be seen to be hypocritical by relatives of the people he has hospitalised.

Valur Gunnarsson deliberates the capitalistic values of the possible President candidate Predator.

PAGE 12

Calm yet danceable, grimey while at the same time sophisticated, Tellier is not just another Daft Punk wannabe but rather a worthy heir, taking Parisian electro in a new, erotic direction.

Oddur Sturluson was flabbergasted with Sebastian Tellier's untamed performance.

PAGE 36

If you are an expat living in Iceland, you might also have been too busy learning salsa or hanging out in the geothermal pools to care what's going on across the pond.

Grapevine's own expat instructs her fellows how to vote overseas.

PAGE 12

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

Magnús Ver depicts his passion for his ultimate idol, World's Strongest Man Jón Páll Sigmarsson

PAGE 39

Three Icelandic servicemen sustained severe injuries to their body and face from flying sharpnel. All of them recovered, but they now share five testicles.

Remembering Chicken Street

PAGE 6



You are in Control

an international conference on the latest creative and business development trends in music, art and media

Hótel Saga, October 15 - 16 2008

'You are in Control' gathers some of the finest international creative, music and media minds to discuss and create new business models and new ways of working in the creative industries.

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Steve Schnur - EA Games

As Worldwide Executive of Music and Marketing for Electronic Arts, Steve Schnur is responsible for the pursuit, creation and continuous development of the global vision for music in EA games.

Jane Dyball - Warner/Chappell Music Ltd

Jane Dyball is Senior Vice-President of International Legal & Business Affairs at Warner/Chappell Music Ltd and as such has responsibility for all of the company's business affairs throughout the world ex US & Canada.

Anthony Volodkin - Hype Machine

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

... and many more.

Further info and registrations at www.icelandmusic.is/conference

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

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

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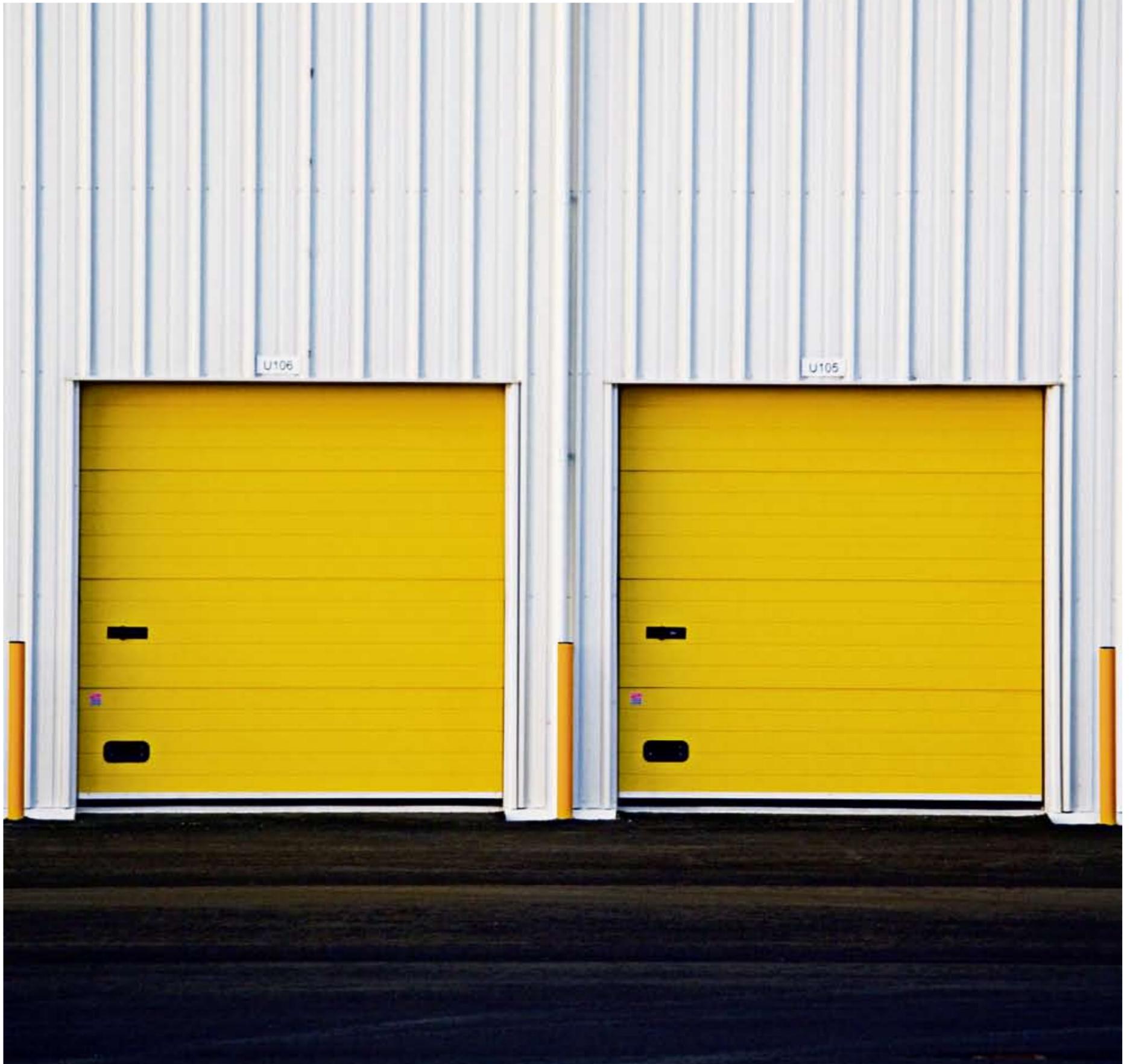
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Issue 14 2008

www.grapevine.is

What:

Photography Exhibition at Lost Horse Gallery (B5)



Music STONER ROCK LEGEND BRANT BJORK COMES TO ICELAND

Brant Bjork & the Bros., one of the most influential and leading figures in the stoner rock and desert rock genres, are coming to Iceland! Hailing from Palm Springs, California, BBB is making the country the first stop on their Scandinavian tour swing promoting their new album just released in May. Brant Bjork originally played in several other rock groups such as Kyuss, Fu Manchu, and Che specializing in his unique fuzz sound before finally settling in with BBB. The band can be described as heavy riffs laid under immense ride

cymbals and are said by music critic Colin Hunter to play instrumentally-intense "laid-back, druggy jams that make you feel kind of like The Dude from The Big Lebowski." Brant Bjork & the Bros. describe their music as "organic Rock. It grooves. It Flows. It's psychedelic. It's tough. It's beautiful. It's Classic. The future is now and Brant Bjork and The Bros are here."

1 E6

Where:
Grani Hatturinn
Hafnarstræti 96
Akureyri
Café Amsterdam
Hafnarstræti 5
Reykjavík

When:
21:00 Jóhann Kristinsson in concert
23:00 DJ Master
Apótek
23:00 DJ Áki
B5
23:00 Símon
Café Cultura
23:00 DJ Alfons X
Café Paris
23:00 DJ Andri Ramirez & DJ Stjáni
Hressó
21:00 Live music
23:00 DJ Maggi
Kaffibarinn
23:00 DJ Árni Sveins
Oliver
23:00 DJ BMV
Prikió
22:00 Live performance by local hip-hop heroes XXX Rottweiler
23:00 DJ Danni Deluxe
Q-bar
23:00 DJ Sexual Chocolate and DJ Svenni
Rósenberg
22:00 Band Fánar in concert
Sólón
23:00 Downstairs: Party. Upstairs: Dancing
Vegamót
DJ Jónas



Art HOME / AWAY PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

From 13 September to 23 November at the Reykjavík Museum of Photography is an exhibition documenting over 50 years of asylum seekers in Iceland, charting back to 1956. The exhibition will feature portraits of migrants and also photographs of relics from their native countries. This will create a poignancy to the event, as some of the items include a reframed painting and even a photograph of a family left behind, their current whereabouts unknown. There will also be large quotes on the walls telling the personal stories of the migrants who

arrived to Iceland from countries spanning from Croatia to Colombia. They will all be invited to the opening of the event on Saturday 13 September, so come along and meet them.

Where:
Reykjavík Museum of Photography, Tryggvagata 16
When:
September 13 – November 23

2 D5



Music RÓSENBERG MOBBED UP

The golden boy Sigurður Guðmundsson who has in the recent years won over the hearts of Icelanders with his band Hjalmar, put together the Memphis Mafia a few months back. They accomplished to record, using only a single microphone, a whole album of only including brand new versions of classics. The piece was called "Oft spurði ég mömmu" (e. I often asked mom) and has received unique feedback and Siggí has once again proven he is one of our finest. Next Tuesday, or September 16, they will commence their all-winter-long concert series in Café Rósenberg and will thereupon perform every other Tuesday. The mood will undoubtedly be mobish so buckle your seatbelt and get ready for a ride into the South.

Where:
Iceland-wide
When:
September

3 G7

Music & Entertainment

If you would like to be included in the Grapevine listings, free of charge, contact the Grapevine by email at listings@grapevine.is.

FRIDAY SEPT 12

- Amsterdam**
21:00 Jóhann Kristinsson in concert
23:00 DJ Master
- Apótek**
23:00 DJ Áki
- B5**
23:00 Símon
- Café Cultura**
23:00 DJ Alfons X
- Café Paris**
23:00 DJ Andri Ramirez & DJ Stjáni
- Hressó**
21:00 Live music
23:00 DJ Maggi
- Kaffibarinn**
23:00 DJ Árni Sveins
- Oliver**
23:00 DJ BMV
- Prikió**
22:00 Live performance by local hip-hop heroes XXX Rottweiler
23:00 DJ Danni Deluxe
- Q-bar**
23:00 DJ Sexual Chocolate and DJ Svenni
- Rósenberg**
22:00 Band Fánar in concert
- Sólón**
23:00 Downstairs: Party. Upstairs: Dancing
- Vegamót**
DJ Jónas

SATURDAY SEPT 13

- Amsterdam**
23:00 DJ Master
- B5**
23:00 DJ Leifur
- Café Cultura**
23:00 DJ Nuno Lx and DJ Magic
- Hressó**
21:00 Live music
23:00 DJ Maggi
- Kaffibarinn**
23:45 DJ Terrordisco Goodbye Party. Kiss this guy goodbye. He's sexy

- Nasa**
23:59 Skítamóral, the greatest live music attraction of the 90's in Iceland, live in concert.
- Prikió**
21:00 Naked Ape party. DJ's Jack Schidt & Moonshine
- Q-Bar**
23:00 DJ Shaft
- Rósenberg**
22:00 Band Fánar in concert
- Sólón**
23:00 Downstairs: Party. Upstairs: Dancing
- Vegamót**
DJ Gorilla Funk

SUNDAY SEPT 14

- B5**
Sunday Chillout. Live jazz music.
- Prikió**
Hang-Over Cinema. Popcorn and Coke available

MONDAY SEPT 15

- Sólón**
Salsa Night

TUESDAY SEPT 16

- Rósenberg**
Memphismafian in Concert. A great live band.

WEDNESDAY SEPT 17

- Kaffitár**
Salsa Night
- Rósenberg**
Joiá Gilberto Tribute concert. Performance by Petra Ahlmark
- Prikió**
22:00 DJ Árni

THURSDAY SEPT 18

- B5**
22:00 DJ Leifur
- Café Cultura**
22:00 DJ Thor. Mega Disco Night
- Glaumbar**
Live Music; Beat box, funk, soul & hip hop.
When: 11PM
- Hressó**
21:00 Live Music

Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

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

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

Apótek Austurstræti 16 | **E5**
Sporting a chic and pristine interior with a blend of modern, minimalist and ornate baroque, a decent spot with eager service and an international menu.

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

Bar 11 Laugavegur 11 | **G6**
A happening Rock hangout right on Laugavegur, brings in the Iceland rock scene whether on the jukebox or in person mainly on Tuesdays but throughout the week.

Belly's Hafnarstræti 18a | **E5**
Belly's deserves praise for having the cheapest bar prices around. Good for anyone looking for a deal, there are enough tables for everyone and TVs for sport | watching.

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

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

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

Café Victor Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D4**
A hangout for older foreigners, Victor attracts a diverse crowd, both in age and origin, a rule that extends to the musicians that play there.

Celtic Cross Hverfisgata 26 | **H6**

Arguably the most authentic Irish pub in town, a very lively space with live music every night, sometimes two bands playing at once.

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

Domo Þingholtstræti 5 | **F6**
The elegantly decorated Domo serves delicious French-Asian cuisine, excellent sushi and has a great wine list. A sure choice.

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

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

Grand Rokk Smíðjustigur | **G6**
As its Viking theme accurately displays, this hardcore chess hangout is no place for the lily | livered. Take the

pub quiz on Fridays at 17.30, the winner gets a free case of beer!

Hressó Austurstræti 20 | **E5**
After a long line, you'll get in and wonder what all the fuss was about. You may end up here if you're still going at 4 on a Sunday morning, in which case it's just as good as any.

Kaffi Hjómaland Laugavegur 21 | **G6**
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great food and coffee but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.

Kaffibarinn Bergstraðastræti 1 | **F6**
This trendy bar and concert venue presents a wide range of international and local musicians from all levels of renown. Shows 4 times a week, lasting late on weekends.

NASA Þorvaldsenstræti 2 | **E6**
The cornerstone of Reykjavík nightlife, NASA has multiple

- Oliver**
22:00 Kenya in Concert
- Prikió**
22:00 DJ Gauti
- Q-Bar**
DJ Manny
- Rósenberg**
16:00 Troubadours Trikkstur
20:00 Local legend Mike Pollock in Concert, then Troubadour Siggí Sig.
- Sólón**
22:00 Troubadour on 2nd floor
- Vegamót**
DJ Símon

FRIDAY SEPT 19

- Apótek**
23:00 DJ Áki
- B5**
23:45 DJ Einar
- Café Cultura**
23:00 DJ Maggi Lego
- Hressó**
21:00 Live Music
23:00 DJ Maggi
- Oliver**
23:00 DJ BMV
- Prikió**
22:00 Grafiti Party. The Alley's walls sprayed. DJs Addi and Árni Intro
- Q-Bar**
23:00 Disco Night
- Rósenberg**
22:00 Live Music
- Sólón**
23:00 Downstairs: Party. Upstairs: Dance
- Vegamót**
23:45 DJ Dóri

SATURDAY SEPT 20

- Apótek**
23:45 DJ Áki
- B5**
23:45 DJ Símon
- Café Cultura**
Bloodgroup DJ set & DJ Benni B-Ruff
- Hressó**
21:00 Live Music
23:00 DJ Maggi
- Nasa**
22:45 SSSól in Concert
- Oliver**
23:00 DJ BMV
- Prikió**
23:00 DJ Maggi & DJ Danni Deluxe
- Q-Bar**
23:00 Someone Else Night

Our quality...
Releases

Benni Hemm Hemm
Murta st. Calunga
★★★★ Fréttablaðið

Hjaltalín - Sleepdrunk Seasons
★★★★ Fréttablaðið

Borko - Celebrating Life
★★★★ All Music Guide

Upcoming Releases:
Retro Stefson - Montaña (October)
Reykjavíkt - untitled second album (November)

Upcoming Distribution:
Skakkamanage - All over the face (October 20th)
FM Belfast - How to make friends (October)

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- Rósenberg**
22:00 Band Túbilakar, a folk duet from Húsavík, in concert
- Sólon**
23:00 Downstairs: Party. Upstairs: Dance
- Vegamót**
23:00 DJ Dóri

SUNDAY SEPT 21

- B5**
Sunday Chillout. Live jazz music.
- Prikió**
Hang-Over Cinema. Popcorn and Coke available
- Rósenberg**
Andrea Glyfa and Eddi Lár play the blues

MONDAY SEPT 22

- Sólon**
Salsa Night
- Rósenberg**
Traditional jazz performance by Gummi P. and Einar Scheving

WEDNESDAY SEPT 24

- Café Cultura**
21:00 Rock band Wulfgang in Concert.
22:00 DJ Frosti Gringo
- Kaffítár**
Tango Milonga
- Rósenberg**
21:00 Jóhann Kristinnson album release concert

THURSDAY SEPT 25

- B5**
22:00 DJ Simon
- Café Cultura**
22:00 Beatmaking Troopa & Pan
- Hressó**
21:00 Live Music
- Óliver**
22:00 DJ Schram
- Prikió**
22:00 DJ Moonshine
- Rósenberg**
21:00 Django Jazz band Krúmmafótur in Concert

Art | Venue finder

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

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

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

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

The Culture House
Hverfisgata 15 | **F6**
Open daily 11-17
www.thjodmenning.is
A Museum of Icelandic cultural history, with an ongoing exhibition of the original manuscripts of the sagas and eddas.

Dwarf Gallery
Grundarstígur 21 | **H8**
Opening Hours: Fri and Sat 18-20
www.this.is/birta
An independently run basement Gallery. Gallery Dwarf hosts exhibitions which speak straight to the

hearts of the "cute" generation.

The Einar Jónsson Museum
Eiriksgata 1 | **G9**
Tue-Sun 14-17
www.skulptur.is
Features a permanent exhibition on the sculptor Einar Jónsson as well as temporary exhibits.

Fótógrafi
Skólavörðustígur 4a | **F7**
www.fotografi.is
Features photographic exhibitions by local photographers.

Gallery 100*
Bajarhals 1
www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100/

Open weekdays from 08:30-16:00
An art museum run by the Orkuveita Reykjavíkur energy corporation. Features contemporary art by Icelandic and foreign artists.

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

Gallery StartArt
Laugavegur 12B | **G7**
Tue-Sat 1-17
www.startart.is
Contemporary Icelandic and foreign art. Admission is free and the gallery is run without any government funding.

Gallery Ágúst
Baldursgata 12 | **F9**
Wed-Sat 12-17
www.galleriagust.is
Galleri Ágúst is a contemporary art gallery in the centre of Reykjavík. With an

ambitious programme of exhibitions, it also presents and sells art work of Icelandic and international artists.

- Q-Bar**
22:00 Girls Night Out. DJ Yamaho
- Sólon**
22:00 Troubadour on 2nd floor
- Vegamót**
22:00 DJ Benni B-Ruff

Art

- 101 Gallery**
Aug 22 - Oct 5
ZEDRIK - Instalments by Sigga Björg Sigurðardóttir
- ASÍ Art Museum**
Aug 30 - Sept 21
Sólveig Adalsteinsdóttir exhibits various pieces all linked to time and space. You can find drawings on paper, wood sculptures as well as photos.
Sept 27 - Oct 19
Haraldur Jónsson - Myrkurlampi

The Culture House
Permanent exhibitions: Medieval Manuscripts; The Library Room.
Current exhibitions: Surtsey - Genesis
The exhibition traces the emergence and evolution of the island Surtsey until the present day and predicts its geographical and ecological development over the next 120 years.

From Beyond the Oceans - Translations and original writings by Helgi Hálfðanarson
The thematic exhibition currently on view in the Library Room is dedicated to Helgi Hálfðanarson's translations and original writings. The Late View - Halldór Laxness' Photographs
Nobel Laureate and cosmopolitan Halldór Laxness was better known for his writing but also proved to be a good photographer. This is an exhibition of his works.
Exhibition Series
Ásta Ólafsdóttir displays her artwork at the Culture Shop.

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

- Gallery StartArt**
Aug 28 - Sept 24
Six solo exhibitions by Anna Eyjólfssdóttir, Magnús Pálsson, Magnea Ásmundsdóttir, Ásdís Spano, Harpa Dögg Kjartansdóttir, Didda Hjartadóttir Leaman as well as START ART artists.

- Gallery Ágúst**
Aug 16 - Sept 27
Exhibition by Katrín Elvarsdóttir
- Gallery Fold**
Current exhibition: Gallery Fold's summer exhibition. Paintings by Ásgrímur Jónsson, Jón Stefánsson, Jóhannes S. Kjarval, Finnur Jónsson, Þorvaldur Tryggvadóttir

- Gallery Kling & Bang**
Sept 9 - Sept 28
The Orange Fire that you showed me in Hljómskálagarðurinn
Exhibition by Ásdís Sif Gunnarsdóttir

- Gallery Turpentine**
Current Exhibition:
Paintings by Stórval

- Gerðuberg Cultural Centre**
Sept 12 - Nov 2
Mola. An exhibition of knitting art by Colombian Indian tribe Cuna.
Sept 21 - Nov 2
Video Art exhibition.

- Living Art Museum**
Aug 16 - Sept 29
Tillit - rücksicht - regards
Exhibition by Hlynur Hallson
Sept 5 - Sept 14
Students from the Icelandic academy of arts
The poster collection (selection)
Sept 9 - Oct 18
Grassroot 2008-Björk Viggósdóttir-Guðmundur Vignir Karlsson-Halldór Ragnarsson-Jeanette Castroni-Jóna Hlíf Halldórsdóttir
Oct 11 - Oct 22
Bj Nielsen-Darri Lorenzen-Finnbogi Pétursson-Ingólfur Arnarsson-Mika Vanio-Björn Quiring

- The National Film Archive of Iceland**
The National Film Archive of Iceland screens old movie classics and masterpieces twice a week for 500 ISK per ticket.

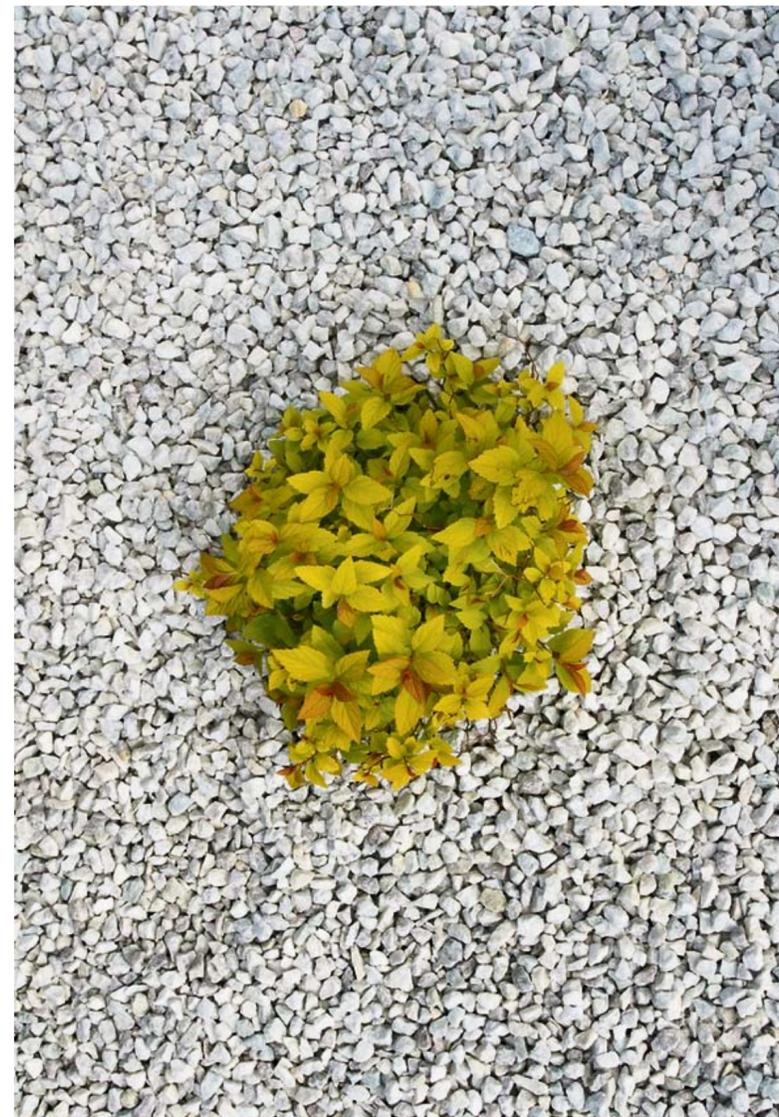
Art PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT AT LOST HORSE GALLERY

Since opening its doors a year ago, Lost Horse Gallery has proved a welcome addition to Reykjavík's vibrant art scene, hosting a multitude of impressive shows on a shoestring budget. This weekend sees it opening a group exhibition where six accomplished photographers, five Icelanders and an American, will display their works in the gallery's rustic showroom.

The photographers in question - Björn Árnason, Friðrik Örn, Guðmundur Ó. Pálmason, Guðmundur R. Guðmundsson, Ingvar Högnason and Julia Staples - plan to offer up some of the most exciting artful photography being produced in Iceland today. They all come from different backgrounds and work in different styles on different subject matters, so the show is sure to be a diverse foray into modern photography.

Where:
Gallery Lost Horse, Skólástræti 1, 101 Reykjavík
When:
Opening Saturday
September 13, 18:00

4 F6



Art PLEINAIRISM

18 Gallery exhibits a selection of work on paper by artists, whose projects are created whilst outside. Working 'plein air' has a long history: while it was the very foundation of modern landscape art during the nineteenth century, it first became popular among landscape painters in seventeenth-century Rome. The watercolours, collages, paintings, texts, videos, drawings and photographs display a broad range of strategies: while some artists are intent on directly representing the world they inhabit, others seek to reinvent what 'plein air' means in a contemporary context. Much of work in the exhibition was made outdoors using natural light, and in response to the sun's position, the surrounding scene and weather conditions—bound by the time constraints

as light changes and fades to darkness. While some artists allude to a natural world that is on the verge of disappearing, other artists explore how a 'plein air' approach measures up against the more complex image-making technologies available to the modern artist. The exhibition features over 50 works by 38 artists and is curated by Kitty Scott, director of Visual Arts at the Banff Centre, Banff.

Where:
i8 Gallery
When:
12 September - 26 October

5 G7

ICELAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

UPCOMING CONCERTS

26.09.08 | FIRE AND ICE | 7.30 pm
Conductor | Petri Sakari
Soloists | Ari Þór Vilhjálmsson and Hallfríður Ólafsdóttir
Atli Heimir Sveinsson | Icerapp 2000
Áskell Mátsson | Rún
Hafliði Halgrímsson | Poemi
Jón Leifs | Three Abstract Paintings
Jórunn Viðar | Eldur / Fire
Þorkell Sigurbjörnsson | Columbine

02.10.08 | FAR EAST | 7.30 pm
Conductor | James Gaffigan
Soloists | Roland Pöntinen and Love Derwinger
Claude Debussy | La Mer
Colin McPhee | Tabuh-Tabuhan
Francis Poulenc | Concerto for two pianos
Nico Muhly | Wish you were here

03.10.08 | NOW LISTEN! - GAMELAN | 9.00 pm
Conductor | James Gaffigan
Soloist | Rachel Barton Pine
Colin McPhee | Tabuh-Tabuhan
Nico Muhly | Wish you were here

09.10.08 | A GYPSY GALA | 7.30 pm
Conductor | Sebastian Twinkel
Soloist | Rachel Barton Pine
Emmanuel Chabrier | Espana
Johann Strauss | The Gypsy Baron, overture
Johannes Brahms | Hungarian Dances
Manuel de Falla | Dances from the Three-cornered Hat
Maurice Ravel | Tzigane
Pablo Sarasate | Carmen-fantasy
Pablo Sarasate | Zigeunerweisen

11.10.08 | GYPSIES - A FAMILY CONCERT | 2.00 pm
Conductor | Sebastian Twinkel
Soloist | Rachel Barton Pine
Host | Barbara the Clown

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All concerts take place in Háskólabíó.

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13. sept. - 23. nóv. 2008

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Tryggvagata 15, 6th floor - 101 Reykjavík - Tel. 563 1790 - photomuseum@reykjavik.is - www.photomuseum.is
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Katrín Elvarsdóttir / Sigrún Sigurðardóttir

HEIMA-HEIMAN HOME-AWAY

13. sept. - 23. nóv. 2008

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Reykjavík Museum of Photography

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- The National Gallery of Iceland**
 July 10 - Sept 28
 Exhibition: Highlight of Icelandic Art
 At the annual summer exhibition at the National Gallery of Iceland the emphasis is on different periods in modern and contemporary Icelandic art. Each part of the exhibition focuses on a certain period in the short history of Icelandic art since it was first recognised as a profession, and various aspects of development in art are explored in light of social change- Ongoing
- The National Museum**
 Permanent exhibition:
 The Making of a Nation
 June 6 - Jan 21
 Over the Ocean and Home: Icelandic artefacts from Sweden.
 May 16 - Sept 14
 Endurkast (Reflection): Cooperative photography exhibition between eight Icelandic photographers.
 May 16 - Sept 14
 In the Mist: Exhibition by French photographer Thomas Humery.
- The Numismatic Museum**
 Permanent exhibition:
 The Central Bank of Iceland and the National Museum of Iceland jointly operate a numismatic collection consisting of Icelandic notes and coins.
- Reykjavik 871 +/- 2**
 Permanent exhibition:
 The Settlement Exhibition
- Reykjavik Art Gallery**
 Current exhibition:
 Magnús Tómasson, Pétur Már Pétursson and Tolli
- Reykjavik Art Museum - Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum**
 Permanent Exhibition
 The Shape of Line
 A new retrospective of works by Ásmundur Sveinsson. The exhibition focuses on abstract works from 1945 onwards.
- Reykjavik Art Museum - Hafnarhús**
 Sept 18 - Nov 2
 Libia Castro and Ólafur Ólafsson. The two artists have worked together since the late 1990s, building up a strong body of work which focuses on social issues and the sharing of life experiences. Their work has a strong political core and gives voice to people on the margins of our society, migrants and asylum seekers.
 Sept 18 - Jan 11
 Private Exhibition by Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir
- Reykjavik Art Museum - Kjarvalsstaðir**
 18 May - 31 Aug
 Dreams of the Sublime and Nowhere in Contemporary Icelandic Art:
 This exhibition includes many new works of photography and video art by Iceland's most outstanding artists, building on their disparate ideas about nature as a phenomenon.
 18 May - 31 Aug
 Where Am I?: An exhibition in which children and adults can contemplate their planet, their country, and the landmarks of their environment.
 18 May - 31 Dec
 Jóhannes S. Kjarval - Key Works: The current exhibition in Kjarvalsstaðir's east gallery features key works from the museum's collection along with works on loan from the Labour Unions' Art Gallery and from the collection of Ingibjörg Guðmundsdóttir and Þorvaldur Guðmundsson.
 13 Sept - 16 Nov
 Visual Symphony - The Art of Bragi Ásgeirsson for 60 Years
- Reykjavik Maritime Museum**
 Current Exhibitions:
 Living Museum by the Sea;
 Arterial for Country and City;
 From Poverty to Abundance: The Shark - Light and Life Energy;
 Hidden Craftsman.
- Reykjavik Museum (Árbæjarsafn)**
 Current exhibitions:
 Building Techniques in Reykjavik

OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

- Hafnarborg**
 Aug 30 - Sept 29
 Force and Tenderness : A retrospective exhibition of Sigrún Ólafsdóttir's sculptures and drawings from 1996-2008.
- The Icelandic Settlement Centre**
 Permanent exhibitions:
 The Settlement of Iceland; The Saga of Egill Skalla-Grimsson
 Current theatre productions:
 Brák - a monologue by Brynhildur Guðjónsdóttir
 Mr. Skallagrímsson - a monologue by Benedikt Erlingsson
- Vatnasafn / Library of Water**
 Permanent exhibition:
 Roni Horn installation. She has replaced stacks of books with glass columns containing water gathered from Iceland's glaciers and glacial rivers.
- GalleriBOX**
 Sep 21 - Oct 12
 Anna McCarthy / Heimir Björgúlfsson
- Veggverk**
 Current exhibition:
 Painting by Bridget Kennedy
- Kunstraum Wohnraum (Home gallery)**
 July 5 - 20 Sept
 Huginn Þór Arason exhibition
- Skaltfell**
 June 7 - Sept 14
 Audiovision: Various artists exhibit at the west-wall. In this series of exhibitions the curators choose together visual artists and sound artists as a pair. Curators are Ingólfur Arnarsson and Elísabet Indrá Ragnarsdóttir. On July 19, Ólaf Helga Helgadóttir and Kira Kira open their exhibition.
 Aug 30 - Dec 31
 "Passing by" a film by Darri Lorenzen but Evil Madness composed the music accompanying the film.
 Shivering Man by Sigtryggur Berg Sigmarsson
- LÁ Art Museum**
 Current Exhibition: Exhibition on the works of visual artist Magnús Kjartansson.

Events

- Driving Sustainability '08**
 Sept 18 - Sept 19
 Global pioneers in the worldwide trend of renewable energy for transport gather in Iceland September 18 and 19 at Nordica Hilton Hotel in Reykjavik to explore the most exciting developments in the field. This year, special focus is on the future of electric vehicles, with topics ranging from CO2 Free Power and Next Generation Utilities to Automotive Batteries, Plug-in Technology & New Business Models. A123 Systems, Toyota Europe, Ford Motor Company, Rocky Mountain Institute, Dong Energy, New York City and Vattenfall are among those presenting as well as the Director of the documentary film Who Killed The Electric Car? The world famous aviator Bertrand Piccard of Solar Impulse shares his vision of sustainable mobility through the eyes of a scientist-explorer so prepare yourself for a powerful debate, 21st century technology and innovative thinking!

Music
RETURN OF THE 90'S

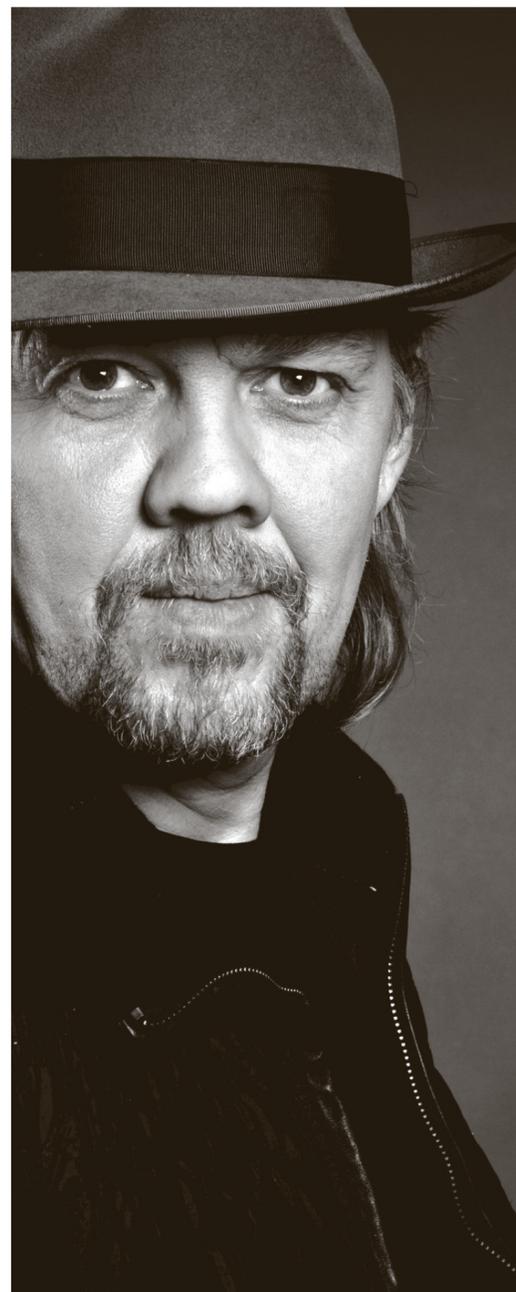
If you want to experience an authentic Icelandic hoe-down you are in luck because in September you can witness the comebacks of two Icelandic rural-pop bands. The bands are Skítamóráll who will perform on Nasa Saturday 13 and SSSól also on Nasa Saturday 20. Skítamóráll's hey-day was in the late 90's when their cover driven live-shows pumped the Icelandic youth in venues in the countryside. They all had bleached hair and their jeans were intentionally faded in Baltic factories. In spite of all the criticism Skítamóráll received for their lack of originality, it is impossible to overlook that these dudes had melon sized balls. Check them out at Nasa but don't be surprised though the show starts late and the set-list consists of lame Icelandic love ballads with bongo-drums and a degenerated Final Countdown. SSSól were in their prime earlier than Skítamóráll. The band was founded in 1987 and soon found its place among rock and beer thirsty youngsters in wool sweaters. The SSSól guys made some good records early in their careers but

their strength lay mostly in interactive live-shows where the audience got the chance to come up on stage. If you want to find out if these old-timers still got it you should check them out at Nasa. The band members all look like horse-tamers but they use reverse strategy. When the show is over we are all wild.

Who knows for how long the show will last but we recommend you tell people not to wait up for you.

What: Skítamóráll & SSSól
When: Saturday, September 13
Where: NASA, Thorvaldsenstræti 2

6 E6



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Opening Hours

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

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

Swimming pools:

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

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

Tourist Information

Icelandic Travel Market
Bankastræti 2, Tel: 510 5700,
www.kleif.is

Information on day tours, accommodations, car rental and everything else you need to know when travelling in Iceland.

Tourist Information Centre

Avalstræti 2, Tel: 590 1550,
www.visitreykjavik.is

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

Getting Around

Public Transport

The only public transport system in Reykjavik is the bus. Most buses run every 20 minutes and price per fare is 280 ISK for adults and 100 ISK for children. Complete route map at: www.bus.is. Tel: 540 2700
Buses run from 07:00-24:00 on weekdays and 10:00-24:00 on weekends

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BSR, Tel: 561 0000

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www.randburg.com/is/reykjavik_group-travel_service/

Airlines

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

Bus Terminal

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

Flybus

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**Reykjavik
Center
City Map**

**What's this
thing?**



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



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If you're walking down Laugavegur, it's hard to miss B5 – the restaurant with the life-sized horse statue in the window accompanied by a DJ turntable and, depending on the time of day, lots of well-dressed people dancing and drinking.

The place is as stylish on the inside as it is on the outside. While there are few tables, it's as much a high-end restaurant as it is a bar. The dress code requires that you put some thought into your outfit; dress in black if you really want to blend in.

As far as the food goes, it was a mixed bag. For the starter, my companion and I were promised smoked duck with arugula salad. When the salad arrived, it was thin slices of tenderly cooked duck on romaine, not arugula. To my mind, this is like being promised a BMW and getting a Volkswagen. Arugula would have added a nice flavour complimenting the duck. Instead, the romaine was too bland and was something to tregue through rather than to enjoy.

The main dish, a seafood stir-fry served in a mango tequila sauce, saved the day.

Pieces of succulent lobster, scallops, and prawns were marinated in the light sauce, which was neither too sweet nor too spicy. The fresh combination of the seafood and the still-crisp sweet peas made me wonder if there wasn't a farmers' market nearby. The dish was served with buttery rice, which was masterfully cooked and tasted wonderful even on its own. My companion commented that it was the best meal he has ever had in Reykjavik, and while I can't commit to that, it certainly made my mouth happy.

Unfortunately, the dessert wasn't as big of a hit. It's hard to say anything that bad about a chocolate torte filled with oozing hot chocolate sauce, especially when it is accompanied by coconut ice cream, but this desert did not deliver. Its flavour was too mild to indulge in and it probably wasn't worth the calories. **G**

Where:
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What we think:
The lowpoints cancel out the considerable highlights



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At lífi og sál Restaurant

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

Aktu Taktu Skólugata 15 | **KB**
This drive-in destination in 101 Reykjavik is busy day and night and the burgers are especially tasty. The caramel shakes are a local favorite.

American Style Tryggvagata 28 | **E5**
It's tough to miss café Babalú walking up Skólavörðustígur. A cozy place for coffee and cake, the well-worn, homey ambience makes it difficult to leave.

Argentina Steak-house Barónstígur | **IB**
True to its name with tender steaks and flamingo vibrant South American décor. Generous portions, fine wine, liqueurs and cigars make an excellent choice in fine dining.

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

side for those who choose to dine in.

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

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

Babalú Skólavörðustígur 22A | **GB**
Roma, an Italian deli and café offers a variety of breads, soups as well as tempting desserts. For a good bargain, come at lunchtime for the specials.

Café Victor Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **DE/FE**
A hangout for older foreigners, Victor attracts a diverse crowd, both in age and origin, a rule that extends to the perpetual line in front – an absolute must and worth the wait.

Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**
Sited in the inter-cultural centre, Cultura

is a café/bar with a cosmopolitan feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.

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

Café Paris Austurstræti 14 | **E6**
Run and co-owned by the national team of chefs, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.

Café Roma Rauðarárstrígur 8 | **J9**
A seriously Icelandic atmosphere and traditional Icelandic dishes prepared in the good old-fashioned way. RSVP and keep your ears pricked for wild whaling tales!

Geysir Bar/Bistro Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **DE/FE**
Sited in the dignified Geysir Building at the corner of Vesturgata and Adalstræti, this stylish bistro is always a good place to grab a tasty bite for a reasonable price.

Domo Þinghólfstræti 5 | **F7**
The elegantly decorated Domo serves

delicious French-Asian cuisine, excellent sushi and has a great wine list. A sure choice.

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

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

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

Hölla Batar Ingólfsorg | **D6**
The first sub sandwich shop in Iceland, Hölla Batar has a large selection of creatively named sandwiches with equally imaginative contents. Good for an adventurous bite.

Garðurinn Klappastígur 37 | **G7**
A simple, friendly,

family-run vegetarian restaurant on Klappastígur. Offers an ever-changing menu of specials and soup du jours, alongside a basic menu

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kaffivagninn Grandagarður 10 | **D1**
By the harbor, this lunch and coffee place

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

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

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

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

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

Nonnabúi Hafnarstræti 9 | **E6**
"Nonna" is one of

the more popular junk-food places in town, renowned for its greasy sandwiches and a good place to relax. Regular art exhibits add to the aesthetic.

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

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

Food RUB23

Reviewed by **Stevie Ward** – Photo by SWARD

Rub23, the brainchild of Einar Geirsson, is an Umi restaurant situated in the heart of Akureyri. Einar came up with the idea when 'both awake and dreaming' of being able to mix different types of fish and meat with selected 'rubs' or sauces that he has created himself from his own recipes to delight the senses. The simple enough dishes are complemented by the menu – it is even subtly colour-coded – indicating what complements what dish. The prices are the same for each course, and the chef decides the lovingly garnished salads and sweet potatoes to complement both meat and rub. No guidance from your pocket, only by what your inspiration and instinct tells you.

The chosen starter, Arctic char tempura with cucumber fennel, is delicious and is complemented by a light Castillo De Molina Chardonnay. The sushi is fresh and inspired, presented delicately with shaved sashimi served on sweet gelatine, which melts in the mouth.

The rubs themselves range from 'liquid' rubs, the garden herbs like garlic and rosemary – perfect for flounder rolled in pepper and oily fish; the 'dry' spiced rubs for the less fatty fish; to the strong Indian, Arabian and Creole rubs, best served with lamb or cat-fish.

The desserts list boasts 'chocolate served three different ways: hot, cold and medium', and no need to decide. Taking in the umi mentality, they all come together – pint size, but unbelievably luxurious. The 'medium' being a sweet white chocolate mousse, served alongside berries and blood orange sorbet, drizzled with 'sweet rub' sauce.

Although the servings are small, by the end you are filled and satisfied and aware that you have experienced something truly unique.

The rubs themselves can be purchased and their taste savoured, but the style must be experienced in the restaurant itself – a carefree, intimate and immaculate dinnertime. **G**

Where:
Kaupvangsstræti 23
600 Akureyri
Tel.: 461 2756

4

How much:
1850 mains, 1450 dessert

What we think:
Despreately needs a Reykjavik outlet.



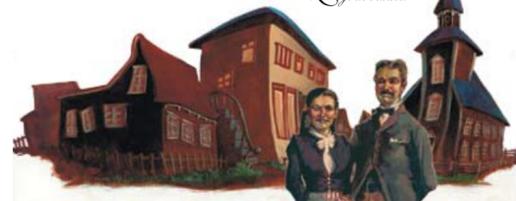
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because to us - nobody is foreign.

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rauða húsið
RESTAURANT Eyrarbakka



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Located in the old charming area of Reykjavik Ó restaurant offers you an unforgettable culinary experience.

Our emphasis is on seasonal and natural ingredients and our menu includes the famous Icelandic fish and lamb.

Iceland's modern cuisine at its best

MONDAYS: Minced steak w. onions, Lamb cutlets, Fishballs

TUESDAYS: Gratinated fish, Lamb cutlets, Meatballs

WEDNESDAYS: Salted lamb & pea soup, Lamb cutlets

THURSDAYS: Lamb meat & broth, Lamb cutlets

FRIDAYS: Lamb chops, Lamb cutlets

SATURDAYS: Fried fish fillets, Lamb cutlets, Roast pork

SUNDAYS: Roast pork, Lamb cutlets

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

FLJÓTT OG GOTT

BSI BUS TERMINAL HRINGBRAUTI, REYKJAVIK RESTAURANT OPEN 223 MINUTE TAKE AWAY ROUND THE CLOCK

SHOPPING

Stylist: **Ena Bergmann** – Hair & Makeup: **Elisabet Alma** – Models: **Eva & Geiri** – Photographer: **GAS**



She wears:
Sweatband: Girl & the Gorilla - Kisan
Scar: Sonia Rykiel - Kisan
Gloves: Tösku- og hanskabúðin
Dress: Thelon - Trilógía
Sweater: Sonia Rykiel - Kronkron
Vest: Thelon - Trilógía
Pants: G-star Raw - G-star
Shoes: Ohie Mihara - Kron
Bag: Sonia Rykiel - Kisan
Computer bag: Henrik Vibskov - Kronkron

He wears:
Hat: Billabong - Brim
Scar: KB - Belleville
Shirt: Second Hand - Spúitnik
Jacket: G-star - G-star
Pants: G-star - G-star
Shoes: Liborius
Bag: Tösku- og hanskabúðin

Shopping | Venue finder

- 12 Tónar** Skólavörðustígur 15 | **G8**
A record label as well as a store, all the best new Icelandic music on CDs or live on Fridays at 5 PM.
- Aftur** Laugavegur 23 | **G7**
Aftur's internationally acclaimed label is proudly displayed here in their shop/studio.
- Alafoss** Laugavegur 1 | **F7**
The downtown outlet for famous makers of traditional Icelandic woolens.
- Belleville** Laugavegur 25 | **G7**
Stuffed with trendy streetwear designs as well as funky magazines and media.
- Blue Lagoon Store** Laugavegur 15 | **G7**
All the natural skincare products from the famous geothermal spa at their outlet here.
- Brim** Laugavegur 71 | **H7**
Enormous surf wear, skate wear, and snowboard shop.
- Börn Náttúrunnar** Skólavörðustígur 17a | **G8**
The basement children's toy store sells clothes and toys only made of organic products as well as books about childcare and parenthood.
- Cintamani** Laugavegur 11 | **F7**
Featuring quality Icelandic outdoor gear, you can even book an excursion on the spot.
- Deid** Laugavegur 29 | **G7**
Artist Jón Sæmundur Auðarson's own hand-printed Rock and Roll label, Dead, plus others.
- Dogma** Laugavegur 32 | **H7**
Dogma offers street clothing with interesting prints. Hooded sweaters and T-shirts made by both Icelandic and foreign designers can be found.
- Figúra** Skólavörðustígur | **G8**
This shop features Icelandic designer wear, everything from street clothes to party dresses.
- Frída Frænka** Vesturgata 3 | **D5**
A real treasure chest of antique furniture and vintage accoutrements to perk up your apartment.
- G-Star Raw** Laugavegur 86 | **I8**
A store for the Dutch jeans brand, an edgy collection with innovative details and washes.
- Galleri Sautjón** Laugavegur 91 | **I8**
Stocking many hip labels, a unisex store offering casual business wear to evening dress wear.
- Gilbert** Laugavegur 62 | **H8**
Watchmaker Gilbert Guðjónsson has sold watches and clocks on Laugavegur for over 40 years. Recently, Gilbert designed his own line of wristwatches.
- Glamúr** Laugavegur 41 | **H7**
A flashy vintage clothing shop with everything from necklaces to fur coats to kimonos.
- Green Apple** Laugavegur 20 | **G7**
The tiny shop combines massage and other relaxation products with organic products.
- Gyllti Kötturinn** Austurstræti 8 | **E6**
One of a few second hand shops that have popped up in recent years, Gyllti Kötturinn also offers some pieces by locals.
- Handþróna-sambandið** Lækjargata 2A | **E6**
All sorts of hand knit woolen clothing as well as fine yarns and knitting supplies.
- lóa** Lækjargata 2A | **E6**
A great source for all kinds of reading material, with restaurants on the second floor.
- Kisan** Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
An interesting mix of items from all around the world you won't find anywhere else.
- Kisuberjatréð** Vesturgata 4 | **D5**
A lovely gallery/gift shop run by ten artists and designers where they sell their products.
- Kolaportíð** Tryggvagata 19 | **E5**
Open on weekends, you can get a bargain on almost anything at this indoor flea market.
- Kraum** Adalstræti 10 | **D6**
Featuring the best in contemporary Icelandic design of everyday items of any kind.
- Kronkron** Laugavegi 63B | **I8**
This hip new shop stocks the latest trends in everything from socks to sweaters.
- KVK** Laugavegur 27 | **G7**
Small yet stuffed designer shop KVK, which stocks a nice selection of local designs.
- Liborius** Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
One of a kind, very high-end shop featuring the latest, crispest designs for both sexes.
- Marimekko** Laugavegur 56 | **H8**
Finnish designer brand Marimekko has found its spot on Laugavegur. The Marimekko concept store stocks a wide selection of the colourfully printed designer products.
- Mál og Menning** Laugavegur 18 | **G7**
A multi-level store with games, books, souvenirs and a bustling café on the top floor.
- Nakti Apinn** Bankastræti 14 | **F7**
Offers an amazing array of colourful designer wear as well as contemporary media.
- Nexus** Hverfisgata 103 | **I8**
The biggest comic book and gaming store in Reykjavík has something for everyone.
- Noland** Laugavegur 32 | **H7**
A new skate shop offering fresh tees and sneakers from Krew, Supra and more.
- Rökk og Rósi** Laugavegur 17 | **G7**
Second-hand clothing for the fairer sex at a reasonable price.
- Skarthúsið** Laugavegur 12 | **F7**
Glittery accessory shop stuffed with cheap jewellery, bags or other small items.
- Skifan** Laugavegur 26 | **G7**
Selection of CDs, DVDs and computer games as well as some Icelandic films with English subtitles.
- Spúitnik** Laugavegur 32 | **G7**
One of the best second-hand shops in the country, with recycled clothes at a range of prices.
- Systur** Laugavegur 70 | **H7**
For whatever women's lingerie needs you might have, this is the store to satisfy them.
- Trilógía** Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
A collection of trendy designer wear fills the shop, summery dresses, sweaters and skirts.
- The Viking** Hafnarstræti 3 | **E5**
This large tourist shop sells all sorts of smart souvenirs to bring back home.
- Dorsteinn Bergmann** Skólavörðustígur 36 | **G8**
Since the 1940s this small store has offered a huge selection of household supplies for a laughable low price.

Practical Info

Services

Post Office

Post offices are located around the city as well as in the countryside. The downtown post office is at Pósthústræti 3-5. For a full list and info on opening hours visit www.post.is. Stamps are also sold in bookstores, gas stations, some grocery stores and tourist shops.

Embassies and Consulates

United States,
Laufásvegur 21,
Tel: 562 9100

United Kingdom,
Laufásvegur 31,
Tel: 550 5100

Russia,
Garðastræti 33,
Tel: 551 5156

China,
Viðimelur 29,
Tel: 552 6751

For a full list visit Ministry for Foreign Affairs: www.mfa.is/diplomatic-missions/icelandic-missions/

Internet Access

Most coffeehouses have wireless Internet access. Computers with Internet connections are available at:

Ráðhúskaffi City Hall,
Tjarnargata 11
BSÍ Bus Terminal,
Vatnsmyrarvegur 10

Ground Zero,
Vallarstræti 10

The Reykjavik City Library,
Tryggvagata 15

The National and University Library,
Armgrimgata 3

Tourist Information Centre,
Aðalstræti 2

Icelandic Travel Market,
Bankastræti 2

Laundry Service

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

Vitastigur 13,
Tel: 551 2301, www.udafoss.is

Cultural Centres and Tourist Offices

The Intercultural Centre

The Intercultural Centre throws occasional cultural events and conferences but its main purpose is to be an information and counselling centre and serve as an advocate for the rights of immigrants in Iceland. Hverfisgata 18, Tel: 530 9300 www.ahus.is

The Icelandic Tourist Board

Lækjargata 3, Tel: 535 5500, www.visiticeland.com
All information needed before travelling in Iceland.

Nordic House

Sturlugata 5, Tel: 551 7030, www.nordice.is
The Nordic cultural centre organises various cultural events, conferences and exhibitions. All major tourist spots in Reykjavik also offer brochures, maps and information for travellers.

Transportation

Rent a Bike

Borgarhjól,
Hverfisgata 50,
Tel: 551 5653, www.borgarhjol.net

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

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

Car Rentals

Átak Car Rental,
Smíðjuvegur 1,
Tel: 554 6040

ALP,
Dugguvogur 10, Tel: 562 6060

Avis,
Knarravogi 2, Tel: 591 4000

Eurocar,
Hjallabraun 9,
Tel: 565 3800

A.G Car Rental,
Tangarhófi 8-12,
Tel: 587 5544

Atlas Car Rental,

Dalshraun 9,
Tel: 565 3800

Berg Car Rental,
Tangarhófi 8,
Tel: 577 6050

Hertz,
Flugvallavegur, Tel: 522 4400

Useful Information

Where to Learn Icelandic as a Foreign Language

Icelandic on the Internet,
www.vefskoli.is

Mimir Continuing Education,
Skeifán 8, Tel: 580 1800, www.mimir.is

Námisflokkar Reykjavíkur,
Fríkirkjuvegur 1, Tel: 551 2992

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

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

Iðnskólinn í Reykjavík,
Skólavörðuhölli, Tel: 552 6240,
www.ir.is

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

Language School Lingva,
The University of Iceland, at Sturlugata. Tel: 561 0351, www.lingva.is

Religious Movements

The national church in Iceland is the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Masses are generally held on Sundays at 11:00. Service in English is at Hallgrímskirkja every last Saturday each month, starting at 14:00. The Roman Catholic Church also has masses in English and Polish.

Other religious movements in Reykjavik are for example:

The Muslim Association of Iceland,
Ármúli 38

Ásatrú Association,
Grandagarði 8

Bahá'í,
Álfabakka 12

The Church of Evangelism,
Hlíðasmári 9

The Icelandic Buddhist Movement,

Víghólastigur 21
Tel: 565 3800

Reykjavik Free Lutheran Church,
Fríkirkjuvegur 5

Pentecostal Assembly,
Hátún 2

Roman Catholic Church,
Háavallagata 14

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Ásabraut 2

Jehovah's Witnesses,
Sogavegur 71

Seventh-Day Adventists,
Súðurhlíð 36

Zen Buddhism in Iceland,
Reykjavíkurvegur 31

Independent Church,
Háteigsvegur 101

The Russian Orthodox Church in Iceland,
Sólvallagata 10

The Cross,
Hlíðasmári 5-7

Trade Unions

The Icelandic Federation of Labour,
Sætin 1, Tel: 535 5600,
www.asi.is

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

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

Efling,
Sætin 1, Tel: 510 7500,
www.efling.is

The Commercial Workers' Union,
Kringlan 7, Tel: 510 1700, www.vr.is

Union of Public Servants,
Grettisgata 89, Tel: 525 8340, www.sfr.is

Useful Websites

www.visitreykjavik.is
The official tourist website of Reykjavik

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

www.fjolmenningarsetur.is
The Multicultural Centre

www.hostel.is
Hostel International in Iceland

www.vinnumalastofnun.is
Public employment services

Classifieds

Classified ads are free for individuals! If you want to place a classified ad, email class@grapevine.is

**LÁ ART MUSEUM**
Hveragerði
Open daily 12-18
Admission free
www.listasafarnesingja.is

Accommodation

Hótel Vík
Tel: 588-5588
Email: lobby@hotelvik.is
www.hotelvik.is
One of the best 3 star hotels in Reykjavik.

Dimmuborgir Guesthouse
Geitjarsbrönd 1, 660 Myvatn
4644210
dimmuborgir@emax.is
www.dimmuborgir.is
Located right next to the peaceful lake Myvatn, surrounded by Iceland's most popular wonders of nature, the Dimmuborgir Guesthouse offers room and nice cottages for a reasonable price.

Gesthús Dúna
Suðurhlíð 35,
105 Reykjavík
Tel: 5882100 / Fax: 5882102
Duna@islandia.is, ghduna@simnet.is
www.islandia.is/duna
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Your affordable Quality bed in the city!
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www.hostel.is

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Þingvallastræti 14 / Brekkugata 8
600 Akureyri, Símt: 896 8464
gulavillan@net.is
www.gulavillan.is

We have really enjoyed having a car, and thereby getting the opportunity to get out and see this beautiful country for ourselves. The car is a dark blue, 5-door Mazda 323 from 1997, driven 193.000 km. Recently checked, next check is September 2009. 200.000 ISK. We hope others will enjoy our wonderful car after we have left. Call 8645823 or e-mail: kasualty1403@hotmail.com

The monastic shop "Klausturvörur" is a store specializing in cosmetics, delicatessen and artifacts made by nuns and monks in monasteries across Europe. Herb teas, honeys, jams, chocolate, creams, perfumes, shampoo, soaps - unique in

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The Southeast Museum
Tel: +354-4831504 | www.husid.com
Opening hours: 11.00 - 18.00
May 15th - September 15th
or by arrangement.

single, double, triple, family room, studio, apartment, sleeping bag in dormitory
Guesthouse Aurora
Fréyjúgata 24
103 Reykjavík-Iceland
Tel: (00354) 899-1773 / (00354) 852-5615
book@aurorahouse.is / www.aurorahouse.is

Iceland! Garðastræti 17 101 Reykjavík. tel. 551 5445 Opening hours: monday-friday 12-7, saturday 12-6

Job needed:

Photographer with experience. Family pictures, individual photo shoots, children photography, weddings, other memorial moments and low price. Please check my pictures on <http://picasaweb.google.pl/lukaszalata>. Contact at chrumm@interia.pl or by phone: 6174321

Do you need to keep you memory intact in a professionally way and format? Your wedding, party, business speech or meeting can be professionally recorded

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Education:

INTENSIVE ICELANDIC COURSES: I-IV
Level I: 4 weeks Md-Frd; 18-19:30 start 18/8, 15/9. Level II: 7 weeks; Md/Wd/Frd; 20-21:30 start 18/8, 6/10. Level III: 10 weeks; Tsd/Thrd; 20-21:30 start 23/9. Level IV: 10 weeks; sat/sun 10-11:30 start: 27/9. School of Icelandic, Ármúli 5, s.5881169. www.icetrans.is/ice

Qualified English teacher (native British speaker) available for private lessons. Masters Degree Applied Linguistics and TESOL qualified (University of Cambridge). Call Russell 849 7337 or e mail: russelldersson@hotmail.com for further details

Accommodation wanted:

My name is Karolina, I'm 20 years old and I'm a student. I was coming on the Iceland for two months and I looking for a job. Last holiday I was working in the room service and I was a babysitter. I speak english well. e-mail: karolin_a4@vp.pl





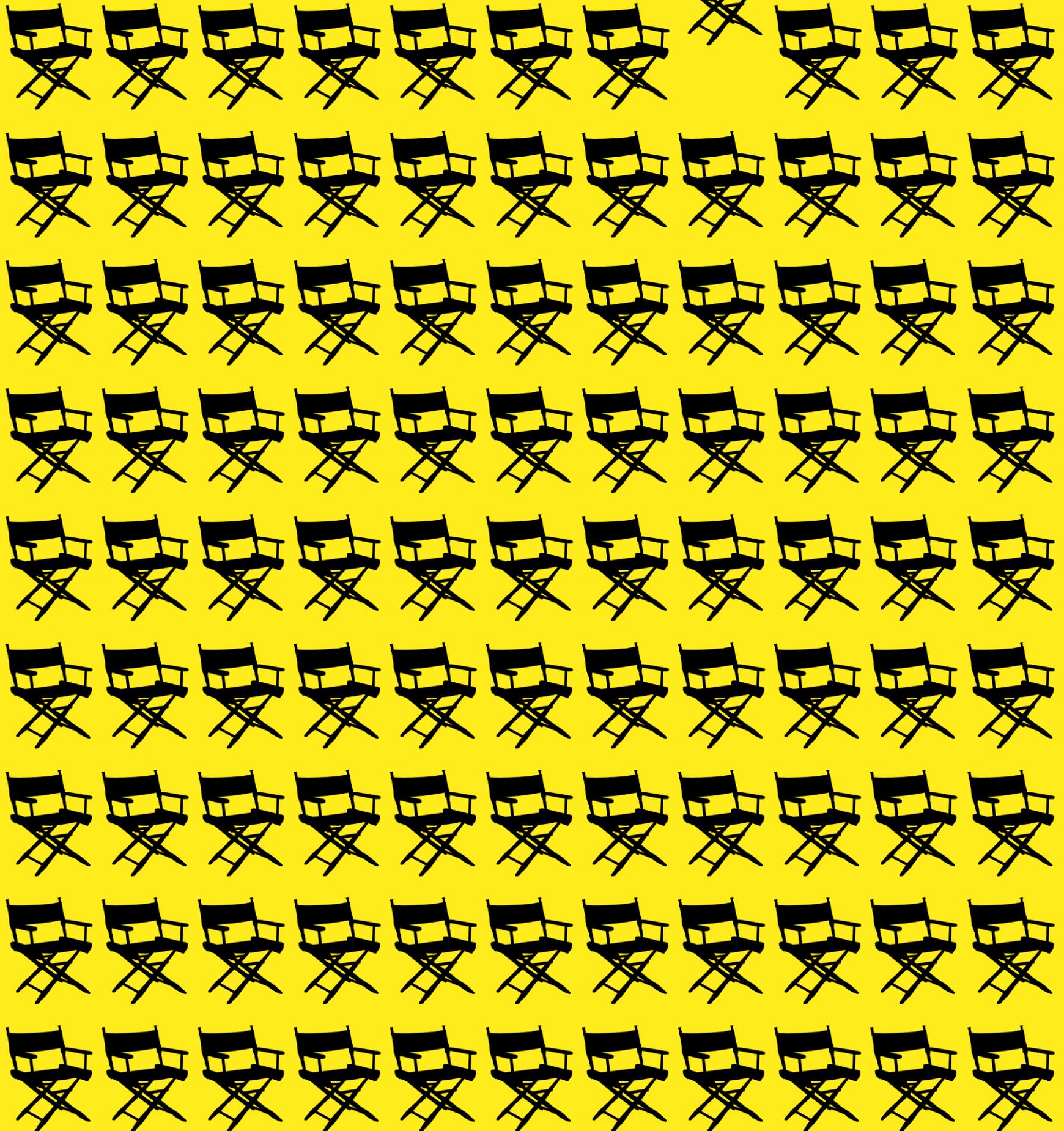
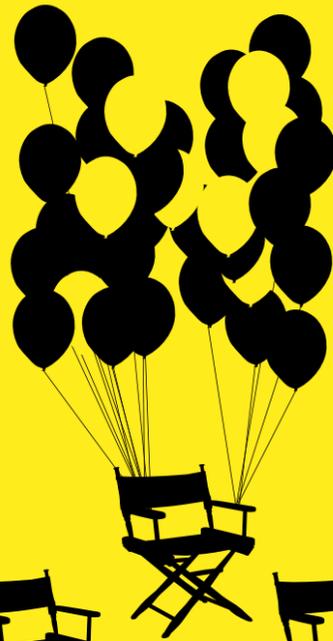
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