



FREE



UNLIKELY IDOLS

**Sigur Rós in Iraq
Ísafjörður's Music Festival
Ambivalence Towards Prostitution
Complete Reykjavík Listings, Guides and Maps**

ISSUE 05 / 05MAY - 18MAY 2006

ISSUE THREE: MAY 5 - MAY 18
YEAR 5 *the REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE*

Articles

- 06 READ BETWEEN THE '()'
- 14 THOSE PEOPLE AREN'T THAT SIMPLE
An Interview with Halla Gunnarsdóttir
- 16 TURNING TRICKS FOR MOVIE TIX

Features

- 18 THE MELTING POT IN A COLD, COLD PLACE
Ísafjörður's Aldrei Fór Ég Suður Festival

Essentials

- 12 GRAPEVINE'S GOVERNMENT GUIDE
- 30 THE BEST PLACE TO BUY A XYLOPHONE
Hljóðheimurinn Sangitamaya
- 31 PURCHASES THAT JUSTIFY EXISTENCE
- 32 DINING, EATING AND GRUBBING

Music & Nightlife

- 34 HAPPY TRUMPS COOL
The Wedding Present and Singapore Sling at Grand Rokk
- 36 THE QUOTA ON BAGPIPE SALSA: INFINITE
Rite of Spring festival review
- 38 ONLY THE VOICE IS CHILDLIKE
An Interview with the Conservatory Escapee Queen of the iPod, Joanna Newsom

Outside Reykjavík

- 39 KINGDOM OF THE FROWN

The Reykjavík Grapevine crew

The Reykjavík Grapevine
Faxaskála, Faxaporti, Faxagötu 2
www.grapevine.is
grapevine@grapevine.is
Published by: Fröken ehf.

Editor: 540-3602 / editor@grapevine.is
Advertising: 540-3605 / 868-8187 / ads@grapevine.is
Marketing: 540-3603 / 869-7796 / jontrausti@grapevine.is
Distribution: 540-3601 / 694-2538 / dist@grapevine.is
Production: 540-3608 / 849-5611 / production@grapevine.is
Listings: 540-3600 / 847-7335 / listings@grapevine.is
Subscription: 540-3601 / 694-2538 / subscribe@grapevine.is

Publisher: Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson / publisher@grapevine.is
Editor: Bart Cameron / editor@grapevine.is
Marketing Director: Jón Trausti Sigurðarson / jontrausti@grapevine.is
Production Manager: Oddur Óskar Kjartansson / production@grapevine.is
Staff Journalists: Gunnar Hrafn Jónsson / gunnarh@grapevine.is
Paul Fontaine-Nikolov / paul@grapevine.is
Sveinn Birkir Björnsson / birkir@grapevine.is
Columnist: Þórdís Elva Þorvaldsdóttir Bachmann / thordis@grapevine.is
Advertising Sales: Aðalsteinn Jörundsson / adalsteinn@grapevine.is
Helgi Þór Harðarson / helgi@grapevine.is
Director of Photography: Guðmundur Freyr Vigfússon / gundi@grapevine.is
Photographer: Óskar Hallgrímsson / padre@internet.is
Art Director: Gunnar Þorvaldsson / gunni@grapevine.is

Proofreader: Erika Wolfe
Distribution: Sæmundur Þór

Cover Photo by: Gúndi
Make up / Hair / Styling: Sóley Ástudóttir
Model: Davíð

Printed by: Ísafoldarprentsmiðja ehf.
of ground copies: 30,101

*We are always looking for articles.
Send your submissions to : editor@grapevine.is*

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



Welcome to Arnarstapi á Snæfellsnesi
- the official home of chilly mornings.
Population 37.



Reykjavík: Kringlan Shopping Mall - Bankastræti 5 - Faxafen 12
Gardabær: Miðhraun 11 - Akureyri: Gerárgata 32
- Also available in selected shops around Iceland.

Keeping Iceland warm since 1926

SOUR GRAPES

Complaints, criticism, suggestions, praise, money, anything at all: Contact letters@grapevine.is or send your mail to: The Reykjavík Grapevine, Faxagata 2, Faxaskála við Faxaport, 101 Reykjavík.

Hi Bart,
Your website is really interesting and to be honest allowed my brain to survive up in the highlands for three long years. I've never understood why you don't publish work advertisements (those from employment services for instance) translated into English. Is there any reason? Valerio

Valerio,
I'm glad we could help. To all of those people working in the highlands on the dam project, we offer you our support, though, of course, most of the staff is saddened by the effect of your work. As for our advertisements: while we are read by many Icelanders, we typically stick with tourist advertising. As a service, though, we'd like to publish job listings. Unfortunately, they simply don't come our way. Never. We have never been told of a job vacancy for a foreigner.

Perhaps this will change if foreigners start owning their own companies in Iceland.

DO LEGISLATORS KNOW THE MEANING OF "TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE"?

I read news reports where the U.S. Congress is expected, in June, to tackle the sensitive issue of what constitutes a "traditional marriage". Some 49 leaders from various religious denominations have signed a letter that calls for a U.S. Constitutional Amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman. (See <http://www.religiouscoalitionformarriage.org/>.)

While I am supportive of their basic concepts that marriages form a bond that provide boundaries for legitimate sexual activity, as well as providing a foundation for rearing of children by a father & mother, I think that the clergymen have totally forgotten the Biblical roots of marriage.

What they suggest is perfectly fine for regulating legal or civil marriages, which act in the same capacity as "legal partnerships". However, the sacrament of Holy Matrimony is an institution ordained of God. The Old Testament of the Bible sanctioned a specific type of polygamous marriage: polygny (a husband with several wives). King Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. Abraham, Jacob, Moses and numerous others also practiced polygny. I would hope that today's modern clergymen will examine the roots of what they term "traditional marriage". Perhaps the best solution is for government to regulate purely "civil union marriages". But government should not concern itself whatsoever in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Whatever is deemed Holy is deemed a sacred religious rite and therefore government should keep its nose out of it. I would hope that Iceland will likewise make polygamy legal among adults who are open & honest and where no abuse or fraud takes place.

Sincerely,
James A. Marples
P.O. Box 1542
Longview, Texas 75606 USA

We're the Reykjavík Grapevine. Reykjavík, Iceland. Iceland being a country in Europe. So the US Congress's assault on Americans' rights has limited

effect on us. Here, the leadership is working hard to ensure rights for gays and straights, provided they aren't immigrants – yes, if you are an immigrant under 24, your marriage does not grant you any rights or privileges. We know of one case where a man was deported away from his wife and barred from entering the Schengen area of Europe – which is also not in America – for three years.

Still, Icelanders are protected, somewhat.

I'm guessing the people of the clergy, men and women, know their sacred texts. If they don't, I'm sure they'll be wowed by your extremely cursory reading. In fact, I'm forwarding this on to the Vatican. It's so mind-bending and brilliant. King Solomon, who would have thought of using the Old Testament to randomly assault religious ideas and subvert what seems, to all those silly people who dedicate their lives to it, to be a somewhat complicated problem?

Yes, black and white is best.

Mr. Marples, you have a dedicated follower here. If we can get the money together, we're flying out to Texas to learn more, straight from the mouth of the genius.

Maybe you could shape our opinion of war with the simple commandment of 'Thou shalt not kill, or you could tell who should cast the first stone, or some other bumper sticker piece of wisdom divined in three minutes by typing "bible" into your Google search engine. Jackass.

Hi, I've tried many times to sign up for the email updates to no avail. No matter how many times I sign up, I've never received an update. Any ideas? Best, Jeanine

Well, email updates and websites aren't our specialty. We get news up every day by noon, Icelandic time – so there's always good content on the website... if you can find it.

Hi Bart,
I would first want to congratulate you for the great work you are doing with this newspaper. I am a former Erasmus student in Reykjavík for one full year, and I was a big fan of your magazine and still am, but, unfortunately, I would like to tell you that it is impossible for me to get issue 3 of this year in the PDF format!

I was wondering if it was possible to do something with it, cause you guys keep me company during my daily two-hour public transportation in the Parisian metro.

Thanks again, keep up the great job!
Jean Michel

Okay, I think I've cleared everything up with our tech guy. Turns out, he was plugged into a 1983 Speak n Spell, not a "computer". He has a book on his desk about DOS, and I just explained how the mouse works. Given a few years, we should be fully functional. Until then, I will continue to reserve my first hour of each day for apologising for horrible tech support.

Gentle Grapeviners,
As a life-long, dyed-in-the-wool Rush fan (of the '73-'82 variety), I would like to apologize on behalf of Rush fans the world over for the embarrassingly puerile letter written to you by one "Ape Shaw"

excoriating you for daring to say that they would possibly be jealous of Brain Police's rhythm section. While I agree that that is a completely hyperbolic assertion (I'm actually a big fan of the Brain Police, but come on...), his junior-high-caliber reaction/argument/comments are in no way keeping with the general high-brow, discerning, and tempered community that are Rush fans. It seems to me more likely that this person was arguing on behalf of some other four-lettered band. Korn, perhaps?

That being said, I do take umbrage with your characterization of Rush as "a fat-ass Canadian Led Zeppelin cover band". I'll dismiss the fat-ass comment as simply a knee-jerk comeback to his equally immature rants. As for the more substantive point that they're a poor-man's Led Zeppelin, well, that's just plain ignorant. While it's true they were considerably influenced by Led Zeppelin (and who in their right mind, I may argue, wouldn't be?), by the time of their second album they had clearly put all blatant influences behind them, developing a sound and style all their own on which they built enormously on subsequent albums.

As close as I hold them to my heart (no pun intended), I can understand the Rush naysayers. I am constantly coming across people with whom I have a lot in common with musically who crunch up their nose at the mention of Rush (I think it's simply Geddy Lee's voice that most people have a hard time swallowing, which I can fully understand). However, let us not stoop to the level of our enemies and resort to uninformed, juvenile name-calling. We are better than that. Good day Sirs, Madames. -John Evicci, Dracut, MA, USA

P.S. Your mother wears combat boots.

P.P.S. Hey, seriously, keep up the good work on the mag & thanks again for making it available to us schmucks who aren't fortunate enough to live in Iceland or visit it frequently enough to be able to obtain regular copies, that is to say, putting the PDFs on the web! Thumbs way the fuck up! But, you're still missing those issues I wrote to you about a year ago (2003 #2 & #3, and 2005 #7) and now #3 of this year.

Looking forward to seeing those someday. OK, until next time, all the best...

John,
Thank you for cooling down this Rush discussion. Don't start apologising for the actions of other Rush fans, though, or it'll never stop. As for the website, our tech department is impeccable. I have no idea what you're talking about. Never have I received an email complaining that the site hasn't been updated. NEVER! It must be your imagination.

Dear Bart
Wondering if you got this? I've tried many times to sign up for the email updates to no avail. No matter how many times I sign up, I've never received an update. Any ideas?
Best, Jeanine

We have a website?

EDITORIALS

Minnesotans and Sex



Bart Cameron, Editor

In my home, we had two things that we didn't bring up in mixed company: Minnesotans and sex. Actually, we had a few other topics that were off the menu too: politics, religion, affection, love, food, my father's bleeding gum disease and the girl who appeared fortnightly at our window dressed in a sailor's suit claiming to be my sister, but I believe that in avoiding Minnesotans and sex, we were like many polite Midwesterners.

So it makes sense that when I was offered the helm of an alternative magazine, the third issue I would publish would be devoted to the sex lives of Icelanders, and by the eighth, we started with the Minnesota jokes. The Reykjavík Grapevine, of course, has a Duluth correspondent, Andy Saur (who recently realised that his name means "shit" in Icelandic), who tells us about his exploits making Viking ships out of grocery bags. Isolated as Iceland is, most locals feel they are closer to the centre of the action in whatever field than Minnesotans would be. Even growing up in Iowa and Wisconsin I felt bad for Minnesotans, or bad for laughing at them.

The thing is, we had amazing material in mocking Minnesotans. On our bookshelves – the real ones, not the swinging ones that concealed my dad's pretty things – we had multiple editions of Main Street, a scathing critique of Minnesota life

by Sinclair Lewis. That book, by the way, brought Lewis a Nobel Prize for Literature, and it got the attention of an aspiring writer in Iceland, the Nobel Laureate Halldór Laxness, who corresponded with Lewis as he wrote his own takes on social criticism, scathing works possessed of a bit more beauty than Lewis could muster.

The only other books my parents had two copies of were the King James Bible – the neighbours gave it regularly in the blind hope that it would bring religion, goodness, or something resembling decency to our home, or "den of sin", as the Racine Journal Times described it – and Garrison Keillor's first novel, Lake Wobegon Days.

As we go to print, a few Icelanders have heard of Keillor and his classic radio programme A Prairie Home Companion, a weekly radio show dedicated to storytelling, folk music and the imagination, as it is coming to Reykjavík for a broadcast. But not too many people understand the impact of the show, or of Keillor's other work as the Minnesota man of letters, a man who made a modest northern state into something you want to joke about, because the punch line reminds you of something that you kind of want to get off your chest. The humour, in other words, is often a dead match for the effect that Laxness had, or for the crueler Icelandic jabs.

In the back of this paper, you can read about Keillor and A Prairie Home Companion. In the front of the paper, it is my pleasure to present an entirely different Minnesota voice, that of a young writer from Mankato, Minnesota. I am particularly proud to have Bronson Lemer's piece about Iraq and Sigur Rós opening this paper – the humanity of his short article, and what his piece says about the possibilities of the imagination, the possibilities for art to deeply and personally affect people across the globe is remarkable.

For those of you who could not care less about Minnesotans with imaginations, we continue to present the best English-language Reykjavík listings in the world, along with handy maps. We also have our first feature from music critic Sindri Eldon, and, as an added bonus, we have a whole lot of Icelandic writers with sex on the brain. Yes, as it happens, on the one year anniversary of our sex issue, we've got even more sex, but this time from writers who were told to do things like write concert reviews and talk about shopping. Sex, sex, sex, sex.

So there you have it, sex and Minnesotans. In one free publication. May God help us all.

Regarding All-Caps E-mail Correspondence



Gunnar Hrafn Jónsson, Journalist

Sites and organisations like Gagnauga.is and Snarrot may not be large or thriving here in Iceland, and they certainly fight for a number of good causes, but they are two examples of the extremes that uncritical acceptance of conspiracy theories can lead to. While anyone can eschew these websites, you don't need to spread your e-mail address very far in order to start receiving all-caps e-mails espousing the same theories. More mainstream media outlets have occasionally picked up on the very edge of this fringe, and usually give it little serious coverage, but an informal survey of any medium-sized workplace will probably turn up quite a number of people leaning towards ideas like the one that the Bush administration, Jews or some huge international conspiracy was responsible for the 9/11 attacks. There are people that spend hours analysing video from that day and pulling nonsensical 'facts' out of their posteriors, such as the contention that no plane hit the Pentagon and the towers were detonated from within; then there are others who are prepared to listen and uncritically accept that speculation as a viable alternative to expert opinion. While space certainly does not permit me to critically assess every one of the hundreds if not thousands of outlandish claims one regularly hears about this issue, any reasonable and open-minded person should be able to come

to the right conclusions by employing healthy scepticism rather than emotional speculation.

First of all, if someone comes to you with a theory that contradicts what you thought you knew, it's a good idea not to dismiss it out of hand but ask for references and look it up for yourself. You may find links to a slew of sites with banner ads and names like "911lies.com", but note not just what they say but who is saying it and with what evidence. Then compare that to what the impartial experts in the relative fields have said on the issue; it's really not that hard to find structural engineers and pilots who are neither obsessed with conspiracy nor are they members of some shadowy government agency. Google is your friend in these matters, as are sites like Snopes.com.

No one knows exactly what happened on 9/11; no one knows exactly how the world is run 'behind the scenes', but despite what conspiracy theorists would lead you to believe we have quite a number of clues and they don't suggest a collusion of powerful forces so much as a colossal screw-up on every level. It's certainly not a comfortable thought to imagine that 19 religious zealots with box cutters would be able to kill 3,000 people, start two wars and a jihad and arguably change international politics and American culture forever. You might think that the most powerful government in the

world could never be struck such a devastating blow in such a straightforward way, but you might also think that such a powerful government would be able to keep a single act of oral sex in the Oval Office under wraps. Or, say, a break-in into a hotel?

I happen to think that people with an unwavering belief in the omnipotence of unseen forces and governments are wrong and that ironically it is comfort that leads so many people down that path of false rationalisation of far-fetched theories that do not match any known facts. It's time we faced a different set of facts: our governments are made up of people every bit as fallible and petty as the rest of us are. Your average government agency works about as efficiently as an underwater toaster. If you are one of the people sending out e-mails suggesting that Halldór Ásgrímsson announced the closure of the military base to take the heat off the Baugur ruling or that Dick Cheney shot his friend in the face to draw attention away from an accounting scandal, you might want to think of Occam's razor and consider an alternative: Perhaps they are simply not all that competent?

Lunch special!

From 11.00-14.00

Soup of the day + 1/2 panini + koffee = 870 kr.

The luck is with you

Espresso bar open every day 08.00-00.00 - Lækjartorg (main square)

The Centre

The Official Tourist Information Centre in Reykjavík

Internet and Phone Centre

Your Essential Guide to Iceland

The Centre is the key to a successful holiday in Iceland. Great range of information, free booking service, Internet and phone centre, box office, VAT cash refund, money exchange services, souvenirs and much more.

Opening hours

Sept. 1st – May 31st: 09:00 – 18:00 weekdays
09:00 – 14:00 weekends



Your key to the Capital

Reykjavík Tourist Card

The Reykjavík Tourist Card gives admission to all the thermal pools in Reykjavík, public transport, The National Museum, Reykjavík Art Museums, The National Gallery of Iceland, Reykjavík Zoo and Family Park, discount on tours and much more. The card is sold at The Centre, most Reykjavík hotels and other tourist centres. Free Internet access for cardholders.

www.visitreykjavik.is

Need information on what to do in Reykjavík? Where to stay, what to eat, culture, events, nightlife? Look no further. Check out www.visitreykjavik.is, the information is all there along with a detailed events calendar.

READ BETWEEN THE '()'

BY BRONSON LEMER PHOTOS BY BRONSON LEMER

On January 20, 2003, I received a call I'll never forget. It was a call that split my life in two. It was a call from my squad leader in the North Dakota National Guard, activating my unit in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, which later became Operation Iraqi Freedom. We were being sent to Iraq.

We didn't know that at the time but regardless we prepared for the deployment. We packed our gear: boots, uniforms, canteens, entrenching tools for digging foxholes. We also packed the other necessities: books, photographs of friends and family, music. This was before iPods were a necessity, so you had to choose your music carefully. Like a long-distance trip where you must choose the songs that will make up that journey, I dove into my CD collection and selected only a half-dozen albums to take with me. These would be the songs of my new journey. These would be the titles I'd have to listen to over and over and over and over.

I also bought new albums. On the recommendation of a friend, who played the album straight through during his college radio program, I bought () by Sigur Rós at a Best Buy in Fargo, North Dakota, on Jan. 26, 2003. The next day I boarded a bus in Wahpeton, North Dakota, with other troops bound for Fort Carson, Colorado. I immediately placed my headphones on my head and listened – for the first time – to () as the bus left Wahpeton on that cold, grey day.

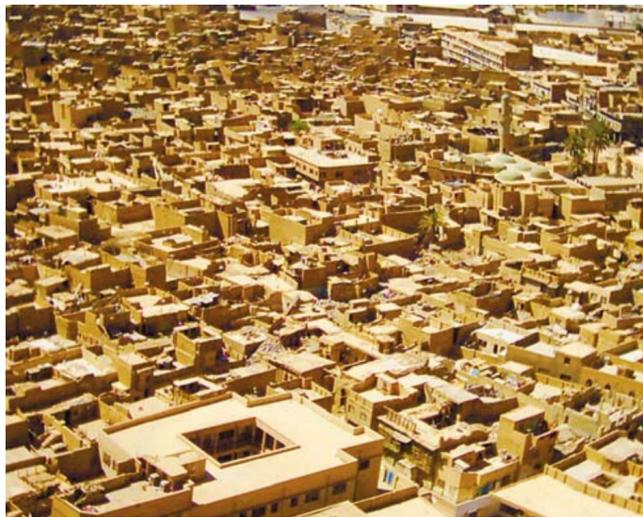
The album defies description. There is no album title, no track titles, no writing in the booklet. Instead, the Icelandic band presents an album of songs open for interpretation, a set of songs refusing to be tagged. They are songs that defy any sort of definition. You can try to label them but you'll never be able to label these songs as just one thing. They are many things, associated to many other things, something different to everyone who hears them.

The music of Sigur Rós is hard to explain. These are songs of moods, emotions and desires. The often spooky plunking of piano keys, swelling of guitars and Birgisson's wail-like voice fueled the feeling I was having while leaving North Dakota – regret, sadness, fear. They matched every emotion, every feel-



out at the passing greyness of North Dakota fields, I was searching for something to hold onto about my old life, some kind of memory to keep with me. Birgisson's voice surged with emotion and fell to a hushed melody of piano and strings. It was a song – a feeling – I had trouble explaining. Yet, that song and the images of that cold day are what I remember now.

I listened to the album four times on the trip from Wahpeton to Fort Carson, more than any of the other albums I packed. Each song reminds me of a place and feeling dur-



“There has long been this tendency in Icelandic society to want to sweep uncomfortable issues under the carpet, even though everyone knew they were there. For instance, you might have a weird uncle that you think hangs out with kids a little bit too much, but no one wants to say anything.” Marteinn Þórsson, of *Komþás* news magazine.

ing I was having for having to leave the place where I belonged. As we left Wahpeton and the dozens of people waving from roadside curbs, warm cars and overpass bridges, the songs of () began to seep into me, calming the anger I was having about leaving. The melodies matched the mood of a soldier set on a journey to war. Like generations before, I began attaching songs to “my war.” () became my war music.

The songs also matched the land – pure white blankets of late January snow stretching for miles. The bare branches of the trees dotting the open fields matched the barren branches on the back of the jewel case. These were songs of vastness, songs that were unique like landscapes.

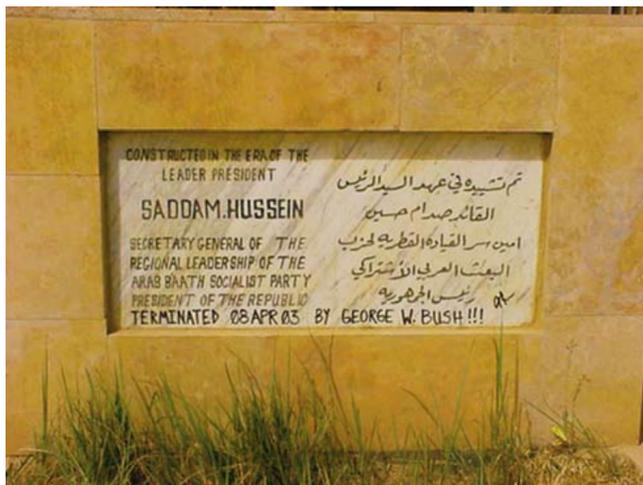
Without track names I began putting names to each song. On Track 4, Birgisson's voice drifts over the dreamlike sweetness of a piano. For me, Birgisson is singing the word “desire” over and over, and while looking

ing that trip: Track 1 became “Dog Chasing the Bus outside Wahpeton” and “Loneliness at Seeing the Colorado Rockies”; Track 5 became “The Border Between the Dakotas” and “One Night in North Platte, Nebraska”; Track 8 became “Boots Hanging from Power Lines at Armory in Sioux City, Iowa.”

While the songs refused to be tagged, I associate them with that journey. They will always remind me of the places we passed through and the feelings surging through my body while I listened to the album.

Today, I refer to my life in two halves: the time before that call, and the time after. I was terrified of leaving North Dakota for Iraq. I was terrified of growing up, spending 12 months in a country torn by war. () helped me calm those nerves. The album became the opening to the second act of my life.

Bronson Lemer is a MFA candidate at MSU.



CAMOUFLAGE ICELAND

BOOK YOUR ADVENTURE WITH US!

YOU'LL FIND CINTAMANI ICELANDIC OUTDOOR WEAR TO FIT YOUR EVERY NEED AT OUR CENTER FOR ADVENTURE STORE IN DOWNTOWN REYKJAVIK. FREE INTERNET AND BOOKING SERVICES.

CINTAMANI

DRESS CODE ICELAND

CINTAMANI OUTDOOR STORE // LAUGAVEGUR 11 // 101 REYKJAVIK



News in Brief

BY GUNNAR HRAFN JÓNSSON, SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON AND PAUL F. NIKOLOV

Combined Profit For Icelandic Banks - 60 Billion ISK

The four biggest banks in Iceland made a combined profit of 61.3 billion ISK, after taxes, in the first quarter of 2006. The number is up from 25 billion ISK in the first quarter of 2005.

Iceland's gross domestic product in 2005 was 996 billion ISK. The profit of the banks in the first quarter of this year equals about six percent of the total gross domestic product of Iceland in 2005.

When explaining the profit of his bank and trying to put the number in some sort of perspective, Sigurjón Árnason, manager of KB Banki told RUV that the profit was enough to buy over 3,000 SUVs worth five million ISK each.

Icelanders Have Average Net Worth of Ten Million Krónur, According to KB Banki

A new report by financial analysts working on behalf of KB Banki, or Kaupthing Bank, indicates that the net assets of individuals in Iceland is almost 3,000 billion krónur. That means the average net worth of an Icelandic citizen – including every man, woman and child – is just under ten million krónur.

The results may be surprising in light of concerns over heavy borrowing, but estimates indicate that

while debt has been rising people have been steadily accumulating assets as well. The analysts behind the report believe the total assets of Icelandic individuals amount to at least 4,000 billion krónur (half of that in the form of investment in residential housing), and probably a good deal more, while the total debt is only 1,200 billion.

The difference of 3,000 billion is their net worth, or net assets, and that figure has never been higher.

Man Gets No Jailtime for Running Down Police Officer; Union Not Amused

The National Association of Police Officers issued a press release recently complaining over what they feel is a rank-related discrepancy when it comes to sentencing in cases where police officers have been physically assaulted in the line of duty.

The controversy was prompted by two recent sentences in particular; one man was given six months in prison for shoving a sheriff so that he "almost lost his balance", while in the other case a man got only four months of probation for stalking and running down an officer with his car, jumping out and then hitting him forcefully in the stomach as he lay injured on the ground.

The statement reads in part: "The Association feels that it is completely intolerable that, in practice, ordinary police officers are not offered the same protection as other authorities. It is clear that a response is needed in the form of legislation or whatever other means can be utilised to increase the legal protection offered to police officers. Our job environment will not be secure as long as there are few or no legal consequences for threatening and/or attacking policemen. It is a difficult situation to tolerate."

Gay Marriage on the Horizon

Social Democrat MP, Guðrún Ógmundsdóttir introduced a new bill in parliament last month that would allow priests and religious organisations to perform marriage ceremonies for gay couples.

According to the bill, priests and religious organisations will not be required to perform the ceremony, but will be given an option to do so if they choose.

Currently, gay couples can get a civil confirmation of their relationship, which entitles them to the same legal status as a religious marriage.

In a conversation with the Grapevine, Ógmundsdóttir said that marriage is the only unresolved gay rights issue. "This would allow

religious organisations to decide for themselves if they want to perform the ceremony. There are large congregations such as the Icelandic Free Church and the Ásatrú congregation (Norse Paganism) that would gladly perform the ceremony, but there are no legal provisions for them to do that. This would allow them to do that."

Eggertsson Announces Plan for Reykjavik

Dagur B. Eggertsson, the mayoral candidate for the Social Democratic Party, announced early in April that he has a planning platform for Reykjavik.

This platform includes 11 planning proposals, among them the creation of 6,000 new apartments, including 800 for students and 800 for senior citizens.

The party also wants to move the domestic airport in Vatnsmyri, outside the city within the next few years to an undisclosed location, and to create an idea contest for how the area would then be developed.

According to the results of an ongoing Gallup poll in late March, support for the Social Democratic Party in Reykjavik had risen from 30 to 36 percent since January of this year, while the Independence Party – the current leading party in city elections – has seen their

support drop from 55 to 47 percent during the same period.

Nationalist Party "Could Be Formed"

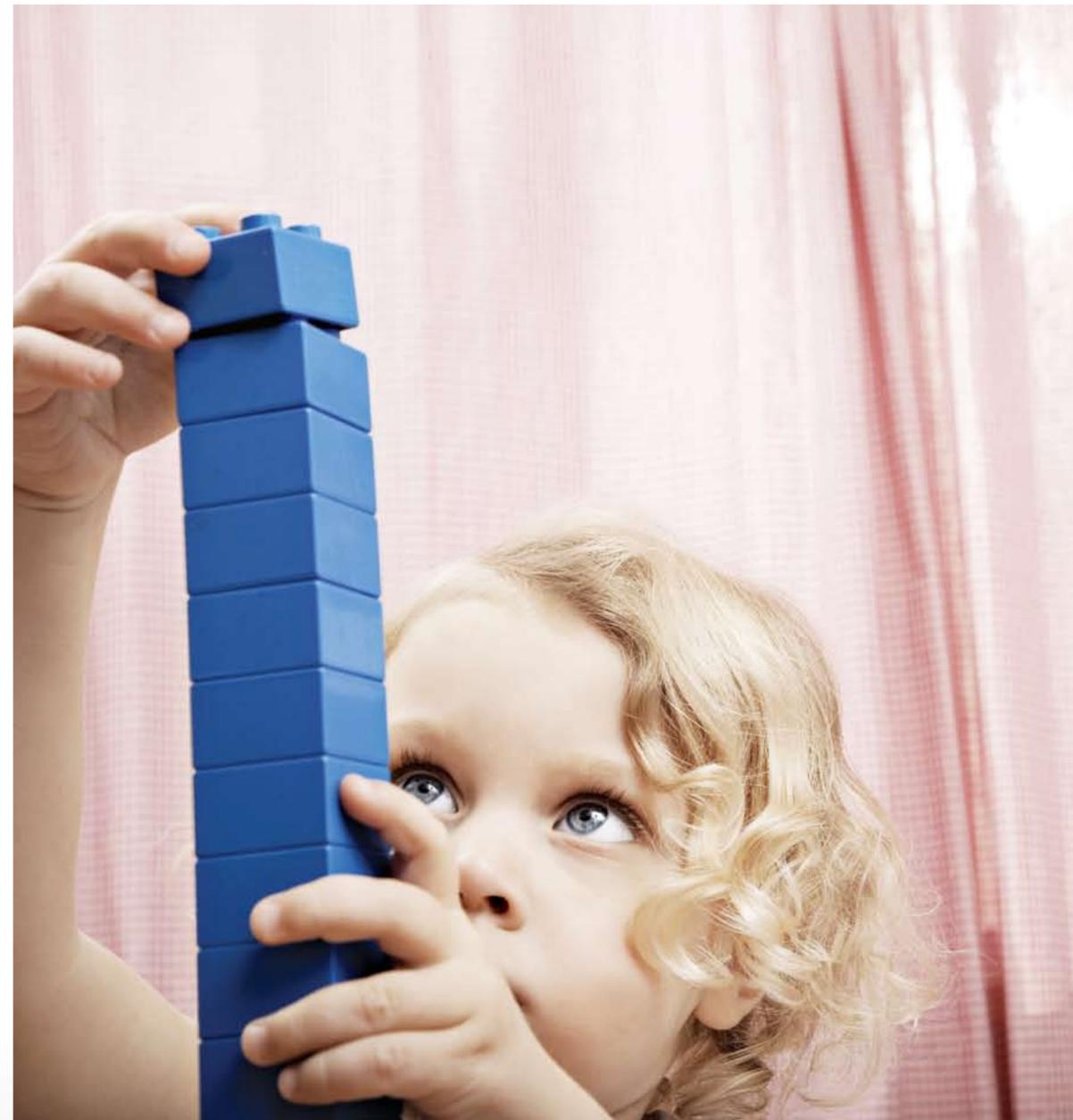
Eiríkur Bergmann Einarsson, a docent in political science, believes that the formation of a nationalist party in Iceland is "only a matter of time."

According to a recent Gallup poll conducted for Ásgeir Hannes Eiríksson, former MP for the Citizen's Party, about one-third of respondents said they would possibly vote for a party whose platform includes anti-immigration measures.

"All the foundations for the formation of a nationalist party are here," Einarsson told the Grapevine. "There are more people immigrating to Iceland, while the government has taken no steps to increasing multiculturalism. The formation of a far-right party is just a matter of time."

When asked if Article 233(a), Iceland's hate speech law, could stand in the way of forming such a party, Einarsson said that such parties could get around the law through how they use their language.

Einarsson believes the solution, then, is for the government to take an active role in increasing multiculturalism.



VOTE FOR THE FUTURE!

Please visit our website to find information about the Independence Party and its policy in English, Danish, Polish, Spanish, Russian and Serbo-Croat.

For all information regarding the elections please call the Independence Party's offices at 515 1735 or send an email to oskar@xd.is

www.xd.is



SJÁLFBÆTÆDISFLOKKURINN



THE VIKING

ICELAND'S LARGEST SOUVENIR SHOP

In the heart of Akureyri and Reykjavik is the store The Viking. The Viking offers the largest selection of products for tourists in the country. Everything you need you can get there. The stores offer a great variety of wool products from different producers. Books, jewelry and a great collection of small souvenirs. Fleece clothes from Icewear and Cintamani have been a success and their quality and fare handmade products. You will find the very best in Icelandic wool in The Viking. The shops also specialize in sheepskins, reindeer skins, horse skins and muskoxen skins. A skin from a polar bear can be specially ordered. There are also a lot of other interesting things in the stores for example whale teeth, carvings, stuffed birds, special bird species can be ordered. Icelandic cosmetics you will find and of course a full collection from the Blue lagoon. The Viking is a family business and has been for 50 years. Don't miss visiting The Viking when you visit Iceland. We offer worldwide shipping service.

Tourists and Icelanders living abroad can get their VAT refunded. That means that 15% from the amount paid in the store is refunded. VAT refunds are made in airports, on ships, on your way home or you can get it transferred to your credit card, which ever you prefer.

THE VIKING : INFO

Hafnarstræti 3
101 Reykjavík
tel: 551 1250

Hafnarstræti 104
600 Akureyri
tel: 461 5551

email: theviking@simnet.is



"You can't stop people from moving across borders," he told us. "And the solution is not to move backwards and shut Iceland off, but to move forward through a policy of integration of foreigners directed not only at our new arrivals, but at Icelanders as well, that they be more aware of other cultures and more sensitive towards them."

A Wireless Reykjavik?

Independence Party candidates for city council announced last month their intention to look into the possibility of creating a wireless Internet network for the entire city of Reykjavik.

Bolli Thoroddsen, chairman of Heimdallur and a candidate for city council for the Independence Party, told reporters that, "We want Reykjavik to be the first capital city to be a wireless city."

The project, if undertaken, would combine city workers and private companies.

According to the results of an ongoing Gallup poll, published in March this year, the Independence Party has seen its support drop from 55 to 47 percent since January of this year, while support for the Social Democratic Party in Reykjavik has risen from 30 to 36 percent during the same period.

Iceland Leads the World in Broadband Connectivity, According to OECD Report

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, or OECD, released a report last month on the worldwide use of broadband technology. According to the report, as of year's end 2005 Iceland has the highest percentage of broadband subscribers in the world, with 26.7 subscribers per 100 inhabitants.

That amounts to around 78,000 high-speed connections in total, while second-place South Korea has 12 million subscribers, or about 25 percent of their total population. The report also notes that in the previous year Iceland had roughly 18 percent broadband penetration, and in 2001 the figure was only 3.7 percent.

At over 26 percent, the current broadband penetration rate in Iceland is twice that of Germany, four times higher than in the Republic of Ireland and over ten times that of Poland.

PM: Government Will Not Control Inflation

Prime Minister Halldór Ásgrímsson announced at a press conference, held the 18th of April, that the government would not be stepping in to put controls on inflation.

The news came on the heels of the latest report from new report by ASÍ – The Icelandic Confederation of Labour – on the Icelandic economy, which predicts increasing inflation in the years 2006 and 2007. According to the report, inflation is likely to soar well above the 4 percent upper tolerance limit of the 2.5 percent inflation target.

The report also predicts a decrease in economic growth, from 5.5 percent in 2005 to 4.3 percent in 2006 and 3.1 percent in 2007.

The PM's decision also runs contrary to the advice of Paul Rawkins, Senior Director of the Sovereign team for market analysts Fitch Ratings, who advised that the government needs to step in to control what he perceives to be an overheating of the Icelandic economy.

"The fiscal policy in Iceland is that the Central Bank is pretty much left to run the show while the government makes tax cuts," he told the Grapevine at that time. "If the economy's overheating, tax cuts aren't the way to go. While I can appreciate the government's privatisation policy, they look a bit too relaxed about it. You can't always stand back and do nothing."

Oddsson: Icelandic Entrepreneurs Like Cows In Springtime

In an article appearing on the website of Bloomberg Financial News the 10th of April, Icelandic Central Bank manager Davíð Oddsson likens Icelandic financial entrepreneurs to cows that are released from their stalls in the springtime.

Oddsson, who is Iceland's former prime minister, was responsible for deregulating Icelandic financial markets during his reign. He admits that the development may have been overly fast-paced. "It gave us a lot of spirit, and freedom inspired everybody. Maybe we did it a little bit too quickly. But in the end, it was the right thing to do."

He then goes on to compare the reactions of Icelandic investors and entrepreneurs to the reaction of cows that are released from their stable in the barn in the spring, after being kept inside for Iceland's

long winter months. "The cows that are easy all-year-around, even the old ones, become quite crazy. In a way, the Icelandic entrepreneurs acted the same when we opened the stable."

After serving the country as prime minister for a record 13 years (1991-2004), Oddsson is now faced with the task of reining in the economic effects of his policies as head of the Icelandic Central Bank.

The economy has been wavering lately, following negative reports from leading financial analysts and criticism in foreign media, especially regarding foreign debt and current account deficit.

Oddsson is quoted as saying that a further increase in interest rates may be necessary to fend off inflation and further decrease the currency's value. "Our models show that to keep inflation at bay, we would have to go much higher, even up to 16 percent."

First-Ever Heroin Seizure at Keflavik Airport

A previously known heroin addict, travelling from Amsterdam, was detained by police at the Keflavik Airport early last month after he was found to be carrying five grams of heroin and around 30 grams of cocaine internally.

This was the first time in the history of the airport that heroin had been intercepted, and the Grapevine's sources claimed it is very seldom available for purchase on the Icelandic drug scene. The case will most likely be investigated by the Reykjavik police, but the amount in question as well as the man's condition do not seem to indicate a commercial operation.

Late last year the Icelandic media, notably the NFS news magazine Kompás, put months of focus on the demand for and abuse of Contalgin, which is an extended release form of morphine and intended for long-term pain relief.

Heroin (diacetylmorphine) is essentially a subtly altered form of morphine, which crosses the blood-brain barrier more quickly and efficiently – providing a more immediate and intense high. Police and rehabilitation centres have, as of yet, been unable to give any explanation for its lack of penetration into the Icelandic drug market.



ENGENDERING REYKJAVIK

The people of Reykjavik have engendered a fun city, but it won't be perfect until girls and boys have an equal chance of making their dreams come true

Left-Greens dream of women's liberation. Women's liberation calls on both genders to change their attitudes

Help engender new attitudes in Reykjavik

Vote Left-Green in May
STRAIGHT FORWARD



VINSTRÍHREYFINGIN
grænt framboð

Grapevine's Government Guide

Who They Are and How They Vote



The Leftist-Green Party (Vinstrihreyfingin-Grænt Framboð)

Guiding principles: Far-left, pro-environmental, anti-NATO, anti-EU, feminist

Party Chairperson: Steingrímur J. Sigfússon

Number of seats: 5

Registered members: about 2,000

Ministers: none

Support according to latest poll: 16%

Website: www.vg.is

E-mail: vg@vg.is

Tel.: 552-8872

Address: Pósthólf 175, 121 Reykjavík



The Social Democratic Party (Samfylkingin)

Guiding principles: Left-centrist, social-democratic

Party Chairperson: Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir

Number of seats: 20

Registered members: about 20,000

Ministers: none

Support according to latest poll: 31%

Website: www.samfylking.is

E-mail: samfylking@samfylking.is

Tel.: 414-2200

Address: Hallveigarstigur 1 (2nd Floor), Box 160, 101 Reykjavík



The Progressive Party (Framsóknarflokkurinn)

Guiding principles: Right-centrist, pro-EU, pro-heavy industry; believes in fewer economic and environmental regulations while strengthening the social system.

Party Chairperson: Halldór Ásgrímsson

Number of seats: 12

Registered members: about 10,000

Ministers: Prime Minister Halldór Ásgrímsson, Minister of Social Affairs

Jón Kristjánsson, Minister of Agriculture Guðni Ágústsson, Minister for

Health and Social Security Siv Friðleifsdóttir, Minister of Industry and

Commerce Valgerður Sverrisdóttir

Support according to latest poll: 9%

Website: www.framsokn.is

E-mail: framsokn@framsokn.is

Tel.: 540-4300

Address: Hverfisgata 33 (2nd Floor), 101 Reykjavík



The Liberal Party (Frjálslyndir)

Guiding principles: Right-centrist, emphasising the rights of fishermen and increasing government transparency.

Party Chairperson: Guðjón Kristjánsson

Number of seats: 3

Registered members: about 2,000

Ministers: none

Support according to latest poll: 3%

Website: www.frialslyndir.is

E-mail: xf@xf.is

Tel.: 552-2600

Address: Aðalstræti 9, 101 Reykjavík



The Independence Party (Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn)

Guiding principles: Right wing, believes in further privatisation in all areas of society; anti-EU

Party Chairperson: Geir H. Haarde

Number of seats: 23

Registered members: about 34,000

Ministers: Minister of Fisheries Einar K. Guðfinnson, Minister of Justice

and Ecclesiastical Affairs Björn Bjarnason, Minister for Foreign Affairs Geir

H. Haarde, Minister of Finance Árni M. Mathiesen, President of Parliament

Sólveig Pétursdóttir, Minister for the Environment Sigríður A. Þórðardóttir,

Minister of Communications Sturla Bóðvarsson, Minister of Education,

Science and Culture Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir

Support according to latest poll: 40%

Website: www.xd.is

E-mail: xd@xd.is

Tel.: 515-1700

Address: Háaleitisbraut 1, 105 Reykjavík

And this issue's question is . . .

A recent Gallup poll paid for by a private organisation suggested that 30 percent of Icelanders are interested in reconsidering immigration in Iceland. Will your party put immigrant issues specifically on the agenda in the Parliamentary Elections in 2007?

Leftist-Green Party:

"Of course. It will be a prominent issue for us, as it has always been. We have presented various bills in order to safeguard the rights of immigrants. We believe that there should be Icelandic lessons available free of charge for all immigrants and we need to make it easier for them to access information and participate in our society."

Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, MP

Leftist-Green Party

Social Democratic Party:

"It has always been on our agenda. We need to continue conversations with different groups of immigrants to resolve this issue. We need to guarantee their rights with strong and transparent legislation."

Guðrún Ógmundsdóttir, MP

Social Democratic Party

"I don't know if we will put it on our agenda specifically, but I think it is safe to assume that this issue will be a topic of discussion until that time. The Progressive Party has been in charge of the Ministry of Social Welfare, which handles immigrant issues, and I think our position on this matter is best mirrored by the policies that have been formed in the Ministry during that time."

Kristinn H. Gunnarsson, MP

Progressive Party

Liberal Party:

"That might very well be. We believe that this is an issue that Icelanders need to discuss and reach a conclusion on how we

want to help immigrants with assimilation into Icelandic society.

We need to form some sort of policy and legislation that will ensure we do not have the same problems as our neighbouring countries in Scandinavia."

Magnús Þór Hafsteinnsson, MP

Liberal Party

Independence Party:

"It will be on our agenda, same as all other issues. The Independence Party is very positive towards immigration. We would especially like to see an increase in funding for Icelandic language lessons for immigrants. We believe that immigrants increase diversity and enrich our society."

Drífa Hjartardóttir, MP

Independence Party



Grapevine's Government Guide Bonus:

Witness Democracy in Action!

It's possible to watch parliamentary sessions live, and you don't need cable – or even a television, for that matter.

The government television station RÚV, attainable by even the poorest TV aerials, regularly broadcasts live from the halls of parliament. Check RÚV's listings in any of the country's newspapers, look for "Alþingi" and tune in.

If you prefer, you can also watch the action in person – from a gallery within the halls of parliament themselves. Simply go to the parliament's web page, www.althingi.is, to see the dates and times of the next parliamentary session. Then make your way to the parliament building, which faces Austurvöllir, and use the entrance opposite the church

Dómkirkjan. Admission is free, although you might be asked to check large bags with security and remove your hat. From there,

you can go up to the gallery and witness democracy in action. Popcorn currently unavailable.



Samfylkingin | Reykjavik 2006

Election Day
27 May

We will increase the options in housing

Starting by building houses all over the city with 6000 living quarters of all sizes. Among these will be 800 apartments for students and flats to rent. We want people to have a choice in lodging opportunities.

We will make preschool free of charge

The process has already begun and will be finished in 2008 according to our plan. Parents will then save 570,000 krónur per child, which corresponds to a pay rise of 32,000 krónur for parents each month.

We will increase support for immigrants

We will increase the support needed so that immigrants can adapt to the Icelandic community, e.g. by strengthening language education. A special effort is needed to strengthen the position of immigrant children in our educational system.



Our manifesto can be read at
www.xsreykjavik.is



Dagur B. Eggertsson
Medical Doctor and Mayoral
Candidate for Samfylkingin

Steinunn Valdis Óskarsdóttir
Mayor of Reykjavík

Stefán Jón Hafstein
Chairman of the
Executive Committee of the
Reykjavík City Council



Those People Aren't That Simple

An Interview with Halla Gunnarsdóttir

BY PAUL F. NIKOLOV PHOTO BY GÚNDI

Morgunblaðið journalist Halla Gunnarsdóttir originally intended to be a primary school teacher, but went to Morgunblaðið in 2003 because she found that her extensive travels would interfere with teaching. More recently, she sold media station NFS the idea for a television show whose purpose is to examine the cultures of other countries in the world. The Grapevine met up with Gunnarsdóttir to find out why such a show is necessary.

/// Your education is in teaching, yet you work for Morgunblaðið and are now starting your own show on NFS. Can you explain the transition?

– I never actually made the decision to be a journalist. I just have a passion for writing, and thought Morgunblaðið would be a nice place to work. I've found that in many ways, being a journalist is the same as being a teacher. In both cases you're taking something that you've experienced and are passing it on. What I do now isn't that different from when I used to tutor my nephew in math when I was a little kid. I've always had to tell everyone about everything, the result being that I talk a lot.

/// What's the concept behind the show?

– It's called *Petta Fólki* (These People), which is a reference to stereotypes, such as "Danish people drink beer." On each show we feature one country, and talk to people who are either from there, have lived there or have written about the place. People have different areas of emphasis, so maybe one guest will be well-versed on that country's art; another on its history and so on.

We're trying to introduce Icelanders to these countries, from a wider angle, and introduce the country to "these people." The news only goes so far in teaching people about other countries. This show goes a bit deeper.

/// Are you hoping then that the show will

help dispel stereotypes people have about "these people"?

– My point of view is that generalising and categorising isn't necessarily a bad thing. It's what we do. When you start at a new job, for example, you look around you and categorise your co-workers. It's normal. It only becomes

"As far back as the Middle Ages, you had sailors from France and England coming here, the Turks and Algerians coming to the Westmann Islands, and then more recently of course people from the UK and the US. People from all over the world have been coming here for centuries. So I don't think we're as homogenous as we say we are."

a bad thing when it affects how you talk to others, or how you treat them. That can be damaging. When you decide how someone is, like thinking that "Arab = terrorist," then it becomes a problem. But as long as you know that you're using a stereotype, and it doesn't affect how you treat or talk to others, it's not

"The news only goes so far in teaching people about other countries. This show goes a bit deeper."

necessarily a bad thing.

The way I saw the world when I was a kid was, Africa is filled with starving people; Asia is made of China and Japan; and Europe was the UK and Benidorm. But as you grow, and learn, and travel, you come to know more details. My hope is that this show will be able to provide some of these details.

/// So you think the show is meeting a need in the Icelandic media?

– Well, there are a lot of political talk shows out there right now, lots of focus on Icelandic and international politics, and less about cultures of other people in the world. There is life elsewhere than here. We're very

/// I've often heard the argument before that certain Icelandic attitudes about people from other countries are due to how recently foreigners have been coming here, that they're not used to it. Do you think this is the case?

– I think it's a myth that we're as homogenous as we think we are. Iceland is actually not very far from having the same percentage of foreigners as other Nordic countries. Further back in history, even as far back as the Middle Ages, you had sailors from France and England coming here, the Turks and Algerians coming to the Westmann Islands, and then more recently of course people from the UK and the US. People from all over the world have been coming here for centuries. So I don't think we're as homogenous as we say we are.

I think that our pre-conceived notions persist because we just like saying them, and they go on, and do so fairly easily in a country the size of Iceland. The good and the bad thing about the size of this country is that if you want an idea heard, you only need to say it once. The media can distribute these ideas pretty easily.

/// What is the one thing you hope people take away from your show?

– To open some people's eyes. Just want them to learn something new. I'm not expecting to cause a revolution. I'm just hoping to provide a fresh, new voice to everything else here.

Detta Fólki can be seen Sundays at 11:00 on NFS, and on http://www.visir.is/apps/pbcx.dill/section?Category=FRETTIR&template=kompas_undir_NFS_i_beinni.

that my generation does. While in the UK it's been normal to go on a three-month holiday somewhere, here it's typically "normal" to go abroad primarily just for studies. I don't know how much we know that what we do here affects everything else.

BLUE LAGOON EXPRESS

AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

MAY

A tour to the famous Blue Lagoon which is filled with therapeutic thermal water rich in minerals and silica. A place for bathers to luxuriate in a world where time stands still as body and soul become rejuvenated.

Daily departures from Reykjavik to the Blue Lagoon all year round: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:10, 16:00 and 18:00.

Daily departures from the Blue Lagoon to Reykjavik all year round: 11:15, 13:15, 15:15, 17:15, 18:45 and 21:00.

Daily departures from the Blue Lagoon to Keflavik Airport: 14:10.

Pick-up from hotels and guesthouses 30 minutes before departure.

ISK 3.400
Includes: Bus fare and admission to the Blue Lagoon.
(This is a non-guided tour)

For bookings or more information:
Telephone: (+354) 562 1011
E-mail: main@re.is
Our Sales offices, hotels and guesthouses

For more exciting daytours check out our brochure at your hotel or information center.

Reykjavik Excursions
KYNNISFERÐIR

For bookings or information:
Telephone: (+354) 562 1011 • main@re.is • Our Sales offices • Hotels and guesthouses



Whales & Puffin Island

Take part in an adventure at sea with an unforgettable 3-hour trip into the world of whales and sea birds.

Located in Reykjavik's old harbour, only a 5 minute walk from the city centre.

A spacious double-deck and a special viewing area on the third deck ensures a spectacular view into the deep blue sea.

Call us on **555 3565** or visit www.elding.is

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



Elding Whale Watching, Reykjavik harbour
Tel: (+354) 555 3565, Fax: (+354) 554 7420
info@elding.is, www.elding.is

OPINION



Turning Tricks for Movie Tix

A COLUMN BY ÞÓRÐÍS ELVA ÞORVALDSDÓTTIR BACHMANN

A few weeks ago, I read an article in the local tabloid newspaper DV about prostitution. Someone called Gunnar had phoned the paper to air his frustrations regarding the criminality of prostitution. According to Gunnar, prostitution should be considered an act of noble kindness because disabled people and ugly folks need to get laid too. These wonderful women are serving a cause that's no less important than eating and sleeping, Gunnar said.

Both of these people grew up in the average, Icelandic household, never living in fear, wondering where their next meal would come from. As my mind slowly started opening up, I remembered an incident from six years ago. A group of other people and I had missed the last flight from Bakki airport to an outdoor festival in the Westmann Islands. A group of loud, drunken girls started to curse and whine until one of them had

"A young man I know, who currently holds an influential and respectable job, told me that he once accepted payment for sex from a stranger in a dark alley. 'I just wanted to know what it was like,' he said."

My first reaction was to wonder whether Gunnar took into consideration that a majority of these wonderful women are forced to sell access to their bodies, but my second, more powerful, reaction was curiosity over what Gunnar looks like. Having been tainted by his ideas, I couldn't help but envisioning a very ugly amputee.

A few days later, I was in Berlin with my boyfriend, who suffered from back pain after having been crammed into tiny airplane seats on three separate flights. He was happy to discover that our street was lined with traditional Thai massage places. I started to get suspicious when we had to ring a doorbell at the massage parlour and my suspicions rose further when my masseuse clearly had no idea what she was doing. My boyfriend found himself in an even more awkward situation when his masseuse attempted to 'service' him in a way that had nothing in common with massage except lubricant.

So there it was. My first encounter with prostitution. It took me a while to wrap my mind around it, especially because my ideas about prostitution were very far from the reality in Berlin. I had a Lilya-4-Ever-like notion of imported Eastern European teenage sex slaves on drugs. After I tossed my misconceptions, I started noticing prostitution in the unlikeliest of situations.

A young man I know, who currently holds an influential and respectable job, told me that he once accepted payment for sex from a stranger in a dark alley. "I just wanted to know what it was like," he said. It wasn't about the money.

A woman I know told me she'd slept with a guy in exchange for movie tickets.

enough. She exchanged a few words with the guy behind the desk, who was old enough to be her dad, after which they disappeared into the back room. Twenty minutes later, the girl came back and announced to her friends that she'd solved the problem. Everyone cheered as they took their seats on the plane, and I overheard one of the girl's friends ask her what she'd done. She smiled, stuck her tongue in her cheek in a suggestive manner and got high-fives from her friends, who laughed wholeheartedly. I remember feeling dirty when I got off the plane because what got me to my destination was ultimately not a plane but some girl's twisted moral standards. Perhaps that's why I purposely forgot about the whole thing until recently.

The fact of the matter is that those on the receiving end of prostitution are often no more ugly or disabled than the guy behind the desk at Bakki, and those who trade sex for money or favours are often no more enslaved than the girl who took the matter into her own hands (or mouth, shall we say).

Prostitution is far more common than society would like to admit. Certain schools of philosophy go as far as to claim that 95 percent of all romantic relationships in the world are conditioned, where one partner exchanges sex and friendship for financial stability or company. I am too much of a romantic to accept that theory, but I've learned my lesson when it comes to the sex industry. Next time I want a back rub, I'm getting it from someone I trust.



ICELAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Concerts in March

May 6th '06 Family Concert "In Wonderland"

Háskólabíó, Saturday at 4.00
Price in ISK: 1100 (Children) 1600 (Adults)
Conductor: Rumon Gamba
Soloist: Valdis G. Gregory
Announcer: Halla Vilhjálmsdóttir
Music by: Maurice Ravel, Sergej Prokofiev, Carl Nielsen and others.

May 11th '06

Háskólabíó, Thursday at 7.30 pm
Price in ISK: 2900 / 2500
Conductor: Alexander Vedernikov
Gustav Mahler: Symphony no. 6

May 18th & 19th '06 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 250th Anniversary

Háskólabíó, Thursday & Friday at 7.30 pm
Price in ISK: 2900 / 2500
Conductor og Soloist: Ernst Kovacic
Frank Martin: Overture en hommage a Mozart
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in d-major KV 261a
Gottfried von Einem: Wandlungen op.21
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Symphony no. 40

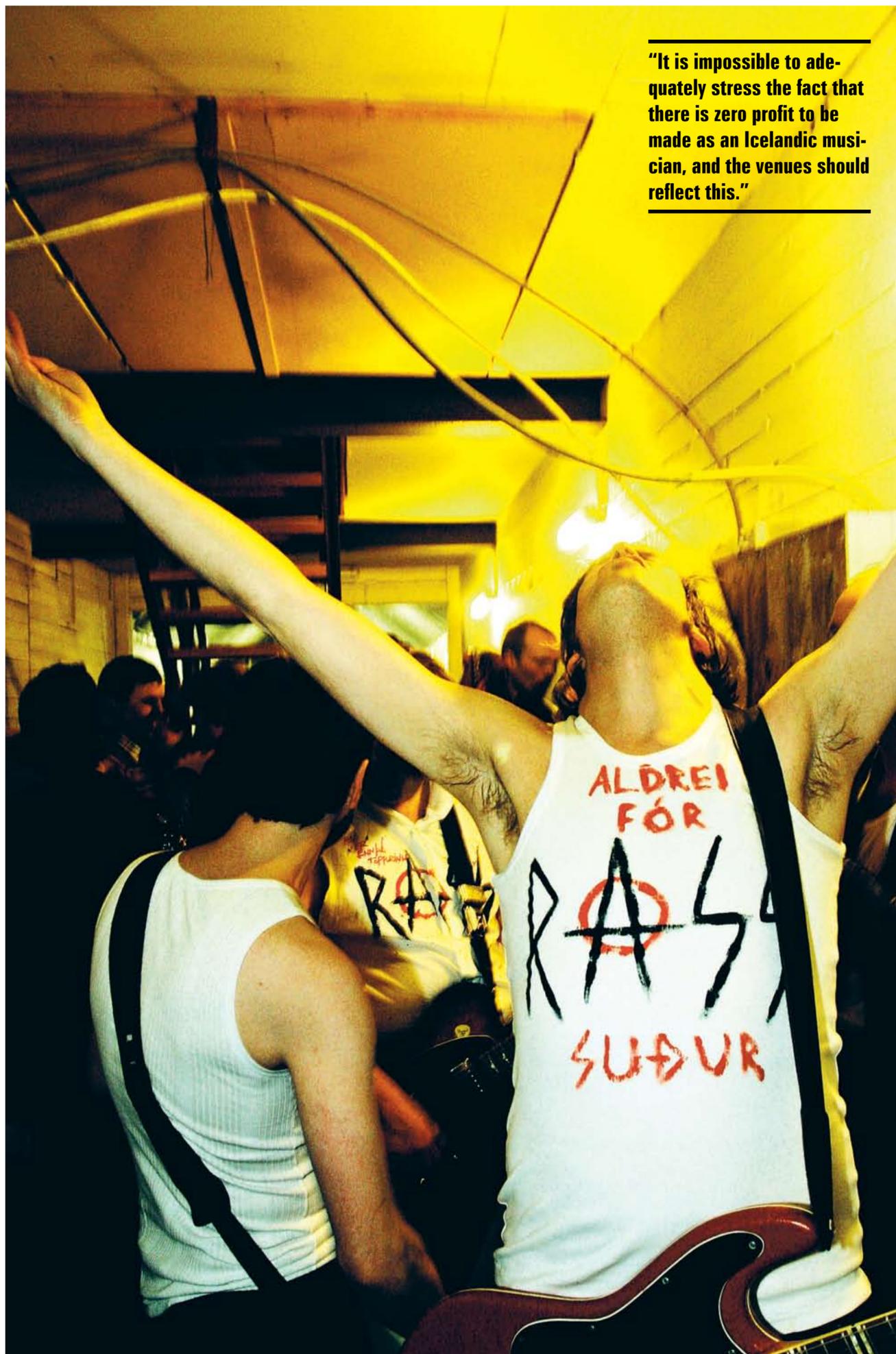
The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra is at Háskólabíó, Hagatorg, 107 Reykjavík, Tel: 545 2500

COMING SOON

Food Taxi.is

THE ULTIMATE IN HOME DELIVERY





"It is impossible to adequately stress the fact that there is zero profit to be made as an Icelandic musician, and the venues should reflect this."



The Melting Pot in a Cold, Cold Place

Ísafjörður's Aldrei Fór Ég Suður Festival

BY SINDRI ELDON PHOTOS BY HÖRÐUR SVEINIS

If you've ever wondered what the outer space colonies man will one day establish may look like, then Ísafjörður in winter might be for you. A rustic, spartan island of civilisation in a barren, desolate, snow-covered ocean of nothingness, its very existence seems implausible at best. The three-thousand or so inhabitants cower constantly in the shadows of the two mountains that lie to either side of it, and you get the impression that they are Ísafjörður's bossy, overprotective parents, encouraging it to shun outside contact as they loom intimidatingly over any visitors it might receive.

Even the layout of the town seems to indicate that human beings were not intended to exist there: An aerial photograph I spotted in the lobby of the swimming pool clearly showed that most of the town is built upon a spit of sand in the middle of the fjord, as opposed to the mountain foothills most of the northern towns lie on.

I spent Saturday morning with the musicians who would be performing later that day and began to see how truly excited everyone was to be a part of this. It was almost as if they all felt honoured to be deemed apart from and above the common rabble of musicians who were steadily becoming the cancer of this country. Everybody was innocent again, sweetened by the invitation to partake in something fresh and unmolested by the vain, narcissistic drudgery of Reykjavík.

There were exceptions, however. I'm not going to name any names, but you could truly see the difference between those who were there to be a part of it all and experience something they normally were not privy to, and those who viewed Aldrei Fór Ég Suður as just yet another opportunity for shameless self-promotion, those determined to be the best, brightest and most original act of the festival while also getting incredibly drunk.

The festival's sole foreign contributor was hard

to place in either category, or any category at all, for that matter. I entered the venue at three in the afternoon to the tortured growls and distorted atonal guitar cracks of I'm Being Good. Their music was a weird mix of minimalism and saturation, but weirder still was the sight of this kind of atmospheric rock being played in such a sparse setting.

Edinborg, an older building that has served a variety of functions throughout its chequered past, was about as perfect a setting as you could find for Aldrei Fór Ég Suður. A ramshackle heap of exposed wooden and metal support

"I doubt very many people were pleased with everything they saw at Aldrei Fór Ég Suður, but the sheer experience of seeing such an insane melting pot congregate in such an unlikely setting was a show in and of itself, an experience comparable to concept art at its unintentional best."

beams barely holding up distinctly inexpensive-looking wooden planks would be a more fitting description for it than calling it a building, and it was a true joy to behold.

I remember thinking that this is the way Icelandic music should be experienced, not in some smoky, alcohol-sodden tramp house in the smelly part of town, or some neon-lit white trash cokehead brothel. It is impossible to adequately stress the fact that there is zero profit to be made as an Icelandic musician, and the venues should reflect this.

Perhaps not so helpful in setting the scene was the early afternoon crowd. Tiny kids clustered around their stage in awe of the only show in town, their well-to-do parents trying to look cultured by watching (they were done in by

their tan ski-jackets and crossed arms – no one crosses their arms like that without looking like a complete philistine), impatient out-of-towners waiting for the big acts and rugged locals in fishing boots being very appreciative in their own, thoughtful, stubble-stroking way.

Another helpful hint that you may have wandered off the beaten path was the ludicrously inappropriate funk and soul bleating out of the monitors between bands, either that or Halldór Hermannsson, the doddering senior citizen who rambled onstage between the first few sets to keep the audience informed as to

good, though. Kristinn Nielsson was completely pointless and Hafðís Bjarna almost so, while 701 were just plain bad.

Meanwhile, the room grew steadily warmer. The odd mishmash that had populated Edinborg at the beginning of the programme had evolved into a smiling gathering of relatives, friends and soon-to-be friends, judging by the amount of beer being shared. Dóri Hemm had mysteriously vanished, and in his place were two intensely irritating women who addressed the crowd with enough sickening condescension to turn what had once been a weird music festival in a remote town into a school assembly hall. Their power to annoy cannot be put into print in any shape or form; they once introduced a band as being so talented that "all they had to do was sneeze to entertain people." A pity the same could not be said for them.

I began to wonder how far you had run to escape stupidity as the day progressed into mediocrity. The venue filled up with alcohol-equipped youths casting judgemental stares at anyone not born in the immediate vicinity, acts and attendants alike, and the musical quality completely collapsed. I had sunk into a dejected sulk by the time Siggí Björns finished his set to be replaced by the equally uninspired Hermigervill.

The Best of Both Worlds

At that point, it had become obvious that the only thing that could possibly save us now was either someone with enough theatrical bombast that it went beyond pretence, or someone so honestly convinced of his own power and greatness that quality and substance were rendered obsolete. Amazingly enough, both and more were provided in what was without a doubt the best hour of the day.

Sweaty, disillusioned and irritable, I suddenly lost my face in awe at Prumpison, a collaboration between Ragnar Kjartans-

>>> CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



son of Trabant and Mugison himself. They had completely abandoned even the concepts of substance or originality with the brilliant Strákar Fila Metal (Boys Dig Metal), a song for which Prumpison should receive untold volumes of awards, credit and women; a song too good even for lyrics (the title of the song is simply repeated ad nauseam).

Too bad they had to tarnish their name by letting Helgi Björns join them for the last two songs, one of which was his own utter-horror-of-a-song Mér Finnst Rigningin Góð (I Like It When It Rains [for those fortunate enough not to have heard it, let me assure that the title is the most bearable part]), but they were instantly outdone by the stunning shotgun blast of egotistical genius that came next.

Herbert Guðmundsson, the self-declared progenitor of all good Icelandic music, was spectacularly bitter as the frontman of ageing and mostly forgotten rockabilly outfit KAN, kicking off their set by saying, "I disagree. I own an ice cream store in Reykjavik and I hate the fucking rain."

He then launched the band into three incredibly standard eighties rock songs, providing his own delayed backup vocals and singing with a burning, fiery passion that belied his formal, almost stately appearance.

"I won't bother to introduce myself, you all know who I am," he boldly proclaimed after reading the names of the other band members off a sheet of paper, and then performed the opening song again to roars of approval from the crowd. And yes, the roars may have been ironic, but in the corner of the room, next to the mixing desk, a young music journalist from the Reykjavik Grapevine wiped a glistening teardrop from his cheek as he realised that he would never bear witness to such a charismatic performer for the rest of his days.

I was further dismayed when I checked the programme to discover that pompous revivalists Jet Black Joe were next, but at least one of them had been delayed for whatever reason, and thus we were spoon-fed the third and final exercise in complete and spontaneous onstage awesomeness. Reykjavik! were an immense fireball, a sickeningly brilliant reconstruction of modern rock so majestic and pure that it was difficult to watch and even harder to describe.

Singer Bóas was the first thing to get one's attention, tearing off article after article of

play their other gig in a neighbouring town later that day. Rass did their whole noisy-obnoxious-cocky-awesome-sneering thing, with guitarist Björn Blöndal coming within an inch of braining a wheelchair-bound young man with his guitar when he threw it into the audience. The guitar then started a violent squabble between the kids claiming to own it. So in other words, a fairly typical Rass show.

They, like everybody else who performed on that day, were very into their own thing, and that seemed to be the only criterion connect-

itself, an experience comparable to concept art at its unintentional best.

The last image of the night's concert perhaps best demonstrates this artistic conundrum. Jón Atli of Hairdoctor, inexplicably placed last on the programme, sneered the final words of the final song into the microphone, drawing mixed reactions from the partly dispersed crowd. Some hollered joyously, not necessarily because they liked or even knew the song, but were either appreciative, in a good mood or drunk off their ass. Others simply stood and stared expectantly, waiting (what for?), judging: the worst audience an artist could ever wish for.

Jón Atli himself stuttered, paralysed by the crowd's apparent schizophrenia, not knowing what to do, where to go... and bounded headlong into them, instantly disappearing in the chaos. Like Aldrei Fór Ég Suður, he was a good effort, a pleasing example of goodwill trying not to succumb to the scornful world of ignorant judgements and unfair hype, but it would seem that they both fell over themselves (very literally so, in Jón Atli's case) in an attempt to make everybody happy.

And so it is that, through no fault of its own, Aldrei Fór Ég Suður's reputation somewhat overpowered the event's actual occurrence, so that the experience of being there will never quite equal looking at the thing on paper. Ah well, perhaps next year we'll be fortunate enough to have two or three separate nights, each with its own distinct flavour, flair and appeal. Also, that way we could get more drinking done.

Air Iceland flew the Grapevine to Ísafjörður. They fly from Reykjavik to Ísafjörður twice a day. Tel: 570 3030. www.airiceland.is

"I won't bother to introduce myself, you all know who I am," Herbert Guðmundsson, of the unknown but respected Icelandic rockabilly band KAN.

clothing as he defied gravity with his desperate bounds and scrambles and provided the perfect visual aid to the searing madness that is Reykjavik's music. But it was guitarist Haukur who made my day, personally. The entire band is obviously blessed with a wholehearted love of what they do, but Haukur positively glowed with it.

Things rather died down after that, with the local accordion company providing a bizarre interlude of sorts as people applauded thunderously to an accordion solo, but it was clear that the night had already peaked. Húsið Á Sléttunni contributed further to the loss of momentum with very, very normal rock, remarkable only for the incredible vocals of Birgir Olgeirsson, who had also performed with the accordianists.

Jet Black Joe were affable in their own insipid way, but were evidently reluctant to expend too much of the energy they'd need to

ing the impressively diverse acts that had been gathered for the festival (said diversity was admittedly not universal: There were, for example, only technical differences between Weapons & Jan Mayen and Rass & Nine Elevens); the feeling that they had, each and every one, carved themselves a deep but narrow niche within their respective genres. It was almost like they were representatives of a sort, bringing their own distinctive fortes to a free-for-all playing field that was in some way accessible to every type of music enthusiast in the country.

Although this can hardly be viewed as a bad thing, the obvious problem with trying to appeal to everybody is that in the effort you risk pleasing nobody. I doubt very many people were pleased with everything they saw at Aldrei Fór Ég Suður, but the sheer experience of seeing such an insane melting pot congregate in such an unlikely setting was a show in and of

it's free

the REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

◀ INFO ▶

Issue 05, 2006

8 Page Listings Section in Your Pocket



THE REYKJAVÍK ARTS FESTIVAL

In Reykjavik, summer gets ushered in in the best way possible, with flocks of artists from around the world. Beginning May 12th, everything from Harold Pinter lectures to Bulgarian vocal choirs to Anders Widmark concerts, from South African vocalist and humanitarian Miriam Makeba's final European performance to Minnesota humorist Garrison Keillor's breakout movie role, all will be commonplace in Reykjavik, just things you

can do in your spare time.

The festivals require a guide and careful planning. To help, bilingual programmes are available at the downtown library and various public buildings, and there is a website with some English on it (www.listahatid.is). We can make our guess as to the highpoints: Miriam Makeba's performance at Laugardalshöll on May 20th, Mr. Keillor's show A Prairie Home Companion at the National Theatre

on May 16th, the opera Le Pays at the Reykjavik Art Museum May 27th, to say nothing of the ever-popular We Are All Marlene Dietrich show by the Icelandic Dance Company, and performances by Mugison and Benni Hemm Hemm. If you have a dedicated genre in the arts, you'll find a star performer.

■ By Bart Cameron



A. Hansen restaurant offers
Good food - Good service - Good music
Lobster offer 2.900,-
www.ahansen.is Tel.: 565 1130



Music and nightlife events usually start around 21:00, unless otherwise stated. Pubs close at 01:00 on weekdays and much, much later on weekends. For those just wanting to party, the pubs and clubs don't get crowded until after midnight on weekends, although Thursday is a semi-official night out.
Compiled by Paul F. Nikolov.
listings@grapevine.is

FRIDAY - 5 MAY

DJ Baldur
Kaffibarinn

Halli Reynir performs new material
Rósenberg

Palli (from Maus)
Bar 11

Touch, followed by DJ Johnny
Hressó

Pjóðviljinn
Celtic Cross

Lemon Purpose play mellow blues
Kaffi Hljómalind

SATURDAY - 6 MAY

Köngulóarbandið, followed by DJ Maggi
Hressó

Halli Reynir performs new material
Rósenberg

DJ Night (connected to the Manchester concert)
Nasa

DJ Alfons X
Kaffibarinn

Pjóðviljinn
Celtic Cross

Gulli (from Ósóma)
Bar 11

DJ Benni
Prikíð

TUESDAY - 9 MAY

DJ Kári
Prikíð

WEDNESDAY - 10 MAY

An evening of jazz with Kristín Bergs
Rósenberg

DJ Jón "the cook" Mýrdal
Prikíð

Sigga and Steini
Kaffi Hljómalind

THURSDAY - 11 MAY

DJ Andrés
Sólon (downstairs)

Magni and co. play the acoustic guitar
Sólon (upstairs)

Hoffman, followed by DJ Gulli (from Ósóma)
Prikíð

Menn Ársins
Hressó

Mike Pollock plays the blues
Rósenberg

FRIDAY - 12 MAY

Mógadón
Rósenberg

Mát, followed by DJ Johnny
Hressó

Pimps 'n' Hoes Night with Frískó, Óli Hjörtur and Anna Brá
Prikíð

DJ Brynjar Már
Sólon

Gulli (from Ósóma)
Bar 11

Mike and Jack
Celtic Cross

Bones Brigade (USA), Fighting Shit and Morðingjar
To find out where, e-mail: gagnaugadh@ yahoo.com - the party starts at 18:00

Opening Ceremony of Reykjavík Arts Festival, featuring the Motion Trio from Cracow, the French street artist Mr.

Culbuto, the Brazilian dance company
Grupo Corpo, Icelandic mezzo-soprano Guðrún Jóhanna Ólafsdóttir and Spanish guitarist F.J. Jáuregui
Reykjavík City Theatre (also broadcast live on RÚV)

SATURDAY - 13 MAY

Palli (from Maus)
Bar 11

Bogomil Font
NASA

DJ Rikki G
Sólon (downstairs)

DJ Brynjar Már
Sólon (upstairs)

Rass, followed by DJ Teddy
Prikíð

The Motion Trio (a Polish accordion band)
NASA

Mát, followed by DJ Johnny
Hressó

Bones Brigade (USA), Raw Material, Gavin Portland, The Deathmetal Super-squad and Oak Society
Somewhere on the mean streets of Akranes. E-mail: gagnaugadh@yahoo.com for the precise location (which is apparently a garage).

Benni
Kaffibarinn

Midnight Concert: The Diva and the Jazman (Sólrun Bragadóttir and Sigurður Flossason)
Iðnó

Mógadón
Rósenberg

SUNDAY - 14 MAY

Six Icelandic Pianists Play Schumann
Ýmir

The Motion Trio (a Polish accordion band)
NASA

MONDAY - 15 MAY

DJ Cacoon
Prikíð

Ouk Society
Kaffi Hljómalind

TUESDAY - 16 MAY

DJ Kári
Prikíð

A Prairie Home Companion with as yet unannounced Icelandic musicians.
National Theatre

WEDNESDAY - 17 MAY

Thomas Baz, Dóddi and co.
Kaffi Hljómalind

Barcelona vs. Arsenal on the big screen, followed by the house DJ
Prikíð

Coco Rosie
NASA

Halli Reynir and Bjartmar Guðlaugs
Rósenberg

THURSDAY - 18 MAY

An evening of jazz with Þóra Björk
Rósenberg

DJ Alfons X
Kaffibarinn

Eurovision warmup featuring Óli Brá and Anna Hjörtur
Prikíð

Mát
Hressó

DJ Palli Steinars
Sólon (downstairs)

Magni and co. play the acoustic guitar
Sólon (upstairs)

Joanna Newsom
Frikirkjan (Free Lutheran Church)

FRIDAY - 19 MAY

Hraun
Rósenberg

Árni Sveins
Kaffibarinn

Gin and Tonic Night with Frískó, DJ Benni and much more
Prikíð

Mát, followed by DJ Maggi
Hressó

DJ Heiðar Austmann
Sólon

Joanna Newsom
Frikirkjan (Free Lutheran Church)

SATURDAY - 20 MAY

DJ Heiðar Austmann
Sólon

Joanna Newsom
Frikirkjan (Free Lutheran Church)

JOANNA NEWSOM WITH SMOG AND SLOWBLOW

Newsom, interviewed in this issue, has one of the most distinctive vocal presences in music today—which often overshadows her unique and compelling song writing. Often, her songs incorporate tight, catchy melodies and the rhythm you hear in old folk tunes. Smog, also a key innovator with an unusual take on the folk tradition, has a devoted following in Iceland. Slowblow, Núi Albinoi director Dagur Kári's music project, are Icelandic, but they only play at moments like these—when all the stars are properly aligned.
May 16th and 18th at Frikirkjan.



The outdoor music festival in Reykjavík is coming up!

REYKJAVÍK TRÓPIK

June 2. - 4.

www.REYKJAVIKTROPIK.COM



EUROVISION NIGHT

The king (or, perhaps more aptly, queen) of kitsch himself, Páll Óskar, is Iceland's #1 Eurovision fan and expert. He's arguably the country's main authority on everything related to the contest, and even participated on behalf of Iceland with a memorable BDSM-inspired performance back in 1997. Expect loud revelries whether Sýlvía Nótt, Iceland's representative this time around, wins or loses.
May 20th, Nasa. The house opens at 23:00, but you can buy tickets the day before at the same location between 13:00 and 16:00.



A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION

What is arguably the best-known radio variety show in America is coming to Iceland. Garrison Keillor, who is the subject of an upcoming movie about his life and the show he created in the seventies, will be performing new live material in front of an estimates audience of five million listeners.
May 16th at The National Theatre

The Reykjavík City Theatre

On the main stage:
A Perfect Wedding
Icelandic translation of the comedic play by Robin Hawdon.

Marlene Dietrich
A play examining the work of the legendary actress during World War 2. Features contributions from Slovenia, France and Belgium.

Ronia the Robber's Daughter
Icelandic translation of the children's classic by Astrid Lindgren.

Standup Comedy
The comedic stylings of Þorsteinn G., Steinn Ármann and Björk J.

Who wants to find a million krónur?
Icelandic translation of a comedy by Ray Cooney.

On the other stages:
The Belgian Congo
An Icelandic play by Bragi Ólafsson, deal-

ing with attempts to mend broken families before it is too late.

A Crime Against Disco
Gary Owen's take on club life.

Hunger
A play on eating disorders, written by Grapevine columnist Þórdís Elva Þorvaldsdóttir Bachman.

Naglinn
Tragicomedy by comedian Jón Gnarr.

MIKE ATTACK
The all caps are on purpose. This is a one man play with an unusual plot: A man is thrown onto a stage and required to perform standup on command. Not much else seems to be known in advance, but the author of the concept and the actor portraying the hapless individual are one and the same: Kristján Ingimarsson.

The National Theatre of Iceland

Now I would Laugh if I Wasn't Dead!
A play geared towards younger audience

members. It is based on a variety of Icelandic folk stories, but also includes references to more modern media such as movies and television. Don't be put off by the title, it's just the punchline from an old Icelandic joke.

Virkjunin
Also known as Das Wek, by award-winning playwright Elfriede Jelinek.

Eight Women
Icelandic translation of a farcical comedy by Robert Thomas

Pétur Gautur
Icelandic version of the Henrik Ibsen play.

Broadway

Le Sing
A combination of dinner and a show; here the waiters are also the performers.

Iðnó

I'm My Own Woman
Icelandic translation of Doug Wright's

play on German transvestite Charlotte Von Mahlsdorf, performed by popular Icelandic actor Hilmir Snær Guðnason.

The Akureyri Theatrical Company

Little Shop of Horrors
Icelandic translation of the musical by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman.

The Ladybird
Icelandic translation of this Vassily Sigarev play.

The Icelandic Opera

Little Shop of Horrors
Icelandic translation of the musical by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman. Same cast as in the Akureyri version.

Dance

See www.id.is for an up to date list of events by the Iceland Dance Company.

1 CAFÉ
Café Roma
 Laugavegur 118

Roma, at the far end of the main street Laugavegur, is a deli-type coffee house, and one of the best take-away places in town. It almost feels unnatural that all the tempting cookies, cakes and other sweet things that are calling your name on the shelves are actually quite reasonably priced.

8 Tíu Dropar
 Laugavegur 27

A very nice "grandma" style café. Subterranean, as all traditional coffee shops should be. This place makes you feel warm, both with its atmosphere and the generosity of the coffee refills.

15 Café Victor
 Hafnarstræti 1-3

Spelled with a C rather than with the more traditional K in order to be more cosmopolitan. This play seems to be working, as the bar has become a hangout for foreigners. The Viking ship sitting on top of the building might also add to the appeal. The crowd is very mixed, both in origin and age, and so is the music.

22 Právda
 Austurstræti 22

Právda is one of the larger clubs/bars in downtown Reykjavík. It's divided between two floors and also separately into the Právda Bar and the Právda Club. The club section of Právda is ideal for dancing, while the bar section is somewhat more quiet and chilled out, with occasional live jazz and sometimes reggae.

25 Ölstofan
 Vegamótastígur

There are no tricks to this one. You know what you want and you know what you'll get when you enter this simple, straightforward pub. We are talking about drinking beer. Known as the hangout for the intellectual circles of Reykjavík.

28 Kaffibrennslan
 Pósthússtræti 9

Kaffibrennslan manages to be just a nice, "normal" place to go to, and a place to be seen at, surprisingly enough both at the same time. A wide variety of beverages, both bistromenu and a terrace outside the bar when the weather allows it. The iced coffee beverage is a delight.

31 RESTAURANTS
Krua Thai
 Tryggvagata 14

It's easy when you know what you're doing: good food for a reasonable price. To make it easier for the rest of us, they have their menu outside with images in colour and numbers. Just say the number and eat the food.

34 Argentina
 Barónsstígur 11a

Argentina is something in the direction of South American-steakhouse-goes-fine-dining-in-Reykjavík. It was the first restaurant around to offer steaks by weight, and it focuses on the beef – but they know their whale, sheep and reindeer as well.

37 Tapas
 Vesturgata 36

For those with a bit of money and time on their hands, the evening is well spent at Tapas, where you can while away the evening having course after course of wonderful miniature dishes served. If you don't feel like getting up right away afterwards, there's also a lounge.

44 Bæjarins Bestu
 Tryggvagata

Their menu is simple: It consists of Coke and hotdog. And nothing else. Ask for one with everything, and you'll get a dog in a bun with ketchup, mustard, remoulade (don't ask), fried and raw onion. The standard Icelandic hotdog, only somehow it tastes better.

2 Ráðhúskaffi
 City Hall

Ráðhúskaffi inside the Reykjavík City Hall is a comfortable choice for the view over Tjörninn, especially recommended on the so-called weekend weather days – the days that are beautiful, as long as you stay indoors. Also art exhibitions, 30m2 of miniature Iceland and municipal politics, all conveniently under the same roof.

9 Kaffitár
 Bankastræti 8

Expanded and improved, this is the downtown store for one of the country's finest coffee importers. While anything here is good, the specialty coffee drinks are truly remarkable: our favourite, the Azteca, an espresso drink with lime and Tabasco.

16 Vegamót
 Vegamótastígur 4

Vegamót (crossroads) has an appealing lunch menu, they serve brunch during the weekends, and the kitchen is open until 22 daily. After that the beat goes on, and you can check the end results in photos published the day after on their website www.vegमत. is. If you like Oliver, try Vegamót and vice versa.

23 Café Cultura
 Hverfisgata 18

The recently expanded Cultura is located in the same building with the InterCultural Centre. A good value menu, friendly service and settings that allow you to either sit down and carry on discussions, or dance the night away – tango on Wednesdays starting with free lessons from 20 to 21:00.

26 Thorvaldsen
 Austurstræti 8

Posh as the fifth circle of hell. DJs on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Arrive before 12 if you want to avoid the queue. Civilian attire is looked down upon. Do not expect to get in wearing hiking boots.

29 Glaubar
 Tryggvagata 20

One of the few proper sports bars in Reykjavík, so you can go and watch whatever game happens to be on the TV screens. The establishment is basically based around the bar, so you won't have to go a long way for a drink. Open until five, and has a reputation for late night partying.

32 Tveir Fiskar
 Geirgata 9

Seafood restaurant, although they also do land-based animals. At lunchtime you can have a three-course meal for 2,300, which isn't too bad, all things considered. The chef has all the awards of the Medal of the Order of the White Rose by the President of Finland.

35 Vin og Skel
 Laugavegur 55

If you like fresh seafood and are in the mood for something a little different, this cosy but ambitious new restaurant just might fit the bill. Shellfish, salmon, squid, lobster and other creatures of the deep predominate the menu here. There is no smoking in the restaurant, but if you want to have a go at sitting outside there are fleecy blankets provided.

38 Sægreifinn
 Geirgata

A place to go for the local touch, even if usually a place recommended with this argument instantly loses the exotic. Still, I'd try this one. Sægreifinn (Sea Baron) is a combination of a fish store and a... well, not exactly a restaurant but a place that serves prepared food, located in a harbour warehouse. Smell of fish, view over the harbour, old man that looks exactly like an Icelandic fisherman should. What's not to love?

45 Hlöllla Bátar
 By Ingólfstræti

The first sub sandwich shop in Iceland, opened in 1986, Hlöllla Batar has a large selection of subs filled and named with creativity and imagination. Brave souls might want to try the Gúmmi-Bátur (rubber boat), or go local and choose Síslu-mannabátur (sheriff sub) with lamb filling.

3 Grái Kötturrinn
 Hverfisgata 16a

Grái Kötturrinn (The grey cat) is a cosy place, and that's why it's a shame that it's quite often closed when we knock on their door and peer through the window later in the evening. Don't follow our example and go during the daylight, it's especially popular during the morning hours.

10 Segafredo
 By Laejartorg

With McDonalds long departed from the centre of Reykjavík, we got Italian chain Segafredo, which isn't a bad trade-off. The staff are expert baristas, and, even though Iceland is proud of its coffee, nobody quite tops the Segafredo latte.

17 B5
 Bankastræti 5

B5 is a newly opened bistro with a Scandinavian focus on the menu. Don't be fooled by the impressive collection of design classics that you see in the window when passing by – it's neither cold nor overly expensive, but rather a cozy place with friendly service.

4 Kaffi Hjómaland
 Laugavegur 21

A peaceful café with perfect windows for people-watching and a lot of daylight. Hjómaland is run by a non-profit organization and it only serves organic & fair trade products.

11 BARS 'N' BISTROS
Sólón
 Bankastræti 7a

Sólón is a nightclub on Friday and Saturday nights, but it seems to have more lives than one, since in the day it's a coffeehouse and in the evening (weeknights) they have a decent menu as well, and an art exhibition on the walls to finish the package with an artsy touch.

18 Rósenberg
 Laejargata 2

Perhaps the closest thing to a jazz club in town, with old instruments lining the walls. People go there for conversation and listening to music rather than dancing. The place tends to have jazz or blues-type music, and is developing a bluegrass scene.

5 Mokka
 Skólavörðustígur 3a

Kaffi Mokka is the oldest café in Reykjavík, dating back to the 1950s. It's the place with dark, smoky atmosphere and great numbers of loyal customers. Their waffles are best in town. Seriously.

12 Oliver
 Laugavegur 20a

Oliver is one of the biggest hits in town at the moment. Good news for the early birds: they open at 8 in the morning with an extensive brunch menu, staying chic all day long, until late – always crowded, with an everlasting queue outside especially towards weekend nights. Their Mediterranean menu, served in huge portions, is guaranteed to make you smile.

19 Grand Rokk
 Smiðustígur 6

As the Viking style garden and logo accurately signal, this is no place for the weak – yes, chess bars are that tough. Even if the downstairs atmosphere can feel a bit ominous at times, it's one of the best venues for live music in town. Chess, beer and rock'n'roll.

6 Ömmukaffi
 Austurstræti

A coffee house where you can find all kinds of people – all ages, all nationalities, with very friendly, down-to-earth feel to it. Affordable prices on coffee, cakes and the lunch menu. Try their speciality, the (South) African latte.

13 Kaffibarinn
 Bergstaðastræti 1

Kaffibarinn is Cool Hip Reykjavík. Blur's Damon Albarn owns a share of the bar, probably figuring it was cheaper than buying drinks all the time. This place has managed to serve as a 101 living room for quite a while already, with DJs often playing on the weeknights, with volumes rising towards the weekend. Friday and Saturday nights serve as the weekly peaks of claustrophobia.

20 Bar 11
 Laugavegur 11

The rock bar on Laugavegur is one of the late-night party venues in town. You'll feel the floor jumping every Friday and Saturday, and it's neither you nor an earthquake. Live concerts and a nice foosball table upstairs.

7 Babalú
 Skólavörðustígur 22a

The youngest coffee house in Reykjavík is also the homiest. Almost like a living room away from home, Babalú keeps it simple, quiet and cozy with coffee and the occasional crêpe.

14 Sirkus
 Klappargata 30

"Welcome to the Jungle! We got fun and games," quote the bard. Elements of this odd and alternative cultural institution also include an upstairs that looks and smells like a bus, a garden, a flea market and a queue on weekend nights that looks never-ending.

21 Hressingarskálinn
 Austurstræti 20

The celebrated site of one of the more famous coffeehouses in Iceland, this bar/coffeehouse/restaurant brings a European flair to the city. That is until about 11, when things get rockin', and you can see the true character of Reykjavík.

24 Þríkið
 Bankastræti 12

Used to be the oldest continuously running traditional coffeehouse on the street, but, 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.

27 Gaukur á Stöng
 Tryggvagata 22

Iceland's oldest bar is now in its early twenties. During the day it's a pool pub and on weekend evenings there are live rock concerts by a mix of mainstream and underground bands. On weekends there is usually a lot of action with cover bands playing everything from Britney to the Beatles...

30 Litli Ljótí Andarunginn
 Laejargata 66

They have a fish buffet for 2,500ISK every evening, with the magic words "cat-as-much-as-you-can" floating in the air. They also have an Icelandic media person working there every now and then, so watch out for a curly haired, friendly gentleman called Egill.

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—all priced affordably.

36 Tjarnarbakkinn
 Vonarstræti 3

Above the Iðnó theatre, so it's good place to go before shows, or during if you prefer a more quiet atmosphere. If you sit by the window you get 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.

43 Bernhöfðsbakari
 Bergstaðastræti 13

The oldest bakery in Reykjavík, founded in 1834. If you are particular about your bread this is about the best place in central Reykjavík to stock up on a variety of freshly baked loaves – they also do a particularly moist and juicy version of the ever popular vinarbráð pastries.

50 Vitabar
 Bergþórsgata 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.



DISCOVER ICELANDIC SEAFOOD
 At the Reykjavik harbour

tveir fiskar
 At the Reykjavik harbour, Geirsgata 9, 101 Reykjavik
 Tel. +354 511 3474 restaurant@restaurant.is, www.restaurant.is

EXTRA ORDINARY INDIAN CUISINE
on the edge of the world
SHALIMAR
 INDIAN - PAKISTANI CUISINE
 Austrustræti 4, Ph:511 0292 www.shalimar.is

Zhena's Gypsy Tea
 enjoy
 Healing aromas rich and giving flavours.
 By choosing fair trade products we trade with our good energies and individually help healing the worlds economy

Crystal Shop and Spiritual Gallery
 Crystal, Reiki and Spiritual healing. Detox System foot spa treatment available also. Iceland's largest minirals and crystals shop.
Gjafir Jarðar
 Gjafir Jarðar, Ingólfsstræti 2, 101 Reykjavík, Tel: 517-2774, gjafirjarðar@gjafirjarðar.is, www.gjafirjarðar.is

RADIO

Rás 1
Government radio station often featuring talk shows, radio soap operas, and traditional music.

Rás 2
More progressive government radio station, featuring a variety of music as well as news discussion programmes.

Bylgjan (98.9 FM)
Light pop music.

Útvarp Saga (99.4 FM)
Iceland's oldest station, featuring both Icelandic and foreign music from decades past.

Talstöðin (90.9 FM)
Talk radio station, in Icelandic.

Létt 96.7 (96.7 FM)
Office pop, easy listening.

FM 957 (95.7 FM)
One of the "hnakkistöðvar," playing pop-rock geared towards urban clubbing youth.

XFM (91.9FM)
Iceland's rock station, often playing cutting-edge releases.

Lindin (102.9 FM)
Christian broadcasting station, available all over the country.

Kántríðar (100.7 FM)
Iceland's country music station, still going strong from Skagafjörður since 1992.

TV

24
Jack Bauer can achieve anything, but whatever you do don't get close to the man. Chances are you'll wind up kidnapped by chemical-agent-wielding cocaine barons from Iraq, stalked by cougars and just plain get shot to death for dramatic effect. You just have to wonder if Jack has caught on to the fact that his life seems to be very uneventful for large periods of time but once in a while all hell breaks loose for exactly 24 hours. Now in its fifth season, the show with the unique real-time format may be starting to really test one's suspension of disbelief, but the action and the compelling plotlines are still there. If you missed the first few episodes, and you live in a far away land of wonder and mystery where it's not illegal, you can just download them to catch up.
Tuesdays, 23:00; Stöð 2

Lost
Unbeknown to most, Lost is not actually a television programme but a highly potent form of crack cocaine, converted into waves of sound and light. Forget the opiate of the masses, this stuff only lasts for just under an hour at a time and you can't re-dose for a week. The sad part is that far into the second season we still know virtually nothing about the circumstances of the band of castaways that the show focuses on. The writing staff seems to just jerk its viewers around the whole time, raising two questions for every half answer they give. If you missed the beginning of this season, or

want to see season one, dark rumours from the depths of the underworld claim older episodes may be available on something called the Internet.
Mondays, 22:25, with reruns Thursdays, 23:10; RÚV

The Amazing Race
Many would argue that this reality show sucks considerably less than the rest of the current generation of such programming, and we are inclined to agree. Since it's a race around the world you get to see lots of interesting locales and exotic countries and once in a while they even have a slightly amusing contestant or two. The challenges that contestants face may be a bit contrived, and the sucking up to local tourist boards is definitely too overt at times, but it's good, solid, mindless entertainment. And if you were wondering what was up with the host's Amazing Accent, he's a Kiwi trying to sound American and he also seems to be struggling to keep himself from breaking into a full New Zealand accent.
Mondays, 20:15; Stöð 2

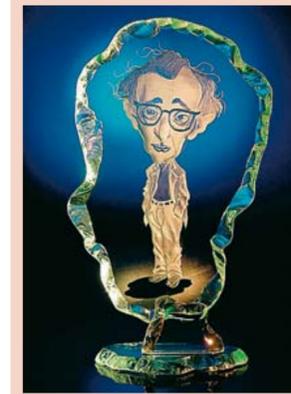
TV in Icelandic

Ensku mörkin (FA Premiership Roundup)
You may recall the days when you didn't have to pay an arm and a leg just to watch your favourite team, or even nation, play a spot of football (or soccer, for those of you... well, you know who you are). With

the media market today being what it is, you need a pint of lube beforehand and a shower afterwards if you want to see the matches live, but at least RÚV hasn't let us down completely. You can still see the highlights from all the weekend's matches in an hour-long roundup. Like a rubber duck on a sinking ship, you've already paid for it and it's better than nothing.
Sundays, 16:00, with reruns later that same day at 22:45

Ísland í dag (Iceland Today)
Iceland Today is Stöð 2's news magazine and main rival of Kastljós on RÚV. It's good for the same mixture of fluff and serious stories, but still falls short of Kastljós when it comes to hard-hitting questions and general entertainment value.

Ísland í bítið (Iceland in the small hours)
Starting at an intolerable 7 am and lasting two hours, Iceland's first early morning show is just vacant and meaningless enough to be tolerable at that hour. Listen to the hosts scramble for bland topics and extend long-dead conversations on for longer than you'd think it would be humanly possible to sustain them. It's not all bad; you have to feel sorry for them for having to be so cheerful in front of the cameras when most of us are just waking up and after all it's not like most people can stomach anything other than fluff at that hour.



Woody Allen Marathon

Let's face it, you're not going to see the words Woody Allen and marathon in the same sentence all that often in your life. Skjár Einn seems to be having some kind of tribute month to this film great of diminutive stature and shaky disposition, as every Sunday night a film of his magically appears on their program listings. Whether you like his 'early, funny stuff' or his more serious later works, or his recent, less funny, funny stuff, you could do worse than having a look through the Sunday evening listings to see what has been pulled from his voluminous catalogue that week. *Skjár Einn. Sundays throughout May.*



Eurovision Semi-Finals

The Eurovision Song Contest is usually required viewing in Iceland. Typically hosted by the political dynamo Gisli Marteinn, the at times offensive humorous commentary used to be the high point, as Icelandic performers did not fare well. This year, Gisli Marteinn is out, due to a seen possible conflict of interest. Instead, we have a genuinely entertaining Icelandic performer, Sýlvía Nött – a woman so funny and unpredictable that she could overtake Janet Jackson's breast in the controversial-but-fun-entertainment-during-terminally-boring-events department. *RÚV May 18th. Finals are May 20th.*

Sambíóin - Kringlan

Mission: Impossible III
Opens May 5
Scary Movie 4
18:00, 20:00, 22:40
The Inside Man
17:30, 20:00, 22:00
Failure To Launch
18:00, 20:15, 22:10

Sambíóin - Álfabakki

Mission: Impossible III
Opens May 5
Scary Movie 4
16:00, 17:00, 18:00, 19:00, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00
Scary Movie 4 (VIP)
16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00
Failure To Launch
16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:10
Firewall
17:45, 20:00, 22:20
V for Vendetta
20:00

Háskólabíó

Scary Movie 4

18:00, 19:00, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00
Firewall
17:45, 20:00, 22:10
The Matador
18:00, 20:00

Sambíóin - Akureyri

Scary Movie 4
18:00, 20:00, 22:00
Failure to Launch
20:00, 22:00
Syriana
17:50

Sambíóin - Keflavík

Inside Man
17:40, 20:00, 22:30
Little Red Riding Hood (dubbed in Icelandic)
16:00, 18:00
Failure to Launch
16:00, 18:00, 20:00
Running Scared
20:00, 22:20

Laugarásbíó

Inside Man
17:40, 20:00, 22:30

Little Red Riding Hood (dubbed in Icelandic)
16:00, 18:00
Failure to Launch
16:00, 18:00, 20:00
Running Scared
20:00, 22:20
Prime (Luxury)
17:30, 20:00, 22:30
The Hills Have Eyes
20:00, 22:30
Ice Age 2 (dubbed in Icelandic)
16:00

Regnboginn

Little Red Riding Hood (original English-language version)
18:00, 20:00, 22:00
Little Red Riding Hood (dubbed in Icelandic)
18:00
Prime
17:30, 20:00, 22:30
The Hills Have Eyes
20:00, 22:30
When a Stranger Calls
20:00

Smárabíó

Mission: Impossible III

Opens May 5
Little Red Riding Hood (original English-language version)
16:00, 18:00, 20:00, 22:00
Prime
20:00, 22:30
Prime (Luxury)
17:30, 20:00, 22:30
The Hills Have Eyes
20:00, 22:30
When a Stranger Calls
22:00

Borgarbíó

Inside Man
20:00, 22:25
Little Red Riding Hood (dubbed in Icelandic)
18:00
Ice Age 2 (original English-language version)
20:00
The Hills Have Eyes
22:00

Visit www.kvikmyndir.is for regularly updates on new films and showing times.

Prepared for the Grapevine by the Centre for Icelandic Art. For more information, visit www.CIA.is, or visit their office at Hafnarstræti 16, 101 Reykjavík.

101 GALLERÍ

Hverfisgata
Opening hours: Thu.-Sat. 13-17

21.04-03.06.2006
Steingrímur Eyfjörð

ÁSMUNDARSAFN

Sigtún
Opening hours: 10-16 every day

The Man and Material

Permanent Exhibition
A retrospective exhibition of works by Ásmundur Sveinsson

THE EINAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM

Eiríksgrata
Opening hours: Sat.-Sun. 14-17
www.skulptur.is

Permanent exhibition of the sculptor Einar Jónsson

i8 GALLERÍ

Klappartígur
Open Thu.-Sat. 13-17 and by appointment

19.05.06-01.07.06

Upstairs: Finnboði Pétursson
Downstairs: Twelve female artists

GALLERÍ ANIMA

Ingólfsstræti 8
Open Fridays 12-17
Sat.-Sun. 13-17
Free entrance

28.04-21.05.2006

Björg Örvar

DWARF GALLERY

Grundartígur 21
www.this.is/birta/
Opening hours vary.
Free entrance

06.05-20.05.06

Magnús Árnason
Performance Installation

GYLLINHÆÐ

Art academy exhibition space
Laugavegur 23
Open Thu.-Sun. 14-18

Students from the first year of the Academy.

KJARVALSSTAÐIR REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM

Flóakagata
Open every day 10-17
www.listsafnreykjavikur.is

02.04-05.06.2006

Illa og Emilia Kabakov
Joseph Kosuth

Installations In memory of H.C. Andersen
Opening hours: daily 10-17
www.natmus.is

08.04-03.12.2006

Let's Look at Art

A series of exhibitions especially designed for children.

16.06-03.09.2006

Works from the Reykjavík Art Museum's collection

KLING & BANG GALLERÍ

Laugavegur 23
Open Thu.-Sun. 14-18
Free entrance
www.this.is/klingandbang

13.05-11.06.2006

Hannes Lárusson
Ubo Roi meets Humpty Dumpty (in Iceland)

13.05-11.06.2006

Downstairs
Helgi Þórsson

ASÍ ART MUSEUM

Freyjugata 41
Open every day 13-17; closed on Mondays
Free entrance

06-28.05.2006

Kees Visser

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Frikkirkjuvegur
Opening hours: Tue.-Sun. 11-17
Free entrance
www.listsafn.is

12.05-25.06.2006

Birgir Andrésson, retrospective
Steingrímur Eyfjörð, retrospective

08.07-10.09.2006

Landscape and Folklore (from the National Gallery of Iceland collection)

HAFNARHÚS REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM

Open every day 10-17
www.listsafnreykjavikur.is

06-25.05.2006

Group exhibition of graduating students from The Icelandic Art Academy.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM

Suðurgata 41

A LIFE WORLD - JOSEPH KOSUTH AND ILYA AND EMILIA KABAKOV

How universal and appealing is the Danish writer Hans Christian Andersen? This exhibition, combining the forces of the great New York artist Kosuth with the father of Russian conceptualism hints at the impact Andersen had. The whole of Kjarvalsstaðir will be dedicated to this remarkable collaboration.

The National Gallery of Photography:
Roots of the "Rúntur"

The Arc Hall:
Invisible women in Icelandic art

Research Exhibitions:
Archaeological research and Iceland's new view of history

Permanent Exhibitions
The Making of a Nation

NORDIC HOUSE

Open 12-17; closed on Mondays

14.04-21.05.2006

Drawings by children from Nordic countries.

NÆSTI BAR

Ingólfsstræti 1a

29.04-26.05.2006

Snorri Ásmundsson
Healing Paintings

LIVING ART MUSEUM

www.nylo.is
Open Wed.-Sun. 13-17
Free entrance

14.05-04.06.2006

The Supremes - 19 artists from outside of Iceland, along with five Icelandic artists.

SAFN

Open Wed.-Fri. 14-18
Sat.-Sun. 14-17
Free entrance
www.safn.is

13.05-11.06.2006

Ceal Floyer
Karin Sander

SIGURJÓN ÓLAFSSON MUSEUM

Laugarnestangi 70
www.lso.is

The Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum exhibits works by the Icelandic sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson.

TURPENTINE

Open Tue.-Fri. 12-18
Sat. 11-16
www.turpentine.is

13.05-11.06.2006

Nína Tryggvadóttir

>>>OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK:

Hafnarfjörður:

HAFNARBORG

Open 11-17, every day but Tuesdays.
www.hafnarborg.is

06-29.05.2006

Örn Þorsteinnsson
"Kvika úr búri - sculptures"

Keflavík:

SUÐSUÐVESTUR

Hafnagata 22
230 Reykjanesbær
<http://www.sudsudvestur.is/>

29.04-21.05.2006

Indiana Auðunsdóttir

Akureyri:

GALLERÍ +

Brekkugata 35

29.04-21.05.2006

Sólveig Aðalsteinsdóttir
Póra Sigurðardóttir

JÓNAS VIDAR GALLERY

Opening hours: Fri.-Sat. 13-18

06.05-20.05.2006

Helgi Vilberg
Paintings

AKUREYRI ART MUSEUM

Open from 12-17. Closed on Mondays.
www.listsafn.akureyri.is/

Homesick

06.05-25.06.2006



for all your vintage clothing and more....

ILLGRESI

portið beint a móti Mál og Menningu

Works by

- BIRGIR ANDRÉSSON
- JOHN BALDESSARI
- RAGNAR KJARTANSSON
- BERND KOBERLING
- VICTOR BULLETT
- JEANINE COHEN
- TUMI MAGNÚSSON
- TONY CRAGG
- ÓLAFUR ELÍASSON
- MAGNÚS PÁLSSON
- GUDRÚN EINARSDÓTTIR
- EGGERT PÉTURSSON
- HREINN FRÍÐFINNSSON
- FINNBOGI PÉTURSSON
- GABRIÉLAFRÍÐRIKSDÓTTIR
- KRISTJÁN GUÐMUNDSSON
- RAGNA RÓBERTSDÓTTIR
- SIGURÐUR GUÐMUNDSSON
- KARIN SANDER
- KATRÍN SIGURDARDÓTTIR
- RONI HORN
- HRAFNKELL SIGURÐSSON
- KRISTINN E. HRAFNSSON
- PÓR VIGFÚSSON
- GJÖRNINGAKLÚBBURINN
- LAWRENCE WEINER

Grapevine Art Picks by Bart Cameron

National Museum of Iceland



ROB HORNSTRA - ROOTS OF THE RÚNTUR

A rúntur is the circle that kids and teenagers drive around villages and towns in Iceland – in America, we call it the strip. Hornstra's provocative exhibition shows Iceland at its most vulnerable and human, as he follows teenagers from the most remote burghs on this lonely island. This isn't just a chance to make fun of small town kids – the whole communities are on display, and Hornstra never plays them down. A beautiful exhibit.



Gallerí Dvergur / Dwarf Gallery



MAGNÚS ÁRNASON - MUCUS

The Dwarf Gallery is hitting the ground running with this engaging exhibition from Magnús Árnason. Mucus feels like a cross between Where the Wild Things Are and the Cremaster Cycle. He claims to have been inspired by David Attenborough's visually stunning nature documentaries – which are still popular in Iceland.

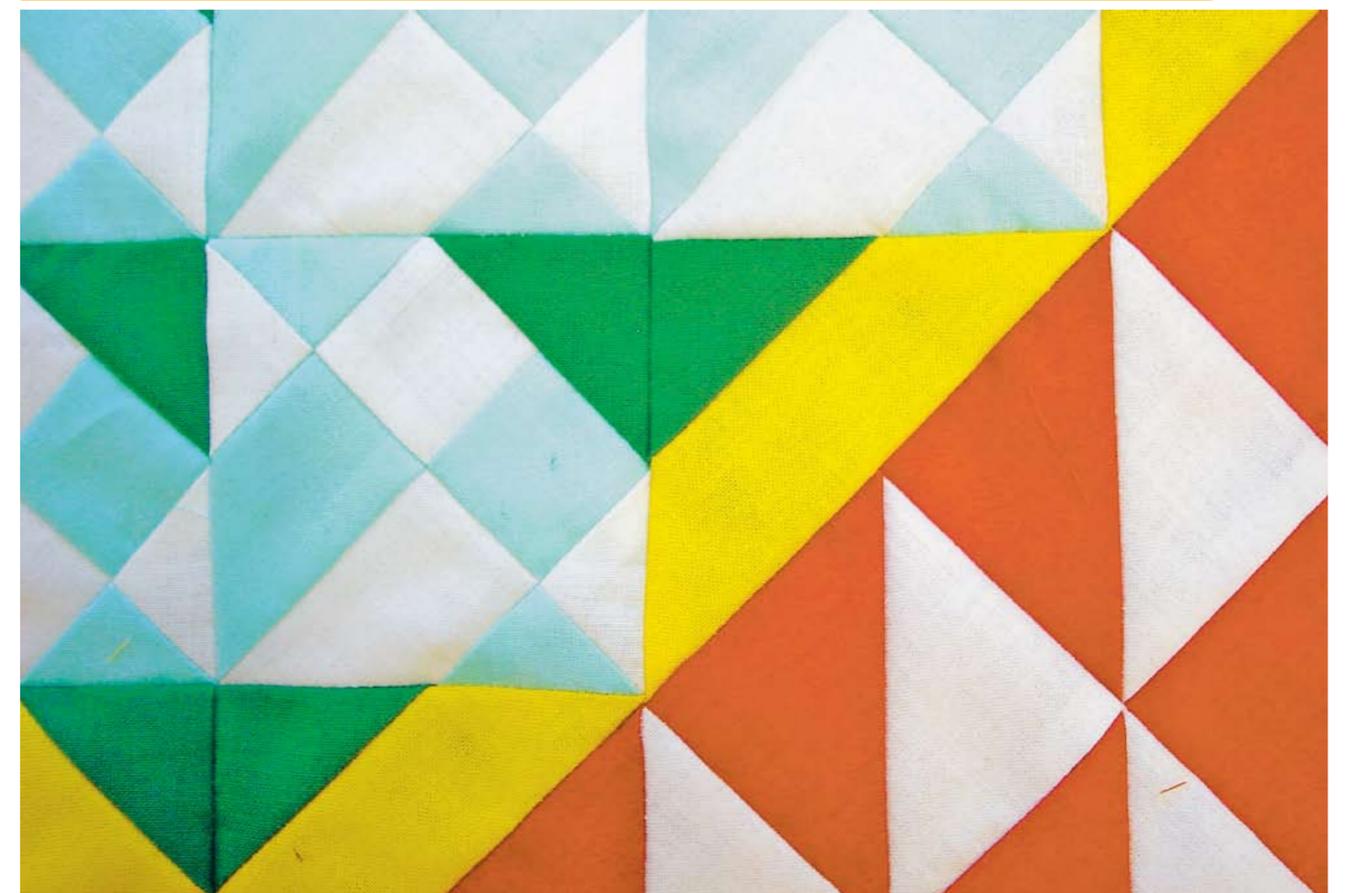
Gel Gallerí Reykjavík



DIRK LEROUX - MODEL FOR THE TREEMAN

While the small gallery forced Belgium artist Dirk Leroux to modify his project somewhat, the ambition of Model for the Treeman is obvious. Treeman looks like the notes, drawings and sketches of a man obsessed with some key element of his past, or stuck in a moment of childhood. "Iceland is an appropriate place for this exhibit, as Iceland is like a lost tree in the middle of an ocean," he told us, and we of course agreed with him. He also mentioned a butter lake.

Reykjavík Art Museum



GRADUATION EXHIBIT FOR THE ICELAND ACADEMY OF ARTS

The lines go around the block when the class at the Iceland Academy of Arts put on their graduation shows. For a good reason, many of the projects, especially in the design department, will drive discussion for the whole following year and then some. What you see on the walls will likely be on album covers, appropriated into advertising campaigns, or simply be on more museum walls, for years to come. And this feels particularly exciting.

Akureyri Art Museum



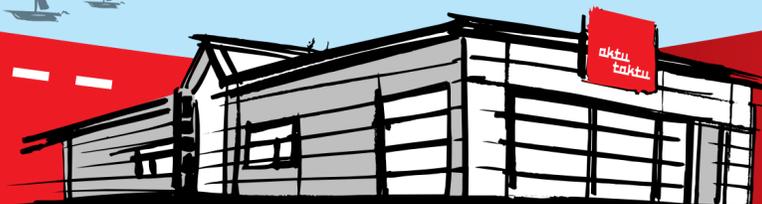
HOMESICK

Act I participating artists: **Guy Ben-Ner** (Israel), **Chantal Michel** (Switzerland), **Nevin Aladag** (Turkey), **Katrín Sigurðardóttir** (Iceland), **Haraldur Jónsson** (Iceland), **Ólafur Árni Ólafsson & Líbía Pérez de Silles Castro** (Iceland/Spain)
The exhibition in Akureyri forms the starting point of the HOMESICK Project, a series of exhibitions in cooperation with the CIA.IS – the Centre for Icelandic Art/ Akureyri Art Museum (Iceland), Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Centre Istanbul (Turkey) and the Centre for Contemporary Art (Israel).

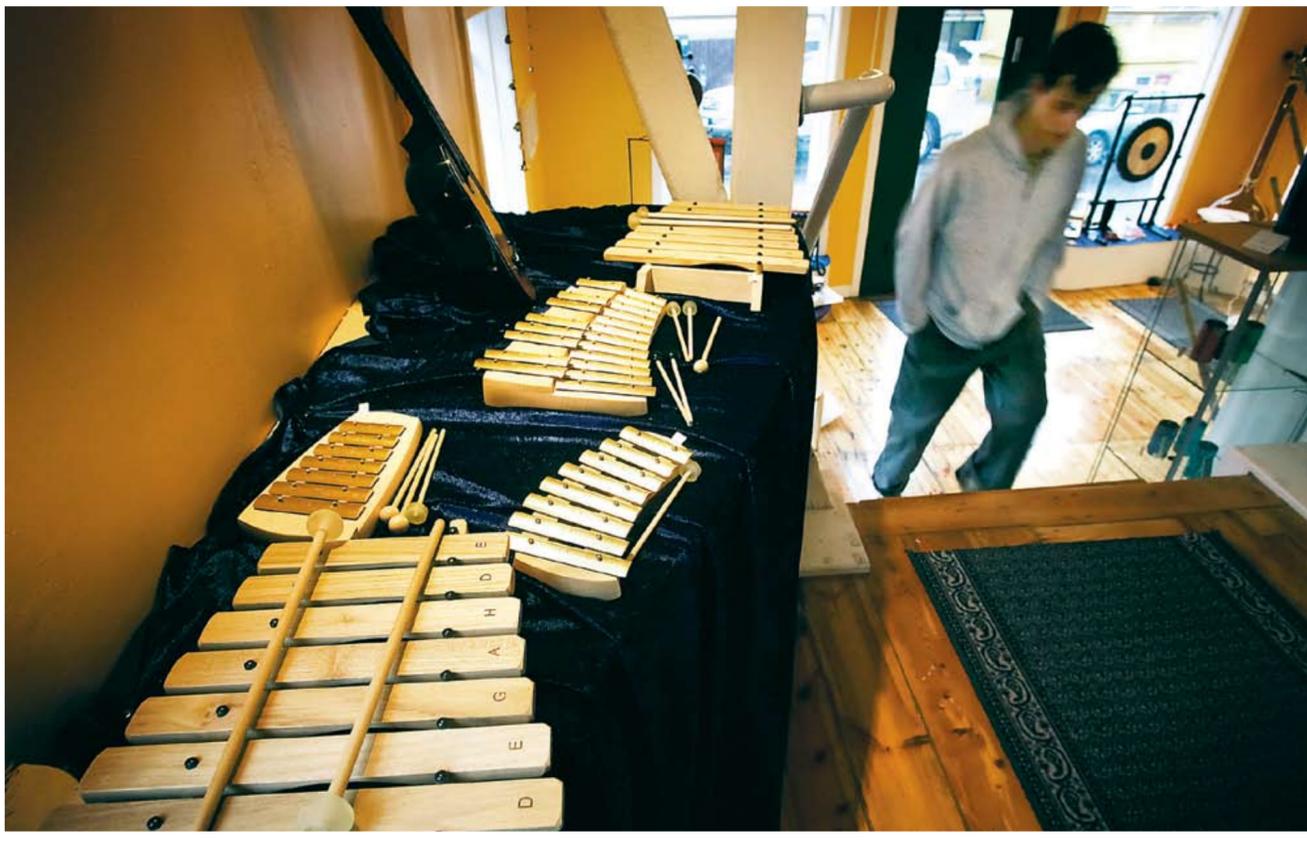
ART

aktu
taktu

THE **DRIVE THRU** BY THE SEA



aktu
taktu BY THE SEA



The Best Place to Buy a Xylophone

Hljóðheimurinn Sangitamaya

BY PAUL F. NIKOLOV PHOTO BY GÜNDI

If you never leave Laugavegur to do your downtown shopping, you might miss it – Hljóðheimurinn Sangitamaya or, as it's colloquially known, "that music store with the sitar in the window." And when you first walk in, instruments such as gongs, kotos, didgeridoos and sitars are the first things you notice. But this store also features smaller and equally overlooked instruments such as jaw harps, kazoos, tin whistles and bamboo flutes. You get the impression that in the very near future, we'll be seeing some of these instruments gracing the stages of Reykjavík's clubs.

Brynjar Konráðsson, drummer for Future Future, showed us around the store while explaining something of the store's history.

"We just opened the store last December," he told us. "And there are two others, in Austria and Switzerland. The owner, Eymundur, brings these instruments over from them."

We had to ask how a store selling such obscure musical instruments was getting along.

"We did pretty well in December," Konráðsson explained. "A lot of the people who come here are kindergarten teachers, members of the symphony or people looking for a different sort of birthday present. We had to order more xylophones."

And indeed, a few small wooden xylophones were being unpacked as we spoke.

As a drummer, Konráðsson appears to have found the ideal day job, and he was more than happy to demonstrate the use of the Japanese war drum, djembas, the "sea drum" (a double-skinned drum with sand inside it) and an African goat skin drum with a surprisingly booming sound for its size that he speculated he might bring on stage with him some time.

Sangitamaya has already attracted the interest of some of Iceland's better-known musicians. After demonstrating a Shrute box – a wooden, harmonium-like device – there was one musician in particular who sprang to mind. As if reading my mind, Konráðsson asked me, "Guess who bought one of these?"

"Björk?" I ventured. "Yes," he said, smiling. So if you hear an old-fashioned squeezebox effect on a future song of hers, you'll know where it came from.

The most expensive instrument in the store (198,000 ISK) was a wooden semi-cylinder about a metre and a half tall. On the outer edge are two sets of strings – one playing in a high register and the other in a low register – essentially playing only two chords.

"This isn't so much a musical instrument as it is a therapeutic device," Konráðsson explained. "You lie down in it, and someone else strums the strings. It's been used for children with mental disturbances."

Giving it a preliminary trial, I could definitely see the calming effect.

Sangitamaya is not an exclusively high-end store. There are the aforementioned kazoos, jaw harps, xylophones and bamboo flutes, and even some instruments for children. Particularly addictive were the "swing straws" – flexible plastic tubes that produce different tones when swung through the air at different speeds – and the "boom wackers", which are plastic tubes that produce different tones when struck on the ground.

When asked if he thinks Sangitamaya could have an impact on the local music scene, Konráðsson was optimistic.

"I think so," he said. "I think this store might add a more exotic flavour to the music scene in Reykjavík. I hope so, anyway."

Hljóðheimurinn Sangitamaya, Grettisgata 7, Tel.: 551-8080
Open 15:00-18:00 weekdays and 12:00-15:00 weekends

Hundreds of years ago, the medieval manuscripts were written to document the stories, poetry and culture of the Icelandic and Scandinavian people. Without these national treasures, we would have far less knowledge of how our ancestors lived and how they viewed the world around them.



Now you can discover the Icelandic manuscripts on view in the Culture House. Learn about their importance in our times and the painstaking efforts of their creators.

The Culture House offers a guided tour in English every Monday and Friday at 3:30 pm.

Hverfisgata 15 tel: 545 1400
Open every day from 11 to 17
www.thjodmenning.is



GRAPEVINE'S PURCHASES THAT JUSTIFY EXISTENCE

BY GUNNAR HRAFN JÓNSSON



Stimulating Company

Whether you are male or female you can probably get rid of some of that tension from your relationship by picking up a few slippery, vibrating, laced, leathery, tight, ribbed and/or pulsating items from one of Reykjavík's adult-themed stores. Amor on Skúlagata 40 or Dalvegur 16a is a good choice, so are Tantra at Fákafen 11 and Venus at Freyjugata 1. They also accept orders by phone and have online stores (amor.is, tantra.is and venus6.is), if you're a bit too shy to go in person. Oh, and they have porn, too, but, honestly, summer is coming, and it's time to get out of the house.

If you want to be one of the hip folks this summer, you might want to sport one of Ósama's (indecent's) amusing bilingual puns on your chest. A shirt proclaiming "It's hard to be kind" – with a picture of a sheep on it: surely that is minimalist humour at its best, or at least its most minimal? A sheep, you see, is called a "kind" in Icelandic. Hours of fun lie ahead as you explain this double meaning to confused travelers who just want the scary sheep person to go away now.

Indecent Clothes



Ministry for Foreign Affairs
www.mfa.is

Hressingarskálinn

Hressingarskálinn (Hressó) is a Classical Bistro, located in the heart of the city at Austurstræti 20.

Food is served from 10 until 22 every day. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, after the kitchen closes Hressó heats up with live music. Weekends, DJs keep the party going until morning, with no cover charge.



S. Har. art Gallery Iceland

Skólavörðustígur 25 a 101 Reykjavík
The street leading to the big Church (Hallgrímskirkja)
Tel: (+ 354) 568 0404 / (+ 354) 894 0367 E-mail sjofnhar@islandia.is

The Supremes

The Wonderkids are back in town
from May 14-June 10
at the Living Art Museum
from May 14-July 1
at 100° at Reykjavik Power



www.nylo.is



Nýlistasafnið
The Living Art Museum

DINING, EATING & GRUBBING

Bart Cameron and Gunnar Hrafn Jónsson
on Reykjavík Dining **Photos by Gúndi**

KAFFI BRENNSLAN

Pósthústræti 9, 101 Reykjavík.
Tel.: 561-3600



Kaffi Brennslan has been around for a while, and despite changing owners it has maintained a healthy reputation for consistently good food. Apart from being a restaurant, it's also a great coffee shop and a pretty good bar. This means that if you would like an after-dinner coffee, it's going to be top-notch stuff and not something thrown together as an afterthought in the kitchen. The fact that they also have what must be the largest selection of beer in Reykjavík, with several dozen brands from all over the world on offer, also makes having a beer with your food a lot more special than it usually is. I had to reprimand my dining partner for trying to order an Icelandic brand, and under much duress he finally settled on one of the endless list of exotic names: Cobra. It turned out to be an Indian brew, and we both agreed that it was a good, if somewhat random, choice. The waitstaff were patient throughout this ordeal, and overall the service was excellent.



When it came time to order I decided to keep it simple and order the nachos. Okay, so it had less to do with keeping it simple than it did with the fact that the place is famous for its tasty giant platter of 'Super Nachos' with everything. The portion was nice and hefty and the staff should get bonus points for serving them with bowls of extra condiments rather than forcing people to rely on whatever is thrown on the plate. However, there was one problem. The cheese, a crucial element to a nacho platter, I'm sure most people would agree, was decidedly unappealing. It had a rubbery consistency and didn't really taste like much. Thankfully there was cheese salsa, regular salsa, sour cream and guacamole to make up for it – so it's not like it was bland.

My friend went with one of the day's specials, grilled beef with brown sauce and salad. It was actually a lot better than it sounds, but while there was certainly nothing to complain about, it wasn't all that exciting of a dish. Having eaten a bit too much of his meat and my nachos, I was left alone to pick a dessert. Going with the pecan pie was definitely a good move, although for my personal tastes it teetered on the dry side.

Overall Kaffi Brennslan is a fairly priced establishment and a good place to go for top quality coffee, a wide variety of beer and a selection of food that rarely disappoints but seldom thrills.

HEREFORD STEIKHÚS

Laugavegur 53b, 101 Reykjavík.
Tel.: 511-3350



Is it the ribs or the place? For whatever reason, Hereford Steikhús, despite the décor and the most competent staff in Reykjavík, including the single best bartender in town, is not the kind of place you go to impress anyone. Honestly, before you slam down a heaping portion of ribs and fries and head for the best whiskey selection on Laugavegur, you'll want to know your company extremely well – we're talking leaving the door to the bathroom open well.

But if you find those kinds of friends, Hereford's Wednesday rib special is the stuff of dreams – the carnivorous kind the kids in

Lord of the Flies started to have towards the end of the retreat.

What is there to explain about the special? For 1,900 ISK, you get a big pint of Viking Beer, you get a big slab of ribs, properly prepared – Hereford doesn't do the massive, pre-packed, curiously chicken-tasting ribs. You also get French fries, some towels, and a big bowl of mayonnaise-covered vegetables, which, if you're in a place that serves massive slabs of ribs, you will likely not look twice at. Ribs taste good. Beer tastes good. Add two glasses of world-class Elijah Craig Bourbon for the exclamation point.

As for visiting Hereford when it's not rib day, there are virtues. The steak house caters to people who are particular as to how their steak is prepared, and distrustful of typical restaurants – despite an outstanding staff, the cooks demand that you write down exactly how you want your steak done. All of which makes sense when you have one or two Y-chromosomes.



BEZT Í HEIMI

Víð Tjörnina



The Homey Restaurant on the Pond

BY GUNNAR HRAFN JÓNSSON PHOTO BY GÚNDI

When you go out to experience fine dining at the steeper end of the price scale, you often find that while the atmosphere may be stylish and the food glorious there is nothing particularly unique that seems to justify the price tag. Not so at Víð Tjörnina, a top-class restaurant by the pond (the name literally means 'by the pond') that specialises in Icelandic ambience and the delicacies of the sea.

As soon as you enter you know this is no ordinary establishment. For one thing, it looks like a fancy version of the stereotypical Icelandic grandma's house. The furniture and the décor are all more reminiscent of a well-to-do mid-fifties household than a restaurant, but it's the architecture that really highlights this unique theme. It really did used to be a well-to-do household and rather than totally remodel it and knock down the walls, it has been kept more or less intact. The result is a uniquely homey feel and a mix of privacy and intimacy; there are only a couple of tables per room in just a few rooms.

On the subject of the actual food and service, it's equally hard to comment without having it sound like a sales pitch: they are just that good. When we first arrived, my friend and I were shown to a cosy living room where we had some drinks sitting on ridiculously comfortable sofas and chairs that looked to date back to at least the fifties. The music, while not from our generation, set the mood perfectly. You get the distinct feeling that you're being set up to take away a fond memory, and it works like the charm that it is.

After we were seated and provided with bread that seemed to be right out of the oven, we ordered a starter of seafood soup and smoked guillemot, which is a bird

native to Iceland, just as practically all the other items on the menu seemed to be. Suffice to say both were brilliant; I actually slurped the remains of the soup up from the bowl when no one was looking. Just as we were finishing up, the head chef came out with a mischievous grin and two plates, each holding a divine portion of what appeared to be garlic-sautéed lobster and scallop. It went perfectly with the white wine that the friendly and helpful waiter recommended.

We were already sold on this being one of the best meals of our lives when the main courses arrived – a honey-roasted spotted catfish in red wine sauce and another kind of catfish sautéed in butter. Both were beyond words, cooked to perfection and seasoned by the Gods. The red wine sauce may have been a tad thin for my tastes, but that's so petty it's a bit like saying Gandhi is your hero but you don't like the bald look – a minor detail.

Lastly, the dessert didn't let the rest of the meal down. I ordered the skyr, and much to my delight it was served exactly the way my grandmother in Skagafjörður used to present it for special occasions. You get a small pitcher of liquid cream, a bowl of sugar and a cup full of skyr, peaches and Icelandic berries. The result is probably the tastiest thing you could still call traditional Icelandic cuisine. On the other side of the table, my friend didn't comment on the chocolate fudge cake so much as he moaned in ecstasy. After trying a bite, and having a sip of his cognac, I agreed it was time to head back to the sofas for a bit. There we discussed such lofty topics as how it was possible to be this full and comfortable at the same time, before vowing firmly to come back another day.

HOMESICK
Akureyri Art Museum 6 May - 25 June 2006

ICELAND • ISRAEL • SWITZERLAND • TURKEY

LISTASAFNID Á AKUREYRI
AKUREYRI ART MUSEUM

In Collaboration with:
CIA-IS
CENTER FOR ICELANDIC ART

Principal Sponsors:
BAUGUR GROUP, PRO HELVETIA, SCHWEIZER KULTURSTIFTUNG & AIR ICELAND

YOU ARE WELCOME FOR
"THE ABSOLUTE BEST MEAL
IN REYKJAVÍK."
David & Donna, Baltimore, MD.

SHALIMAR
INDIAN - PAKISTANI CUISINE

Austurstræti 4 sími 551 0292 www.shalimar.is



SUSHI
THE TRAIN

BERGHSTADASTRÆTI 13
- PHONE: 551 3083

Oldest bakery in Iceland
since 1834

BERNHÖFTSBAKARI
STOFNAD 1834

LIVE MUSIC REVIEWS

WHO

The Wedding Present and Singapore Sling

WHERE

Grand Rokk

WHEN

April 27th
2006

Happy Trumps Cool And a peculiar sex analogy closer

By Helgi Valur | Photo by Gústi

The Wedding Present play catchy indie rock with lyrics that are really honest and are only about love or about not being in love (which kind of implies being in love). Everybody in music is always talking about how "you can't just write love songs". I say "why not"? David Gedge, the leader of The Wedding Present, probably decided long ago that he would write about love and that would be enough. Love lyrics have everything you need – betrayal, insanity, passion, drama and comedy. I also found out, thanks to the Internet, that this band I was about to see was somewhat of a pioneer when it comes to music, often cited as a big influence in the indie scene, getting top billing at shows like the Reading Festival.

When I walked into the concert, the mood resembled a debut gig by an unnamed garage band. I counted the people and got to 20, a gruesome reminder that pioneers seldom reap the rewards of their efforts. Only two days ago I had been one of those lost sheep, not realising that tonight was going to be a concert by one of the founders of indie music. I got to thinking that Oliver and other institutions of mediocrity were probably packed. Now people started to stream in and I realised that this was no different from every birthday party I've ever been to. I had arrived too early.

Singapore Sling started the show, a band to which I had never given a chance because of rumours. Some say they have too many influences to be unique and

others say they're posers. At least they have very good influences and there's nothing wrong with posing. Models do it all the time. They started out performing feedback and noise onstage but the audience didn't have to wait long until the noise turned into hypnotic music. The instruments were turned up loud so it was difficult to hear frontman Henrik sing. The show went on with the appropriate feedback and I could feel the crowd, along with myself, getting sucked into the coolness of Singapore Sling. You can say many things about Singapore Sling but the most important is that they make music look good, and in the end sound good too. You get lured in by the psychedelic guitar structures building on top of each other. While watching and listening to them I suddenly felt "cool". The band looked cool and made the audience feel like they were cool to be watching them. And the queen of cool was Bibi, the bass player of Singapore Sling, who never lost her cool. Just watching her onstage would have been worth it. In keeping with the coolness of the band, Henrik didn't say a lot. "This is very good," were his last words; then he performed a great feedback exhibition with support from Einar Sonic.

When The Wedding Present started to play, the first song was bright and catchy with some nice tempo changes. Though they sounded a bit like The Smiths, it never occurred to me that they were copying. The Wedding Present's songwriting is more unconventional than Morrissey's darlings, and yet all the songs seemed to be two minutes. While this kept you from getting into the songs, it also kept you from getting bored.

Then David Gedge, a guy who looks like someone you'd meet at a local bar in England and have a pint

with, addressed the audience. "We're the semi-legendary Wedding Present." Then he mumbled: "Well, it's all relative. Sorry it's taken 20 years."

Gedge seemed to be totally free of all arrogance. Learning "takk fyrir" also scored Gedge a few more points with the audience. One of my friends whispered in my ear, "This would probably be awesome if we knew the lyrics," cause there actually were real fans there who knew the lyrics.

At the beginning of the concert people were nodding their heads not unlike the end scene of Purple Rain. Then after ten songs people started wiggling and some started jumping. One guy poured beer over his head, which, in Iceland, is just kind of normal. I was starting to wonder if another venue wouldn't have been more appropriate. Then after thinking about it, I decided The Wedding Present is happy music that you can get pissed and dance to. It was too bad, though, for the people who were not getting retarded and just wanted to see the show.

While listening to The Wedding Present didn't make me feel cool like while watching Singapore Sling, I felt happy. David Gedge praised the crowd and they clapped and stomped in return. All things considered The Wedding Present turned out to be like the girl you sleep with and really like but can't get over the fact that you're not in love with her. But you'd have sex with her given the chance and you wouldn't be surprised if your friend married her and you'd understand. But you two would never marry. But sex, definitely.

I doubt I'll be listening to The Wedding Present every day but this was an excellent and relevant concert, well worth the 1,500 ISK.



Welcome to Iceland – Welcome to SPA City Reykjavík



Eleven Reasons to Visit Reykjavík's Thermal Pools and Baths

Reduces stress. Loosens up stiff joints and muscles. Alleviates jet lag. Strengthens the heart and lungs. Cures hangovers. Helps insomnia. Inspires the powers of imagination. Fortifies the body. Improves moods. Soothes the mind. And, they are the right place to meet Reykjavík residents and get reliable information about what's happening in the city.

www.spacity.is

Tónlistarhátíð alþjóðunnar - Laugardalshöll 29. júní - 1. júlí

Laugardagur 1. júlí

David Gray
Armpop
Hjálmar

+fleiri

Föstudagur 30. júní

The Darkness
Trabant

+fleiri

Fimmtudagur 29. júní

Motörhead
Ham
Mínus

+fleiri

REYKJAVÍK
ROKKAR
2006

Forsala hefst fimmtudaginn 18. maí kl. 11:00 í verslunum Skífunnar, BT Akureyri og Selfossi og midi.is

BYLGJAN
9797
989
ALLIR ERU AD HUSTAI

WHO

Flis featuring Bogomil Font, Petter Winnberg, 100% Dynamite, Stórsveit Nix Noltes, Kal, KK and the Blue Truck, Salsa Celtica

WHERE
NASA

WHEN

April 28th -
30th 2006



The Quota on Bagpipe Salsa: Infinite

By Jóhanna Friðrika Sæmundsdóttir and Anna Brynja Baldursdóttir | Photo by Gúndi

The first real day of summer in Reykjavík was about to end and I headed out to NASA to the Rite of Spring festival with almost no idea what to expect. The programme for the evening included the jazz trio Flis featuring Bogomil Font, Petter Winnberg and 100% Dynamite. Even though we knew the work of the first two acts, we had been informed that they'd be playing all new material.

All the tables in the place were taken when we arrived, but we were welcomed to share one with Torstein, a middle-aged Norwegian who was there by himself. He was happy to have some company and to casually inquire about our marital status. The audience in general was diverse. As I skimmed through the audience I realised it was a good deal more diverse than the typical festival crowd. Young couples mixed with teenagers, Rasta women and the whole age range of singletons. Everyone in the audience seemed to be laid back after a day of sun. Even so, Flis took long enough to get onstage that a few people started banging against the wall in protest.

When Flis started, they immediately won over the audience, including the super-friendly middle-aged skinhead at the table next to us, who particularly enjoyed lyrics about quotas. When keyboardist Davíð of Flis shouted out a question about whether Prime Minister Halldór Ásgrímsson would get a quota (standard issue protest banter these days, as Ásgrímsson and his family established the fishing quota system, and profited generously from it), the skinhead shouted, "Oh yes he'll get the whole thing."

Flis's blend of calypso music and humor, sometimes political, lyrics completely won over the audience. Wherever you looked there were smiling faces and wiggling bums. This moment could have been a

perfect end to a perfect day.

But funky Flis were only the first band of three to hit the stage. Swedish pop singer Petter Winnberg was next, presenting new material from his latest solo album. He showed up with a big Swedish band of twelve.

I cannot express the letdown when Winnberg turned out one melodic pop song after another. Perhaps had he not followed Flis, or had it been a worse day, or if we had all been hungover. But as it was, Winnberg's set was more than a disappointment, an anti-climax after the exhilaration that came with Flis. By the end of the act, NASA was nearly empty. So there were only a few yawning viewers left when 100% Dynamite came onstage. It seemed an impossible task to pep up the last few.

100% Dynamite is something like a self-contained portable nightclub, with two DJs and a guy with a microphone claiming, repeatedly, that, "Now the party will begin." The party, of course, did not begin. As we followed the last of the crowd out, I ran into one of Reykjavík's best DJs, who heartily tried to convince me that this music was the best in Reykjavík that evening – but the feeling of being at a school dance was a bit too much ... so he gave up as well and joined us as we headed out into the summer night.

The mix within the audience the next evening was hardly as diverse as the night before. There were on one hand exchange students and on the other hand cosmopolitan Icelandic couples.

First onstage were Stórsveit Nix Noltes, which normally include a few more band members, and I did miss some of the instruments. It didn't matter though. They were sublime as usual.

I had never before seen their svelte giant guest vocalist Böðvar Guðmundsson, but he was absolutely fabulous. Wherever you looked you could see semi-wiggling Icelandic bodies sitting firmly in their seats due to the lack of alcohol in their blood. There were only a few exchange students honouring this fantastic

band – people from countries where dance is not an indication of blood alcohol level.

The next band was Kal from Serbia: six handsome men dressed in black with big smiles. The music wasn't as wild and upbeat as with the Nix, but the vibe was similar. The Icelanders in the audience seemed to think the rhythm was a bit more dance-friendly and crawled to the floor. One of the exchange students came up to me and informed me, "If you're not sweating, it's not good," so I rose to the challenge and danced my ass off.

The atmosphere was getting pretty hot at NASA when Kal was getting ready to leave, the internationals screaming, "You have to play all night long!" while sweat dripped from the walls.

On the final night, KK and his band Blue Truck started the evening with some powerful rhythmic blues. The audience, who were similar Friday night's eclectic mix of Icelanders, seemed to enjoy it. After a few songs, KK offered to give a beer to anyone who would dance. The whole audience looked a bit awkward, but finally, three lively rural ladies came forward and started dancing. The rest of us sat back, relieved.

All the band members of Blue Truck were absolutely fascinating characters, to say the least. I do have to mention the most fascinating member, the bass player. I have never seen a more sincere bass dancer, and hereby encourage all bass players to check him out and maybe nick a few moves.

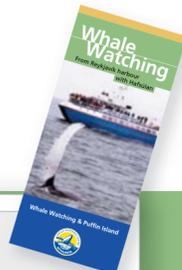
Salsa on bagpipes – how can you be anything but curious to see that? The Scottish band Salsa Celtica were the final act of the festival. They were without a doubt the best band of the nights we attended. The joy and happiness they brought their guests at NASA that night is indescribable. It was a band of 11 artists playing saxophones, banjos, flutes and an adorable bagpipe.

The crowd went completely crazy and NASA's dance floor was packed with wild Icelanders looking like graceful señoritas doing the Riverdance.



The Whale Watching Centre offers daily whale watching tours on Faxaflói bay. These tours include a free visit to The Whale Exhibition Room, a sightseeing around Puffin island* and other natural wonders – all at a convenient distance from Reykjavík!

*Puffin season approx. 20.05–15.08

Schedule
Seven days a week
Puffin season*

April - May	June - July - August	Sept.	Oct.
9:00	9:00	9:00	13:00
13:00	13:00	13:00	
	17:00		

Call +354 533 2660
www.whalewatching.is

á Prikinu í Maí

DAGSKRÁIN FRAM UNÐAN

Þiðvikudagurinn 03.05.06

"Iggy pop" kvöld og hver er betri en Krummi í Minus til að klára kvöldið.

Fimmtudagurinn 04.05.06

Dj Danni Delux gerir eitthvað voðalega sniðugt, eina sem þú þarft að gera er að dansa (og kannski fá þér 1 eða 2 öl)

Föstudagurinn 05.05.06

Í kvöld er 80" þemakvöld. Kvöldið byrjar með strákunum í Frískó og svo taka þær Dj Erna og Bomban við.

Laugardagurinn 06.05.06

Dj Benni sér um ekta Prikstemmingu.

Þriðjudagurinn 09.05.06

Dj Kári sér um skandalana í kvöld!)

Miðvikudagurinn 10.05.06

Dj Jón "kokkur" Mýrdal sjður saman eitthvað sniðugt.

Fimmtudagurinn 11.05.06

Strákarnir í Hoffman byrja kvöldið um kl.21 og Dj Gulli í Ósóma sómar sér ágætlega eftir það

Föstudagurinn 12.05.06

Í kvöld er þemað "Pimps'n'hoes"(Dólgar og skækjur). Að vanda stárta perrarnir í Frískó kvöldinu en fast á eftir þeim kemur Óli Hjörtur... og Anna Brá

Laugardagurinn 13.05.06

Farðu í rassgat....Pönkhljómsveitin Rass byrjar kvöldið um kl 21, svo tekur Dj Teddy við.

Mánudagurinn 15.05.06

Nú hljóta allir að vera búnir í prófum!!!! Dj Cacoon rokkar húsið!!

Þriðjudagurinn 16.05.06

Dj Kári sér um að fíkta í græjunum

Miðvikudagurinn 17.05.06

Úrslitaleikurinn í meistaradeildinni Barcelona vs. Arsenal á stórum skjá svo tekur hús Dj við....

EUROVISION HELGIN 2006!!!

Fimmtudagurinn 18.05.06

Eurovision forleikur á stórum skjá... áfram Sýlvía Nótt. Óli Brá og Anna Hjörtur spila eikva ógisslega geggt í tilefni kvöldsins skilurru

Föstudagurinn 19.05.06

G OG T kvöld.Kvöldinu er startað af Frískó en svo koma Dj Benni,básúnuleikari,rappaparar og fl. með fyrsta G og T kvöld sumarsins... ATH Gin og Tonic á tilboði...ekki missa af þessu!!!!

Laugardagurinn 20.05.06

Eurovision á stórum skjá með eða án Sýlvíu... Meistari Maggi Legó sér um músikina og drengirnir í Dr mister and mr Handsome kíkja eftir miðnætti og rokka húsið....

Mánudagurinn 22.05.06

Dj Cacoon

Þriðjudagurinn 23.05.06

Miðvikudagurinn 24.05.06 opið til 5:30

Prikið verður betra og betra með árunum...Mugison spilar með hljómsveit!!! Hann byrjar um kl.21 Svo taka Gullfoss og Geysir við og tralla fram á nótt.

Fimmtudagurinn 25.05.06

Dj Maggi Legó

Föstudagurinn 26.05.06

Sitt að aftan kvöld á Prikinu...munntóbak á tilboði allt kvöldið....Dj Gísli Galdur sér um partyið og Addi trommari reynir að tromma í takt.

Laugardagurinn 27.05.06

Dj Óli Hjörtur og Anna Brá mæta í glimmergöllumunum.



**NÝR MATSEÐILL
FULLUR AF NÝJUM
OG BRAGÐGÓÐUM
RÉTTUM**

PRIKID
STOFNAD 1951



Only the Voice is Childlike

An Interview with the Conservatory Escapee Queen of the iPod, Joanna Newsom

BY BART CAMERON

If you've heard her once, you know the voice. Fragile, playful, original and, okay, childlike, Joanna Newsom sings of sleeping all day, of sprouts and beans, and on first listen you know you're in the company of something altogether different. Her first album, *The Milk-Eyed Mender*, was one of our favourites of 2004. Listening to it over the course of a year, though, we heard more and more influences. I, for example, insist that *The Milk-Eyed Mender* is a bluegrass album; my colleagues claim it's music for a hidden people carnival. Given the opportunity to talk with the most distinct recording artist this side of Sigur Rós, we begged for an explanation.

/// You're flying out here. It seems like you've been a part of the scene here for a while, it's almost a surprise that this is your first visit.

— I've been trying to come out for a few years. The impression I get from other musicians is that in order to come out to Iceland you almost have to be invited. A promoter has to take interest. I've been making noise about wanting to come out to Iceland for a number of years.

/// You already have a following; I should tell you that Sigur Rós burned a copy of the Grapevine's Joanna Newsom collection a few months ago to take with them on tour. Actually, Icelandic music, or the plight of Icelandic musicians, comes to mind when I read interviews with you. Why do so many people ask you such bizarre, cute, elf-based questions?

— I actually don't know why. This is a huge generalisation, but I feel like some people assume certain things about the way I am because of the way the music sounds and therefore certain questions they wouldn't ask other people come out. And I usually answer them... my interviews often spiral into this bizarre realm.

/// What interests me most about the album I've been listening to is the songwriting. There's a lot of folk and bluegrass influence, but the patterns, the way you play with melodies, you seem to toying a lot with the idea of the basic song. What, for you, is a complete song? What are the benchmarks, a full melody, a tone? Let's start with other bands. When you listen to music, how do you evaluate success; how do you evaluate a good song?

— I'm not sure. I don't know. I certainly don't think it's as easy for me to tell as it is for some people. I have a friend who can tell within five minutes whether a band should be playing.

Something tends to resonate with me if it is brave enough to strive for something different and singular within a pre-existing form. You know, like watching some version of experimentalism taking place within the confines of song. As opposed to new music or modern composition. Or any of the new idioms.

I went to composition school, and I saw people do very new, avant-garde things, but I'm really interested in doing new things

with pre-existing vernacular.

If you've read other interviews you've probably already heard me talking about Ruth Crawford Seeger. She did the same thing. She went to a very prestigious school in Chicago to study composition and was a very powerful influence and helped establish her own counterpoint methodology. But in her later years she became a big influence in the attempts to catalogue American folk music. All the stuff that the Lomax brothers were doing, she worked with. She put out a book of American folk music for children that was very popular. And she went on to raise these children. Pete Seeger, Peggy Seeger and Michael Seeger. I was looking at her music right before I decamped from composition school. I was trying to find some sort of trajectory.

The huge difference between her and me is that everything I tried to do in experimental music was basically a failure whereas what she did was genius and transcendent.

/// So you had a falling out with composition and moved into the pop and folk world. It seems like the ultimate insult to your school. Like leaving a poetry program to write journalism. How quick was it to switch over?

— There was a major overlap. I've been writing music since I was a little kid. That was why I originally went to this school. I'd been talking originally about being a composer. The major shift wasn't about writing one kind of music to another. The shift was the kind of music before I went to school and the music I was playing just for fun while I was in school had as much worth and interest as the music I was paying a lot of money and spending a lot of hours trying to get some grasp of. I needed to validate the work I had been doing all along.

/// We see this in other art forms. The classic examples are novelists who turn to a straightforward narrative in their forties, or actors who suddenly relax and find their roles.

— Yeah, that's kind of how it was. I still am. I think it's also about rediscovering a point off of which I'd like to continue working. It's not as if I'm there, and everything from there is satisfying to me.

/// Despite being played on independent radio alongside rock acts, you're coming at music from quite a different perspective. Where would fans of yours go to listen to your influences?

— This wouldn't be an educated answer. For me what separates experimental new music that I like from what I don't like is a measure of arbitrariness. But then you'll see composers like Seeger and Ives and...

/// I'm sorry, Charles Ives? I thought people with book learnin' looked down on Ives as too Americana.

— I think what Ives was doing was working to create musculature of sound that responded with the American landscape.

I thought it was heavy and strong but it was all about rugged cowboys and Indians stuff. In a way I felt like his sound was a caricature of that stuff.

He was among the composers looking for a non-Eurocentric, American-derived sound. So I think he's worth listening to for that reason. I think he's more interesting than emotionally important to me.

Lou Harrison is one of my favourites. I love Pauline Oliveros and Fred Frith. (Laughing.) What makes a lot of those guys and gals good is that, in my mind, they have a different relationship with dissonance than the arbitrary experimentalists. Rather than aiming for dissonance and discord, I feel that they redefine. They are creating tensions and resolving them, one of the oldest tricks in the book. But one doesn't always understand that they're doing this. You have to unlock it. It makes you feel worthy of the trust you put in them. I feel like I hear a lot of composers and they betray the trust you put in them. Consonance doesn't have to be easy to find, but it is essential to music.

/// Those names are good starting points for people just getting into composition, and they give a context, definitely. You're coming on tour just as you're completing the follow-up to the successful album *The Milk-Eyed Mender*, right?

— It's almost done. All of my stuff is already recorded. But it's got a lot of other stuff left to do. Because this is a very symphonic record. I'm working with a really good arranger. Orchestration is not my strong point. The new songs are really long, the longest song is 16 minutes. There's going to be five songs and a full-length record. It'll be a very different approach, with some of the same feeling.

/// What is the feeling of the Joanna Newsom recordings? Can you describe that for readers?

— The feeling I think of certainly isn't the feeling I heard described by people. But I can respect the different opinions. I'm amazed by the thickness of the skins of many musicians. But I'm actually very thin-skinned.

/// When you come are you going to play the 16-minute song? Might be different than the sing-along show that must occur when you play *Sprout and the Bean*.

— Recently, I've been only playing the long new songs. But I thought since this is my first time to Iceland I should play the songs people know.

Joanna Newsom will perform at Frikirkjan on May 16th and 18th, playing songs that have dominated iPods across Iceland for the last year, along with new material. Her guests will be Drag City label-mate Smog and Icelanders Slowblow. Tickets are on sale at BT or at www.midi.is.



SUPERB FOOD with a breathtaking view

The warm, intimate surroundings of the eighth-floor Grillið restaurant at Radisson SAS Saga Hotel have provided diners with a recipe designed to take them to the peak of culinary pleasure. Superb food, fine wines, varied menus and excellent service, all set against the breathtaking backdrop of one of the most panoramic views of Reykjavik to be found anywhere in the city.

"In fact, Grillið blows the 5 star system hitherto used on Icelandic restaurants."

Jónas Kristjánsson, food critic

"... everything was outstanding - not just the food, but the atmosphere, service and winelist as well."

Steingrímur Sigurðsson,
food critic Morgunblaðið newspaper

Grillið

Grillið / Radisson SAS Saga Hotel / Tel: 525 9960 / www.grillid.is



H.C. Andersen / A Life World

Emilia & Ilya Kabakov

Joseph Kosuth

April 2 - June 5 Kjarvalsstaðir at Flókagata



www.artmuseum.is

LITASAFN REYKJAVÍKUR
REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM



Kingdom of the Frown

Garrison Keillor's imagination has redefined radio and inspired generations of artists. As the Grapevine discovered, it's still in full force, and it's as beautiful and bizarre as anything we've come across.

BY BART CAMERON PHOTOS BY GÚNDI

Kenny "CK" Lee sits next to us, munching on a bratwurst. He is all of five feet, round, in his late fifties, with a few teeth missing, but impeccably groomed.

"I won the 88.1 phone in contest, and we drove all the way in from South Bend, Indiana. I can't tell you how much I'm looking forward to tonight," he says, his wife attempting to shush him.

"I could talk all night, just tell me to shut up if you want. But I'm a giant fan of Mr. Keillor."

"Really? We're going to interview him after the show. Is there any question that you'd like to ask him?"

CK's eyes pop wide open, a smile rises on the corner of his mouth.

"Well, no. He scares the hell out of me. I wouldn't ask him nothing."

We've had about five hours with the cast of A Prairie Home Companion, America's most revered radio show, and one of the most successful and inexplicable cultural institutions to come out of the Midwest in recent decades this side of Oprah. To sum it up, A Prairie Home Companion is a variety show with legendary live band, celebrated guest musicians, especially in the American folk community, a 30-year-running self-emulating comedy sketch on small town Minnesota called the News from Lake Wobegon, and a few other radio dramas/comedies, one of which, Guy Noir, has become such an institution that it has a ballet dedicated to it, among other homages.

The show presents a good portion of the best of Midwestern culture, and then mocks the hell out of it. If you're looking for the influence behind films like Fargo by Minnesotans the Coen brothers, or even the cartoon The Simpsons, which also delicately constructs a fictional, all-American city only to gently eviscerate it, you can find them in A Prairie

Home Companion (the Simpsons, on more than one occasion, have repaid the favour by mocking their predecessors).

Stopping in at a rehearsal of the great Minnesota production as it begins its tour that will lead it to Iceland, I've gotten more than a little spooked. Without exception, everyone has been the kind of nice that you hear about in rehab clinics – everyone smiles and waits for you to make sense and answers completely. We have casually talked with America's best-selling country recording artist, Brad Paisley, who has flown up from Nashville to visit a radio show he has admired his whole life, and I have chatted about the merits of Diet Dr. Pepper with a 16-piece choir and members of the house band who have played with the best of American folk musicians for 20-odd years.

Constantly, I come across someone more pleasant than the last – with the cumulative effect coming to something like CK of South Bend, Indiana expressed: utter terror.

To explain all this, I must reference Steven Spielberg's The Twilight Zone, Act Three. In that act, there is a child with profound mental powers who can make anything he wants to happen occur, simply by wishing it. His imagination is that strong. The people around him, who seem like a dotting family, seem attractive and likeable, but as the sketch goes on, they reveal that their lives are completely at the whim of the child's imagination.

Seeing Garrison Keillor arrive for the rehearsal of his show was exactly like inhabiting this movie. The regulars, the nicest people of A Prairie Home Companion, huddle around Keillor, who shows up dishevelled and pouty, pens and pieces of paper being pulled from his khakis as he utters, "Stop, stop, this is a mess, I'll just rewrite this right away," and begins writing and rewriting something that may or may not bring the whole imagined world he has created crashing down, or at least may or

may not pull the actors in and out of scenes.

The cast of dozens, essentially, has no idea of their parts for the evening other than vague ideas of melodies – even the massive vocal choir with a penchant for Diet Dr. Pepper will receive fresh sheets of lyrics just before going live before a stage audience of thousands, and a radio audience of five million.

The whole experience is horrifying, perhaps all the more so because the words and songs being uttered and rewritten are fantastically funny. Tonight, a Norwegian farmer will talk to his wife on the phone about having certain urges that come with spring, and then about being caught in a snowstorm, then trapped underneath a tree that has fallen with the inevitable April blizzard, then being chewed on by wolves, throughout all of which he points out, "Oh, no, I'm fine, really, it's not a problem, they just seem to be getting my leg, but you know, when it's time to go, it's time to go" to his bride, as a cast sings more and more bawdy lyrics to "Tiptoe through the tulips" – something about lying down and feeling breath, etc.

The cast is hard at work and completely at the will of the pouty 6-foot-4, five year old in the 64-year-old writer/director/star's body. As the jokes get funnier, the songs sound more harmonious, the cast seems to get even more nervous. A crew member explains to me, somewhat forebodingly, while Keillor rewrites a song on the screen of his laptop with a pen, that the star takes things a little too seriously, drives himself too hard. "His parents were in the Sanctified Brethren, people who don't believe in dancing or singing, just worship, and that may have had an

effect." Under the blue light of his Apple computer, things begin to look bad. He is, quite obviously, a cracked genius. From what I gather, the crowd of thousands who come, and millions who will tune in, will get fantastic jokes, well-arranged 50s- and 60s-style pop tunes, a concert by America's most popular musician, and they will all be sombre and serious about it, and maybe even look like they need a nap. Or something will go very wrong. What we see in Keillor's slouch, his raised eyebrows, and the pens he keeps pulling out of his pockets, tells us that there is just too much rewriting going on.

The cast breaks for bratwursts and diet sodas, Keillor and the band staying upstairs. When we return, the house has filed in, and Keillor is already onstage, or somebody who vaguely resembles Keillor.

The scolding child is now a full-grown adult, standing erect, dressed in what looks to be an immaculate grey suit, casually joking with the audience. There is almost no connection be-

>>> CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

THE BEST WAY TO GET TO MINNESOTA:

ICELANDAIR FLIES DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM KEFLAVÍK TO MINNEAPOLIS.

For more information, log on to www.icelandair.is

ICELANDAIR PROVIDED TICKETS AND A STIPEND FOR THIS TRAVEL PIECE.

ICELANDAIR



In-water spa treatments and massage

Energize at BLUE LAGOON – Geothermal Spa

A Day to Remember

A visit to BLUE LAGOON – Geothermal Spa is energizing for both body and mind. In addition to enjoying the lagoon's warm geothermal seawater, the following BLUE LAGOON – Geothermal Spa options await you: silica mud mask, steam baths, sauna, waterfall, in-water spa treatments and massage.

Enjoy a meal at our restaurant while enjoying a view of the lagoon. The tempting *à la carte* menu includes a selection of international courses based on fresh Icelandic ingredients.

Remember to visit our shop and bring home BLUE LAGOON skin care products, enabling you to have a spa experience at home.

Visit www.bluelagoon.com. Call 420 8832 to pre-book spa treatment, massage and a table at the restaurant.

Restaurant

Skin Care

BLUE LAGOON ICELAND

BLUE LAGOON – Geothermal Spa is open daily year round.

CASH IS STILL KING

Going on a vacation to the States? FOREX Bank has all the US Dollar you need. Welcome to FOREX Bank at Bankastræti 2 in Reykjavík.

For more information visit: www.forex.is

FOREX 100

MEIRI GJALDEYRIR FYRIR PENINGANA



tween Keillor now, in front of the audience, and Keillor as he was 30 minutes ago, writing new lyrics for three of the songs to be featured tonight.

Even his pair of bright red running shoes, paired with a lustrous grey suit, makes you think this is a man who could casually talk a bank cashier into handing over someone else's savings, or schmooze among athletic, A-type businessmen over drinks at a university fundraiser.

And, of course, the crowd is not frightened of Keillor, they adore him. His one-liners like "Spring, with the change in clothing, the pollen in the air and the sunshine, is a time when the thoughts of men on their way home from work turns to roughage," receiving uproarious laughter.

The Lake Wobegon sketch is a hit. The Guy Noir series, now fully incorporating Brad Paisley, who Keillor met minutes before going onstage and, apparently, took a liking to, goes over well. In fact, Paisley is given the spotlight for a good portion of the evening.

The show is a complete success: the photographer who has traveled with me to witness it is in awe – that somehow everything came together, and that it always has for the last 34 years, is astounding.

After the show, we watch Keillor greeting his fans. He insists on talking with everyone, we are told, something that exasperates his co-workers and some theatre owners, who have to wait an hour or so for him to leave. I walk over and stand in line, hoping to see some more of the gregarious and open personality that just took over the stage for the last hour and a half. A mid-thirties man with a peculiar speech impediment approaches him, telling Keillor that he was an English teacher in Wisconsin and that he taught Keillor's books to everyone.

As a response, Keillor repeats the man's words, with the same accent, a faint, embarrassed lisp that Keillor is obviously affecting.

We all look up at him, a little shocked. Keillor seems to be daydreaming, and he snaps out a little, and says something about Wisconsin being just down the road, and the fan parts somewhat awkwardly.

Soon after this, we sit down for an interview, taking occasional breaks when he has to talk to a departing cast or crew member.

/// I suppose I should start with the film.

Tonight you screened the preview for Robert Altman's A Prairie Home Companion, and it looked like an instant classic: spontaneous, funny, and timeless. You wrote the script. Are you a lifelong secret film buff?

– I don't go to many films. I don't know why. I

think if you have a passion for films, you have to be able to enjoy the bad films as much as good films and I have friends who do. They just enjoy them in a different way. And they just love to see it unfolding on the screen. And they'll go to two or three movies a week. I know people who do that. It's easier to do in New York, where you have so much choice and so many independent movies come there. In Minneapolis, there are maybe five or six screens for independent movies, which are the more interesting ones where there are interesting risks being taken because the budgets are smaller and there's less committee sensibility behind the picture.

But I just really, I'm really intolerant at my age. Intolerant of movies that just don't engage me. Or books. But you know it's easier to put a book aside.

/// Well, if you were a fan of independent theatre, or of literature, you couldn't have asked for a better cast and director. You have the director of Short Cuts, one of the most impressive translations into film of an author who shouldn't have been translatable, and you have the cast that has been at the centre of indie film for the last decade: John C. Reilly, Lily Tomlin, Kevin Kline, to name a few.

– It was Altman's idea. It certainly was not mine. But he's such an easy person to work with. That even after one conversation with him. A few conversations with him. I had dinner with him in Chicago, and hadn't even seen all that many of his movies. I know less about Robert Altman than the average graduate student in America. But from one dinner conversation, and a couple meetings later on in New York when he came to the show, you really felt that this person would be a good person to work with.

I shouldn't say easy, but you knew that he was fascinated by the subject and that he had a very sure sense of what he wanted. He's not a person who second guesses himself. And he wanted to make a certain style of picture. I did not. But I tried to write a screenplay that would serve his vision and would have a great many different elements that sort of interlocked. It's not a story that ties a man's hands behind his back. It's a very interlocking puzzle, with all these little pieces, and he was able to move them around and play with the pieces.

I think he had a wonderful time making it. I think all the actors did too, I know that I did. I've never made a movie before so I don't know what it's like, but the actors told me that this was really unusually fun for them. It was a short shoot for one thing, five weeks. And

some people in the cast came for shorter periods of time. But Altman is a director who can be cranky with staff, investors and passersby, but with musicians and actors, never. With musicians and actors he is courtly. And very appreciative. He was always complimenting the band. Which is the band from the show. They were playing all the music. He was always complimenting them. He was so gracious to the actors. And they had a wonderful time.

There were some really wonderful acting turns in it. So I was sorry when it ended.

/// My God, does this mean you'll be doing another movie?

– Yeah, no, I want to. I want to.

/// Do you behave in a similar manner to Altman? Is that why you got along, because you work in the same fashion?

– No, I don't think I'm successful at that because I'm working on a different timeline. But I really can't make excuses for myself. I am sort of abstracted and kind of living in my head. And as a result I think I tend to be curt with musicians. I know what I want so I just kind of tell them. And I'm not as old as Altman quite. Maybe he's become even more courtly with age.

/// When we sat down, you mentioned seeing good films in New York, but losing interest here in Minnesota. You seem to be a fan of cities, which might surprise Midwesterners or longtime listeners of your show. Are there other places you've lived that you have this kind of attachment to? Denmark? You'll be going to one of the great capital cities of the world, Reykjavik, and I wonder if you're prepared for the experience?

– I've never seen Reykjavik, and I'll be very curious to walk around it. I met some Icelanders in Denmark when I lived there. And they were very serious and sweet people. I met some at a language camp. I went to a Danish immersion language camp. And there were several Icelandic couples there who wanted to learn Danish for some reason. I asked them about the Icelandic language and they said "Don't do it." (Laughs.)

/// Today seems a good time to talk about your origins. You had the country superstar Brad Paisley on the show, and he happens to have grown up in the Grand Ole Opry, as you pointed out in your show. A Prairie Home Companion was created based on your experience writing about the Southern radio show for the New Yorker magazine. Can you tell me about the influence there?

– Growing up, we couldn't get Grand Ole Opry up here. We could get it somewhat in the winter – AM radio travels better in the cold for some reason. But there was a station, a rock n roll station, that was so close to its frequency. I just remember listening to it in the winter. But the signal would fade in and out, which made it mysterious, like it was from another planet.

So I took a train down there to see it in 1970 or 71, and it was pretty amazing. All of these big stars. I followed country music somewhat because it was a time when college students were more interested in folk music, and there was a connection between folk music and Bill Monroe and Flatt and Scruggs and the bluegrass bands; you got interested in people like Stonewall Jackson and Loretta Lynn whose movie, Coal Miner's Daughter, was just out when I went to see it, a beautiful lady.

And all these big stars were playing in this old gospel tabernacle in this rather seedy part of Nashville with pawn shops and neon bars all around, and greasy spoon restaurants like Lime Barrels and Merchant's Lunch, and it was kind of the old warehouse district, near the Cumberland River. And the audience came from all over. The parking lot had license plates from Alabama and Georgia and Mississippi. And I just found it fascinating.

There was no air conditioning. It was a summer night. The windows were open. There were people sitting out in the parking lot listening to it on the radio, and you could also hear the sound from the radios. So the sound from the hall and the sound from the trucks, the pickup trucks, just all kind of merged into one. People were smoking cigarettes, there was beer. It was very social outside. And musicians would come out the doors. Nashville firemen were the doorkeepers, and musicians would come out by them, and you could tell who they were by what they wore. They were all glittery kind of nudie suits and they'd come out for a smoke in the alley. And people would come up to them and kind of stand near them. Maybe not even talk to them. They were just somebody's drummer or somebody's fiddle player, but people really were in awe of these musicians.

/// As you describe it, the parallels begin to drop away. Beer, smoke, pickup trucks, glitter suits. This doesn't sound like something that could happen in Minnesota. With your show, for example, everyone was having a good time but they were serious about having a good time. Well-dressed and polite and laughing till they cried.

– It's a Midwestern audience. They're very serious people. I probably am, too.

/// I noticed through the rehearsal I was laughing a few times, but you never were.

– You're not supposed to laugh at your own jokes.

/// Maybe. I was thinking, during rehearsal, of the movie The Aristocrats, a movie where the best of the Catskill comedians, especially, tell the same joke. Most of them laugh as they tell their joke. A very different tradition, maybe. Actually, wonder if you'd do that joke?

– I don't think I'll do that on the show. Anytime soon. (A blink for timing.) Yes, it may be a different tradition.

/// And yet you have the curious dream job of writing new songs for each show, or at least new versions of old songs, to do a full concert or musical, every week. Tonight, for example, you had the number one recording artist in the country singing a tune that you wrote no less than an hour before the show.

– He did a pretty good job with that. He did well. He's got a great understated talent. And he projects so well. His singing projects so beautifully that there's never any doubt about what he's singing. It was really riveting. I like that because I hear a lot of singers who are slurred, and their words are concealed. So much of what they do is concealed. And I'm not just talking about rock n roll, I'm talking

>>> CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

Reykjavík
871±2

Landnámssýningin
The Settlement
Exhibition

Step into the Viking Age

Experience Viking-Age Reykjavík at the new Settlement Exhibition. The focus of the exhibition is an excavated longhouse site which dates from the 10th century AD. It includes relics of human habitation from about 871, the oldest such site found in Iceland.

Multimedia techniques bring Reykjavík's past to life, providing visitors with insights into how people lived in the Viking Age, and what the Reykjavík environment looked like to the first settlers.

The Settlement Exhibition 871±2 opens on 12 May 2006 at Adalstraeti 16.

Reykjavík City Museum

www.reykjavik871.is



City of Reykjavík

MADE IN ICELAND

www.lyng.is

Due to the light you can play all night



Hnefatafl is an ancient strategy game that relies on player's prudence and wit and is great entertainment. This game is a modern version of the one the Vikings played in days of old. Hnefatafl was a popular game among the Vikings. This is evident in several findings of game pieces around archaeological sites across Scandinavia, in Iceland and in the British Isles. Nobody knows for sure how the game was played, but the set of rules in this game are made after a description of a game played by a native tribe in Finland in 1732. That game is most likely one version of Hnefatafl.

Lyng

ICELANDIC DESIGN
and manufacturing



about all kinds of things. But when a singer does a song and you're not tracking what he's saying, I think it's just a mistake.

/// Are you tolerant of it? You said, about film, that a lover a film will appreciate a bad film. You're a well-known lover of music...
- No, I'm not tolerant of it.

Here we turn off the recorder. Had I not just seen the show, I doubt the interview would have convinced me that Keillor consistently puts out art of energy, grace and humour. Impossibly charismatic and seemingly open onstage, in person, he comes off cagey and judgemental.

Keillor's eyes are bloodshot. The energy he just put into the show has to be coming to an end. How long did he spend writing this show, the five or so songs, the 40-page script? We apologise our way through a standard-issue portrait request. Our photographer is positive that Iceland will fall in love with *A Prairie Home Companion* - it is the most amazing combination of music, comedy and charisma he's seen.

And Keillor agrees to a photo shoot, slouching now, and dragging his feet as we head back out to the house of the theatre. As we set up some lighting, Keillor starts joking and laughing, talking more freely than during the interview, the topic now away from himself and on Iceland and our photographer.

Then we start shooting. And Keillor begins making faces. And he continues. Photo after photo. Frowning, squinting, like a spoiled child in need of a nap.

"Should I tell him to stop grabbing his crotch?" the photographer whispers to me.

"Just shoot a lot of them, he's being casual," I whisper back.

We take 30 shots. He is making a face, and grabbing his crotch, in all but two of them.

As we prepare to leave, Keillor delivers one last, truly surreal monologue. Riffing on Iceland, he mentions that he has been to the Faroe Islands.

"I was on this island called Streymoy, the main island there, with a charming little fishing village that makes up their capital.

It was a weird place, packed with old shops and sheep and puffins, very weird, odd little creatures. And I went out one day for a walk in a field out on this island. And it was the greenest grass I had ever seen, all high enough to brush against your knees, but so incredibly soft. It was exactly like a dream. And since I've been there, I've had many dreams about this.

"I was walking on this green grass, looking out at the ocean at a rock formation, and the grass felt so soft it was like a cloud. And then I realised that the grass was moving. I realised that I was standing on a turf precipice, out over the ocean, and I realised this and I jumped back, and the precipice I was standing on fell into the ocean."

We are mesmerised by the story. Keillor's voice, which often lifts up at the end of a serious thought, convinces us that this might be the life experience that he dreams of each morning, waking him so that he can turn off the alarm before it goes off. A religious moment, close to a personable parable, save for the lack of moral.

"That was a great Faroe Islands story," the photographer says, after Keillor disappears down the hallway. "I really don't believe it ever happened."

"No, but when he talks, it feels like he's talking out dreams. Like you're dreaming something with him," I say, thinking I'm being insightful.

"Yeah, it's called storytelling," the photographer says, scanning his pictures, still hoping to find one photo without Minnesota's man of letters grabbing his crotch and pouting.

On May 15th, Robert Altman's A Prairie Home Companion will premiere at Háskólabíó. A brief Q & A session with cast members will accompany the screening.

On May 16th, Garrison Keillor and the full cast of A Prairie Home Companion, along with a number of Icelandic performers, will broadcast a live show from the Icelandic National Theatre. Tickets are available through the National Theatre.



Discover the wonders of Iceland in a Berg car.

BERG
car rental

Safety all the way!

Where **money** matters.
Compare prices !



Free pickup at your hotel in the Reykjavík area.

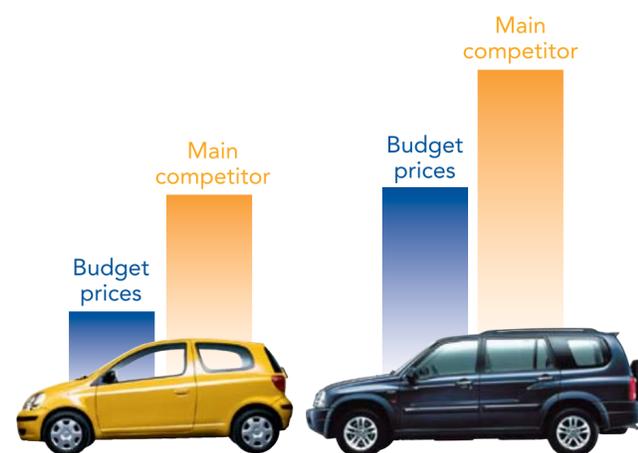
Check for special offers at your hotel



Contact Info: Tel: +354 577 6050 - Fax: +354 567 9195 - Tangarhöfði 8 - www.bergcar.is - berg@bergcar.is

Money is important

Don't waste your money,
there is only one budget



Prices offered in hotels in February

Budget
Car Rental

Vatnsmýrarvegi /BSÍ, 101 Reykjavík, tel +354 562 6060, www.budget.is

TAKE THE WARMTH WITH YOU!
Wool & Souvenirs Shop in a Country Village near the city

Open:
Monday - Friday:
9:00 - 18:00

Saturdays:
9:00 - 16:00

ÁLAFOSS
Álafossvegur 23 - Mosfellsbær
Tel. 566 6303 - www.alafoss.is

www.airiceland.is | tel 570 3030

Action packed day tours
Fly with Air Iceland and discover the many faces of Iceland

Check out our **tours** in our **new 2006 brochure**

Contact us, or any travel agent in Iceland, for **reservations**

tel 570 3030 | fax 570 3001
websales@airiceland.is | www.airiceland.is

AIR ICELAND
Flugfélag Íslands

CLASSIFIED

Grundarfjörður Youth Hostel
Do nothing, then rest. Or go hiking, swimming, horse-riding, whale watching, kayaking, golfing and more.
Central in Snæfellsnes. Open all year.
Tel: 562-6533/8956533
grundarfjordur@hostel.is

BREATHTAKING VIEW
Accommodation on the "Diamond Ring" the Husavik-Dettifoss-Myvatn-Husavik roundtrip.
Cottages, Husavik
tel (354) 892-1744

HÓTEL BREIÐAFJÖRÐUR
Skipagata 1
600 Akureyri
tel: 461-2340
alka@nett.is

Þjóðveldisbærinn
A reconstructed viking farm from the 11th century. Situated in Þjórsárdalur valley, approx. 1 1/2 hour from Reykjavík. (Take route 1, turn off at route 30 and then again at route 32) Opening hours every day from 10-12 and 13-18.
Tel. 488-7713

Only 2 hours drive from Reykjavik. Small and friendly hotel, perfectly located in the centre of the town, only a few minutes walk from the beautiful harbour of Stykkishólmur. The hotel offers a splendid view over the harbour and Breidafjörður. If our guests need to access Internet they can do so on a fulltime online computer. Hotel guests can play golf without a charge at the towns 9 holes golf course.
s. +354-433-2200
www.prinsvaliant.is
hotelbreidafjordur@prinsvaliant.is

Grapevine Ad Index

Accommodation	Living Art Museum	31
Hótel Breiðafjörður	Reykjavik Art Museum	39
Grundarfjörður Youth Hostel	Þjóðmenningarhúsi	30
Kaldbakskot Guesthouse	Þjóðveldisbær	46
Salka Guesthouse		46
	Politics	
Activities	Samfylkingin	13
Blue Lagoon	Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn	9
Centre	Vinstri Grænir	11
Elding Whale Watching		
Hafsúlan Whale Watching	Protection	
Iceland Symphony Orchestra	Durex	48
Reykjavik Excursions		
Reykjavik Spa City	Shopping	
	66 North	3
Cafes, Bars and Restaurants	Álafoss	46
2 Fiskar	Carlsberg light	37
A.Hansen	Cintamani	7
Aktu Taktu	Englatár	25
Bernhöftsbakari	Gallery Sjöfn Har	31
Food Taxi	Gjafir Jarðar	25
Grillid	Icwear	48
Hressó	Illgresi	27
O-Sushi	Lyng hug- og hand	43
Prikið	The Viking	8
Roma		5
Segafredo	Transportation	
Shalimar	Berg	45
The Student Bar	Budget	45
Við Tjörnina	Flugfélag Íslands	47
	Hertz	47
Museums and galleries		
CIA	Other services	
Gallery i8	Forex	41
Gljúfasteinn	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	31
Landnámsbær	Reykjavik Rocks	35

WWW.GRAPEVINE.IS

It's the journey
- not the destination

The best and easiest way to get to know the rugged beauty of Iceland is simply to have your own car. We are your car rental experts in Iceland.

Hertz
+354 50 50 600 • www.hertz.is

Hertz locations in Iceland: Keflavik Airport, Reykjavik, Ísafjörður, Akureyri, Höfn, Egilsstaðir

Stuffed with stuff

"Like generations before, I began attaching songs to 'my war.' () became my war music."

Iraq War veteran Bronson Lemer on his attachment to Sigur Rós.
Page 6.

"The Independence Party is very positive towards immigration. We would especially like to see an increase in funding for Icelandic language lessons for immigrants. We believe that immigrants increase diversity and enrich our society."

MP Drífa Hjartardóttir on how immigrant issues will factor into the next parliamentary elections.
Page 12.

"The good and the bad thing about the size of this country is that if you want an idea heard, you only need to say it once."

Television talk show host and journalist Halla Gunnardóttir.
Page 14.

"A young man I know, who currently holds an influential and respectable job, told me that he once accepted payment for sex from a stranger in a dark alley. 'I just wanted to know what it was like,' he said."

Columnist Þórdís Elva Þorvaldsdóttir Bachmann on her newfound ambivalence towards prostitution.
Page 16.

"You'd have sex with her given the chance and you wouldn't be surprised if your friend married her and you'd understand. But you would never marry. But sex, definitely."

Helgi Valur's surprise analogy in his review of Indie band Wedding Present.
Page 34.

On top of glaciers, in the streets of Reykjavik

ICEWEAR 
since 1972

WIND- AND WATERPROOF SOFT SHELL

ICEWEAR CLOTHES ARE AVAILABLE IN ALL MAJOR TOURIST SHOPS

Drífa ehf, Sudurhraun 12 C, 210 Gardabaer, Iceland, Tel +354-555 7400, Fax +354-555 7401, icewear@icewear.is

durex
love

smokkurinn kominn

Fyrir alla unga elskendur

love
easy on
4 quality condoms for great confidence