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Björk : seditious superstar



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the REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

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The Reykjavík Grapevine crew

The Reykjavík Grapevine

Hafnarstræti 15, 2nd floor

www.grapevine.is

grapevine@grapevine.is

Editors: 561-2323 / 845-2152 / editor@grapevine.is

Advertising: 562-1213 / 869-7796 / ads@grapevine.is

Distribution: 562-1213 / 898-9249 / dist@grapevine.is

Listings: 562-1213 / 869-7796 / listings@grapevine.is

Production: 561-2329 / 849-5611 / production@grapevine.is

Publisher: Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson / publisher@grapevine.is

Editor: Valur Gunnarsson / editor@grapevine.is

Co-editor: Robert Jackson / co-editor@grapevine.is

Listings editor: Jón Trausti Sigurðarson

/ listings@grapevine.is

Production manager: Oddur Óskar Kjartansson

/ production@grapevine.is

Creative director: Hörður Kristbjörnsson / design@grapevine.is

Photographer: Hörður Sveinsson / photo@grapevine.is

Proofreader: Paul Fontaine-Nikolov

Art Correspondent & Copy Eeader: Marcie Hume

Advertising directors: Hilmar Steinn & Jón Trausti

Distribution: Hrafn Práinsson & Jóhann Páll Hreinsson

Cover photo by: Warren DuPreez/Nick Thornton-Jones

On cover: Björk Guðmundsdóttir

Thanks to: Einar Örn Benediktsson

Printed by: Ísafoldarprentsmiðja ehf.

of copies: 32.101

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LETTERS

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Good Afternoon, (or would HOWDY be better) I have been the editor of Iceland Explorer, (you have heard of us haven't you ??) for the last 5 years. You guys came along at exactly the right time. I went through the "damn American who speaks English on our radio stations and writes a magazine" period.

If you need a copy or by some really strange reason have not heard about us (quite unthinkable, unimaginable and all those other neat adjectives) I'll bring you one or you can go to www.explorer.is (which I also edit and write) and click under download magazines, pray a lot and see what happens.

Bob Murray
Editor - Iceland Explorer and several hundred other jobs

Good afternoon works fine.

Hello Valur
The 6th issue is very good. The paper keeps improving. Arnim.
Morgunblaðið

Thanks a lot. But it takes all of us, and not just me, to make the paper.

Dear Robert
I drove one round, i.e. North-East-South-West. I was at Kárahnjúkar exactly when they were fighting what they call "flooding", but is simply a normal melting of the enormous Vatnajökull glacier when the mild wind is blowing from south and it rains in the south part of Vatnajökull. If they call this "flooding", they should prepare for a real "flooding", that was 40 and ca 80 years ago. It was really "funny" to see the "big yellow trucks" down in the canyon, looking like small Matchbox toys transporting some "teaspoonfuls" of sand. If you have not been there yet, you have to see this "crazy" project. The man went to the moon, some 30 years ago. I was a question of pride and "competition" between the superpowers. Relatively few asked about the price of that project. If the preparation then would have been like Landsvirkjun's at Kárahnjúkar, they would have missed the Moon by far and lost the astronauts into the eternal space. Or probably they would never have even been able to make a "lift-off". But anyhow, what they are doing at Kárahnjúkar is nothing new regarding technology. What they claim regarding the final cost is based on pure "sand". But they have already sold all energy that they are going to harness from there for the coming 40 years for such an unbelievably low price that there is no way to get a minimum return of the capital spent.

All the best
Sveinn

Dear Robert
I would like to begin with for thanking you for the excellent article on the dam. This is one of the few articles on the dam that has appeared here in the media in Iceland that shows an independent stand, courageous and well researched journalism. The front cover with Guðmundur in Vaði is also great. You at Grapevine are the first ones to discover this great guy. There are other people in the East like that, but the Icelandic media has not yet discovered them. I was there a couple of weeks ago as I did a week long hike through the area that is supposed to go under water. What is amazing about this area is that it is one of the greenest areas of the entire highlands, contrary to the propaganda of Landsvirkjun who claims it is a black desert. We were also in Kringslarrani- the sanctuary of the animals (reindeer, geese, foxes), a truly magical place, a savannah of this country. A fourth of it will go under water. What bothers me the most is the lagoon, it will be like a horrible swamp and soar visible from all over, really ruining this area. An area that should be a national park for all of Europe. And probably, in the long run more profitable than the dam and the smelter. Hiking is the fastest growing new branch within tourism, I am told. Best regards,
Sigriður

In "Sire, It's Only a Protest" the editor of the Grapevine, after recommending that Iceland "should cut all its ties

with the terrorist state of Israel" and sending readers of an English-language mag to a pro-Palestinian website written only in Icelandic, states his opinion is safe in Iceland. While he is physically safe, I hope to take a dump on Valur's desk-- and I have access. Israel is an apartheid state, yes. And no, I won't be supporting their economy. And things desperately need to change there. But the great problem is that nobody is attempting constructive dialogue with the country. Instead, people far-removed from the conflict and from the consequences of their own actions, (Icelandic editors) bored and embarrassed about not protesting when their own countries were exploited, decide, for the five minutes it interests them, to pour fuel on the fire. No doubt Valur also threw himself full force into the Irish troubles. Very helpful.

Also, crap, calling people "terrorists" is George W. Bush logic. He used it to go to war and murder thousands... with the continued political support Iceland. (Way to go on the protest recommendations you jackass.) Now that I think about it, GW is a spoiled brat who used to have a drinking problem and oversimplifies issues to make them black and white. GW wears cowboy hats...
BART CAMERON, Writer for the Grapevine.

Actually, I take back what I said. Israel is the single greatest threat to world peace today. Getting it to change its policies should be everyone's top priority. To me, it seems pretty clear cut when one country invades and occupies another. Sadly, Americans by and large can't tell the difference between criticism of Israel (valid) and anti-Semitism (not valid). Or supplying one country with Weapons of Mass Destruction and invading another on charges of having them. Many even seem to take criticism of their own government better than criticism of Israel. But I do see a difference between people and their government, ie between you and George W. Bush, between me and Davíð Oddsson and between Ariel Sharon and the people of Israel, not all of whom support him. And I do encourage debate. Anyone else want to take a dump on my desk?

Grapevine should provide Robert Jackson with a dictionary, maybe he could read it while in the queue buying potatoes.
Hassan Harazi

Well, you know where Roberts' desk is...

Dear Editor:
Your current issue misspells 'Gandhi' as 'Ghandi'!
Also, I would like to speak to you about writing something. Your number?
Best,
Abhiraanjan

Perhaps I need a dictionary as well. As for further complaints, you'll have to wait until Bart gets off my desk. And if you want to join our jolly group of angry letter writers, send your materials to editor@grapevine.is

Dear Valur,
another hiking holiday in Iceland has passed away - fabulous and fucking impressions remain, though. Avoiding the tourist traps in Reykjavik proved to be almost impossible during our last days there. Anyway, that's what we're meant to do, heh: trap, trap, trap... We therefore tried very hard in contemplation, getting a sun burn (I never wrote about this in any tour guide) and waiting for our flight. So there was plenty of time to read "grapevine" which I find quite enriching. I hope you have a sufficient number of staff and motivation unlimited as your watersupply (from all sides).

Good luck with your work with, at least, forming public opinion if not putting some stones in the way of the Kárahnjúkar dams. I visited the area some years ago. Oh may the desert's dust blur ALCOA's brains.

Cheers
-Martin
n.b. Many greetings to the barkeeper Pdraig.

Glad you had some fabulous and fucking impressions of Iceland. Wish I had more fabulous and fucking impressions of Iceland. Paddy the bartender is taking a well deserved vacation, but will be back presently.

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So you mean I HAVE to pass her on to Fred Durst?

Come on, man!



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ROCK AND ROLL

by Valur Gunnarsson, editor

*One fine mornin', she puts on a New York station
And she couldn't believe what she heard at all
She started dancin' to that fine, fine music
Her life was saved by rock 'n' roll"
Lou Reed: Rock and Roll*

I'm not much of a dancer, but I agree with the sentiment. There were days, there were whole years...in fact, I wouldn't have gotten through the 20th Century without Rock and Roll. I remember running through the door when I came home from school and throwing myself on the cassette player as if another minute without would have done me in. Songwriters like Lou Reed wrote music for the head as well as the feet. I ran the whole gamut of heroes. Bruce Springsteen taught me the life sustaining love of music. Guns n Roses taught me it was cool to drink and smoke, as every generation must learn habits you spend the rest of your life trying to kick. David Bowie taught me it was cool to be an anorexic androgynous strung out schizophrenic alien, although I'm still trying to get the hang of that. And there were other greater and lesser gods, The Stones, the Doors, U2, and, of course Dylan. All took their place on the pantheon somewhere. As I left my teens and entered my 20's, I went for the darker, somewhat more obscure stuff. Leonard Cohen, Nick Cave, Tom Waits, Lou Reed, and then on to country like Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson, finally winding up with the roots in Hank Williams and Woody Guthrie.

Doing drugs, having sex and staying up past your bedtime

It is strange that at no time, barring perhaps GNR and Nirvana, did I listen to that which was going on around me. Perhaps it is because when I was developing an interest in music in the late 80's, it seemed as if nothing was going on. The most interesting thing on the horizon was a Woodstock revival. And, to be fair, at the time Lou Reed (New York), The Stones (Steel Wheels), Dylan (Oh Mercy), Cohen (I'm Your Man), Neil Young (Freedom), and others were making their best work

in a decade. The old guard, frankly, seemed to be making the most exciting stuff. Rock and Roll is reaching, or has reached, 50, depending on when you start counting. Its originators, if still alive, are well into retirement age. Rock and roll has long since ceased being the music of youth, even less the music of rebellion. When teenagers today turn up their stereo their parents bought them as confirmation gifts, listening to someone loudly proclaim that he wants to do drugs/have sex/stay out past his bedtime, said parents are more likely to respond with a knowing grin than shock, having done all that and more when they were that age.

The sound of cash registers

Rock and roll is the sound of the marketplace. It plays in our ears in every advertisement, being blasted out from every Mercedes by an executive in a midlife crisis, in every nightclub where we pay huge amounts of money for the privilege of meeting other people our age. It's been mass manufactured by ever larger corporations who are constantly trying to reach ever younger audiences more susceptible to product placement.

In fact, without rock and roll, the entire capitalist system may well collapse. With the advent of the internet, with people being able to access music without mediation from the man, it may do just that. If rock and roll were ever to go back into the hands of the people, capitalism at least would lose considerable sums.

Final Rebel Yell

Perhaps the final spurt of rocks' youthful rebellion was heard with punk. It was one of the last times the bands led and the companies inevitably followed, rather than the other way around. It was the final defiant act against the commercialisation of rock. Pop, and I use



the terms interchangeably, for rock is the popular music of the late 20th century, still had its moments. Duran Duran were kinda fun. Frankie Goes to Hollywood may have been the last great pop band. And then the rot really set in. MTV had put ever more emphasis on look than talent. Stock/Aitkin/Waterman started mass-producing hit songs for dancers to sing along to. The Beatles revolution had been scaled back. Artists no longer had to have anything to say. They no longer even had to write their own songs. What ever good music still was left had to go underground, banished from all major radio stations. Gone were the days of the 60s, when popular and good could often go together. Rarely were they to meet again. A lot of the great music since has gone unnoticed. In the 90s the deterioration continued. Hip Hop emerged as the voice of the street and was incorporated into the market. Grunge for a while seemed like another punk movement in the making, ready to take on the system, but like the original punks it self destructed and its leader shot himself before it could accomplish anything much.

10 year olds in G-strings

With producers recycling hits before they got cold, audiences tended to drift away. There was a solution to

this. Reach a younger market that can't remember what was going on two years ago. Enter the Spice Girls, and suddenly you had 10 year olds in G-strings and pre-teens becoming the target audience for music, rather than teenagers. As the market eats itself, it must constantly search for fresh blood. Most of the radio stations stick to strict playlists based on market research and demographics. You need never hear anything new, interesting or surprising again. Small wonder then, that new heroes pale next to the old. This week, we'll get the chance to see Lou Reed himself live on stage in Laugardalshöll on the 20th. The day after, on Culture Night, we'll get to see Iceland's King of Rock Bubbi play with Egó on a big stage down by the harbour. Meanwhile, on a somewhat smaller stage at the restaurant Við Tjörnina, we'll get to see master Megas perform. A week later, James Brown will take the stage at Laugardalshöllin. On the 30th, Iceland's greatest export, Björk, will release a new album. It's a good time to savour some of the greatest performers from here and abroad play some of the greatest songs ever written. And perhaps wonder, when the time comes, who is to take their place? And will we get to hear them?

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TIME FOR THE BULLET?

by Robert Jackson



There is a scene at the beginning of the film "Children of Nature". An old farmer packs his simple belongings into a suitcase and before leaving his farm forever, takes his aged sheepdog for a last walk up the hill behind the farm. As the pair sit and look down across the valley, the farmer strokes the dog with one hand, while with the other he retrieves a pistol from his pocket and shoots the dog in the back of the head. The death is swift and humane.

The film was made almost 15 years ago when farmers had no option but to leave their farms for the city. It was part of a trend that started half way through the last century and has continued unabated ever since. Fifty years ago over 80% of the population made their living from farming;

today it is less than 3%. This country has never seen commercial farming on a large scale. The sub-arctic climate and poor soil conditions have prevented people from growing wheat and other cereals. Farmers instead have had to rely on growing hay in their pastures

for sheep and cattle. What they have produced in terms of meat, wool and dairy has been used for their own consumption or to provide the domestic market; there has been no real export trade.

One step forward, one step back

Drive along any road outside of Reykjavik and you will soon come across deserted farm houses and buildings that bear witness to the dilemma that farmers and the government now find themselves in. It has gotten to the stage where farming has never been carried out

by fewer people and yet never has there ever been so much tax payers' money ploughed into keeping the activity alive. It is becoming increasingly difficult to see why. Farming contributes less than 2% of the GDP and yet uses up the same amount in grants. The World Trade Organisation has finally got the major countries to agree that farm subsidies are not working. The subsidised overproduction of one crop is dumped into poorer countries at a price that the local farmers cannot compete with, which leads to farm closures and poverty. The effect here has been to maintain high prices for home grown products and to create exorbitantly high prices for imports. The taxpayer supports the 4,000 farmers in this country through over US\$100 million each year in grants and subsidies - in return they receive the highest priced food in Europe and Scandinavia.

One man, four votes

A degree in economics is not necessary to ask the simple questions: "Why does the country continue support the agricultural sector, when products can be sourced far more cheaply overseas? Why doesn't the overburdened Icelandic tax payer complain more?" The answer to both questions is political rather than economical.

One rural vote is worth four times a Reykjavik vote in this country and this is at the root of the problem. Governments which may attempt to address the imbalance of farm subsidy in the overall budget have ultimately backed down when faced with opposition from the Progressive (farmers) Party who more often than not have held the balance of power. "Do anything but don't upset the farmers" seems to have been the credo. A clear example of this political leverage in action is next month's appointment of Halldór Ásgrímsson, the leader of the Progressive Party, to Prime Minister. The Progressive party represents only 17% of the electorate and yet, in a deal that was brokered with the Independence Party when the current coalition was formed, they end up with the top job and a third of the cabinet. You can only be impressed by their political skills, but it doesn't bode well for the consumer.

News in brief

It's all change



for Prime Minister Davíð Oddsson, still recuperating from a kidney removal and cancer scare. He will most probably become foreign minister when he hands over power to Halldór, this is despite his well publicised dislike of travel. Halldór's appointment also will mean farewell to Siv, Slayer of the Highlands, Friðleifsdotir, who looks set to lose her job as Minister of the Environment.

There is, of course, more to it than this. The country has a tradition of farming - it runs through the veins of every Icelander, many of whom view the activity with a mixture of nostalgia and pride which emerges when the subject is discussed. But looking back over the country's history it seems that there has been a constant ebb and flow to and from the land; long periods of famine, plague and rural poverty appear all too frequently in the history books. Is this nostalgia and sentiment really justified?

Farmers aren't sentimental

Farmers are not sentimental people by nature. The carrying out of the trade of rearing animals for slaughter has always implied a detached view. As Halldór Laxness said; "There's no such thing as a free lunch." Historically, farmers understood the need to balance the books but the world changed in the depression of the 1930s when governments around the world started agricultural subsidy. It made perfect sense for the country to follow suit, when all but a few of the work force were involved in farming. But that is not the case now, nor has it been for a very long time.

The prospect of living in remote communities combined with a harsh working environment and an uncertain future has meant that the children of farmers throughout the world have been walking away from the land to the brighter prospects of the city. The same is true here and it is going to take more than subsidies to persuade them to return. The time has come for farming to be seen again for what it really is - hard work for little reward other than the satisfaction of a job well done. The majority that live in the towns should not be forced to support the minority that live in the country at any cost. In a country which has achieved the lowest unemployment in Europe, those farmers who choose to farm should be encouraged to, but not featherbedded by the taxpayer who, in turn, should be free to buy better priced product from overseas.

It may be bad news for sheepdogs but it makes good sense for the country.

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If you're the type of traveller who likes to sample local food and drink, you need not confine yourself to salt fish and brennivín. Icelandic versions of foreign culinary ideas are also well worth checking out. Perhaps the most available and affordable products in this category would be your run-of-the-mill soft drinks. In an effort to help you choose the right beverage for any occasion, here are my personal Top 5 Icelandic soft drinks:

Icelandic Sodas Past and Present

by Paul Fontaine-Nikolov



1. ORKA

The mother of all power drinks. Using the foolproof blend of ginseng, guarana and caffeine, Orka (which means "power") not only has more drink per volume than competing power drinks, but is also much cheaper. It lacks the overt sweetness of many power drinks and goes well with fish or chicken. A newer version, in a red bottle, tastes like strawberry Faygo - I defy anyone to force down more than one bottle of this concoction.

2. EGILS APPELSÍN

An orange soda which probably owes most of its revenue to "jóláöl" (see Malt Extrakt), this cheeky number is best bought in glass bottles. The orange flavour is light and closely resembles oranges, although the distinct aftertaste of aspartame might put many people off. Great for barbecues and picnics. A newer version, which is also red, tastes like a cross between oranges and lemons, only very sweet.

3. GRAPEFRUIT

That's right - grapefruit soda. Don't let that put you off, though; this sharp and not-too-sweet blend is very refreshing. Flavoured with real grapefruit, it mixes well with rum and vodka. Shaking the bottle before opening to loosen the sediment on the bottom is not recommended.

5. MIX

If Hell served a soft drink, this would be the one. Billed as being a fruit blend soft drink, the overall taste is syrupy sweet with an aftertaste that can linger for days. The different fruit flavours are completely indistinguishable from each other, resembling one of your generic "fruit flavoured drinks" that you find gathering dust on the shelves, only carbonated. In fact, I only list it here as a recommendation to avoid it whenever possible.

4. MALT EXTRAKT

A truly Icelandic creation. It's colour and consistency resembles Guinness and it is traditionally mixed with Egils Appelsín to make jóláöl. The taste is very sweet, hearty, and could lead one to think that it is in fact Guinness at the pre-fermentation stage. This is really more of a winter drink and accompanies beef, lamb and pork quite well. Rumoured to contain traces of alcohol, it's also a good drink to enjoy in the evening.

All of these soft drinks happen to be made by the same company, Egils. It is interesting to note that this company is giving Vífilfell - the Icelandic company distributing Coca-Cola - a run for their money and has proven a worthy competitor. Ironically, the only thing American about Icelandic Coke is the trademark and the syrup. The staff is completely Icelandic and the only money which goes to Coke is for buying more Coke syrup. Vífilfell has come up with its own drinks, and my personal favourite in this group would have to be Toppur, a carbonated water beverage low in both sodium and sugar. Try the lemon.

Not all Icelandic soft drinks have fared as well. In the 70s and 80s especially, a series of soft drinks came out which are still the laughing stock of the nation today. While trying to come up with an Icelandic equivalent to Coke is understandable - and was attempted in the form of Ískóla in the late 80s

- there are others which can only fall under the category of "What on earth were they thinking?"

At the top of the list in this category would have to be Súkkó. The catch phrase for this mid-80s beverage says it all: "Why buy chocolate and soda separately, when you can get them in the same product?" How the idea of chocolate soda ever made it out of committee is a mystery and its market life - about a few weeks - is probably one of the greatest failures in world soft drink history.

What company would dare produce such a horrible drink? In the next issue of Grapevine, we'll explore Sól, the company responsible for Súkkó and other drinks, a company that one insider described as "like the TV show 'Dallas', only with soft drinks". Stay tuned.

Volunteering on behalf of Iceland

by Angela Stokes

I first came to Iceland three summers ago as an EVS (European Voluntary Service) volunteer and found a society where offering work for free was considered bizarre. People seemed amused at foreigners working for basically nothing in greenhouses, kindergartens and even mink farms - low status, unskilled jobs Icelanders themselves are loath to undertake. The reality that many volunteers actually pay to come and do this is seen as frankly ludicrous.

That year approximately 30 keen young volunteers rocked up here from all over the globe, ready to take on six months to a year of service in various locations across the country. Five of us ended up together out in the countryside, working alongside people with disabilities on various craft and horticultural projects - the work was worthwhile and rewarding and the conditions mostly fair, though we often had to fight for our rights. A cash-strapped volunteer, I frequently hitch-hiked around, attempting to explain myself in broken Icelandic to bemused drivers - it was under such conditions I realised I wasn't actually equipped with the correct vocabulary to describe my purpose here. We had been told we were 'skiptinemi', which I later discovered to mean 'exchange student' - though there was quite clearly no element of exchange involved - it was as though the idea of announcing ourselves

as volunteers (sjálfbóðaliðar) was considered demeaning somehow and needed to be glossed over. Despite this awkward general response to volunteers, the presence of young, keen foreign workers can often have positive effects here in terms of breaking down barriers, especially in small, isolated communities - in 1989, when a volunteer from Africa was sent to the north of Iceland, a local paper excitedly announced his arrival on the front page, with the headline 'Black man in the North' - at that time, most people there had never seen somebody with different coloured skin. In this way, volunteering can have more of an impact on people and communities here than in more diversely populated countries such as Britain. In my voluntary project, the work was demanding but generally agreeable and there were the pleasant perks of living in a volunteer



bubble of unreality - protected from the real world of pensions, taxes and mortgages, etc, we were treated instead to language lessons, sightseeing expeditions and theatre visits. It was this balance of work, learning and play that one volunteer from Honduras felt justified the cost to her of over \$4000US, as she stated she was not coming here expecting royal treatment, but equally did not wish to feel exploited. Having settled into a project she enjoyed after leaving an initial difficult placement where she felt the conditions were unreasonable, she had no qualms about her expenditure. Many volunteers come here, fall in love (either with the country or one of the natives, or both) and end up staying, to face the real world of job-hunting, taxes and rent, outside the volunteering bubble. For in Iceland, time is most definitely money and people start work young

- in summer, gangs of youths don't idly hang out, but clear paths and cut grass - aged 13, the average Icelander is earning. By adulthood, they're immersed in hard work - people often have many jobs, work long hours and frequently take pride in workaholicism. This work ethic, combined with a small, wealthy nation where helping out has been natural for survival, rather than a type of career option - as is the emerging trend in many other countries - makes it easier to understand the Icelandic attitude to volunteering.

Iceland may not necessarily be the obvious choice for an international volunteering placement, but with open minds, the experience can turn out to be rewarding and enriching for all those involved

News in brief

Curse of the Pagan

The dam site at Kárahjúkar was recently evacuated when a '100 year event' hurled melt water from the glacier through the construction site. This one in a 100 year event could well be here to stay in the form of global warming. A recent curse on the site by the country's leading pagans cannot improve prospects for a timely nor on budget completion.

Costumes again

The Olympic games returned to their rightful home Athens where they were opened by the 'High Priestess of the Games.' High Priestess of everything Icelandic, Björk was on hand to sing 'Oceania'. She was a hit thanks in no small part, to her wearing a 'cocktail' dress with enough material to cover the Olympic Arena.

News from sports desk

As has become the norm a string of national records and personal bests were recorded by the country's swimmers in the opening days of the Olympics. Pole vaulter, Vala Flóradóttir, daughter of Grapevine's favourite defrocked priest, bucked the trend with a Bronze and of course a personal best and Icelandic record, too.



Weather Report



Records of a meteorological kind were tumbling daily as the country

was held in the grip of a prolonged heatwave. Weather reports were shortened and working hours evaporated as people took to the open in order to expose themselves to what will no doubt be the last sunny spell before winter.

Street Theatre

Yep, its that time again, wasps (the insect variety) are back and they're mean. The country may produce the world's strongest men but they don't like wasps - Vespur - as there called, which can lead to some exciting chase sequences. Sit outside, drink a beer and watch the fun.



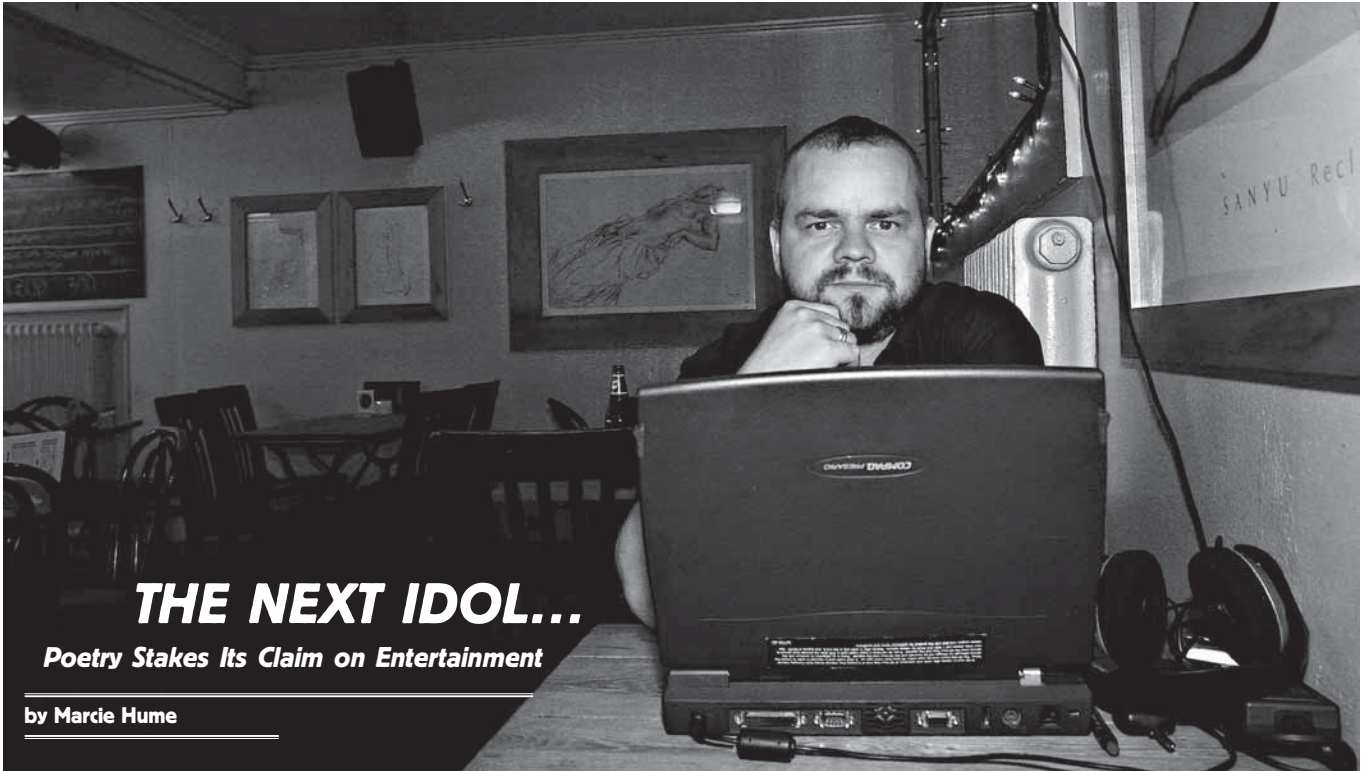
Icelandic protective clothing: Best i heim

Icelandic company 66 North won the prestigious Polartec award for the 2nd year in a row. A personal best, of course. Polartec produces clothing for US Special Forces, which protects them as they try to take over hostile oil supplies. 66 North produces protective clothing for those who wish to explore the Icelandic outdoors. Perhaps they'll one day clothe the Icelandic Army.



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THE NEXT IDOL...

Poetry Stakes Its Claim on Entertainment

by Marcie Hume

Poetry reading meets *Idol*. Every literature-and-reality-TV-lover's dream?

"It will be a bit more friendly than *Idol*, but still with a competitive side to it," the event's organizer, Davíð Stefánsson, tells me. The contest is part poetry and part performance, and the readers will be judged on both aspects. "The main objective of this contest is to make the normally introverted poets be extroverted for one night," Davíð says.

Ten poets will compete to be the next great...well, to win some prizes, probably (Davíð is on the prowl for them as we speak and is aiming for something like plane tickets). The poets will gather on culture night to read their work in front of a panel of judges and an audience, both of

which will decide who advances to the next round.

The poets will endure three rounds. First, they will read a poem by another author (the work must be at least 50 years old), and then in round two they will read their own work. Finally, there will be a true

battle of anxiety coping mechanisms as the remaining poets are given two lines of poetry around which they must improvise, lashing out with brilliance in metered proportions.

"Another aim is to get a broad spectrum of poets," he says, "to mix some youngsters with more established writers. That's the whole point of it; to blend them all together."

The panel of judges is not decided yet, but Davíð hopes to get a nice mix of literary folks with some pop singers, to make sure that the judging methods are diverse. Whoever he rounds up, it's bound to be a pretty distinct event. "I really didn't expect to be able to make it happen," Davíð tells me. But with

the help of Edda, the publishing house, who is helping with funding, it all fell into place.

So maybe it won't exactly be the high-tension seat-gripper of a show that, say, 10 singing teenagers can turn out. But the potential is certainly there. "It has always been like a national sport to write poetry," Davíð says.

On his website, a forum for poets to share their work, Davíð has seen Icelanders' devotion to this art form. "In the last 5 or 10 years people have been talking about the death of poetry...it's the same in many other countries, the same discourse. But we've had this website open for almost 3 years now and people are pouring in their poetry

and traffic on the site is just great. We have no worries about the life expectancy of poetry. People don't necessarily go out and buy poetry, but it's something that will always be present."

Those interested in participating in the competition can send their poems to Davíð; log on to the poetry website ljod.is and email away. If that's a little too extroverted for you, you can be part of the audience, part of the magic and, in your mind, play the role of Bubbi.

The event, called Skáldat 2004 ("Poetry Competition"), will take place on culture night (21 August) at Tjarnarbíó at 8:00pm. The event is free of charge.



Juicy Fruits

by Anna Kaarina Koskinen

Summer jobs are mostly just that - boring yet necessary. You have to make a living somehow and earn a few extra krónur to get you through the winter. Two students at the design department of the Iceland Academy of Arts, Bryndís Sveinbjörnsdóttir and Sigrún Baldursdóttir, however, were more than fortunate when Hiitt Húsið, an Icelandic youth centre, decided to give them a six-week grant as part of their plan to make Reykjavík more lively this summer.



As a result, Bryndís and Sigrún got to spend the summer doing what they love - making clothes.

The girls were given a project to design clothes for the twenty-seven contestants of a modeling competition called Face North. With two sewing machines and two sets of hands, designing and making made-to-measure clothes in a limited amount of time was both challenging and rewarding.

The collection, titled Lykkjufall..úps... ("a dropped stitch..oops..."), had a summery theme where lack of fabric was more than compensated for by colour. If you would like to join the likes of Paris Hilton (who wouldn't? Ed), who has recently bought one of the dresses, you can contact the designers by e-mail at: lykkjufall@simnet.is

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HASSANS WORLD

by Hassan Harazi

Things are all getting a bit complicated in the racism debate. It seems it's all the fault of some 'Southern European' men who ogle women in the swimming pool. 'Southern European', is a bit of a vague description. Grapevine has taken it to mean Italian, although it could mean Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, and a few others. But let's face it - they all look the same don't they? It seems it's a bit difficult these days to tell who's who.

A black woman wearing an Icelandic national costume, but actually she's Italian, a member of the Icelandic Alþingi with adopted South American children, countless men with Thai wives, all three Presidential candidates with foreign wives. Things must have been so much simpler when Iceland was only populated by Irish monks, Norwegian Vikings, Irish slaves, English fishermen, Danish traders, Spanish pirates, American soldiers, and it was so easy to tell an Icelander from a foreigner by their blonde hair, fair skin and blue eyes... apart from the ones that had brown hair, red hair, curly hair, dark skin, brown eyes, green eyes, were short, not so slim, not muscular...

Food and Drink News

Alka Seltzer is now available in Iceland. For anyone unfamiliar with this product, it enables the user to gorge on fat-laden food such as hamburgers, greasy pizzas, ice cream, all washed down with litres of Coke and then, when indigestion sets in, you simply make yourself a little fizzy drink and you're ready to re-take your position on your La-Z-Zo chair to start again on the chocolate, potato crisps and liquid sugar.

Europrið, the downmarket Bónus, is now selling bottled Norwegian water. This seems to have caused a bit of a stir. Who do these Norwegians think they are anyway? Don't they know that Iceland has the purest tap water in the world? If anyone wishes

to sample pure Icelandic tap water, Coca-Cola has made it so much simpler by making it available in bottles.

Driving News

Sales of off-road, 4x4 vehicles with oversized wheels are still climbing despite the fact that off-road driving is prohibited. It has been suggested that it's the people who claim to love the country who are the very ones who destroy it. Experts have also questioned why 'explorers' here require every modern convenience and electronic gizmo, drive in huge convoys and still manage to get lost or stuck.

Media News

Morgunblaðið, Iceland's most respected newspaper, used to have its offices situated on Aðalstraeti, in the building which is now an insurance company. It was said that when the reporters wanted to know what was happening in Reykjavik, all they had to do was look out of the window. Since it's relocation opposite Reykjavik's Mecca to consumerism, Kringlan Mall, analysts continue to speculate if this adage is still true.

Etiquette News

Pharmacies have reported an increase in the sale of men's grooming products and in particular, eau d'toilette. Analysts believe this is the result of the recent opening of a stylish Italian coffeehouse. It's also hoped that this will in turn lead to a reduction in snorting, spitting,

baggy-arsed jeans and maybe the adoption of good manners, although experts have warned that evolution of this magnitude can take several generations to become apparent.

In a separate, but related item, the wearing of sunglasses indoors has forced many cafés and bars to install more lighting. This follows several complaints from some of Reykjavik's most beautiful people that they couldn't see who was looking at them.

Meetings News

The Icelandic Meeting Association (Hið islenzka fundafélag) held its daily meeting at Gamla Hótel Esja. A crowded room listened intently to various speakers and watched glazy-eyed at hours of graphs and pie charts projected from a laptop computer while drinking hours-old black coffee from Thermos flasks.

World News

Death, war, destruction, misery. But no Icelanders involved.

And Finally...

Baby animals at zoo/cute kids playing in snow/Iceland - Best í heimi.
Cue music.
Roll credits.
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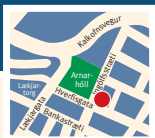
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American Indie

by Valur Gunnarsson

Thank God for film festivals. With basically two cinemas in the country, all of them showing mainstream Hollywood fare, it is a relief when we finally get some European product like Goodbye Lenin. It's also a relief when you get to see some non-mainstream US product.

American Indie Days are starting in Háskólabíó on the 25th of August. The opening film will be Supersize Me. If Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9-11 shows us the geopolitical effects of mass consumerism, Spurlock shows us its effects in our daily life. Spurlock himself will be present at the premiere. It will also be a chance to see various other films: Before Sunset will finally tell us whether Ethan Hawke ever got to be with Julie Delpy, for those of you who have been wondering ever since Before Sunrise. Bollywood/Hollywood is apparently Pretty Woman done Bollywood style. Before there was Lost in Translation there was My First Mister, another charming film about an overweight, middle aged man's lust for a teenager.



Saved is another light comedy about a Christian girl who becomes ostracized by friends and family when she becomes pregnant and her boyfriend is sent to a degayification centre. It's also the first time since puberty to see MacCaulay Culkin. Things take a turn for the darker in The Shape of Things, about a quiet man who changes for his girlfriend. The Friedmans is a documentary about a man accused of abusing his computers students. In Ken Park director Larry Clark makes a sequel of sorts to Kids, and in Spellbound we follow a group of kids as they attempt to win a spelling competition. The most mouthwatering prospect of all may be Jim Jarmusch's collection of short films, Coffee and Cigarettes, starring Tom Waits and Iggy Pop.



“She sings funny. And she don’t dance all that great either,” a character says in the film *Dancer in the Dark* about Björk’s persona, Selma. And Björk sings funny. In fact, she doesn’t sing like anyone else. Björk has neither the conventional pop star looks nor moves nor voice. When I moved to the UK in the mid 80’s with my parents, I was made to take language classes. At one point, the teacher instructed us to draw pictures of our homes in our native country,

seditious superstar

and suggested I draw a picture of the igloo I lived in. At that time, the closest Iceland had to a celebrity in Britain was Mastermind and professional Iclander Magnus Magnusson, who had moved to Britain as a baby. This chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage and former rector of Edinburgh University was not likely to make Iceland the coolest place in the world. I went back to London in 1988 and was surprised to find that my aunts there knew the

Sugarcubes. You had heard so many reports of Icelanders making it abroad that when it finally happened, no one seemed to believe it. When foreign journalists started coming to Iceland to interview them, they were hounded here by older musicians who had spent a lifetime trying to achieve what the Sugarcubes had done seemingly effortlessly. Perhaps the secret was that whereas the old guard had mimicked foreign bands, the punks created a music uniquely their own. It was this that finally caught the attention of the outside world. And the Cubes pushed onward, under the slogan "World Domination or Death," eventually scaled back to the more manageable "Lobster or Fame."

In 1993, when the Sugarcubes had broken up, word spread that Björk was making a solo album. That she would continue to make music came as no surprise, but would she be able to recapture the success of the Sugarcubes on her own? I was mowing lawns for the city when I first heard Human Behavior, and news broke that her Debut was climbing up the British charts. Two years later I was in China. When I turned on the TV in the hotel room, the first thing I saw was Björk singing Army of Me. She was, and is. Meanwhile, Reykjavík had briefly become the capital of cool. Britpoppers vacationed and in some cases moved there, it wasn't uncommon to see members of Blur or Pulp drinking at Kaffibarinn or to see Spice Girls crossing the street with their Icelandic boyfriends in tow. Iceland slid down onto the map from wherever it was it had been hiding. It hasn't left it since, and neither has Björk.

Our Björk

16 years on from The Sugarcubes' Life's Too Good and 11 years on from Debut, sometimes it seems as if it happened by accident. In many ways it seems Björk never intended to become a star, perhaps never even wanted to. You really believe that she only wanted to make music. But recording albums is an expensive and time consuming business. It's hard to make a living as a musician: you're either starving or up in the stratosphere with not much middle ground. In an interview, Björk once said that the best thing about stardom is that if you want a sitar player brought over from India, you can have it. In order to get the sounds you want, you have to sell the album. With Björk, you honestly believe this is the only reason she has any interest in fame.

But just because you dance with the devil doesn't mean you have to sleep with him. A few weeks ago Metallica played the biggest concert in Icelandic history. As a corporation they seem to be moving farther towards McDonalds and Coca-Cola and away from the spirit of Rock and Roll, whatever that may have been. And like any corporation they have an army of lawyers protecting copyright infringements, to the point of handing in the names and addresses of hundreds of thousands of fans who downloaded their music without paying the Man.

Our Björk would never do that. Quite the contrary, she seems to embrace the new technology that enables people to access music without the mediation of a multinational. Our Björk, you see, is not in it for the money.

The symbol of the nation

In 1994, celebrating the 50th anniversary of independence, Our Björk dropped out of a parachute over Laugardalsvöllur football field and proceeded to sing The Anchor Song in Icelandic in front of astonished spectators. She had become, along with cod and the Lady of the Mountain, a national symbol.

Legend even has it that the Prime Minister, a man who can appreciate great art if not great policy, has in his house an inner sanctum, a holy of holies. On one wall he has a photograph of himself along with Leonard Cohen, who came to Iceland in 1988, and underneath it his complete works. On another wall, he has a photograph of local songwriter Megas alone (apparently the two don't photograph together), with his complete works underneath. And on the third wall, he has a picture of himself along with Our Björk, complete works in place.

Whether this apocryphal story is true or not, it does go some way towards illustrating the status she has in Icelandic society today. Even if most people still don't get her music.

It's among the most overused phrases in journalism, but Björk is one of a kind. Superstar, songwriter, actress, oscar nominee, swan wearer, sugarcube, mother. She often appears as some otherworldly combination of sage and shy little girl. But what's she really like? Grapevine investigates.



WAVING A

by Valur Gunnarsson

"Hello, my name is Björk," says a friendly if somewhat shy sounding voice on the other end. She asks me to meet her in a coffeeshop for an interview, as she has an hour off while her new album downloads for the mastering process to continue. As editor I have one basic rule. No interviews in coffee shops. It seems every Icelandic interview starts with a meeting in a coffeeshop, the journalist dutifully reporting what both order before moving on to the Q and A. The subject then answers the questions he wishes the reporter had asked, and the reporter writes down the answers he wishes the subject had given.

But this is Björk. Of course I agree. I hastily try to buy batteries for my dictaphone and run down there. I'm shown into a backroom. There sits Björk, with a bowl of salad in front of her. She orders cappuccino. So do I. We move on to the Q and the A.

I tell her we did a cover story on Rökk í Reykjavík. Was her being on the cover a premonition?

"Actually, at the time I went walking down to Austurvöllur and saw this huge image of me there next to where the Morgunblaðið building used to be. I was very upset at (director) Friðrik Þór for that. He told me that most people would have considered this a great honour. The Sugarcubes later recorded songs for his film Skyttarnar, so we had smoothed things over by then. But he should have asked me about the poster first." Björk has never been one to seek publicity. It is easy to imagine her, much like Selma from the movie *Dancer in the Dark*, working in a factory, still singing wonderful songs to herself. "When the Sugarcubes insanity took off, I had a one year old boy. I decided that if he didn't like riding on busses, I would abandon music and head for the fish factory. He liked riding on busses."

Farmer or nerd

Has she ever considered doing anything else?

"I always wanted to be a farmer. There is a tradition of that in my family. I'm a bit of a nerd, I wouldn't mind working in

Is there need for a new musical revolution, then?

"In a way there has been, with bands like Múm and Sigurrós. They've turned their backs on the rat race, and they've also turned their backs on who has the biggest stack of Marshall amps race. It's not about who can shout the loudest, but its still aggressive music. Passive-aggressive, if you will. It's their way to give everything the finger."

The politics of supermodels

Björk gives me the finger to express her point. Still on the subject of revolutions, she looks out the window. At Austurvöllur, a protest is in full swing.

"They're protesting over the demise of democracy, aren't they," she says, "now that the referendum over the media bill seems to have been recalled. It's funny how the hippies and the punks tried to get rid of the conservatives, but they always seem to get the upper hand in the end."

Didn't the punks in a way move away from politics, but after September 11th it's been reintroduced into music? I ask, trying to find validation for a previous editorial.

"In the past three years, I've been logging into newssites everyday to find out about what's going on. And if I, of all people, am developing an interest in politics, then a lot of other people must be as well. Now, even supermodels are discussing international affairs between themselves.

The good thing about all this is that now people like me are learning more about Islam. We're learning more about the way people think in the American south and becoming aware of things we didn't know about before."

Protesting in front of Idol

Outside the window, the protest is over and the protesters are walking away in an orderly fashion.

"Do you think it will change anything," she asks. I don't know, I answer.

Above the protestors heads hangs a giant banner displaying

lot of money on this and that, hoping for giant returns. Now, with the internet, people are going to have to ask themselves whether they want to go into music even if they may not become multimillionaires."

Might that account for why the Icelandic music scene has remained interesting, because its very hard to become rich making music here?

"Partly, but I think its got more to do with the absence of God."

A godless country?

I am a firm believer in that God should be kept out of politics. But this is the first time I've heard this being applied to music. "Compared to America, or even Europe, God isn't a big part of our lives here. I don't know anyone here who goes to church when he's had a rough divorce or is going through depression or something. We go out into nature instead. Nature is our chapel."

But aren't we desecrating that chapel these days with heavy industry?

"Its strange how the whole Kárahnjúkar project seems to be plagued with human and natural disasters. It's almost as if its got some sort of bad karma hanging over it."

Are the nature spirits intervening?

"There is this stereotype of Icelanders all believing in spirits, and I've played up to that a bit in interviews too. As a member of Sigurrós said, whenever a foreign record company comes over to sign an Icelandic band, the first thing they do is ask the band members whether they believe in elves, and if they do, they get signed. I hate to sound grumpy, but there are a lot of people out there who believe in a 2000 year old fairy tale. Both sides are waiting for their Messiah to arrive. And then people point their fingers at us Icelanders and say we are superstitious." So Björk is not superstitious then?

"You know, its ironic that just at the point the lawyers and the businessmen had calculated how to control music, the internet comes along and fucks everything up. That almost seems like

PIRATE FLAG

a shop like 12 Tónar selling records, or having a radio show where I could play obscure singles. I would also like to teach music. It's weird the way they teach music in schools like Juilliard these days. I know someone who graduated at age 20 as a classical composer, playing music the way they did a hundred years ago or more. I would take kids out into nature, and teach them that they can be right, and not just the teacher. I would let them lead the way. To some degree, at least.

But now that rock is turning 50, its become in a way classical in itself. People even listen to bands like the Crass as classics. Its interesting to see that development."

Bubbi and his cohorts advertising the next season of Idol.

"Will that be on again?" she asks. Finally, a question I can answer, I think to myself. "Yes," I say, before moving on to another profound question. Is commercialisation ruining music, I ask, or words to that effect.

"You know, a hundred years ago, if you wanted to do music you would probably be playing on street corners. I could have been in a hundred Rökk í Reykjavíks and fifty Sugarcubes then and still not become famous. But when all the money started coming into music it attracted a new type of person who hadn't been there before, gambler types who like to wager a

divine intervention." Björk gives the finger again, this time waving it into the air, challenging, no doubt, that great lawyer in the sky. "God bless the internet," she adds.

And what about you, then?

"I'll still be there, waving a pirate flag."

When I went to interview Björk, this was precisely what I hoped to hear her say. And so she did.

Björk's new album, Medulla, will be out on August 30th.

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THERE IS NO HAM IN HAMBURGER

Submitted article

Let's face it. English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England, nor French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, two geese. So one moose, two meese? One index, two indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you

have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

In what other language do people: recite at a play and play a recital; ship by truck and send cargo by ship; have noses that run and feet that smell? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which an alarm goes off by going on. English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

Further examples of the strange English language:

- | | | |
|---|-----|---|
| 1) The bandage was wound around the wound. | 7) | Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present. |
| 2) The farm was used to produce produce. | 8) | A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum. |
| 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse. | 9) | When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes. |
| 4) We must polish the Polish furniture. | 10) | I did not object to the object. |
| 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out. | 11) | The insurance was invalid for the invalid. |
| 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert. | | |



The Politeness of Icelanders

By Michelle Mitchell

Icelanders have a saying, "Takk fyrir mig," which is so lovely, so charmingly polite. I tend to shudder when asked "and what do the English say after a meal?" as basically we stretch, moan and touch our stomachs and say something like "that was lovely..."

Come on, we've all bitched about it - polite mannerisms are relativity unheard of here. But another surprisingly polite saying is 'takk fyrir síðast' which directly translated means 'thanks for the last time'. It's used when meeting a friend one has partied/dined/gone out with recently. What you are saying is 'thank you for the last time we were together'. I had only been in Iceland for a few days when this was said to me. A cute guy with a huge smile walked up to me and said in English "thanks for the last time". I couldn't believe my

ears "I think you have mistaken me for someone else." I answered. What was it exactly this guy thanking me for? Yet he carried on unperturbed, "No no, at Jóna's the other night." I did remember meeting him there, but nothing had gone on between us. The audacity! High-pitched and frantic I retorted with "I don't know what you are talking about, it wasn't ME!" He seemed bewildered, his smile had faded. "Haaaa" he said before walking away. Off I strode to my Icelandic girlfriend to explain how my reputation was in jeopardy.

She, needless to say, found it very amusing.

Are sayings and proverbs fading out? Are they being replaced by smiley faced icons and abbreviated phone messages? I tend to avoid using them, but Icelanders probably use them all the time and it's my ignorance that is turning a deaf ear to these sayings. That could be the answer to why I'm having such a difficult time conversing in Icelandic - it's these confusing sayings that are blocking my way.

Here are some examples why that could be true:

The raisin at the end of the hot-dog = Rúsínin í pylsuendanum. (the icing on the cake)
I measure one-pulled with it = Ég mæli eindregið með því. (meaning "I solely recommend")
Now there won't do any mitten-takes = Nú duga engin vettlingatök. (meaning: now we are going to do it properly, basically: if a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well)
I come completely from mountains = Ég kem alveg af fjöllum. (not understanding something)
Thank you for the warm words into my garden = Þakka þér fyrir hlý orð í minn garð. ("my garden" is actually oneself, so it means: thank you for the kind words on my behalf)
Everything goes on the back-legs = Það gengur allt á afturfótunum. (things aren't going according to plan)
It lies in the eyes upstairs = Það liggur í augum uppi. (meaning: it's obvious)
He stood on the duck = Hann stóð á öndinni. (a breathtaking surprise)
And my favorite one:
Lose hair as you gain years = Fækkar hárum er fjölgar árum. (another way to say "grow old gracefully")

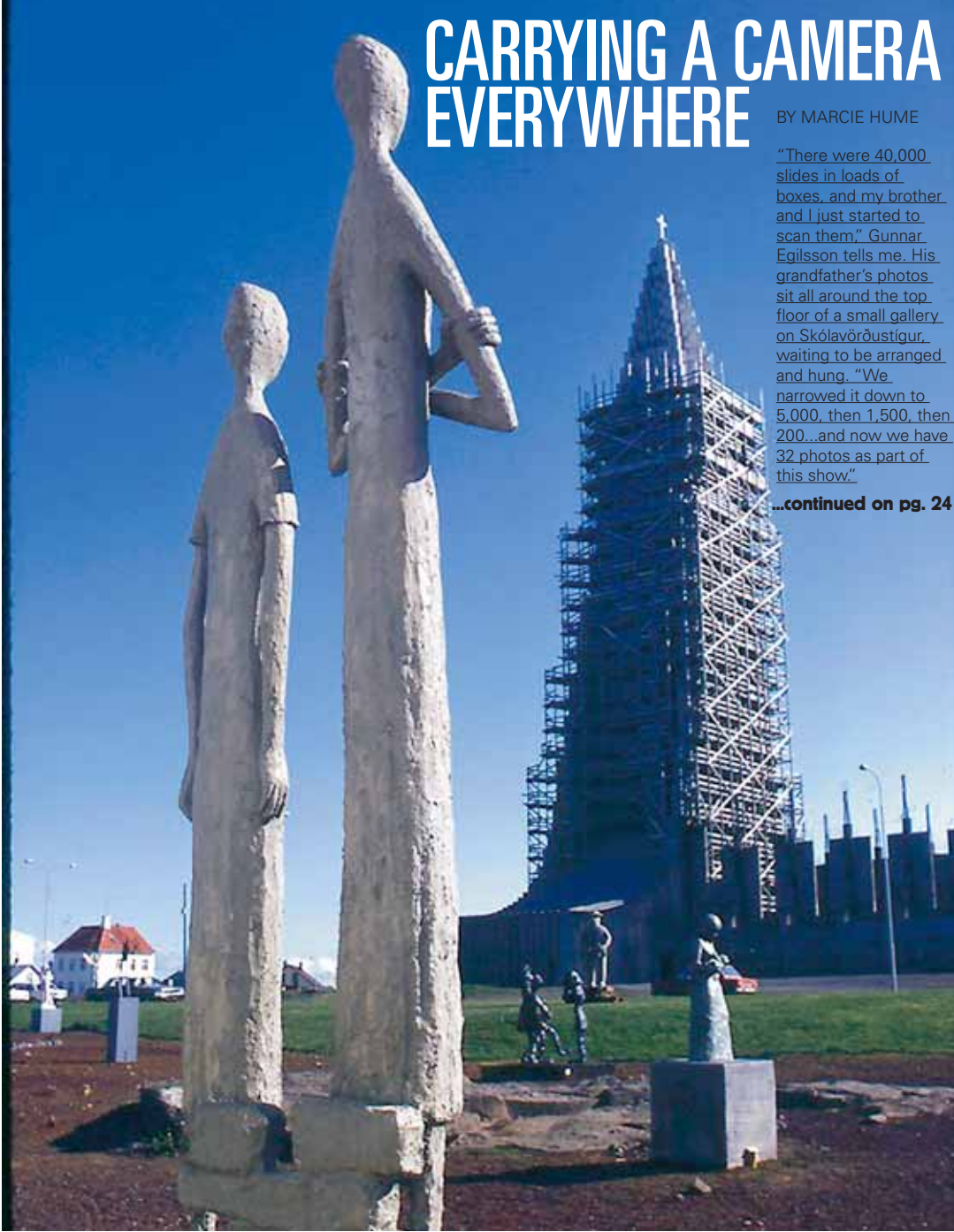
GRAPEVINE **IN** your pocket

CARRYING A CAMERA EVERYWHERE

BY MARCIE HUME

"There were 40,000 slides in loads of boxes, and my brother and I just started to scan them," Gunnar Egilsson tells me. His grandfather's photos sit all around the top floor of a small gallery on Skólavörðustígur, waiting to be arranged and hung. "We narrowed it down to 5,000, then 1,500, then 200... and now we have 32 photos as part of this show."

...continued on pg. 24



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GUIDE TO THE CITY CENTER

This pullout has all the information one might need, so for a safer journey, pull it out and put it in your pocket.

CAFE'S

1. Segafredo

By Laekjartorg
McDonalds has departed from the centre of Reykjavik and instead Italian chain Segafredo has arrived, which isn't a bad trade-off. You can smoke indoors, which gives you a nice continental feel, the staff is Italian and the prices are in Euros as well as kronur. Although Segafredo isn't one of the more expensive places, you wonder whether knowing how much things cost might ruin your vacation.

2. Róðhúskaffi

City Hall
With view over the city pond, Róðhúskaffi is situated inside the City Hall. Coffee and great cakes as you enjoy the view. Free internet access for customers and, in the lobby of City Hall, you'll find a big 80m² model of Iceland.

3. Grói Kötturrinn

Hverfisgata 16a
Grói Kötturrinn is across the street from the National Theater and is very small and very popular in the early hours of the day. A good place to start a day the British way, with eggs and bacon and other traditional breakfasts on the menu. The lunch menu is also inviting, but somewhat pricey.

4. Café Roma

Laugavegur 118
Is the closest thing you'll find to a New York deli in town. A lively cross-section of artists, students and office workers enjoy home baked paninini and great coffee all at low prices.

5. Mokka

Skafovdurustigur 3a
An Icelandic tradition since 1958, Mokka is the oldest café in Reykjavik and the first one to make coffee with an espresso machine. The walls are covered with art for sale and, though seats are usually filled by loyal customers, every now and then you'll catch a glimpse of the owners, a really nice and friendly couple in their seventies who have owned the café since its inception.

6. Feng Shui

Laugavegur 42k, by Frakkastigur
Inside the Feng Shui house is a café called "Teahouse of the August moon". The café just recently opened and they serve organic cakes, biscuits and the largest selection of tea in town. Try the waffle biscuits and have a Kashmir tea latte.

7. Kaffivegninn

Grandagarður 10
By the harbor where fishermen and sailors along with bus drivers and aging tough guys gather for lunch and a cup of coffee. If you want to try out traditional Icelandic food, pancakes, or bread with smoked lamb,

this is the right place to see another side of Reykjavik.

8. Tíu Dropar

Laugavegur 27
With the exception of Mokka, Tíu Dropar is the oldest café in downtown Reykjavik. The place has a very special feel to it, the decor, the tables and the chairs, along with the service makes you feel very much at home. It's almost like you're sitting down for a cup of coffee in your grandma's kitchen. The menu is limited, but has the advantage of constant changes, with new items every day.

9. Café Árnes

By the harbour
Once a ferry, Café Árnes has recently been turned into a coffeeshop by day and seafood restaurant by night. The cardeck in the basement now functions as a bar. Situated by the harbour (obviously), have a traditional waffle with lots of jam and cream and watch the whale watchers come in.

10. Te og Kaffi

Laugavegur 24
Te og Kaffi actually manufacture the coffee for quite a few of the cafés in Reykjavik apart from running their own cafés. Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect of the place is its staff. Most of them have actually served on the Icelandic coffeemaking team. Njáll came in 4th in the international championship in Trieste this year. Jónína made freestyle champion, with her "Cup of Culture" mix, which includes orange and white chocolate among other things. Have one.

BARS & BISTRO

11. Sólon

Bankastræti 7a
One size fits all is what this place is going for, and it's usually a very crowded pick up place. Somewhat expensive, and whether it's because of this, an attempt at masculinity or just general despair, people have been known to jump from the second floor balcony. This is not recommended, as a broken leg is most often the result, and the girls remain duly unimpressed.

12. Café 22

Laugavegur 22
Has recently undergone a major facelift. The top floor is now dedicated to artist Jón Samundur, aka Dead, whose Dead label can be seen on quite a few people these days. Downstairs is a decent bistro (try the Gringo), whereas the middle floor houses a dancefloor. Open until the wee small hours, and a great place for a late night drink for those who want drink along with a less trendy (and perhaps more cool) crowd. Be warned, though, they do charge 500 kronur entrance after 01:30.

13. Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1
Kaffibarinn is Cool Reykjavik, or at least tries to be. Reykjavik prides itself on having more artists per capita than any other capital in the world, and the crowd here seem to be trying to prove the point, with musicians, actors and writers ranging from the hopefuls to the world famous. Blur's Damon Albarn owns a share of the bar, probably figur-

ing it was cheaper than buying the director of the film 101 Reykjavik in the film.

14. Sirkur

Klappartígur 30
"Welcome to the Jungle/Welcome to the Jungle/Welcome to the Jungle" With tropical palm trees on the welcome to the party that never ending any time soon. Usually or want to be students of the Icelandic musicians and other members of floor, for whatever reason, look

15. Nelly's

Dingholtstræti 2
The cheapest beer in Reykjavik drinkers as well as expats. Trou covers though. In the weekend large dancefloor on the upper floor, for whatever reason, look

16. Veganót

Vegamótastigur 4
Wants to be the hippest to be seen up, flann it and enjoy the view there, and the fittest, or at least Kitchens open every day until 2 brunch. Try the lobster pizza.

17. Kaffibrennsla

Posthólmstræti 9
One of the largest selection of few bars in Reykjavik where you after midnight on weekends. G they are generous with the refill

18. Rósenberg

Laekjargata 2
It has a history as both a dance reopened with a Jazz theme and to see up and coming Jazz bands. Duiceland Dwarfs as well as m

19. Grand Rokk

Smiðjástigur 6
A place true to the spirit of Ro Better and lesser known Icelandic three bands a night, four night or not is up to the bands, but it artists. Grab a beer and rock or chess players, challenging each



SPOT THIS HRESSINGARSKÁLINN

The house was originally built in 1805, and was moved wholesale from Sweden. It was originally called "The Swedish House," but as it house a sheriff's offices it became known as "The Sheriff's house." The garden became known as one of the most beautiful in Reykjavik, and it's still nice to sit there on a sunny day. The garden's origins go back to 1809, when Danish adventurer Jørgen Jørgensen, who briefly installed himself as king of Iceland during the Napoleonic Wars, planted potatoes there. In 1932, the building was turned into a coffeeshop, hence its name, The Refreshment Barracks. A McDonalds operated here in the 90's, but the place now has its original name back.



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CULTURE NIGHT 2004



What does it take to entertain over 75,000 Icelanders? This year's culture night will be the biggest ever. From midday to midnight Culture night provides something for everyone.

There will be 119 different bands and musicians, 20 children's programmes, 11 dance acts, 5 churches, 10 oddities, 15 outdoor events, 30 shows involving 36 writers. There will be 4 markets, 1 bonfire and the mother of all fireworks to finish the show.

The next four pages tell you when and where it all is going to happen



**Reykjavík
Culture Night**



CULTURE 20

14:00

The Summer Opera performs a few lively numbers from the show Happy Ending at 14:00. The painter Haukur Dór and Danish artist Preben Boysen open their exhibition in Sævar Karl Gallery, Bankastræti 7.

Klink og Bank on Cultural Night. Various and sundry curiosities will be for sale at an open market.

Poetry, religion and music. Eðvarð T. Jónsson, Eva Hauksdóttir, Gerður Kristný Guðjónsdóttir, Ingibjörg Daníelsdóttir and Toshiki Toma read poetry with religious and moral subjects. Also available are music and refreshments. Bahai Center, Óldugata 2.

A sampling of fall releases, featuring Jón Alfi Jónsson and Þorsteinn Guðmundsson. The band Homebreakers plays the Finnish tango. Mál og Menning/Súfsinn, Laugavegur 18.

Open house at Gallery Skuggi featuring Anna Lóa. Also available will be living music and poetry reading. Guests are welcome to take part and paint their own works. All are welcome. Hverfisgata 39.

The Red Office. An exhibition of watercolour works by Ásgrímur Jónsson at Rauða Stofan (the Red Office), featuring 20 pieces which have never been seen before.

Ljósöld. An exhibition of sculptures by Lina Rut in Ljósöld. Galleri Fold, Rauðarárstígur 14-16.

An exhibition on the top floor of JC opens showing the works of JC artists. Hellusund 3.

The insurance company TM on Cultural Night. A true festival environment with street theatre, clowns, fire-breathers and mimes. Ingólfsstorg and Aðalstræti at Tryggjarmíðstöðin. Until 17:00.

Hrókurinn on Cultural Night. Open chess match on Lækjartorg, all are welcome to take part by signing up either at Hrókurinn on the spot or by writing to hrokur@hrokur.is. Multiple chessboards for guests available. Lækjartorg and the Outdoor Chessboard. Until 18:00.

Children's picture contest at the shop Hún og Hún. Children get to draw pictures, with the winner receiving silver jewellery from Sif Ægisdóttir. There will also be a showing of the work of Kristín Geirs. Hún og hún, Skólavörðustígur 17b. Until 18:00.

Organic harvest festival with live music and events and farmers showing up with their newly grown produce. Outside Yggdrasil, Kárastrígur 1. Until 18:00.

Open house at the headquarters of Decode. Coffeehop, art exhibition, photographs from the Reykjavík Photo Archive, and scientists answer questions and give tours. Staggi the Science Magician shows his tricks at 14:00 and 16:00. Íslensk erfðagreining, Sturlugata 8. Until 18:00.

Edda children's program. Writers read from newly published works for children. Íða, Lækjargata 2b. Until 18:00.

Prikið on Cultural Night. A concert with many of the hottest rock bands in the country. Grilled hot dogs available between 18:00 and 19:30. The door behind Prikið, Bankastræti 12. Until 21:00.

Sain modern art museum gives tours to visitors at Laugavegur 37. Until 20:00.

Drawing competition for kids younger than 12 at Gallery Fold, Rauðarárstígur 14-16. Until 22:00.

The Westman Islands are guests of honour at the Reykjavík Culture Festival. They're throwing a party at Reykjavík City Hall which features a Marching Band, hippies, theatre, songs from the island and a youth concert. You can try smoked puffin, learn about the history of the islands and see both puffins and volcanoes in the hall. Reykjavík City Hall, Tjarnargata. Until 23:00.

Open studio. The artists Ólaf Kjarnan and Unnur Knudsen will be on scene. Sólvallagata 1, basement. Until 23:00.

Dixieland jazz band Grandpa's Good Pants plays outside Iðón theatre. Starts 14:30.

Art Lottery! Everyone gets a free lottery ticket, prizes handed out every 30 minutes. Gallery Fold, Rauðarárstígur 14-16. Starts 14:30, ends 23:00.

Photographer Friðrik Tryggvason takes pictures of children younger than 11 on behalf of Gallery Fold. Pictures will be printed on location. Gallery Fold, Rauðarárstígur 14-16. Starts 14:50, ends 17:00.

15:00

The world's largest speech podium opened by JC speaking club, Hellusund 3.

Open showing of the works of Páll á Húsaelli. The artist will be in attendance with his famous stoneharp. Restaurant Sjangha, Laugavegur 28.

A shop with hip-hop music and merchandise opens in the door behind Hiit Húsið. Hiit Húsið, Pósthússtræti 3-5.

Russian folk music played by Constantine Scherbak will be played at Mál og Menning/Súfsinn, Laugavegur 18.

Eivör Pálsdóttir and Bill Bourne play and sing for guests. Sturlugata 8. Until 15:40.

The insurance company TM on Cultural Night. The band Í svörtum fótum perform at Ingólfsstorg. Until 16:00.

Walter's race from Café Viktor to Vinbarinn on behalf of Eðvalín, Vesturgata 5. Viktor, Hafnarstræti 1-3. Until 16:30.

Karaoke for children, face paint, and grilling outside the Multicultural House, Hverfisgata 18. Until 17:00.

Discoball for children at the city's self-styled hottest club. Lightshow and colourful drinks for the kids. Právda, Austurstræti 22. Until 17:00.

Women's chess. Some of the strongest female chess players in Iceland play outdoors. Reykjavík Art Museum, Hafnarhúsið, Tryggvagata 17. Until 17:00.

Flower children in the city. Decorating children with flowers. Children can make their own flower decorations to take home with them under the guidance of the flower elves on Vesturgata. Flower elf Steinar Björgvinsson, the Icelandic flower decorating champion 2004, hosts the event live. Blómálfurinn, Vesturgata 4. Until 17:00.

Horseback rides on a 'kid's horse' at Ari í Ögri, Ingólfsstræti 3. Until 19:00.

Hlemmur Youth Club: Youth Culture. What is it? Finally, everyone who isn't a young person can get to see what goes on behind closed doors.

Short films, photography, bands from the Músikhláranir battle-of-the-bands contest, freestyle, ping-pong, air hockey, skateboarding and more. Hlemmur. Until 21:00.

The joyful culture group Five improvises in the street with colours, mime and lightness of being. The group will perform on streetcorners, at markets, galleries and by the lake. Until 21:00.

Open house at the City Document Centre. Exhibition, quiz and prizes. Guided tours at 17 and 19.

Grófarhúsið, Tryggvagata 15. Until 21:00.

Created and printed art. Artists will be working and printing on the first graphic press to come to Iceland. Gallery Fold, Rauðarárstígur 14-16. Until 22:30.

Dance at Iðón. Tango, La Raspa, Caribbean dance, portions from the Reykjavík Dance Festival and belly dancing. Viki Viki at 22:30 which everyone can take part in. Iðón, Vonarstræti 3. Until 23:00.

Dillon on Cultural Night. The band Sísa Herdeilind performs in the yard. Dillon, Laugavegur 30. Starts 15:30.

Opera singer Guðbjörn Gunnbjörnsson sings light songs with accompaniment. Gallery Fold, Rauðarárstígur 14-16. Starts 15:40.

13:00

A walk through the heathen themed area of Reykjavík, which ends with a garden party. The walk starts outside Hallgrímskirkja.

Pálmar Ólason plays improvisational songs on the grand piano until 23:00, with short breaks. Sævar Karl, Bankastræti 7.

Boat ride on the pond. ÍTR and Siglunes offer boat rides on the pond.

The insurance company TM at Cultural Night. Police motorcycles and squad cars on display from the Reykjavík police at Ingólfsstorg in front of TM. Until 15:00.

Bylgjan's summer event at Austurvöllur. Idol star Kallí Bjarni hosts, pop band Skítmóráll, Pétur Þókus and the magician Bjarni, Yesmie Olsson sings and dances. Kid's Fitness. Jumping games for kids of all ages with air castles, merry-go-rounds and more. PlayStation 2 Sing Star competition with Bylgjan live. Until 16:00.

Handworkers will be at work in the windows of Jólalóð, Skólavörðustígur 21a. Until 16:00.

Scout's party in Hljómskálagarður. Air castles, cliff climbing and coffee, all free. Parachutists land in the park at 16:00. Hljómskálagarður. Ends 17:00.

The restaurant boat Café Árnes at Suðurbúg in the Reykjavík harbour warmly welcomes kids of all ages who want to be on a boat for a good mood. From 15:00 to 17:00. Lóna Einarisdóttir entertains guests with the accordion. Until 17:00.

Presentation of a newly opened "artotech" of the city library and the Association of Icelandic Graphic Artists, which means you can rent and borrow Icelandic Art. City Library, Grófarhúsið, Tryggvagata 15. Until 21:00.

A date with the past in the Reykjavík Photography Museum. Photos with background and costumes in the style of the 19th century for guests. Ljósmyndasafn Reykjavíkur, Grófarhúsið, Tryggvagata 15. Until 21:00.

Cooperation with art. The group Ghostdigital will hold a 10 hour concert, with other artists and spectators, can also take part by sending MMS images which will be shown at the concert. Reykjavík Art Museum-Hafnarhúsið, Tryggvagata 17. Until 23:00.

Summer exhibition of Handverk og Hönnun is open all day. Guests can take part in a raffle, with Icelandic handmade art as a prize. Handverk og hönnun, Aðalstræti 6. Until 23:00.

Parade. Westman Islands Marching band walks past Hljómskálann music tower in the park down a route from Fríkirkjuvegur to City Hall. Starts 13:30.

Santa Claus entertains children at Jólalóð, Skólavörðustígur 21a. Starts 13:30, ends 14:30.

The insurance company TM on Cultural Night. The artist Sigtryggur Bjarni Baldvinsson holds an exhibition at the Tryggjarmíðstöðin, Aðalstræti 6. Starts 13:30, ends 23:00.

11:00

11:00. Cultural Night is launched along with the Reykjavík marathon in Lækjargata and a speech by Arni Þór Vigfússon, chairman of city council. Dixieland jazz band Sparibúxurnar hans afa (Grandpa's Fine Trousers) play for runners and spectators.

Brúarlánsþona cheer the runners on at designated points along the course. Until 12:00.

Sævar Karl store opens with the newest fashion line from Italy. Fall and winter lines from Prada, Dolce&Gabbana, Armani and others. Ceramics artist Sólveig Hljómsartir displays her works. Sævar Karl, Bankastræti 7.

Time for hip-hop at Hiit Húsið (The Other House). The schedule of events commemorating the 20th anniversary of hip-hop in Iceland begins with courses/introductions in the following hip-hop areas: Graffiti, breakdance, DJing and more. Pósthússtræti 3-5. Until 15:00.

Children's colouring contest. The Crayola Man visits Penninn Eymundsson bookstore. The pictures will be hung up in the shop all day and at 16:00 the artist Tinna will be awarded the best ones prizes. Penninn Eymundsson, Austurstræti 18. Until 16:00.

The Little Christmas Shop is open along with the flower garden and musical group Frískur will play at 15:00. Grundarstígur 7. Until 16:00.

Glasses and clay sculptures. Sculptures by Ragnheiður Ágústsdóttir. Daniel Lofters from London shows new rims. Sjáðu, Laugavegi 32. Until 21:00.

An exhibition of documentaries about international issues. Tea and coffee available, as well as books and magazines on international issues and a discussion on international issues and a discussion with Bækistöðvarinnar, the educational and social center for peace and global justice. Bækistöðin, Garðarstræti 2. Until 23:00.

An exhibition of graphics by Finnish artist Krista Glan. Light refreshments available. GSM Hlítr.is, Skólavörðustígur 16b (enter from Óðinsgata). Until 23:00.

The Emotion Square. Go public with your emotions. Declarations of love, rage or jealousy depending on how you feel. Local celebs express their emotions, debates held in a tent and hugging is taught. There is also an area for the emotionally awkward. Aðalstræti 9. Until 23:00.

Images in the Moment. An exhibition of handmade textiles by Diane Luckeman opens in Gallery Shanko Silk, Skólavörðustígur 22c. Until 23:00.

Prayer flags strung between houses on Frakkarstígur and Culture Nights. Tea blend offered all day at the Feng Shui house, Laugavegur 42b, entrance at Frakkarstígur. Until 23:00.

Art Piece Lottery. Everyone has a chance to win a work of art by Kogga and Magnús Kjartansson, the winner will be announced the following Monday. Kogga, Vesturgata 5. Until 23:00.

Exhibition in the left window as well as inside. Works by Alda Armanova and others Galleri Hnoss, Skólavörðustígur 3. Until 23:00.

12:00

A happening and market with various items available. Sirkús, Klapparstígur. Until 19:00.

Open house in Listaselið. Coffee, cakes and artists on location. Listaselið, Skólavörðustígur 17b. Until 23:00.

Outdoor market. Used clothes, works of art, design, antiques, music and more. There will also be live music by I adopt, Sesar A. Anonymous, Coral and others. In the car park across the street from Grettisgata 6. Starts 12:30, Ends 23:00.

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16:00

Opening of the Modern Art Museum collection under the direction of Pétur Arnar Friðriksson. Along side the event will be other happenings. Nýlistasafnið, Laugavegi 26.

Wine auction and cultural menu. Wine auctioneers Globus in conjunction with Hótel Holt meet in Þinghallsalur at Hótel Holt. A special cultural menu will be available at a reduced price. Hótel Holt, Bergstaðastraße.

The history of Reykjavík in 40 minutes. Famous speeches from the history of Reykjavík presented by the JC company. Orator's Square on Skólavörðustígur. Artist Ólaf Björg paints and interprets her work. Sævar Karl, Bankastræti 7.

Exhibition opening at the museum ASI. Hildur Bjarnadóttir and Hafdis Helgadóttir. The museum will be open until 22:30. Freyjugata 41.

Rock the Chair-parachute jump. Jumpers will jump from 4000 feet height. As soon as they land they have to take off their gear and run 10 to 20 metres and sit in a chair. The first one in the chair is the winner. Hljómskálagarðurinn.

Flower children in the city. Decorating children with flowers. Children can make their own flower decorations to take home with them under the guidance of the flower elves on Vesturgata. Flower elf Steinar Björgvinsson, the Icelandic flower decorating champion 2004, hosts the event live. Blómálfurinn, Vesturgata 4. Until 17:00.

Hula hoop contest and other old Icelandic games like skipping rope, ball games, and others. Vesturgata 4. Until 18:00.

Aquarium wonderland. Ilmur Stefánsdóttir makes fish and strange beings with creative guests. The fish will then be displayed in the window of Ingólfsnaust. Ingólfsnaust, Aðalstræti 2. Until 18:00.

Throughout Hiit Húsið will be clothing designs, poetry readings, music, painting exhibitions, drawings and more. Hiit Húsið, Pósthússtræti 3-5. Until 19:00.

Good Breathes! The University of Iceland on Cultural Night. The subject is air and breath in free expression. At Skeifa: Balloons, Qi Gong exercises for all, soap bubble competition and young scientists displaying their experiments. Spaþinn play in the Norræna Húsið. In Öskju will be a display of scientific tricks, a film showing, and more. Sturlugata 5. Until 19:00.

Open studio of Inga Sólveig Friðjónsdóttir. Exhibition and music. Hverfisgata 35. Until 23:00.

The National Alliance of Cattle Farmers will grill a whole bull on the square at Ingólfsnaust, Aðalstræti 2. Until 23:00.

A gospel mass on Ingólfsstorg. Everybody joins in a light swing in holy sobriety. Starts 16:30, ends 17:30.

17

Klink og Night. Art 12 painter "Trekku" or Arni Þór Sig.

of Reykjavík unveils the Skólavörðus in the y geographic of the office my scientifically used Skólé delineation, stone was of it. This still there of recent Skólavörðus will be Skólavörðus Free admu Museum of to 23:00.

Iceland, Friit Guitar Islan; Eymundsson Austurstræti Award ce Reykjavík Reykjavík C Eivör Pálsdóttir perform an reads from Sturlugata & Introductory Participants taste and le food that go what types Vesturgata & Pétur Gauu; guests and At 20:00 Kr performs Njálsgata & Wonderfu for the who landsbanki both inside outside the opera, dat more. Until the trouba will perfoa with a repa 21:30.

Pósbárinu. Starts 17:00. Buzby play instrument i Bankastræti Rat Race, T Marathon. Up in suits a and cell ph 3. Starts 17:00.

Jazz presen Ólafsdóttir. program at and Gershy a jazz style Pósbárinu. Starts 17:30.

Stefán a Guðlaugssó Gilbert songs Café Óper Starts 17:30.

04

NIGHT

23:00

Brilliant fireworks display at Miðbakka in Reykjavík Harbour on behalf of Orkuveitu Reykjavíkur.

18:00

The play *Beauty* by Eyrún Ósk Jónsdóttir performed by the theatre groups Zezura Ura and Dan Khai Teatro. The play is in English and places emphasis on multiculturalism, peace and environmental issues from Icelandic folk stories, religious history and modern politics. *Tjarnarbió, Tjarnargata 12.* Exhibition of Estonian artist Tiina Oselin... love from two sides. *The Nordic Association, Óðinsgata 7.*

Photographer Birgir Freyr Birgisson displays his work on the south wall of Kvennaskólinn at Þinghólstræti, continuing through the night. *JCI, Hellusund 3.* Line dancing! Ólafur Geir leads a big dance group. A true country event. *Ingólfstræt.* German singer Martine Freytag holds a concert at lóná with Björn Thoroddsen and others. Martine has released many works of well-known musicals and her own works have been heard on both sides of the Atlantic. *lóná, Vanarstræti.*

Hörður Áskelsson plays well-known works by J.S. Bach and others. *Hallgrímskirkja church.* Dance for peace. Bahai dance company. *Lækjartorg.* Concert with Anna Pálína and Aðalsteinn. Icelandic folk music and ballads with new folk music introduced. Also performing will be Swedish folk music trio Draupner and percussionist Pétur Grétarsson. *Cultural House, Hverfisgata 15.*

The water dance company Hrafnhildur and the Police Choir. Decorative dance and singing outside of the police station at Hlemmur. When these two artist groups come together, hearts will be moved and eyes will tear up. *The police station at Hlemmur.*

Aikido display. Aikido is a Japanese martial art which focuses on ending physical conflicts peacefully. *Austurvöllur Square.* Prayer moment at the Bahai center. *Öldugata 2. Until 18:40.*

The gay theatre Högmúir perform songs from various shows of the acting company. *The square at Kjörgarður. Until 19:00*

A downtime time at Ingólfssnauð. Outside the Association of Cattle Farmers will be roasting a whole bull and guests can enjoy music both inside and outside. To perform will be Smaladreginnir, the Rangheður Árnadóttir Trio and the country's most brilliant country singer, Gísli Jóhannsson. *Aðalstræti 2. Until 21:00.*

Mountains and Beauty. Geologist Ari Trausti Guðmundsson and Jón Gauti Jónsson turn lóna into a mountain cabin and teach guests about walking in the mountains. Sæunn Ólafsdóttir presents beautiful women in fascinating dresses. The history of beauty contests in Iceland from the beginning. *ÍDA, Lækjargata 2a. Until 22:00*

Graphic artist studio Studio 6 celebrates their sixth anniversary. Afmín veginn. *Laugavegur 16, rear entrance. Until 22:00*

The store ONI will host a display of time-lapse photography of clouds and weather conditions from the top of Mt. Esja, showing changes in the weather both night and day and through all the seasons. In addition there will be a display of Icelandic clothing design in the store where 23 Icelandic designers will be selling their works. *ONI, Laugavegur 17, the door across from Mál og Menning. Until 22:00.*

The great vocal group Reykjavík 5 accompanied by Agnar Már Magnússon will perform songs by Manhattan Transfer and New York Voices. *Cafe Opera, Starts 18:30, ends 19:40.*

The man on the box. Passers-by will get the chance to express themselves about matters of importance. *JCI, Hellusund 3. Starts 18:30.*

The Cappuccino Trio performs South American jazz with Afro-Cuban rhythms, the Brazilian samba, bossa nova and more. A second performance is also scheduled at 20:30. *Póstbarinn, Pósthússtræti 13. Starts 18:30.*

20:00

Jazz concert, jungle drums, salsa lessons and a dance at the *Alþjóðahúsið, Hverfisgata 18.* Open house at Gallery Skuggi. Troubadour Hilmar Garðarsson plays songs. *Hverfisgata 39.* Hat fashion celebrates its 80th anniversary at Sævar Karl. *Bankastræti 7.* Songs from times past at Frikirkjan Church. *Frikirkjuvegur 5,* featuring Carl Möller and his brass band.

Choir concert. The Hallgrímskirkja choir sings under the direction of Hörður Áxelsson. *Hallgrímskirkja church.* Two young flautists, Berglind Stefánsdóttir and Dagný Marínósdóttir play classic pieces from various ages in the museum hall. *Listasafn Einaris Jónssonar, Njarðargata. Line dance at Kaloportið.*

Dance for peace. Bahai dance group will perform. *Austurvöllur.* Line dancing! Ólafur Geir leads. A true country event. *Kaloportið.*

Journalist and author Ómar Ragnarsson autographs copies of his book about the Kárahnjúkar dam. *Mál og menning / Súfistinn, Laugavegur 18.* A reading of eastern poems. Second performance at 22:00 Tehús Agústímáns-The Feng Shui house, *Laugavegi 42b, walk in from Frakkastígur.*

The Summer Opera performs songs from the musical *Happy End Cafe Operan, Lækjargata 2. Until 20:40.* Nighttime fun on Laugavegur. The band Days of Our Lives will perform outside the door of *Brilliant, Laugavegur 49. Until 20:40.*

Santa Claus entertains the children at lóláhusið and handworkers display their wares in the window until 22:00. *Skólavörðustígur 21a. Until 21:00.* Dillon on Cultural Night. The band Dikla play on stage in the yard. *Dillon, Laugavegur 30. Until 21:00.* Concert in Dömkirkja. Tenor Aðalsteinn Bergdal, mezzo soprano Benfina Sigrún Tryggvadóttir, soprano Sigríður Ósk Kristjánsdóttir, bass Þorvaldur Þorvaldsson and soprano Þórunn Marínósdóttir sing Icelandic songs. Also performing is Daði Sveinsson. *Dömkirkjan. Until 21:00.*

Finnish tango at the Nordic Association. *Óðinsgata 7. Until 21:30.* Father and daughter Sigrúnjón Halldórsdóttir and Þórunn Edda guitar and sing. *Gallerí Smíðar og skart, Skólavörðustígur 16a. Until 22:00.* Goethe machl Theater. Goethe-Zentrum gives everyone the chance to take part in short plays. Lasts for a total of an hour and a half from 20:00 to 22:00. There'll be a part for everybody! *Goethe-Zentrum, Laugavegi 18. Until 22:00.*

Lithús Óleiga. Showing of photography by Gunnar Hansson-Reykjavík 1968-1975. In the backyard PeZik and Stranger play. Capping it off is the band Ampop. *Skólavörðustígur 5. Until 22:00.* Concert with bands and other events playing simultaneously. Dueling DJs between 4 and 6 people, duelling breakdancing, beatbox and rappers. *Hitt Húsið, Pósthússtræti 3-5. Until 22:30.*

Guests at Café Arnes will be entertained with a varied music schedule. Among the performers will be an accordionist, an actress, and the band Mjallvítt and the Dwarves play for prospective dancers. *Suburburg at the Reykjavík harbour. Until 23:00.*

The Seventh Day Adventist Church will have an open house featuring various music performances and refreshments. *Insurances company TM, Peppi and FM 957. The bands Quaretti, Á máti sá! Love Guru and Nylon will perform. Until 20:30.*

The bands Isidor, Okind and Skátar will hold a concert at the shops ONI and Illgrisi. *Laugavegur 17, the door across from Mál og Menning. Until 22:00.* Fine art and photos. Sjón Harpa and Inga Hlövers show their new oil paintings and Norwegian-Icelandic photographer Inger H. Þósson shows his photos. Sigi Perez plays lively music through the evening. *Art gallery S. Har, Skólavörðustígur 25a. Until 23:00.*

Photographer Friðrik Tryggvason takes pictures of children younger on behalf of Gallery Fold. Pictures will be printed on location. *Gallery Fold, Rauðarárstígur 14-16. Starts 19:20, ends 21:30.* The great violinist Hildieifer Valsón plays onstage at JCI. *Hellusund 3. Starts 19:30.*

The insurance company TM on Cultural Night. The band Ísvörum fólum performs on *Ingólfstræt.* Starts 20:30, ends 21:30. Opera singer Guðbjörg Guðbjörnsson sings with accompaniment. *Gallery Fold, Rauðarárstígur 14-16. Starts 20:40.* Night time fun on Laugavegur. Rína Stefánsdóttir sings a few songs by Einar Ódðsson outside of *Brilliant, Laugavegur 49. Starts 20:45, ends 21:15.*

21:00

The members from Mótettu Choir will surprise you! *Hallgrímskirkja church.* Open house at Gallerí Skugga. Troubadour Geir Harðarsson performs songs from his upcoming album *Landnám, Hverfisgata 39.* Acoustic music with Agli Rafnsson and lóna and Góa performing songs from Hair at the outdoor stage *Ari í Ögri, Ingólfstræti 3.*

The Laugarás Quartet A barbershop quartet that will sing their way into your heart. *Mál og menning / Súfistinn, Laugavegur 18.* The accordion company of Reykjavík performs. *Uttaliðið Outdoor chess board at Lækjargata.* Concert with Anna Pálína and Aðalsteinn. Folk ballads. Icelandic folk music and ballads with new folk music introduced. Also performing will be Swedish folk music trio Draupner and percussionist Pétur Grétarsson. *Þjóðmenningarhúsið, Hverfisgata 15.*

Poetry, religion and music. Eðvarð T. Jónsson, Eva Hauksdóttir, Geirbur Kristín Guðjónsdóttir, Ingibjörg Danielsdóttir and Toshiki Toma read poetry with religious and moral subjects. Also available are music and refreshments. *Bahai Center, Öldugata 2.* Guðrún Army sings original songs. Sveinn Rúnar Sigurðsson plays piano. *Dömkirkjan. Until 21:45.*

Ingvaldur Yr and the singing group *Broadway and Barrokk.* Art Museum of Iceland, *Frikirkjuvegur 7. Until 21:45.* Dillon on Cultural Night. The band Úlpa rocks the house. *Laugavegur 30. Until 22:00.* The choir Gestur og gangandi, various songs played on accordion by Halldór Gunnarsson, followed by dance music. *Kirsuþerjatæð, Vesturgata 4. Until 22:45.*

Tómas Guðni Egeirsson plays light songs on piano for dinner guests. *Cafe Opera, Lækjargata 2. Until 23:00.* Concert with Singapore Sling and other bands. *Sirkus, Klappargstígur. Until 23:00.* Optimus will show video and musical pieces in the "Danish" door. *Laugavegur 27b (entrance from Tjú Droppar). Until 23:00.*

The big concert from Rás 2 radio station continues with Irafar, one of the biggest bands in the country for years now. *Miðbakki in Reykjavík harbour. Starts 21:10.* Drama piece about the battle between good and evil at Lækjartorg. *Starts 21:15.* Nighttime fun on Laugavegur. Blúsþrjúlarinn (The Blues Rascols). The rascols perform various blues songs by the greatest heroes of blues. *Opposite of Brilliant, Laugavegur 49. Starts 21:20, ends 21:45.*

The group Barðúkkha play improvisationally with an Eastern European theme. *Mál og menning / Súfistinn, Laugavegur 18. Starts 21:30.* Buzby plays music on the Yidaki an Australian instrument. *The Deli, Bankastræti 14. Starts 21:30.*

The ever-popular Sökkat play at *Listasafn ASÍ, Freytagata 41. Starts 21:30.* The Guðmundur Steingrímsson Trio performs with Raggi Bjarna in *Panninn Eymundsson bookstore, Austurstræti 18. Starts 21:30, ends 23:00.* Videoworks by Helena Jónsdóttir in the window on the second floor of *Bankastræti 9. Starts 21:30, ends 23:00.*

Nighttime fun on Laugavegur. Erna Blöndal performs jazz and songs from musicals. *Opposite of Brilliant, Laugavegur 49. Starts 21:45, ends 22:00.* The Dömkirkja choir sings under the direction of Martein H. Friðriksson. *Dömkirkjan Church. Starts 21:45, ends 22:30.*

Rás 2 radio station's big concert with Brimkló. The band has returned after a long hiatus and the reaction has been such that they've been playing continuously since. Their seventh album comes out this fall. *Miðbakki in Reykjavík harbour. Starts 21:50.*

22:00

Dixieland jazz band Öndin brings at Kaffi Vín. The band plays together saxophone, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, banjo, piano, drums, percussion and singing. *Laugavegur 73.* A moment of prayer with choral singing. Lead by Rev. Sigurður Pálsson and others. *Hallgrímskirkja church.*

Lavazza evening. Cakes and coffee experts put together special blends of Lavazza coffee, French cheeses and more good stuff from Karl K. Karlsson. *Sævar Karl, Bankastræti 7.* Acoustic music with Agli Rafnsson, Hans and Jakob from Diefraznabræðum, and Guðbjón from Hollywood perform on the outdoor stage *Ari í Ögri, Ingólfstræti 3.*

The Salvation Army Band performs at Lækjartorg square. *Dillon on Cultural Night.* Minus takes the stage in the yard. *Laugavegur 30. Until 22:45.* The Póstbarinn (The Mailmen) will perform. *Póstbarinn, Pósthússtræti 13. Until 23:00.* Nighttime fun on Laugavegur.

The Reykjavík 5, a vocalist group, will perform songs with Manhattan Transfer, New York Voices and others. *Opposite of Brilliant, Laugavegur 49. Until 22:30.* Blacksmithy Biarni Þór will work the blacksmithy in front of *Gallerí Hnoss, Skólavörðustígur 3. Starts 22:00.*

A bark burning at Teddi's workshop opposite Klappargstígur and Skúlagata. Teddi welcomes guests into his home for the fourth time on Cultural Night to enjoy the heat of his fire. *Starts 22:22.* Nighttime fun on Laugavegur. Blúsþrjúlarinn (The Blues Rascols). The Rascols perform various blues songs by the greatest heroes of blues. In the door of *Brilliant, Laugavegur 49. Starts 22:30, ends 23:00.*

The big Rás 2 radio station concert ends with the uncrowned king of Icelandic pop music, Bubbi Morthens and the band Egó. *Miðbakki in Reykjavík harbour. Starts 23:35.* Megasúkk. The band Skóttat and Icelandic master troubadour Megas perform together. *The restaurant Við tjörnina, Templarsund 3. Starts 22:45.*

Culture Night at Póstbarinn

17:00-17:30

The troubadour Jakob Viðar will perform, with a repeat performance at 21:30.

17:30

Jazz presented by the Guðlaug Ólafsdóttir Quartet. On the program are works by Porter and Gershwin, pop songs in a jazz style, and much more. Guðlaug's Quartet will also hold a second performance at 19:30.

18:30

The Cappuccino Trio performs South American jazz with Afro-Cuban rhythms, the Brazilian samba, bossa nova and more. A second performance is also scheduled at 20:30.

22:00-23:00

The Póstbarinnir (The Mailmen) will perform.



Feel like fish ?

WAITER'S RACE



Food service isn't easy. It takes speed, agility, and the ability to smile in the face of adversity. Is waiting tables a sport then? It is on Cultural Night, when a Waiter's Race will be held at 15:00 starting at Café Victor and ending at Vinbarinn. Watch these brave men and women try to race carrying a tray full of drinks and decide for yourself if tipping is necessary or not.

STREET THEATRE



Street theatre is meant to surprise, catching people unawares with dramatic or comedic performances which can happen in front of shops, at bus stations, or anywhere along any street. The Street Theatre from the Other House has certainly lived up to the task and on Cultural Night you'll be able to see them perform around downtown. The surprise might be missing, but the talent won't be. Be on the lookout, as they wrap up this summers work, performing various happenings from their repertoire.

HITT HÚSIÐ



Hitt Húsið have been sending out groups of performers on to the capitals' streets throughout the summer. They have braved the weather and managed to brighten up even the gloomiest of afternoons with their madcap happenings and live music. Now they return to base for a full range of performances and entertainment. Everything from fashion shows, poetry reading, short films to Hip Hop and duelling DJ's. Well worth a visit particularly if the weather closes in.

THE OFFICE WORKER'S MARATHON



Office workers. Every day you see them scurrying to and fro, between meetings and appointments, trying to show up on time or make the most of their half-hour lunch break. You'd think that with all that exercise they'd be able to compete in the Olympics. This year the artist company JCI puts that theory to the test by holding the Office Worker's Marathon. Competitors will have to be in a business suit, carry a briefcase and a cell phone. Watch the yuppies run at Hellusund 3 at 17:30.

BEAUTY: A PLAY



Once upon a time, the theatre used to be the strongest vehicle for social commentary and contemporary criticism. An entertaining and popular play could sway the public one way or the other and was a force to be reckoned with, even for members of royalty. Today that tradition lives in thanks to Eyrún Ósk Jónsdóttir whose play, Beauty, places emphasis on multiculturalism, peace and environmental issues from Icelandic folk stories, religious history and modern politics. Relive the glory of theatre at 17:00 at Tjarnarbó, Tjarnargata 12.

BULL ROAST



Been eating loads of fruits and vegetables all year in an effort to lose weight? Do you have to eat hot dogs in cognito so as not to be spotted by your vegetarian girlfriend? Or do you simply enjoy a nice, steaming slab of good ol' fashioned red meat? The Association of Icelandic Cattle Farmers hear the call of your inner carnivore and respond in spades - they will be roasting a whole bull on the square at Ingólfsnaust, Aðæstræti 2, starting at 16:00. Show up early to get your prime cuts.

PLACES OF INTEREST

WESTMAN ISLANDS ON CULTURAL NIGHT AT THE CITY HALL

- Western Hall:**
 Marching band, drama, Island songs, hippies, youth concerts, songs, good times and fun.
 14:00 Opening: City Council president Arni Þór Sigurðsson and Westman Islands mayor Bergur Ágústsson. Westman Islands marching band plays some Island songs.
 15:00 The Turkish Invasion 1627. Partners in the Westman Islands Drama Society. Selections by Asa í Bæ and Oddgeir Kristjánsson on behalf of Gísli Helgason, Hafsteins Guðfínnsson and company.
 16:00 Húllum hæf for children, Westman Islands Drama Society and street theatre group Ötú the hippie band plays and sings classic hippie songs.
 17:00 Award ceremony for the Reykjavík marathon. The Westman Islands Marching Band performs throughout.
 18:00 The Turkish Invasion 1627. Partners in the Westman Islands Drama Society. Íris Guðmundsdóttir and Unnur Ólafsdóttir sing accompanied by Sigmundur Einarsson.
 19:00 The bands Hofmann and Þórshamar. Concerts for the younger generation.
 20:00 Group mass, with songs, under the direction of Ósvaldur Freyr. The band Dans á Rósum will perform.
 21:00 Obbo-sít company, musicians and singers perform under the direction of Ósvaldur Freyr Guðjónsson
 22:00 Selections by Asa í Bæ and Oddgeir Kristjánsson
 22:30 Arni Johnsen gets down with the one true Westman Island celebration. Masters of Ceremonies: Andrés Sigurvinsson and Kristín Jóhannsdóttir.

Eastern Hall:

- Volcanoes, reconstruction, daily life, a national festival tent and puffs projected on six TV screens.
Midlevel:
 Hamfarir og matur. Showing continuously throughout the day will be a movie by Ernst Kettlers showing the eruption in Heimaey 1973 and in conjunction with this chef Grímur Gíslason from Höllin in from the Westman Islands gives people the opportunity to try smoked puffin with mustard sauce along side of various seafood courses made of fish from the waters of the Westman Islands. Also available will be harðfiskur (dried fish) distributed by Godhaab.

DANCE AND CONCERTS AT IÐNÓ:

- 14:00-14:30 The summer opera will perform a few scenes from Happy End by Kurt Weil, Bertholt Brecht and Elisabeth Hauptman.
 14:30-15:00 Dixieland jazz band Sparibuxurnar hans afa kick out the jams.
 16:20-16:50 Maher Kishk and Shams Al Amar-Oriental folkloric belly dancing.
 15:40-15:45 Minerva Iglesia from Malaga, Spain performs Flamenco
 15:50-15:55 The Green Work by Jóhann Björgvinsson. Dancers Hjördis Lilja Örnólfsdóttir, Lovísa Ósk Gunnarsdóttir and Steve Lorenz.
 16:00-16:15 Unnur Guðjónsdóttir dances Mariachi and then teaches the dance La Raspa.
 16:20-16:50 Argentine tango, Bryndís, Hany and dancers from Kramhúsið.
 16:55-17:00 ManWoMan by Ólöfu Ingólfsdóttir and Ismo-Pekka Heikinheimo.
 17:05-17:45 Caribbean dancing with Edna Mastasche. Don't miss the opportunity to learn a new step.
 18:00-19:00 Martina Freytag sings jazz.
 19:20-19:50 The summer opera will perform a few scenes from Happy End.
 20:00-20:30 Maher Kishk and Shams Al Amar-Oriental folkloric belly dancing.
 20:35-20:45 Minerva Iglesia from Malaga, Spain performs Flamenco
 20:45-20:50 The Green Work by Jóhann Björgvinsson. Dancers Hjördis Lilja Örnólfsdóttir, Lovísa Ósk Gunnarsdóttir and Steve Lorenz.
 20:55-21:00 ManWoMan by Ólöfu Ingólfsdóttir and Ismo-Pekka Heikinheimo.
 21:05-21:20 Unnur Guðjónsdóttir dances Mariachi and then teaches the dance La Raspa.
 21:25-21:55 Argentine tango, Bryndís, Hany and dancers from Kramhúsið.
 22:00-22:40 Caribbean dancing with Edna Mastasche. Don't miss the opportunity to learn a new step.
 22:45-22:55 Víkivaki. The dance party at Iðnó ends with a true Icelandic víkivaka. Unnur Guðjónsdóttir leads the dance. Dancers decide for themselves what dance. Á Sprengisandi.

CULTURE NIGHT AT LANDBANKINN:

- 17:00 Art expert Aðalsteinn Ingólfsson takes guests on a tour of the paintings in the bank.
 17:45 Aðalsteinn Ingólfsson makes another circuit.
 18:00 The clown Skralli arrives and will be on scene throughout the evening.
 18:00 Scenes from the musical Hair will be performed on the outdoor stage.
 18:30 The Icelandic Dance Company shows new works by Katrín Halls inside.
 19:00 Fame. A few scenes from the musical performed outside of Landsbanki on Austurstræti.
 19:30 Tosca-scenes from the Icelandic Opera will be performed inside. Jóhann F. Valdimarsson and Elin Ó. Óskarsdóttir sing. Kurt Kopecky accompanies on piano.
 20:00 Cuba group Tómas R. plays for people at Landsbanki on Austurstræti.
 20:30 The band Jagúar plays on the outdoor stage.
 22:00 Blásarasveitin Kventett will perform on the little balcony.

CONCERTS AT PRIKIÐ

- 14:00 Nortón 14:30 Future Future 15:00 Andrúm 16:00 Drep
 17:00 Dr. Spock 18:00 Ensími 19:00 Vínill 20:00 Botnleðja

EVENTS IN ICELANDIC:

- 14:00 & 15:30 Líneyk og Laufey. A play based on a classic Icelandic fairytale performed by the New Theatre. Acting, dancing, music and audience participation. Tjarnarbó, Tjarnargata.
 14:00. History walk through Þingholin with architect Páll V. Bjarnason, who tells tales of inhabitants and talks about the architectural history of the area. Starts outside Menntaskólinn í Reykjavík.
 14:00 and 16:00. Guided tour of the Saga manuscripts in the Culture House, Hverfisgata 15.
 14:00-16:00. Ghosts in the Children's department. Ghost stories will be read every half hour, and staff will be dressed appropriately. City library, Tryggvagata 15.
 16:00. Introduction to the fall book release. Presentation of the strange creatures of the world by Baggalátur. The beloved band Mannakorn play. Mál og menning / Súfistinn, Laugavegi 18.
 16:00. Leaf Cabin reading and open mic. Writers and musicians come together in front of the Leaf Cabin in the garden at Fríkirkjuvegur 11. Among the participants will be Vilborg Dagbjartsdóttir, Birgitta Jónsdóttir, Kristian Guttesen and Margrét Lóa Jónsdóttir will read from their soon-to-be released material. At 20:00 the open mic begins and is for everyone who has something to share. Hallargarðurinn, Fríkirkjuvegur.
 17:00. Round table discussion about comics. Hugleikur Dagsson chairs the discussion. A trivia competition about comics will be held at 13:00 and the winner will be announced at the end of the discussion around 18:00. The City Museum, Grófarhús.
 19:30. Downtown Ghost Story Walk. The writer Kristín Helga Gunnarsdóttir leads a walk through downtown and tells ghost stories at chosen locations. Starting point at the City Library, Grófarhús.
 20:00. Crime and Punishment History Walk on behalf of the Reykjavík Museum. Storytellers and historians Helga Maureen Gylfadóttir and Sölborg Una Þáksdóttir lead guests around downtown. Starting point at Hallgrímskirkja.
 20:00 - 20:45. Lecture on the summer exhibition at the Iceland Museum of Art, Environment and Nature. Iceland Museum of Art, Fríkirkjuvegur 7.
 20:00 - 22:30 Poetry competition. Competition in search of the best poet, being held for the first time in Iceland. Ljóð.is and the publishing house Edda present the performance. Tjarnarbó, Tjarnargata.

drinks all the time. Another owner is Björk, and the bar figures prominently

here for a game, as every table doubles as a chess board. One of the best places to meet locals for a chat, every night of the week.

20. Bar 11
Laugavegur 11
The rock hangout, be it live music or the riff-heavy jukebox. Many of Iceland's rock bands are regulars. Bands play and/or poetry is recited most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. A good place to come down on Sundays, with a screening of cult films.

21. Café Victor
Hafnarstræti 1-3
Spelt with a rather than with the more traditional k in order to be more cosmopolitan. This play seems to be working, as the bar has become something of a hangout for foreigners. The Viking ship sitting on top of the house might also add to the appeal. The crowd is very mixed, both in origin and age, and so is the music.

22. Jón Forseti
Abaltstræti 10
The oldest house in Reykjavík is now, you guessed it, a gay club. Named after founding father and national hero Jón Sigurðsson, who lived there for a while, it now has various events, including concerts, plays and a gay cabaret, performed on a small stage that tries its best to look big with curtains and everything. So how long until they change George Washington's old place into a gay bar? You heard it here first.

23. Café List
Laugavegur 20a
"List" means "art", the art mostly consisting of jazz bands that play there frequently. Looks perhaps more like a hotel bar than a seedy jazz club, but the prices of beer has gone down, so they deserve our support.

24. Prikkið
Bankastræti 12
Used to be a traditional coffee house which has been around longer than any bar, after a change of clientele, they now cater to a younger crowd. A diner during the day and a nightclub on weekends. You can also borrow games there, such as backgammon or chess.

25. Pöstbárin
Patubástræti 13
Situating by Austurvöllur, Pöstbárin is a bistro prized restaurant, a rare treat. It is also one of few restaurants in Reykjavík with decent outdoor service. Live jazz once a week and check out the reasonably priced fish menu they have, only 1490ISK. Try the plaice.

26. Celtic Cross
Hverfisgata 26
Arguably the bar in town that comes closest to deserving the title of Irish, even though the Dubliner tries harder. Except for the coffin in the back, it's very much alive. Live music almost every night, a troubadour on the upper floor and a band in the basement, both doing their best to make a living as human jokesters.

CLUBS

27. Gaukur á Stöng
Tryggvavegur 22
Iceland's oldest club is turning 20 this fall. During the day it's a pool pub and on weekend evenings there are live rock concerts by more mainstream bands. On weekends there is usually a lot of action with cover bands playing everything from Britney to the Beatles. Without exception you'll be charged at least 1000k for entrance in the evenings. Crowd: 20+

28. Nasa
by Austurvöllur
Used to be a theatre, but is now a club. Great sound system and occasional live bands. The towns biggest club, but the high prices do limit the crowd somewhat. Admission 1000 krónur.

29. Mojito bar
Austurstræti 16
Situating on the 5th floor, and is only accessible by elevator. A place where you can run into MP's and business tycoons living it up. That might be some indication of the price range. The candleholders, for some inexplicable reason, are Turkish hashpipes. It's only open Fridays and Saturdays between 11 and 3.

30. Leikihúskjallorinn
Hverfisgata 19
Recently opened again and is gaining respect, it's a Restaurant during the day but a dance place during the night (weekends of course). The crowd here is usually little more mature than in the other clubs. Talented DJs play with the drunken crowd. Crowd: 25+

RESTAURANTS

31. Pasta Basta
Klaupparstíg 38
An affordable Italian place. The pasta is has generous portions and the salad with grilled chicken is a good light option. The garden is nice, with a glass ceiling protecting patrons from the wind and the rain. It has paper covering the tables, and guests are supplied with crayons so the can decorate their surroundings as they wait for the meal.

32. Tveir Fiskar
Gefirgata 9
Seafood restaurant, although they also do land-based animals. At lunchtime you can have a three course meal for 2300, which isn't too bad, all things considered. The chef has been awarded the Medal of the Order of the White Rose by the President of Finland.

33. Hornið
Hafnarstræti 15
Means "the corner" and the place lives up to its name. This is actually the oldest Italian restaurant in town, celebrating its 25th year, which says something about the scene here before then. Excellent quality pizza, pasta and salads and yet remaining one of the more affordable ones. Try the calzone.

34. Vox
Nordica Hotel
Perhaps a typical off-lobby restaurant, bistro, bar in a four-star hotel, the Vox looks at first glance like a fancy cafeteria spiced up for an official reception. But please do not let that glance throw you off! The restaurant has a modern interior with modern up-Island décor, however the kitchen saves the situation. Run by a master chef, a recent winner of the super gastro competition "Boucise d'Or", the Menu is tops.

35. 3 Frakkar
Baldurargata 14
This is a restaurant that cannot be ignored. A very small place with an atmosphere. Here you may enjoy the house specialties of Icelandic traditional dishes prepared in the good, old-fashioned manner, including catfish, shark and whale steaks. And of course much more. If you're lucky, Chef Ulfr Eysteinnsson, the owner, may be present regaling the clientele with wild whaling tales. Don't forget to ask Chef Ulfr for dark Icelandic pumpernickel bread with pure Icelandic butter, and don't forget to make a reservation!

36. Apotek
Austurstræti 16
Formerly the central drugstore of Reykjavík, established in the late 1800s, the Apotek is now a modern restaurant with an Art Deco interior. You can still see the names of the chief managing pharmacists/owners on the wall of the bar. Today, this "drugstore" serves a different type of milkshake. Now look for a sizzling visual kitchen (behind a glass wall) with a Super Menu! Apotek is an eating experience not to be missed.

37. Tapas
Vatnsgata 38
For those with a bit of money and time on their hands, the evening is well spent at Tapas, where you can vile away the evening having course after course of wonderful miniature dishes served. Recommended is the garlic fried lobster and lamb in apricot sauce. If you don't feel like getting up right away afterwards, there's also a lounge to lounge in, and the paintings there are worth a look.

38. Jómfrúin
Lækjargata 4
In this global age, it can be hard to find good smørrebrød even in Copenhagen. Never fear: out here in the colonies you can still find direct smørrebrød at Jómfrúin. They even import their own eel directly from Denmark to make one of Scandinavia's delicacies.

39. Rossopomodoro
Laugavegur 40a
This is a new chain of eateries trying to move away from the American image of pizza joints. Originally a local Napoli venture, now a string of modestly cool restaurants striving to make it in Northern Europe. Iceland is one of the first places for Rossopomodoro outside Italy. A clever beginning in a country absolutely free from Neopolitan traditions. A modest wine list with good prices

40. Café Opera
Lækjargata 2
Above the líbú theatre, so it's a good place to go before shows, or during if you prefer a more quiet atmosphere. If you sit by the window you get a nice view of the pond. It's not a bad place to try one of Iceland's culinary specialties, the lamb steak, one of those rare traditional treats that does not come as a shock to the uninitiated.

FAST FOOD

41. Nonnabiti
Hafnarstræti 11
The owner is a miser who charges additionally for everything, but this is almost certainly the best junk food in the Greater Reykjavík area. The sides are great, none of that Subway commitment to healthy living, and they probably contribute significantly to the ever-increasing "size" of the nation. They also serve burgers and sandwiches, and have lunchtime offers.

42. Nana Taco's
Lækjargata 8
One of those places that seem to be always open, and hence you find yourself going to late on Saturday nights as consolation when it seems inevitable you'll be going home alone. And as consolation goes, it's not bad. Rather reasonable by local standards, and they have all the tortillish Mexican standards.

43. Bernhöftsbakari
Bergstaðstræti 13
A bakery with traditions going back some 150 years, although it has changed locations. Apart from a supermarket, a bakery is still the best way to fill your belly. Try the staple of Icelandic childhood and beyond: a snúður roll with chocolate milk.

44. Bæjarins bestu
Tryggvavegur
They claim to have the best hot dogs in town, and for once the product lives up to the hype. Ask for one with everything, and you'll get a dog in a bun with ketchup, mustard, remulade (don't ask), fried and raw onion. The standard Icelandic hotdog, only somehow it tastes better.

45. Pizza 67
Tryggvavegur 26
The local pizza chain that's trying to take on the world, and who currently operate a place in the Faeroes and China, as well as all over Iceland. They have a Summer of Love theme, which doesn't really extend beyond the names of the pizzas, a few slogans and a few posters, but the pizzas are nice. They also do deliveries. They have a lunchtime buffet for 990, for those in search of quantity for the krona.

46. Eldsmíðjan
Bragagata 38a
Oven-baked pizzas simply don't get much better than this. It is slightly more expensive than other pizzerias, but well worth it. A wide selection of toppings, including that seamy misad pizza delight, snails. You can also turn the chef loose and let him decide what goes on it - you'll rarely be disappointed. Take away, order delivery, or eat in at the cosy restaurant upstairs. The paintings are worth a peek as well.

47. Vítabor
Bergstaðstræti 21
Actually a bar, but best known for its hamburgers. A burger with fries for 500 is one of the best meal deals in town, but special mention must go to the Forget-Me-Not blue cheese and garlic extravaganza. The Viking beer always feels particularly cold and refreshing here.

48. First Vegetarian (Á næstu grösun)
Laugavegur 20b
Used to be called One Woman Restaurant, as there was always the same woman working there. Has new owners and a larger staff, but the theme is still vegetarian, with one vegan and one wheat-free dish always on offer. The only vegetarian restaurant licensed to carry beer and wine. Remains on the right side of the 1000 krónur bill at lunchtime, slips slightly over in the evening.

49. Hlíðili
By Ingólfrstorg
When someone used to work before he went solo, due to creative differences no doubt. They have a somewhat larger selection of subs than Nonni, and they also have smaller sizes for kids and weight watchers. Brave souls might want to try the Gúmmi-Bátur (rubber boat), which might seem like an oversized relative of the ever-present pizza.

50. Reykjavík Bagel Company
Laugavegur 81
Situating a bit from the immediate centre but close to Hlemmur bus-stop. Bagels, wraps and coffee that might make you feel better in the morning than the more hardcore fast foods further down the street.

CULTURE NIGHT PLACES OF INTREST

See details in pullout

51. City Hall
52. Tónó
53. Landsbankinn
54. Prikkið

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

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Emergency phone 112, fire, police, ambulance
Emergency Ward, City Hospital 24hr. 525-1000
Doctor: 1770
Dentist: 575-0505
Pharmacy information 118
Directories find your closest or call 118

Internet Cafés
Rakhuskafti, City Hall, 101 Rvk. 563-2169
BSI, Vatnsmyrarvegur 10, 101 Rvk. 591-1000
Netkafi, Kingling mall, 103 Rvk. 533-2424
Reykjavík Travel Service, Lækjargata 2, 101 Rvk. 511-2442
Ground Zero, Vallarstræti 4, 101 Rvk. 562-7776

Useful Websites
www.icetourist.is
www.visitreykjavik.is
www.grapevine.is

Car Rentals
ALP 562-6060
Avis 591-4000
Berg car rental 577-6050
Budget 567-8300
Europcar 591-4050
SBK car rental 420-6000

Other Useful Numbers
City bus info, 551-2700
BSI bus info, 591-1000

Post Offices
Central Post Office, Pósthústræti 5, 101 Rvk. 580-1000.
Post offices are easily found around Iceland

Laundry Services
Emla laundry, Barónsstígur 3, 101 Rvk. 552-4799
A Smith laundry, Bergstaðstræti 52, 101 Rvk. 551-7140

Taxi services
Heynill-Bæjarleiðir 588-5522
Borgarhljóðstöð 552-2440
BSR 561-0000

Rent a bike
Borgarhljóð, Hverfisgata 50, 101 Rvk. 551-5653
Reykjavík travel service, Lækjargata 2, 101 Rvk. 511-2442
Reykjavík Youth Hostel, Sundlaugavegur 34, 105, Rvk. 533-8110

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THEY DON'T GIVE CHANGE



Reykjavík has no trams, trains or subways, only buses. These yellow things can take you pretty much anywhere in the Reykjavík area. It's a slow system and you might have to change buses a couple of times to get where you want to, though usually things run smoothly and on time. The price of a single fare is 220kr for an adult (60kr for children under 12). If you are in town for more than a few days, then the nine ticket package for 1500kr would be a better deal. Bus cards valid for two weeks, a month or three months are also available. You have to pay as you step on board and it has to be the exact amount, unless you want to pay more for your ride. The driver cannot give you change. You can ask the driver for a free, time-limited transfer ticket if you need two buses to complete your journey.

The bus system is closed at night. You can catch your first bus between 6:40 and 7:00 in the morning, and last call is around 24:00. The main bus stops in Reykjavík are Hlemmur and Lækjartorg, where you'll be able to get all the information you need.

Don't compromise We don't

★★★★★
"...the meals were simply the best I have enjoyed in an Icelandic restaurant this year."

Food and wine critic - Morgunblaðið Daily Newspaper September 7th 2003

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INTERNET CAFÉ

Museums

ASI Art Museum, Freyjugata 41, 511-5353
 Árbæjarsafn Folk Museum, Kistuhylur 4, p: 557-1111
 Ásmundarsafn, Sculpture museum, Siglúta, p: 553-2155
 Culture House, Hverfisgata 15, p: 545-1400
 Einar Jónsson, Sculpture museum, Einarsgata, p: 551-3797
 Gerðarsafn, Kópavogur Art Gallery, Hamraborg 4, p: 551-3797
 Hafnarborg Art Gallery, Strandgata 34 Hafnarfj, 555-0080
 Hafnarhúsið, Reykjavík Art museum, Tryggvagata 17, p: 590-1200
 Icelandic Institute of Natural History, Hlemmur 5, p: 590-0500
 Kjarvalstaðir Art Museum, Flokagata, p: 517-1290
 Museum of Medical History, Neströð 170, p: 511-1016
 National Gallery of Iceland, Frikirkjuvegur 7, p: 515-9600
 Nordic House, Sturlugata 5, p: 551-7030
 Reykjavík City Library, Tryggvagata 15, p: 563-1750
 Reykjavík Elestrivty Museum, Rafstöðvarvegur, p: 567-9009
 Reykjavík Museum of Photography, Tryggvagata 15, p: 563-1790
 Reykjavík Zoo & Family Park, Engivegur, p: 575-7800
 Saga Museum, Perlan Óskjuhlíð, p: 511-1517
 Sigurjón Ólafsson Sculpture Museum, Lauganestangi 70, p: 553-2906

Galleries

101 Gallery, Hverfisgata 18a
 Gallery Kling og Bang, Laugavegi 23, p: 822-0402
 Gallery Fold, Raudarárstígur 14-16, p: 551-0400
 Gallery Hnoss, Skólavörðustígur 16, p: 561-8485
 Gallery i8, Klapparstígur 33, p: 551-3666
 Gallery Meistari Jakob, Skólavörðustígur 5, p: 552-7161
 Gallery Skuggi, Hverfisgata 39, p: 511-1139
 Gallery Tukt, Pósthússtræti 3-5, p: 520-4600
 Handverk og Hönnun, Aðalstræti 12, p: 551-7595
 Safa, Laugavegur 37, p: 561-8777

The Icelandic Printmakers Association, Tryggvagata 17, p: 588-7576

Other

Hallgrímskirkja church, Skólavörðuholti, p: 510-1000
 Klink og Bank, Brautarholt, p: 822-0402
 Perlan, Óskjuhlíð
 Kringlan shopping mall, Kringlan 8-12, p: 568-9200
 Volcano show: Red rock cinema, Hellusund 6a, p: 845-9548
 Salurinn Concert Hall, Hamraborg 6, p: 570-0400

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 3 Frakkur, Baldursgata 14, p: 552-3939
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 Rossopomodoro, Laugavegur 40a, p: 561-0500
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 Tjarnarbakkinn, Vonarstræti 2, p: 562-9700
 Tveir Fiskar, Geirsgata 9, p: 511-3474
 Við Tjörnina, Templarsund 3, p: 551-8666
 Vox Nordica Hotel, Suðurlandsbraut 2, p: 444-5050

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 Mokka, Skólavörðustígur 3a, p: 552-1174
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 Tíu Dropar, Laugavegur 27, p: 551-9380

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 De Palace, Hafnarstræti 18, p: 551-6780
 Dillon, Laugavegur 20, 511-2400
 Dubliner, Hafnarstræti 4, 511-3233
 Glaumar, Tryggvagata 20, p: 552-6868
 Grand Rokk, Smiðjustígur 6, p: 551-5522
 Hressingarskálinn, Austurstræti 20, p: 561-2240
 Hverfisbar, Hverfisgata 20, p: 511-6700
 Jón Forseti, Aðalstræti 10, p: 551-0962
 Kaffi Kúltur, Hverfisgötu 18, p: 530-9314
 Kaffibarinn, Bergstaðastræti 1, p: 551-1588
 Kaffibrennslan, Pósthússtræti 9, p: 561-3600
 Nelly's, Þinghólmstræti 2, p: 551-2477
 Prikkið, Bankastræti 12, p: 551-3366
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 Sólon, Bankastræti 7a, p: 562-3232
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 Nasa, by Austurvöllur, p: 511-1313
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ADDRESS BOOK

...continued from pg. 17



So Gunnar and Ingólfur Egilsson's grandfather, Gunnar Hannesson, has a show downtown. He died in 1976, but in the years prior earned himself a stable career in photography, publishing several solo books, printing in National Geographic, and appearing in local homes via Eimskip's yearly calendar.

"Our grandfather got his first camera when he was 30," Gunnar says. "He had hated photographers before that because they slowed everything down on the roads, always stopping to take pictures. But once he started with photography he became very ambitious."

Although Gunnar never met his grandfather, Ingólfur has a few early memories of him: "He was always with his camera and his Range Rover."

Gunnar and Ingólfur had no budget for this project, but with help of the photo shop Dikta (who will also facilitate purchases of the photographs), they were able to fill the upstairs gallery space with quality prints of varying sizes.

This collection of photos reflects their grandfather's tendency to carry a camera everywhere, as it presents mostly snapshot-type pictures of

Reykjavík. There is a slightly more nostalgic feel above anything else when looking at these photographs. One can see most areas of the city in these prints, along with the ghosts of all those who were actively working on the streets and in shops. There is a man hanging fish to dry in the centre of town, and old houses which have since been torn down.

The photos are clear and colourful, which makes them seem closer, more real; they make the past seem nearby and tangible.

Apart from this effect, the most outstanding image of this exhibition is the one that you can't help but conjure in your mind of two grandsons going through all these images of Reykjavík, picking the ones they want to display. "It definitely makes me feel more connected to my grandfather," Gunnar says.

The show will run from 14 August to 8 September on the top floor of Gallery Ófeigs at Skólavörðustígur 5. The band AMPOP will perform on culture night in the space behind the gallery. On that evening they also hope to project photos on the building across the street.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday August 20th
Bands:
Singapore Sling & Hólt Hóra

Saturday August 21st
Reggae Band Hjálmar

Friday August 27th
Reggae Band Hjálmar

Bar Eleven

Schedule:

- 20.8 DJ Lupin
- 21.8 Culture Night
- Concerts from 18.00 to 24.00 | DJ Monkey Tonk after midnight
- 22.8 Movie Night: Splatter Special
- 24.8 Dice Night: Free drinks on the roll of a die
- 25.8 Concert: Innvortis
- 26.8 11 Poetry Night
- 27.8 DJ Heidi
- 28.8 DJ Einar Sonic
- 29.8 Movie Night: Fantasy Special
- 31.8 Dice Night

All concerts and movies begin between 21-22 unless stated otherwise

BAR 11 | Laugavegur 11
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for further information contact: 511 1180 or 663 7273

PICKS ARTS and CULTURE

Reykjavík Energy House, August 18-22
ICELAND FASHION WEEK

For Love of Pretention

The international Iceland Fashion Week will be held the 18-22nd of August. The event's website claims that a "select number of celebrities, models, photographers, buyers and sponsors are invited to experience this exclusive fashion preview", which means that most of Iceland will probably turn up. There will be a showroom in Lansbankinn and a fashion show at the Reykjavík energy house. There will be lots of international press here to cover the events, including MTV, E! Entertainment News and the New York Times, so all those interested in being internationally cool should wear their best Icelandic fashion at all times.

NASA, Iðno and Krambúsið, August 26-29
TANGO FESTIVAL

From the 26th to the 29th of August, artists from Buenos Aires, Paris, Zürich and Reykjavík will participate in an all-out Tango fest that will spin through the city. NASA, Iðno and Krambúsið will feature various saucy Tango events, including demonstrations by the masters. Although it's too late to register for lessons, one can always hope to pick up some tips by rocking to the Tango beats.

ARTS AND CULTURE

NO, NAY, NEVER

by Marcie Hume

The Living Art Museum is back in action. After its summer hiatus, 18 artists have been selected by Hlynur Hallsson to participate in a diverse group exhibition. The project boasts the superhero title "ALDREI - NIE - NEY-ER", which obviously deserves an exclamation mark, perhaps one for each language.

The museum itself has primarily been a venue for exhibitions and various creative events, but it is becoming increasingly focused on its position as a setting for both domestic and foreign artists to exchange opinions and ideas. This exhibition covers three cities simultaneously (Reykjavík, Berlin! and Akureyri!), with 6 artists' work displayed in each location.

Rather than choosing the specific works for display, Hallsson has allowed each artist to choose which of their own pieces will be shown, whether new or old works. There are various contemporary techniques used in addition to some traditional forms, but the exhibit pushes the typical boundaries of customary gallery fare by displaying some of the works exclusively on the internet, radio, television or in newspapers.

Ulrike Schoeller, a German artist whose work will be part of the Reykjavik division, uses arguably mundane but nevertheless atypical techniques such as projecting text onto the street. She is also prone to artistic efforts such as stealthily laying down on the street, largely unnoticed by anyone, which obviously begs the old standard, "If an artist lays down in the street and no one cares, is it still art?" However, in a country where there is no visibly homeless or destitute populace, such acts may supply a missing dose of socially-charged displays.

Another artist whose creations will be presented locally is Jóna Hlíf Halldórsdóttir, whose work consists of video



recordings of everyday conduct, or, for example, the repetition of a single word. The questions asked by the museum are as follows: "...is some perfectly commonplace item becoming a monstrosity? Or, is the normative criterion itself frightening?" Even if answering such questions disinterests you in every way, you may still find this meta-presentation enjoyable. After all, even those who don't pay attention to normative criterion can still have a keen eye for the illogical.

The uncertainty of the exhibit does by nature provoke curiosity, and the final product will at least be distinctive. The

artists participating in the Akureyri and Berlin shows sound either terribly appealing or horribly meta-meta, depending on your perspective. There are definitely some interest-provoking descriptions, such as the following of Magnús Sigurðarson, who will be featured in the Akureyri show: "He works with Icelandic reality, which is unreal, goes hunting with the Icelandic flag, generates a storm, returns as a screen actor." This component of playfulness makes the exhibit seem magnetic and unavoidable. Still, whoever answers the question about normative criterion wins.

ARTS and CULTURE LISTINGS : august 20 - september 2

Want to be seen in the listings? Send us a mail to listings@grapevine.is and your event will be announced in the next issue, and the best thing is that being in the listings is free!

ONGOING

The National Museum of Iceland

Tue-Sun 11:00-17:00
New permanent exhibitions, giving a comprehensive picture of Iceland's cultural history through the ages to the present day. The exhibitions will cover 2000 m² and be an exciting journey through time.

ASÍ museum

Tue-Sun 14:00-18:00
Exhibition by Hildur Bjarnadóttir and Hafdis Helgadóttir. Starts August 21.

Gallery of the Icelandic printmakers association

Tue-Sun 14:00-18:00
Exhibition "Culture Night", danish grafic. Ends August 29

Gallery Öfeigur

Mon-Fri 10:00-18:00, Sat 10:00-16:00
Photobooth "Reykjavík" with eyes of Gunnar Hannesson" b. 1915 d. 1976

Hafnarborg Art Gallery

Wed-Sun 11:00-17:00
Paintings: New paintings by Þorbjörg Höskuldadóttir. A also exhibition Rendezvous contemporary art from Düsseldorf and Hafnarfjörður. Ends August 23. Photoexhibition by Katrín Elvarsdóttir. And also the exhibition Modern Women by five jewelry-designers from Denmark. Starts August 28.

Gerdarsafn, Kópavogur Art Gallery

Tue-Sun 11:00-17:00
Upstairs two world famous danish designers, Børge Mogensen and Hans Wegner. Downstairs many icelandic household designers. Ends August 26

Gallery Sævar Karl

Mon-Fri 10:00-17:00
Exhibition by Kristín Reynisdóttir

Wistasafnið, The Living Art Museum

New exhibition, see more details in picks. Ends September 2

Hafnarhúsið, Reykjavík Art Museum

10:00-17:00 every day
Los Caprichos Francisco de Goya: Los Caprichos by Francisco de Goya is a key work in the history of Spanish Art. Katrín Sigurðardóttir: Private exhibition of the Icelandic artist Katrín Sigurðardóttir. Finnur Arnar Arnason a private exhibition: A video installation. Starts August 21.

Klink og bank artist workplace

workplace for artist, open when something special is going on.

Culture House

11:00-17:00 every day
A summer exhibition entitled The Poetic Edda. The exhibition is intended to provide visitors with some insights into these ancient poems. Many of Iceland's national treasures are on display in the Culture House's featured exhibition Medieval Manuscripts - Eddas and Sagas. Exhibition Home Rule 1904. Ends September 1

Nordic House

Mon-Fri 8:00-17:00, Sat&Sun 12:00-17:00
7-A View from the North: Travelling exhibition - 7 artists from the Nordic Countrie.

Gallery Skuggi

Thu-Sun 13:00-17:00
Gallery Skuggi is a new exhibition gallery for contemporary art, located in central Reykjavík.

Kling og Bang Gallery

Thu-Sun 14:00-18:00
Exhibition by world famous american artists Paul McCarthy and Jason Rhoades. Ends August 29

Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum

Tue-Fri 10:00-17:00, Sat&Sun 10:00-18:00
Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum is Reykjavík City's folk museum and the largest open air museum in Iceland.

Austurvöllur out door exhibition

Icelanders: Photography Exhibition in Austurvöllur, A Meeting with the Icelanders over a period of two

years. Ends September 1

Passion Gallery

12:30-18:00 Mon-Fridays, 12:00-15:00 Saturdays

Contemporary art gallery

Gallery 18

Thu-Fri 11:00-18:00

Exhibition by Jeanine Cohen. Cohen has never been to Iceland, however. Ends August 21

National Gallery of Iceland

11:00-17:00 every day

This year's summer exhibition will address the theme Environment and nature in Icelandic 20th-century art. Ends August 29

Handverk og Hönnun

Mon-Fri 09:00-16:00

Summer Exhibition of contemporary and traditional Icelandic art and crafts.

Iðnið - Theatre

Summer Season of Light nights. Every Monday and Friday at 8.30 p.m. (duration 2 hours). Light Nights is presented in English. Ends August 27

Gallery smíðar og skart

Sun-Fri 10:00-18:00, Sat: 10:00-16:00

Selection of fine art, both functional and sculptural. Ceramics, paintings and graphics.

Ásmundarsafn, Sculpture museum

10:00-16:00 every day

The Man and Material. A retrospective exhibition of works by Ásmundur Sveinsson.

Reykjavík Zoo and Family Park

10:00-18:00 every day

Icelandic horse and sheep, along with local varieties other animals. In the zoo. Right beside it is the Park, which has various activities for the whole family.

Kjarvalsstaðir Art Museum

10:00-17:00 every day

Roni Horn: Her, her, her and her: Photographs taken in the Reykjavík Swimming Hall.

Francesco Clemente: New Works. Exhibition of new works by the famous Italian artist. Ends August 22. Works from the Kjarval Collection. Kjarval's career as a painter spans the years 1901 to 1968. An overview of Kjarval's work which shows how he developed as an artist.

Einar Jónsson Sculpture Museum

Tue-Sun 14:00-17:00

Works of Einar Jónsson, Iceland's first sculptor.

Sigurjón Ólafsson Sculpture Museum

Tue-Sun 14:00-17:00

Sigurjón Ólafsson's Works in public Space: Poster exhibition and sculptures related to Ólafsson's monuments and public sculptures.

Reykjavík Museum of Photography

Mon-Fri 12:00-19:00, Sat&Sun 13:00-17:00.

A collection of Finnish contemporary photographs.

Saga Museum

10:00-16:00 every day.

The Saga museum intimately recreates key moments in Icelandic history and gives a compelling view into how Icelanders have lived and thought for more than a millenium through the use of life size likenesses

Reykjavík Electricity Museum

Tue-Sun 13:00-17:00

A historical survey of the uses of electricity in the city of Reykjavík, from the time of the first hydro-electric station at Elliðaugar, in operation from 1921 onwards. Ends September 1

Reykjavík City Library

Mon-Fri 10:00-16:00

Books and periodicals in Icelandic as well as English, Scandinavian and other languages. Also has a childrens and a comic book section.

Gallery Fold

Mon-Fri 10:00-18:00 Sat 11:00-17:00 Sun 14:00-17:00

One of the largest Galleries in Iceland, works by many good artists.

Handverk og Hönnun

Mon-Fri 09:00-16:00

Craft and design. Craftspeople transfer - in modern and dynamic ways - nature's shapes, colours and materials to their work.

Gallery Meistarar Jakob

Mon-Fri 11:00-18:00, Sat 11:00-14:00

The gallery is run by eleven artists who work in ceramics, textiles, printmaking and paintings and you will always find one of them at the gallery.

Gallery Tukt

Mon-Thu 13:00-18:00, Fri 13:00 - 17:00

Various artists. r.

Safn

Wed-Fri 14:00-18:00, Sat&Sun 14:00-17:00

The works were the artists' most current works at the time of the museums purchase. Exhibition by The German painter Katharina Grosse and also exhibition by Eggert Petursson.

Teddi - Workshop

10:00-18:00 every day

Open workshop of tree sculptures of Teddi

FRIDAY

AUGUST 20

Reykjavík Energy house

Celebrating its fifth consecutive year, the Iceland

Fashion Week will be held the 18-22nd of August in Iceland's capital city Reykjavík.

Austurbær

The musical Hair: Is known world over for its catchy music and hippie ambience.

SATURDAY

AUGUST 21

Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum

Guided history walks in downtown Reykjavík 2 pm and 8 pm. Free admission.

Austurbær

The musical Hair: Is known world over for its catchy music and hippie ambience.

SUNDAY

AUGUST 22

Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum

Family day: Children's games and activities. Hula-hoop contest. Children's horse rides.

Icelandic opera

Reykjavík Summer Opera: Happy End

TUESDAY

AUGUST 24

Viðey Island

Guided walk around Viðey: Guided walk with historian Órvar B. Eiríksson, with the focus on the caraway that grows on Viðey Island.

Sigurjón Ólafsson Sculpture Museum

Concerts: Þorbjörn Björnsson baritone and Astríður Alda Sigurðardóttir piano.

THURSDAY

AUGUST 26

Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum

Ghost walk: Ghostly guided tour of the supernatural sites of Elliðaugar-valley. Departure at 9 p.m. from the museum entrance. Free admission

Nasa, Kram house and Iðnið

Three nights and three days of tango in Reykjavík with artists from Buenos Aires, Paris, Zürich and Reykjavík.

TUESDAY

AUGUST 31

Sigurjón Ólafsson Sculpture Museum

Concerts by Gruppo Atlantico

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 1

The National Museum of Iceland

The National Museum of Iceland will be re-opened 1. september 2004 with new permanent exhibitions, giving a comprehensive picture of Iceland's cultural history through the ages to the present day. The exhibitions will cover 2000 m² and be an exciting journey through time.

FRIDAY

AUGUST 27

Nasa, Kram house and Iðnið

Three nights and three days of tango in Reykjavík with artists from Buenos Aires, Paris, Zürich and Reykjavík.

Austurbær

The musical Hair: Is known world over for its catchy music and hippie ambience.

SATURDAY

AUGUST 28

Nasa, Kram house and Iðnið

Three nights and three days of tango in Reykjavík with artists from Buenos Aires, Paris, Zürich and Reykjavík.

Icelandic opera

Reykjavík Summer Opera: Happy End

Austurbær

The musical Hair: Is known world over for its catchy music and hippie ambience.

SUNDAY

AUGUST 29

Nasa, Kram house and Iðnið

Three nights and three days of tango in Reykjavík with artists from Buenos Aires, Paris, Zürich and Reykjavík.

Árbæjarsafn, Folk Museum

Vegetable market: End of the summer season. Market: produce from the Museum gardens, home-made jams, knitwear, etc. Church service at 2 p.m. Free admission.

Sigurjón Ólafsson Sculpture Museum

Concerts by Gruppo Atlantico

TUESDAY

AUGUST 31

Sigurjón Ólafsson Sculpture Museum

Concerts by Gruppo Atlantico

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 1

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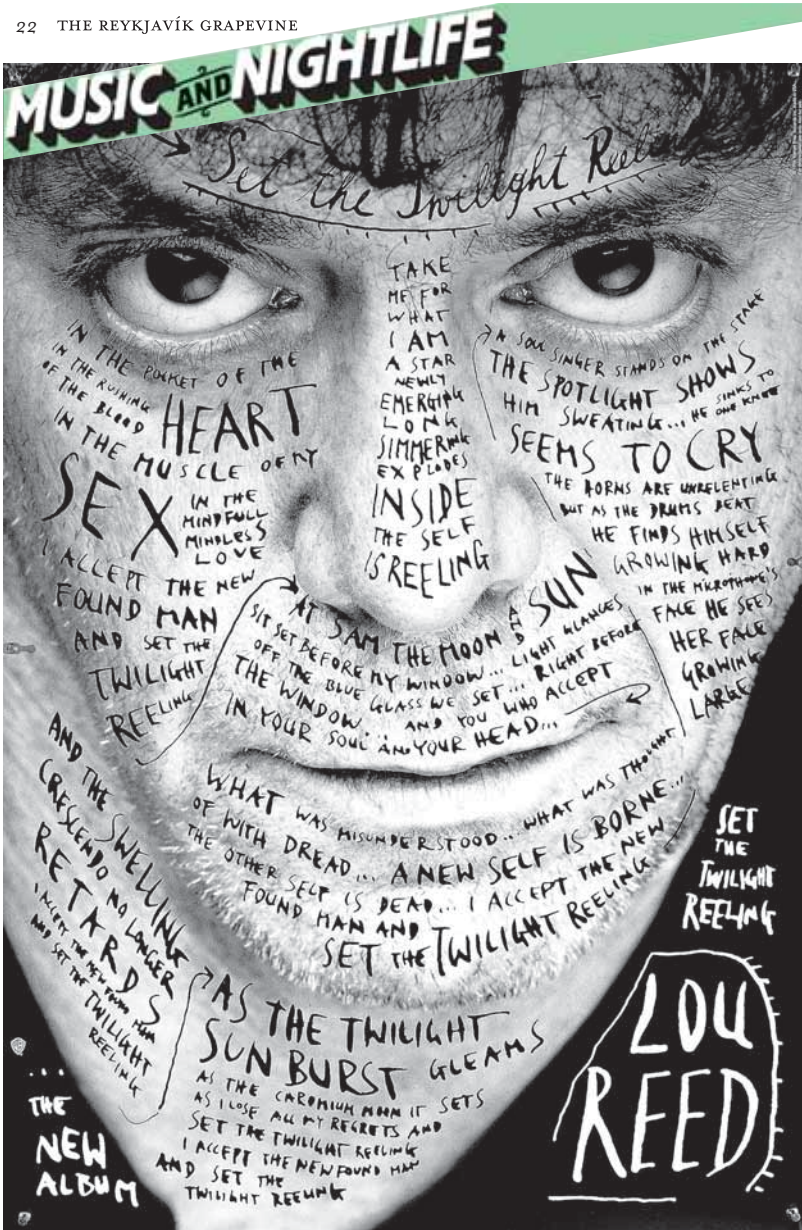


BAGEL CAR

'Bagel' also means a bend or a dent in Icelandic. And 'a bagel' is a dented car or an ugly woman. It's also Reykjavík's most delicious breakfast, lunch, or afternoon treat.



OPEN FOR BREAKFAST AT 8:00 AM
LAUGAVEGUR 81 - 101 REYKJAVÍK - 511 4500 - WWW.RBC.IS



THE BLACK HEART OF LOU REED

by Valur Gunnarsson

The poet must find the medium to suit the times. In ancient Greece, Homer and his cohorts would sing their epic poems. In the Middle Ages, poems troubadours would go from town to town singing their stories with the aid of a lute. It was perhaps only in the 19th Century, when literacy rose and books came into wider circulation, that poets started writing primarily for the page.

When Bob Dylan plugged in, he may inadvertently have killed written poetry in the process. Suddenly, everyone with an interest in stringing words together took to playing the guitar. Leonard Cohen, with four volumes of poetry and two novels under his belt, made an album. John Lennon started writing serious lyrics. And at Syracuse University, New York, a student named Louis "Butch" Firkbank wanted to bring the sensitivities of the novel to rock music, or to write the Great American Novel in a record album, as he would later say. And so he did. The Velvet Underground and Nico, Transformer, Berlin and New York all stand among the finest works of the period, in any medium. It's not unlikely that some of the best poets of the 20th Century took to music. In Lou Reed's latest work, *The Raven*, he resurrects another master, Edgar Allan Poe. Poe was at the time criticised for the violence in his books, but is now by many considered high art. Lou, who brought razorblades to rock, might be undergoing a similar rehabilitation. Reed is mostly remembered for his Velvet Underground era, one of the most influential of rock bands, and his early 70's songs, particularly from the David Bowie produced album *Transformer*. "Walk on the Wild Side" remains an anthem, and thanks to the film *Trainspotting*, *Perfect Day* became a radio staple. On the Zooropa tour, Bono duetted

with Lou on a video screen on the song *Satellite of Love* from the same album, U2 later releasing the song as a B-side. But Lou Reed underwent a creative renaissance about 15 years ago. Having succumbed, like so many, to the synthesiser in the 80's, he returned to a more rock sound with one of his strongest albums ever, *New York*, in 1989. A year later, he recorded the album *Songs for Drella* with John Cale, his previous Velvets collaborator who was fired from the band after their second album. With very sparse instrumentation, mostly just piano and guitar, the pair almost manage to outdo their previous masterpieces together, as well as delivering a touching eulogy to the late Andy Warhol. In the song "I Believe," Reed calls for the execution of Warhol's assassin Valerie Solanas, with the words "I do believe I'd turn the switch myself. Solanas sprayed the bullets with silver as she thought he was a vampire. Warhol never fully recovered from the 1968 shooting, and died in 1987 following routine gall bladder surgery. The doctor who so botched the operation was reputedly Icelandic, but he doesn't get a mention on the album. Lou Reed has recently been playing stunning versions of the song "Home" from the album in his shows, and we can only hope he will do so at Laugardalshöllin on the 20th of August.

James Brown works Laugardalshöllin



From the Godfather of punk to the Godfather of funk. And, of course, soul. To my generation, James Brown first appeared coming out of the floor, singing *Living in America* in front of a surprised Ivan Drago in *Rocky 4*. Not long after, "Free James Brown" became a popular graffiti. But Brown has led many lives and has been a major influence on R&B (the original variety), soul, funk and even hip hip, having cut the

breakthrough single *Unity* with Afrika Bambaataa. They've been saying it for decades, but this really may be the last chance to see him live, at least in this country, and shouldn't be missed. They might always put him away again. All together now: "Say it out loud, I'm black and I'm proud." The concert will be on the 28th of august in Laugardalshöll, starting at 19:00.

PICKS MUSIC AND NIGHTLIFE

Illgresi backyard, August 21, 16:00

UNDERGROUND GIG

A number of bands who didn't participate in Culture Night itself are holding their own gig outside clothes store Illgresi on Laugarvegur 17. Indie rock band Kimono headlines but lesser known bands such as Brúðarbandið, Skátar, Beikon and Isidor will be playing too. Be there or be mainstream! No admission.

Bar 11, August 25, 22:00

INNVORTIS

Innvortis have been around since 1996 and were formed in a little town in north of Iceland called Húsavík. They've released one album called "Comes & Goes" and are currently working on new material for a new release. They play happy rhythm punk rock but their lyrics are not even near the neighborhood of happiness. Band usually doesn't leave the stage without leaving trails of blood. No Admission.

Gaukurinn, August 25 & 26, 22:00

DÚNDURFRETTIR

A coverband with dignity, that's a rare treat is it not? Well when five pro musicians join hands to play their favorite Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin songs, that truly is more than just a band playing covers. A journalist from Rolling Stone magazine once wrote that they were the best Floyd coverband he had ever seen, and as we all know, Rolling Stone magazine doesn't lie. Admission 1000ISK

Café Rósenberg, August 26, 21:00

BLUES NIGHT

The all star team of Icelandic blues is playing tonight, or at least three of them, singer Andrea, guitarist Gummi P and Eddi Lár. No Admission.

Café Árnes

By the Reykjavík harbour

Suðurbugt Reykjavík harbour

Tel: 551 5101



Music for the Masses

by Bart Cameron

Böddi, the lead singer of Touch, is a tall, muscled blond kid with gelled hair and a penchant for Hawaiian shirts a la Old Navy, the ideal FM Hnakkí that the Sirkús crowd mocks. He is not ironic. He doesn't poke fun at anyone but himself. He is simply bard for anyone with insecurities to like. Perhaps more annoyingly, he can sing, too. And his band, Touch, can play, and will play and entertain for as long as their more and more rabid fan base can take them. The band recently put on two and three hour concerts for three days at the Pizza 67 tent at the Westman Islands festival. I attended the band's performance on Gay Pride Day at Da Palace.

Grapevine: What are your influences?
 Böddi: Sting and Guns n' Roses.
 GV: Sting and Guns n' Roses.
 Really? You're not a 101 band, are you?
 Böddi: No. What we're playing is just for us. We've got good material though.
 We've got interesting stuff that is not far from what's been done before, but it's got some unique features.
 GV: Well that's blunt. And you sound like realists.
 Böddi: We have melodic rock. (Interruption as a Touch fan approaches me and almost head butts me.)
 GV: I've heard complaints about Icelandic vocals. Namely that there aren't enough strong vocalists in the

music scene here (well, there was this band Ríkið, but they've quit now. -Ed).
 Kópur (the drummer): I don't agree with that. We have Stuðmenn, Stefán Hilmarsson. We have plenty of great vocalists, they're just in a different market.
 GV: Not the 101 market?
 Böddi: Definitely not.
 GV: So who is your music for, exactly?
 Böddi: We play music for everyone. My mom is in there. And I see 16 year old girls in there.
 Kópur: My mom would be in there, too, but she doesn't have a dress.

Moments after this final line, I take a seat next to Böddi's mom and some of the many 16 year old



women in attendance. The concert is completely and totally entertaining. A great voice and excellent drumming can make up for a lack of image - actually they combine perfectly with a lack of image. The band's original numbers are indeed melodic rock a la Matchbox 20 but, honest to god, after months covering droning Icelandic hipster rock, it feels as refreshing as a Budweiser on a hot day (Love in a canoe -ed).

Especially given the visual effects: everybody in the band has cup holders attached to the mic stands. The guitarist has a shirt that says "I only sleep with the best," a goatee, and a tribal tattoo on his bicep, as do many members of the audience. Böddi, often seemingly ecstatic about his voice and body, flops on the floor, jumps from tables and croons to anyone who will come near him - and many women and a couple transvestites do.

A friend who walked by the show, quickly, said the following over beers at Bar 11: "I've never seen so many people in Da Palace. And I've never been so afraid of them."

If that's not real rock, I don't know what is.

Check out Touch at www.touch.is, and hear them on FM radio.

MUSIC and NIGHTLIFE LISTINGS : august 20 - september 2

FRIDAY

AUGUST 20

De Palace: 21:00 Bands Touch and Inwovist playing

00:00 DJ Cesar

Café Culture: 23:00 Band Flug plays

Mojito Club: 23:00 Launch Music

Hverfisbar: DJ Andri

Hressó: DJ Atli Skemmtanalögga

Kaffi List: DJ Bjarni and Maggi from band Úpa

Thorvaldsen bar: DJ Daddi Disco

Café Victor: DJ DeeJay Disc jokes

Felix: DJ Doktorinn

De Boomkikker: DJ Heavy Metal

Nasa: DJ Isi

Sirkus: DJ Jón Atli

Vegamót: DJ Jóni & DJ Daði

Kapital: DJ Kiddi Bigfoot

Bar 11: DJ LuPin

Kaffibarinn: DJ Natalie

Nelly's: DJ Nonni 900

Café 22: DJ Palli, band Maus's Gítar Heró!

Amsterdam: DJ Steini

Café Sólón: DJ Svalli

Jón Forseti: DJ's Party & Dance

Grand Rokk: Radio X BBQ party; Bands Singapore Sling and Hóit Hóra, see picks for details

Café Rósenberg: Troubadour duet, bass & guitar; Sváfnir and Þórarinn

Ari í Ögri: Troubadours Halli and Kalli

Celtic Cross: Upstairs; Troubadour Downstairs; Coverband

Dubliners: Vocalist Ruth Reginalds sings

SATURDAY

AUGUST 21

Jómfrún: 16:00 Klezmerband Schpilkas with guest vocalist Ragnheiður Gröndal. Drums: Helgi Sv. Helgason, bass: Peter Jørgensen, Haukur Gröndal Klarinet and Accordion; Nicholas Kingo.

Illgres: 16:00 Underground gig, among bands playing are: Kimono, Skátar, Brúðarbandið, Ókínd, Isidor and Beikon. See picks for details

Café Culture: 20:00 Schpilkas; a jazz/balkan music band. Guest vocalist Ragnheiður Gröndal

22:00 Salsa jam with Carlos Sanchez

Ari í Ögri: 21:00 Acoustics & co

Hressó: 21:00 Coverband Búðarbandið and singer Eyjólfur Kristjánsson of Eurovision fame

Mojito Club: 23:00 Launch Music

De Palace: Bands playing: Dark Harvest, Victory or Death, Herólymur, Hóit Hóra, Palindrome, Bar-barossa and Touch, see picks for details.

Amsterdam: Cover band Buff

Gaukur á Stöng: Coverband "Í svörtum Fötum"

Hressó: DJ Atli Skemmtanalögga

Hverfisbar: DJ Benni

Café 22: DJ Benni

Thorvaldsen bar: DJ Daddi Disco

Café Victor: DJ DeeJay Disc jokes

Felix: DJ Doktorinn

De Boomkikker: DJ Heavy Metal

Bar 11: DJ Honkey Tonk

Kaffibarinn: DJ Kári

Sirkus: DJ GJB and also, Band Singapore Sling playing in the back yard!

Kapital: DJ Kiddi Bigfoot

Kaffi List: DJ LuPin

Vegamót: DJ Rampage & DJ Þóri

Café Sólón: DJ Svalli

Jón Forseti: DJ's Party & Dance

Grand Rokk: Iceland's only Reggae band Hjalmar play

Nasa: Soulband "Stefán og Straumar" plays

Café Rósenberg: Troubadour duet, bass & guitar; Sváfnir and Þórarinn

Nelly's: Troubadours Jódís and Blidda from the town of Egilsstaðir, and after that; DJ Nonni 900

Celtic Cross: Upstairs; Troubadour Downstairs; Coverband

Dubliners: Vocalist Ruth Reginalds sings....again

SUNDAY

AUGUST 22

Bar 11: 21:00 Movie Night: Splatter Special

Dubliners: Troubadour Ingvar Valgeirs

MONDAY

AUGUST 23

Dubliners: Troubadour Ingvar Valgeirs

TUESDAY

AUGUST 24

Bar 11: Dice Night: Free drinks on the roll of a dice

Dubliners: Troubadour Th Fitzgerald

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 25

Kaffibarinn: DJ Kári

Gaukur á Stöng: Dúndurféttir or "Big News" plays the best of Zepplin & Pink Floyd. Rolling Stone magazine claims they are the best Floyd coverband ever.

Bar 11: Punk rocks happiest band; Inwovist

Café Culture: Tango Night

Dubliners: Troubadour B T

THURSDAY

AUGUST 26

Bar 11: 11 Poetry Night

Café Victor: 1664 Night

De Palace: Band Tvítöla plays

Kaffi List: Blues band Mood plays

Café Rósenberg: Blues night; Vocalist Andrea & Guitarist Gummi P; see picks for details

Kaffibarinn: DJ Gísli Galdur

Café Sólón: DJ Tommi White

Sirkus: DJ Þormar

Gaukur á Stöng: Dúndurféttir or "Big News" plays the best of Zepplin & Pink Floyd. Rolling Stone magazine claims they are the best Floyd coverband ever.

Thorvaldsen bar: Mojito night, DJ Daddi Disco

Dubliners: Troubadour B T

Hverfisbar: Troubadour duet Bitlarnir

Kapital: Troubadours Magni & Sævar

FRIDAY

AUGUST 27

Mojito Club: 23:00 Launch Music

Gaukur á Stöng: Coverband Eólan plays live

Hverfisbar: DJ Andri

Hressó: DJ Atli Skemmtanalögga

Thorvaldsen bar: DJ Daddi Disco

Café Victor: DJ DeeJay disc jokes

Amsterdam: DJ Dirty

Felix: DJ Doktorinn

De Boomkikker: DJ Heavy Metal

Bar 11: DJ Hædf

Café Culture: DJ Kristín

Café 22: DJ Matti

Sirkus: DJ Natalie

Kaffi List: DJ Palli og Biggi from band Maus

Café Sólón: DJ Svalli

Jón Forseti: DJ's Party & Dance

Ari í Ögri: Duet Acoustics

Grand Rokk: Iceland's only Reggae band Hjalmar play

De Palace: THE GIG, live bands

Dubliners: Troubadour Bjarni Ingli and the Russians

Celtic Cross: Upstairs; Troubadour Downstairs; Coverband

SATURDAY

AUGUST 28

Jómfrún: 16:00 70 years old singer Ragnar Bjarnason with his quartet. Ragnar will be releasing a record later this year.

Mojito Club: 23:00 Launch Music

Gaukur á Stöng: Coverband "fráfár" plays live

Nasa: Coverband "Íslenski Fáninn" or the Icelandic Flag plays a strange mix of Icelandic 70's and 80's pop

Hverfisbar: DJ Andri

Hressó: DJ Atli Skemmtanalögga

Café 22: DJ Benni

Thorvaldsen bar: DJ Daddi Disco

Café Victor: DJ DeeJay disc jokes

Felix: DJ Doktorinn

Bar 11: DJ Einar Sonic

De Boomkikker: DJ Heavy Metal

Kaffi List: DJ Hædf

Café Culture: DJ Kristín

Sirkus: DJ Reynir, for the last time

Café Sólón: DJ Svalli

Jón Forseti: DJ's Party & Dance

Ari í Ögri: Duet Acoustics

Amsterdam: Rock coverband 101

De Palace: THE GIG, live bands

Dubliners: Troubadour Bjarni Ingli and the Russians

Celtic Cross: Upstairs; Troubadour Downstairs; Coverband

SUNDAY

AUGUST 29

Bar 11: Movie Night: Fantasy Special

Dubliners: Troubadour Andy Garcia

MONDAY

AUGUST 30

Dubliners: Troubadour Andy Garcia

TUESDAY

AUGUST 31

Bar 11: Dice Night: Free drinks on the roll of a dice

Dubliners: Troubadour Th Fitzgerald

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 1

Café Culture: Tango Night

Dubliners: Troubadour Bjarni Tryggva

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 2

Café Victor: 1664 Night

Café Sólón: DJ Andrés

Thorvaldsen bar: Mojito Night, DJ Daddi Disco

Sirkus: Reggae Night, DJ Kári

De Palace: THE GIG; Live bands playing

Dubliners: Troubadour Bjarni Tryggva

Hverfisbar: Troubadour duet Bitlarnir

Kapital: Troubadours Magni & Sævar



Don't waste the nights sleeping
there is too much fun to be had in the old falcon House

The DJ vips up the best in music while the bar tends to your thirst.

Have the night of your life and then drop in the next day to recover with a square meal.

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MUSIC AND NIGHTLIFE



by Bart Cameron

HIP HOP TAKES CENTER STAGE IN REYKJAVÍK

On August 11, Icelandic hip hop hit a milestone: more than 5000 fans filled Laugardalsbóll for the country's largest ever hip hop concert. True, at the top of the bill there was G-Unit, the American hip hop crew featuring 50 Cent. But Quarashi, XXX Rottweiler, and young MCs Huxin and Dóri DNA definitely supported the P I M P from Jamaica Queens.

The only disappointment of the evening was Geno Sydal, whose laid-back style could not make the transition to the fist-pumping persona he took on for the show. Amiable and likeable as Geno is, the eighth time he said "Iceland put your fucking hands up" it became apparent that the country simply wasn't interested in putting its hands up.

That said, Geno Sydal had a saving grace; guest Huxin who took over one song with a dazzling burst of rhymes spit so fast I thought teeth might shoot across the stage. The experience was something like listening to Eminem's sections on the horrid D12 tracks.

XXX Rottweiler stormed the stage next, opening strong with the other student guest MC of the evening, Dóri DNA. One Rottweiler song can be a beautiful thing, especially following what it followed. The problem was that two and three Rottweiler songs in a row loses its charm. While the band has obvious charisma, their beats are too monotonous, and the rhythms almost become draining. The solution is to add a bit more flow, as Dóri provided on a few songs.

Rottweiler was responsible for one of the more surreal moments of the night - when Ben stripped to an undershirt a la 50 Cent and revealed a surprising build. The unusual bulk made him look exactly like Russian gymnast Aleksei Nemov - not quite the street cred he may have been looking for, but worth commending.

Rapper MC Tiny of Quarashi followed suit, also stripping to a muscle shirt, taking the evening one step further into Dali does hip hop. Tiny, who bears a passing resemblance to Michael J. Fox in

his Family Ties years, definitely has talent. The complaint that he sounds like Slim Shady can't be considered too much of a pejorative. Sólvi, Quarashi's songwriter and producer, looked like a star as well, as his band's live sound had the highest production quality, but had an embarrassing angle from which to enjoy his success, perched at a poorly mic'd drum set and playing along with canned music. This is what local live hip hop is sorely lacking - variation of beats and, well, music.

Finally, 50 Cent took the stage. This was preceded by twenty minutes of the punctuated screams of "it's him" every time a black man stepped on stage. No matter how different that black man looked from 50 Cent, a portion of the audience was sure it was 50 Cent.

When 50 actually did step forward, he looked like he does in the videos... only slightly bigger. He looked intimidating enough that, though his pitch was flat and his flow often just behind the beat, well, nobody in the audience was going to say anything.

The most bizarre irony of the evening was simply the bill: 50 Cent is the least talented rapper to come out of America since P Diddy. He is notable only because of his street credibility - because he was shot nine times and because he is, quite obviously, "hard." This is the one thing Icelandic rap can't be. Just by being born in the country with one of the highest standards of living in the country, Icelanders lose their street cred... but why are they looking for it anyway? The freestyle community is developing the skills of the young MCs. In 101, musicians have shown particular skill in creating club friendly electronic and ambient music - why the hell haven't they combined?

Cigarettes and Mint Tea

Yeah, we hit Germany rolling and came up shooting, sunglasses on, with a rum bottle in one hand and a hotel key in the other. We immediately went to our room and had some rum. Then the phone rang.

"Would you like to come down to the hotel bar and maybe have some drinks with us?" said a German accent I recognized. It was the girl who drove us here from the airport, of course, and of course we accepted. We quickly finished the rum and rolled back downstairs, using the elevator mirrors to adjust our sunglasses. At the bar we ended up having a discussion with a woman from New Zealand about Ash, Stephen Malkmus and Sean Lennon.

"Do you like Nu-Clear Sounds?" I probed cautiously after inspecting the Berlin Hyatt's extensive wine selection.

"Yes, but no one else does."

"I know, but it's such a great album."

"I think it's their best one," Scanner said, taking a long sip of his beer

Suddenly the beer from the Frankfurt airport, the white wine from the plane, the rum and the wonderfully brewed German beer began clawing at my bladder, and I retreated to the bathroom. When I returned, Scanner was in his element.

"I'm telling you, all of Western, Western - and Eastern! - culture is based on alcohol! The only culture that isn't is, you know, the Muslims, and that's because it isn't allowed!"

I wanted to say "So does that mean their culture is based on cigarettes and mint tea?" but because I was still pretending I didn't speak English, I could not.

by Sindri Eldon



Shortly thereafter, we accepted an invitation to dinner. We had some more rum, walked around town for a bit, and I came to the conclusion that downtown Berlin looks a lot like old central London.

Dinner was at a mall across a crowded square from the decimated Church of Remembrance. After a drunken march through the mall we decided to a place called Mavepikken, and grabbed window seats next to a secluded area called the Musician's Club.

Conversation was heavy, and revolved mainly around how a revolution had to be at hand, not just in music, as the doomsayers keep screaming at us over their beer-stained coffee tables, but in all art, and perhaps the world.

And sitting here, thinking about it now inside this ridiculously overdone hotel room, with Marilyn Manson on at full blast, it seems a painfully pointless and easily ridiculed point to make.



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BEERMAN IN THE ROUGH

by Beerman

illustration: Þorsteinn Davíðsson

There's nothing like a blowjob in the wild. You'll never be as close to nature. Sometimes you can even feel God.

Every summer, young men leave the city in droves hoping for sex in a sleeping bag or that elusive blowjob in the wild. Now, sex in a sleeping bag ain't all that great. The ground is hard and if the tent is small, your head tents to bump into it, or even out of it, as you move back and forth. Still, this is traditionally most Icelanders first run-in with sex, so you tend to be grateful.

It is common practice to start drinking in the car on the way. Somebody gets to be the designated driver and, since he's usually the only one that cares by the time you get to the camping area, he usually also gets to be the man who puts up the tent. Such is the lot of the designated driver.

The designated driver is rarely me. My responsibilities on this trip stretched to bringing a tent. This I did, flawlessly. The only thing missing were the pegs to actually stick the tent in the ground. This being Iceland, and the wind blowing hard as usual, this presented something of a problem. I marched over to the nearest gas station, rarely far away on a camping trip, thank God, and asked for pegs. They had them, and I marched back to the camping area.

As I tried to push the pike into the ground, it bent. It seemed my workouts at the half kilo gym (read: bar) had done more for my strength than I thought. I tried another one. It bent too. I worked my way through the packet, bending every pike. I looked at the package. "Fine aluminium tent pegs," it said. I hoped this wasn't what the highlands were being sacrificed for. I marched back into the gas station, yelled at them that their tent pegs



were no good, and demanded they give me more. The clerk handed me another packet and grudgingly said it was on the house.

This time, I gently stuck the pegs into the soft grass. They stuck halfway out of the ground, but the tent seemed in place. For now.

We now moved onto the next phase of getting in touch with nature - the barbecue. Everyone sits down

on camping chairs, opens up a beer and lights of a cigar or cigarette of their choice, while they watch the burgers and steaks burn. It's always nice to get out of the city and get some of that fresh country air. Even if the fresh country air can try to get back at you by blowing the beer sideways as you try to pour it from can to glass.

The eating over, we moved on

to the heavy drinking. Back in the day, I would do this in order to hit on women. Now, older and less self-delusional, I knew I was doing it for its own sake. Still, one could always hope. This being the August bank holiday, everyone was out in the country. I met a girl who I had gone to school with. She had been a babe, but that was before she got pregnant. She hadn't noticed me back then.

Now, she didn't look all that great. Neither did I, but then I never had. Let's just say I was very sympathetic to her plight, understood the cruelty of the world and everything else. We went back to my tent. Meanwhile, in the Westman Islands, the class of 1988 lost their virginity and she gave me a blowjob as the wind blew the waterproof top off the tent. I was finally at one with nature.

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FISH AND PRIDE

HORST TAPAS

by Ölvir Gíslason



"The heat is on" quoth Glenn Frey back in the innocent 80s. The heat was certainly on in Reykjavík in the second week of August. News reports claimed that new heat records were set and many offices closed early for most of the week, the argument being that this was a much more precious and ephemeral holiday for Icelanders than e.g. Christmas. Unlucky office workers like myself did little but perspire and wonder if their scrotum temperature was in danger of reaching sterility levels. Many gathered on Austurvöllur to drink warm beer from the state-run alcohol store (beer-coolers being considered the first step on the road to complete anarchy and chaos), ogle members of the opposite sex and watch the occasional bum fight.

On a hot and sultry day like this it is particularly appropriate to enjoy a round of Tapas. The only restaurant in Reykjavík specialising in this Spanish culinary delight is Tapas Bar, located in the cellar of Vesturgata 3b. The central location makes it an ideal place to visit after spending a sunny afternoon in Austurvöllur, which is exactly what Grapevine did on this hot August evening. We elected to sit outside, although a decidedly un-Spanish evening gust was starting to make its presence felt in downtown Reykjavík. Being young, adventurous and obese, we decided to select the chef's choice of a large selection of small dishes. We didn't have to wait very long before the dishes began to arrive, one by one. Among the delicious and often exotic-looking delicacies on offer were scallops, baked salted cod (the strongest economic and culinary link between Spain and Iceland), almond roasted trout with bananas, meatballs with romesco sauce, grilled pork and roasted crabs (delicious, although for the editor they brought back uncomfortable memories of his unfortunate bout with crab lice in the late 90's)(not true, I didn't even get to have sex in the late 90's—ed.). The spices and sauces were savoury, but always played Garfunkel to the main

ingredients' Simon.

For dessert we had the most exotic item we could find on the menu: Baked goat cheese with jam, honey and crisp bread. We were not quite sure what to do with the honey but the goat cheese was delicious, although its taste was a little too reminiscent of the smell in the goat shack in the Reykjavík farm animal zoo. Perhaps a bit like having sex with someone who reminds you of a close relative.

While we ate, we discussed the effects of weather on national character and the Icelandic national character in particular. Our waiter, who turned out to be Portuguese, had various things to say on the matter. Icelanders, he said, are willing to accept any indignity from their government, but if they get cold coffee with their dessert they demand loudly to get the whole meal for free. We couldn't help but be a little concerned for him, as he chatted with us for several minutes outside in the evening breeze while holding a half-full pot of cooling and potentially rampage-inducing coffee. However, no cold coffee frenzies resulted that particular evening. Perhaps it will be safe to give us beer coolers. Any year now.

DRINKING IN THE SHOWER

by H. Gunn.

Hot water is probably the reason anybody settled here in the first place. Who cares about the unforgiving weather if you can have a steaming stream running through your but, and a natural hot tub in your backyard? Endless hot water on tap is easy to get used to, and fooling around in it becomes a way of life from an early age.

Much of my childhood was spent messing around in the local swimming pools and as a logical progression, I got hooked on long, hot showers. This habit caused some frustration in the family, who resented my hogging of the shower. But I stood my ground and to this day I take a lengthy shower whenever I can.

In this modern world of multitasking, there is use to be made of these long showers. Ironing or cooking is not desirable in there...

But you certainly can drink.

The merits of drinking in the shower were crudely presented to

me in a book by John O'Brien, called *Leaving Las Vegas*. The main character (flawlessly portrayed by Nicholas Cage in the adaptation for the big screen), a hopeless drunk named Ben, would take his second or third morning drink in the shower to be able to face the day and to get rid of the shakes. But I'd like to think that there was an aesthetic reason as well for Ben's shower drinking.

The sight of moisture condensing on the cold glass of a beer bottle in the shower is a sight that every drinking-art aficionado should see at least once in their lifetime. As a bonus, the drink as such becomes

even more refreshing when the hot water is beating on your back.

Spend a little time in Iceland, and you'll quickly realize that to prevent bankruptcy, it is advisable to do some drinking at home before hitting the bars. Why not start that traditionally Icelandic act while showering? I've been experimenting with this procedure for a while now with some gratifying results. But it's not only beer that goes well with showers. A glass of whiskey is becoming and even more pleasing to the eye than the beer bottle. Wine works, too, although not as well as liquor or beer. I always feel silly when I'm holding a wine-glass in the shower. Coffee, drunk hot, is a bit different from the rest, but a morning cup of 'freshly brewed' in the shower is hard to beat.

At this point it should be mentioned that it's a gross misconception that taking a shower is a solitary experience. The average

size of a shower fits two quite comfortably and two drinks to boot. This is a possibility that shouldn't be overlooked.

Lastly, it is a well-known fact that Icelandic accommodation is priced by the devil and this may be a chance for travellers to get something back.

Turn your bathroom into a steam-room/bar and have a party. If you're paying a large amount of money, you might as well use a large amount of hot water.



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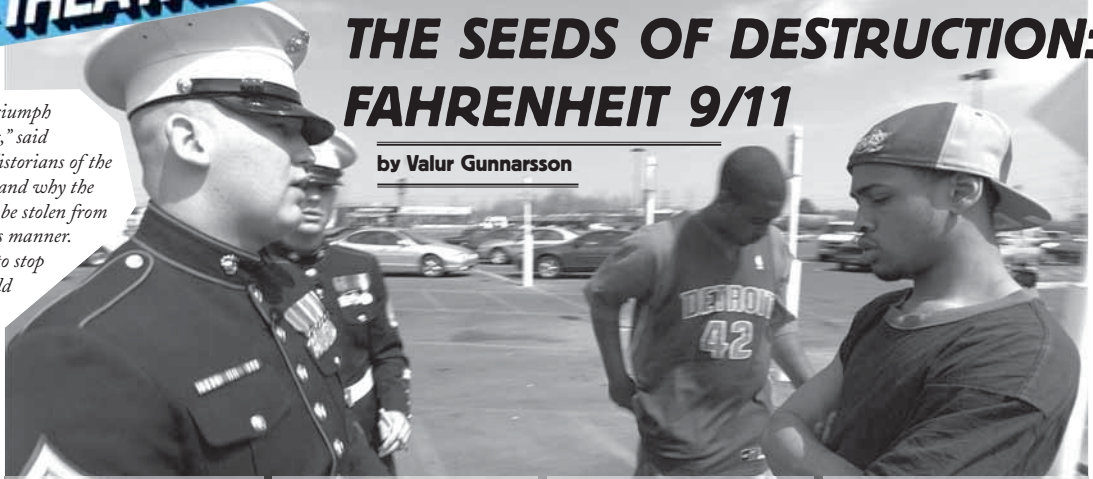


MOVIES AND THEATRE

THE SEEDS OF DESTRUCTION: FAHRENHEIT 9/11

by Valur Gunnarsson

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing," said the philosopher Edmund Burke. Historians of the future will probably never understand why the Democrats let the election in 2000 be stolen from them in such a blatant and obvious manner. When the Supreme Court decided to stop the recount in Florida, which would have shown that the majority there voted for Al Gore, he, out of fear of being seen as a sore loser, decided to give up. At the time, this seemed destined to bring us four years of status quo and presidential jokes.



Then September 11th happened. The president that no one took seriously suddenly was in a position to do what he wanted. He used that power to abolish some fundamental human rights with the Patriot Act, and then went on to invade a succession of foreign countries. Small wonder some made comparisons with the Hitler regime. They had come to power legally but without a majority vote, but the Reichstag fire a month after Hitler being appointed Chancellor allowed them to persecute and ban all opposition. Yet there is no direct evidence that links the Nazi's to the fire, even if they benefited from it enormously.

Did Bush know about 9/11?
The Bush administration benefitted to no end by September 11th. Bush was now finally able to claim legitimacy as a War President. The building of an oil pipeline through

Afghanistan and the seizing of the oilfields of Iraq, both assets to the family business, could be put into action. It is almost tempting to think that the Bush administration was in some way involved in, or knew of, the hijackings. But this would be wrong. The hijackings were too well planned. If the whole thing was planned from the outset, you would think that the guys who were able to orchestrate 9/11 and get away with it would at least have had sense to plant some chemical weapons in the Iraqi desert. You would also have expected them to coach George Bush a little better than having him sit dumbfounded in a room full of children when the attacks took place. The scenario presented by Fahrenheit 9-11 is much more plausible. The administration didn't plan the attacks. But they sure took advantage of the opportunity when it presented itself. The rich are rich

precisely because they know how to turn tragedy into profit. Another thing that will surprise historians of the future is why the oil barons of the US didn't find a more plausible candidate than George W. Bush. Someone with slightly less obvious ties to the financial and political establishment than a former president's son. Someone slightly less obviously an idiot. Reagan fit the bill, an actor with a gift for one-liners and considerable personal charisma. It seems they've been lying to us for so long that they almost feel confident enough to show their true faces. And now they have.

An American solution
Thank goodness, then, for Michael Moore. You may question some of his methods and he may seem a bit heavy-handed at times, but what he is doing is bringing politics back to the people, allowing those

who otherwise may not feel part of the debate, but who are certainly influenced by decisions, to get some sort of insight into what is going on. The film is obviously made for an American audience. A lot more time is spent on grieving American mothers than on the Iraqis who have been hurt because of Bush's policies. Moore even points a finger at Iceland, in that the government here supported the war. It's important to remember that the American people should not be blamed for the actions of their government, less we be blamed for the actions of ours. They, at least, have the excuse that they didn't vote for it. Come November, they will get the chance to start solving the problem. W. Bush may be more than an American problem, but he's going to require an American solution. It is important to remember that the war in Iraq is not a struggle between

the Iraqi and the American people. It is a matter of the poor of one country being sent to kill the poor of another, so that the rich of said country can steal money from the rich of another. It's as simple, and as reprehensible, as that. One of the films' strongest and scariest points is when Moore shows us the US troops being sent to Iraq. Young kids are being snatched up at supermarkets in the poorest areas of the United States, and being told that a career in the Marines will help them on the way to becoming famous rappers or basketball players. When they are then sent into action, these kids blast out heavy metal on their earphones, barely being able to tell the difference between computer games and warfare. The result can only be Abu Ghraib.

Screenings start roughly every two hours, at 18, 20 and 22. However, with films getting ever longer starting times may vary. There are usually ads and trailers for roughly 15 minutes from announced starting time. Almost all films have a short interval in the middle.

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I Robot
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Fahrenheit 9/11

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27. august Bourne Supremacy

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27. august Thunderbirds
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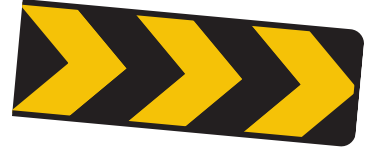
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OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

A MINISTER PLEASE



The Head of Tourism gave some good news the other day. Visitors to the country had increased by 13% from last year. Nearly 300,000 tourists will have chosen Iceland as their holiday of choice. At first glance the words "so what?" might spring to mind, but when the fact that the figure is roughly equal to the actual population of the country itself, then indeed it is an impressive achievement. And what's encouraging, is that trend is look set to continue with the total doubling over the next ten years.



by Robert Jackson

The Tourism board pointed out that they have been pleased with the response to their poster campaigns on the Tube and in the Metro, and that they plan to continue with it for next year. While these advertisements may have had some part to play in the sudden upsurge in visitors, the real motivator for people to visit has been the arrival, finally, of low cost, internet booked airfares. Europe, and more recently The United States, have seen most of the old airline cartels broken, competition has been fierce and prices have tumbled - and the people who have benefitted has been the customer, and what a refreshing change that makes.

Some people are first class

Last year Iceland Express launched their low cost airline, offering unheard of prices on routes to Copenhagen and London Stansted. Where Icelandair had been selling return economy flights to London for 400 pounds, the new operator was offering the same run for 150 pounds, sometimes far less. Icelandair had no option but to follow suit, and soon they were offering web tickets that competed with Iceland Express. Icelandair, while saying publically that they welcomed the competition, set about pricing Iceland Express out of business. And they might well have done so, but travellers both here and in Europe got wind of the fact that flying in and out of here was now sensibly priced, and they started booking.

This spring, Iceland Express doubled the number of flights and the doommongers warned that the company was overstretching itself and could not fund such rapid growth. So far they have been proved wrong. In the meantime, one thing is for certain: low cost airtravel is here to stay.

One group of travellers who so far haven't embraced the concept of low cost travel is the group funded by the taxpayer. Yes, when it comes to travel, MPs, Ministers, Prime Ministers and Presidents, they like it Saga Class. These leaders of Europe's most classless society like the wide seat, the free champagne and a dividing curtain between them and the people who are paying for their ticket. So next time you bump

into your local representative ask her/him why he needs to spend 110,000 krónur to get from A to B when you can do it for a fraction of that cost.

Fewer smelters, more tourists

Low cost travel and the tourists it brings will do more for this country than aluminium smelters and hydro electric schemes and those in power should be doing more to support it. Which brings us back to the poster campaigns. Tourism generates well over twice as much income for the country as farming and the gap between them will only grow. The Ministry of Agriculture spends over 11 billion krónur, while Tourism is part of the Ministry of Communications, and with a comparatively minuscule budget to spend. Perhaps it is time to create a New Ministry, that of Tourism, properly funded with the money to invest in capital projects away from Reykjavik which will make Iceland even more attractive to visitors and help the regeneration of the rural areas.

The country has so much to offer, but investment and training are needed to make sure that the tourists of the future don't leave feeling that they have been ripped off or disillusioned. Peak times at the Blue Lagoon are already crowded, and can be uncomfortable. 'The Golden Circle' also gets crowded. To continue to appeal and give value to tourists more investment will be needed on projects farther away from the Keflavik airport. This will mean the sort of commitment that creating a Tourism Ministry would bring.

Overseas there is real 'buzz' about this country, and it is hard to know precisely why. Vigdís and Björk? The Blue Lagoon and Geysir? The epicentre of cool Reykjavik? With the best will in the world poster campaigns on subways can only promote what is already there. Supporting low cost travel and well priced interesting places to stay around the country must be the aims of the future and what better way to show seriousness of intent than a Minister of Tourism with a budget that gives him the money to do the job. The country is going to need all the foreign revenue it can get, and Tourism is the only real activity that can produce it.

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Island Life

Steingrimsfjörður: Farmer finds jellyfish

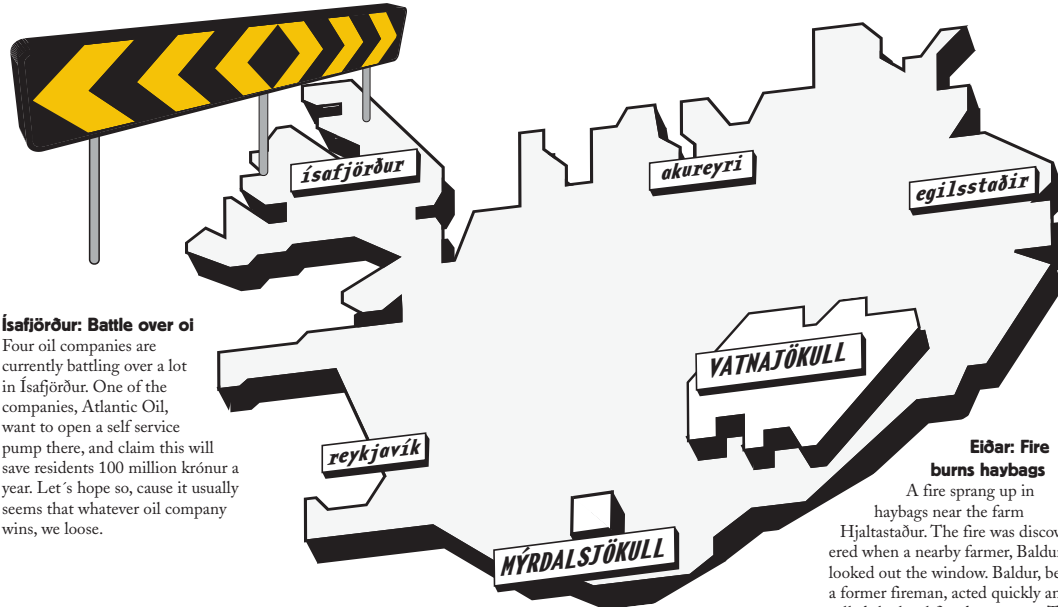
Farmer Guðbrandur Sveinsson found a huge jellyfish close to the farm. The jellyfish measured 101 cm across. "This is the biggest jellyfish I've seen," said the farmer. "It's a pity its not edible," he added.

Kárahjúkar: Land worth 2 billion krónur

German economist David Bothe has done extensive research on the land being flooded by the damming of Kárahjúkar, and estimates it to be worth 2 billion krónur. He suggests another way be found to make power.

Eiðar: Fire burns haybags

A fire sprang up in haybags near the farm Hjaltastaður. The fire was discovered when a nearby farmer, Baldur, being a former fireman, acted quickly and called the local fire department. The fire department arrived half an hour later and put out the fire.



Ísafjörður: Battle over oil
Four oil companies are currently battling over a lot in Ísafjörður. One of the companies, Atlantic Oil, want to open a self service pump there, and claim this will save residents 100 million krónur a year. Let's hope so, cause it usually seems that whatever oil company wins, we loose.

Geysir: The Resurrection

by John Boyce

If you cast your mind back to your dim and distant childhood (or in my case last Saturday afternoon), you may remember a popular cartoon character called Yogi Bear. Along with his faithful sidekick, the cheerful if verbose BooBoo, Yogi eked out a comfortable existence pilfering picnic baskets from unsuspecting tourists. I guess you could say it was his life's work.



All the fun and frolics took place in Yellowstone National Park, renamed Yellowstone for the purposes of the cartoon. Of course, Yellowstone Park is also home to another national treasure, that other wonder of nature, Old Faithful. This seismic water fountain is apparently so regular that you can set your watch by it. And while Old Faithful is without

a doubt the most famous geyser in the world, it is not the original one. The name for these extraordinary geological phenomena comes courtesy of Iceland. The original Geysir, meaning jet of water in Icelandic, resides less than two hours' drive from Reykjavik and is one of Iceland's leading tourist attractions. Geysers are formed when scalding

water becomes trapped between layers of the earth's crust. The water is then forced under immense pressure upwards and finds an outlet at the weakest point in the Earth's surface. In its heyday, Geysir was capable of throwing its load almost three hundred feet into the air, drenching everything and everybody in a 50 metre radius.

In the later half of the last century, its power begun to fail, however, and artificial attempts were made to boost its firepower. These efforts included delicate drilling operations around the base of the geyser in the hope of re-igniting its fire.

Finally, as desperation set in, the minders resorted to adding copious amounts of soap to the water. By some mysterious geological process, the details of which remain unknown to me at least, this addition was sufficient to induce eruptions at will. Very convenient when the powers-that-be wished to impress V.I.P guests with the size of their eruption.

This abuse of nature could not last, of course, and geyser finally gave up the ghost. In recent years eager tourists, myself included, have had to make do with picture postcard snaps of its halcyon days. On my visit to the site I was reasonably consoled with the lesser models on show. The next biggest performer, Strokkur (son of geyser), reaches heights of over one hundred feet. Then, in 2002, a strange thing happened. Iceland suffered two major earthquakes within a week. There was no loss of life or even injuries and Iceland's sturdy building policy ensured little physical damage. But there was one unexpected side-effect. Old Geysir came back into business after dozing for decades. It has erupted on a few occasions since without feeling the need of artificial stimulants. There is no reason to suspect that it will not continue to do so in the foreseeable future. All of which just goes to prove that given time and patience nature will take simply care of itself.

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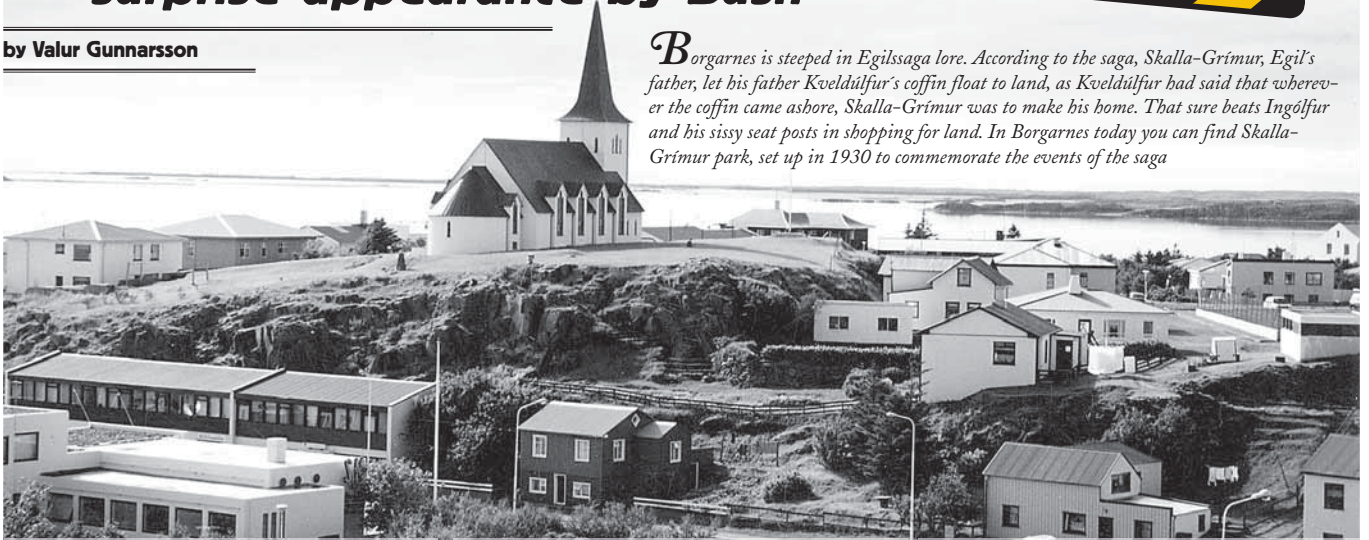
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Borgarnes: Dead bald guys and a surprise appearance by Bush



by Valur Gunnarsson



Borgarnes is steeped in Egilssaga lore. According to the saga, Skalla-Grímur, Egil's father, let his father Kveldúlfur's coffin float to land, as Kveldúlfur had said that wherever the coffin came ashore, Skalla-Grímur was to make his home. That sure beats Ingólfur and his sissy seat posts in shopping for land. In Borgarnes today you can find Skalla-Grímur park, set up in 1930 to commemorate the events of the saga

This is not a Disneyland style theme park where you can go coffin riding, as you may at first presume, but the place where Skalla-Grímur, Kveldúlfur and Egil's son Böðvar are buried. There is also a relief commemorating Egil's journey to claim his son's body by the Danish artist Anna Marie Nielsen, as well as the piece "Raven of Odin" by Ásmundur Sveinsson. Egil's sorrow at the death of his son drove him to write the immortal poem Sonatorrek. The great man himself is buried in the graveyard in Hrísbú, near Mosfellsbær. Past the town is the island Brákarey, connected to the mainland by bridge. The island is named after the slave girl Þorgerður Brák, who was stoned to death there by her master Skalla-Grímur, for attempting to prevent him from beating his son.

Borgarnes is one of the few towns in Reykjavík that does not have much of a fishing history. The first house there was built in 1857, and the number of residents did not

reach a hundred until 1909. The town instead made a living out of being the centre for trade and communications in the Borgarfjörður area. It still serves that function and is a natural stopping point for anyone heading north or west from Reykjavík. By the road you find a small mall selling everything the car driving traveller might need, from gas to snacks to the obligatory hamburger and fries.

Before you cross the bridge over to Borgarnes, you come across Motel Venus. There aren't many places in Iceland that use the word Motel and the building's strategic location, less than an hour's drive from Reykjavík and still outside Borgarnes city limits, make you wonder whether this is the place of choice for Reykjavíkians engaged in adultery.

Within the city, the natural climax to a walk is up by the church, built in 1959 but one of the few churches in the countryside built to resemble churches rather than spaceships.

From there you can get a nice view of the surrounding area. What you won't see from there is Bjössaróló, a playground hidden at the edge of town. It was built and maintained by craftsman Bjóssi from discarded items. Bjóssi was a man who genuinely liked children, in a time before this invited accusations of paedophilia. It is sad that after his death the playground has fallen into something of a state of disrepair.

Borgarnes also has an up-to-date swimming pool. I ended my stay in Borgarnes with the obligatory burger at a place called Dússabar, which also calls itself a Filipino restaurant. Between bites, I looked up and saw a picture of W. Bush decorating the wall. I asked the Filipina waitress what the story was. She told me she liked to draw, and that she was now working on a picture of Davíð Oddsson. Well, at least that makes sense thematically.

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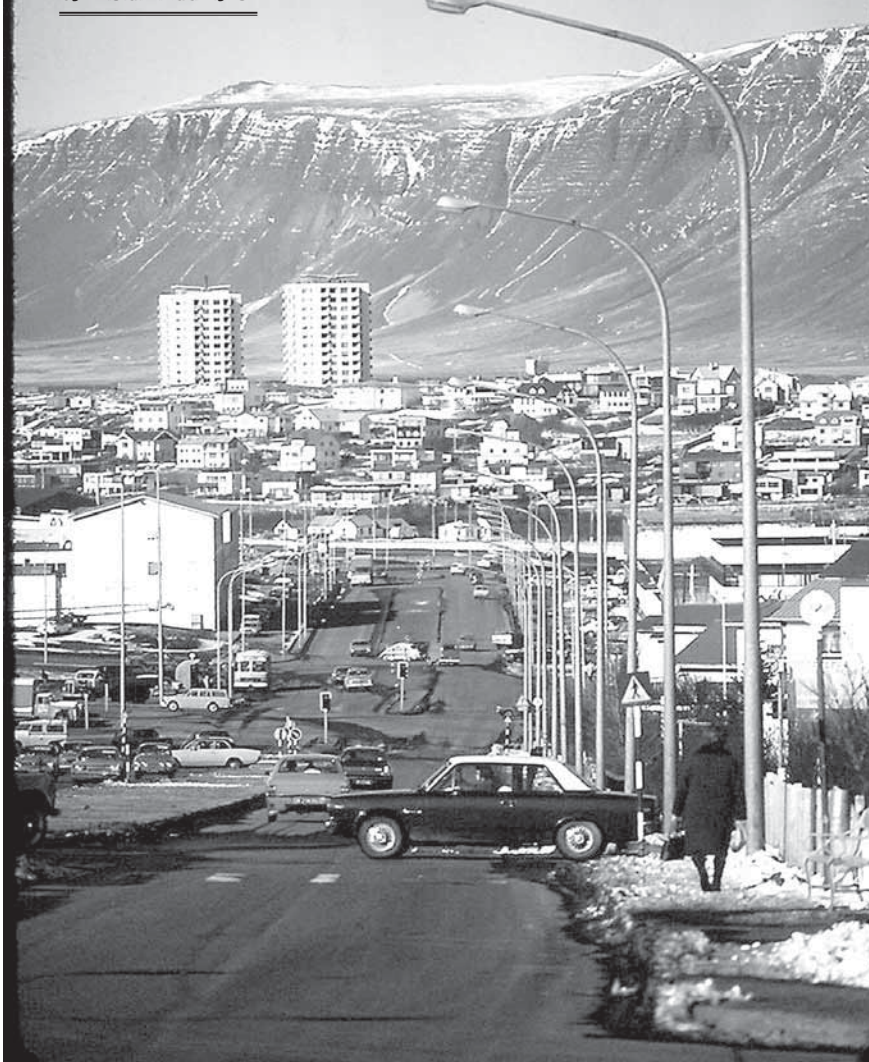
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POLAR OPPOSITES

by Alistair Macintyre



The nature-culture collision in Iceland is unique. In its apparent incongruity it steams and hisses with all the crackling frisson of hot iron plunged into water, in a way entirely consistent with the general confluence of opposites that defines this country from head to toe. From the still nascent ground beneath your feet, to the lurching seasonal contradictions of extreme light and shade, and the extremities of paradox that together constitute the Icelanders' inimitable lifestyle, this is a country suffused with polarity and contradiction.

Generally speaking, mountains and city culture tend to be mutually exclusive phenomena. Here nothing could be further from the truth. Standing on Mount Esja – the terrace in Reykjavik's own back garden – it's possible to look North and East towards the empty, peak-studded interior, and feel that you are the first person ever to set foot on its strange, tundra-like plateau. To turn around and see the town just a stone's throw below (a conurbation of little over 100,000 souls), and to know that down there is a top-flight orchestra, opera, contemporary dance company, a number of fine theatres, and dozens of galleries and cinemas is an extraordinary thing.

And these two apparently repellent forces click together, in quintessentially Icelandic fashion, in happy but volatile fusion - the tension between the two providing a unique seam of raw material that permeates the culture of the island. Most Icelandic art never seems too far from the land. Its strangeness and raw primal energy are a permanent benchmark, either subliminally or overtly deployed. Much has been made of its dreamlike aspect – and with its singular quality of light and landform, and overwhelming sense of paradox, the surreal element seems to permeate even the most objective work. Painter Jon Stefánsson in coolly revealing the reality of the land, as he saw it, often came closer to the realm of dream and fantasy than his celebrated colleague Kjarval's more deliberate flights of fancy – simply by bringing into hyper-focus what was already there. Sculptor Johann Eyfells, in by-passing the scenic altogether, has locked into the sheer volatility of the place, and shunts landscape somewhere into the realm of dance, heavy material forms flirting impossibly with their own imminent absence and a pervading sense of vacuum. If landscape can be seen in this way, not as object but pure process, then perhaps Eyfells has come as close as anyone to connecting with the pulse of the place, here where the whole environment – urban as well as natural – is so visibly still in a state of extreme flux.

In Iceland physics always seem to touch on metaphysics, and the sense contradiction that jars and collides so vehemently in the wilderness is at least as keenly felt as the spectacle of the stacked layers of basalt and grit that bulk out its immense, contorted landforms. And this for me, as an artist, is what is most exciting about this country – its extraordinary ability to perpetually reinvent itself. It seems to carry with it an odd self-abstracting mechanism, that both concentrates and erases its own defining properties, at one and the same time. Add to this the restless and transforming vagaries of the weather; severe spatial contortions and ambiguities of scale; and the seemingly endless variations on the range of surface-grain and extreme tactile counterpoint, and the place simmers with a kind of dynamic ambiguity that slips in and out of focus in a million different ways. It's perhaps ironic that in a land that has no large urban centres of its own, that the wilderness itself takes on many of the characteristics of a modern city: energy, thrust, change and transmutation – and above all an overwhelming sense of the transitory. Which brings us back to Reykjavik.

Returning to town from a recent fishing trip to Vopnafjörður, in the North-East, I called in to see the Goya exhibition at the Akureyri City Art Museum. A rewarding visit, made all the sharper and more vivid by the cultural and geographic polarities at play. An old master caught in the shadow of a mountain, in a small community up on the Arctic threshold, has all the properties of a piece of volcanic glass. Like a chunk of obsidian, born of extreme contrasts in temperature and material states, it emerges from the collision diamond sharp – a gem of experience forged from the unlikeliest of unions. In the capital, Reykjavik, some six times the size of Akureyri, but hardly metropolitan, the disproportionately rich cultural life of Akureyri is amplified, of course, many times over. Reykjavik Culture Night gets under way this month, an annual eruption of event and street theatre, that will spice up an already eventful programme across the city. In the meantime, the mist will continue to mass and disperse over Esja; the seasonal rebound into permanent darkness will be well under way, and the new generation of Arctic Terns that fledged on the village pond will have started their journey south to Antarctica. And the steam will just keep rising.

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MOVIES



by Hugleikur Dagsson

Hugleikur is a graduate of the Art school, and has made a name for himself as a cartoonist. He has previously released two books of cartoons, the first one called Love Us, the second one Kill Us. The third one, called Fuck Us, will be out before Christmas. He has recently released a compilation of these in English, called Our Prayer. The shop Ósóma has also printed T-Shirts with illustrations from the book. He is also the film critic for Tviðhöfði morning radio program, and illustrates the Tviðhöfði cartoon.

Sódóma Reykjavík

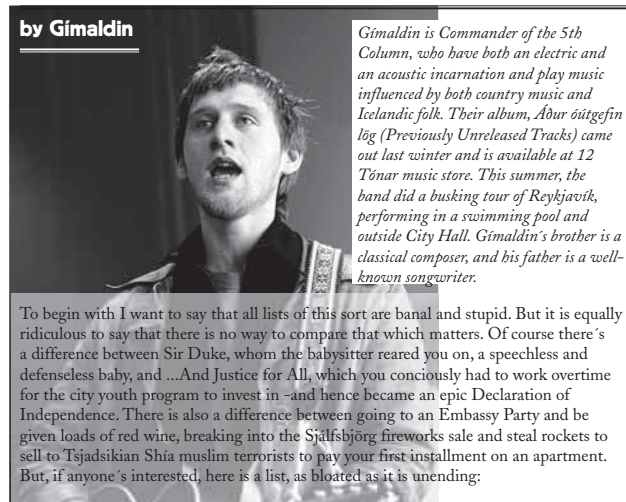
Sódóma Reykjavík is sort of like an Icelandic version of The Big Lebowski. The main character, Axel, has in fact very much in common with The Dude, the main character from the Coen brothers' film. All Axel wants to do is find his mom's remote control, as his mother can't be bothered with standing up and sitting down all the time. And all Dude wanted to do was get his carpet back, as it really tied the room together. Both characters are looking for particular inanimate objects, and are whisked away on an wild adventure over which they have no control. On their journey they are forced to deal with shady but humorous underworlders in all sorts of unforeseen situations. You can't help liking this movie. It's both smart and ridiculous and perhaps a more realistic view of Reykjavík than you'll see anywhere else.

TSp

1. Sódóma, Reykjavík by Óskar Jónasson.
2. Cold Fever by Friðrik Þór Friðriksson. Cool as hell.
3. Mórðsaga by Reynir Oddsson. A disgusting story about murder in the suburbs. Kind of an Icelandic Blue Velvet, but with crappier production. Still, it's a great watch, and has one immortal line: "Shut up! I'm not your daddy! I want you!"
4. Núi Albínói (Núi the Albino) by Dagur Kári. The best Icelandic film made about an avalanche. Also very funny and touching.
5. Í skóm drekans (In the Shoes of the Dragon) by Hrönn Sveinsdóttir and Árni Sveinsson. A documentary about the blood, sweat and tears of a beauty contest. Beautiful.
6. Hrafninn flýgur (The Raven Flies/Revenge of the Barbarians) by Hrafn Gunnlaugsson. A fantastic and gritty remake of Yojimbo and A Fistful of Dollars. A bloody revenge drama with some great action scenes.
7. Íslenski Drammurinn by Róbert Douglas. Comedian and artist Jón Gnarr is the best supporting character in Icelandic movie history.
8. Rokk í Reykjavík by Friðrik Þór Friðriksson. A documentary about punks. Fucking nice.

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ALBUMS



by Gímaldin

Gímaldin is Commander of the 5th Column, who have both an electric and an acoustic incarnation and play music influenced by both country music and Icelandic folk. Their album, Áður óútgefin lög (Previously Unreleased Tracks) came out last winter and is available at 12 Tónar music store. This summer, the band did a busking tour of Reykjavík, performing in a swimming pool and outside City Hall. Gímaldin's brother is a classical composer, and his father is a well-known songwriter.

To begin with I want to say that all lists of this sort are banal and stupid. But it is equally ridiculous to say that there is no way to compare that which matters. Of course there's a difference between Sir Duke, whom the babysitter reared you on, a speechless and defenseless baby, and ...And Justice for All, which you consciously had to work overtime for the city youth program to invest in -and hence became an epic Declaration of Independence. There is also a difference between going to an Embassy Party and be given loads of red wine, breaking into the Sjalfsbjörg fireworks sale and steal rockets to sell to Tsjadsikian Shia muslim terrorists to pay your first installment on an apartment. But, if anyone's interested, here is a list, as bloated as it is unending:

Björk: Post (I wish I'd only look, and didn't have to touch - I wish I could only smell this, and didn't have to taste). At the time I felt Björk confirmed with Post that you could mix techno with pop. All the hippie-techno-trans-acid-tronics had until then sounded to me like hyperactive inmates at a kindergarten which had been given a Casio keyboard and a half-broken 100 Watt Marshall amp. Björk had always had her own voice - you can hardly say that she was singing with someone else's. But with Post she marked a completely different identity, and cut the umbilical chord with all the band pop she had been involved in so far.

TSp

1. Björk: Post
2. Björk: Homogenic. Björk proved with Homogenic that her music was a better Lars Von Trier film than the directors films themselves.
3. Kukl: The Eye. Kukl is one of the first and most obvious points on the list. Here you have all the musical genius of the 80s in one unfathomable mix. Kukl was also a great country band did some fantastic versions of Megas songs. Godchrist is God (no, Megas is God. But Godchrist will sit at his right hand. -ed.)
4. Risaeðlan/Reptile: Ó (Stríðid er byrjað og búið). Ó came out at the same time as If I should Fall From Grace with God, and both changed my tone ear permanently. This is also the best trombone playing I have heard on an Icelandic album
5. Reptillicus: Reptillicus. In the first years of Davíðs Golden Age, Reptillicus made music that could make the most optimistic man feel like he was stuck in a black and white Tarkovsky film.
6. Þeyr: Íður til fóta. My favorite Þeyr song, Ariaragga (Aryan Reggae) is to be found here. The song expresses the tragic super-genius of Þeyr's music. I also think the idea of Aryans dancing to reggae is sort of amusing.
7. Megas: Millilending. I have a hard time picking the old man's best records, this is too close to me. But I'm shooting for Millilending because it includes the song "fjögurmilljóndollaranitíuogníusenta mannúðarmálfræði," which should be a fairly obvious benefit.
8. Bubbi: Sögur 1980-1990. Includes some of the king's best songs. His songs are often better than his records.

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BOOKS



by Jón Gnarr

Jón Gnarr was first noted as a writer on the Sugarcubes Bad Taste Label. Paired with Sigurjón Kjartansson, their Tviðhöfði program became, and still is, the most popular radio show in the country. Jón Gnarr also has an exhibition of artwork in Akureyri, and has acted in the Robert Douglas films A Man Like Me and The Icelandic Dream. Tviðhöfði's cartoon show is now out on DVD.

"The truth is not to be found in books, not even in good books, but in people with a good heart," wrote Halldór Laxness. I used to read a lot of novels and was constantly searching for books that would captivate me. But I never got it. No one novel has had that deep an impact on me. I have been fascinated by a lot of writers, such as Dostoevsky, Becket, Marqes and others. But after I started reading the Bible I have stopped reading anything else. The Bible has had a profound influence on me and I keep getting a deeper understanding of it the more I read it. I read the Bible every day."

TSp

1. The Gospel According to Saint John. The most lyrical and beautiful gospel, full of mystique and love. My favorite gospel.
2. The imitation of Christ by Thomas Á. Kempis. A frankly wonderful book and indispensable for those who want to deepen and ripen their faith and contact with God. Explains in a simple manner man's position in the universe and his relationship with God.
3. The book of peace by Mother Theresa. A small and simple book. It explains the simple worldview of Mother Theresa and how we can find peace in our hearts despite daily commitments and difficulties.
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