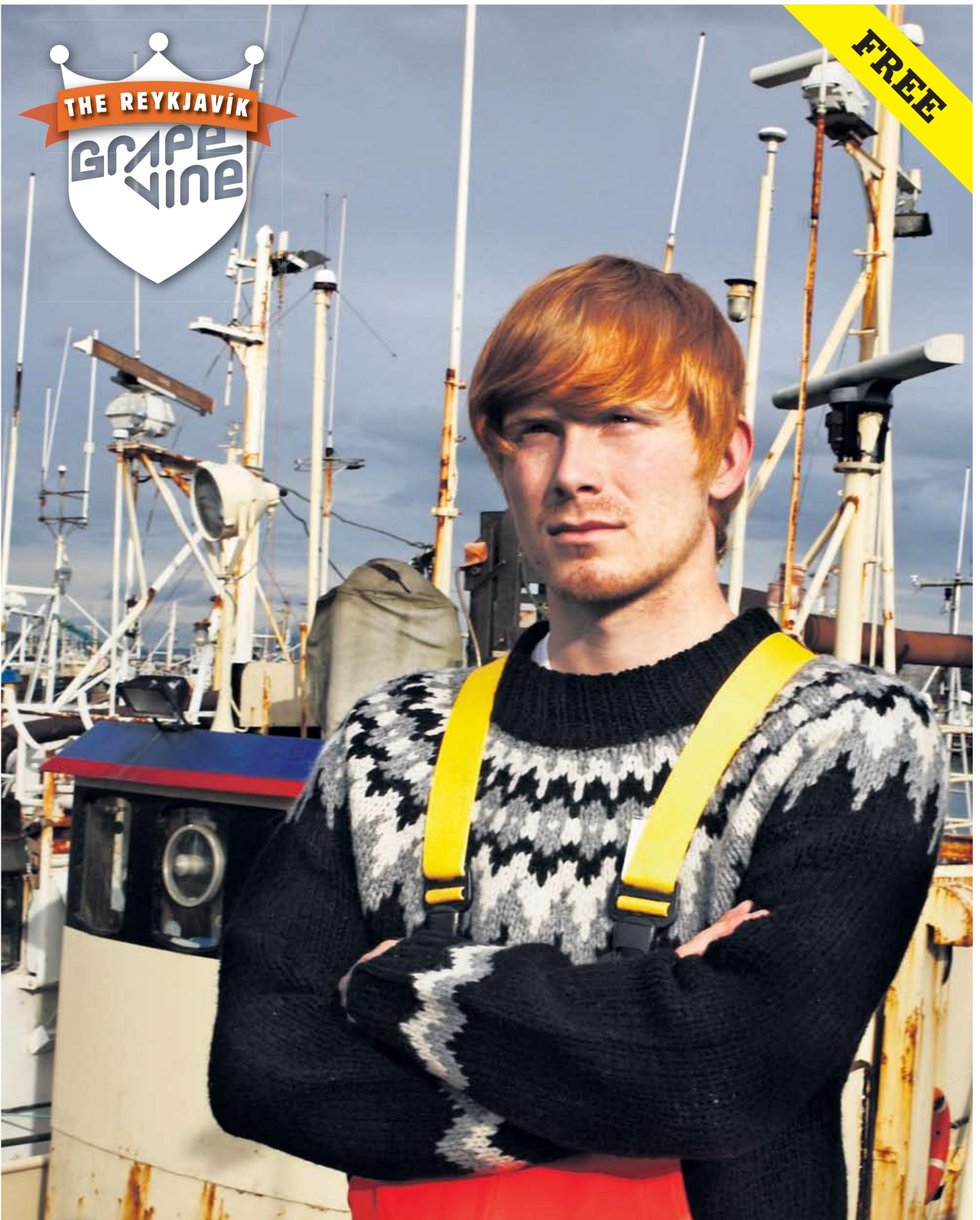




FREE



Whose Fish is it Anyway?

The Reykjavík Grapevine Explores the Quota System • A Guide to Verslunarmannahelgin
A Day in the Westman Islands • Innipúkinn Preview • Sea Kayaking in Stokkseyri

+ **info.** A Complete City Guide and Listings: Map, Dining, Music, Arts and Events

Issue 11 // Jul 27 - Aug 9 2007

Opinions

- 10 **On Karl Marx –Until Eternity Proves Him Wrong**
An opinion by Magnús Björn Ólafsson
- 12 **A Peter Parker Conforms: “The Truth Is Out There?”**
An opinion by Marvin Lee Dupree
- 16 **MySpace vs. Facebook**
An opinion by Helga Þórey Jónsdóttir

Articles

- 06 **Controlling the Discourse by Changing the Subject**
An Interview with Helgi Seljan
- 08 **Gone Fishing**
Exploring the flesh and guts of a day out on a cod fishing boat
- 16 **Roots Tourism in Hofsó**
The Iceland Emigration Center in Hofsó
- 18 **G! Festival: Like Valhalla’s Own Music Fest**

Features

- 20 **Whose Fish is it Anyway?**
Exploring the Quota System

Music & Nightlife

- 26 **Passing the Test**
Mínus at Grand Rokk
- 26 **Hopeless Romantics**
My Summer as a Salvation Soldier at 12 Tónar
- 27 **Borderline OK**
Wulfgang, Ten Steps Ahead, & Vafurlogi at Café Amsterdam

Outside Reykjavík

- 29 **Sea Kayaking at Stokkseyri**
- 30 **LungA: A Huge Little Festival**
- 32 **The Westman Islands: Puffins Abound**
- 34 **A Guide to Verslunarmannahelgi**

info.

- B1 Listings
- B6 Seabear: Fully-fledged Team
- B7 Gallery Crush
- B10 Food Reviews
- B11 Toys for Tourists
- B13 **Not the Same Old Jens**
An Interview with Jens Lekman
- B14 Shopping

From the Editor’s Chair

If you are a newly-arrived visitor to Reykjavík, you might have noticed the happy-casual feel that has taken over the city centre recently. A bunch of people enjoying their drinks and cigarettes at outdoor cafés till late in the evening is a pretty common sight, that is, until the police come to pull the plug on the party. It's summer. The weather has been amazing. Let's enjoy life! is the phrase of the day.

But we here at the Grapevine won't let the sun distract us and are in a pretty serious mood. And what's more serious to Icelanders than fish. In this issue, Haukur S. Magnússon, with help from a carefully chosen panel of experts, goes to great length to explain the quota system to the majority of us who really understand only a small fraction of how the system works. That's pretty serious and complicated stuff, especially

after a recent decision made by the government to cut the cod quota by a whole 63,000 tons. This is a decision that will surely have a significant impact in the forthcoming months and mainly affect the number of people who live in the small fishing villages around the country and base their livelihood on the fishing industry. They are worried, understandably, as their future is at stake, and this is something we all should think about. I therefore encourage all you readers, Icelanders, foreigners and travellers alike, to grab a large cup of coffee, read the article thoroughly and continue the discussion.

And there is more cod to learn about. We sent our ready-for-anything editorial intern Chandler Fredrick to go fishing on an Icelandic 'trylla' out in Faxaflói bay where he experienced

first hand how bloody and messy life at sea truly is. He even managed to gut his first cod, ever, and lived to tell about it.

But it's summer's prime season, we know, and there needs to be time for something else other than digging into the heavy issues. August, one of the year's most happening months, is around the corner and in the next weeks we will see endless celebrations. The annual traffic-jammed travel mania of the year, also known as Verslunarmannahelgin, features numerous outdoor festivals across the country. This annual long-weekend takes place the first weekend of August, so if you are planning to stay in the country for a couple of days, I can honestly say that attending one of these outdoor festivals will be something to remember. Only one warning – during this

weekend, some locals tend to show their worst sides and forget all about the good manners their mothers had once taught them. Bring a raincoat and loads of tolerance, and you might have a blast. Info on all of these holiday activities you will find in the pages of this issue of the Grapevine.

If you unfortunately miss out on the mayhem, or after joining in the annual holiday spirit with the locals and you haven't gotten enough of cheerful sing-alongs, crowded street-parties and painted faces, there's always Gay Pride the weekend after.

Steinunn Jakobsdóttir, Assistant Editor

The Reykjavík Grapevine
Vesturgata 5, 101 Reykjavík
www.grapevine.is
grapevine@grapevine.is
www.myspace.com/reykjavikgrapevine
Published by Fróken ehf.

Editorial: +354 540 3600 / editor@grapevine.is
Advertising: +354 540 3605 / ads@grapevine.is
Publisher: +354 540 3601 / publisher@grapevine.is

The Reykjavík Grapevine Staff
Publisher: Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson / publisher@grapevine.is
Editor: Sveinn Birkir Björnsson / birkir@grapevine.is
Assistant Editors: Steinunn Jakobsdóttir / steinunn@grapevine.is
Haukur Magnússon / haukur@grapevine.is
Editorial Interns: Zoë Robert / zoe@grapevine.is
Chandler Fredrick / chandler@grapevine.is
Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir / vala@grapevine.is
Marketing Director: Jón Trausti Sigurðarson / jontrausti@grapevine.is
Support Manager: Oddur Óskar Kjartansson / oddur@grapevine.is
Art Director: Gunnar Þorvaldsson / gunni@grapevine.is
Photographer: Gunnlaugur Arnar Sigurðsson / gulli@grapevine.is
Contributing writer: Ian Watson / www.ianwatson.org
Sales Director: Aðalsteinn Jörundsson / adalsteinn@grapevine.is
Distribution: Sæmundur Þ. Helgason / saemi@grapevine.is
Proofreader: Jim Rice

Press releases: listings@grapevine.is
Submissions inquiries: editor@grapevine.is
Subscription inquiries: +354 540 3605 / subscribe@grapevine.is
General inquiries: grapevine@grapevine.is

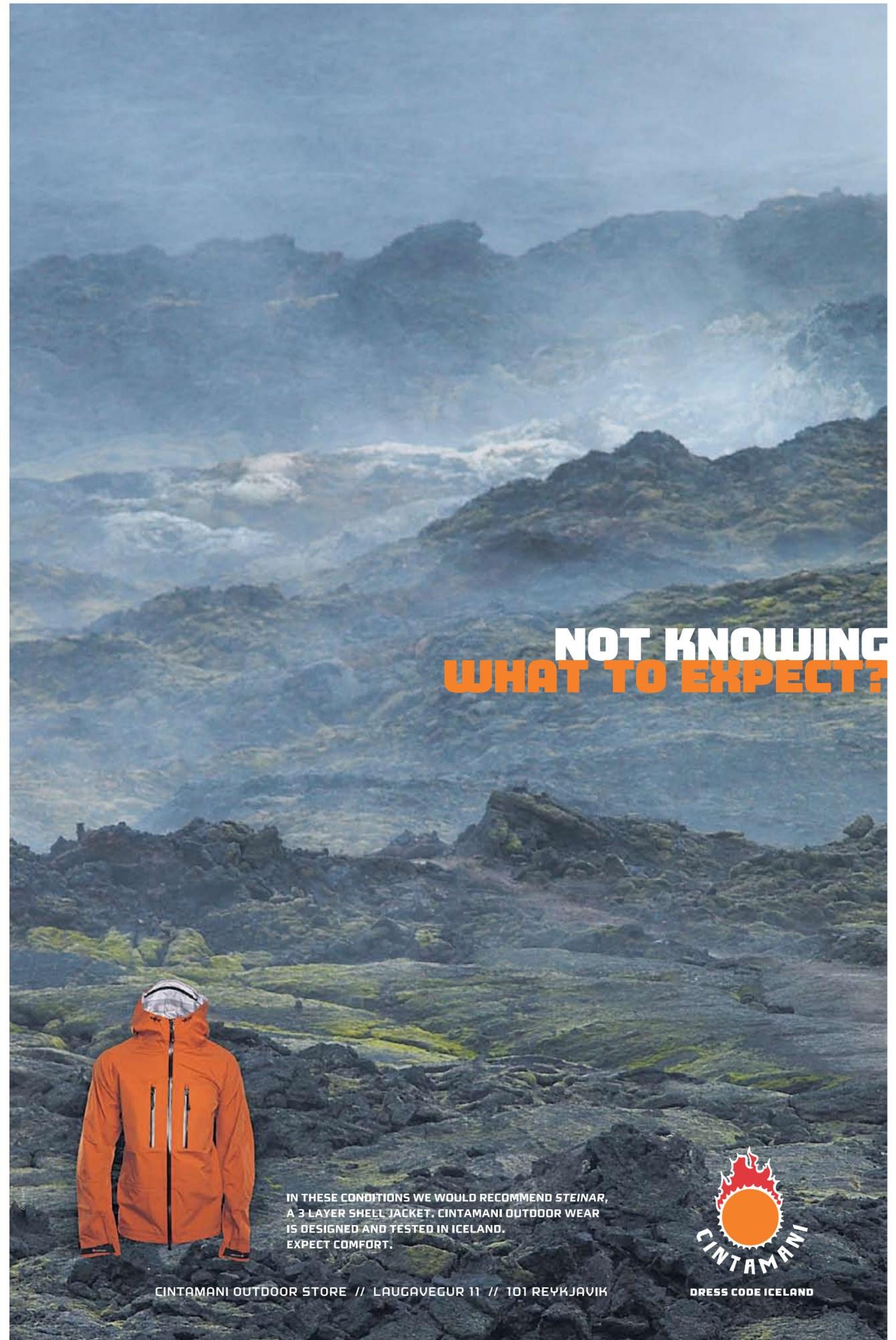
The Reykjavík Grapevine is published 18 times a year by Fróken Ltd. Monthly from November through April, and fortnightly from May til October. Nothing in this magazine may be reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the publishers. Although the magazine has endeavoured to ensure that all information inside the magazine is correct, prices and details may be subject to change. The Reykjavík Grapevine can be found in Reykjavík, Akureyri, Egilsstaðir, Selfoss, Keflavík, Ísafjörður, Kárahnjúkar and at key locations around road #1 and at all major tourist attractions and tourist information centres.

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').

Printed by Prentsmiðja Morgunblaðsins printing press in 30.000 copies.



Cover photo by:
Gulli
Model:
Gunni from EMM
Thanks to:
Ellingsen and Sjófiskur



CINTAMANI OUTDOOR STORE // LAUGAVEGUR 11 // 101 REYKJAVÍK





Reykjavik PURE ENERGY

THE CENTRE // THE OFFICIAL TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE IN REYKJAVIK

All you need

for a great holiday

City Centre Booking Service // Bus Tours and Activities

Hotels and Guesthouses // Car Rentals // Horse Riding

Whale Watching // Internet and Phone Centre

VAT Cash Refund – Money Exchange



Iceland's Largest Booking Service

FREE BOOKING SERVICE

Simply the most comprehensive Booking Services in the City specialized in customizing and developing travel packages to suit your interests and needs.

We can arrange your accommodation, transfers, tours, flights and car hire based on your requirements.



Your key to the Capital

Reykjavik Tourist card

- Gives admission to:
- all the thermal pools in Reykjavik
- public transport
- museums
- Reykjavik Zoo and Family Park,
- discount on tours and much more.

Great value for money.

Free Internet access for cardholders.

www.visitreykjavik.is

GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY
 24 HOURS 1.200 ISK
 48 HOURS 1.700 ISK
 72 HOURS 2.200 ISK

THE CENTRE
The Official Tourist Information Centre in Reykjavik

Adalstraeti 2 - 101 Reykjavik - Tel +354 590 1550 - info@visitreykjavik.is

Sour Grapes

Say your piece, voice your opinion, send your letters to letters@grapevine.is.

Re: On Advertisement

When I was 18, I was a communist. I'm not really sure why, the whole thing just kind of resounded with my upbringing in Sweden, and I thought Che Guevara T-shirts were really cool.

After a long argument with my friend Sindri, who was very right wing at the time, we both took monumental political shifts; he swung to the left and I to the right.

At the time I was editing an alternative school paper, and I was very fond of bringing together all kinds of mean and nasty things and contrasting and comparing them with people, institutions and ideas that I wasn't very fond of.

This is the feeling I'm getting from your opinion piece "On Advertisement". I can't really say that the guy is lying, as he isn't really saying much, he's just talking about advertising, Nazis, climate change, brain washing, anti-Semitism and stuff.

The author of the piece, young Magnús Björn, asks, "what is to be done", then states that capitalism is something or other, throws in a quote from Jack Kerouac, mentions an Apple ad, and then... nothing. Because the piece doesn't really seem to be about anything. The only real opinion I can grasp from it is that advertising is bad, and the implication that all advertisements contain lies.

The thing is, I really like your magazine. I just don't understand why you need to print opinion pieces from eighteen year olds. Most of the stuff in the Grapevine is wonderful, but then you regularly taint your reputation with juvenile political drivel.

You really should get some more grownups to do your Opinion pieces, and maybe get them to write about grown up issues.

Regards,
Sveinbjörn
(Works in the advertising business)

Dear Sveinbjörn,
As a free magazine who's sole source of income is selling ads, we might agree that likening the advertising industry to brain-enslaving, climate-changing Nazis is somewhat counterintuitive. Then again, insinuating that the act of questioning the ad-industry's actions, methods and ethics is somehow juvenile is, at best, equally absurd.

It may sound a bit boring when we say, "the opinions of the columnists don't reflect the opinions of The Reykjavik Grapevine" (as if a magazine could hold an opinion), but nevertheless, it's very true. We try and solicit a wide range of opinions in our Opinion pieces, and these voices all need to be heard. Besides, it's always fun to nibble at the hand that feeds.
HM

Hello The Reykjavik Grapevine
I am interested in visiting the Sigur Rós studio in Reykjavik. Where can I find it?

Andi

Dear Andi,
I am interested in visting your house and/or place of work. Would you at all mind if I showed up at a random time?
HM

Leave aside the fact that acts like Sigur Ros weren't so much bringing up an "original sound" as finely carrying on-slash-pushing forward a firm tradition of Western alternative music (Slowdive? Cocteau Twins? Anyone?). They're certainly innovators in many respects, as is Bjork (of course), but let's not lose perspective here. Music existed before them, and will continue to do so for as long as people have ears and brains.

What I WOULD like to know is exactly how your columnist, Helga Torey Jonsdottir, got the impression that the music industry of the nineties, eighties, seventies, sixties, etc., was some sort of benevolent, originality-celebrating, hippie-dippy lovefest. Oh, back in the eighties, when music executives and industry folk alike celebrated the original sounds of... Madonna? Roxette? U2? The fabulous nineties, when Creed and Stone Temple Pilots reigned supreme? Let's not forget that from what I read in your paper, Bubbi Morthens has been the biggest selling artist in Iceland for three decades in a row.

The music industry is fucking evil, always was, always will be.

This of course has nothing to do with the shape of music, or its originality. Fortunately, music and the music industry are two wholly separate things that are for the most part irrelevant to one another.

That aside, the conditions for making truly original music – with a modicum of success, even – are better than ever. What with cheap home recording gear, MySpace, Youtube, the whole fucking internet for that matter, creating some tunes and getting them out is certainly easier than understanding the whole point of Jonsdottir's article. If there even was any.

Sincerely
Will Johnston

Dear Will,
It may sound a bit boring when we say, "the opinions of the columnists don't reflect the opinions of The Reykjavik Grapevine" (as if a magazine could hold an opinion), but nevertheless, it's very true (that was easy enough!).

Also, while the music industry may have been evil since the beginning, this very decade has seen a lot of established labels go bankrupt or merge with larger conglomerates to the extent that music publishing and distribution now rests in the hands of a couple of corporations. And that's just plain unhealthy. But I digress. A healthy exchange of opinion is what these crazy "magazines" are all about, and it seems to me that we've just had one. Mission: Accomplished!
HM

"The thing is, I really like your magazine. I just don't understand why you need to print opinion pieces from eighteen year olds. Most of the stuff in the Grapevine is wonderful, but then you regularly taint your reputation with juvenile political drivel."

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.



arctic RAFTING

NATURE IS THE ADVENTURE

You could be here!

Arctic Rafting offers rafting trips on the Hvítá River, only 10 minutes from the Geysir area. The trips start at 6.590 ISK and a variety of combination tours are available every day. We can also pick you up from your hotel in Reykjavik.

The Golden Circle & river rafting on Hvítá: 13.990 ISK
Horse riding & river rafting on Hvítá: 13.790 ISK
ATV bike ride & river rafting on Hvítá: 16.890 ISK

Call us on +354-562-7000, meet us at Laugavegur 11 in the Cintamani Center or ask for us at your hotel or nearest tourist information center.

www.arcticrafting.is | +354-562-7000



Controlling the Discourse by Changing the Subject

Text by Haukur Magnússon Photo by Gulli

An entity called "The Journalistic Ethics Committee" operates under the aegis of the Icelandic Press Council (IPC), of which almost every Icelandic journalist is a member. The ethics committee counts five members, three representatives of the IPC and one each for Icelandic publishers and the University of Iceland Ethics Organisation. Journalistic subjects can file complaints to the committee if they feel that the IPC's ethical guidelines (an English version of which is available on-line) have been faulted in any way by a member of the press. While the committee holds no legal powers and is restricted to simply reprimanding journalists that they rule to have overstepped "reasonable ethical boundaries", it still is a veritable force in shaping Icelandic discourse. After all, its purpose is to decide what can be said, when, and how.

Enter Helgi Seljan, investigative reporter for the popular RÚV (Icelandic National Broadcasting Service) TV news show Kastljós ("Spotlight"). Shortly before last spring's parliamentary elections, Seljan presented a series of reports on how the Parliament's General Committee had unprecedentedly granted full citizenship to then-Minister for the Environment Jónína Bjartmarz's 21-year old daughter-in-law, on what must be deemed "shaky" grounds. A full on shit-storm ensued, one where Seljan's journalistic integrity was challenged not only by the minister in question, but also by some of his colleagues.

Bjartmarz promptly filed a complaint to the journalistic ethics committee, who in turn decreed that Seljan had gone against the IPC's ethical guidelines "in a serious manner", while leaving the verity of his reporting relatively uncontested. Seljan and Kastljós, not happy with the verdict, immediately contested it, stating it was "completely unfounded". They furthermore claim that the verdict calls for members of the press to treat elected officials mildly during election season. Seljan spoke to the Grapevine about the case in question and the resulting verdict.

Could you explain the offending report?

About a month after the fact, I received information that Parliament's General Committee had granted citizenship to a certain applicant, among others, who had been in the country for fifteen months on a student visa. This is newsworthy in and of itself, as the law states

that foreigners must reside here for seven years before they are eligible to apply for citizenship. Parliament can only grant citizenship under "special" circumstances, such as for humanitarian or family-related reasons.

We were then presented with evidence that confirmed the grounds by which that specific applicant was granted Icelandic citizenship, i.e. to escape "travel constrictions", as she planned on studying abroad with her boyfriend, Jónína Bjartmarz's son. We also confirmed that the General Committee's verdict was completely unprecedented, that no applicant had ever received citizenship so quickly on these grounds – to make it easier for her to study abroad. To me, all this sounds extremely newsworthy. When you add to it the fact that the applicant in question had direct ties with a high ranking Progressive Party Minister – who in fact has her permanent legal address registered at that Minister's residence, and is her son's girlfriend – that is clearly a newsworthy subject. Adding insult to injury, one of her main referents in the application is that Minister's very mother! From the beginning, we [at Kastljós] based our reporting on these grounds, and we stand by it.

The ensuing reports, not only at Kastljós but also in newspapers like DV, etc., all but confirmed that the whole case smacked of corruption. And nothing in any of the reports has been factually contested, save for some minor nitpicking...

That's true. While no laws were broken, the manner in which citizenship was granted is suspect at best. Yet no one seems to care outside of the press. No MP has officially broached the subject, and no claims for reform are being made for a system that so obviously invites corruption, with a three-member committee making the final decision. This is especially interesting since MPs have up until now spoken of citizenship as a sort-of holy thing, that it should be handled with the utmost care. They've been narrowing the conditions for citizenship for a long time. And yet, no one says a word.

What happened in this case is what always happens here – not that the phenomenon is specific to Iceland – a giant wall of co-insurance is formed by the MPs, regardless of party lines. They will protect each other. Usually, they first try saying that whatever's being discussed isn't newsworthy, that it doesn't deserve cover-

age; that it's really no big deal. They avoid the subject, as they avoid going after each other and contesting each other. Thus, it's left to the press to discuss this thing. Yet they have a duty to, just as we do.

The ones scrutinized in your report, Bjartmarz and the General Committee MPs, seemed upset that the matter was even being discussed.

Yeah, people were angry. It's important to stay above water when the politicians start fending off reports, and it's easy to lose track of what's important – which is probably exactly what they want. They will place themselves firmly into trenches, avoiding mentioning the specifics of the case and the topics at hand, instead opting to move the discourse onto a personal level. Claiming they're subject to political attacks and smear campaigns, that their personal lives are being scrutinized rather than their actions. That's a common reaction. The way the thing blew up, it didn't come as a surprise, as this is a big story that was bound to become controversial.

In hindsight, would you have handled the story any differently? How do you respond to claims that Bjartmarz's person was unfairly attacked?

I would have done everything just about the same, although I perhaps would have braced myself for the commotion that followed our first report. We stand by it 100%. As for Bjartmarz, the whole thing never had anything to do with any one person; it didn't even have to do with the particular applicant in question. The story concerned power, and how that power was potentially misused by elected officials in favour of one of their own. It concerns fair procedure, and how everyone should be equal in the eyes of the law.

The discourse surrounding this case soon took a strange shape, but anyone who's observed the state of Icelandic political debate longer than one second could foresee that. It's fairly common for participants to immediately focus on matters far removed from the real subject at hand. It wasn't us who put the applicant, Bjartmarz's daughter-in-law, in the spotlight. That was done by MPs who were trying to change the subject, to make it seem like we were attacking a young girl, rather than their own failure to follow due process.

You can see the same thing in the reactions to the ethics committee's verdict, where

"The story concerned power, and how that power was potentially misused by elected officials in favour of one of their own. It concerns fair procedure, and how everyone should be equal in the eyes of the law."

a few individuals have taken that as complete validation for themselves and harshly attacked both the Kastljós's editorial team and myself. They imply that we had some sort of sinister motive for broadcasting our report, and that it was unfounded, yet aggressively avoid saying anything about the specifics of that very report. They'd rather discuss my level of education. But I won't complain, this frequently happens and every journalist that takes himself seriously has to be prepared for that.

Kastljós and yourself heavily refuted the ethics committee's verdict...

I don't have a lot to add to the statement we released on the day of the verdict. It can't be appealed, and the committee isn't required to explain their ruling any further. What's left is that they neither researched nor disproved any of our sources, they didn't seek out information to verify our report, or Bjartmarz' complaints for that matter, so I don't see why their judgement should hold any weight.

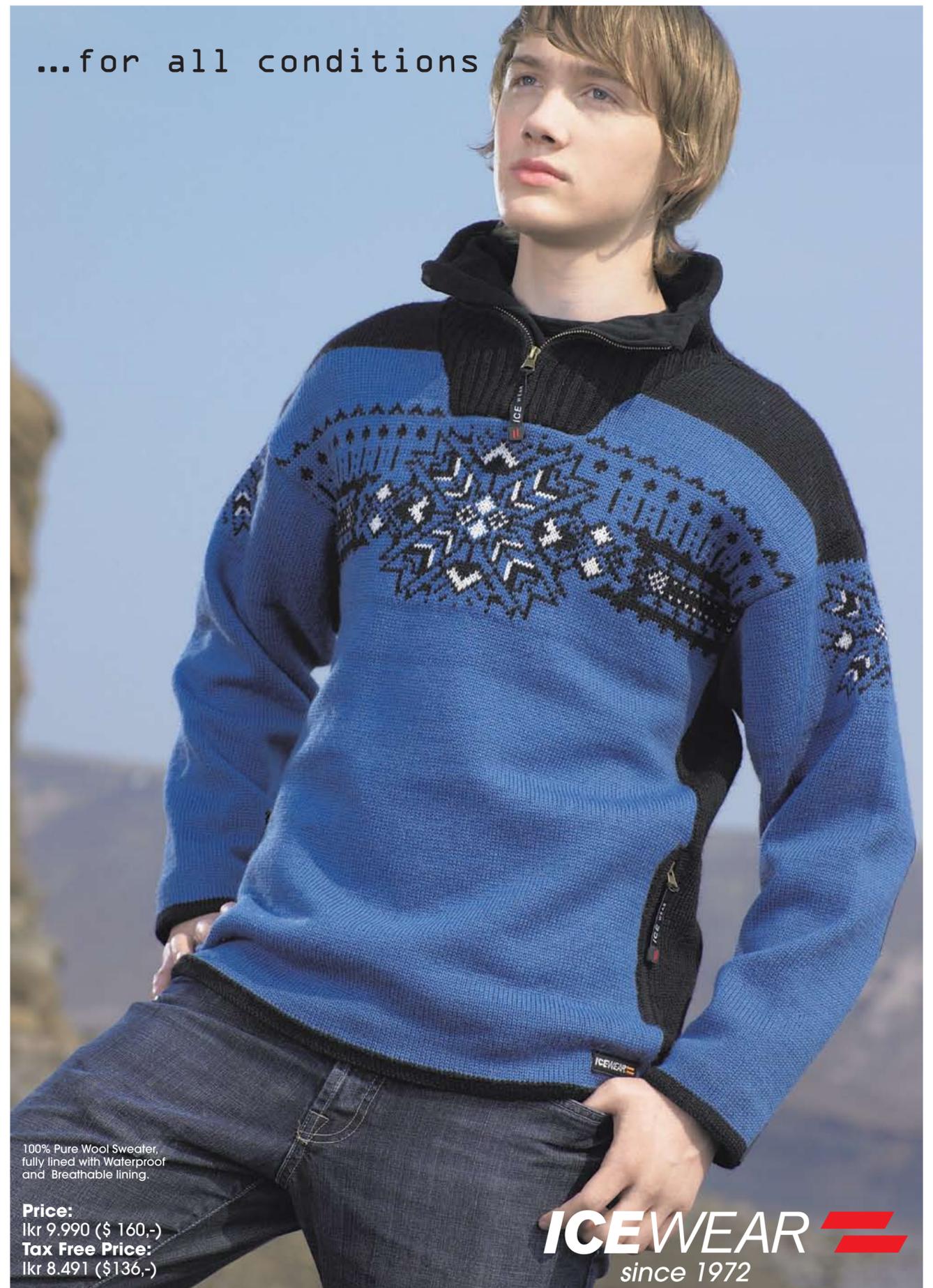
Boiled down to its essence, our coverage concerned a particular individual who had ties to a politician. That individual was granted citizenship on grounds that were completely unprecedented, and after only a short stay in the country. The ethics committee challenges this and claims there was nothing suspect about the bestowal, apparently without conducting any research of their own. Indeed, their claim isn't backed by any sources. This de-validates their verdict to such an extent that it can't be taken seriously. But that's beside the point, what's really disconcerting about the verdict is its apparent message to Icelandic journalists. **Which is?**

The IPC and the members of the ethics committee need to give some serious thought to the message they are sending out with the verdict. It literally states that journalists should handle politicians and matters concerning them differently in the time leading up to an election. It's like they are trying to interpret the journalistic ethics guidelines to say that we can't cover stories such as this one during election season. It's almost as if they're saying that we should have waited until after the elections were over to uncover the facts of the matter, which is an absurd notion; that politicians should be "handled with an utmost care" – or not at all – while they're in the process of running for office. This is an unbelievable message to members of the press, and I think the committee should come forward and explain exactly what they mean by that. Their verdict can't be understood any differently.

I also feel that the IPC administration's silent treatment of this matter highly embarrassing and not in line with the council's actions in similar cases. By no means do I need for them to redeem me – I do not base my self respect on their opinions. I do, however, want to know if the IPC administration feels the ethics committee's methods and message in this particular case were professional and, indeed, normal. Does the head of the IPC agree with his ethics committee that it's best to hide certain news away 'til after election season? **How did RÚV react to the ruling? Are you kept on a shorter leash now?**

They've supported me throughout. Fortunately, most of the media in Iceland is run by people whose sole interest lies in telling news, rather than pleasing politicians or those in power. I've never encountered political pressure from my supervisors at RÚV. And no, I am not kept on a shorter leash. If they did that, I'd just find work somewhere else.

...for all conditions



100% Pure Wool Sweater, fully lined with Waterproof and Breathable lining.

Price:
Ikr 9.990 (\$ 160,-)
Tax Free Price:
Ikr 8.491 (\$ 136,-)

ICEWEAR 
since 1972

ICEWEAR clothes and products are available at the following stores:

Reykjavík: Rammagerðin, Hafnarstræti 19 - Ullarhúsið, Austurstræti 3, Reykjavík - Thorvaldsenbazar, Austurstræti 4
Islandia, Kringslan Shopping Center - The Viking, Hafnarstræti 3 - Handþrjónasambandið, Skólavörðustíg 19, Laugavegi 64
Ull og Gjafavörur, Hótel Sögu, Lækjargötu 2 - Hiit Hornið, Laugavegi 100 - Álafoss Verksmiðjusal, Laugavegi 1 - Isey, Klapparsfíg 30
Other locations: Blue Lagoon, Svartengi - Rammagerðin, Flugstöð Leifs Eiríkssonar - Eden, Hveragerði - Geysir Shops, Haukadal
Byggðasafnið Skógum - The Viking, Akureyri - Mývatnsmarkaður, Mývatn - Mývatn ehf, Skútustöðum, Mývatn
Tákn Sport og Útivist, Húsavík - Sæferðir, Stykkishólmur - El Grillo, Seyðisfjörður - Álafoss Verksmiðjusal, Álafossvegi 23, Mosfellbæ

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



Gone Fishing

Text by Chandler Fredrick Photo by Gulli

Chapter One: Fish Guts

The first thing that strikes you about working on a fishing boat is the amount of fish gut stains. Black, brown and purple spots cover the boats' walls and floors, inside and out. Fish guts on the tables, fish guts on the windows. Crusty fish guts on the rails and on the bottoms of coffee cups. It's a fact of life for a fisherman that no place is safe from the bladders, stomachs, and hearts of the sea. You have to wonder if they dream about fish guts.

It's the first thing that strikes someone like me, anyways: anyone who knows next to nothing about fishing – commercial or otherwise. Fish guts are a shocker when the only thing you know about cod is that it tastes good when you fry it in beer batter and serve it with French fries. That's exactly how removed I had been from the process. I had never even seen a picture of a whole Icelandic cod.

So as I suited up for a day on the trylla (Icelandic for small cod fishing boat) Happsæll, fish guts were the last thing I had expected. I suited up in oversized waders, waterproof pants, and a waterproof jacket. All of them covered in dry fish guts. I hesitated to put them all on, and before it became too exasperating, I had been breathing through my nose. It was the kind of thing that made me ashamed to come from a big city.

Fish guts. Fish guts. Fish guts.

Chapter Two: Out to Sea.

At 6:30 am I show up at Keflavik Harbour. It's the earliest I have been up in three months without being schnockered at Kaffibarinn. I see the captain of the boat, Halldór Halldórsson, is standing on the Happsæll looking out for me, the scrawny Grapevine journalist who's come to work on his boat for a day. Halldór is young, maybe 29. At first sight, he seems like the kind of guy you'd expect to see cruising Laugavegur on Friday night in a blazer, with an entourage of beautiful girls. You wouldn't think that he has been working on fishing boats since he was 14.

We shake hands and I am introduced to

Guðmundur and Frimann, both of them in their late 50s, and double my size. We exchange very few words aside from a coffee offer as we head out into Faxaflói, the bay that stretches from the hallucinatory Snæfellsness peninsula to Keflavik. I watch Halldór steer the boat using a GPS system with two computer screens, one that shows the longitude and latitude of the Happsæll, and another that gives a 3D view of the ocean floor. Halldór switches one of the monitors to a camera that surveils the engine. I look up and see that it is a cloudless day. The sky seems to go on forever.

"We're going to find our nets," Halldór says, "And then we're going to get our fish."

Chapter Three: The Coming of the Cod Happsæll rocks dramatically when the elaborate pulley system reels in the 2 km long net. Guðmundur stands at the port side, concentrating on undoing tangles in the net as a spinning crane rips it through his gloved hands. He tensely instructs me in busted English to move to the other side of the boat, where a knife slides around frantically in a metal bin intended for the day's catch.

Knives and a rocking boat. My mother would shit a brick.

I turn around to see that in a loud splash of seawater and wriggling net the roaring pulley has introduced a huge cod to the boat. The yellow-green monster nearly does a Kobe Bryant hop into the mound of net on the table. It is the size of a small child and as it thrashes violently I see its incredible strength. Using a small and dull hand-hook to remove the netting from the creature's hyperventilating gills, Frimann quickly loosens the cod and effortlessly tosses it to Guðmundur.

"You see," Guðmundur instructs, slitting the animal's throat like he's pouring himself a glass of water. "You cut the throat here, underneath the gills." As he cuts, the fish blood paints his face like a little girl at a birthday party. He doesn't flinch, saying: "Then you

slice down the middle."

One move of his thumb reveals the fish's fleeting organ system. I recognize heart, intestine, piss-squirting bladder. The fish's mouth is still moving and I can see that its fins are still shaking. Then, in one simple move, Guðmundur rips the animal's life system right out of its body and tosses it to the hundreds of waiting seagulls that have surrounded the boat.

"Your turn," Guðmundur says, handing me the knife.

"Honestly?" I ask. "Maybe I just need a cigarette first."

Guðmundur laughs and pulls my ass back to the metal bin. "I'm serious."

I lift the fish up but it immediately flops out of my hands and begins to wriggle on the floor. I had underestimated the animal's 40-pound girth. Again I pick it up, but it thrashes itself out of my slippery gloves. The seagulls wait. The pulley roars again.

"Look!" I hear Frimann command, "a demon."

He emerges from behind machinery with Rosemary's freaking baby. "Steinbitur" he says. "He eats the rrrrrocks."

The nasty grey fish is enormous, with rounded, baby finger-like teeth that jut horizontally out of its wrinkled old-man face. He demonstrates its biting powers by placing a wooden hook in its jaws. Then he throws it into the metal bin where my cod is. The ugly Steinbitur (or Ocean Catfish) throbs around in the bin before it attaches its jaws to the crushed head of a small fish and mauls it. Fish blood is splayed everywhere.

Oh, and by the way, all of this smells like shit. The pulley roars again. I lift the cod up with a yelp and pull its head back to reveal its throat, which I awkwardly saw through. Using the backside of the knife, I exert every bit of my strength to tear the underside of fish in half. It takes a few tugs and tosses, but my hands successfully get the guts out. The final tear sounds like Velcro. I want to

ralph, but I'm too proud of myself.

"Hey, I did it!" I shouted
"Great," Frimann says. "Now gut the rest."

Chapter Four: What a Fisherman Does

What a fisherman does is intense, trying, and often thankless. It's about untangling 75 nets a day at four different locations, loading heavy and slimy sea monsters in and out of containers. It's about gutting, head-slicing and the most brutal of fish murder techniques. It's about what you can stomach. It's about market prices and salting cod for Spain and Portugal. It's about competition for net space. It's about net placement – tides, currents, depths and where the fish will be from one day to the next. It's about luck.

Imagine doing this in winter, when the sun doesn't give and the North Sea doesn't forgive.

At the end of the day, Guðmundur translates the Icelandic seamen prayers that hang on the walls of the boat. They are about humility, god-given strength, and respect for the harsh Atlantic.

As he cuts, the fish blood paints his face like a little girl at a birthday party. He doesn't flinch, saying: "Then you slice down the middle."

Car provided by Sixt Car Rental
Tel.: 540-2222, www.sixt.is

Special offer



Discounts on day tours

- ▶ 5% discount for 1 daytour
- ▶ 10% discount for 2 daytours
- ▶ 15% discount for 3 daytours

Tours must be purchased at Reykjavik Excursions

sales offices: BSI Bus Terminal, Radisson SAS Hotel Saga, Icelandair Hotel Nordica, Icelandair Hotel Loftleidir.

Our brochure is available at all major hotels and guesthouses.



Booking phone: Tel: (+354) 562 1011 www.re.is e-mail: main@re.is



WINNER

Egils Lite was awarded the gold medal at the 2007 and 2006 Monde Selection, as well as the gold award at the 2006 World Beer Cup and the bronze award at the 2006 European Beer Star.

Now available on tap.

Léttöl

10_RVK_GV_11_2007_OPINION

On Karl Marx – Until Eternity Proves Him Wrong

Text by Magnús Björn Ólafsson



All too frequently Marxist enthusiasts argue over a ridiculous question: Was Karl Marx an ordinary 'philosopher' or a divine 'prophet'? The question itself is defective because it demands that issue is taken with the terms in which it is put and thus suggests a necessary split between philosophers and prophets. Could Marx not have been both?

Since this 'prime-question' immediately gives birth to a problem – this 'necessary split' – it is important, at the very beginning, to clarify the connotation which the word 'prophet' carries. If a prophet is solely a person who makes accurate predictions of future events, Marx cannot be crowned a prophet as his ultimate prediction of a stateless global communism has yet to come true; although we have witnessed isolated showers of perverted Marxist theories applied in individual cases of regional governance, the global force of communism has yet to storm the planet. In short: "working men of all countries" have not united.

Since we, Marx's readers, do not possess the prophetic power of foretelling the future, we must accept that the future is largely unknown to us – it is open, undetermined – and therefore we are not in a position to denounce Marx as a simple charlatan; his predictions 'might' be proven to be prophecies in the course of history.

Marx's principal weapon which mediates the "lightning of thought [which strikes] deeply into [the] virgin soil of the people [transforming them] into men," is the revolutionary and prophetic style of his prose, perhaps at its most obvious in the Communist Manifesto where he grasps the pen-pole with both hands as the words soar from the pages like sparks when a sword is drawn. The power and confidence of the text is twin to the encouragement of a general's call of war as he rides before his army and eggs on his soldiers in the moments before the onset; the industrial armies of the bourgeoisie, i.e. the proletarian labour-class, must be mobilised in the echo of Marx's communist call.

The purpose of the Communist Manifesto is to orientate the reader towards a certain future. This is manifested in Marx's constant use of the tense of absolute present – in which what is desired is presented as if it were already the case in order that it might become so; the edge of Marx's argument would simply become blunt and pointless if he were to sheathe it in a scabbard of 'maybes', infect his manuscript with doubt, render his radical assertions useless and poison the mind of his followers with confusion and mistrust. The Communist Manifesto was written as if its vision of the future is assured, precisely because it is not.

A connection, between Marx's revolutionary predictions and his methodology for setting of a communist revolution, has now been unveiled. In order to make his future predictions accurate, i.e. in order to reach a utopian communist state, Marx had to arm his proletarian class of labourers with the arsenal to reach this utopia – and in order to reach it, the proletariat must first be aware of its possibility – the seed of the communist vision must be planted in the seedbed of proletarian understanding before it can bloom. "Clearly the weapon of criticism cannot replace the criticism of weapons, and material force must be overthrown by material force. But theory also becomes a material force once it has gripped the masses."

In Concerning Feuerbach, Marx was infuriated by

Feuerbach's assertion that materialism – an idea Marx associated with human needs and interests and hence with conflict and action – should only be 'interpreted.' If human activity is not considered 'objective' it has to be considered static, stable and immune to the effect of the Communist spirit. But just as the words of the grey monk provoked the theological revolution of the reformation, "so it is now the philosopher in whose brain the revolution begins."

In Concerning Feuerbach, Marx explained the philosophical reasons which had induced him to give up philosophy and dedicate himself to the study of capitalist social order. He claims that "Feuerbach wants sensuous objects, really distinct from thought objects but [Feuerbach] does not conceive human activity itself as 'objective' activity. [...] Hence, [he] regards the theoretical attitude as the only genuinely human attitude, while practice is conceived and fixed only in its dirty-judicial manifestation. Hence he does not grasp the significance of 'revolutionary', of 'practical-critical' activity."

"The philosophers have only 'interpreted' the world, in various ways; the point is to 'change' it." In the Communist Manifesto, Marx therefore makes prophetic philosophically founded predictions in his capacity as a revolutionist – not as a philosopher.

For Marx, the future is rooted in the past. Just as we know that the sun will rise tomorrow because it rose yesterday, social classes will fight one another just as they have done ever since natural wealth was originally divided among them. Throughout history "[f]reeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guild master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large or in the common ruin of the contending classes." This historical analysis of constant and repetitive class-struggle is Marx's window to the future; since this conflict has always happened before, it will continue to happen. Marx's historical materialism looks for the causes, developments and changes in human societies in the way in which humans collectively make the means to life, thus giving an emphasis to history, economics and politics through empirical analysis. But if Marx's descriptions of social conditions are only applicable with regards to future circumstances in so far as the basic social-structure of 'ruler' and 'ruled' does not change, he can not be called a prophet and his assertions must rather be considered sociological than prophetic.

But according to Marx the class-fight is not lineal throughout the eternity of time. At a point in history, in the shadow of certain social circumstances "it becomes evident that the bourgeoisie is unfit any longer to be the ruling class of society and to impose its conditions of existence upon society as an overriding law. It is unfit to rule because it is incompetent to assure an existence to its slave within his slavery, because it cannot help letting him sink into such a state that it has to feed him, instead of being fed by him." This is the point when the oppressed snatches the power from the hands of his oppressor – the point when Marx makes prophetic predictions.

But we have to take Marx's claims about the necessity of future events with a pinch of salt. Just as forecasts of meteorologists and climatologists are always tested in the 'open' future, Marx's sociological and historical predictions are predictions of times to come. The universal reign of communism may be realized tomorrow, or in a thousand years, and if so, Marx travels from the platform of a common sociological weather-forecaster to the divine throne of a prophet. In short – his integrity is protected by future eternity and thus we can never allow ourselves the luxury of labelling him a charlatan.

One day objects will fall up instead of down. Prove me wrong!

The Communist Manifesto was written as if its vision of the future is assured, precisely because it is not.

www.kirkjulistahatid.is

FESTIVAL OF SACRED ARTS



KIRKJULISTAHAÁTÍÐ
2007
August 11–19th



Skálholt Cathedral & Hallgrímskirkja Reykjavík

MESSA Í H-MOLL • JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH • MONIKA FRIMMER • GERD TÜRK • PETER KOOU • ALÞJÓÐLEGA BAROKKSVEITIN Í DEN HAAG • MÓTETUKÓR HALLGRÍMSKIRKJU • HÖRÐUR ÁSKELSSON • KLAUS PAULSEN • SVAVAR A. JÓNSSON • SVAVA BJÖRNSDÓTTIR • LISTAVAKA UNGA FÓLKSINS • NICOMUHLY • BENFROST • BORGAR MAGNASON • ELFA RÚN KRISTINSDÓTTIR • GUÐMUNDUR VIGNIR KARLSSON • SIGRÍÐUR THORLACIUS • PÉTUR BEN • VALGEIR SIGURÐSSON • DJASTRÍÓIÐ BABAR • DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE • ROBIN BLAZE • CHRISTOPHER HERRICK • BJÖRN STEINAR SÓLBERGSSON • VIER MINUTEN • JOHANNES BRAHMS • IAIN FARRINGTON • LOUIS VIERNE • PETR EBEN • MARCEL DUPRÉ • WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART • JOSEPH JONGEN • CARL THEODOR DREYER • ÍSRAEL Í EGYPTALANDI • GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL • KIRSTÍN ERNA BLÖNDAL • ELFA MARGRÉT INGVAÐÓTTIR • BENEDIKT INGÓLFSSON • EYJÓLFUR EYJÓLFSSON • HRÓLFUR SÆMUNDSSON • ALEX ASHWORTH • SCHOLA CANTORUM • ÞÓRUNN VALA VALDIMARSDÓTTIR • KARL SIGURBJÖRNSSON • JÓN DALBÚ HRÓBJARTSSON • BJARNI ÞÓRBJARNASON • ÞORVALDUR KARL HELGASON • MARÍA ÁGUSTSDÓTTIR • MAGNEA SVERRISDÓTTIR • DEUX EX CINEMA • JEANNE D'ARC • WILFRIED KAETZ • SÁLMAFOSS • DRENGJAKÓR REYKJAVÍKUR • FRÍÐRIK S. KRISTINSSON • KÓR AKUREYRARKIRKJU • EYÞÓR INGI JÓNSSON • HELGI HRAFN JÓNSSON • MARGRÉT BJARNADÓTTIR • SAGA SIGURÐARDÓTTIR •

MAIN EVENTS:

MASS IN B-MINOR by JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
ISRAEL IN EGYPT by GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

ALSO:

SCREENINGS in collaboration with **DELUXINEMA**
FEAST OF HYMNS
YOUNG ART - music, improvisation, performance, dance
ORGAN FIREWORKS

Tickets sold at:

HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA
12 TÓNAR at Skólavörðustígur 14
and online at **mid.is**



I will sing unto the Lord

TRADITIONAL ICELANDIC FOOD and International Dishes



Our Weekly Menu:

MONDAYS: Minced steak w. onions Lamb cutlets Fishballs	WEDNESDAYS: Salted lamb & pea soup Lamb cutlets	SATURDAYS: Fried fish fillets Lamb cutlets
TUESDAYS: Gratinated fish Lamb cutlets Meatballs	THURSDAYS: Lamb meat & broth Lamb cutlets	SUNDAYS: Roast pork Lamb cutlets
	FRIDAYS: Lamb chops Lamb cutlets	

Homelike food
International buffet
Grilled chicken
Sheep's head and Coke
Fish dishes
Hamburgers
Salad bar
Sandwich bar
Coffee and cakes



FLJÓTT OG GOTT



BSI BUS TERMINAL
HRINGBRAUT, REYKJAVIK
RESTAURANT OPEN 7-23:30 AND TAKE AWAY
ROUND THE CLOCK

12_RVK_GV_11_2007_OPINION

A Peter Parker Confirms: "The Truth Is Out There?"

Text by Marvin Lee Dupree



A great philosopher once said in a rather cryptic manner that nothing changes; one could say that our naked, tame souls cannot fathom this simple dictum of life, how our reality is merely constructed out of our simple hopes and childish beliefs. Meaning and change are part of the same illusion, stemming from a lack of ability to realise this uncomplicated truth. There is quite simply no single straightforward truth in life. In Buddhism, life is simply suffering until the final stage, Nirvana, is reached. Christianity invokes forgiveness and caritas or brotherly love. Islam is submission to the one true God head. For the neo-liberal it is money, stemming from greed, that is the alpha and omega. And for some the force is the truth. Others choose their own truth derived from a belief system as a cornerstone for their reality, or life, which is only a grain of sand in the whole cosmos. The many truths of the universe fill it up in a manner that recalls Archimedes' famous sand corn experiment.

And so, what once was is what still is, never becoming, since change and truths are illusions. A simple stroll down the annals of Western history sheds light on this "simple truth". In ancient times, even in Athens, when faced with rebellion, the ruling establishment crushed all resistance. In the Roman Empire, Spartacus was put to the cross first, then came Jesus. Much later in history there would not only be causalities but also belief systems that were forced down the throats of those who dared challenge the status quo, individuals such as Bruno, Abelard, Malcolm X and countless others.

Last weekend the foot soldiers, Storm Troopers and lovers of conformism, came forth with their self-righteous indignation at the dirty hippies, or, quite simply, the group Saving Iceland. You see, here in Iceland, the happiest country in Europe, we do not like those who disagree with our affluent lifestyle. The truth that heavy industry is needed is pumped into our belief systems, like our own personal crack stash being supplied by level-minded politicians and business men, both here in Iceland and abroad. Their truth will guide us poor souls. It doesn't really seem to matter that these companies supply the military or are guilty of foul play in other countries – as long as some people here can have their payday. "The prevailing truth" is that everybody that has a problem with heavy industry and shady companies – and takes action, something that has been done countless times in history – is now a filthy hippie who doesn't know any better.

For upholding their natural right and display of civil disobedience, three members of Saving Iceland were detained at the police station on Hverfisgata. When I arrived at the police station, after the news, I stood by in awe: Icelanders never challenge the status quo, or at least they have stopped trying. Once there were famous protests such as the Gúttóslagur – and who can forget, although most Icelanders were not born, the day Iceland joined NATO. The city was almost torn apart because different belief systems clashed in Austunvöllur. Nowa-

days, I fear that more people in Iceland know who 50 Cent is rather than say, Trotsky or Bakunin.

However, what struck me as being the most ridiculous thing about this affair was that during the whole police charade I noticed a lone figure way up on top of the police building, like the mysterious lone gun man (not Oswald) of the JFK assassination. He was taking photographs of the protesters and, of course by default, bystanders. While I gazed at this versatile legionnaire of justice, I was reminded of the simple story of Peter Parker's true origin. Stan Lee is not the sole creator of Spider Man or the Marvel Universe; actually, Jack Kirby is the true godfather of modern super hero comics. As luck would go, he is only a fringe figure acknowledged by geeks and nerds. Facts like this one shed light on how value systems and truth for some people can never be relative, and so there is always "the danger" for some to realise that a preconceived notion of truth is fallible when challenged by another truth. Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the phone is another example of this textbook fallacy of "established truths". A person who clings to these straws of truth, from what they view as the jaws of death, can be compared to a tight rope artist who never actually crosses over the rope because he never sees the point. He is safe, therefore, he is also right. I was awestruck by this herd mentality of the police officer, who was shooting photographs right and left, just as if he was being paid \$50 a piece by Jonah Jameson himself. Protesters and all those who dared stand by became victims of a "drive by photo shoot". Later, I actually called him out and, like a startled lemur, he recoiled his camera ever so quickly as if he had just been spotted masturbating in public. After taking a few steps away again from the building, I turned my back and when I looked back I noticed he had whipped his toy back out. With great power there comes great responsibility. But what of responsibility if your moral compass and mental bearing in life can only see black and white?

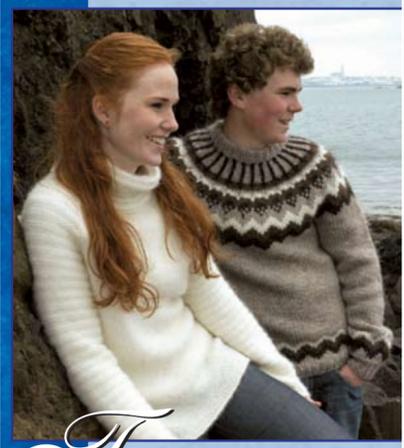
The amazing thing about all of this is the total lack of diverse and divided opinions voiced by most Icelanders. Most actually utter the same clichés. Their writing and whining reeks of the genuine mental sloth of those who lack most, if not all, of the cognitive abilities in their grey matter. Dirty hippies, stupid protesters. Those damn rebels. This is the epitome of lazy thinking. When is it allowable to protest? Obviously you cannot protest the arrival of a mass murderer to Iceland, who is responsible for the death of Chinese students. It is considered rude to protest the war on terrorism – and the list goes on ad nauseam. While some Icelanders sit at home launching a diatribe at "those hippies," they are at the same time teaching their children to be mindless lackeys, fat off of prostituting the land, obese because of KFC and McDonald's and immune to questioning the system. My truth might not be right, but at least I would be willing to stand and die by my convictions. However, the self righteous "good citizens" of "what is right" might flip the channel and order Dominos, all along clinging to one grain of "truth."

"The prevailing truth" is that everybody that has a problem with heavy industry and shady companies – and takes action, something that has been done countless times in history – is now a filthy hippie who doesn't know any better.

WWW.GRAPEVINE.IS

News // Culture // Dining // Travelling // Shopping

Buy directly
from the people
who make them



The Handknitting
Association
of Iceland

- Mini Mall IBA, IBA
Lækjargata 2,
Open every day 10-22
- Laugavegur 64
562 1890
- Skólavörðustígur 19
tel.: 552 1890
- Radisson SAS,
Hótel SAGA
tel.: 562 4788

Opening hours see www.handknit.is



I'M SENDING HAPPINESS

WESTERN UNION

Fast, reliable worldwide money transfer.

Landsbankinn
410 4000 | landsbanki.is

Contemporary Icelandic Design 19 May – 26 August

Magma/Kvika

Kjarvalsstaðir Straumur-Burðarás

Open daily 10–17.
Free entrance on Thursdays.

One admission ticket is valid for three days
in Hafnarhús, Kjarvalsstaðir and Ásmundur
Sveinsson Sculpture Museum.

www.listasafnreykjavikur.is listasafn@reykjavik.is

Listasafn Reykjavíkur Reykjavík Art Museum

MY OZ

My Oz 11 May – 19 August

Roni Horn

Hafnarhús KAUPPING samskip

Also visit Roni Horn's Vatnasafn / Library of Water in Sýkkishölmur.
www.libraryofwater.is

Tel +354 590 1200 Fax +354 590 1201

© 2007 WESTERN UNION HOLDINGS, INC. All rights reserved.

MySpace vs. Facebook

Text by Helga Þórey Jónsdóttir

When browsing through the curious realms of the Internet, many find the need to partake and express themselves in the online world of abstract rules. While most of us do not have the skills to make our own websites, others get paid to do just that. Since the Internet became an open media for the public, many different ways of web communication have been born. The IRC was very popular a few years ago, and blogging has become quite the necessity. Not everyone likes to blog though, most people like to stay in touch in a lot less formal way. With a generation of savvy users, the demand for a sophisticated network increased – Friendster gained a level of notoriety but nothing prepared the world for the imminent web-domination of MySpace.

MySpace catered to the needs of individuals of modest computer skills. One could easily register and get a page without having to understand mark-up languages like HTML. One could visit another website and choose a layer over the original webpage and thus personalize it by copying a code into the administrative part of one's profile. The majority of MySpace users didn't have a clue what they were doing, but with the help of YouTube and similar sites, many learned that they could easily copy codes and move them around the Internet with good results. The fact that this is possible makes MySpace charming, but also hard to work with. Profiles with dozens of pictures, videos and/or music players use up a lot of bandwidth and are hard to open in a short amount of time. This also puts a strain on the MySpace server. Most users have at one time or another been greeted with the message: "Sorry! an unexpected error has occurred. This error has been forwarded to MySpace's technical group."

Technical problems are not the only ones facing MySpace. The web-community has encountered yet another contestant for the love of the everyday surfer. Facebook has arrived. With standardized layouts and no possibilities of importing HTML or CSS to change the appearance of the profiles, Facebook manages to keep its customers happy and speedily updated. Facebook doesn't allow its users to control as much as they could on MySpace and keeps the process of communication far lighter on its system. In turn, they are not only stealing MySpace users, they are also reaching a new crowd.

Easy does it

Facebook fans aren't necessarily avid Internet users. Many of them are regular people, some very afraid of computers. They've been invited to join the community through one of their daily e-mail joking friends and found it pleasingly simple. A friend of mine said "I found MySpace way too hard, I was scared that I would do something wrong." Of course I know that MySpace isn't all that difficult to manage, as I've been a user for a while. That doesn't mean everyone feels the same way.

The terror of doing something wrong with computers is very common. Many people I know are terrified of installing programs or running Ad-Aware. It is a relief for them to find a web community that doesn't rely on this kind of knowledge in such an obvious way. In my heyday as a MySpace user, I found many problems without solutions. After reading through their manuals and sending countless emails only to get standardized

replies, I realized that few problems would be fixed on MySpace unless a lot of people had enough of them. In a social network system that counts 189 million users, it's hard to have a voice.

Spam is death

Spamming has become a huge problem on MySpace. But the bigger problem is that the users of MySpace know so little about what they are doing that they don't do anything to prevent it from spreading. Comments filled with ringtone ads, Macy's gift cards and invitations to see who's clicking on your profile are terrorizing users everywhere. The bulletin board is filled with sex ads and ringtones. Sometimes users receive these ads in messages from friends who don't realize they've been hacked and need to change their passwords so they'll stop sending others spam. Facebook is blissfully rid of all these problems. What's even better is the fact that, at least until now, Facebook's founder, Mark Zuckerberg, refuses to sell his company to big investors. Not only does he gain respect from the users of his system but his peers as well. Unlike the owners of YouTube and MySpace, the owner of Facebook hasn't caved in to the money men. Not yet.

Not selling out?

In return, the users of Facebook find a web community with fewer ads, less viruses and spam problems and a broader spectrum of users. In May, Zuckerberg opened the Facebook system so that other software developers could contribute to his system. These applications can now be added to a Facebook profile if one chooses to do so. Most of the applications modify the profiles to show what type of books/music/films the user likes.

The loud music promotion of MySpace is not to be found on Facebook. Most applications don't even provide full songs. The colourful sites are not there and the only thing that makes a site worth seeing is a picture of the owner and the amount of information he or she cares to share with the world. Privacy is restricted to geography of networks and anyone can close their profile to strangers in a similar way MySpace users can.

Whatever the purpose, both sites have their venue but I find that my friends on Facebook are not quite the same friends I have on MySpace. Still, I have a feeling that my Icelandic friend count is growing fast.

Comments filled with ringtone ads, Macy's gift cards and invitations to see who's clicking on your profile are terrorizing users everywhere. The bulletin board is filled with sex ads and ringtones.

ExperienceIce-land

Easy Glacier Adventures for Everyone

Ice Climbing

Ascension of Iceland's Highest Peak

Hot Spring Hike

Trekking and Backpacking

Icelandic Mountain Guides

Booking and information: www.mountainguide.is - Tel: +354 587 9999



Seafood is our speciality



A lively seafood restaurant by the Reykjavik harbor.

- Lunch buffet
- Seafood buffet
- Fish and chips
- A world famous seafood soup
- Catch of the day
- Healthy vegetarian dish
- Breakfast



Grandagarði 9 · 101 Reykjavík · tel. +354 517 3131
www.sjavarbarinn.com

NEW GREEN GROLSCH BOTTLE
BEER THAT LOOKS AS GOOD AS IT TASTES

Grolsch
PREMIUM PILSNER

Welcome to the Leifur Eiriksson Air Terminal



Quality goods, tax and duty free prices

The shops at Leifur Eiriksson Air Terminal offer a fantastic range of international brand products as well as Icelandic products at tax-free prices. The number of shops in the terminal has increased and the range of products has never been greater. An ideal opportunity for passengers to shop while waiting for their flight.

Arrive early - Enjoy tax-free shopping

For maximum comfort, we recommend arriving at the air terminal 2 hours before departure. You'll find further information on services at the terminal at www.airport.is

Check-in begins 2 hours before departure!



Tapas *Get a taste of the best of Iceland*
...with a little bit of spanish thrown in!

Choose from over 70 courses, ranging from lobster and various types of fish to Icelandic lamb in the greatest of atmosphere. A must try is our famous puffin with blueberry and "brennivín" sauce.

GREAT TAPAS FROM KR. 550.-

THE ONLY KITCHEN OPEN TO:
01:00 ON WEEKENDS
23:30 DURING THE WEEK

ICELAND'S ONLY AUTHENTIC TAPAS-BAR
TEL: 551-2344 • EMAIL: TAPAS@TAPAS.IS
ADDRESS: VESTURGATA 3B • 101 REYKJAVÍK

TONYS COUNTY
ÖLFUSHÖLLINI
We are different!

Restaurant Open from 11 am to 10 pm
Bar Open to 1 am on weekdays and to 3 am during weekends
Activity Call us or send us an email to schedule

We are located 40 min. from Reykjavik
For further information call 481 3070 or send us an email tonys@tonys.is • www.tonys.is

"You haven't been in Iceland
if you haven't been to us"
Don't miss it!

Viking feasts every night
- live entertainment

- Hotel
- Restaurants
- Souvenirs



For booking and
further information:
Tel.: +354 565-1213
www.vikingvillage.is
vikings@vikingvillage.is
Strandgata 55 Hafnarfjörður



Roots Tourism in Hofsvós

Text by Ian Watson Photo courtesy of Nelson Gerrard

At the Icelandic Emigration Centre in Hofsvós, Nelson Gerrard shows me a thick, heavy book that he wrote about the lives and descendants of the Icelanders who settled on the shores of Lake Winnipeg in Canada. Gerrard, a retired high school history and English teacher from Manitoba who is Icelandic on his mother's side, is one of the two staff genealogists at the centre. He is a tall, strong man who speaks carefully and methodically and gives off a sense of credibility. He carries in his mind an encyclopaedic knowledge of the names and life stories of Icelandic emigrants to America. Today he is busy at the computer answering one query from an Icelandic woman, who is going to Canada in a few weeks and wants to meet cousins her family has lost track of, and another from a Canadian woman, who is planning a visit to Hofsvós this summer. An elderly Icelandic man whose parents went to Canada and then came back to Iceland stops by. He is pleased when Gerrard finds his family's records in the centre's database.

The Emigration Centre, or Vesturfarasætrið, has done for Hofsvós what whale watching did for Húsavík, or saltfish for Grindavík, or what the Settlement Centre hopes to do for the old centre of Borgarnes. In Hofsvós, a town of only about two hundred inhabitants, four old buildings on either side of the swift stream that flows into the sea by the harbour have been renovated, the oldest dating from 1777. They've been turned into a museum and research centre for people interested in the experience of the twenty-thousand odd Icelanders who emigrated to North America in the later years of the nineteenth century. The whole thing was the brainchild of Valgeir Þorvaldsson, who is also the man behind the Icelandic flag factory in Hofsvós. The idea at Hofsvós is not unique. Many other Northern European countries have similar emigration centres, such as the Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö.

The reason why roots tourists should visit Hofsvós is to spend a day among people who are devoted to Icelandic genealogy and the Icelandic emigrant experience. It's sensible to do as much family history research at home as possible before visiting, but the centre also has a growing library of Icelandic genealogy books and a computer database. Let them know you're coming, as the staff welcome e-mail and will answer simple queries for free (hofsvos@hofsvos.is). You'll need to pay them to do any more extensive research.

The centre has three museum-style exhibitions, very professionally put together and fully labelled in English and Icelandic. One focuses on the emigrant experience, another on life in North America, and the third, called "Silent Flashes," presents the best images from Nelson Gerrard's collection of over ten thousand photographs of Icelandic emigrants to North America. (The man on

the right in the photo above is Jóhannes Stefansson, the older brother of Icelandic-Canadian explorer Vilhjálmur Stefansson. His friend on the left is unidentified.) Gerrard is always looking to add to his collection. Contact him through his website, www.sagapublications.com, if you have photos to give away or share.

Entry to the exhibitions costs 400 ISK each, or 900 ISK for all three. The centre is open daily from 11:00-18:00 from June through August, and by arrangement the rest of the year (tel. 453-7935, further information at www.hofsvos.is).

Hofsvós has several guesthouses (which can be booked through www.hofsvos.is), a harbour-side restaurant called Sölvík with 1,500 ISK fish dinners, a cafe and bar called Sigtún which serves burgers, a post office, grocery store, and gas station. There's a super view of Þórðarhöfði, Drangey island and the mountains on the other side of Skagafjörður. You can also eat or stay a twenty minute drive away at the agricultural university in Hólar (www.holar.is). As it's well off Highway 1 and tends to attract more American than European visitors, Hofsvós is quieter in summer than the average Icelandic destination. Driving time from Reykjavík is four hours, not counting stops. The new road over Þverárfjall from Blönduós to Sauðárkrúkur is not completely paved yet, but is already passable, and shortens the trip.

Besides the Emigration Centre, Icelandic-American essayist and poet Bill Holm spends summers in Hofsvós and runs one-week writing seminars every May or June (US\$3300 per person double occupancy, airfare from the US included, 20 participants max, see www.billholm.com). He has finished a new book called "Windows of Brimnes: An American in Iceland", which will come out in October. About five kilometres north of Hofsvós, a summer colony for visual artists and architects has just been opened at a farm called Bær, and is accepting applications. Successful candidates come five at a time for a month during the summer and receive free room, board, and working space, but must get themselves to Hofsvós on their own (more info at www.baer.is).

The Emigration Centre has done for Hofsvós what whale watching did for Húsavík, or saltfish for Grindavík.

Minimum age of 18 at camping sites, unless accompanied by a responsible adult

VINIR AKUREYRAR
Friends of Akureyri present
the family festival
"All in One"
2007

AKUREYRI
ÖLL LÍFSINS GÆÐI

TÍVOLI UK
AFRIKA LOLE
PÁLL ÓSKAR
BÚRI OG BÍNA
GALLERÍ RÓLÓ
SÖNGVABORG
DANCING
INSTRUCTION
DRAMA
PERFORMANCES

ALL IN ONE
3 - 6 AUGUST 2007

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME
IN GLERÁ CHURCH
TREASURE HUNT
GAMES INSTRUCTION COURSES
SINGSTAR COMPETITION
RAPID CHESS TOURNAMENT
BARBECUES
OPEN AIR COMMUNITY SINGING
FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Björgvin Halldórsson • Bjössí bolla • Diagon • Gulli og Halla með lög úr söngleiknum AbbaBabb • Hafstraumar • Hara systur
Helena Eyjólfsdóttir • Helgi og hljóðfæraleikararnir • Hvítir mávar • Jógvan • Jump Fit - Valdís og Saga • Leikfélagið Sýnir
Ljótú hálfvitarnir • Magnús „Prins Póló“ Ólafsson • Mc Gauti og Siggí Bahama • Orri trúður • Ódádahraun • Skúli Gautason
Sniðlabandið • Sprengjuhöllin • Stuðmenn • Tina Turner Tribute • Tortímandinn • Tortýri • 2 leikmenn • Von

BÓNUS **EIMSKIP** **101** **GOÐI** **HAGKAUP** **Egils APPELSÍN**
GREIÐ LEIÐ ...þegar þér hentar Skemmtilegast að versla Þetta erna þoww



Dining out?
Check out our
many food
reviews online!

WWW.GRAPEVINE.IS



G! Festival: Like Valhalla's Own Music Fest

Text by Ben H. Murray Photos by Ólavur Frederiksen

To the untrained mind of your average European, Iceland and the Faroe Islands suffer the same relationship as Spain and Portugal, England and Scotland or Holland and Belgium – they're the same but different. How very wrong they are. Thankfully, to the unsuspecting visitor, nothing polarises these significant cultural differences more than a festival, in this case G! Festival on the shores of a remote fishing village called Gøta.

Perhaps the only similarity between the two island nations is the approach by plane which, in both cases, is like something out of a disaster movie, but without the sticky ending. Iceland looks like you're landing on the moon, albeit a cold, volcanic version, whilst the approach to the Faroes could be likened to the mass of green hills and blue water you see when landing in Hawaii or a lush tropical island.

With the airport behind us and the journey to Gøta completed, I was given a tour around the festival site. The main stage was on the beach with calm waters lapping up from the fjord and mountainous hills overlooking the other three sides of the arena – it was like being in Valhalla's own music festival except that maybe Valhalla wouldn't have hosted a substantial whale kill the week before which, as it was explained to me in a very matter-of-fact way, was good as all of the blood had now washed off of the beach. Another stage was placed in a burnt-down fish drying house and a third on a synthetic handball pitch, which was a welcome change from the muddy field that normally hosts such arenas.

Faroesse Brew and Eclectic Music

Two days later the festival sprung into life as the rocky camping field filled with tents, crates of the local Faroesse brew and a crowd to whom this event clearly meant a great deal. Whilst veering towards the youthful end of the local population, the festival had also attracted many visitors from Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, France, Scotland and a few intrepid Brits who,

by this point, were wondering if this was a giant joke – drinks called Jolly, Squizz, Peru and dried pilot whale aren't normally available at Glastonbury or other European events but, for many, this simply added to the feeling of intrigue and charm that was already building around the festival.

Whilst the first day was heavily based around local Faroesse bands such as 200, Gestir and Kári Svansson, the second day was a delight of eclectic music programming and bizarre experiences with Pétur Ben providing the first music display worthy of the glorious surroundings. He played a sensible mix of songs from Wine For My Weakness and it was clear that most people sitting on the synthetic grass had been waiting for his performance. They knew all the words to Do Something Radical and several other tracks, but the real highlight was when Pétur walked off of the stage. Not because that was the end of his set, but because everyone knew he couldn't end his set there and there must be more music saved for the encore.

They were right and the crowd surged towards the stage as he re-appeared to play his solo version Billie Jean in the early-evening sun. Without Siggí Baldursson on drums and his laid-back bass player, Pétur was still able to tease the crowd with his gradual build up to the chorus and, as those not in the know realised who wrote the track, a cheer grew and hands reached for the baby blue sky in honour of an artist who made local star Teitur (who followed Pétur on the bill that day) sound like James Blunt's less talented, slightly inbred cousin. The crowd weren't the only ones who relished the festival, as Siggí revealed after his stint on drums: "I enjoyed it very much, despite the horrid hangover!"

Immediately after Teitur's borefest came London's Metronomy to save us all from turning to alcohol to make the day more interesting. They were very impressive in comparison. Consisting of three black-clad men behind

three keyboards, they produced epic dance music. As well as being very amiable chaps, they also had one of the slickest sets of the festival so far despite their lighting system failing in the intense and unexpected sunlight.

Dr. Spock's Mayhem

Sometimes it was as if the person who programmed the festival was trying to confound us – one minute the stage would be taken by a middle-of-the-road troubadour like Eivør and the next a band like Sic would come on and you could almost see the salmon housed in the off-shore nets making a bid for the beach to see what was going on. Sic are the Faroesse equivalent of a Slayer tribute band crossed with Korn's less annoying brother, but sadly their hardcore rock image was totally destroyed as their lead singer consistently strode around the site pushing the very middle-class combination of pram and child, with his wife dutifully alongside. Ignoring this display for 45 minutes was, however, absolutely possible as their set was the heaviest thing to appear in the bay since last week's whale visitation, but the result was a little easier to digest. "So", we thought, "this is what Faroesse counter culture is all about..." as the entire population of the nation's metal kids danced like a handball pitch had never been danced on before. Sic are a special band but one that could do with adding some variety to the grunted vocals and thrashed guitar solos. However, they pull off the counter culture icon image pretty well when you consider that the total population of the Faroes numbers under 50,000 and there can't be that many metal fans to propel such a movement from obscurity into the mainstream.

It's rare that the festival goer would have the opportunity to make a fish-like bid for the ocean when a particular artist is playing, but the thought of watching Natasha Beddingfield on the Friday night inspired us to flag down a small boat to take us to the schooner anchored off-shore for an hour or two. This, we

reasoned, would allow us to be as far away from the walking blonde bum note as possible without leaving the site. Sadly, the words of her many mediocre songs could still reach us, but, now safely dressed in a one-piece thermal suit with beer in hand, it didn't seem so bad as it might have from the beach.

Saturday gave no similar reasons to escape to the high seas and, once again, the Icelandic bands provided some of the most unique sets of the festival. Dr Spock played one of the closing sets and the mayhem they instigated was something to behold. They handed out trademark pink rubber gloves like confetti and the whole display, from the music to the spray-on lycra outfits, was one of chaotic genius. Earlier in the day, Sweden's Loney, Dear played for 45 minutes (but would've been welcome to play all afternoon) and Hatesphere took up the metal baton where Sic had dropped it.

Looking back, the festival brings back many happy memories – some of them intentionally brilliant, others brilliant in their strangeness, but all smile-inducing and enough to make the G! Festival an incredible experience, even if the music wasn't quite as spectacular as the surroundings.

[Dr. Spock] handed out trademark pink rubber gloves like confetti and the whole display, from the music to the spray-on lycra outfits, was one of chaotic genius.



Bringing Art to the Public

Text by Steinunn Jakobsdóttir

'Miðbaugur og Kringla: Leisure, Administration and Control' is the name of a collaborative exhibition of 11 visual artists that will open in various spaces in Reykjavík on July 21. The participating group, which consists of artists from Iceland, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway, France and Estonia, originally came together in 2005, when chosen to create a grand-scale exhibition for a culture festival set to take place in Berlin the following year. They invaded the Potsdamer Platz train station, smack in the city's centre, and put up installations that grabbed the passenger's attention beyond all expectations.

Working within this crowded intersection inspired the artists to continue the collaboration and as they all share the same interest in working with public spaces, two of Reykjavík's largest were the obvious targets. The spacious Kringlan shopping mall and the old city centre will experience a four-week transformation when Kringlan's entrance, hallways, shops and car park, downtown Austurvöllur, Miklabraut traffic street and Miklatún outdoor park, among others, will be used for installations, photo displays and performances during the period.

The exhibition catalogue reads that the group chose these two destinations because to them they are the most important meeting spots in the capital and represent in a prominent way what Iceland and Reykjavík are. Although very distinct in size and shape, these spaces both serve as busy shopping destinations as well as favoured hangouts for locals and travellers alike.

"We are looking at the purpose these areas serve and how people use them," they explain. This will be a wide-ranging project, which hopefully will attract the pedestrians who frequent these places. The goal is to make the exhibition very visible but also interactive, so the viewer can be part of the projects. When shopping, heading to work or strolling around downtown in search for some afternoon fun, you therefore might stumble upon some intriguing art-piece along the way and forget all about your former missions.

The exhibition's opening will take place at two locations on July 21. At 15:00 the temporary-showroom Kringlan reveals its facelift and at 17:30, the exhibition inside the Reykjavík City Hall opens to the public. From there, a walk around the centre will lead to Gallery Dwarf on Grundartígur, where the opening ceremony concludes at around 20:00.

Nesjavellir: Experience Nature at Reykjavik's Doorstep

The area surrounding the geothermal power plant at Nesjavellir is a region of spectacular nature within easy reach of Reykjavík, accessible to hikers and other nature lovers. A visit to the power plant itself is also a revealing experience.

Reykjavík Energy has put much effort into making the area accessible to visitors by providing marked paths, information signs, cabins, and maps. The visitor centre is open this summer on Mondays through Saturdays from 9:00 to 17:00 and on Sundays from 13:00 to 18:00.



Further information on www.or.is

www.or.is



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 Reykjavík'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	
13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00	13:00
				17:00	17:00	17:00

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

Elding
adventure at sea

“This is among the reasons why the system has failed to reach its original purpose: cod stock now is smaller than ever before. I say to hell with it!”

Text by Haukur Magnússon and his amazing panel of experts Photos by Gulli

My cousin Gummi put it best: “The problem with the quota system is that it’s always been discussed in such an obscure, specialized language that no one really understands how it works, what it’s meant to do and why.”

Raised in the same remote Westfjords fishing village (3,000 strong Ísafjörður, proud capital of our nation’s northwest), Gummi and I both share memories of grimacing in pain and anxiety whenever the subject of Iceland’s fishing regulatory system (sometimes known as “the quota system”) came up – and that happened a lot in our family. It has a way of infuriating people, causing arguments, breaking up families, even instigating the formation of entire political parties.

And perhaps it should. It is an awfully weighty subject; the way Icelanders manage their fish harvesting directly affects all of them, although most choose not to notice nowadays. And those who do notice, those who claim to understand, are usually heavily at odds with one another. Uncovering the simple truths and facts of the matter in order to half-decently explain the system to an outsider seems a wholly Sisyphean task, as no one really agrees on what they are, or if there even are any.

This is why we decided to ask all of them, at least as many as we could comfortably fit within a spread. We posed several questions pertaining to the Icelandic quota system’s nature, purpose and effect to a small number of people that are in some way or the other connected to it and have voiced opinions on it in the past.

What is the Icelandic Quota System (or ITQ system)?

Benedikt Jóhannesson (BJ), Reykjavík, is a mathematician, publisher and CEO who has, among other things, worked as a statistical and actuarial advisor: “In the late seventies and early eighties, cod fishing went up greatly. Almost every small town invested and had its own trawler and fish processing plant. After all, the vast ocean was there like a chest full of cod. The politicians had a ball, but the specialists at the Icelandic Marine Research Institute (MRI) were not amused. Year after year they recommended that the total fish harvest should be reduced. They reminded the nation of the case of the herring of the sixties. The “silver of the sea” had suddenly vanished without warning in 1967, after years of Klondike-like atmosphere in the north and east.

In 1983, a new temporary system of fishing quotas, setting a total allowable catch (TAC), was introduced by then fisheries minister, Halldór Ásgrímsson. The system was supposed to last only three years. Some members of the parliament were strongly against quota regulation but accepted it as a temporary measure. The quotas issued were based on the catch of each vessel in the previous three years. And then there were exceptions. The system was extended temporarily in the years after 1986, until it was made permanent in 1990.”

Einar Kristinn Guðfinnsson (EKG), Bolungarvík, is a veteran Independence Party MP and Iceland’s Minister of Fisheries since 2005:

“The ITQ (Individual Transferable Quotas) system was introduced in 1984 as a response to serious reports about the state of Iceland’s cod stock. Thus, you might say the original purpose was to ensure that our overall fishing didn’t surpass agreed-upon restrictions on the TAC. It has of course evolved since its inception and is now also has the stated purpose of encouraging optimization within the field, reducing costs, etc. This has been achieved by individualizing the quota; it is allotted to individual vessels in accordance with the law.

Today, it’s actually a three part system, consisting of the general ITQ system, where most of the TAC is caught, then there’s a system that caters to the smaller vessels, and finally one that’s aimed at strengthening the smaller regions with so-called “line-concessions” for vessels that meet certain conditions. Those get a 16% discount, as it were, off

The Crazy World of the Quota System (somehow Explained)



info.

- ▲ ArtFart Festival Hetero-Heroes Shots from Romania Nico Muhly Concert
- Gay Pride Vetiver Concert Innipúkinn Music Festival Seabear Interview
- Gallery Crush Toys for Tourists Jens Lekman Interview Food Reviews
- Shopping Music, Art, Films and Events Listings ▶



(seabear)^{B6}
Fully-fledged and ready for Innipúkinn



Downtown – August 7-19

ArtFart Festival

For the second year in a row, the contemporary young artists' festival ArtFart will take place in downtown Reykjavik during August 7-19. The festival will feature a variety of performance art including theatre, dance, and video work from young artists from around the world. It will be held in the performance spaces of the Icelandic Arts Academy, including the old student theatre at Sölvhóls-gata, and in Tjarnarbíó.

"The ArtFart Festival is an experimental platform for young artists who have the aspiration to contribute to innovation and experimentation within the Icelandic theatre," says Ásgerður Gunnarsdóttir and Karl Ágúst Þorbergsson, the program's

directors.

"We ask ourselves what is the purpose of performance art within the society. What is its relevance? Has it lost its purpose or has there never been more need for it? We want to break up the stereotype of performance art in Iceland as a literary genre and open up for a criticism and argument about the form itself."

According to the festival organisers, the festival has evolved from its freshman effort in that this year the new dance and theatre performances should serve as a platform for discussion about the state of performance art in Iceland. The festival is also working in collaboration with the Reykjavik Dance Festival, led by Erna

Ómarsdóttir, which will take place in early September.

As compared to last year's eight, this year's fifteen groups will perform throughout the week, and well over 1,000 people are expected to attend.

The festival has been awarded a grant by the City of Reykjavik, as well as the Memorial Fund of Margrét Björgólfssdóttir, and has received support from the Art Academy of Iceland in the form of practice and performance spaces. Tickets can be ordered at 821-7987.

For more information visit www.myspace.com/artfarticeiland.

Smíðjan – From August 7

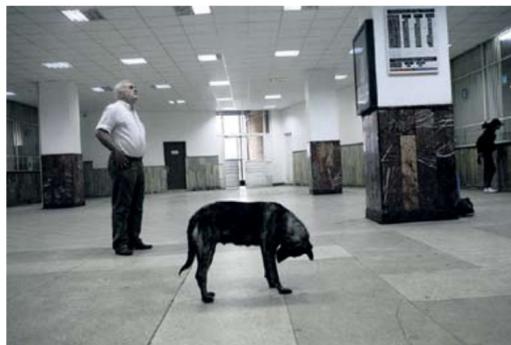
Hetero-Heroes at Smíðjan

Heteróhetjur: Með fullri virðingu fyrir Ashley Cole, or Hetero-heroes: With full respect for Ashley Cole, is a new tragicomedy put on by acting students from the Icelandic Academy of the Arts in Reykjavik. The play follows the strange relationship between British football champs Ashley Cole and William Gallas, set in the VIP room of a swanky London club. Diving into the private lives of the rich and famous, the work tackles head-on the worship of celebrity, relationships and love, and the battle to be yourself in the face

of adverse circumstances.

The play, spoken in English and Icelandic, will premier at the ArtFart Festival on August 7 at Smíðjan by students from the Icelandic Academy of the Arts in Reykjavik. The play follows the strange relationship between British football champs Ashley Cole and William Gallas, set in the VIP room of a swanky London club. Diving into the private lives of the rich and famous, the work tackles head-on the worship of celebrity, relationships and love, and the battle to be yourself in the face

For more information visit www.myspace.com/heterohetjur Smíðjan, Sölvhóls-gata 13



Reykjavik Museum of Photography – Until August 29

Shots from Romania

Fascinated by gypsy culture, Erla Stefánsdóttir bravely packed up her photography and video equipment and headed to the far-removed reaches of eerie Romania without any idea as to what kind of thrills or horrors she might encounter. The 40-year-old graduate of CSU Sacramento's Media Studies programme finally gave into her interests and allowed her wanderlust to take her haphazardly through the eastern European nation for one week in May, using the train as her primary

means of transportation. Her exhibit revolves greatly around the act of transit. Most of the photographs were shot out the windows of moving cars, buses, and trains.

Aside from shots of the breathtaking Romanian landscape, the exhibition will also showcase Stefánsdóttir's interest in electrical cords, particularly at train and bus stations.

Reykjavik Museum of Photography, Tryggvagata 17.

12 Tónar – July 27

Nico Muhly in Concert

"Chamber music with an electronic twist" is how 26-year old Nico Muhly's music has been described. You can catch the composer/conductor/performer, who is back in town after his appearance at Airwaves 2006, on Friday 27 at 5 pm when he plays in-store (free) at record store 12 Tónar. Muhly, who hails from Vermont, released his critically acclaimed debut album, *Speaks Volumes*, through producer Valgeir Sigurðsson's record label Bedroom Community earlier this year. Since graduating with a

Master's in composition in 2004, Muhly has worked on productions with artists as diverse as Björk, to Antony of Antony and the Johnsons, to the American ballet Theatre – he's even performed on stage with Lou Reed. His extensive biography also includes film credits such as Joshua, released earlier this year and *The Manchurian Candidate*.

12 Tónar, Skólavörðustíg 15, 101 Reykjavík



Downtown – August 9-12

Gay Pride

It's that time of year again when Reykjavik's streets are transformed into one huge colourful party – Gay Pride. The festival, which is in its ninth year, kicks off on Thursday, August 9, when the Pride Club opens at Q-bar. Later that same day, club Domo will host a concert with Didda and Mina, Elvis & Sarah Greenwood.

The opening ceremony takes place at Loftkastalinn theatre the next day, but the Pride Parties will climax at midnight when Q-bar's Laidnight and Barinn's Boysnight kick off. The event of course also features

the annual well-attended Gay Parade on Saturday, August 11. The parade starts at Hlemmur and heads down Laugavegur, to an outdoor concert on Lækjargata. In the spirit of gay solidarity, Gay Parade is attended by all – lesbians and gay men, friends, relatives, fellow citizens, families and foreign visitors. Last year over 40,000 people attended the parade. One sure way to stand out in the crowd is to bring along a float – get you're application in by August 3.

For more info see: www.gaypride.is



Organ – August 10

Vetiver in Concert

It seems that the music press can't spell "Vetiver" these days without turning it into "Devendra Banhart". The re-emergence of the '60s San Francisco flower-child ethos (Joanna Newsom, Vashti Bunya, Devendra et al.) has seen the rise of clever acid-dropping music collectives all across the Bay Area. In a breakaway from the prince of nu-folk Banhardt's own band and collective, South Carolina native Andy Cabcic decided to go independent and form a collective of his own. He named them Vetiver. They have already begun to make a name for themselves as the keyholders to the accessible side of the nu-folk genre. LSD lite, maybe?

Vetiver's recently released second album, *To Find Me Gone*, has been called "sublime...[living] up to the scent of the essential oil they were named after" by Uncut, and is a re-invigorated mix-up of genres from across the '60s board. The cameo appearances are impressive, with My Bloody Valentine's Colm O'Ciisoig, Mazzy Star's Hope Sandoval, and the fairy-dust sprinkling Joanna Newsom all contributing to the tracks on *To Find Me Gone*. Banhart himself even takes the back seat to the rising Vetiver, as he smokes up a few guitar and vocal parts for the album.

It's also not uncommon for Vetiver to have surprise guest appear-

ances at their gigs; with famous '60s and '00s acts adding to the core collective of Andy Cabcic, cellist Alissa Anderson and Violinist, Jim Gaylord (all formerly of Devendra Banhardt's back-up band as well.)

Smekkleysa and Fat Cat Records have joined forces to make sure that Vetiver spreads some of its Northern California joy to the fading Reykjavik summer early this August. On August 10, the San Francisco collective will be one of the first acts to grace the stage at the soon-to-be-opened downtown venue Organ by Hafnarstræti. Doors open at 20:00.

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

Music

12 Tónar record shop
Skólavörðustígur 15
Fri 27.07 Nico Muhly in concert. Starts at 17:00
Fri 03.08 Warm-up for Innipúkinn. Starts at 17:00
Fri 10.08 Reykjavik! in concert. Starts at 17:00
Bar 11
Laugavegur 11
A popular hangout spot for Reykjavik's rockers and their young idolaters with DJs playing classic rock'n'roll hits.
Fri 27.07 DJ Aron
Sat 28.07 Bob Soap, Thugs on Parole and Slugs in concert / DJ Óli Dóri Weapons
Fri 03.08 DJ Biggi Maus
Sat 04.08 DJ Óli Weapons
Sun 05.08 DJ Aron
Tue 07.08 Concerts: French band Sed Non Satiata and local acts Myra and Celine
Fri 10.08 DJ Gulli Ósoma
Sat 11.08 DJ Óli Weapons
Barinn
Laugavegur 22
Vibrant late-night party place and a nice roomy bistro during the day.
Fri 27.07 DJ Maggi Legó / DJ Kvikindi
Sat 28.07 DJ Hjalti / DJ Drulla
Wed 01.03 Triangle Production
Thu 02.08 Breakbeat night

Fri 03.08 ItaloDisco / DJ Don Disco
Sat 04.08 DJ Yamaha / DJ Steinunn and Silja
Sun 05.08 DJ Erni
Thu 09.08 ItaloDisco
Fri 10.08 Gay Pride event: Boy's dance with DJ Manny
Sat 11.08 DJ Barcode / Terrordisco and DJ Halli
Café Amsterdam
Hafnarstræti 5
Fri 27.07 DJ Master
Sat 28.07 Rhonda and the Runestones / DJ Master
Fri 03.08 DJ Sesar
Sat 04.08 Band Quiz plays
Sun 05.08 DJ of the House
Fri 10.08 DJ Fúsi
Sat 11.08 DJ Fúsi
Café Hjómaliind
Hverfisgata 18
Music from the world's four corners
Fri 27.07 DJ Baldvin
Sat 28.07 DJ Lupin
Café Hjómaliind
Laugavegur 21
Sat 28.07 PunkRock Hjómaliind presents: PRF from the USA, I Adapt, Morðingjarnir and Brat Pack. Starts at 19:00
Fri 10.08 DJ Gulli Ósoma
Sat 11.08 DJ Óli Weapons
Café Paris
Austurstræti 14
Fri 27.07 DJ Lucky plays soul, funk, reggae and hip-hop
Sat 28.07 DJ Bórkur plays soul, funk, reggae and hip-hop
Fri 03.08 DJ Lucky plays soul, funk, reggae and hip-hop
Sat 04.08 DJ Bórkur plays soul, funk,

reggae and hip-hop
Fri 10.08 DJ Lucky plays soul, funk, reggae and hip-hop
Sat 11.08 DJ Bórkur plays soul, funk, reggae and hip-hop
Dillon
Laugavegur 30
Legendary rock pub featuring live concerts every Wednesday night and rock DJs every weekend.
Fri 27.07 BBQ and music with radio-station Reykjavik FM / DJ Óli Dóri
Sat 28.07 DJ Andrea Jóns
Sat 04.08 DJ Andrea Jóns
Sat 11.08 DJ Andrea Jóns
Domo
Þingholtsstræti 5
Thu 09.08 Gay Pride event: Didda & Mina rakastan, Sinua Elvis and Sarah Greenwood in concert
Hressó
Austurstræti 20
Here, troubadours play sing-alongs until midnight, followed by DJs playing whatever the crowd is aching for at the time.
Sat 28.07 Lady and the Sea followed by DJ Fúsi
Thu 02.08 Dalton in concert
Fri 03.08 DJ Maggi / live music
Sat 04.08 DJ Maggi / live music
Sun 05.08 Troubadour Helgi Valur
Thu 09.08 Troubadours Böddi and Danni
Fri 10.08 Menn Ársins in concert
Sat 11.08 Troubadours Public
Jómfrúin
Lækjargata 4
Sat 28.07 Summerjazz series: Sunna

and Scott quartet
Sat 04.08 Reynir Sigurðsson trio
Kaffibarinn
Bergstaðastræti 1
With a mixture of techno, reggae, hip-hop and classic dance hits, the DJs are usually capable of crowding this frisky bar every single night of the week.
Fri 27.07 DJ Benni B-Ruff
Sat 28.07 DJ Nuno
Loftkastalinn Theatre
Seljavegur 2
Fri 10.08 Gay Pride opening event: Miss Vicky, Pay TV and others. Pride Party after the show
NASA
Thorvaldsenstræti 2
Sat 28.07 DJ Áki Pain
Sat 04.08 Flex Music presents: Alex Anderson
Fri 10.08 Gay Pride event: Pride dance
Prikið
Bankastræti 12
Fri 27.07 Þúðarbandið in concert / DJ Rósa
Sat 28.07 Street-art competition / DJ Gisli Galdur
Wed 03.08 Crazy Nights
Thu 04.08 Crazy Nights
Fri 05.08 Crazy Nights
Q-bar
Ingólfsstræti 3
Stylish and vibrant gay / straight-friendly bar and party venue. Cosy on weekends and full of surprises on weekends.
Fri 27.07 Elli and Maggi DJ set
Sat 28.07 DJ Peter Parker
Thu 02.08 DJ Þórir

Fri 03.08 DJ Shaft
Sat 04.08 DJ Kvikindi
Sun 05.08 DJ Yamaha
Thu 09.08 Q Boy (UK)
Fri 10.08 Gay Pride event: Girl's dance with DJ Eva María and Birna Björk
Sat 11.08 Gay Pride event: Sometime, Aaron Carl (US) and many more
Salurinn Concert Hall
Hamraborg 6, 200 Kópavogur
Thu 09.08 Hafdis Huld in concert
Sirkus
Klappartígur 30
Playing reggae, country and occasionally hosting live gigs on weekdays, Sirkus's veteran DJs keep the party going till late on weekends.
Fri 27.07 DJ Casanova
Sat 28.07 DJ Maggi Legó
Wed 01.03 DJ Bigtal
Tue 02.08 DJ Jason
Wed 03.08 DJ Hermigervill
Thu 04.08 DJ Nuno
Fri 05.08 DJ Maggi Legó
Thu 09.08 DJ Krummi
Fri 10.08 DJ Lazer
Sat 11.08 DJ Ozzy

Museums & Galleries

101 Gallery
Hverfisgata 18
Thu.–Sat. 14–17 and by appointment
www.101hotel.is/101hotel/101gallery/
Jul 28–Sep 1
Bermuda Love Triangle – The Story of Dr. Ron and Mr. Bates
Helgi Þórsson and Morgan Betz exhibition
12 Tónar

Skólavörðustígur 15
Mon.–Fri. 10–18, Sat. 11–16
Jul 6–Sep 1
Collage by artist and musician Sigríður Nielsdóttir
Anima Gallery
Ingólfsstræti 8 / Lækjargata 2
Tue.–Sat. 13–17
www.animagalleri.is
Artótek
Tryggvagata 15
Mon. 10–21, Tue.–Thu. 10–19, Fri. 11–19, Sat. and Sun. 13–17
www.sim.is/Index/Isenska/Artotek
ASÍ Art Museum
Freijugata 41
Tue.–Sun. 13–17
Free Entrance
Jun 30–Aug 26
Summer exhibition from the museum collection
Auga fyrir Auga
Hverfisgata 35
Open Thu.–Fri. 15–19, Sat.–Sun. 14–17
Until Aug 10
Pocketful of Magic
Svala Ólafsdóttir exhibition
The Culture House
Hverfisgata 15
Open daily 11–17
www.thjodmenning.is
Permanent exhibitions:
Medieval Manuscripts; The National Museum – as it was; The Library Room; The Road to Zion; Berlin Excursion
Current exhibition:
Surtsey – Genesis
The exhibition traces the emergence and evolution of the island Surtsey

until the present day and predicts its geographical and ecological development over the next 120 years.
Dwarf Gallery
Grundarstígur 21
Opening Hours: Fri. and Sat. 18–20
www.this.is/birta
Jul 21 – Aug 4
Miðbaugur Kríngla – Leisure, Administration and Control
Halldór Arnar Úlfarsson exhibition
The Einar Jónsson Museum
Eiríksgata
Tue.–Sun. 14–17
www.skulptur.is
Permanent exhibition:
The work of sculptor Einar Jónsson
Gallery 100 Degrees
Baðjarháls 1
Mon.–Fri. 8:30–16
www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100
Jul 7–Aug 3
Ásdís Spanó exhibition
Gallery Crush
Laugavegur 28
Current exhibition:
Seagulls
Sculptures by Arnar Ásgeirsson and Styrmir Örn Guðmundsson
Gallery Fold
Rauðarárstígur 14–16
Mon.–Fri. 10–18
Sat. 11–16
Sun. 14–16
www.myndlist.is
Sells a large selection of Icelandic and international art and hosts exhibitions on a regular basis.
Gallery Tukt

Póstútsstræti 3–5
www.hitthusbid.is
Current exhibition:
Paintings, sculptures and photographs by Torfi Fannar
Gallery Turpentine
Ingólfsstræti 5
Tue.–Fri. 12–18
Sat. 11–16
www.turpentine.is
Jul 27 – Aug 15
Paintings by Peter Anderson
Gel Galleri
Hverfisgata 37
Mon.–Fri. 10–19
Sat. 10–17
Until Aug 16
Paintings by Sigríður
Gerðuberg Cultural Centre
Gerðuberg 3–5
Mon.–Thu. 11–17
Wed. 11–21
Thu.–Fri. 11–17
Sat.–Sun. 13–16
www.gerduberg.is
May 5–Sep 9
Paintings by Ágúst Jónsson
May 12–Sep 9
Kvenfólk / Women
Erró exhibition
i8 Gallery
Klappartígur 33
Tue.–Fri. 11–17
Sat. 13–17 and by appointment
www.i8.is
Jul 12–Aug 28
Magnús Pálsson exhibition
Kringlan Mall
Kringlan 4-12, 103 Reykjavík

www.kringlan.is
Jul 21–Aug 21
Miðbaugur og Kríngla – Leisure, Administration & Control
A collaboration of 11 Nordic visual artists
The Naked Ape
Bankastræti 14
www.dontbenaked.com
Jul 7–Jul 31
ÚT / VIL / EK
Jói Kjartansson photo exhibition
Kling & Bang Gallery
Laugavegur 23
Thu.–Sun. 14–18
Free Entrance
www.this.is/klingandbang
May 21–Jul 29
Ryan Parteka, Sigríður Dóra Jóhannsdóttir and Björk Guðnadóttir group exhibition
Living Art Museum
Sturlugata 5
Wed., Fri.–Sun. 13–17
Thu. 13–22
www.nylo.is/
Jul 28–Aug 19
Hekla Dögg Jónsdóttir exhibition
The National Gallery of Iceland
Frikirkjuvegur
Tue.–Sun. 11–17
Free Entrance
www.listasafn.is
Jul 21–Oct 10
Alas-Nature!
The National Gallery of Iceland's summer exhibition featuring works by more than 50 artists, including High Plane by Katrín Sigurðardóttir. Her

work is a widely acclaimed installation for its revolutionary viewpoint in which the landscape is laid out horizontally on a table.
The National Museum
Suðurgata 41
Open daily 10–17
natmus.is/
Permanent exhibition:
The Making of a Nation
May 5–Aug 24
As seen by the visitor
Hans Viingard Friis photo exhibition
May 5–Aug 24
Sent to the countryside
Photo exhibition
May 19–Sep 30
The Road Between
Andrá exhibition: Installations by Guðbjörg Lind Jónsdóttir, Guðrún Kristjánsdóttir and Kristín Jónsdóttir.
The Nordic House
Sturlugata 5
Tue.–Sun. 12–17
www.nordice.is/
The Numismatic Museum
Kalkofnsvegur 1
Open Mon.–Fri. 13:30–15:30.
Free admittance.
Permanent exhibition:
The Central Bank of Iceland and the National Museum of Iceland jointly operate a numismatic collection consisting of Icelandic notes and coins.
Reykjavik 871 +/- 2
Aðalstræti 16
Open daily 10–17
Permanent exhibition:
The Settlement Exhibition

Reykjavik Art Museum
 – Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum
 Siglún
 Open daily 10–16
 Admission ticket is valid for three days in all three museums.
 Free entrance every Thursday.
 www listasafnreykjavikur.is
Mar 31–Dec 31
 Folk Tales
 An exhibition of works by Icelandic draughtsmen who took on the task of illustrating folk tales from the oral tradition.
Apr 2–Dec 31
 The Shape of Life
 A new retrospective of the works by Ásmundur Sveinsson. The exhibition focuses on abstract works from 1945 onwards.
Reykjavik Art Museum
 – Hafnarhús
 Tryggvagata 17
 Open daily 10–17
May 11–Aug 19
 My Oz
 Roni Horn retrospective
Jun 21–Aug 12
 Installation by Daniel Björnsson at the D Gallery.
May 10–Aug 17
 The Erró Collection
 Works from the museum's Erró collection: A further examination of the diverse subjects and stages of Erró's artistic oeuvre.
Reykjavik Art Museum
 – Kjarvalstaðir
 Flókagata
 Open Daily 10–17
Feb 10–Sep 2
 K-pátturinn / The K-Factor
 Jóhannes S. Kjarval retrospective.
May 19–Aug 26
 Kvika / Magma
 Icelandic contemporary design
May 19–Aug 26
 The Spark – Design for Everyone
 Design exhibition, with special educational programming
Reykjavik Maritime Museum
 Grandagarður 8
 Open Tue.–Sun. 11–17
 www.sjominjasafn.is
Current exhibition:
 Trawlers in Iceland
Reykjavik Museum
 Kistuhylur 4
 Open daily from 10–17
 www.arbaejarsafn.is
Permanent exhibition:
 Objects from Reykjavik cultural history.
The Reykjavik Museum of Photography
 Grófarhús, Tryggvagata 15, 6th floor
 Weekdays 12–19
 Sat.–Sun. 13–17
 Free Entrance
 www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is
Jun 1–Sep 9
 Automatos

Photographs by Olaf Otto Becker, Páll Stefánsson and RAX
Jul 19 – Aug 29
 Destination
 Photographs by Erla Stefánsdóttir
Safn
 Laugavegur 37
 Wed.–Fri. 14–18
 Sat.–Sun. 14–17
 Free Entrance
 www.safn.is
May 19–Oct 20
 Museum of the Surface / Desire Archive / Decay Complex
 Unnar Örn J. Auðarson exhibition
Jul 14–Aug 26
 Tumi Magnússon exhibition
Jul 14–Aug 26
 Down the Chimney
 Jennifer Tee exhibition
Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
 Laugarnestangi 70
 Open Tue.–Sun. 14–17
Permanent exhibition:
 Works of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson
Start Art / Art Shop
 Laugavegur 12b
 www.startart.is
Jul 7–Jul 29
 Friða Gylfadóttir exhibition
Jul 7–Jul 29
 Hulda Vilhjálmstöðir exhibition
Aug 2–Aug 30
 Ása Ólafsdóttir exhibition
Aug 2–Aug 30
 Dagny Guðmundsdóttir exhibition
Thorvaldsen Bar
 Austurtaeti 8-10
 www.thorvaldsen.is
Jul 16–Aug 27
 Oil paintings by Helga Sigurðardóttir

Outside Reykjavik
Skaftfell
 Austurvegur 42, Seyðisfjörður
 www.skaftfell.is
Jul 7–Aug 4
 Tumi Magnússon summer-exhibition featuring video installations
Hornafjörður Cultural Centre
 Nýheimum, 780 Hornafjörður
 www.hornafjordur.is/
 menningarmidstod
Jun 28–Aug 7
 Svavar Guðnason summer exhibition
Jun 29–Jul 30
 Digital / Film / Oil
 Hlynur Pálmarson exhibition
Hafnarborg
 Strandgata 34, Hafnarfjörður
 Mon.–Sun. 11–17
 www.hafnarborg.is
Jun 28–Aug 5
 Paintings
 Work of the Norse artist Kjell Nupen
Eden
 Austurmörk 21, 810 Hveragerði
 Open daily from 8:30–21:30
Current exhibition:
 Elf Incubator in Eden
 Works by Anna Hallin, Margrét Hlín Sveinsdóttir, Olga Bergmann and

Steinunn Guðriður Helgadóttir.
LÁ Art Museum
 Austurmörk 21, 810 Hveragerði
 Open daily from 12:00–18:00
Current exhibition:
 Moving Mountains
 Summer exhibition
Gjúfrasteinn
 – Halldór Laxness museum
 270 Mosfellsbær
 Open daily except Mondays from 10–17.
Kópavogur Art Museum
 – Gerðarsafn
 Hamraborg, Kópavogur
 Open daily 11:00–17:00 except Mondays
 www.gerdarsafn.is
The Icelandic Museum of Design and Applied Art
 Lyngás 7–9, 121 Garðabær
 Opening hours: Tues.–Fri. 14–18; Sat. and Sun. 16–18.
 www.mudesa.org
 Exhibitions devoted to Icelandic design.
The Icelandic Settlement Centre
 Brákarbraut 1–15, Borgarnes
 Opening hours: May to Sep 10–20; Sep to May 11–17.
 www.landnam.is
Permanent exhibitions:
 The Settlement of Iceland: The Saga of Egill Skallagrímsson
Suðsuðvestur
 Hafnargata 22, Keflavík
 Thu.–Fri. 16–18
 Sat.–Sun. 14–17
 www.sudsuvestur.is
Jun 30–Aug 12
 Birgir Snaebjörn and J.B.K. Ransu exhibition
Gallery Klaustur
 At Skriðuklaustur
 800 Egilsstaðir
 www.skriduklaustur.is
Jul 28–Aug 31
 While She Sleeps
 Svala Ólafsdóttir exhibition
Vatnasafn / Library of Water
 Bókhöfundstigur 17, 340 Stykkishólmur
 www.libraryofwater.is
 Open daily from 11–17.
Permanent exhibition:
 Roni Horn installation. She has replaced stacks of books with glass columns containing water gathered from Iceland's glaciers and glacial rivers.
Sandgerði Museum
 Gerðavegur 1, Sandgerði.
Until Feb 7, 2008
 Polar Adventures
 Exhibition on the life and work of the French polar explorer, scientist and doctor Jean-Baptiste Charcot.
Jónas Viðar Gallery
 Kaupvangsstræti 12, Akureyri
 Fri.–Sat. 13–18
 www.jvs.is/jvgallery.htm
Jul 21–Aug 12
 Graphics by Janne Laine
Akureyri Art Museum
 Kaupvangsstræti 12, Akureyri

Tue.–Sun. 12–17
 www listasafn.akureyri.is
Jun 30–Aug 19
 Fjallið / The Mountain
 Georg Guðni retrospective
DaLi Gallery
 Brekkugata 9, Akureyri
 Mon.–Sat. 14–18
 www.daligallery.blogspot.com
Current exhibition:
 Sound Orb
 Helgi Kristinsson exhibition
GalleriBOX
 Kaupvangstræti 10, Akureyri
 www.galleribox.blogspot.com
Current exhibition:
 Birta Guðjónsdóttir exhibition
Núpur eitt
 West-Eyjafjöll, 861 Hvolsvöllur
 Open daily from 12–18
Aug 4 – Aug 12
 40/40
 Margrét Einarsdóttir Long exhibition



Films
1408
 Laugarásbió, Háskólabíó, Borgarbió Akureyri
Death Proof
 Laugarásbió, Háskólabíó, Regnboginn, Borgarbió Akureyri,
Die Hard 4.0
 Háskólabíó, Laugarásbió, Regnboginn, Sambíóin Keflavík, Smárabíó
Evan Almighty
 Laugarásbió, Sambíóin Álfbakka, Smárabíó
Georgia Rule
 Sambíóin Akureyri, Sambíóin Álfbakka, Sambíóin Kringlunni
Harry Potter 5
 Sambíóin Akureyri, Sambíóin Álfbakka, Sambíóin Keflavík, Sambíóin Kringlunni, Smárabíó
Blind Dating
 Sambíóin Álfbakka
Ocean's 13
 Sambíóin Álfbakka
Shrek 3
 Laugarásbió, Sambíóin Álfbakka, Sambíóin Akureyri, Sambíóin Keflavík, Sambíóin Kringlunni
Simpsons: The Movie (July 27)
Rush Hour 3 (August 10)
Transformers (August 10)

Movie Theatres
Regnboginn, Hverfisgata 54
 101 Reykjavík, Tel. 551-9000
Háskólabíó, Hagatorg
 107 Reykjavík, Tel. 525-5400
Laugarásbió, Laugarás
 104 Reykjavík, Tel. 565-0118
Smárabíó, Smáralind
 201 Kópavogur, Tel. 564-0000
Sambíóin, Álfbakki 8

Music Art Films Events

TICKETS AT **midi.is**

Events
Concert Festival at Skálholt
 12.07 – 06.08 The Skálholt Summer Concerts Festival has been held annually since 1975. The festival features 40 events over a six week period, each with contrasting programmes. Three to five concerts are held each week, including early baroque and contemporary music, the former usually played on period instruments. During the years the festival has attracted internationally acclaimed artists as well as talented young Icelandic musicians and composers. Concerts are held on Saturdays at 15:00 and 17:00, Sundays at 15:00 and on Wednesdays or Thursdays at 20:00. All concerts are free of charge.
 For more info see: www.sumartonei-kar.is
Reykholts Music Festival
 26.07–29.07 The international music festival at Reykholts, in Borgarfjörður, is held for the eleventh time this year where musicians from seven countries will perform. Among the performers are The Moscow Male Choir of St. Basil's Cathedral and the Christopher Orchestra of Lithuania accompanied by Icelandic soprano Diddú.
 Tickets are sold at midi.is and at www.reykholtshtid.is
Moment Seen
 28.07–29.07 Entitled 'Moment Seen,' the Nordic collaborative project between the dance group Samyrkja and Tepokinn Big-band will be performed at Tjarnarbió Theatre on July 28 and 29. The show starts at 20:00 and admission fee is 500 ISK.
Open House at the Intercultural Centre
 27.07 Every Friday night, the Intercultural Centre plays host to an intercultural meeting. The concept is to bring foreigners and Icelanders together, give them the opportunity to get to know other people and to share experiences. The meetings feature plenty of activities so attendees can get to know each other's cultures. Entrance is free.
 The Intercultural Centre, Hverfisgata 18
Hetero-Heroes Premiere
 07.08 The tragicomedy Hetero-heroes: With full respect for Ashley Cole will premiere at Smiðjan on August 7. (See page B2)
 Smiðjan, Sölvölgata 13



Organ – August 4-5

'Innipúkar' Unite Once Again

All true 'Innipúkar' (i.e. 'homebodies') are undoubtedly waiting with high anticipation for the biggest and best 'Innipúki' gathering of the year, held during Verslunarmannahelgin (The Merchants' Holiday Weekend), August 4 to 5. The forthcoming Innipúkinn, an annual music festival in Reykjavík, is a party for all the city dwellers who hate to go camping or for some reason can't leave the capital during the biggest travel weekend of the year.
 The festival, which started out as a small party on Viðey Island, exploded in size the past two years and attracted a huge crowd of party-thirsty locals to club NASA for a three day concert extravaganza. This year, the festival will scale down and resemble the original event once more.
 One of the original organisers, Björn Kristjánsson, also known as electro musician Borko, together with Skakkamanage couple Svavar and Berglind are planning the festi-

val this time around. "The idea was to offer a small and cosy festival for those who wanted to stay in Reykjavik during Verslunarmannahelgin. It soon grew into this huge event and suddenly became more like a reason for people to stay in Reykjavik. That wasn't the original plan. Now we are trying to make the festival more like a small party again," Borko explains.
 This year, Innipúkinn will take place at a new concert venue, Organ, located next door to Gaukurinn, in the middle of the city centre. The place will accommodate up to 300 people when it will be opened. The packed programme will feature an impressive line-up of local acts playing from 20:00–03:00 on Saturday and Sunday.
 "We made sort of a wish-list of our favourite bands and luckily, most of them didn't have anything planned for the weekend," Borko explains. Performers include Bogomil Font and Flis, FM Belfast, Forgotten



Dining out? Check out our many food reviews online!

WWW.GRAPEVINE.IS

News // Culture // Dining // Travelling // Shopping // Articles // Interviews

Family and leisure park in lovely surroundings. Refreshments, playground, giant inflated cushion, castle, bird pond, Iceland's entire fauna in one place.

Activities for the whole family
 Stokkseyri - only 45 minutes' drive from Reykjavik

Kayak tours for everyone. Nature tours on sea and freshwater lake [AS1] in the natural habitat of seals and birds. Peace and quiet, fun and enjoyment - an unforgettable adventure.

KAJAKAFERDIN STOKKSEYRI
 kajak@kajak.is
 www.kajak.is
 354 483-3800

TUBORG **Gull**

the fun is on - glaumbar

thursday's **5 IN A BUCKET 1700**

friday's **VAT FREE**

weekend's **DJ'S**

salsa night's

sport events on 11 screens

great food

glaumbar - tryggvagötu 20 - tel: 552-6868 - www.glaumbar.is

EXPECT HANG OVERS...

NASA

THE BIGGEST CLUB IN DOWNTOWN REYKJAVIK. LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND.

WWW.NASA.IS

GOING HOME?

Sexually transmitted diseases are more common than you think.

Take care – with condoms!

LANDLÆKNISEMBAETTID
 Directorate of Health

VIÐTJORNINA SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Since 1986

Opening hours are from 18.00 every day.

Phone (+354) 551-8666.
 Templarasundi 3, 101 Reykjavik.
 www.vidtjornina.is
 vidtjornina@simnet.is



Seabear: A Fully-fledged Team

Text by Steinunn Jakobsdóttir Photo by Gulli

The lo-fi country pop group Seabear will be among the many acts performing at the annual Innipúkinn music festival, taking place in Reykjavik on August 4 and 5.

The band released its first LP, *The Ghost that Carried Us Away*, earlier this year and is planning a tour around Europe this fall.

Seabear started out as Sindri Már Sigfússon's solo act and has slowly transformed into a large group of musician friends. Today, the group counts seven active members plus some session players that accompany them in concert. Their intimate music has been compared to the likes of Sufjan Stevens and Belle & Sebastian, but Sindri says that he doesn't really know what type of music they play and that he wants each listener to judge for himself. He has proven to be an outstanding singer and musician, a clever songwriter with a humble personality, all of which helped to impress industry veteran Thomas Morr, owner of Morr Music, who signed the band to his Berlin-based independent music label. With a three-record contract in their pocket, Sindri and his Seabear project seem to be headed for international success.

No More Members!

Although Sindri has been writing music since his early teens, the Seabear moniker didn't become a reality until after he was hospitalized in London a couple of years back.

"Yeah, I was living in London [in 2002] and ended up in hospital for three weeks. I had been working at some crappy coffeehouse but got insurance money when I was in the hospital, about 50€ a day. For that amount I bought a small recording set. That's basically how it all started," Sindri explains.

In 2004, Seabear's first album, 'Singing Arc', a self-released home-made EP, came out and was distributed on the Internet. The album can still be downloaded for free from his website (www.seabear.com). At that time, Seabear was still a solo project, but after being asked to open up for The Books in Berlin, Sindri, who had never played his songs for a big audience, got his two friends Guggý and Örn to back him up on stage. The twosome stuck around ever since that gig.

Then the party grew even bigger and better. Today the band features seven members who play all sorts of peculiar instruments such as ukulele, percussion, banjo and glockenspiel - instruments that Sindri has been collecting for years, but says he doesn't really know how to play.

"I promise though that there will be no more members! It's enough trouble to keep this group together. But it's also a lot of fun of course" Sindri explains, adding that every one of them started out as a session player for one or two gigs, before finally joining the band.

"It's been nice," Sindri says, "We all get along. I meet them one-on-one in my small studio and everyone has their own input into the songs. They write their parts and I record them and then we just work from there."

This year saw the release of his first full length album, *The Ghost that Carried Us Away*, which will be released in Europe this coming August and in the U.S. and in Japan in September. Touring abroad will surely follow.

"We aim to tour Europe in November and in January. We are trying to find a time that suits everyone. Everyone except me has a real job, so it can be a bit tricky, but the planning and the booking of the gigs is almost done."

Asked how he became part of the steady-growing Morr Music family Sindri explains, "Thomas came to the concerts in Germany and contacted me after the show. I sent him some demos and he asked if we wanted to sign a contract. About six months later that was all settled. I really like the company. It's small, with only about 15 employees. It's all very personal and it's no problem to just give Thomas a call about anything. There haven't been any major issues yet at least and no one has asked us to change anything or interfered with our music."

A Mysterious Video

Seabear's star has been rising quickly on the

"I found it very weird, especially since the album [The Ghost that Carried Us Away] wasn't even released at the time the video was put on Youtube. The album had leaked on the net, but I don't know who made the music video or what his purpose was. It's all quite funny really."

Internet ever since the EP release. International idolaters have started a Seabear Fan-group on Myspace and observing Youtube browsers might have spotted the video clip 'The Science of Sleep Music Video' featuring Seabear's song 'I Sing I Swim' set to scenes from Michel Gondry's surrealist film. When asked about the clip, Sindri says he didn't know anything about it before a friend of his informed him.

"I found it very weird, especially since the album [The Ghost that Carried Us Away] wasn't even released at the time the video was put on Youtube. The album had leaked on the net, but I don't know who made the music video or what his purpose was. It's all quite funny really."

Another Seabear music video can be found on Youtube, an amazing stop-motion video to 'Hands Remember' by Norwegian director Lars Skjelbreia, a friend of the group. "The video will be on the album released abroad," Sindri says.

Sindri and his bandmates are already working on a new album: "We have loads of songs to work on and will be in the studio to record drums in September. Apart from that, there are a few small projects lined up. We will release a 7" in August, which will feature one new song and a cover of Undertones' and 'Teenage Kicks'. The Morr label, which releases these cover compilation discs on a regular basis, also has a new one planned. They've already done Morrissey and Slowdive and I think that the next one will be some rock band from New Zealand. Very weird but probably an exciting project. I am also working on some stuff and writing songs by myself. I don't know what I will do with them. Perhaps they will end up on an album someday."

— So are you planning to fly solo again? (Laughs) "Yeah, and finally form a new band around that project."

You can listen to Seabear on: www.myspace.com/seabear.



Gallery Crush

Text by Chandler Frederick Photo by Gulli

At various Icelandic art schools, designer/fashionista Óli has a reputation. Having focused his art in the direction of the greater community, he has worked in various underground art/video collectives, been an integral member in the formation of independent galleries, and has many of his street pieces featured in various books, including the recent troublemaker "Icepicks." I forgot to add that Óli is only in his mid-twenties.

Recently, in what might have been a Ginsberg-like epiphany, Óli realised his sizable contribution to the blossoming Reykjavik art community. He concluded that it was time to do something ironically entrepreneurial. It was time to introduce a new gallery unit to the art scene: Gallery Crush. The decision to open up his own independent art gallery/ music venue/ clothing and magazine store might put him in the running for Reykjavik's most iconoclastic. And this is Iceland, so that would put him pretty high in the running for most iconoclastic worldwide.

Gallery Crush is a small shop conveniently placed atop the hipster-frequented, fashion/record haven Rökk og Rósir at Laugavegur 28. Upon entering the gallery, one would think that the whole thing had been moved straight from the scenester-infested streets of Brooklyn's Williamsburg. As a matter of fact, Óli has close ties with artists, clothing designers and independent publishers in New York and is perennially making trips to the city for items to sell or showcase. I'm sure he picks up a few ideas on the way.

The current exhibition at the gallery is an installation titled 'Seagulls', by local sculptors Arnar Ásgeirsson and Styrmir Örn Guðmundsson. The work is in response to city hall's recent experiments in poisoning the flocks of hungry seagulls that haunt the upper pond. Clay, faceless seagulls scatter a huge table with real rocks. Óli tells me

that a seagull and a zine about seagulls (a mock 2-for-1 deal) are on sale for 3,000 ISK.

Gallery Crush is also a clothing store with Óli's personal line, and a few intensely patterned hoodies (12,900 ISK) from a line called 'Pretty Shitty', which is based out of New York. In what might be a sardonic nod to Lesley Gore, Óli has titled his own small clothing line 'Sunshine and Lollipops'. Though only in its infancy, 'Sunshine and Lollipops' has a number of unique shirts and hooded-sweatshirts. Óli uses old B-movie monster film covers for many of his T-shirts (which range from 3,500 to 4,400 ISK.) One hoodie is taken from the cover of an old 70's porno called Dude. All of the items are screen printed by Óli, so no two shirts are the same. Some even have intentional smears and blotches, to better the DIY authenticity of the brand.

Aside from clothes, Gallery Crush has of miscellany that makes it seem more like a cool personal space than a gallery. Old action figures decorate the far wall, and a table stands in the middle with hard-to-find Icelandic zines, street art books, and an obscure New York magazine called Frank, which is basically what Vice magazine wants to be.

The walls of Gallery Crush are noticeably white, a part of Óli's scheme: "I want the clothing to hang up on the wall like graffiti." Upon a closer look, Gallery Crush's walls really do seem to resemble the hidden alleyways of the city centre.

Like all good entrepreneurs, Óli has created a Myspace for his business and clothing line at www.myspace.com/sunshineandlollis. The URL was shortened to 'lollis', of course, because 'sunshineandlollipops' was already taken by a 57 year old man from New Jersey



Housing Financing Fund for everyone

-Buying a home - Need a loan?

HFF's Mortgage Loans

- Same terms anywhere in Iceland
- Loans for up to 80% of bid price or construction cost
- Maximum loan amount of ISK 18 million
- 4.80% interest on loans with prepayment fees
- 5.05% interest on loans without prepayment fees

Service Center

The Housing Financing Fund offers walk-in service at its main office at Borgartún 21, Monday - Friday 8 am - 4 pm. Our advisors are ready to assist you with credit evaluations, loan applications or answer any questions you might have regarding home loans.

You can also call us at 569-6900 or toll-free at 800-6969.



Lárus & Lárus



THE VIKING

ICELAND'S LARGEST SOUVENIR SHOP

THE VIKING : INFO

Hafnarstræti 3 101 Reykjavík tel: 551 1250
Hafnarstræti 104 600 Akureyri tel: 461 5551

email: theviking@simnet.is



Espresso, Cappuccino, Café Latte, Soya Latte, Tea and Organic Tea

Coffee in French Press, Take Away Coffee

Real hot Chocolate

Various light meals, sandwiches and more

DJ playing on weekends and dancing

Open until 5:30 on weekends

Making of a Nation

Heritage and History in Iceland

Iceland's extraordinary history from settlement to present day

Guided tours in English daily 11:00



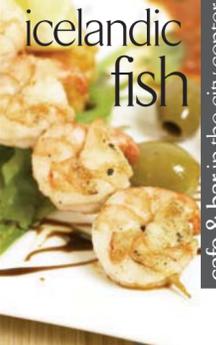
Opening hours:
Summer (May 1st - Sept. 15th): Daily 10-17.
Winter (Sept. 16th - Apr. 30th): Daily 11-17 except Mondays.

National Museum of Iceland • Suðurgata 41 • 101 Reykjavík • Tel. 530 2200 • www.natmus.is



BOOK YOUR ADVENTURE, DAYTRIP OR EXCURSION WITH THE EXPERTS. OUTDOOR SUPPLIES AND CAMPING GEAR IN THE CITY CENTER.

CINTAMANI CENTER LAUGAVEGUR 11 TEL: +354-562-7000



icelandic fish
café & bar in the city center



DECO
CAFE / BAR
austurstræti 12 • 101 reykjavik



RESTAURANT
Down town Reykjavik
at Tryggvagata close to the harbor



OPEN: mon-fri 10:00-23:30 / sat-sun 11:00-23:30



DISCOVER ICELANDIC SEAFOOD
At the Reykjavik harbour

1 EATING

Vor
Laugavegur 24

Vor's refreshing take on café-style eating is marked by its use of fresh ingredients and a health-conscious menu that emphasises French and Mediterranean cuisine. The fresh spring salad and the excellent carrot-ginger soup are excellent pick-me-ups on rainy days, and the coffee served is of the highest quality.

2 Hornið
Hafnarstræti 15

The casual family-friendly Italian-style corner restaurant has operated at the same spot since 1979 when it became a loyal member of the Icelandic dining-out tradition. Most famous for its pizzas and the generously stuffed calzone, the wholesome menu prides itself on all sorts of high-standard pasta dishes, vegetarian and meat courses, all very affordable.

4 Icelandic Fish Chips
Tryggvagata 8

Not the regular fish'n'chips diner but a healthy restaurant using only organic vegetables, quality fish products and no wheat or white sugar in its kitchen. Deep-fried catch of the day served with oven baked potatoes and Skyronnes, a sauce made out of the fat-free milk product Skyr and flavoured with all sorts of spices, on the side for 1350 ISK. They also offer take-away at all times.

5 Sjávarkjallarinn
Aðalstræti 2

In an elegant setting, Seafood Cellar chefs serve gourmet fusion style dishes, where the emphasis is not only on ocean delights, but also on all sorts of tempting Asia-inspired dishes. The most fun is to order the exotic menu, a range of courses carefully selected by the chef, and share it with your dining partners.

6 Shalimar
Austurstræti 4

Few places in Reykjavik match the great combination of good price, excellent food, and fast service available at Shalimar. On the menu are assorted Indian-Pakistan dishes and the lunch special is always a great bet for a good meal during a busy day. Grapevine staffers are frequently spotted in the locale, which should be recommendation enough.

7 Sægreifinn
Verubúð 8, Geirsgata

Located right next to the Reykjavik harbour, Sægreifinn fish shop and restaurant is truly like no other you'll witness in the country. The menu features various fish dishes and a rich portion of the best lobster soup we've ever tasted. It also caters to groups upstairs where the room looks more like a cabin than a diner. The good food and welcoming service make this place a must-try.

8 Pizza King
Hafnarstræti 18

This small pizza place is not only cheap but offers the largest slices of pizza you'll get downtown. Charging only 350 ISK per slice, not to mention the special lunch offer where a 10" pizza with three toppings of your choice and a can of Coke costs only 800 ISK, Pizza King is a local favourite. The fact it's open until 6 on Friday and Saturday nights doesn't hurt either.

9 Bernhöftsbakari
Bergstaðastræti 13

It's a bakery, the oldest one in the city in fact, selling all sorts of bakery goods, snacks and an extensive selection of the sweet stuff from early dawn. We particularly love the spelt bread in the morning, and some snúður, kleina and vínarbrauð to go with the afternoon coffee.

10 Bæjarins bestu
Tryggvagata

There's a good reason why there's always a line in front of Bæjarins Bestu, regardless of the weather or time of day. Selected the best hot-dog stand in Europe by The Guardian, a fact locals realized decades ago, it has been serving "ein með öllu" ("one with the lot") to downtown pedestrians since 1935, making it the oldest fast food restaurant in the country. Grabbing a bite couldn't be easier.

11 Quiznos
Lækjargata 8

A chain of sandwich outlets specializing in toasty baguette-style subs, but also serving soups and salads. Choose your toppings and variety of sauces and you'll get a fresh sandwich to suit your taste. Ask for the lamb sub, an Icelandic speciality. Then put a double chocolate chunk brownie in your take-away box and you're good to go.

12 Á næstu grösum (First Vegetarian)
Laugavegur 20B

Many locals claim this to be the best vegetarian restaurant in town offering a menu with plenty of vegan and vegetarian options, both healthy and tasty. Ask for the daily special or try the selection of three different courses. The Indian theme on Fridays is usually a hit and the sugar free banana cake just one of the highly tempting desserts.

13 Nonnabiti
Hafnarstræti 9

Renowned for its greasy sandwiches, Nonnabiti, or Nonni as the locals call it, is one of the more popular junk food places around, offering a large selection of take-away or dine in subs, sandwiches and burgers with a nice dash of the unique Nonni-sauce. If you have a late night craving there's no need to worry, Nonni is open longer than most other places.

14 Austurlanda-hraðlestin
Hverfisgata 64A

Although a little pricey for a take-away, charging around 1600 ISK for a main course, the food is well worth that extra spending once in a while. Serving typical Indian dishes, the menu is a treasure chest for those with a penchant for a spicy bite. There are also a few tables inside for those who choose to dine in.



SPOT THIS: Prikíð
Bankastræti 12, 101 Reykjavík

This two-floor café/pub has been a part of Reykjavik's bar scene for decades. With a large and fairly cheap bistro menu, Prikíð attracts a mix of university students with their laptops and elderly devoted regulars during the day while the younger clientele fills up the space during the evening and especially at weekends when the music is mostly dedicated to hip-hop and R&B.



15 DRINKING

Grái Kötturinn
Hverfisgata 16a

A small antique-style non-smoking coffee house in a Hverfisgata basement, legendary for its early opening hours, amazing breakfast and strong coffee that will easily wake you up in the morning. We especially recommend The Truck, American style breakfast consisting of eggs, bacon, pancakes, fried potatoes, tomatoes, syrup and toast. The bagels are also excellent.

16 Kaffi Hjómaland

This organic, free-trade café prides itself on being a non-profit company and a dedicated venue for the hardcore and cultural scene by hosting concerts, lectures and poetry nights. Serving delicious soups and vegetarian dishes as well as organic tea, coffee and cake, this is the place to visit for a reasonably priced healthy lunch.

17 Segafredo
By Lækjartorg

The Italian coffee-chain found its spot in the heart of Reykjavik, with its windows facing the Lækjartorg Square. Serving lunch snacks like paninis and strong espressos for coffee lovers whether you need to grab a cup and sandwich on the way to work or want to enjoy your drink on the spot.

18 Glaumbar
Tryggvagata 20

Here is a bit of trivial information: In Icelandic, "glauumur" means the sound of a party. I don't know what more you need to know about Glaumbar, except perhaps that it is the premier sports bar in town. After the final whistle, the action on the dance floor becomes feverish as local DJs take central role.

19 Hressó
Austurstræti 20

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

20 Kaffibarinn
Bergstaðastræti 1

A popular coffee place on weekdays, especially among students and downtown workers who like to enjoy a bottle of beer after a busy day. At weekends, Kaffibarinn becomes the opposite of a quiet destination, as its two floors fill up with the late-night soups. With DJs playing live sets from Wednesday to Saturday, the party doesn't start winding down until early morning.

21 Sirkus
Klappargatur 30

Attracting a mixed crowd of party-people, the small bar Sirkus has always been popular among musicians and the creative crowd who get along well although the breathing space can be limited on weekends. While Sirkus's DJs provide for the greatest party possible every weekend, the bar occasionally hosts concerts on weeknights.

22 Vegamót
Vegamótastígur 4

Vegamót (crossroads) has an appealing lunch menu, they serve brunch during the weekends, and the kitchen is open until 22:00 daily. After that the beat goes on, and you can check the end results in photos published the day after on their website www.vegamotis.is. If you like Oliver, try Vegamót and vice versa.

23 Gaukurinn
Tryggvagata 22

Reykjavik's version of CBGB's, Gaukurinn has been a mainstay in the Icelandic music scene since the days of Ingólfur Arnarson. A popular live venue, this is the place to find young and upcoming bands, as well as older and more established bands. Anyone who is anything in Icelandic music has passed through Gaukurinn at one point or another.

24 Boston
Laugavegur 28b

Located above the second-hand fashion store Spútnik, with its rooney bar floor and nice sofas in the lounge room upstairs, Boston is a fresh addition to the Reykjavik bar scene. Old-school yet stylish interiors, and enough tables to create a good vibe, make the place a comfy café as well as a laid-back tavern where the music is good but never intrusive.

25 Café Cultura
Hverfisgata 18

Located inside the Intercultural Centre, Cultura is a restaurant/bar with a cosmopolitan feel, hosting an array of events and various theme nights like Salsa teaching, tango nights and fusion parties. The menu features all sorts of international dishes like Thai soup, Spanish tapas, fajitas and falafel mixed with bistro regulars such as sandwiches and salads.

26 Prikíð
Bankastræti 12

This two-floor café/pub has been a part of Reykjavik's bar scene for decades. With a large and fairly cheap bistro menu, Prikíð attracts a mix of university students with their laptops and elderly devoted regulars during the day while the younger clientele fills up the space during the evening and especially at weekends when the music is mostly dedicated to hip-hop and R&B.

27 Barinn
Laugavegur 22

Up-and-coming Barinn is becoming quite popular among Reykjavik party scenesters. Its three floors and equally numerous bars get quite crowded during weekends where a mix of dancing downstairs and chatting upstairs make for a good night out. Though mostly a DJ bar, Barinn occasionally hosts live gigs and is always a fun party venue.

28 Q-Bar
Ingólfsstræti 3

A spacious gay/straight friendly bar, the newly renovated Q-Bar is a welcome addition to the nightlife downtown. In stylish and comfortable surroundings, with a lounge-like atmosphere, a good vibe and plenty of seats, the place never gets uncomfortably crowded nor too noisy for conversation.

29 Dillon
Laugavegur 30

The quintessential rock-pub, Dillon features moderately priced drinks, a dark and cosy mood and some pretty good music (especially when local favourite DJ Andrea Jóns mans the decks). The tattooed, beer-lovin' types who hang out there on school nights are joined by legions of parka-clad students during weekends, creating a party atmosphere that's always fun to partake in.

30 SHOPPING

G-Star Raw
Laugavegur 86

Buying jeans used to be a simple task. With the ever-growing selection, successful jeans hunting can take days. The task did not get any easier with the recent addition of a store from the industry powerhouse G-Star Raw. This Dutch brand features an edgy collection, authentic details and innovative washings.

31 Underground
Veltusund 1

Located in a basement by Ingólfstorg, former pro skater, Mike Carroll's skateboard shop Underground is aptly named. The shop offers all the relevant skating gear, be it clothing or boards, from industry leading brand names such as DC, Circa and others. A wide array of T-shirts, shoes, and other skating necessities available.

32 Kirsuberjatréð
Vesturgata 4

Kirsuberjatréð is the perfect little gift shop. A co-op gallery/gift shop owned and operated by ten women artists and designers. Kirsuberjatréð is the commercial outlet where they sell their products. The selections range from clothes, baskets, ceramics, copper sculptures, fish skin items, paper crafts, contemporary jewelry, felt items, and various other designs.

33 Vinberíð
Laugavegur 43

This small boutique sells all kinds of sweets. From chocolate fondue mix, to handmade chocolates, to lollypops and Belgian chocolate with such flavours as lavender and ginger. Vinberíð also sells Icelandic sweets, including the popular licorice products. A must stop for the sweet toothed.

34 Laugavegur 28
Laugavegur 28

A fresh addition to the Laugavegur fashion scene, four separate stores under one roof, second-hand clothing and accessories stores Elvis and Rökk og rósi, and CD experts Smekkleysa, all staples of the Laugavegur shopping experience. In addition, the new store, Pop, supplying neat stuff for the home. The collective will offer unique clothing and ornaments and supply the score to your life.

35 Gullkúnnst Helgu
Laugavegur 13

This spacious and classy store sells jewellery made from lava and other stone. Gullkúnnst Helgu, which is housed in the 1924 built shop on Laugavegur 13, has been selling unique jewellery such as necklaces, bracelets and watches for 15 years.

36 Börn Náttúrunnar
Skólavörðustígur 17a

The children's toy store Börn Náttúrunnar, located in a Skólavörðustígur basement, sells clothes and toys made only of organic products as well as books about childcare and parenthood. Here you can buy creative wooden playthings and woolen products for the young ones carefully selected by the parents who own the shop.

37 Cintamani
Laugavegur 11

If there is one thing you need in Iceland it is warm clothing. In a country known for rapid weather changes, you either come prepared, or buy the appropriate gear. Designed and developed in Iceland to meet rugged weather conditions, Cintamani clothing has been worn on both the North and the South Poles, as well as on the top of Mount Everest.

38 Trilogía
Laugavegur 7

A collection of trendy designer wear fills the space at fashion shop Trilogía, including amazing designs by Alexander McQueen and Chloe alongside Robert Cary Williams, Erotrotitos and many, many more. Summer dresses, sweaters and skirts for all the fashion conscious girls out there as well as cool accessories to complete the look.

39 Kolaportíð
Tryggvagata 19

A trip to the downtown indoor flea market Kolaportíð down by the harbour is always a fun way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Endless stalls offering all kinds of second-hand goods, candy and even fermented shark and Icelandic liquorice. If ready to spend some time thoroughly examining the selection you can find some great bargains. Only open on weekends.

40 Nakti Apinn
Bankastræti 14

Nakti Apinn, located on the second floor at Bankastræti 14, offers an amazing variety of colourful street-clothing, including hooded sweatshirts, T-shirts and leggings designed by the owners and hand-printed with different patterns, graphics and figures. Inside you'll also find a good selection of Icelandic music, books on art and design, accessories, baby clothes and international designer wear.

41 Thorvaldsens Bazar
Austurstræti 4

Located inside a dignified wooden building, Thorvaldsens Bazar is among the oldest shops in Reykjavik, opening in 1901 and run by the women's charity organization the Thorvaldsen Society. Selling souvenirs, handicrafts, woolen underclothes and sweaters as well as Icelandic jewellery, the friendly saleswomen work as volunteers and all profits are donated to charity work.

42 Friða Frænka
Vesturgata 3

This small boutique is a jam-packed treasure chest overflowing with antique furniture and items to perk up your apartment. In every corner of the shop, you'll find some unique items, including candle holders, lamps, pillows, gorgeous 60's sofas, tables, vases and a selection of clothes and vintage jewellery.

43 Iða
Lækjargata 2a

The spacious Iða bookstore is a great source for all kinds of reading material offering an excellent range of books, travel guides, magazines, post-cards and great gift items. The first-class service will help you search for what you need. On the second floor you'll find restaurants serving sushi, soups and sandwiches.



Ask for a Tax Free form & save up to 15%



HANNA design shop
Laugavegur 20B



G-STAR RAW
REYKJAVIK STORE
LAUGAVEGI 86-94



LIBORIUS
LAUGAVEGUR 7



KISS MEE
[I'm famous]
YOUR SUPER T SHIRTS
OSOMA
Laugavegur 27

Gísur Gudmundsson
Owner of Tveir Fiskar
President of the Nordic and Icelandic Chefs Association
European Continental Director for World Association of Cooks Societies



"The most original New York Times"



Treat yourself to Reykjavik's richest blend of seafood by Our Award-Winning Chefs

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

DISCOVER THE ORIGINAL EASTERN TASTE IN THE WEST



SHALIMAR
INDIAN - PAKISTANI CUISINE
AUSTURSTRÆTI 4, Tel: 551 0292, www.shalimar.is

INDIAN LUNCH 990.-
INDIAN DINNER 1190.-



Great Wall

Vesturgata 6-8, 101 Reykjavik, tel.: 552 1900

We here at the Grapevine have been watching the construction of the Great Wall restaurant through our office windows the last few months, so it was with curiosity that we dined at this newest addition to Reykjavik's restaurant scene on the Saturday of its opening week.

On arrival we were greeted by the manager, Tan Alaam, and promptly asked if we had a reservation – more than half the restaurant was already full and the place was buzzing with excitement. The soft sound of Chinese music playing in the background, the Chinese paper lamps, impeccable cleanliness and traditionally dressed waiters, helped to create a dining atmosphere rarely experienced in Reykjavik.

After almost 30 years experience managing French and Japanese restaurants abroad, Alaam is hoping to bring quality Chinese food and service to Reykjavik. His attention to detail (you would be hard pressed to find a restaurant that offers more attentive service) starts with the diverse and extensive menu, which offers a staggering 100-plus traditional Canton, Szechuan and Peking cuisine dishes, as well as a weekday lunch buffet. Specialities include duck and "magic hot plate."

We selected the mushroom and seafood soups from the Soup Menu, which also includes shark fin and hot and sour soups. At 1000 ISK, the mushroom soup consisting of chicken broth and mushrooms made for a flavoursome starter. The seafood soup (1100 ISK) consisting of a mix of seafood also in a clear soup broth, on the other hand, had a subtler taste.

From the Rice and Noodles Menu I selected the fried noodles with vegetables from a list of ten dishes including Singapore rice noodles and mixed noodle soup. The generous serving of tasty, but quite oily, noodles with a smattering of vegetables and chicken comes in at 1200 ISK and is one of the cheaper main courses offered at Great Wall.

My dining companion's choice of fried beef with onions (2600 ISK) consisting of fried beef with pieces of bamboo, carrot, cabbage and onion served in a thick and rich tasting sauce was spot-on. And again, while the beef was delicious, my friend found the portion more than adequate and struggled to finish the dish – something that is sure to be a plus in a city where eating out is generally overpriced. **ZR**



B5

Bankastraeti 5, 101 Reykjavik, tel.: 552 9600

B5 has put a lot of money into show: expensive accessories and the latest in Scandinavian design are undoubtedly meant to dazzle. Downstairs features a classy lounge and a "white whiskey room" made to look like the cellar of a pirate ship. It's even got an X-box.

But restaurants are first and foremost places for good food. Right?

We started with a strapping serving of Lobster Bisque in an oversized bowl the shade of Victoria Beckham's teeth. I might have a preference for greasier, under-seasoned lobster bisques (Sægreifinn, anyone?) but there was something either too buttery or too salty about B5's take on the French favourite. My friend refused to agree with me, but eventually conceded that the 1490 ISK asking price was steep.

For the main course, I ordered the Fried Chicken in sweet chilli curry (1990 ISK) as per the advice of our waitress. This, of course, was probably an amateur's mistake: I had naively pictured something fusion and creative, southern comfort meets Thai spices. What I got was three grams of sautéed chicken slices in a mild curry and a serving of rice. In reality, there was nothing to complain about but the lack of imagination. I could have probably gotten something similar and more authentic at Ban Thai for half the price. My friend ordered the Grilled Salmon with mint fruit salad, potatoes, and Italian cream sauce (2390 ISK). Again, we couldn't figure out whether our mental pictures had failed us. Her salmon was somewhat dry, and the "mint fruit salad" was a mixture of melons and grapes seemingly cut up for a child's school lunch. Something was soaring right over our heads.

The dessert was near-redemptive: a lukewarm chocolate cake with banana filling and a light serving of coconut ice cream. The dish was somewhat pretentiously presented with a glass of milk in the middle of a skinny tray with the two sweets on either side. We were disappointed to hear, later, that the best part of our meal was actually due to the geniuses at Sandholt bakery.

Don't expect the food to talk as loudly as the design or the décor at B5. It's a fantastic, hallucinatory place for drinks – but for dining, it's annoyingly ostentatious. Maybe lunch is better? **CF**



Le Rendez-vous

Klappartígur 38, 101 Reykjavik, tel.: 517 0078

A little over a week ago, a new fine dining destination, restaurant Le Rendez-vous, opened its doors in the city centre. It is best described as a traditional French restaurant, which features personal atmosphere, a tastefully decorated two-floored dining area and chefs who moved to Iceland primarily to pamper local food lovers by offering the best delicacies of the French cuisine. The calming French music playing in the background adds to the overall charm and makes it easy to imagine sitting in some cosy little restaurant in Paris.

The menu doesn't offer a large variety of dishes but features some of the tastiest the French cuisine has become so famous for, all cooked with Icelandic ingredients. The selection includes gourmet specialities such as Quiche Lorraine, Foie Gras, Confit de canard and onion soup as well as fish and lamb dishes.

As a starter I chose the Salade Gourmande while my dining partner, a huge fan of the French cuisine, opted for the classic combo: Foie Gras de canard which of course came with a glass of sweet Sauterne wine (included in the price). I was served a rich plate of romaine salad and tomatoes topped with three types of duck, and found it absolutely delicious. My friend was equally happy with the especially fat and creamy liver of duck, which was a rapid treat for my taste buds.

For the main course, I had to order the Confit de canard, my favourite of all French dishes. The duck leg, cooked slowly in its own fat and served with oily potatoes, was just right and the skin especially crispy. My friend's salmon with béarnaise served with vegetables was a smaller portion than mine, but the homemade and flavoursome sauce and perfectly cooked fish was more than enough to satisfy.

Although we couldn't think about eating another mouthful, the list of desserts was too tempting to call it a night and the Île Flottante and Mousse au chocolat were perfect endings to an excellent meal. I have to say that I greet the long awaited opportunity to dine out at a restaurant in the city where the classic French cuisine is celebrated without being caught up in fusion and experimentation like so many places nowadays. Here, simplicity is the key, which is bound to make the restaurant a success. **SJ**



Toys for Tourists

Text by Zoë Robert Photo by Gulli

Choosing that perfect souvenir to send home can be difficult when stores sell pretty much the same the world 'round. You've probably often wondered how designers can be so unimaginative. One place that stands out from the rest is the store inside the National Museum of Iceland. This place, which is worth a visit in itself, stocks various specially produced goods and handicrafts, along with an extensive selection of books, toys and clothing.

The shop also features a variety of pieces by local Icelandic designers, including graduates from the Icelandic Academy of the Arts. Heiða Björk Árnadóttir, a staff member at the shop, says that they invite students from the art school to visit the museum's permanent exhibition The Making of the Nation, in the hope that they will be inspired to create new products that they can then carry in their store.

And you certainly can't complain about the lack of diversity – you'll find everything from handmade wooden puzzles for children to jewellery to reproductions of old maps of Iceland and replicas of old toys. There are picture books by Icelandic illustrators, and an "environmentally friendly and dishwasher-safe spoon" consisting of a clam shell. Apparently, clam shells have been found in graves and burial mounds of Icelanders and were once used as a cooking and eating utensil.

The store's strict criteria for selecting new items to be stocked are what sets this place apart from the generic souvenir shop. "The product has to be well designed, related to the museum and Iceland, and be of good quality," Árnadóttir says. Some of the products made by students include the "Viking chess" game, a children's colouring book, and the "bearded hat" – a funky balaclava-like hat.

National Museum of Iceland, Suðurgata 41, 101 Reykjavik.
Open 10:00–17:00 everyday.

Reviews by Chandler Fredrick, Steinunn Jakobsdóttir and Zoë Robert Photos by Leó Stefánsson

An outstanding collection of Icelandic design

A new design shop in the oldest house in Reykjavik

- Clothes, jewellery and applied art
- Located in the center of the city
- More than 70 designers

Kraum
Icelandic design

Opening hours
Monday-Friday 9:00 - 18:00
Saturday-Sunday 12:00 - 17:00
Thursday evenings until 22:00

Prehistoric cooking method finally mastered at Argentina's steakhouse!

ARGENTINA

Barónsstíg 11a - 101 Reykjavik,
Tel. +354 551 9555 - www.argentina.is

There is no love sincerer than the love of food

George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)

DOMO RESTAURANT / BAR
PINGHOLTSTRÆTI 5
101 REYKJAVIK
TEL. 552 5588
DOMO@DOMO.IS
WWW.DOMO.IS



LÆKJARGATA 2a IÐUHÚSINU
101 REYKJAVIK S | 5610562 OSUSHI.IS
MUNIÐ LÍKA EFTIR SUSHI TAKEAWAY BÖKKUNUM !

icelandic
FISH & CHIPS

Organic bistro

Creating a tradition

Tryggvgata 8/Geirsgata, 101 Rvk
Tel: 511-1118
Open: mon-fri 11:30-21:00/sat-sun 12:00-21:00
www.fishandchips.is

salt
LOUNGE BAR & RESTAURANT

Happy Hour
7 days a week from 17:00 – 20:00

Mouth watering surprises at SALT every month

Pósthússtræti 2, 101 Reykjavik – ICELAND / +354 599 1000 www.saltrestaurant.is

Services**■ Useful Numbers****Emergency number:** 112**Police:** 569 9000**Medical help:** 1770**Dental emergency:** 575 0505**AA:** 551 2010**Information:** 118**Telegrams:** 146**■ Tax Free Refund****Iceland Refund,**

Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 564 6400

www.icelandrefund.com

■ Laundry Service**HI Hostel,** Sundlaugarvegur 34,

Tel: 553 8110, www.hostel.is

Úðafoss, Vítastígur 13,

Tel: 551 2301, www.udadfoss.is

■ Post Office

Post offices are located around the

city as well as in the countryside.

The downtown post office is at

Pósthússtræti 3-5. For a full list and

info on opening hours visit www.

posturinn.is.

Stamps are also sold in bookstores,

gas stations, some grocery stores and

tourist shops.

■ Embassies and Consulates**in Iceland****United States,** Laufásvegur 21,

Tel: 562 9100

United Kingdom, Laufásvegur 31,

Tel: 550 5100

Russia, Garðastræti 33,

Tel: 551 5156

China, Viðmælur 29,

Tel: 552 6751

For a full list visit Ministry for Foreign

Affairs: www.mfa.is/diplomatic-mis-

sions/icelandic-missions/

■ Internet Access

Most coffeehouses have wireless

Internet access.

Computers with Internet connections

are available at:

Ráðhúskaffi City Hall, Tjarnargata 11**BSÍ Bus Terminal,**

Vatnsmýrarvegur 10

Ground Zero, Vallarstræti 10**The Reykjavik City Library,**

Tryggvagata 15

The National and University Li-**brary,** Armgrimsgrata 3**Tourist Information Centre,**

Aðalstræti 2

Icelandic Travel Market: Bankastræti 2

■ Opening hours**Bars and clubs:** According to regula-

tions bars may be open until 01:00 on

weekdays and 05:30 on weekends.

Shops: Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat 10-16, Sun

closed. The shopping centres Kringlan

and Smáralind as well as most super-

markets and tourist shops have longer

opening hours.

Swimming pools: weekdays

06:30-22:30, weekends 08:00-20:30

although some may be open an hour

longer.

The State owned ÁTVR liquor**stores:** Mon-Thu 11-18, Fri 11-19, Sat

11-18.

Banks in the centre are open Mon-Fri

09-16.

Getting Around**■ Public transport**

The only public transport system in

Reykjavik is the bus. Most busses run

every 20 minutes and price per fare is

250 ISK for adults and 75 ISK for chil-

dren. Complete route map at: www.

bus.is. Tel: 540 2700

Buses run from 07:00-24:00 on

weekdays and 10:00-24:00 on week-

ends

■ Rent a bike**Borgarhjól,** Hverfisgata 50,

Tel: 551 5653, www.borgarhjol.net

HI Hostel, Sundlaugarvegur 34,

Tel: 553 8110, www.hostel.is

Tourist Information Centre,

Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 590 1550,

www.visitreykjavik.is

■ Taxi**Hreyfill-Bæjarleiðir,**

Tel: 553 3500 or 588 5522

BSR, Tel: 561 0000**■ For disabled travellers****Reykjavik Group Travel Service,**

Brunastaðir 3, Tel: 587 8030, www.

randburg.com/is/reykjavik_group_trav-

el_service/

A useful brochure, Accessible Reykja-

vik, can be found at tourist offices.

■ Car rentals**Átak Car Rental,** Smiðjuvegur 1,

Tel: 554 6040

ALP, Dugguvogur 10, Tel: 562 6060**Avis,** Knarrarvogi 2, Tel: 591 4000**Eurocar,** Hjallahraun 9, Tel: 565 3800**A.G Car Rental,** Tangarhófi 8-12.

Tel: 587 5544

Atlas Car Rental, Dalshraun 9,

Tel: 565 3800

Berg Car Rental, Tangarhófi 8,

Tel: 570 3030, www.flugfelag.is

Hertz, Flugvallavegur, Tel: 522 4400**■ Airlines****Air Iceland,** Reykjavikurflugvöllur,

Tel: 570 3030, www.flugfelag.is

Air Vestmannaeyjar, Tel: 481 3255,

www.eyjaflug.is

■ Bus Terminal**BSÍ,** Vatnsmýrarvegur 10,

Tel: 562 1011, www.bsi.is

■ Samferda.net

A reasonable choice for the budget

traveller. You log on to the website

www.samferda.net, choose your

destination and hopefully find a travel

buddy to share the cost.

Cultural Centres and**Tourist Offices****■ The Intercultural Centre**

The Intercultural Centre throws oc-

casional cultural events and confer-

ences but its main purpose is to be an

information and counselling centre

and serve as an advocate for the rights

of immigrants in Iceland.

Hverfisgata 18, Tel: 530 9300

www.ahus.is

■ Icelandic Travel Market

Bankastræti 2, Tel: 510 5700,

www.kleif.is

Information on day tours, accommo-

dations, car rental and everything else

you need to know when travelling in

Iceland.

■ Iceland Visitor

Lækjargata 2, Tel: 511 2442,

www.icelandvisitor.com

A travel agency offering travelling

package trips and custom-made tours

as well as car rental, day tours and

accommodations for visitors.

■ Tourist Information Centre

Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 590 1550,

www.visitreykjavik.is

Offers information for tourists as well

as providing internet access, booking

service, a phone centre, money ex-

change service, tax refund and selling

the Reykjavik Tourist Card. The Reykja-

vik Tourist Card gives admission to city

buses, various museums, Reykjavik

swimming pools, The Family Park and

Reykjavik Zoo, The Culture House and

the National and University Library.

■ The Icelandic Tourist Board

Lækjargata 3, Tel: 535 5500,

www.visiticeland.com

All information needed before travel-

ling in Iceland.

■ Goethe Institute

Túngata 14, Tel: 561 5921,

www.goethe.de/island

A cultural institute that offers movie

screenings, lectures and German

language courses.

■ Nordic House

Sturlugata 5, Tel: 551 7030,

www.nordice.is

The Nordic cultural centre organises

various cultural events, conferences

and exhibitions.

All major tourist spots in Reykjavik

also offer brochures, maps and informa-

tion for travellers.

Useful Information**■ Where to learn Icelandic as a****foreign language****Icelandic on the Internet,**

www.vefskoli.is

Mimir Continuing Education,

Skeifán 8, Tel: 580 1800, www.mimir.is

Námsflokkar Reykjavíkur,

Frikirkjuvegur 1, Tel: 551 2992

Fjölmenning, Laugavegur 59,

Tel: 511 1319, www.fjolmenning.is

The Icelandic College of Engineer-**ing and Technology,** Höfðabakki 9,

Tel: 577 1400, www.thi.is

Iðnskólinn í Reykjavík,

Skólavörðuholti, Tel: 552 6240,

www.vi.is

The University of Iceland – Depart-**ment of Continuing Education,**

Dunhagi 7, Tel: 525 4924,

www.edurmenntun.is

■ Religious movements

The national church in Iceland is the

Evangelical Lutheran Church. Masses

are generally held on Sundays at 11:00

in churches all around the capital.

Service in English is at Hallgrímskirkja

every last Saturday each month, start-

ing at 14:00. The Roman Catholic

Church also has masses in English and

Polish.

Other religious movements in Reykja-

vik are for example:

The Muslim Association of Iceland,

Ármúli 38

Ásatrú Association, Grandagarði 8**Bahá'í,** Álfabakka 12**The Church of Evangelism,**

Hlíðasmári 9

The Icelandic Buddhist Movement,

Víghólastigur 21

Reykjavik Free Lutheran Church,

Frikirkjuvegur 5

Pentecostal Assembly, Hátún 2**Roman Catholic Church,**

Hávallagata 14

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-**Day Saints,** Ásabraut 2**Jehovah's Witnesses,** Sogavegur 71**Seventh-Day Adventists,**

Suðurlíði 36

Zen Buddhism in Iceland,

Reykjavikurvegur 31

Independent Church,

Háteigsvegur 101

The Russian Orthodox Church in**Iceland,** Sólvallagata 10**The Cross,** Hlíðasmári 5-7**■ Trade Unions****The Icelandic Federation of Labour,**

Sættún 1, Tel: 535 5600, www.asi.is

The Federation of State and Mu-**nicipal employees,** Grettisgata 89,

Tel: 525 8300, www.bsrb.is

The Association of Academics, Bor-

gartún 6, Tel: 581 2090, www.bhm.is

Efling, Sættún 1, Tel: 510 7500,

www.efling.is

The Commercial Workers' Union,

Kringlan 7, Tel: 510 1700, www.vr.is

Union of Public Servants, Grettis-

gata 89, Tel: 525 8340, www.sfr.is

■ Useful Websites**www.visitreykjavik.is** (The official

tourist website of Reykjavik)

www.gayice.is (Information about

the gay scene in Iceland)

www.fjolmenningarsetur.is

(The Multicultural Centre)

www.hostel.is

(Hostel International in Iceland)

www.vinnumalastofnun.is

(Public employment services)

www.gulalinn.is (The yellow pages)**www.leigulistinn.is** (Rent a flat)**www.simaskra.is**

(Icelandic telephone directory)

■ Where to get ...**Work and residence permit:** The

Directorate of Immigration, Skógarhlíð

6, Tel: 510 5400, www.utli.is.

Insurance and benefits: The State

Social Security Institute, Laugavegur

114-116, Tel: 560 4400, www.tr.is

Icelandic citizenship: Unless you

come from a Nordic country, foreign

citizens have to have had an unre-

stricted residence permit in Iceland for

at least seven years in order to get an

Icelandic citizenship although some

exceptions exist to that general rule.

Applications are at the Ministry of

Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs,

Skuggasund, Tel: 545 9000,

www.domsmalaraduneyti.is

Unemployment benefits: Director-

ate of Labour, Public Employment

Service, Tryggvagata 17, Tel: 515 4800,

www.vinnumalastofnun.is

Icelandic social security number**(kennitala):** National Register, Bor-

gartún 30, Tel: 560 9800,

www.hagstofa.is

Driver's license: Those who have a

foreign license don't need an Icelandic

one for the first six months. After that



10,000 ISK

"Matthias Þórðarson, arts teacher and National Treasure Guard with his pupils, 1909." Gallery and shop Fotografi sells historical and nostalgic treasures in the form of old photographs from life in Reykjavik throughout the last century. Similar photographs can also be purchased mounted.
Fotografi, Skólavörðustigur 4A



16,800 ISK

This glossy and tasselled Piano Satellite shirt by April 77 says, "I like to ride horses bare backed on my ranch in Texas but I also enjoy wine tasting and fine cheeses." Enjoy it with a toy gun and a bandana.
Dead, Laugavegur 29

1,200 ISK

Kitsch is in. So are hot blondes in bathing suits. Anything and everything you could ever dream of serving to a room full of adoring guests looks better when served on top of a half-naked lady. Plus the seagulls add a certain je ne sais quoi. Kitchenware doesn't get much classier.
Friða Frænka, Vesturgata 3



16,900 ISK

Hand screened and sewn, this is one of many designs available at Jón Sæmundsson's newly opened Dead store on Laugavegur. With an attached belt and scarf, this shirt-dress, which reads "nothing is true, everything is permitted" suits both body and mind on these warm Icelandic days. Also available in beige.
Dead, Laugavegur 29

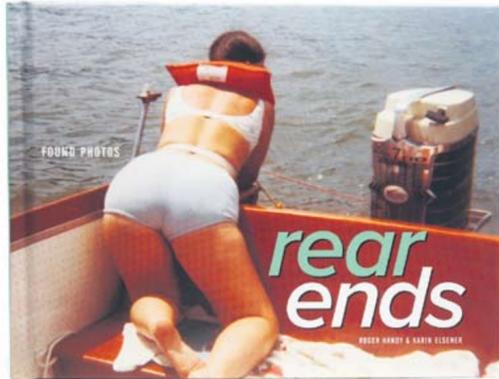


6,500 ISK

At Friða Frænka you can find everything but the kitchen sink to furnish your home with nostalgic flare. The large vintage boutique offers a wide selection of antiques straight from your grandma's house. This rotary telephone alone is enough to bring you back a few decades, to a time when things had style first, purpose second.
Friða Frænka, Vesturgata 3

3,500 ISK

Butts are great. A whole book full of butts is even better. You can pick up this and other books filled with photographs ranging from the whimsical to the existential at gallery and store Fotografi on Skólavörðustigur. The store features mainly Icelandic artists, whose photographs can be purchased framed, as well as on postcards, posters, and even T-shirts.
Fotografi, Skólavörðustigur 4A



Pay Attention!

Dead

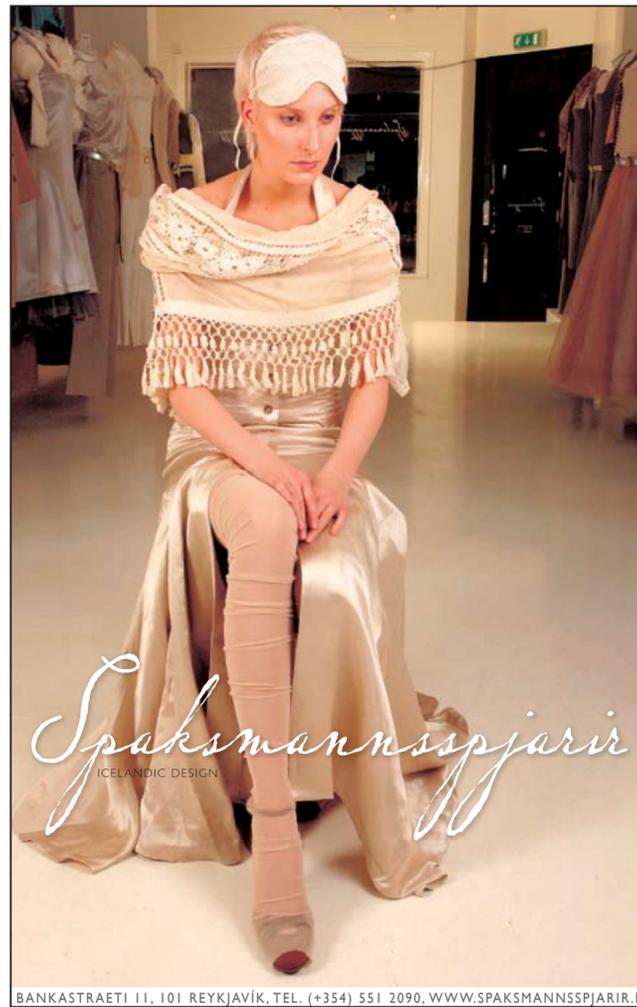
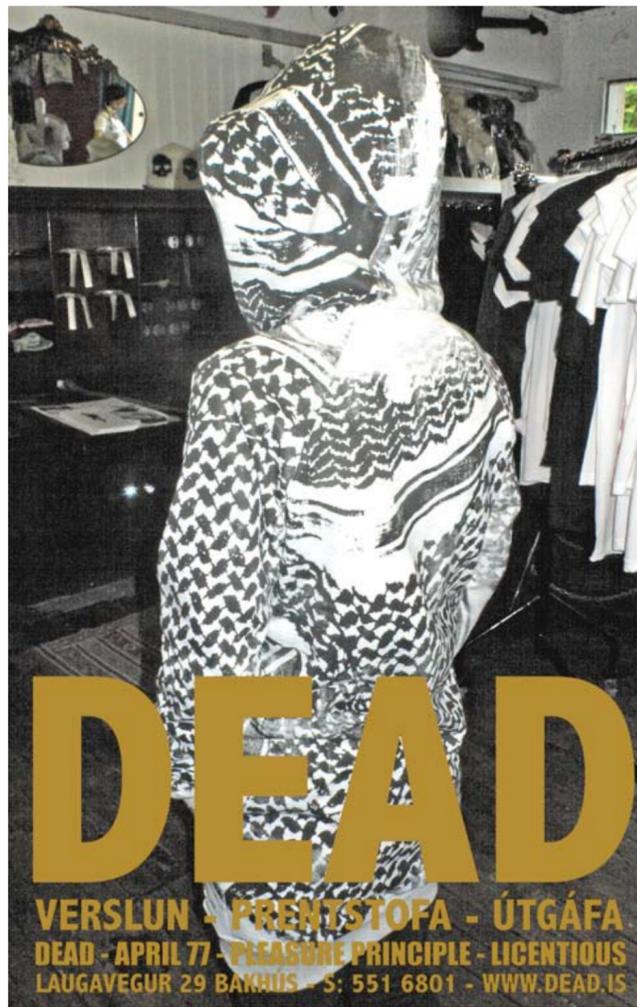
Laugavegur 29, 101 Reykjavík

In an alley stretching off of Laugavegur, Jón Sæmundur Auðarson's Dead label has found a permanent home in his store of the same name. The former owner of Nonnabúð and Liborius, Auðarson has taken his label, which began simply with the now well-known hand-printed T-shirts bearing the Dead skulls and the Spanish proverb, "He Who Fears Death Cannot Enjoy Life," and turned it into a major label, one which is retailed to shops in Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Iceland, and is soon to be distributed in America. At Dead, you can get its freshest designs straight from the horse's mouth.

Auðarson, who is also a well-known painter and sculptor in Reykjavík, designs and prints

all items in the Dead label himself. Auðarson also prints T-shirts for The Way Down, the first band signed to Dead Records. His studio, as well as his newly founded record label, Dead Records, is right next door to the shop. Along with staple items from his own label, Auðarson sells April 77, Pleasure Principle, and Licentious as well as tools and T-shirts for self-printing.

Eli Roth and Quentin Tarantino were spotted wearing Dead gear when they visited Iceland last year, and clothes from the line were featured in Tarantino's latest film Death Proof. VP



BANKASTRAETI 11, 101 REYKJAVÍK, TEL. (+354) 551 2090, WWW.SPAKSMANNSPJARIR.IS



BIRNA

BIRNA CONCEPT SHOP
Skólavörðustigur 2 - 101 Reykjavík
www.birna.net Tel: +354 445 2020

4 Stores - 1 Roof
Biggest fashion house downtown Reykjavík



CENTRUM

mens:
Paul Smith
Tiger of Sweden
Bruuns Bazaar
Mads Nørgaard
Day
Matinique

womens:
Imperial
Please
Lee
Remix



galleri sautján

mens:
Diesel
Energie
Nudie
G-Star

womens:
Diesel
Miss Sixty
Nymph
Sisters-Point
Modestrom
Samsó Samsó



gs skór shoestore

mens:
Lloyd
Paul Smith
Bunker
Sendra Boots
Bull Boxer
Bronx

womens:
Again & Again
Gardenia
Les Lolitas
Billi Bi
Bronx
Julie Dee



eva

womens:
Nicole Farhi
Gerard Darel
DKNY
Bruuns Bazaar
Kristensen du Nord
IKKS
Just in case

location:
Laugavegur 89-91
101 Reykjavík

galleri
laugavegi 91



CENTRUM eva gs skór galleri sautján



SKELLTU ÞÉR Á ÞJÓÐHÁTIÐ

MÍÐASALA Í ÖLLUM VERSLUNUM 10-11, BT SELFOSSI OG ÍSAFIRÐI

BUBBI MORTHENS + Í SVÖRTUM FÖTUM + STEFÁN HILMARS + Á MÓTI SÓL
LAYLOW + WULFGANG + XXX ROTTWEILER + SPRENGJUHÖLLIN + HÁLFT Í HVORU
RAGGI BJARNA OG ÞORGEIR ÁSTVALDSSON + DANS Á RÓSUM + LOGAR + BREKKUSÖNGUR + BRENNNA + FLUGELDASÝNING

MÍÐASALA Í ÖLLUM VERSLUNUM 10-11, BT SELFOSSI OG ÍSAFIRÐI
MÍÐAVERÐ Í FORSÖLU ER 9.900 KR
ALMENNT MÍÐAVERÐ 11.900 KR.
SJÁ NÁNAR WWW.10-11.IS + WWW.DALURINN.IS



their quota. To help regions that have for some reason lost their access to fishing quota we also have the "regional quota system", where part of the TAC is distributed to those in need."

Þórarinn Ólafsson (ÞÓ), *Ísafjörður, is a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries from the University of Akureyri and works at Hraðfrystihúsið Gunnvör (one of the Westfjords' few still-remaining giant fishing conglomerates) overseeing their ventures into cod farming:*

"It is a system built to manage fishing around Iceland."

Halldór Hermannsson (HH), *Ísafjörður, a retired fishing captain is equally outspoken on the system, although he's at the other end of the spectrum from HHG. He is also my grandfather whom I love and respect:*

"As fish is considered to be a limited resource, we have been managing it with this system since 1984. At first, quota out of the TAC was allotted to vessels according to their average catch in the five preceding years. This was the idea. Those of us who thought it could work back then now consider the whole system a raging mess, and that all of the system's noble intentions were ruined when they changed it in 1990 to the effect that quota owners could sell their allotted quota for profit, without so much as paying a resource tax off their gains. It spawned tremendous racketeering, people started selling and renting out their quota for a great profit, everything went haywire. This was all done to please hard-line libertarians, and those are no better than hard-line communists in my book.

We warned that Iceland's small towns would shrivel up, and this is what's happened. It's a terrible way to treat a nation whose identity is so firmly grounded in fishing. New Zealanders established a similar system around the same time, but they did it right, and humanely. Seven percent of the catch is paid back to the nation in form of a resource tax, and quota can only be rented out with a 2% commission, which is a far cry from the 60-70% commission they charge here.

Also, the system invites so much swindling; those who buy or rent overpriced quota can only ever bring the biggest fish to land, throwing the small, less profitable ones dead in the ocean. This is among the reasons why the system has failed to reach its original purpose: cod stock now is smaller than ever before. I say to hell with it!"

Hannes Hólmsteinn Gissurason (HHG), *Reykjavík, is a Political Science professor at the University of Iceland, well known for his libertarian views and an outspoken supporter of the system in question:*

"The ITQ system is a system of individual transferable quotas. The purpose is both to limit access to a limited resource and to ensure that those who run their enterprises most efficiently, do harvest the catch."

Grimur Atlason (GA), *Bolungarvík, is the mayor of small (pop. 900) Westfjords village that's heavily dependant on the fishing industry, and thus the quota system:*

"Iceland's fish management system was established in 1983 to protect the fish stock and build it up. It wasn't originally conceived as a system of ownership as much as a system that enabled those best suited to catch the fish to do so. Today, it's the complete reverse, and has become property based. Quota is now a valuable commodity that's traded in the marketplace and that has both good and bad aspects. It's both an established venue for honest, healthy trading that's important to Iceland's economy, and also a sort of racket. They're still trying to use it to manage the fish stock, but with all due respect it's safe to say that it's all but collapsed."

How does it work?

HHG: "Those who are most efficient buy out the others who leave the fishery. This is a good thing since the problem was that too many were harvesting the limited resource."

EKG: "Its original declared purpose was to keep the total catch within certain limits, something we failed to do at first because the system allowed the industry to surpass them. Nowadays, however, the total catch is close to what the government decrees.

It has reduced the cost of fishing, while at the same time putting the industry in more debt. On the other hand, the fishing industry seems more able to deal with that debt than before because the whole process has become much more efficient. In this regard it's evident that the system has met its purpose; efficiency

has gone up and costs have gone down. It has also had some negative effects, and I think the most negative ones can be seen when quota is sold from already weakened fishing villages. So there's an answer to how it has worked: positively in the economic department, and negatively in regards to regional development outside of Reykjavík. It should be kept in mind, however, that quota transfers usually happen between the coastline's fishing villages for the most part. Some of the small towns grow stronger at the cost of others."

HH: "I can't see that it's working at all. They say it encourages the industry to turn out a better product, but that simply stems from the fact that it's sold on the market today and a better product means a better price. The cod stock has collapsed. Fishing villages are being abandoned. Less people find work in the industry. Are those the desired results?"

BJ: "Each vessel owner is allotted a certain percentage of the quota and if the total catch goes up, they all do. If the total allotted catch goes down the reverse happens. Quota can be transferred between vessels and fishing companies. The vessel owners are buying and selling quotas. In some cases they are temporarily leasing quotas from one company to another. This means that some can start collecting quota while others are pushed out of fishing altogether."

What is its main purpose?

Has it been reached?

HHG: "The purpose was to ensure that those who are most efficient at harvesting fish, do so, and that those who are less efficient, leave the fishery and do other things where they may be more efficient. It has more or less been reached, at least in comparison to other nations where the fisheries are loss-making enterprises, dependent on government subsidies."

HH: "Its main purpose was originally to protect the fish in the ocean, limit the total catch and strengthen the various settlements around the country. It has failed on every count, as is clear now when the total cod quota has been cut down to 130,000 tons compared to an average of 300,000 tons in the past. Of course nature plays a role here, but to claim that the system works is ludicrous.

And now they're saying that the government doesn't subsidize fisheries like in the past, as if that's the great accomplishment and goal! And even that is a lie; the government subsidizes the fisheries and vessel owners by exempting them from paying the resource tax. Hannes Hólmsteinn (HHG) and his cronies, us fishermen despise them, travelling the world saying Iceland has the best fish management system. Our quota system is a bleeding mess and that's clear to anyone with eyes in their head."

GA: "At first it was to protect and build up the fish stock, and to strengthen Iceland's fishing settlements. Today, the latter purpose has all but vanished from the system. It's more of a control mechanism now, and its success at protecting the fish stock is limited, especially in light of the latest cutbacks. What might be needed is more research on fishing grounds; all the different species and other factors combine to make a complex eco system that we really don't understand well enough. Also, many fishing villages now have no quota and are slowly turning into ghost towns. So I'd say it's failed both of its purported purposes. I don't know if we can ever change it back, as it's become an intricate part of our economy, but it's clear that in and of itself, it's a failure."

ÞÓ: "To keep control of fishing around Iceland, that's the main purpose. To ensure that fishing is done in as efficient and profitable manner as possible. These goals have been reached for the most part, although one could go into a long tirade counting the pros and cons of the system."

BJ: "To restrict fishing from a limited resource and try to allocate access in a fair manner. The idea is to build up the fish stock in the future. In view of recent events, when the cod quota was cut down to 130 thousand tons, it is hard to say that the system has achieved its goals. However, one cannot overlook the fact that since the quota system was taken up in 1984, cod fishing has been some 900 thousand tons more than the specialists at the MRI recommended."

Name some of the effects its had since its inception.

BJ: "The fishing industry is much more efficient than before because of it. In recent months, the

Icelandic Króna has become stronger, almost by the day. A few years ago, this would have called for government involvement in some way and cries for the devaluation of the currency. Now, companies are weathering the storm on their own."

EKG: "It's safe to say that it's introduced great efficiency and optimized its processes, reducing waste where possible. It also increased the risk of certain illegal activities such as unreported catches and instances where the smaller fish get thrown away so it doesn't come off the vessel's quota. We have been trying to react to those negatives aspects using various means, and continue to do so."

HH: "Fisheries all around the country have collapsed and now stand empty, people who lost their jobs continue to vacate the smaller towns, etc. Here in Ísafjörður, right beside the world's richest fishing grounds, there's barely a semblance left of what was once a bustling economy. We once had nearly two dozen large vessels operating from here, now they're down to two or three. Those who claim that the quota system is good and benevolent are nothing but liars." **HHG:** "It has transferred the quotas, i.e. the access rights, from the less efficient to the more efficient. It has rationalised the fisheries. It has created a lot of capital, and is one of the explanations for the accumulation of capital abroad."

Does it affect Icelanders not directly involved with the fishing industry?

ÞÓ: "Yes, in negative and positive ways, especially those living in the smaller fishing villages." **HHG:** "Yes, indirectly, because it is an efficient system. Essentially, the fish stocks which were a common good before, and therefore valueless, as all common goods are, became a private good, and got valuable."

EKG: "There's no doubt about that. In fact, the University of Iceland's Institute of Economic Studies has shown that the fishing industry's affect on our economy is underestimated. Fewer people are working in the industry now because of technological advancements, but every vessel and fishery creates jobs in the service industry, in marketing, engineering and in the scientific and technological fields, for instance."

BJ: "Yes, of course. One part of the economy can never be separated from the rest. However, nowadays the fishing industry is no longer in the news every day. Twenty years ago the government was much more involved on a day-to-day basis, and a reduction in the cod quota would have been a major blow to the economy. People in every sector could have expected a reduction in their real wages. Now the change mostly affects inhabitants of fishing villages, not everybody."

GA: "It does, a lot. The recent cutbacks will affect our entire nation, however indirectly; our total export value will decrease by 20 billions per year. On a smaller scale, in towns where fishing is the main industry, it affects everyone from the storeowner to the cleaning lady. And those drinking beer at Sirkús tonight, it will affect them, too."

Alienation is getting to be a big problem in Icelandic society; people don't think that the fishing industry affects anyone but a few desolate souls in the countryside and maybe some immigrants. They even fail to see anything outside of Reykjavík as a part of Iceland. People get outraged when the government decides to build a tunnel to Bolungarvík, for instance, not realizing that the townspeople contributed over 300 million ISK in taxes last year. It's bad PR on our behalf, basically."

Continues on next page »

"Those who are most efficient buy out the others who leave the fishery. This is a good thing since the problem was that too many were harvesting the limited resource."

Is it here to stay?

EKG: "Everything indicates that it's not likely to change in principle in the foreseeable future. It is clear that the industry needs stability, more than anything. Uncertainty can have very bad effects. It also seems to me that the system is less disputed than often before."

BJ: "The quota system is far from perfect, just as any other known regulation system, and this needs to be constantly kept in mind. One can argue that under certain conditions, the likelihood of small fish being thrown away increases. Hence, this calls for efficient control and enforcement system. I see no other system that would be more efficient. The Faeroe Isles tried a different system and are now facing a fishing crisis."

GA: "Discontinuing it now would be hard, as a lot of honest, hard working people have invested a lot of their capital in the system. But we could change some of its tenets, and bring a greater emphasis on eco-friendly fishing, the smaller vessels that use less oil and don't damage the ocean floor. That would become a great commodity in the long run."

HH: "They've all but nailed it down. The banks have pawned all the fish in the ocean, a lot of ill-gotten money is at stake, so escaping this foul system will take years. At the same time, it's clear that this course is leading us to squallor, yet the government refuses to reconsider even the worst aspects of it. We are currently firmly entrenched in the clutches of capital. My only hope is that we'll someday have the good fortune to join the European Union so that us outside of Reykjavík will stand a fair chance once again, but that isn't likely to happen anytime soon."

HHG: "Yes, and in other countries too. There is no other way of efficiently limiting access to a limited good."

Should it be used to influence Iceland's regional development?

PO: "No."

HH: "That was the idea, but it's never been

put to action. You can't restrain the free enterprise. It could have been done and it should have been done, we suggested that the quota should be tied to specific regions, and that places in need of quota could access it from the state. But the government doesn't interfere now, out of fear of angering the free trade apostles."

HHG: "The fish stocks should be harvested from the places from which it is most efficient to harvest it. This is not something that the planners would know. This emerges through market transactions. The highest bidders are the most efficient ones, in the long run."

EKG: "Yes, it should, using some of the means I mentioned earlier. We decided to take a considerable part of the quota and allot it to smaller vessels that belong to smaller communities, that was a political decision to use the system to influence and help development in those places. The same thing applies to the line concessions and the regional quotas we distribute every year."

BJ: "I don't know what you mean by this question. However, society will always adjust to the system that is used. This means that if fishing and fish processing is now done more efficiently than before, this will influence people. Fewer people are needed to do the same amount of work and it is done better than before. It should be mentioned that fish processing is now done mostly by workers originating from foreign countries. This started in the 1990s and may have been the beginning of the drift of Icelanders away from fish processing."

GA: "It's a tough subject, but yes. The industry should be kept where it's most logical to keep it – Bolungarvík has been bustling fishing station for the last thousand years, and that's no co-incidence. It simply makes more sense to catch the fish and process it where it has a potential for self-sustainability and access to it is easiest. Harvesting fish from Reykjavík, or even Ísafjörður, doesn't make much sense."



Privatised and Downsized Cod

Text by Jóhann Hauksson

Icelanders' allotted cod quota was recently cut by a third, which is more than ever before since Iceland won the cod wars with Great Britain in the 1970s and expanded their territorial waters to 200 nautical miles. The cutback is also the biggest in cod fishing since the Icelandic Government legalised their quota system (the ITQ system) in 1985. That was done at the behest of biologists and marine biologists in order to protect the stock against over-fishing and to establish a self-sustainable fishing industry.

The cutbacks will primarily affect the third of the nation that lives by the island's coasts. There the main industry consists of fishing, processing, and exporting fish products. The exceedingly high exchange rate of the Icelandic dwarf-Króna has the effect that the two-thirds of the nation living in the greater Reykjavík area do well by importing various consumer goods, while their export-industry cousins by the seaside face an increasingly grim reality. Capital dwellers take fancy in trailing the country's highways with the world's biggest trailers in tow to find out how the cod quota cutbacks are affecting the folks in the villages on the shoreline, those that earn their keep by means of export.

Thus, it shouldn't come as a surprise that Iceland is evolving into a sort of city-state, where a government that's pointedly uninterested in any sort of regional development policy has stood by as two out of every three Icelanders now populate the same spot. How would the English or French like it if the population numbers of London or Paris reached 35-40 million? How would the Swedish government like it if six of their nine million Swedes resided in Stockholm?

What's worst is the ever-present doubt. How do the marine biologists know that cod fishing needs to be cut down so drastically, while haddock and herring fishing doesn't?

Aside from that, the quota-isation of the various species of fish results in as much cod and haddock being caught throughout the next fishing-year. Every fisherman and those who have studied nature know that no known fishing implement can catch one haddock for every cod. The nature of the ocean deems that for every haddock caught, you will catch three to four cod.

The honest shipowner is then left with a single choice. If he is allowed catch 100 tons of haddock, he must own at least 200 tons of cod quota. If that isn't enough, he can either throw away the cod that exceeds the aforementioned ratio, or he can illegally unload the cod outside of the heavily regulated quota system. Can it be that a quota system that goes against nature will produce criminals?

Around 13 years ago, marine biologists, economists and other specialists sat down and made a definitive rule that would become the dominant paradigm for the government and the Marine Research Institute (MRI). It states that no more than 25% of the estimated stock of fish may be caught at a given time. For example, if marine biologists estimate the cod stock within Iceland's territorial waters at one million tonnes, they allow 250,000 to be caught.

These same specialists claimed at the time that if their 25% rule were maintained, cod fishing would be self-sustainable and growing within the decade.

The exact opposite has happened. Marine biologists now demand that the standard to be lowered to 20% or less. Minister of Fisheries Einar Kr. Guðfinnsson has nothing to reference their claims by, as the only accepted marine biology exists within a single foundation (the MRI) and is interwoven with the quota system and with the shipowners' interests. The Minister of Fisheries didn't dare to ignore the MRI's advice, and thus cut the cod quota down from 190,000

tonnes per fishing-year to 130,000 tonnes.

Marine biologists have responded to criticism by saying that the government and fishermen have never followed their advice, and that at least one million tonnes of cod have been caught in excess of their advised numbers.

Is this believable? Isn't it reminiscent of a meteorologist blaming car-owners for his failed five-day forecast?: That they emit so much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere with their cars that there's no way to predict weather five days into the future. Twelve years ago, the MRI's marine biologists clearly promised that Icelanders would reach the land of milk and honey within a decade by following their 25% rule.

Recently, Einar Oddur Kristjánsson, the Independence Party's MP for the Westfjords, passed away suddenly. The North-Atlantic's richest cod fishing grounds are located by the Westfjords. Kristjánsson had criticised the MRI for years. He believed that establishing competition within the MRI's field of science – one so important for this nation of fishermen – was absolutely essential. The absolute last-word power of the MRI could establish the same kind of Lysenkoism abundant in the Soviet Union of yore. Trofim Lysenko was a Soviet scientist who maintained a biological theory that, among other things, refused to acknowledge Mendelian genetics. The Soviet Communist Party made Lysenko's science a state one, declaring his critics to be heretics and enemies of the people. Soviet biology didn't recover from Lysenko-ism until the 1960s.

Illugi Gunnarsson, a young Independence Party MP with strong ties to the Westfjords, has backed up Kristjánsson's criticism. He says – 15 years after the fact – that it was in hindsight unfortunate to make the only scientific institution in the field, the Marine Research Institute, into a sort of scientific beacon and at

the same time the sole scientific justification for the quota system. This has had the effect that those who present objective criticisms of the theories and calculations of the MRI are at the same time stigmatised as opponents of the quota system.

The quota system is the legitimate offspring of libertarianism and 'marketisation' within the fishing industry, where the policy's alpha and omega are handing rights to uncaught fish in the ocean directly to shipowners. Everybody knows the reasoning behind these actions. It has for long been preached to the world from the pulpit of the International Monetary Fund.

Indeed, Hannes Hólmsteinn Gissurarson, Iceland's foremost libertarian missionary (and Independence party ideologue), wrote in an article for the Wall Street Journal published January 29, 2004, that Iceland's success with the "libertarian experiment" far surpassed that of Pinochet's Chile and Margaret Thatcher's Britain. The only remaining task was to privatise Icelanders' natural resources, such as energy and fish.

"Iceland's success with the 'libertarian experiment' [has] far surpassed that of Pinochet's Chile and Margaret Thatcher's Britain."

Inside Reykjavík

The Grapevine Guide



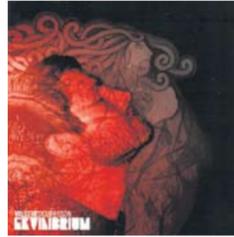


The only guide that tells you the talk of the swimming pools, how to find the best cafes, how to recover from all night parties, an A to Z of Icelandic music and what "Viltu kaffi?" can really mean.

Travel Guides Can Be Honest. Really

Available at your nearest bookstore





Valgeir Sigurðsson
Ekvilibrium

Ekvilibrium is the first solo release by Valgeir Sigurðsson, record producer who's worked with Björk, Cocorosie and Bonnie 'Prince' Billy to name a few. Ekvilibrium is a collection of songs presented in a near-perfectly tweaked mixture of acoustics and electronics. It shows Valgeir as a clever arranger and a motivated producer with plenty of knowledge to craft tiny yet adult electronic symphonies. Those are somewhat reminiscent of such electronica duos as Matmos, Pan Sonic and Boards of Canada and the oo-ing and choo-ing of Sigur Rós. To give an extra soft, yet mostly sad touch, vocalists like Bonnie 'Prince' Billy and Dawn McCarthy appear in three tracks. Also, Bad Seeds contributor Warren Ellis, Múm's Hildur Guðnadóttir and Frou Frou's Guy Sigsworth lend their hands here. This album has quite an impressive résumé for a debut, but sometimes fails to astonish as it often treads familiar ground. Perhaps not the feel good album of the summer, rather a pretty nice soundtrack for its rainy days. We might be talking about a feel good hit of the winter here. **BR**



The Way Down
See You In Hell

The Way Down is a band fronted by veteran musician Ari Eldon and his wife Riina. Ari has been a known figure in the Icelandic underground scene for the last two decades and has played with legendary bands such as Bless (who released their only full length on the now defunct Rough Trade USA), Dr. Gunni and Sogblettir. The couple is backed by another veteran, Magnús Þorsteinsson, who played with cult bands like Inri and Bleiku Bastarnir. See You In Hell is the band's first effort and comes as a three-inch compact disc packed with neatly crafted nine songs that all clock in at under three minutes. The feel of this album is really home-y and at various points brings to mind Loaded-era Velvet Underground, Galaxie 500, The Gun Club in a sludgy mood and even a rough version of The Carpenters. If hell sounds like this, then it isn't a bad place to be. **BR**



Single Drop
Selfitled

Single Drop's Birgir Gíslason spent eight years at music school studying the ins and outs of music theory, and it's pretty clear from the first few tracks that he didn't spend too much time slacking off. You have to admire the compositions on the self-titled release, often recalling Blonde Redhead's Melodie Citronique EP without the squeaky Kazu Mikino or Mew's And the Glass-Handed Kite without the chirpy Jonas Bjerre. The arrangements are generally smart, and the guitar work flourishes, often producing sad and beautiful arpeggiating textures that would make Johnny Greenwood jealous. But the vocals on Single Drop hop around aimlessly on one leg. The singing duties are split up between two girls and one guy, and it seems disappointing that none of them has a distinct vocal character. Sometimes it even makes their music sound mainstream, which is quite a feat when you consider Single Drop's obvious musical knowledge. **CF**



Rafskinna
Issue 1 (DVD Magazine)

Rafskinna, Iceland's first magazine in DVD format, is a beautifully packaged, attractive collectible. Beyond the 2½ hours of (mostly unseen) footage and 16-page printed octavo, it boasts such treasures as a poster, a matchbook, a fly lure and a 1 ISK coin. It's an object that you want to own and it's a fantastic idea.

With any new publication (however unorthodox) the challenge is with originality and quality. Rafskinna's very format ensures a certain level of originality and the reputation of many of the artists included suggests high quality, but this first issue suffers from two essential flaws.

Firstly, despite the declared theme of this issue (fish) the selection and ordering of the pieces feels random. The fact also that only half of the 14 videos bears any relation to the chosen theme undercuts the purpose of having one at all.

Secondly, much of the material comes across as self-referential. This is a project born from the heart of Reykjavík's young art scene, and while no one doubts the vibrancy of the scene it's fair to question its consistency. The standard of work in Rafskinna is hugely variable and I found myself wondering who had made the selection of pieces included and according to what criteria. For anyone with a passing familiarity with the 'scene' there are many familiar faces (Björk of course, but also GusGus, Hugleikur Dagsson, Ghostigital, Skakkamanage and others,) it was frustrating to find that many of these artists seemed to have been included just because they are the so-called pillars of the scene rather than because their particular piece was relevant to the creative scope of this first issue.

Interestingly, the pieces that this viewer found most appealing were pieces that adhered most closely to the declared theme. Rass' wonderful punk-rock anthem 'Burt með kvóttann' (Down With The Quota) is a catchy, tongue-in-cheek gem; Finnur Arnar's contemplative 'Þorskur/Cod' is a beautiful meditation on death and fishing; and Kristján Loðmfjörð's 'Hvalalíf' (an 8 minute remix of Þráinn Bertelsson's 'Dala Líf') is a provocative, witty and vividly edited piece of narrative video art. Also worthy of note are Ben Frost's 'Forgetting you is like breathing water' and Inga Birgisdóttir's four short video pieces, as well as Gunnar Þór Vilhjálmsson and Síggi Eggert's striking artwork design.

As far as the accompanying octavo pamphlet is concerned, the people I spoke to who translated it for me (it's almost exclusively in Icelandic) agreed that the Pisces horoscope, the Zarzuela recipe and the various fish-related vignettes running the circumference of the page were the most entertaining elements.

If Rafskinna's mandate is to 'serve a fresh, meaty plate of what's happening in music, design, film and visual art in Iceland and elsewhere' (as their Myspace page suggests), then it may be relevant to ask what or who the intended audience is, as this question will help define the publication's full potential scope.

While there is much to criticise here, there is also much to encourage and praise. This is a valuable, challenging project that should be promoted and supported – a more rigorous selection process and stricter adherence to the magazine's own creative mandate will, I believe, produce valuable, exciting future editions. I very much look forward to Rafskinna – Issue 2.

By the highway going through Hveragerði, you'll find **EDEN** the greenhouse café

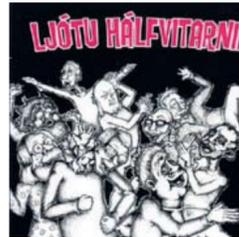
The most popular stop for half a century and surrounded by hot springs, this greenhouse café offers souvenirs, flowers, ice cream and food at reasonable price as well as Icelandic cakes.

EDEN ehf | austurmörk 25 | 810 hveragerði



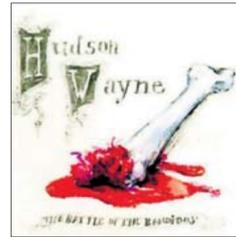
Rhondda & The Runestones
Rhondda & The Runestones

This first release by the Icelandic/Irish quintet Rhondda & The Runestones comes in a slightly erotic jewel case. The band has been causing a minor buzz with their energetic live shows and Reykjavík FM voted them as the rising stars of the week. The sound of Fiona Cribben's (a.k.a. Rhondda) voice recalls such vocalists as Chrissie Hynde, Siouxsie Sioux, Karen O, and Silverfish's Lesley Rankine. Musically, Rhondda & The Runestones could fall somewhere between a bluesy Yeah Yeah Yeahs and swamplier Pixies or even Pere Ubu at their prime in the seventies. Initially, this EP could easily be stamped as just another retro garage rock album but after a few listens it really grows on you. There sure is something retrospective about this band and its EP, but the song writing is interesting enough to keep you focused throughout. **BR**



Ljótu hálfvitarnir
Ljótu hálfvitarnir

Any band that calls itself the Ugly Idiots can't be asking to be taken too seriously, especially when they present themselves without the slightest bit of irony. The band of ugly idiots seems keen on convincing you that they are just that, with an inlay filled with grotesque caricature drawings of the band members. In any case, the music off of their debut does little to redeem their image. Comprised mostly of drunken sing-alongs reminiscent of a subdued Dropkick Murphys singing to a crowd of children, the only half-enjoyable song on the record is Dagar Koma. Written by Guðmundur Svafarsson, it is apparently about monkeys but definitely hovers on the verge of having a point. It's just the kind of song I wouldn't mind doing a little ironic dance to if I was totally drunk. Too bad that's not what they were going for. **VP**



Hudson Wayne
Battle of the Bandidos

This band has been mislabelled the local alt country band; their roots, especially as demonstrated here, are more 80s English and Australian pop slowed down. Most of the nine tracks on this album involve dragging one chord through a slow four count, then repeating: the kind of melancholic monotony that worked well for Nick Cave ballads. Singer, Þráinn uses a baritone and is not afraid to spend a long time on each word to keep the tone... low. With slow beats and low singing and songs about being annoyed, you can get the quick that this is supposed to make you feel a certain way. But the lines, while often adequate, don't resonate. And, of course, melodies are out of the question. The guitar work is at times commendable, especially when notes are played more than once every measure. These are obviously skilled musicians trying to make a mood. We just wish they were making music too. **BC**

Reviews by Bart Cameron, Chandler Fredrick, Benedikt Reynisson and Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir

Reviewed by Tobias Munthe

Gaukur á stöng is proud to be the oldest pub in Iceland. Live music every Fridays, Saturdays and then some.

www.myspace.com/gaukurastong * Tryggvagata 22 * 101 Reykjavík Since 1983

Looking for tickets to concerts in Iceland?

GET THEM ONLINE! **midi.is**

A HAPPY ENDING EACH DAY

RESTAURANTS IN ALL HOTELS • SWIMMING POOLS ALWAYS CLOSE BY • FRIENDLY SERVICE • RATES FROM ISK 3.550 PER PERSON

13 HOTELS AROUND ICELAND

1 ML Laugarvatn • 2 Ík Laugarvatn • 3 Skógar • 4 Vík í Mýrdal • 5 Nesjaskóli
6 Neskaupstaður • 7 Egilsstaðir • 8 Eiðar • 9 Stórutjarnir • 10 Akureyri
11 Laugarbakki • 12 Ísafjörður • 13 Laugar

ONE STOP SHOP FOR 13 HOTELS

Make your order on www.hoteledda.is or by telephone. (+354) 444 4000.



Passing the Test

Text by Sveinn Birgir Björnsson Photo by Gulli

Who: **Mínus**
Where: **Grand Rokk**
When: **July 14, 2007**

Rumours about the imminent break-up of Mínus, Iceland's biggest rock act, had circulated for weeks before second guitarist Frosti and bass player Þróstur recently quit the band – citing artistic differences. The three remaining members recruited a new bass player (Sigurður Oddsson, formerly of Future Future) and declared on their myspace.com site that they would “re-invent the Mínus art machine,” as a four-piece. This was their first real test.

Musically, I think everyone can agree that it was not the band's best performance to date. But, my feeling is that nobody cared as much about how they sounded as the fact that they were there to play in the first place. The band tore through material from their nine-year career, displaying their early metal core roots from debut album Hey Johnny and their breakthrough Jesus Christ Bobby, as well as the more refined stud rock sound of Halldór Laxness and the newly released The Great Northern Whalekill.

New bassist, the clean-cut Sigurður, is steadily growing into his own as Þróstur's replacement and will find his footing with the band. As for the guitar situation, there were two tracks where I thought to myself that another guitar would have made a real difference. But eventually, I suspect the band's image will suffer more for the loss of their former bassist's menacing presence and hard rock aura than it will musically with the loss of a second guitarist (or Þróstur's bass playing for that matter).

But the real difference in seeing this band play now and when I last saw them play three months ago had nothing to do with music. There was a moment towards the end of Mínus' show that put their whole night in perspective. Singer Krummi, by now half-naked and heavily perspiring, thanked the audience for coming out to see them with a contagious look of joy on his face. What their performance lacked in the flawless and professional execution Mínus has developed through the years, they more than made up for with sheer joy and enthusiasm.

The choice of venue might have played a part in their transmittable glee. Grand Rokk is the smallest venue this band has played in quite some time. Standing on a stage that is hardly more than a bulge in an otherwise tiny floor area, Mínus was face to face with their fans. The tight conditions in Grand Rokk created immediacy with the audience that the band has lacked when playing bigger stages. I hope I will soon have an opportunity to see them under such conditions again.

The Mínus art machine still runs. It may need a little fine-tuning yet, but after nine years of revving at high rpm and a lot of mileage, it is only natural if some of the parts are worn out and need to be replaced. Once the overhaul is finished, I think the engine may turn out to be just as powerful as it ever was.



Hopeless Romantics

Text by Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir Photo by Gulli

Who: **My Summer as a Salvation Soldier**
Where: **12 tónar**
When: **July 20, 2007**

“This song is about my mother,” began Þórir with his eyes on the floor. “Who unfortunately has never sat in Parliament.” The audience's eyes, consequently, were all on him, clutching his guitar as he stood hovering delicately above the microphone. Halfway through his short set at 12 Tónar record shop, Þórir, or as he calls his one-man-band, My Summer as a Salvation Soldier, looked quite uncomfortable.

Beginning this song, like every other, with a slow and pensive picking at his guitar, the shy looking twenty-something looked as though he was mentally preparing himself. Leisurely, his strumming grew into a melody. His voice, steady yet sensitive, crooned over the close crowd.

Delivered with the sort of genuine non-pretension that one can't help but praise, Þórir's simple and delicate cogitations, heavily reminiscent of Bright Eyes, are impressive mostly in their candidness. Each short song manages, at its most sensitive of moments, to transcend the gritty clumsiness of the singer's present, filled with more conviction than you thought him capable of. Slow, haunting, and painfully raw, like a dance with your crush at senior prom, Þórir's songs are guiltily enjoyable.

“I'm going to play two more songs, then I have to go to work,” Þórir whispered. The adoration of the crowd climaxed with the apparently well-known chorus from one of the songs off of his newest album, Anarchists

Are Hopeless Romantics. “After all that we've been through/ these are the memories that I will have of you/ when the years are dead and gone, not a single conversation just this song.”

His lyrics were impressively grounded, a testament to the importance of good song writing, clever without being excessively ironic. “I'm feeling sick, I've had too much to think,” and “What are we in this world, what are we but our words?” being especially memorable.

He began his last song a little less than thirty minutes into the set. It was nearly 6. A group of kids ran past the store screaming, allowing a biting contrast to the soft atmosphere inside. The audience stood cosily, holding their plastic cups full of free rose-wine courtesy of the record store. It was as if we had all taken part in a group meditation session and now, with the end in sight, were huddling together for one last song before being forced back out into the harsh, rain-wet streets of Reykjavík.

For now we watched, easily entranced by this the last, and undoubtedly the best, song of the evening. Þórir was surely about to disappear as quietly as he had arrived and we were quite enjoying watching him, as uncomfortable as that may have made him.

The song was ending yet the night was young, and it seemed that Þórir, surprisingly enough, was going to leave us with a nugget of hope.

“And I'll never sing the same old tune, my friends did before me/ I'll be as true to this, as anyone could be.”

I believed him.



Borderline OK

Text by Chandler Fredrick Photo by Gulli

Who: **Wulfgang, Ten Steps Ahead, Vafurlogi**
Where: **Café Amsterdam**
When: **July 20, 2007**

When you identify your band as “rock,” you're automatically recognizing your own fated mediocrity in a way. It almost predetermines the kind of grungy shows you're designated for and just how big (and eclectic) your fan base will get before either a) your sound matures or b) you break up. It is an indulgent genre, with simple chord progressions, rhythms, and an altogether lack of musical patience and restraint.

Café Amsterdam offered the worst of the rock genres last Saturday night – the self-defacing Pub rock, the abysmal Nu-emo, and borderline OK “indie rock.” The surprising variety of the musical vacuum didn't suck out a surprising number of people; I don't think the crowd exceeded 50 the entire night.

I entered maybe one song late into the set of the ambitious Vafurlogi. It became clear after just a few songs that Vafurlogi had a formula: a simple chord progression, change the rhythm maybe once, and then add a guitar solo with a new effect pedal for each song. Repeat for 50 minutes and you've got a Vafurlogi set.

The Nu-emo Ten Steps Ahead speak the teenage language of sweepy bangs and eyeliner – the

yelling, the My Chemical Romance, the bass player's skull bandana. It was all too much for me and I had to go ten steps outside for a bit. I still have to hand it to these guys for playing their hearts out – and there's always something to be said for the sincerity and authenticity of emo music. It's just not going to be said here.

When headliners Wulfgang came on, the crowd had dwindled to around 40 people, who were either friends of the band or members of Vafurlogi. I speculated that Ten Steps Ahead must've inspired everyone to look at their watches and hit the bars, and it was clear that the boys didn't even stay to survey the damage done.

Wulfgang was entertaining enough to watch: frontman The Mind (they've all got English rockonyms) shakes and contorts himself in ways that might give him the title the Elvis of Iceland. But, the bass was way too high during the set and it was disappointing not to hear the clever guitar lines that are distinct on their self-titled debut. Suspecting that it wasn't Café Amsterdam's fault, I later received an explanation from one of the band members that the guitarist's brand new amp had blown just beforehand.

It seemed that the respectable Wulfgang were settling when they decided to play this gig, for their sake I hope that next time they choose a venue higher up on Laugavegur, with much better opening bands.

Icelandic Art ... The Essence of a Nation



Artist: Gunnella

Art Gallery Fold

offers the country's largest selection of contemporary Icelandic art

Rauðarásirgúf 14, near Hlemmur bus station, tel. 551 0400
Kringlan Shopping Mall, tel. 568 0400 · www.myndlist.is



Reykjavík 871 ±2

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 exhibition and museum shop are open daily 10-17

Aáalstræti 16
101 Reykjavík / Iceland
Phone +(354) 411 6370
www.reykjavikmuseum.is

Reykjavík City Museum

Eddas and Sagas

Iceland's national treasures

MEDIAeval MANUSCRIPTS – EDDAS AND SAGAS. EXHIBITION AT THE CULTURE HOUSE.

The Culture House - Þjóðmenningarhúsið
Hverfisgata 15, 101 Reykjavík
Tel.: +354 545 1400, www.thjodmenning.is

Open daily between 11am and 5pm
The admission fee grants entry to all exhibitions at the Culture House. Adults ISK 300. Senior citizens ISK 200. Students ISK 100. Free entry for children 10 years of age or younger. Admission is free on Wednesdays. An open guided tour of the Manuscripts exhibition is offered every weekday except Wednesdays at 3:30 pm.

Exciting

Vor offers great food combined with good prices and anyone who likes Mediterranean gourmet cooking should come visit the new and exciting restaurant.

MON.-THU. 9:30-22:00 | FRI. 9:30-01:00 | SAT. 11:00-01:00 | SUN. 11:00-22:00
LAUGAVEGI 24 | 101 REYKJAVÍK | TEL 562 2322 | WWW.VOR.IS

Sandgerði within reach

Welcome

Only 40 minutes drive from Reykjavík
and only 6 minutes from Keflavik Airport.

Sandgerði has a Nature Research Centre – The Sudurnes University Research Centre and the Exhibition “The Attraction of the Poles”. In Sandgerði there is also an art gallery, candle making workshop, summer houses, a 9-hole golf course and much more.

For more information log on to:
www.sandgerdi.is or call 423-7551



In 1930 Graf Zeppelin visited Iceland and flew over Reykjavik. Today private jets, owned by local billionaires, frequently fly over downtown Reykjavik.



Sea Kayaking

Text by Steinunn Jakobsdóttir
Photo by Gulli

The village of Stokkseyri, located on the south coast of Iceland, is only about a 45-minute drive from Reykjavik and a true recreational paradise for just about any visitor. Home to approximately 500 people, this friendly community offers plenty of activities, including impressive museums, a gourmet lobster restaurant and outdoor action for water sports enthusiasts.

The small village is renowned for its beautiful coastline and going sea kayaking along the shore has become a popular way to explore the surrounding nature. During a recent visit to the village, the Grapevine staff experienced the scenery first hand when spending an afternoon kayaking with Kajakaferðir (Icelandic Kayaktours).

For more than a decade, the company has provided kayaks designed for open water encounters and organised tours on either the surrounding lagoons or the ocean. After handing out waterproof overalls, rubber boots and life jackets and giving us a brief beginners lesson on how to use the paddle, our guide walked us to the shore, where the kayaks were stored.

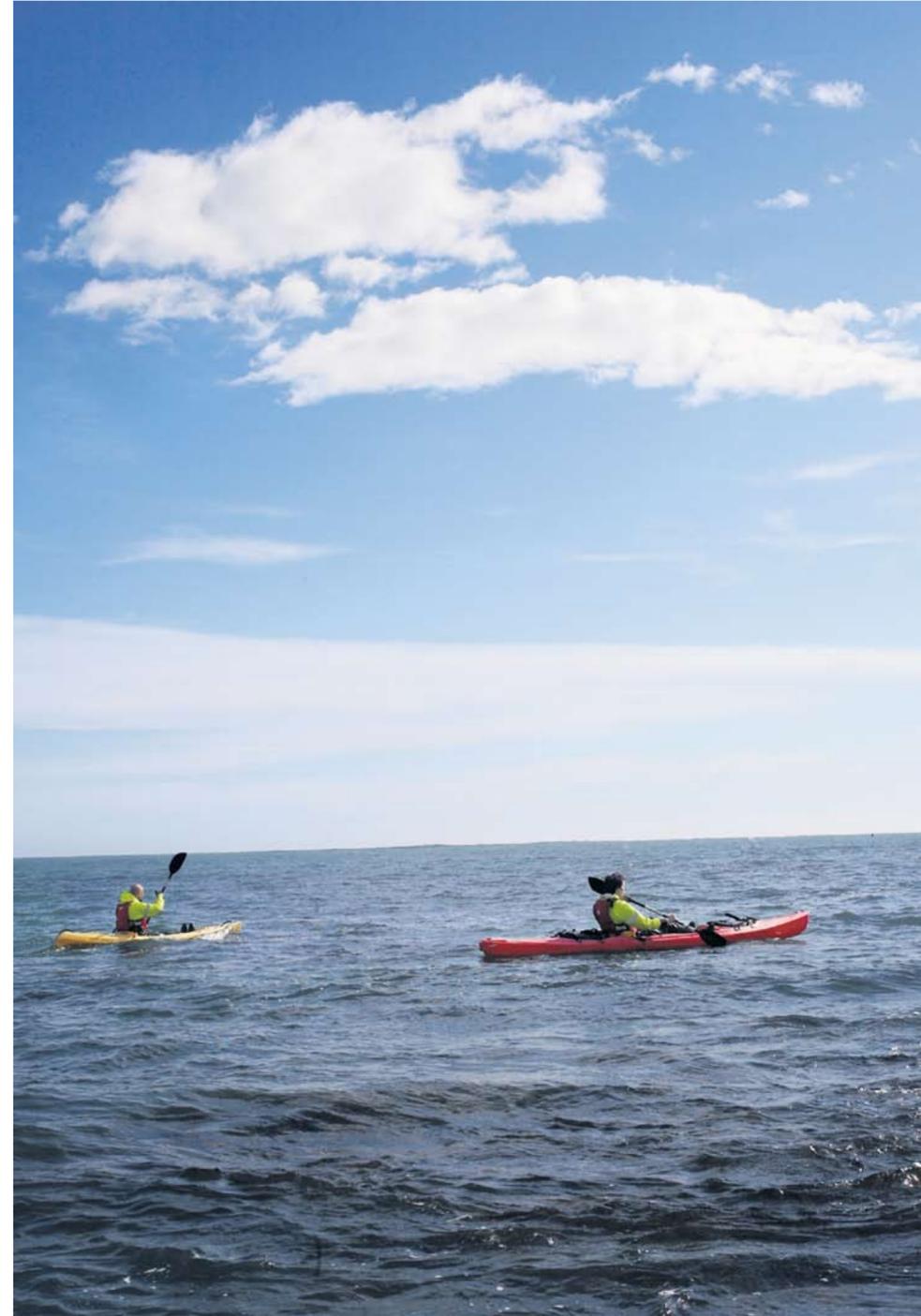
All geared up, we stumbled into the long open plastic boats and hit the water. As we were a group of first-time paddlers who had never been kayaking on open water before, it took some time learning the right technique. But after most of the awkwardness was behind us, we left the coast and paddled through the water as hard as we could, trying not to hit the many skerries on our way or rolling our boats over.

For our own safety, we weren't allowed to go too far out from the shore where the waves were a bit unfriendlier, so instead we paddled slowly on the flat sea, enjoying the view over the village from afar. Our guide explained that the area is home to many seals, who find paddling tourists quite curious, and that inexperienced kayak rowers tend to fall in the water when their heads unexpectedly pop up. Unfortunately we didn't see any seals this time around and none of us capsized the boat, but we nonetheless managed to come back ashore soaking wet. Luckily, the kayak rental is located next door to the Stokkseyri swimming pool, where you can take off the wet clothes, unbend and stretch the sore muscles in the hot tubs.

Without having to share nature with a swarm of other travellers, kayaking along the Stokkseyri area is one-hell-of-an exercise and at the same time an exhilarating way to explore the coastline. Just be sure to bring extra clothes.

Kajakferðir
825 Stokkseyri, www.kajak.is

Car provided by Sixt Car Rental
Tel.: 540-2222, www.sixt.is



Diamond Circle
Unique Nature

Dettifoss
Ásbyrgi
Hljóðaklettur
Mývatn
Goðafoss
Grenjadarstaður
Húsavík
Melrakkaslétta
Raufarhöfn

Information centre
Garbarbraut 7 | 640 Húsavík | ICELAND | Tel: +354 464 4300
e-mail: info@husavik.is | www.markthing.is

A MUST DO FOR THE VISITOR...

THE SETTLEMENT CENTRE
IN BORGARNES

Two unique exhibitions:
THE SETTLEMENT OF ICELAND
and
EGILS SAGA

Open daily from 10 am to 7 pm
RESTAURANT
Open from 10 am to 9:30 pm

Tel: +354 437 1600
www.landnamsetur.is

BEZT Í HEIMI® LOBSTER SOUP
750.- kr

MOBY DICK ON A STICK

- PURTRIFIED SHARK marinated in Icelandic schnapps
- HARD FISH

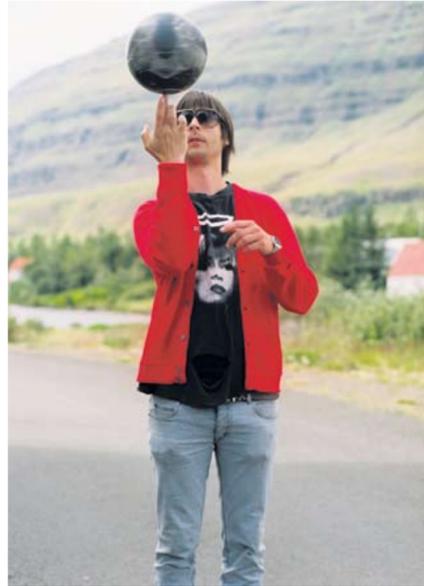
SÆGREIFINN
Vörðubúð 8 / tel. 553 1500 / Geirsgata
— OPENING HOURS : 8 - 21 —

Videy island
History - Nature - Art

- A charming restaurant
- Unspoiled nature and peace
- A thousand years of history and culture
- A number of beautiful hiking trails
- Leisure area and playground for children
- Special activities on weekends
- Free bike loan

Videyjarstofa Restaurant is open daily from 11:30 - 17:00
Light refreshments and traditional coffee

Videy Tours / Tel: +354 533 5055
www.videy.com / elding@elding.is



LungA: A Huge Little Festival

Text by Þormóður Dagsson Photos by Thomas Humery

For the past few decades, art and culture have flourished in the small village of Seyðisfjörður in the Eastfjords of Iceland. An obvious example of that is the young artists' festival LungA, which has been held annually in Seyðisfjörður since the year 2000. Ever since, the festival has been expanding enormously and is now one of the most interesting and enjoyable art and music festivals in Iceland. The eighth LungA festival, which ended last weekend, was the biggest ever. There were 130 participants, of whom 70 came from abroad from over six countries. The festival's art program consisted of seven daily workshops, and ended in a massive final show with all of the festival participants. In addition, ten Icelandic bands performed two big concerts the last two nights of the festival.

I arrived at Egilsstaðir airport early on Saturday morning along with a number of tired but excited individuals who were also on their way to the festival. The weather was good – warm and sunny – and we waited in good spirits for a transport to take us over the heath which separates Seyðisfjörður from Egilsstaðir. Soon, a medium sized van appeared in front of us and out of it sprang a short elderly man who, with a few gestures and harsh words, got all of us – plus our luggage and equipment – into the van in under a minute.

After an approximately twenty minute drive over the heath we started descending. The small town of Seyðisfjörður appeared below us at the bottom of the fjord, sheltered beneath Mt. Strandartindur and Mt. Bjölfur. As we passed the huge glowing sign in the mountainside which reads 'Seyðisfjörður' we were eventually convinced that we had come to the right place.

Encountering the Remains of Last Night's Party
On our way to Herðubreið (the town's community centre and official LungA headquarters),

we saw a number of healthy-looking people picking up empty beer cans and cigarette butts off of the streets. And they were smiling. The night before, we were told, had been lively. "Great fun!", as the guitar player Stefmir of Lada Sport described it after I accidentally woke him up in the TV-room of the hostel we stayed in. His band had performed the night before along with Foreign Monkeys, Míri, Without the Balls and Tony the Pony. Half asleep and obscure, he informed me of last night's events. The concert had been a real success, with people jumping and screaming and acting crazy in every way.

"It was like an authentic Sveitaball: really messy and wild," he said.

Lada Sport closed the show and after they had finished the party was taken out to the streets and to the local bar, Kaffi Lára. When we arrived in town at about ten in the morning, it had just recently ended.

Saturday was the final day of the festival which had begun on the preceding Monday. Since then the village had been crowded with people from all over Iceland, and from abroad as well. The two hotels and one hostel were booked and the camping areas were gradually filling up. Many had come for the workshops, the core of the art festival, where you could get instructions in circus performance, urban funk, jazz and infusion dance, stomp, DJ-sound infusion, animation, clothing design and visual arts. Among the instructors were well known figures from the Icelandic music scene, such as Bjössi of Minus, DJ Gísli Galdur (Trabant and others) and Biggi of Maus. Many of them were participating in the festival for a second or even third time.

"A Pearl Enclosed in a Shell"

I had some time to spare until the final show of the workshops of LungA would commence, and so I decided to take a walk around the

village. At that point the guests and participants of the festival were waking up and the small town slowly got loud and lively again. Many were headed for the swimming pool, some were playing soccer, while others went straight to the gas station for a juicy breakfast.

Seyðisfjörður is a very likeable place and it's no wonder that the guests of LungA keep coming back year after year. The town is surrounded by slope mountains which are decorated with a number of waterfalls. In describing the town, a surprisingly bright boy who I met later that day quoted Icelandic poet Matthías Jóhannessen and called Seyðisfjörður a "pearl enclosed in a shell." "Seyðisfjörður is regarded by many as one of Iceland's most picturesque towns," the boy continued. "Most of the houses in the town centre are old wooden buildings dated from the time of the Norwegian fishermen in the mid 18th century." The gifted boy would also tell me that nowhere in Iceland can you find a community of old wooden buildings that have been preserved quite as well as here. I later gave that gifted boy a well deserved high five.

With the recent demise of the local fish-processing plant, the village has shifted its economy to tourism. It offers a vibrant culture scene with an arts centre and many museums such as the gallery Skaftfell, which has exhibitions throughout the year, showing both Icelandic and foreign art. All this, along with the impressive environment, makes the town of Seyðisfjörður a really enjoyable place to visit and is undoubtedly one of the main reasons for the big success of the LungA art festival.

Outsiderdom and the Painted Lady

When I had finished my expedition I went back to Herðubreið, where lunch was being

served for all the participants of the festival. I went in line, grabbed a bowl of porridge and then found a seat next to girl who had half of her body covered in red paint. "That's nice," I thought to myself. Then I noticed that the majority of the people in the dining hall were painted in all sorts of colours and I started feeling like a real outsider. "We are participating in the final show of LungA's workshops," the girl explained to me and I started to feel better.

The final show of the festival took place at the big sports hall connected to Herðubreið. The lights had been turned down and while the stands were slowly filling up with people, a band of numerous instrumentalists, led by Biggi from Maus and DJ Gísli Galdur, produced ambient tones. The air was filled with suspense and excitement as the guests waited for the show to begin. After a while the actor Víkingur Kristjánsson, from the acclaimed theatre group Vesturport, walked to the centre of the stage and introduced the upcoming show. As soon as he had left the stage, Bjössi, the drummer of Minus, walked in front of a group of sitting youngsters who, at his signal, started banging on all kinds of junk – plastic and metal – producing a complicated and

Nowhere in Iceland can you find a community of old wooden buildings that have been preserved quite as well as here.



cleverly arranged work of percussion. This impressive product of the 'Stomp Workshop' was followed by my painted friend, and her painted friends, from the "Jazz and Infusion Dance Workshop." For about fifteen minutes they expressed the conflict between good and evil through dance.

Numb-bum Sets In

Then the instructors of the "Circus Performance Workshop" came on stage and started to do their thing. To be honest, I've never been much of a fan when it comes to circus acts, but that performance was something else. It's really impossible to describe it in words. The first part of the act involved a string, a funny looking man and an hourglass-shaped object. I felt a bit sorry for the juggler who came on next, but surprisingly the juggler managed to top the funny looking man. It was amazing. The "Circus Performance Workshop" even had me ignoring the discomfort I was beginning to feel sitting on the hard wooden floor.

Suddenly a large door was opened, letting the sunlight into the dark sports hall, and in walked an intimidating group of girls wearing

sunglasses. I gathered they were from the "Clothing Design Workshop." They struck a daring pose in front of the audience, flirted with some of the males in the stands, and then turned away and headed back into the sunlight. They were beautiful.

For the grand finale all of the acts gathered on the stage and performed at the same time. The house band played a powerful melody to a complicated rhythm of the "Stomp Workshop". The DJ's also joined in. The "Jazz and Infusion Dance Workshop" danced expressively to the music and some members of the "Circus Performance Workshop" did acrobatics in the air. It was truly a spectacle and received a huge round of applause from the audience. After I had given my share of clapping and screaming I stood up and started rubbing my numb bum.

The Final Act

The final show of the workshops of LungA left its guests in a good mood while they prepared for the next show; a concert in Herðubreið featuring Trabant, Minus, Jeff Who?, Bloodgroup and Skátar. First on stage was the electronic-dance-pop-band Bloodgroup.

People were slowly gathering in front of Herðubreið and some of them were already a bit tipsy. The party was getting started. The crowd at the concert got bigger with every new band that went on stage, until all of the tickets had been sold out. The biggest LungA ever was reaching its climax and people were in the mood for celebrating. By the time Minus started playing, the house was packed.

Just outside of Herðubreið the crowd had also grown and the people in it had gotten louder. Of course there were a few individuals who had to make some trouble, but in general the crowd were handling their liquor and just enjoying the party. I followed some friends to Kaffi Lára where people were sitting outside on wooden benches, chatting and drinking beer. They were more or less band members that had been playing in the festival and their friends. And they seemed to be having a really good time. After a few drinks and laughs I went back to Herðubreið to watch the last band of the night, Trabant. As I was walking over a bridge on the way to Herðubreið I heard some people yelling beneath me. I looked under the bridge and there I saw three drunk girls swimming in the

river. I waved to them and kept on walking to Herðubreið where Trabant were at the end of their set. The audience was having a great time. After Trabant had finished their last song everybody went out and then came back in half an hour later to dance the night away to a DJ-set. And so it went, the final night of the eighth LungA festival: truly a night to remember.

As soon as he had left the stage Bjössi, the drummer of Minus, walked in front of a group of sitting youngsters who, at his signal, started banging on all kinds of junk.

Breakfast special



Cappuccino + bagle + yoghurt = 650 kr.

roma Rauðarársligur 8



The Westman Islands: Puffins Abound

Text by Zoë Robert Photos by Gulli

No sooner had I started to settle into my seat than the pilot announced he was commencing the descent. The twenty-five minute flight south from Reykjavik to Heimaey, the largest of the Westman Islands, doesn't allow much time to enjoy the view of Iceland's coastline and the fifteen islands that make up the Westman Islands archipelago. But, that's just enough time to get a sense of the natural beauty that the islands have to offer. Their relative remoteness means that the options for getting there are limited, but we were assured that we had opted for the most convenient.

By the time we arrived on Heimaey, the cold, cloudy weather experienced in Reykjavik had cleared up. We were met at the airport by Alfreð "Alli" Alfreðsson, the driver of the local tour company who we would spend the day travelling with, and taken to the town, a mere two minutes away. There we were met by Sigmundur Einarsson, the owner of the tour company and a local restaurant. He somewhat apologetically explained that he was recovering from the annual celebration of the end of the volcanic eruption on Heimaey, held at the restaurant the previous night.

A Fiery History

The Westman Islands were formed by submarine volcanic eruptions between 10,000 to 20,000 years ago. The islands take their name from the Irish slaves ("West Men") who fled to the island from the mainland during the 11th century. At 13.4 km², Heimaey is the largest of the 15

islands. While it is the only island in the group populated by humans, the other islands, spread over an area of 1,000 kms², serve as a nesting place for numerous birds including the puffin and seagull.

In 1973, a massive volcanic eruption prompted the evacuation of the 5,000-strong population to the mainland and caught the attention of the international media. During the eruption, 1,000°C lava was shot up hundreds of metres into the air causing a wall of fire and 1.5 million tons of ash to fall on the town, eventually covering one third of its houses. Remarkably, no one lost their life during the eruption but one man later died from smoke inhalation. During the 5 months that the eruption lasted, there was uncertainty whether the island would be fit for resettlement. Eventually, around two thirds of the original population returned to rebuild the town. Judging from the conversations we had with the locals, the events of 1973 are still firmly etched into the minds of those who experienced them.

The Locals

After 20 years in the banking business, Einarsson decided to move into tourism, the island's second largest industry after fishing. His sun and wind burnt face is testimony to the many years spent outdoors – something that comes with running your own tour company. Not that he's complaining: "It's the best thing about the job," he beams.

Einarsson tells us that, like most island

communities, Heimaey is tight-knit. The "just-give-us-a-call-if-you-need-something" mentality along with the "healthy and laid-back lifestyle" are just two reasons why he'd never leave the place. As the captain and boat tour guide, he spends most of his time "in the nature", so don't even get him started talking about the island's natural beauty.

"You can find places like this elsewhere but not all in the one place," he explains of the island's diverse landscape. "Everything is in a 5 to 15 minute distance." While he is also alluding to the size of the island (it's small enough to explore by foot), I wonder what the mainlanders think about this place. If the mainland is affectionately referred to as "the rock" (admittedly, mostly by foreigners) then, what can be said of Heimaey?

Sitting on the picnic bench outside the front of his café, he tells us that, like other small towns in Iceland, children move to Reykjavik to attend university, get used to the faster-paced life, and generally don't return. As for the rest of the population, he estimates that they make around 8 to 10 trips to the capital each year, mainly to do some shopping, visit the tax office and so forth.

Talking to Einarsson, you get a sense of the tension between Westman Islanders and the mainlanders. It's a case of being foremost a Westman Islander, then an Icelander, he explains. And his sentiment is shared.

"Icelanders [from the mainland] come here and act like they're millionaires. You just can't

do that here – people would know," he says. And it seems some Icelanders have an equally contentious opinion of the inhabitants of the small island. Either way, you certainly can't complain about a lack of friendliness among the locals here.

Heimaey's Lifeblood

We wander the harbour before embarking on a boat tour of the island. Small colourful fishing boats line the pontoons where the stench of fresh fish immediately infiltrates one's nose. Steep black volcanic rock cliffs that rise abruptly from the calm blue-green ocean act as a backdrop to the small harbour. A hut used by puffin hunters and egg collectors during the summer can be seen on the cliff tops in the distance. The ropes that hang down off of the cliffs are a reminder of the community's tradition of collecting puffin eggs.

Heimaey has been one of Iceland's main fishing centres since the country was settled in 874. Although the Westman Islands still provide about 15% of the export value of fish in Iceland, the industry is not what it used to be. The two fish processing factories that line the harbour area haven't been used in 20 years. Today, because the ships are larger and more advanced, processing takes place on the ships themselves. "The fishing industry is in trouble but at least here they try to buy more quota and new boats with the money they make," Einarsson says.



Puffin-mania

The puffin is undoubtedly Heimaey's most famous inhabitant and, for some, the island's main attraction. It seems to the businesses on the island – from the local bar to the guesthouse – have tuned into the popularity of its little feathered friend and use the puffin on their logo. The bird is even featured on the town's street signs.

There are around 40 million puffins in the North Atlantic and apparently around 30 % of them live on the Westman Islands during the summer months, making it the largest puffin colony in the world.

Because the birds aren't exactly in short supply, some of the island's residents supplement their summer-income by hunting puffins. At the harbour we met a man dressed in a one-piece waterproof suit and armed with a long net. He told us that he was off to catch some lundi or puffins – and he was in a hurry. The hunting season only lasts for a couple of months, but he claims during that time he will catch around 5,000 birds. With not a second to lose, he jumps in his rubber ducky and heads off. His fresh catch will probably be served, roasted or smoked, at one of the local restaurants this evening.

The Tour

We boarded the small boat along with 15 others and headed off on what would be a detailed tour of the island's coastline. We passed the bay where Keiko the killer whale was released after starring in the 1998 movie Free Willy.

The tall rocky cliffs that rise up into the mist are home to hundreds of nesting seagulls. Why they choose such a seemingly inconvenient place to lay their eggs is anyone's guess. Einarsson, who guides the tour and captains the boat, tells us that on a warm, sunny day, the cliffs can reach up to 40°C – not so great for the eggs, apparently.

We sail past "the windiest place in Europe", according to our guide. "The starting point of a hurricane is 75 knots, but the wind here can reach up to 110," he says. And in 1991, the waves rose to 22 metres, leaving fish stranded on the cliffs, one local recounts.

Thankfully, during our trip, the notoriously strong wind was non-existent and the ocean, calm. Yet that

didn't prevent some of us from feeling a little queasy out on the water. At that point, I remembered that we were actually on a 90 minute tour of the entire circumference of the island.

Before returning to the harbour, we sailed into a small cave known as "Cliff Cave" hollowed out by the waves. Apparently, the place is known for its great acoustics and Einarsson, keen to demonstrate another of his talents, gets out his saxophone to play a few tunes.

Later, we take another tour of the island – this time by land. Our guide "Alli" takes us to Eldfell or "Fire Mountain", a 225 metre high hill created by the 1973 eruption. The still steaming lava under the rich brown soil is still warm enough to bake bread. It's also here where the best view of the lava field (where houses, now covered by the lava, once stood), the harbour and town below, is to be found – the perfect way to wrap up a visit to this scenically impressive island.

"Icelanders [from the mainland] come here and act like they're millionaires. You just can't do that here – people would know."

Flight provided by Air Iceland.

Tel: 570-3030, www.airiceland.is

Tours and lunch provided by Viking Tours.

Tel: 488-4884, www.vikingtours.is



You could be here!

Glacial hiking and ice climbing trips on the breathtaking Sólheimajökull glacier only 90 minutes from Reykjavik. Guaranteed departures every Saturday and Monday at 8:30. Call to enquire about other departures.

Call us on +354-562-7000, meet us at Laugavegur 11 in the Cintamani Center or ask for us at your hotel or nearest tourist information center.

www.adventures.is | +354-562-7000



Energy for life through forces of nature

BLUE LAGOON ICELAND

www.bluelagoon.com

BOOKING CENTER.is

FREE BOOKINGS

Accommodation | Activities

Rental Cars | Vacation Packages

Day Tours | Maps & Postcards

Special offers every day

www.bookingcenter.is | Tel.: +354 588 9 588 | Email: info@bookingcenter.is



*distance from Reykjavik in kilometres.

one *ca. 390 km



Akureyri
Akureyri's newfangled "family-oriented" festival, Ein með Öllu, is by far the biggest of the weekend's festivals. Although eager to leave behind the drinking-binge traditions of the festival's former name and alter ego "Halló Akureyri," it is undoubtedly one of the weekend's best parties. During last year's Verslunarmannahelgi, Iceland's second-city drew a record number of 18,000 participants (on top of the local population of 16,000) and nonetheless offered some great PG fun for kids, adults and teenagers alike. The "teen-dance," intended for 16+ is a definite highlight. www.akureyri.is.

two ca. 130 km by air



The Westmann Islands
The oldest and most notorious outdoor festival in the country, the party in the Westmann Islands draws approximately 9,000 participants whose sole aim is to get their drunk on in the fresh country hills of Herjólfssdalur valley. Þjóðhátíð has the added bonus of sporting some of Iceland's more happening pop performers; artists such as Sprengjuhöllin and Ísvörtum fötum are set to make enthusiastic appearances for the stumbling crowds. Scheduled events end on Sunday evening with the infamous "Brekksöngur," or Hill Song, where just about the whole crowd joins in for a sing-along. www.dalurinn.is.

three ca. 460 km



Ísafjörður
Possibly the most bad-ass thing you could spend this weekend doing, the mud-ball tournament in Westfjord town Ísafjörður will be played Saturday and Sunday in the Tunuskógur recreation area. Played much like a traditional soccer match, mud-ball is different from soccer only in that the field in the latter consists of a mud-pit, and the game is subsequently much slower, muddier and more hilarious. It is not recommended that you start drinking until after your match (although most fail to grasp the advice). You must be at least 18 years old to play. www.myrarboliti.is.

four ca. 390 km



Siglufjörður
The Herring Adventure will be held for the 17th year in a row in the small picturesque fishing village Siglufjörður on the north coast. Named as a tribute to the town's prosperous herring industry, which was a huge economic boom to the town and all of Iceland starting in the early 20th century, the festival gives small town flare and feeling to the otherwise drunk-minded weekend. Along with a dock fishing competition, a herring-salting exhibition, carnival rides, and water-ski rentals, the festival offers a traditional dock ball with dance-pop favourite Páll Óskar to end the festival. www.siglo.is.

five 0 km



Reykjavík
If you dislike the countryside or camping, or if you just really like Reykjavik (or God-forbid) have to work that weekend, Innipúkinn, the festival for homebodies, might be just what you need. Held this year at the new venue Organ, the giant indoor music festival draws a regular crowd of locals. It is in some ways much like a traditional night out in Reykjavik, with a light festival feel to boot. This year's line-up features, among others, Jeff Who?, Minus, Seabear and Forgotten Loers. On Sunday between 16 and 20 there will be an outdoor BBQ.

six ca. 715 km



Neskaupstaður
Not to be confused with the hard-rock festival Eistnaflug, Neistaflug in Neskaupstaður offers a world of down-home country fun. Yet another small fishing village celebration, the cuteness of the town is as much a draw as anything else, although the dock-ball will surely be a highlight. The year's festivities include fire-hose-soccer (played like traditional soccer with the exception that the goalie is armed with a fire-hose,) a golf tournament, and a bonfire, as well as musical performances by old school country-ball type musicians Sigga Beinteins, Buff with Matti Papi, and Todmobile. www.neistaflug.is.

seven ca. 105 km



Galtalækur
A "sobriety-fest" in Galtalækur forest is a dry alternative to the classic debauchery of the Merchant's Holiday, since it is illegal to bring alcohol into the area. Family-folks can enjoy the weekend with quality camping time out of the city, conveniently removed from the drunken masses abundant elsewhere. Attractions include a trampoline competition, an evening bonfire, DJ-ing by Friðrik KD on Saturday and Sunday, as well as a mass preached by Rev. Pálmi Matthiasson. The festival is free for kids 14 and under, but otherwise a weekend-pass is necessary. www.galtalaeur.is.

eight ca. 50 km



Vatnaskógur
An alcohol-free family festival, "Happy Days" in Vatnaskógur, just north of Reykjavik, is another safe choice for family folks looking to enjoy good camping during the long weekend, free from any drunken nonsense. Entertainment for the kids includes a boxcar parade, a gospel-workshop, a water trampoline, a theatre performance by the Happy Days Performers, as well as an appearance by the magician Jón Víðar. Pétur Ben, Góðufréttirnar, and Björgvin Franz Gíslason will provide the weekend's musical entertainment. www.vatnaskogur.net.

A Guide to Verslunarmannahelgi

Text by Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir

The summer's drunkest long-weekend, Verslunarmannahelgin, the annual Merchant's Holiday, will take place August 3 to 6. Celebrated throughout the country at various outdoor festivals, the weekend is best known and loved for its variety of musical entertainment and general alcohol-induced debauchery. Started in 1874 as a celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of Iceland's settlement, it was originally held in Reykjavik and Þingvellir, the latter as a tribute to the place where Danish King Kristján IX handed over Iceland's new Constitution as a self-ruling nation. These days, the festival is less a tribute to Iceland's independence and settlement and more about the right of the average workingman/woman to go camping and get trashed.

That's not to say that this weekend isn't great family fun. Most festivals are heavily family-oriented and devote a majority of their art program to children's entertainment. Yet the nature of the drunken beast is such that little more than alcohol is needed to entertain it, so once the official festivities end the essence of Verslunarmannahelgin begins. These days, the sheer size of the crowds has become something for the books and, along with the fresh country air, should be incentive enough to get you out of the city.

Sound of Geysir

Summer concerts

at Hotel Geysir, Haukadalur every weekend in July

Saturday 28 July

Singapore Sling

The Way Down

Wulfgang

J.M.

Johnny & the Rest

International Women

of Music

The show starts at 13:00

and it's FREE



The Maritime Museum

Text by Steinunn Jakobsdóttir
Photo by Gulli

Located only metres from the old harbour, the Reykjavik Maritime Museum might seem uninteresting on the outside. On the inside, however, an impressive collection of unique fishery related showpieces will grab all your attention and damn-near refuse to let go. The building, which used to house the once leading fishing company Bæjarútgerð Reykjavíkur (BÚR), is true to its former inhabitants and today accommodates the only museum in the country that chronicles the many diverse aspects of maritime life in Reykjavik. Not to mention the tremendous influence the advent of trawlers had on Icelanders and Iceland's economy in the 20th century.

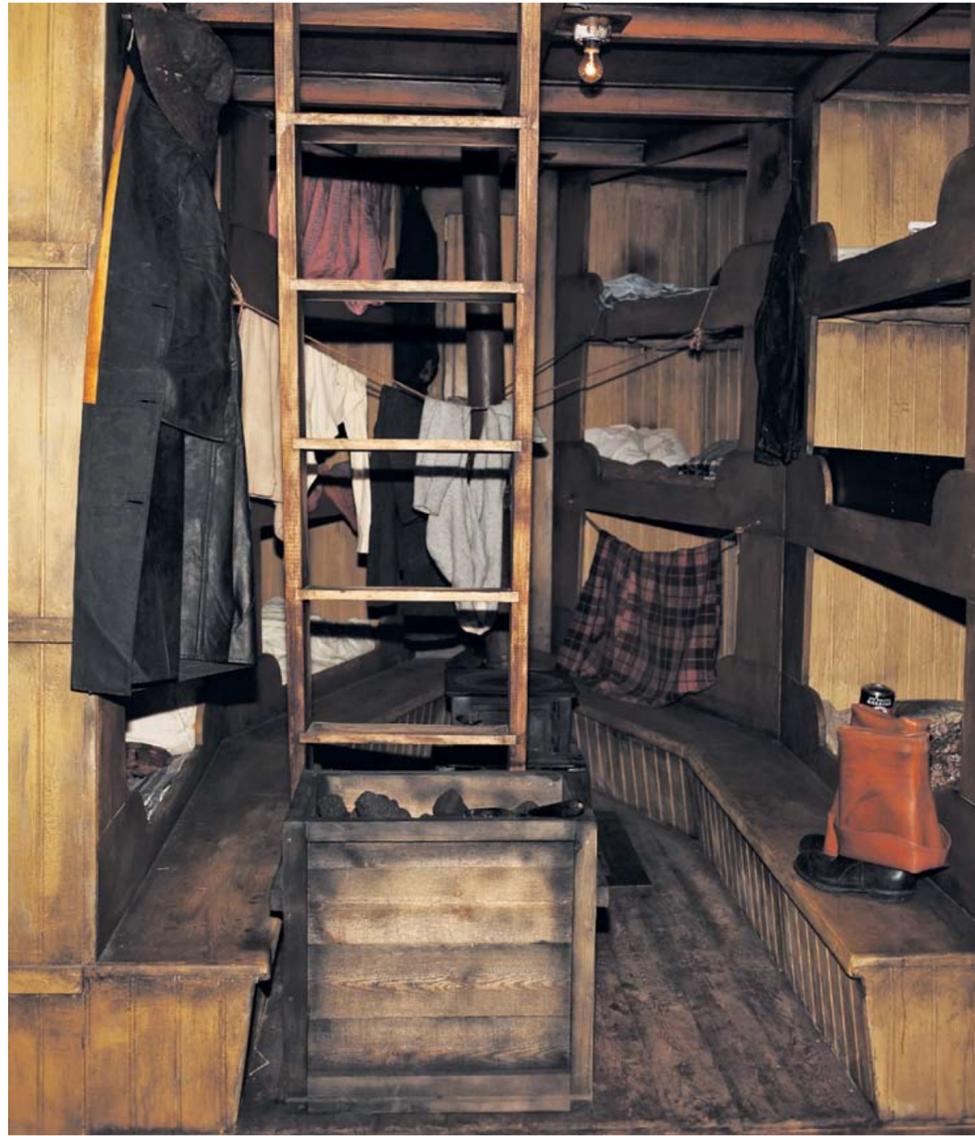
Established in 2005, the museum presents two exhibitions: Trawlers in 100 years and BÚR, which together provide a good insight into the way Icelandic society transformed with the trawler operation. It also explains, with the use of photographs, a video and numerous historical items connected with fisheries, how Reykjavik became a buzzing fishing town.

The trawler's exhibition, set to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the first trawler owned by Icelanders, features for example models of stern trawlers, old engines and helms and a rowboat from 1907. Visitors can have a look at a typical 1940's fisherman's home and then learn about the heroic 'Cod Wars,' to name but a few of the attractions.

The BÚR exhibition honours the 60th anniversary of the establishment of BÚR and displays fish-processing machines, a table used for gutting fish and shows the way saltfish was air-dried back in the day.

This fall, the surrounding harbour area will get a complete makeover and the museum will gain a much larger exhibition space. Until then, the trawlers and the story they have to tell are a good way to start understanding the development of Reykjavik's society.

Reykjavik Maritime Museum
Grandagarður 8
www.sjominjasafn.is



I adore the Árbæjarlaug swimming pool. It's up on a hill and has this crazy view of all the glittering lights of suburban Reykjavík. I once met a group of teens there who reminded me of a bunch of Japanese Snowmonkeys. Tits flying everywhere, like Baywatch on the surface of the moon, but with teenagers.

Nico Muhly is a New York based composer. His début, *Speaks Volumes*, has received glowing reviews from all over. He is currently recording its follow-up at Breiðholt's Greenhouse studios.

An advertisement for Air Iceland. On the left, there is a blue graphic with the Air Iceland logo (a stylized bird/plane) and the text "AIR ICELAND". Below this, it says "Fly and discover" in large white letters. Underneath, it lists "Air Iceland destinations" and shows a map of Iceland with lines connecting to various locations: NÁJUK, GRÍMSBY, AKUREYRI, VÖPNARFJÖRDUR, EGILSSTADUR, FAROE ISLANDS, WESTMAN ISLANDS, NARFARSSJÓUR, NERLEITUNAR, and KÖLLSJÓUR. At the bottom left of the graphic, it says "airiceland.is" and "tel. 570 3030". The background of the entire advertisement is a scenic landscape of a lake filled with numerous icebergs under a cloudy sky. In the bottom right corner, there is a small image of a brochure and the text: "Get your action-packed day tour brochure at hotels, airports or any travel agent."

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

Grundarfjörður Hostel



comfortable - affordable
Central in Snaefellsnes

grundarfjordur@hostel.is
www.hostel.is

+354-5626533
+354-8956533

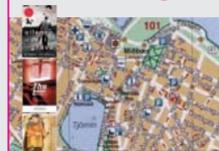
Bring THIS AD and get 15% discount!

Olsen Olsen Diner

Very close to the international airport open every day from 11am to 10pm

Hafnargata 17 Keflavík

Reykjavik in Literature
A Guided Walking Tour



Every Thursday in July and August at 5 pm. Starts at Reykjavik City Library in Tryggvagata 15. The walk, which lasts for about 90 min, is at an easy pace and suits everyone.

Free of charge.

www.borgarbokasafn.is
Tel. 563 1717



LÁ ART MUSEUM
Hveragerði

Open daily 12-18
Admission free
www.listasafnarnesinga.is



Reykjavik Maritime Museum

Grandagarði 8 - Tel.: 517 9400

Open this summer
11 am - 5 pm Closed Mondays



WANTED:

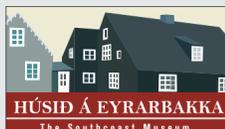
WE NEED 50 VOLUNTEERS FOR REYKJAVÍK CULTURE FESTIVAL IN THE NORDIC HOUSE REYKJAVÍK 18TH - 26TH OF AUGUST

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE MINIMUM 16 YEARS OLD AND WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ALL KINDS OF CULTURE.

SEND INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF TO: kjartan@islandia.is OR tasol@islandia.is

FURTHER INFORMATION ON: www.islandia.is REYKJAVÍK AND NORDIC HOUSE

NORDIC HOUSE, STURLAGATA 9, 101 REYKJAVÍK, ISL.



HÚSID Á EYRABAKKA
The Southcoast Museum

Tel: +354-4831504 | www.husid.com

June-August: 11 - 18 all days
April-May, Sept-Oct: 14 - 17 Sat-Sun or by arrangement

Special price for Grapevine readers

Hafnarfjörður Guesthouse

Hjalabætur 51, 220 Hafnarfjörður
Tel: 00354 5650990
email: info@hafnarfjordurguesthouse.is
www.hafnarfjordurguesthouse.is

Beautifully located guesthouse and Camping, in the local town of Hafnarfjörður, 15 minutes from Reykjavik.

5.000 ISK/60 Euro for a double room.
1.500 ISK/20 Euro for sleepingbag accommodation.
1.000 ISK/12 Euro for Camping.
(Bring this ad for this prices!)



Hótel Djúpvík, Árneshreppi

The eastjörðs of the Westjörðs
tel: 431 4037
djupvik@arneshreppi.is | www.djupvik.is
Historic Exhibitions of Djúpvík, sleepingbag acc., kayak rental, hiking, tranquility.

Accommodation

Alaborg Apartments
Tel. +354 861 3320
alaborg@alaborg.is
www.alaborg.is
Well furnished apartments in the heart of Reykjavik or in Alafossvog with the countryside of Reykjavik, ideal for both short and long term visits.

Hótel Akureyri
Hafnarstræti 67
600 Akureyri
tel: 462 5600
hotelakureyri@hotelakureyri.is
www.hotelakureyri.is
A few minutes walk from downtown Akureyri. Every room has private bathroom, refrigerator, safe, telephone, wireless internet and multi-channel TV. Free Breakfast included.

Gesthús Dúna
Suðurlíð 35,
105 Reykjavík
Tel: 5882100 / Fax: 5882102
Duna@islandia.is, ghduna@simnet.is
www.islandia.is/duna
B&B ROOMS FROM 5.000.- SLEEPING BAG ACCOMMODATION

Hótel Stykkishólmur
tel: 430 2100
hotelstykkisholmur@simnet.is
Hótel Stykkishólmur is at Breiðfjörður bay, 2 hours from Reykjavik. The area is under special law of conservation. Golf course is free, parking free. Swimming pool 100. metr

Bakki, Laugarbakka
tel: 4512967 / 6163304
email: elinborg8@msn.com
Quiet surroundings, only one kilometer from Highway 1, Rooms, Sleeping Bag Accommodation and Camping w/electricity Mini-Market and Cafe Angling sold for lakes in Arnarvatnsheiði

Hótel Varmahlíð
Tel: 003544538170
info@hotelvarmahlid.is
www.hotelvarmahlid.is
A small comfortable hotel of 19 rooms with private facilities and a restaurant concentrating on local cuisine from the Skagafjörður region.

Húnaver
tel:4527110, email: hunaver@visir.is
Húnaver is a nice campingplace 25km away from Blönduós. We have a big campingplace with washingfacilities and electricity for caravans. We also offer sleepingbag accommodation for up to 40 people. There is also a playground and a footballfield in Húnaver. We also have a little pettingzoo there, and its possible to try the horses on a field for some rounds. Prices: Camping per night for 1 person 400 ISK, Electricity 200 ISK, Kitchen use inside 300 ISK, Sleepingback accommodation 1000 ISK, Pettingzoo 300 ISK.

Hótel Hafnarfjörður
Reykjavíkurevji 72, 220 Hafnarfjörður
tel: 540-9700 fax: 540-9701
mail: info@hotelhafnarfjordur.is, www.hotelhafnarfjordur.is
Hótel Hafnarfjörður - Apartments Hotel, is a smart choice for those who want to enjoy the freedom of staying in an apartment and having the opportunity of a hotel service. It offers personal atmosphere and comfort - a home away from home.

Dimmuborgir Guesthouse
Geiteyjarströnd 1, 660 Myvatn
4644210/8943042
dimmuborgir@emax.is / www.dimmuborgir.is
Comfortable rooms and nice small cottages just 200 meters from the shore of beautiful Lake Myvatn. In walking distance of Dimmuborgir and crater Hverfjall. We offer boat trips for bird watchers or just if people want to go and enjoy the nature and take pictures.

Accommodation Needed

Responsible and clean UK university student looking for a room or small apartment to rent at an affordable price from 1st of August until 2nd of September. Please get in touch at falk_parra@hotmail.com or on +447988850331

Postgraduate Student studying in Reykjavik (09/2007-08/2008) looking for a room to rent in a shared flat OR for a whole

flat to be shared with other postgraduate students (up to 350 per room) 12 months. Contact: duycks@yahoo.fr or call: +48507932211

Temporary flat/house share wanted close to central Reykjavik for 3-4 months for frequent visitor from England. Maximum 2 weeks per month.
sim_martina@yahoo.co.uk tel +354 8605414

Job Needed

Polish law student is looking for a job in Reykjavik from now. I'm a very communicative, hardworking and responsible person, ready for new challenges. I have already worked abroad so I have some experience. I'm interested in working in a bar, restaurant, hotel, I also have some experience in babysitting. Basically everything will do!
6956764

Stuff for Sale:

Entire contents of modern apartment; incl. 3 single beds and 1 double folding sofa-bed. Everything as new. 50% of IKEA prices.
Also solid birch dining table, 175 x 100 cm, Danish design. 5000 ISK. Six red bentwood chairs, incl. cushions, 1000 ISK each.
All prices negotiable.
Please e-mail: karenoj@yahoo.com

Mountain bike for sale - make an offer! Cannondale with Suntour components in good condition, recently overhauled, has rear rack, great for touring or using around town. Cannondale 6500 kr, Available July 27. Email alairdiamond@yahoo.com.

1. Free single mattress. American style, soft, good condition, needs extra thin mattress on top. Email forenicolas@hotmail.co.uk for more info
2. Bicycle for sell or exchange- Male teenage mountain bike, 10 yrs old but all checked recently. 8000ISK (ono) or exchange with female city bike. Call Före 517 9252
3. LOOKING for old Holland style female city bicycle- free, exchange or cheap. For info, call Före 517 9252

Stuff Needed

Baby Safety Car Seat Wanted
I am looking for an used car seat for 9-18kg baby with reasonable price.
Please contact me at 659 2136 or land. tomado@gmail.com

Other

Hi, I plan on moving to Iceland with my family there is 3 of us. We would like to move to a cheaper less populated part of Iceland. We are looking for a nice comfortable home that is not expensive and possibly cheaper than \$200,000 which is almost similar to British pounds. I would appreciate if anyone could send me a brochure or any information on houses in Iceland. Thank you. Contact: pillowmittens@hotmail.com



It's the journey - not the destination

Enjoy every second of your stay by exploring the beauty of Iceland and taking advantage of our easy, safe and practical services in Iceland.



+354 522 44 00 • www.hertz.is

Hertz locations in Iceland: Keflavík Airport, Reykjavík, Ísafjörður, Akureyri, Höfn, Egilsstaðir, Selfoss

Álafoss - outlet
Álafossvegur 23
Mosfellsbær
(C.a 16 km away from Reykjavík on the road to Pingvellir)

Open:
Mondays - Fridays
9:00 - 18:00
Saturdays
9:00 - 16:00

Álafoss
Laugavegur 1
Reykjavík
City Center

Open:
Every day
9:00 - 22:00

Since 1896

ÁLAFOSS
Wool & Souvenir Shop

Take the warmth with you!
www.alafoss.is

Best prices close to you!

Budget is the only car rental with an office in downtown Reykjavik. We offer free pick up at all hotels and guesthouses in central Reykjavik. Call us at +354 562 6060 to get our best offer!

Tel: +354 562 6060
www.budget.is



Stuffed with stuff

It spawned tremendous racketeering, people started selling and renting out their quota for a great profit, everything went haywire. This was all done to please hard-line libertarians, and those are no better than hard-line communists in my book.

Retired fishing captain Halldór Hermannsson on the quota system.

Page 20

Boiled down to its essence, our coverage concerned a particular individual who had ties to a politician. That individual was granted citizenship on grounds that were completely unprecedented, and after only a short stay in the country.

RÚV reporter Helgi Seljan talks about the recent verdict of the Journalistic Ethic Committee.

Page 6

I lift the fish up but it immediately flops out of my hands and begins to wriggle on the floor. I had underestimated the animal's 40-pound girth. Again I pick it up, but it thrashes itself out of my slippery gloves. The seagulls wait. The pulley roars again.

Chandler Frederick tries to gut his first Cod during his one-day job with the sailors.

Page 8

I'm always surprised. Sometimes I show up and I play for two people and a dog. That happens too.

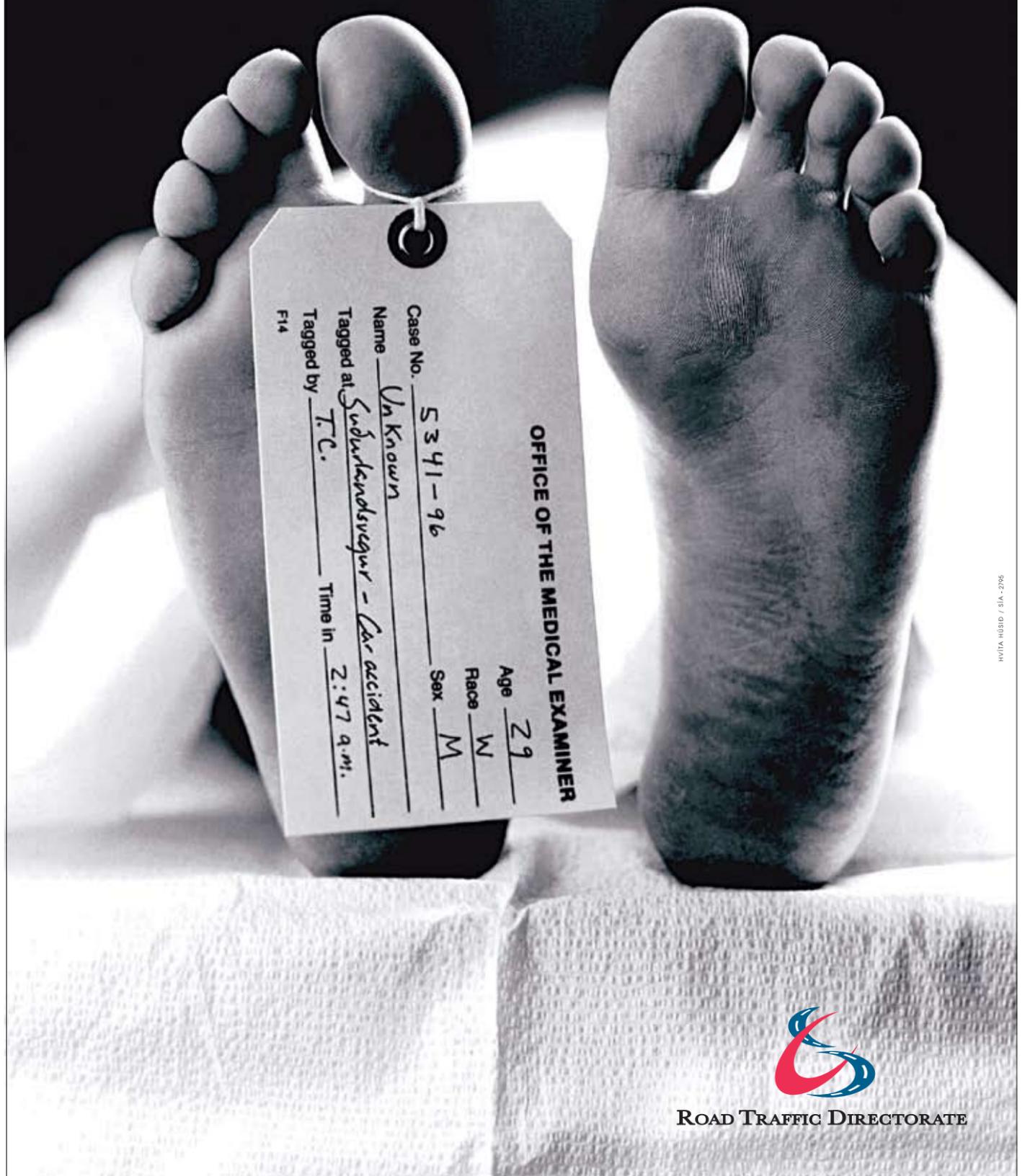
Swedish musician Jens Lekman tells Valgerður Þóroddsdóttir about his successful music career.

Page B13

passing... away?



Icelandic roads are narrow



ROAD TRAFFIC DIRECTORATE

RIVER RAFTING

GLACIER TOURS

WHALE WATCHING

SIGHTSEEING

HORSE RIDING

ACCOMMODATION

JEEP SAFARIS

DAY TOURS

Book your Adventure with us

www.citycentre.is

Simply the most comprehensive Booking Services in the City specialized in customizing and developing travel packages to suit your interests and needs. We can arrange your accommodation, transfers, tours, flights and car hire based on your requirements.

CITY CENTRE BOOKING SERVICE · LOCATED INSIDE THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE · ADALSTRAETI 2 · 101 REYKJAVÍK · TEL +354 581 1717 · info@citycentre.is

City Centre
BOOKING SERVICE

FREE
BOOKING SERVICE