



FREE



Action!

The Reykjavík Grapevine Explores the Icelandic Film Industry • River Rafting in Hvítá
Music and Movies From the '90s • The Lonesome Traveller Returns, Only to Leave Again

Opinions

- 06 **On Advertisement**
An opinion by Magnús Björn Ólafsson
- 06 **Down and Out in Alcoa(Alcan)land!**
An opinion by Marvin Lee Dupree

Articles

- 08 **The Paradox of Gender Pay Gap**
An interview with professor Lilja Mósesdóttir
- 10 **Women paint the town pink**
Annual Icelandic Women's Day celebration
- 12 **Who Knows How the System Works?**
Another option for immigrants
- 14 **Protection by Numbers**
World Refugee Day
- 32 **The Lonesome Traveller: Delusional at Last**
An interview with Fabrizio Frascaroli

Features

- 19 **On The Lot: Iceland**
Examining the Icelandic film industry

Music & Nightlife

- 22 **CD Reviews**
- 28 **How Do You Like AIR?**
Air play Laugardalshöll
- 28 **Celebrating Buckley**
Jeff Buckley tribute show
- 29 **Swooning With The Rapture**
Rapture in concert at NASA
- 29 **Better Late Than Never**
Hjálmar at NASA

Outside Reykjavík

- 30 **Fighting Hypothermia on Iceland's Highest Peak**
The Lonesome Traveller hikes Hvannadalshnjúkur
- 33 **The Playground Hvítá River**
Rafting trip down Hvítá
- 34 **Destinations: Towns in Iceland**

info.

- B01 Listings
- B06 A Long-Awaited Music Hang-Out
- B07 Rock Fest Eistnaflug
- B10 Restaurant Reviews
- B14 Shopping

From the Editor's Chair

Dear visitor, welcome to Iceland.

The country with the highest gender pay gap in Europe, at least, the highest compared to all EU countries. And by a sizeable chunk as well. Something tells me this is not what you expected. This is not what I expected. I am beyond amazed, flabbergasted really, that in the year 2007, we have still not made more of a progress towards gender equality. Can we all agree on this? Can we all agree that women are not a lower life form? That your mother deserves equal respect to your father? Your daughters equal respect to your sons? In the end, the gender pay gap issue is not

about money, it is about respect. Money is always about respect. Right now, we are disrespecting women by telling them that they may perhaps be able to work some, their input is just not as valuable as ours, the men. We need to break this vicious cycle. We need to take affirmative action. I celebrate the Minister for Social Affairs, Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir's declaration on the Women's Day, June 19, when she said that if there was not a marked improvement in three years time, she would seriously consider instituting a gender quota. My only question is; why should we wait so long? Icelandic movies are featured in this issue. Exciting things are happening in Icelandic film

industry, although the conditions of Icelandic filmmakers are not particularly good. You can read more about that on these pages. If you possibly can, I recommend that you see at least one Icelandic movie during your stay, or buy a DVD to bring back home, the industry needs all the support it can get, it is certainly not get enough from Icelandic moviegoers. Apart from my complaints, I hope you enjoy the issue, as well as your stay in Iceland. Spend some money, support local artists, and make sure that you tell your friends about it.



Cover photo by:
Gulli
Model:
Palli
Thanks to:
GK

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

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

The Reykjavík Grapevine Staff
Publisher: Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson / publisher@grapevine.is
Editor: Sveinn Birgir Björnsson / birkir@grapevine.is
Assistant Editor: Steinunn Jakobsdóttir / steinunn@grapevine.is
Editorial Interns: Zoë Robert / zoe@grapevine.is
Chandler Fredrick / chandler@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 writers: Haukur Magnússon / haukur@grapevine.is
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: froken@grapevine.is

The Reykjavík Grapevine is published 18 times a year by Fröken 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.

WINDSHIELD

BOOK YOUR ADVENTURE WITH US!

TAX FREE

Type: Arna

Colors: Off White / Burnt Orange / Black

Material: Pontetorto - No Wind Teflon

Price: 17.980 kr.

CINTAMANI

CINTAMANI CENTER // LAUGAVEGUR 11 // 101 REYKJAVÍK

DRESS CODE ICELAND



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.

City Centre
BOOKING SERVICE



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.

The Grapevine has received this open letter to City Council member Gisli Marteinn Baldursson, regarding a story from our last issue on the current state of affairs in Reykjavik's public transportation system.

Dear Gisli Marteinn Baldursson

The public transport system in Reykjavik is a disgrace. It doesn't work on any level, in any way, shape or form. It is so bad it is almost laughable were it not such a serious problem. I begrudgingly accept this as a fact of living in Reykjavik and drive my Volkswagon mostly to everywhere outside of 101.

However, the fact that you can calmly excuse the complete failure and collapse of the public transport system with gems like 'price is not always the deciding factor when it comes to using public transport' and list other very questionable influences on your decision to again downgrade the bus service in Reykjavik in the face of blinding evidence to the contrary infuriates me. It is plainly, no, blindingly obvious to anyone from anywhere that one of, if not the main reason this city is rapidly turning from the centralized European community it once was into a third rate Los-Angeles of 6 lane highways and isolated kentucky-fried people is because the people who should be expanding the public transport system and nurturing the connection of communities within greater Reykjavik are instead responsible for killing them.

-You should be introducing trams, that could run on the ridiculously cheap and abundant clean electricity available to us

-You should be already planning and building the blueprints for a major subway system (again, running on clean electricity) to service the growing city in the coming years

-You should be doubling the number of buses and making them drastically cheaper and bringing people back to it

-You should be fighting for 'bus only' lanes on all major roads in Reykjavik to make the services not only at good as, but BETTER and FASTER than using a car... and the police force should then be fining the pants off drivers who abuse them

-You should be THE guiding force in the planning of this city

But you are doing none of these things.

You should be strengthening and connecting the communities of greater Reykjavik, but instead, together with the other geniuses behind the expansion of Miklabraut, Sæbraut and other major roads around Reykjavik, you are carving up the city into increasingly isolated communities, which in spite of the many extra lanes are more congested than ever before. You are killing the city and dividing it with (and I haven't decided yet which it is) plans to eventually obliterate public transport completely and make sure everyone in Iceland is driving a Hummer OR whether it is just a complete lack of foresight, intelligence and educated decision-making inside the Icelandic government. I challenge anyone to find another city in the world of 150,000 people that has traffic jams and public health issues on account of traffic pollution

For the readers who missed your rundown on all the exciting changes to the completely useless Bus system I will reiterate some of the highlights of your interview with Grapevine

Problem: A 45% percent decrease in usage of the public transport system

Your solution: Decrease services and make waiting times for buses longer

Problem: Dramatic (read: ridiculous) increase over the past few years in the number of cars in Reykjavik
Your Solution: Make the price of public transport higher

Problem: The budget for the public transport system was running at risk of being overspent last year
Your solution: Cut services... and make the handful of people who haven't yet given up completely and bought a car pay more for a less efficient system instead of demanding a higher budget that meets the demands of the taxpayers who are as you rightly say are actually 'very happy to pay for it'

Iceland is one of the most expensive cities in the world, in every way except when it comes to parking your car...it costs less to park a car for 5 hours on Laugavegur than it does to take a Bus into 101, anyone with a primary school education can see that this factor alone is stopping people from using public transport. It should be expensive to park your car, and the fines for overstaying parking should actually mean something substantial... 500kr for a parking fine is laughable... If parking fines actually 'hurt' in Reykjavik the added revenue would more than support an expanded public transport system. Furthermore, Iceland is cold. Of course nobody takes the Bus, anyone who has stood in a urine-soaked shelter at 8am in the middle of January will tell you 20 minutes is simply too long... We all learn our lesson very quickly here in Reykjavik, you get a car, or you get a ride, or you stay home.

You seem to base all these brilliant decisions of yours on the opinions of those who currently use public transport... and this is just the kind of backward thinking that makes me want to hurl great chunks of lava through your office windows. Public transportation in Reykjavik is currently used primarily by 3 groups of people, the very young, the very old, and the very mentally/and/or/physically handicapped... essentially the only people in Iceland incapable of driving. If you were really serious about making a system that works you would undertake a citywide survey where you ask the other 95% of the population why they don't use it, the ones that drive cars... People like yourself and then base your decisions on that. Unfortunately your empty actions and your empty buses say far more about your effectiveness than your cheap words.

My favourite part of your interview with grapevine was about how you are planning to put newspapers, magazines and free internet on buses to entice us all... WOW! Really! Amazing!!! Do you mean the free newspapers that every person in Iceland has delivered to their door? Do you mean 'free' internet on the buses that cost 280kr? Are you serious? Do you honestly believe giving us a copy of DV is going to tempt a population to fork out 280kr to wait outside for half an hour in a blizzard, in the dark, for the privilege of sitting on a slow, uncomfortable ride around the worst example of modern city planning in the western world?

I don't think you are serious at all and I don't think you honestly believe any of your plans are going to have a positive effect...and that is precisely the point. You nor anyone in your office would ever take a bus to work, and you probably never have. Your efforts to encourage people to use public transport is bare minimum at best and at its worst it is blatant sabotage of a community. You and the others in control of this aspect of our city have done more harm than good and you should all be ashamed of yourselves.

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

Down and Out in Alcoa(Alcan)land!

Text by Marvin Lee Dupree

At the time of this writing, I have just witnessed a weekend of utter beauty. My enthusiasm for the solstice is somewhat corny, like a smooth morning's breeze with Grieg's 'Peer Gynt' playing under in the back ground. However, my summertime groove has been spoiled by this summer's blockbuster hit, a midnight version of the "Night of The Living Dead".

The actors are famous and various other Icelanders, otherwise known as the hobos and bums of downtown Reykjavik. Over a period of time you not only get to recognise their faces, but you also might become acquainted with them, even on a first name basis. My own experience has been somewhat fun: I managed to meet a few. One is quite a character, especially because of his fondness for the 'svastika'. Another friend of mine told me recently he had become a morphine addict, while waiting for some ethanol to drink (mainly used for cleaning wounds) from the pharmacy. Sometimes you can even recognize them by their own vomit. The downtrodden denizens of Reykjavik's unseemly underworld are easily spotted. They often sit near the benches near Austurvöllur and the Supreme Court; they also spot fine tans and wobble in the summer sun. More like Stravinsky, think Rite of Spring, than Grieg.

Everybody seems to be talking about the 'great dilemma'; however, the supposed 'action taking' right, as opposed to the 'chatty left', seem to be at a loss as to what to do. The hobos, in most people's minds, are not lovable like the tramps in Springfield, or Chaplin's version with the ambiguous ending, they are perhaps even worse than any character by W.C. Fields, at least to some. To me, the discussion makes these people seem more akin to the 'town whore' in a puritanical society sans the 'Scarlet Letter.' Although no action has been taken to help these poor souls, there has, however, been action taken against the greater dilemma of Reykjavik, which is the seagull dilemma.

The dilemma was solved, or is being solved, by planting poisoned bread in nests and then snapping the necks of this dangerous vermin that threatens our very existence. Other ideas had been shopped around, e.g. a free shoot-em up around Reykjavik's outskirts. Somehow it makes you feel all warm inside to know that the mindset of some city offi-

The dilemma was solved, or is being solved, by planting poisoned bread in nests and then snapping the necks of this dangerous vermin that threatens our very existence.

On Advertisement

Text by Magnús Björn Ólafsson

Not all the dope this nation swallows is narcotic. Nowadays, we are all relentlessly force-fed an anaesthetic, the effects of which dwarf the blunting influence of any opium; advertising is the science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to strip it of its sense and capital. It is the fine art of making you think that all your life you have longed for something which you have never heard of before. It tells you which luxuries you can not live without and the drowsiness of its sensual-lullaby affects you in such a way that if you listen to a bank commercial long enough you will start to believe you can borrow yourself out of debt.

Joseph Goebbels was the Minister for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda in Nazi Germany and played a large role in creating new anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi material for the party. He was in charge of a propaganda machine which reached all the way down to branch level and followed a simple guideline: 'if you repeat a lie often enough, people will start to believe it'. He knew that when people believe something which has not sprung from the lap of logic, no logical argument can rid them of the dogma established; they will think dogmatically, speak dogmatically, listen dogmatically, see dogmatically, smell dogmatically and taste dogmatically – and, sadly, it usually takes a titanic social catastrophe to shatter such a test-tube belief-system.

The American Edward Bernays is generally regarded as the founder of Public Relations. In describing the origin of the profession, Bernays commented: 'After the war [...] 'propaganda' got to be a bad word because of the way the Germans had used it. So I tried to find some other words and found the words Council on Public Relations.'

Every Public Relations Manager has mastered Goebbels' art of brain-washing – but under a different title; just as you can programme a nation to hate the Jewish race you can make people believe that 'Happiness' can be found inside a Pepsi-can, that 'Safety' can be bought from an insurance-company, and that a bank 'Loves' football. One day light bulbs will hate watermelons and, who knows, cardboard-boxes might acquire a prestigious taste in South-American literature.

Just as you can programme a nation to hate the Jewish race you can make people believe that 'Happiness' can be found inside a Pepsi-can.

As a nation we suffer from a schizophrenic double pull: Iceland fights for her life but business must fight for profits. You can not open a newspaper or magazine anymore without seeing two contradictory processes happening side by side. On the very same page, you will see the government urging you to save and the seller of some useless luxury urging you to spend. Do you, dear reader, realize we are living in a time when almost everybody reads a newspaper and the only things they believe are the advertisements? – and there is no 'Caveat Emptor' anywhere to be seen or heard. A few days ago, Iceland's National Broadcasting Company – which supposedly serves as the national safeguard of culture and education – aired the documentary The Truth About Climate Change, by Sir David Attenborough, which stressed that over-consumption is the prime cause for our planet's greatest social and ecological problems. Moments after it ended, there was a commercial break in which the nation was urged to consume like never before.

But what is to be done? Deleuze and Guattari pointed out that as capitalism decodes and deterritorializes, it reaches a limit at which point it must artificially reterritorialize by expanding the state apparatus and repressive bureaucratic and symbolic regimes. The nomad and independent thinker, however, never reaches such a limit and resists this reterritorialization. Years earlier, Jack Kerouac had simplified the same thought in an infamous declaration: 'Here's to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the trouble-makers. The round heads in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of the rules, and they have no respect for the status-quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, but the only thing you can't do is ignore them, because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as crazy ones. We see genius, because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones that do.' Steve Jobs later made use of this exact fragment in the 'Think Different' Apple-computer propaganda campaign... How about that Jack?

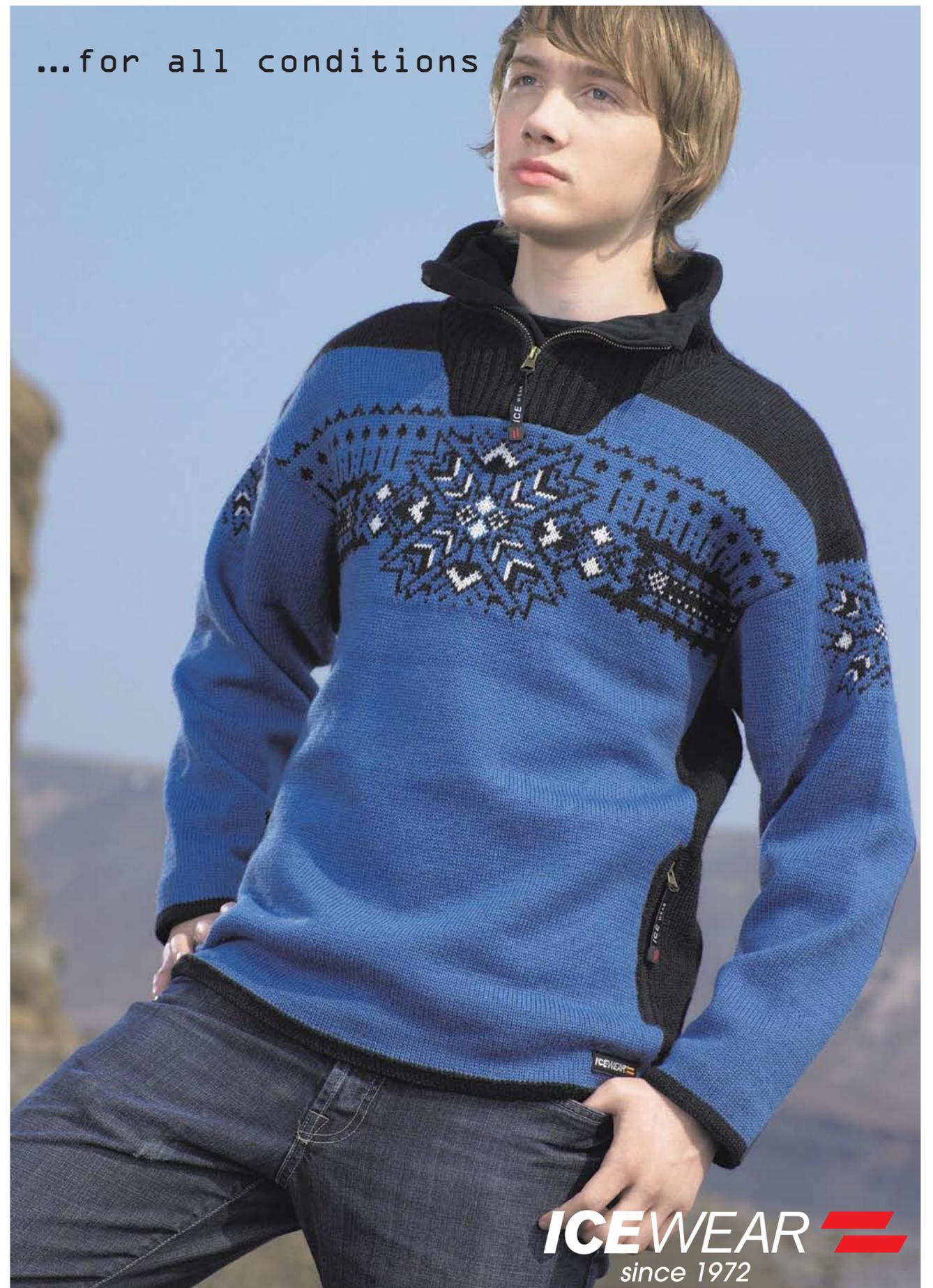
Breakfast special



Cappuccino + bagle + yoghurt = 650 kr.

roma Rauðarárstígur 8

...for all conditions



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, Krínglan 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, Klapparstíg 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



The Paradox of Gender Pay Gap

Text by Sveinn Birgir Björnsson Photo by Leó Stefánsson

Lilja Mósedóttir is a professor of economics at Bifröst University. Her main area of study has been economic gender differences. The Grapevine sat down with Mósedóttir on the Women's Day, June 19, to learn more about gender inequalities.

Perhaps you could begin by telling us a little bit about your research?

I am an economist and I received my university education in the US and the UK. In my research, I have mainly focused on the different economic positions of men and women, not just here in Iceland, but also within the EU. During the past 10 years, I have worked as an Icelandic expert for the European Commission on issues such as employment, social cohesion and gender equality. From 2003 to 2005, I was the coordinator of EU funded research project on gender equality in the knowledge based society – the first Icelandic social scientist to coordinate EU funded research project.

In the project, I headed a group of experts from eight institutions in seven countries and one of the main conclusions of our research, and the one that surprised us the most, was that the progress towards a knowledge based society was much more rapid than the progress towards gender equality. We measured this through two indices consisting of different indicators that should capture the development of the knowledge based society and of gender equality as defined by the EU. The index on knowledge based society involved indicators on educational attainment, spread and use of ICTs and on the share of high-tech and medium high-tech industries. The gender equality index consisted of indicators on the gender gaps in educational attainment, spread and use of ICTs, employment and in pay as well as on gender segregation in the labour market. Through these indices, we measured the changes from 1997 – 2002 across the 15 EU member states, Iceland and Hungary. The conclusion was that the progress towards gender equality was less intense and general than the development towards a knowledge based society.

So the move towards a knowledge based society does little or nothing to improve gender inequality?

Yes, and then the question becomes why? When we move towards a knowledge based society, the progress is both positive and negative, so it levels out and there is little or no sign of change. Women's employment has increased a lot in Iceland and in Europe, but at the same time that means women have been entering low-wage jobs, and the gender pay gap increases. When women first began to enter the labour market in the '60s, they were

often well educated, while women who have entered the labour market in recent decades are not, and they take unskilled low-wage jobs. So when the number of low skilled women increases in the labour market, the gender pay gap increases.

As women's average salary goes down? Exactly, the average goes down. The gender pay gap in the other four Nordic Countries was around 17% in 2004 while it was only 7% in Italy where the share of low skilled women in the labour market was lower.

This comes somewhat as a surprise. Most people like to think of the Nordic Countries as more egalitarian than Southern Europe.

Well, that may very well be in most other aspects apart from the gender pay gap. Women's labour force participation is much higher in the Nordic Countries; there are on average more women in Parliament in the Nordic Countries. The gender pay gap has been the main gender problem in the Nordic countries, and recently there is evidence of a widening gender pay gap among the highly educated. As Nordic women have become more educated, they have been moving in great numbers into high-level jobs such as managers and legislators. The gender pay gap is largest for such high-level occupations since these tend to have the widest earnings distribution and women are concentrated in lower paying jobs. So when the women move to management jobs, the gender pay gap increases.

But the situation in Icelandic universities today is such that women are an overwhelming majority of students.

That is why these conclusions surprised us so much. Young women in Europe are on average better educated than young men: that has given rise to claims that women will be the winners of the knowledge-based society. That is true for some areas of the knowledge-based society, but not all areas.

Do you believe the situation will correct itself, or is this a remnant of an old male society that keeps the status quo?

There are certain conceptions of women's motivations for engaging in paid work. Such as that they are working to make extra money for the household and therefore they don't need as high wages as men who are main breadwinners. A new study made by a group of researchers at Reykjavik University made public today [June 19], shows that a man and a woman, with identical educational and professional background, were offered different wages by a group of female and male professionals and students participating in the research. The woman was on average expected

to accept 13-19% lower wage than the man. This study confirms claims made by different women who have experienced that they are being offered lower wages than men with comparable background.

So men, in general, have at least a 13% advantage when negotiating salaries? According to this study, yes. I also remember a recent study from Norway that examined how people rated speeches by politicians. Men invariably rated male-politicians higher, whereas there was no marked difference how women rated male and female politicians. This suggests that men tend to look at the world from the viewpoint of gender while women are more gender neutral.

How does Iceland compare to other countries in your research?

We are both the best and worst when it comes to gender equality. Iceland has the highest female employment rate in Europe while the gender pay gap is the widest. In 2004, it was 28%, while it was about 15% on average in 25 EU member states. The reason is, among other things, that women's labour force participation is high in Iceland, but a large portion of working women in Iceland are working in low-wage jobs, which drags down the average wage of women. Moreover, the gender pay gap is widest in occupations that are very gender segregated such as that of craft workers and technicians. This indicates a widespread undervaluation of female as compared with male dominated jobs.

So, how do we correct the situation?

In my opinion, the reasons why we are not progressing towards gender equality as we move towards a knowledge-based society are the employment changes associated with the transition and the measures implemented to tackle gender inequalities. The employment changes are the expansion of the service sector and the growth of skilled jobs that have created employment opportunities for women and enabled many educated women to enter high level jobs. This has not translated into more equal division of unpaid work across Europe.

In addition, when women acquire more education, they move into the jobs with the widest wage distribution so that the gender pay gap widens. In that sense, the market creates opposing tendencies regarding gender inequalities. Unfortunately, the measures that have been implemented to tackle gender inequalities have so far been unsuccessful in this area. These measures are, on the one hand, especially focused on women's disadvantages and, on the other hand, gender mainstreaming involving the integration of the gender perspec-

The EU's proposals and member states measures have been weak when it comes to eliminating the gender pay gap.

tive into all policy-making. The main emphasis is still on special measurements, although their focus is too narrow to capture all the different aspects of gender inequalities. The problem with gender mainstreaming is that it has been implemented as a tool to improve traditional ways of making policies in Europe and not as an instrument to challenge market forces and power relations underlying gender inequalities. As a result, we are always circling around the gender problems and not tackling their roots like male-dominated power structures.

Take for example, the glass ceiling that prevents highly skilled women from entering high paying managerial jobs. So far, few measures have been implemented to breakdown the power structures behind the glass ceiling. The EU's proposals and member states measures have been weak when it comes to eliminating the gender pay gap. The main emphasis has been on how to measure the gender pay gap and not on active measures to reduce it. According to EU, a gender pay gap is justified if it can be attributed to productivity difference.

How is the difference in productivity explained then?

It is difficult to measure productivity, especially in knowledge based jobs, because their output is often in the form of service or knowledge that is often impossible to put into quantitative terms. I have never come across a study showing that jobs performed by women are on average less productive than that of men. However, I often heard employers use productivity differences to justify higher wages of jobs carried out by men as opposed to women. Young women are more educated than young men, so they should be more productive if they are using their skills at work. In recent years, the problem of skill mismatches has become more widespread across labour markets in Europe. Women especially do not seem to have the technical skills required for jobs associated with the knowledge based society. However, skill mismatches may arise from the fact that women's skills are defined as wrong rather than that their education being wrong.

What do you mean by their education being wrong?

Women tend to choose social sciences and business education to a greater extent than men who tend to choose engineering to a greater extent than women. In the Icelandic banking industry, the trend has been to hire engineers rather than people with business education. Why is that? Is it because engineers have a better knowledge of business? Or is it because the engineers are men? These are questions that have been left unanswered.

From what you have said, it seems to me that a gender quota is a solution that needs to be seriously considered.

When I was young I didn't even want to hear the words 'gender quota'. I am now of the opinion that the progress towards gender equality has been way too slow and radical measures have to be implemented to put us on the fast track. I sense that women in Iceland are increasingly losing their patience with the slow progress and the pressure is mounting on the government to undertake much more radical measures to achieve gender equality. Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir [the Minister for Social Affairs] said in interview today [June 19] that she was ready to consider whether to enforce by law of gender quota on the share of women on company boards, as it decreased recently. For 20 years women have been told that we were not educated enough. Recently, we have been told that we don't have the right education. Now, there are a lot of well-educated women, but then education does not matter as much as work experience. Women no longer accept to be blamed for the lack of progress towards gender equality.

Icelandic Music

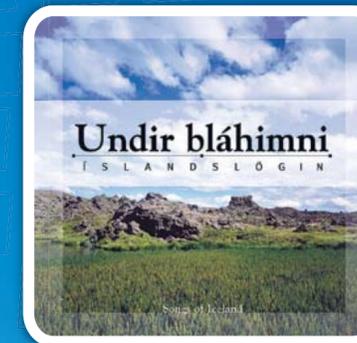
Available almost anywhere!



Íslensk Alþjóðlög - Icelandic Folk Songs
A great selection of the most popular folk songs, performed by the finest musicians in the country.



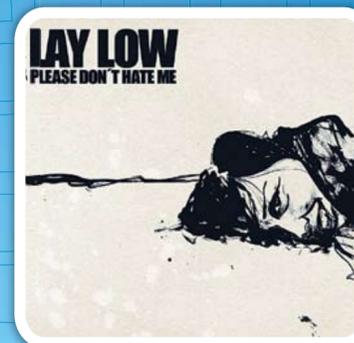
Blue Lagoon Soundtrack
The Blue Lagoon's creative energy inspired Margeir Ingólfsson, Iceland's most prominent DJ, to compile and mix this amazing music collection.



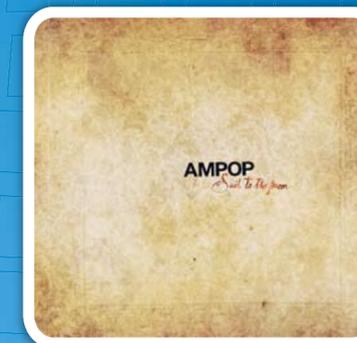
Undir Bláhimni
Songs carefully chosen for visitors to Iceland so that they may enjoy the best from the Icelandic music culture.



Íslandslög 1-6
Songs of Iceland 1-6, a must have collection with a great selection of songs.



Lay Low
Lay Low received more nods than any other musician at the 2006 Icelandic Music Awards, eventually walking with a whopping three of the coveted trophies and has had her music featured in Grey's Anatomy!



Ampop
An award winning three-piece band from Iceland that's impossible to resist. Outstanding songwriting with fantastic vocals make Ampop one of Iceland's most promising bands



Acoustic Iceland
20 songs that have been among the most popular in Iceland throughout the years.



Instrumental Iceland
Iceland's best musicians bring out the magic and atmosphere that can be found in melodies by our best known composers.



Óskalög Sjómannna
Double CD with 40 Icelandic songs about Icelandic seamen. Songs from 1953 to the present day.



sena

okkar heimur // þín skemmtun



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.



Women Paint the Town Pink

Text by Zoë Robert Photo by Leó Stefánsson

Women around the country took part in the annual National Women's Day celebration on June 19. The event marks the day when women in Iceland were granted the right to vote in 1915.

Each year the Feminist Association of Iceland, *Feministinn*, presents the Pink Stone award to an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to the area of women's rights. This year's winner was a group of nine male parliamentarians from the Northwest jurisdiction in Iceland.

"They won the award because no woman got into parliament in that area – it's an encouragement award to remind them to work towards equality issues," said Katrin Anna Gudmundsdóttir from *Feministinn*.

In Reykjavik, women dressed in various items of pink clothing gathered at *Kvennaskólinn*, a former women's school, to attend a history walk. Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir, a historian and a former member of parliament, guided the 70 to 100 mainly older women who attended the walk past sites of importance in the women's rights movement.

"It's important for us to safeguard the history of women [...] even though it's not in the history books," Elisabet Ronaldsdóttir, who attended the event, said.

"This day is important because it was the beginning of something good. Of course, a lot still needs to be done," female singer/songwriter Lay Low agreed.

Political Scientist Einar Már Þórarsson, who was among the handful of males in the crowd, said that it was important to show his support.

"It reminds us that even though women got the right to vote in 1915, still after the election in 2007 there are only 34 percent of women in parliament. So, the fight keeps going and [this day] reminds us to fight for women's rights," he said.

The walk ended at *Hallveigarstaðir* where Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, gave a speech. Gísladóttir argued that the independence of women was more difficult to attain than the independence of the nation. She went on to say that women needed to be granted more power in society.

But Steinunn Gyðuog Guðjónsdóttir (her last name consists of both her mother and father's first names, rather than just her father's as is traditional in Icelandic patronymics) from *Feministinn* pointed out that although there are many areas of women's rights that need to be improved, National Women's Day is about looking

at gender equality from a positive stance.

"It's more about celebrating the things that women have achieved instead of campaigning or marching or demonstrating," she said.

Iceland has led the way in several areas of women's rights and achievement. For example, in 1980 Vigdís Finnbogadóttir became the first elected female president in the world. And according to *Feministinn*, Iceland has the world's highest rate of female participation in the job market. But as Statistics Iceland (2005) confirms, women only earn 72.75 percent of what men earn for the same amount of hours worked.

"It is important for Iceland to be a role model and this is an extremely important issue to be a role model in. I want to see the government doing more," Ronaldsdóttir commented.

"There are many battles [to be won] yet. The salary gap for example. Women are in second place and that doesn't make any sense," Guðbjörg Vilhjámsdóttir agreed.

But despite these seemingly pressing issues, the turnout to Tuesday's celebration was poor compared to the massive attendance to women's rights events in past years. In 2005, a Women's Day Off was held to mark the 30-year anniversary of an event in which 25,000 women in Iceland walked out of their workplaces and took the day off. In 2005, women were earning just over 64 percent (this number does not take into consideration the difference in hours that men and women work) of the total of what men were earning. In protest, 60,000 women around the country stopped work at 2.08 pm – 64 percent of a normal 9 to 5 working day. The idea was to show the value of women's contribution to the Icelandic economy.

"This day is important because it was the beginning of something good. Of course, a lot still needs to be done"

Special offer



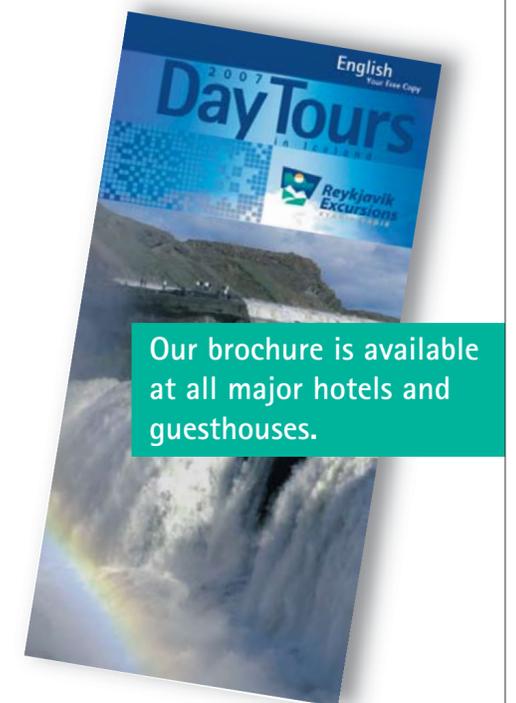
Discounts on day tours

- ▶ 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.



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



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 Roast pork
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
HRIKINGRAUT, REYKJAVIK
RESTAURANT OPEN 7-23.30 AND TAKE AWAY
ROUND THE CLOCK

12_RVK_GV_09_2007_ARTICLE/IMMIGRANTS

Who Knows How the System Works?

Text by Ian Watson

On April 16, 2007, the Icelandic Parliament passed a law granting Icelandic citizenship to eighteen people who presumably did not qualify under the Ministry of Justice's regular application process. Parliament normally passes two such laws per year, and had most recently granted thirteen people citizenship in December 2006, and eighteen people citizenship in June 2006. One of those who received Icelandic citizenship on April 16 was a young Guatemalan woman who is the girlfriend of the son of Jónína Bjartmarz. Jónína Bjartmarz was at the time Iceland's Minister of the Environment, and had from 2000 to 2006 been a member of Parliament's General Committee, which oversees granting citizenship by law.

An act of parliament is one of the two ways in which foreigners may become Icelandic citizens, according to the law on citizenship (#23/1952). More commonly, foreigners apply under Article 5 of the law to the Ministry of Justice, which may then grant them citizenship if they have lived in Iceland for a certain number of years and if they fulfil various other conditions.

The story of Parliament's decision to grant the Guatemalan woman citizenship exploded in the Icelandic media at the end of April 2007. Kastljós, the state television channel's evening magazine program, highlighted it several nights in a row. The young woman had lived in Iceland for only a year and a half (many foreigners wait up to seven years), and compared to other foreigners here, she did not seem to have an unusually strong need for Icelandic citizenship. Most of the media discussion seemed to center around the question of whether Jónína Bjartmarz had exercised some kind of inappropriate influence over the parliamentary committee's decision.

Bjartmarz's party lost several crucial seats in the parliamentary elections on May 12th (hers included), and some bloggers and pundits speculated that Kastljós's coverage of the issue had been politically motivated. Bjartmarz lodged a complaint against Kastljós with the ethics committee of the Icelandic Journalists' Association. On June 19th, the committee ruled that Kastljós's coverage had not been sufficiently well researched, and constituted a "serious violation" of the journalists' association's code of ethics. The same day, Kastljós published a detailed rebuttal of the committee's ruling, and accused the committee itself of sloppy research and reasoning.

What Happened?

There has been so much smoke from these fires that it has been hard to see the real issues in the affair. The important question is not whether Jónína Bjartmarz improperly influenced the General Committee to approve her daughter-in-law's request. (I haven't seen any evidence that she did.) The issue that needs to be addressed – and could be resolved – is that there is no publicly available information about how the process of requesting citizenship from Parliament works. None. Except Article 6 of the law, which is only three sentences long and not very helpful. This lack of information almost ensures that the law will be applied unfairly.

The Ministry of Justice gives fairly full information on the regular citizenship application process on its website (www.domsmlaraduneyti.is). In my experience, Iceland's foreign residents are very familiar with its rules and procedures, such as minimum residence requirements and the need for two references. A lot of people receive citizenship this way: over 800 did so during the year 2006.

The Ministry's website gives no information about applying to Parliament, so I looked on the parliamentary website, and particularly on the General Committee's page. I couldn't find any instructions on how to apply. All I managed to turn up was the text of the bi-annual laws granting citizenship. I tried to contact the secretary of the General Committee, but she was away for summer vacation. I tried Googling "ríkisborgararéttur Alþingi" ("citizenship Parliament"), but found nothing relevant.

Until the Jónína Bjartmarz case broke, I think that very few foreign residents of Iceland ever imagined themselves worthy of receiving citizenship by act of Parliament. It was something reserved for very special people, like Bobby Fischer. I have only known one person

who received citizenship this way. This person played for an Icelandic national sports team – the custody of an innocent child was at issue – and they'd been turned down by the Ministry of Justice.

I myself have been patiently waiting for my seven years to be up in 2008, so that I can apply through the regular process. I never dreamed I would have any right to ask Parliament to single me out for special treatment, even though my reasons for needing to be fast-tracked are arguably stronger than Jónína Bjartmarz's daughter-in-law's. And how could I know that I might qualify for special treatment, when the rules aren't posted anywhere?

So the problem is that not everyone has access to the information that applying to Parliament is an option. Jónína Bjartmarz had sat on the General Committee, and surely knew how the system worked. One can easily imagine that her daughter-in-law would not otherwise have known to apply. Similarly, the sports player I mentioned above might not have known about the possibility of applying to Parliament but for a near relative who worked as a parliamentary staff member.

A Loophole in the System?

I can't fault people who have access to information for using it legally. But I do see injustice in a situation in which only certain people are aware that it is practically possible to apply to Parliament for citizenship. Is it fair that Jónína Bjartmarz's daughter-in-law applied, while many other equally or better qualified potential applicants did not – just because they had no way of knowing that they could?

Not only are there no instructions about how to apply to Parliament, there is no clear information about when one may apply. According to everyone I talked to, the custom has been that (except for cases like Bobby Fischer) you may apply to Parliament for citizenship only after having gone through the normal, months-long application process through the Ministry of Justice and getting denied. (The ministry's standard letter of denial mentions that it is possible to appeal to Parliament.)

But it seems that Jónína Bjartmarz's daughter-in-law applied directly to Parliament, without first receiving a denial from the Ministry of Justice. There is nothing in the law which forbids this. But neither have I found any public information anywhere saying that direct application is permitted or explaining how to go about it. If direct application is really going to be an option, it needs to be equally available to everyone.

In researching this article, the only way I managed to get information about the process of applying to Parliament for citizenship was to call up people who have been personally or professionally involved in such applications. We all know that Iceland is a country where who you know often matters more than what you know. And if it's a matter of finding a good plumber, a used car, or that hidden hot spring that's somewhere in the middle of Eldborgarhraun, this is totally natural and fine. But if it's about citizenship – one of the most important legal rights that we have – we need clear information that is fairly accessible to all.

That means that it needs to be easy for foreigners in Iceland to find out whether, when, and how they may apply to Parliament for citizenship. The newly elected General Committee should lay out the rules and procedures right away. By doing that, our parliamentarians would show that they rank fairness and justice for all the people on this island at least as high as sympathy for a single one.

There has been so much smoke from these fires that it has been hard to see the real issues in the affair.

WWW.GRAPEVINE.IS

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

I'M SENDING HAPPINESS

WESTERN UNION

Fast, reliable worldwide money transfer.

Landsbankinn
410 4000 | landsbanki.is

Buy directly from the people who make them

The Handknitting Association of Iceland

- Mini Mall **IDA**, **IDA** Lækjargata 2, **IDA**
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

TAX FREE

PURE NEW WOOL

Listasafn Reykjavíkur
Reykjavik Art Museum

Contemporary Icelandic Design
19 May – 26 August

Magma/Kvika

Kjarvalsstaðir

Straumur-Burðarás
OPEN DAILY

Open daily 10-17.
Free entrance on Thursdays.

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

Morgunblaðið
VÍFILL

www.listasafnreykjavikur.is

listasafn@reykjavik.is

Listasafn Reykjavíkur
Reykjavik Art Museum

My Oz
11 May – 19 August

Roni Horn

Hafnarhúsið

KAUPPING

samskip

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

Reykjavík Arts Festival 2007
A part of Reykjavík Arts Festival's programme.

Tel +354 590 1200
Fax +354 590 1201

Protection by Numbers

Text by Zoë Robert

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), a refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside their country of nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country."

World Refugee Day was celebrated on June 20. In Iceland, the Red Cross, UNHCR and the Municipality of Reykjavik used the day to bring attention to the issues concerning refugees and asylum seekers both in Iceland and around the world. The Grapevine is also taking this opportunity to introduce the topic.

Red Cross Project Manager for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Atli Viðar Thorstensen, says that World Refugee Day is about "advocacy and protection". "It's about informing people in the government and the public about refugees in Iceland and overseas," he said. "It's to show people how refugees live," added UNHCR representative Sylvia Kithole from Kenya.

Earlier this year the state-appointed Icelandic Refugee Board and the UNHCR reached an agreement to invite 30 refugees to the country each year. As part of this commitment 30 Columbian refugees currently living in Ecuador will arrive later this summer. The group will consist of women and children on behalf of the UNHCR's international project "Women at Risk" which gives priority to females and single mothers and their children in need of refuge. In 2005 a group of 24 Columbian women and children were invited to Iceland through the same project. The annual intake of the other Nordic countries of the last few years has been as follows: Sweden between 1,000 to 1,800, Denmark 500, Finland 750 to 1,000, and Norway 800 to 1,500.

Earlier this year, the Icelandic government decided to donate USD 100,000 (approx. 6, 275,000 ISK) to the UNHCR for the aid of Iraqi refugees. Iceland's contribution in 2006 ranked 63rd on a list of 114 countries and private donors. But, according to the daily newspaper Morgunblaðið, ten Iraqis applied for refuge in Iceland but have had their applications rejected. According to the Ministry of Social Affairs, the policy is to accept around 30 refugees – those in most need. Although the government has discussed the possibility of accepting refugees from Iraq, at this stage they are giving preference to those coming from Ecuador. The Red Cross explains that the UNHCR (who is in charge of making recommendations about refugees to the government) is focusing on refugees from Columbia because of the lack of political pressure to accept them.

Thorstensen recently returned from Ecuador where he helped interview refugees from Columbia who will potentially be resettled in Iceland. "The reason for UNHCR asking Iceland to accept Columbian refugees is because there is an ongoing armed conflict in Columbia [...] More than two million people have been forced to flee their homes. Most of them have been displaced within Columbia but many have fled to other countries," he explains. Thorstensen also explains that some refugees may continue to be at risk in Ecuador and therefore need to resettle in a third country such as Iceland.

What are refugees entitled to once they arrive in Iceland? When refugees arrive in Iceland they are provided with a twelve month integration program. The Municipality

of Reykjavik provides refugees with free housing including heating and electricity, medical care, financial support and obligatory intensive Icelandic language classes.

"They are also permitted to work from their first day in Iceland and are provided assistance in finding a job [...] and pretty much all of them that came in 2005 found jobs within a year," says Paola Kjærnestad, Red Cross Project Manager for Immigrants and Young People.

The situation with asylum seekers is a little different though. To clarify, an asylum seeker differs from a refugee in that he/she is someone who has made a formal application for asylum and is waiting for a decision about their status. If their application is accepted then they become a refugee.

Asylum seekers usually stay at a hostel in Reykjanæsbær while they wait to hear if they are granted refugee status. During this time they receive medical care, housing and an allowance of 2200 ISK per week, but are not entitled to work.

So, what happens to asylum seekers when they arrive on Iceland's door? According to Icelandic law, police cannot deny entry into Iceland to individuals who maintain that they have been forced to seek asylum as a political refugee. The authorities conduct an interview with the asylum seeker and if their statement is considered credible their application for asylum is forwarded to the Directorate of Immigration. If not, the police may refuse them entry into Iceland and the applicant may be required to leave the country immediately.

Thorstensen says that the human rights of asylum seekers who have been allowed entry in Iceland are upheld. "Asylum seekers who are staying at Fit hostel can leave the hostel if they like and they have their freedom of travel within Iceland. Many, however, feel restricted to the hostel and Keflavík [Reykjanæsbær] because of lack of money," he says.

However, because under Icelandic law police must be able to contact the asylum seeker until a decision on their status has been reached, the applicant may need to report to police or not travel beyond certain limits in the country. In theory detention can also be applied.

Records show that the vast majority of applications for asylum in Iceland are rejected. "Only one asylum seeker has so far received a refugee status in Iceland. That was in 2000. A few asylum seekers however receive permission to stay on humanitarian grounds [...]," Thorstensen says. According to Thorstensen there are currently 20 to 25 asylum seekers in Iceland, some who have been waiting for a response on their status since 2005.

According to the Directorate of Immigration there is no law in the Act for Foreigners that details the maximum time that can be spent on processing an application, but according to the Administrative Act all applications must be processed as quickly as possible.

"We always try to answer them as fast as we can. But with more complicated cases it can take longer because we assess each case individually," says an employee at the Directorate of Immigration who preferred to remain anonymous.

While researching for this article, the Grapevine attempted to speak to other various government offices but did not receive sufficient comment or assistance to quote them in this article.



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 Reykjavik · tel. +354 517 3131
www.sjavarbarinn.com

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

Grolsch

Nestlé

Dumle
Toffee ice cream

The Icebreaker in the Land of Ice

NOA-KROPP

NOA-KROPP
- brakandi snilld!



Selection From the Sweets Shop

Text by Chandler Fredrick Photo by Leó Stefánsson

When the editor summoned me and told me to explore the field of Icelandic candy, I thought it would be a dream assignment. It was, and it wasn't. I got an opportunity to gorge myself on various sugary products, guilt-free, and write it off as research, but I also experienced that tummy-ache my mother warned me about as a kid. While I recommend that you try some of the Icelandic candy available, keep this in mind, mother knows best.

Síriuslengja
Made entirely with Sírius milk chocolate, this 'long bar' is probably the cornerstone of the Sírius candy line. The taste is absolutely unbeatable, as Sírius makes some of the best chocolate in Iceland. The best comparison between Frejja and Sírius would be the difference between Hershey's and Cadbury. You know which one is milkier. The lengja bar is probably the best place to start, though it's hardly the best that Nói Sírius has to offer.

Rjómatoffi
This 'cream toffee' bar from Nói Sírius might be one of the more unique bars on the shelf. With chocolate outside, this bar has a hard-as-toffee inside of what Nói Sírius calls cream. It seems to us, however, that this filling is purely sugar. This thing tastes great, but be careful... midway through the bar you can feel the oncoming diabetes.

Nizza með súkkulaðiperlum
'Með súkkulaðiperlum' translates to 'with Chocolate Pearls.' The 'pearls' on the inside can be likened to m & m minis, with the same top-of-the-line chocolate that Sírius never fails to offer. This is our favourite bar of the lot and, if anything, make sure you have one of these before leaving.

Hraun
'Hraun' means 'Lava,' and this bar is shaped as though a chocolate-spouting volcano erupted over a wafer-field of puffed rice and maize starch (That's probably how it's advertised, anyway). The texture is rough, and bits and pieces of puffed rice pop out like a bits of a lava field. This bar is a creative take on the wafer/chocolate 'Prins Polo' bar, and it seems like a sweet version of the conga bar, which lacks the puffed rice that Hraun bars have.

Pipp með piparmyntufyllingu
'Piparmyntufylling' might be a mouthful, but when broken down it just means 'with mint filling.' Pipp is another bar by the fabulous Sírius, so again the chocolate is outstanding. This thing is more like a bar of Junior Mints than Peppermint Patties, as the texture of the chocolate is more milky than cakey.

Rís
Rís by Frejja is like a bar of Nóa Kropp. It consists of sugary, puffed corn balls covered in chocolate. The bars are long and look nasty on the bottom. This is a more sugar saturated version of Nóa Kropp, and if you have to make a decision between the two, we'd suggest just sticking to the latter.

Malta
This is the malt answer to all the corn and/or rice wafer bars, and we'd say that they are the best (and probably healthiest) of the wafered lot.

Nóa Kropp
Nóa Kropp is unlike anything that is available in the United States: Sugary puffed corn-balls sopped in milk chocolate. Our editor loves these things. I'd say that it's just like Kellogg's Pops dipped in chocolate. These things are an excellent introduction to Icelandic candy.

Woolens factory store, located in Vik **Genuine woolen goods, made in Iceland**
Also wide selection of souvenirs

ICELAND
Reykjavik
Vik

Vikurprjón ehf
Phone: 487-1250
www.vikwool.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

VIKING village
Fjörkræin

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

Uncle Tom's Cabin
Laugavegur 2

- 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

online GRAPEVINE

WWW.GRAPEVINE.IS

NEWS | BACK ISSUES | PODCASTS | LISTINGS | REVIEWS

Come together.

Carlsberg
LÉTTÖL
Probably the best **** in the world.



The Musical Impact of Three Icelandic Movies

Text by Helga Pórey Jónsdóttir Photo of Óttarr Proppé of Ham by Björg Sveinsdóttir

In the early 90's, a couple of young directors made very popular movies that were intertwined with the Icelandic music scene at the time. The birth of pop-culture movies was a much needed one. Before the 90's, Icelandic cinema was ridden with thrillers and comedies, some of them very accomplished and true to the barren nature of Icelandic art. Others were full of clichés and had no real impact on young movie makers of the era. Social stipulations called for new forms of expression. Remember, it was the time of Oliver Stone's music driven epics, and singers like Madonna who challenged people with picturesque music videos and electronic music, that was winning over Europe. Audiences were heavily influenced with the combination of music and pictures, birth of new music movements, and were ready to take on the pop-cultural crossovers that lay ahead.

Icelanders are extremely influenced by American culture and Hollywood cinema is no exception, but in the early 90s there was no Tarantino to lead the way. Young Icelandic directors had nothing to lose – no standard had been set for movies that combined music and cinema in the fashion most western audiences are used to now. But the independent movie industry was growing and Icelanders were a part of the new atmosphere that was being created.

Veggfóður: Erótísk ástarsaga (1992)

Veggfóður: Erótísk ástarsaga (Wallpaper: An Erotic Love Story) came out in 1992 and became extremely popular, even though the movie was not particularly good and the director placed the strongest actors in supporting roles. The story is about a country girl, an aspiring musician who comes to the city looking for opportunities. She starts working in a bar and meets a few men who impact her life dramatically. The lead actress, Ingibjörg Stefánsdóttir, was a part of the band Þis of keik (Peace of Cake) and the band is featured prominently in the movie. They are the band she's looking to join and their music is used in several scenes.

Þis of keik was an electronic band, inspired by the growing house music scene of the era. The music can hardly be called innovative but it has its moments – musically they are decent but it's the disturbingly bad Madonna imitations of their lead singer that kills any hope of the personality she might have had. The funny thing is the fact that Ingibjörg does have a voice but she probably didn't have a clue how to use it or exercise it properly.

The movie features three giants of Icelandic music of the nineties: Sálin hans Jóns mín, Todmobile and Síðan skein sól. Each provide one song and are a strong reminder of the leading influences in domestic pop at the time. Of course there were other bands making waves, nevertheless these three were the biggest acts – and to some they still are.

Sódóma Reykjavík (1992)

Only two months after the premiere of Veggfóður, Sódóma Reykjavík came out. The movie was called Remote Control in English and has become a classic in Iceland. The plot is simple; it revolves around a young mechanic, Axel, and his quest for his mother's remote control. The movie is funny because Axel is a social loafer who is stuck with his hard partying sister outside of his element. Some of the greatest moments in Icelandic cinema are in this film, but what's also interesting is the fact that some of the greatest moments of Icelandic music are also there.

The metal band Ham are prominent. Sigurjón Kjartansson, the leader of the band, plays a big role in the movie as well as performing with his band. Ham was an exceptionally popular group and when the movie came out they were one of the biggest underground bands in the country. Their song, Partybær, from the movie is one of the most recognizable songs in Icelandic rock – one that any self-respecting music enthusiast knows.

The collaboration between Björk and KK-band is also notable. Together they cover the tune "Ó borg, min borg," which is an ode to Reykjavík. The leader of KK-band is called KK and has been a prominent figure in the blues

scene in the country for years. Björk needs no introduction; she also collaborates with Þórhallur Skúlason on an electro-track named Takk. Þórhallur has been an important force in the Icelandic electric scene and ran the label Thule for a while.

Sódóma Reykjavík's musical input was far more important than in other pictures before, due to the closeness between the director, Óskar Jónsson, and the rapidly growing underground scene. Almost every artist on the soundtrack is still working, has gained notoriety, and some have become legends. When comparing Sódóma with Veggfóður, from a musical standpoint, one finds that the similarities aren't many. Veggfóður is more pop-driven, it's used as a vehicle to promote a mediocre band while Sódóma's music is only there to support a film that echoes the mood of its music.

Blossi/810551 (1997)

Július Kemp, the director of Veggfóður, premiered his movie Blossi/810551 in late summer of 1997 (Blossi means a spark or a blit). The movie is probably one of the worst movies ever made in Iceland. The charm of Veggfóður is gone and the plot, about a guy and a girl escaping a lunatic by going on a road trip, feels embarrassing and unoriginal at best. What's striking when watching the movie, considering the music, is the fact that it's somewhat outdated. Cuts from a three-year old Primal Scream album, and Josh Wink's '95 hit "Higher State of Consciousness," feel strange to listen to compared to Quarashi's "Switchstance" which was comparatively new in years. The Prodigy are featured quite prominently, but the truth is that in 1997 most of their old fan-base was gone and the band could hardly be called pioneering anymore. Also the evil trend of songstresses taking on old disco hits is forced upon the listener with terrible results.

What's interesting to see when the credit list rolls is the fact that many Icelandic artists contributed to the movie. Bang Gang, Botnleðja, Maus, Quarashi, Súrefni and many others participated in what can only be called a movie about nothing. Blossi presents variety of

domestic music but not very prominently, with the exception of Quarashi. When it comes to representing foreign artists, it misses the point so badly one wonders how terrible can a music supervisor get before he or she is fired?

From '92 to '97

The musical landscape grew dramatically between the releases of Veggfóður and Sódóma in '92, and Blossi in '97. In the early 90's, Icelanders were still getting to know electronic music. House-music and Raves were a new thing, but the lack of confidence prevented any serious ventures in that area. In '97, however, Björk was a world famous artist with two hit albums and we had all the confidence in the world to help us grow faster. The presence of electronic music was now stable and anyone who wanted to play it had audience. If Blossi had been a good movie it would've presented this atmosphere in music at end of the century – especially since it's so influenced by Quentin Tarantino. Veggfóður is kind of childish and doesn't tackle its music seriously enough to realize that the main band of the movie is inadequate. Sódóma Reykjavík is, on the other hand, golden. Everything about that movie is solid and the best part is, as stated before, the fact that it holds some of the most profound moments of Icelandic culture.

If Blossi had been a good movie it would've presented this atmosphere in music at end of the century – especially since it's so influenced by Quentin Tarantino.

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

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

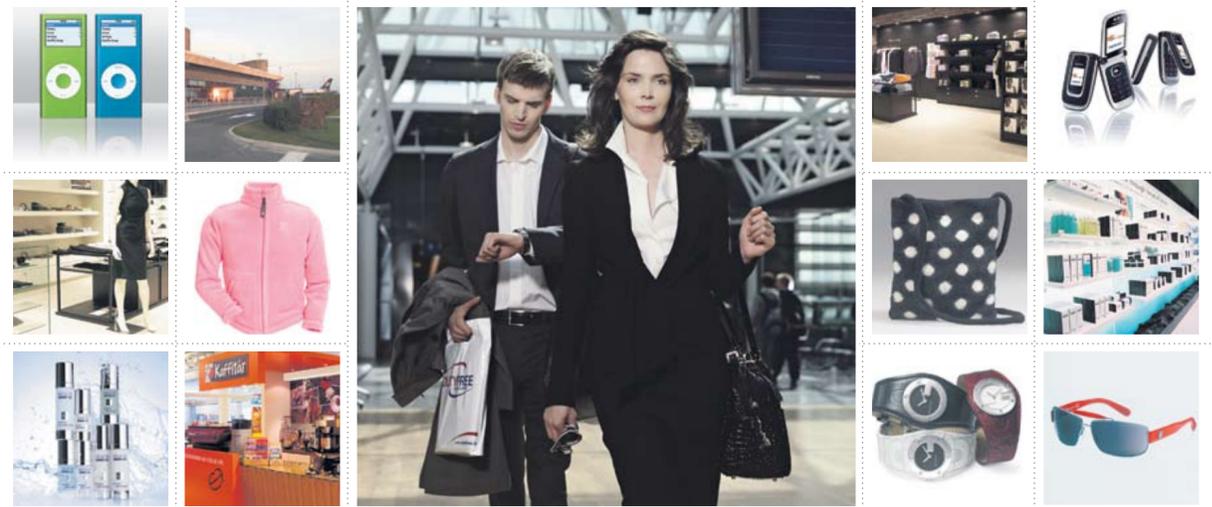
Álafoss
Laugavegur 1
Reykjavík
City Center

Open:
Every day
9:00 - 22:00

ÁLAFOSS
 Wool & Souvenir Shop

Take the warmth with you!
www.alafoss.is

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!



“It is a common misunderstanding that a movie producer sits with his feet upon the table and plays around with money.”

Text by Sveinn Birkir Björnsson and Steinunn Jakobsdóttir Photo by Gulli

It is hard to pinpoint with any accuracy when an Icelandic film industry emerged. It may not even be important to pinpoint when exactly it happened, what probably matters more is that it happened. For the purpose of this article, let's say that the first semblance of an industry emerged in 1978, when the Icelandic Film Fund was established by the government with the sole purpose of financially supporting the production of Icelandic films.

This was a watershed moment for Icelandic filmmakers who had struggled to finance their films. Although filmmakers still strain for financing, the fund set up a framework that made it realistic (or less unrealistic at least) to produce Icelandic movies and gave birth to professionals who paved the way for the next generation of Icelandic filmmakers.

Today, the Icelandic film industry is experiencing certain growing pains. There are four to eight films made domestically each year and Icelandic films are regularly featured at international film festivals. Yet, Icelandic filmmakers say that working conditions are difficult and funds are lacking. The Grapevine contacted several industry insiders to find out where Icelandic filmmaking stands today and how much has really changed in the last 30 years.

The Icelandic Film Industry in a Nutshell

“We should keep in mind that Iceland is a small nation, but we manage to produce many good films. The fact that we have a film at the Toronto Film Festival almost every year is incredible. Especially if we compare that to the Swedish film industry for example, which put out 45 films in 2005 and none of them was screened at the Toronto Festival. That is a remarkable fact,” says Skúli Malmquist, producer and co-founder of the Reykjavík-based independent production company Zik Zak Filmworks.

Established in 1995, the company has produced more than one project a year since 1999, including Dagur Kári's *Nói Albinói* and *Voksne Mennesker*, Ragnar Bragason's *Fiaskó* and Rúnar Rúnarsson's Oscar nominated short film *The Last Farm*. Currently, the company is working on various projects, such as co-producing Sólveig Anspach's feature film *Skrapp út* (*Back Soon*), shot in Iceland earlier this year; and Vesturport's *Surf*, directed by Árni Ólafur Asgeirsson which will start shooting next year. Zik Zak's biggest project at the moment is a new film by director Dagur Kári, *The Good Heart*, an English language drama that will mostly be filmed in the US, hopefully this fall. The movie is in pre-production but is already fully financed by local and international investors.

“Our goal is to produce at least two feature films, one documentary and one or two short films every year” says Malmquist, and adds that it is difficult for an independent company to maintain such a busy production schedule, in particular because of the lack of funding.

So far the company has managed to finance its projects but 50–70% of the funding comes from foreign investors, which Malmquist says is unusually high compared to other countries but quite typical for the Icelandic industry. “I think that few nations in the world need to obtain such a big percentage of the funding from abroad,” Malmquist says.

“I would like to see the local TV stations participating in the projects to a greater extent than they have so far, as well as paying a reasonable price for the films. As the situation is today, it's easier to sell your films to TV stations in Denmark and Sweden while you need to struggle to get a similar price for the films in Iceland. That isn't normal,” he says, adding that his crew is still optimistic that things will change for the better.

The Icelandic Film Centre

It all starts with funding. Raising money and building connections with foreign investors; attending film festivals around the world and convincing distributors and TV stations to support projects is an essential part in Icelandic Film industry.

In 2003, the laws on the Icelandic Film Fund were changed. The fund was dissolved as such and the Ice-

landic Film Centre was established to take over the operations of the fund. But even more importantly, The Icelandic Film Centre was given the direct responsibility of acting as an export agency and promoting Icelandic films in foreign markets.

“It is difficult to maintain an international network when you make a movie every other or even every third year. We try to provide an international network for film workers and handle relations with international film festivals on behalf of Icelandic filmmakers,” Director Laufey Guðjónsdóttir explains.

The market for Icelandic films is small. A domestic film may typically draw 10,000 viewers at the box office. Per capita, that number is proportionately what best selling domestic movies draw in the rest of Europe. But it is still only 10,000 people, while the production costs remain similar, regardless of capita. This is the harsh financial reality Icelandic filmmakers must face.

Funding...

This year, the Icelandic Film Centre has around 400 million ISK in funds to support filmmakers divided between TV projects, feature length movies, and shorts and docs. According to an agreement made last year, that amount will be increased gradually to reach 700 millions by 2010. Each year, around 100 projects receive funding on all levels of production, from developing screenplays, to anywhere between pre-production and post production.

The Film Centre follows strict guidelines when selecting projects for funding, Guðjónsdóttir explains. Each project is carefully scrutinised by an independent committee of industry professionals who do not have ties to the Icelandic Film Industry, based on their commercial viability, artistic aspiration, and most importantly, how well the filmmaker has done his homework.

“It is a common misunderstanding that a movie producer sits with his feet upon the table and plays around with money. That is not true. Everything needs to be well solidified when we receive an application to fund a project for production. You need to have a schedule, you need signed contracts with everybody, cast, crew and other investors, and you have to show that you will be able to finance the film. It is important to select carefully, not only because it is a shame to let the money go to waste if the project falls through, but also because when you select one project, you turn down another one,” Guðjónsdóttir concludes.

In addition to financial support from the Icelandic Film Centre, the Icelandic government recently agreed to reimburse 14% of production costs incurred for film and TV production in Iceland from the National Treasury. The move has not only benefited Icelandic filmmakers financially, it has also drawn an interest from large foreign production companies that regularly visit Iceland to shoot such movies as *James Bond: Die Another Day*, *Batman Begins* and *The Flags of our Fathers* to name a few, often using Icelandic crew members. Filmmakers are generally very pleased with this development, since Icelandic crews have gained a lot of experience working with their foreign counterparts.

Laufey Guðjónsdóttir of the Icelandic Film Centre told us: “We recently had the Institute of Economic Studies at the University of Iceland do a research on the 14% reimbursement plan. According to the institution's report, the government gets more in return than the 14% it has to pay back. In the past, we have typically financed 15–25% of a film's budget, and we are trying to raise that percentage now while the rest is financed from abroad, so we can see that there is money coming into the country from this industry. Sometimes a lot of money.”

...Or Lack Thereof

Despite improvements in recent years, the most common complaint from Icelandic filmmakers is about the lack of funding for Icelandic projects.

Filmmaker Rúnar Rúnarsson: “The problem is the lack of funding. The Icelandic Film Centre has been doing a fine job and now we are waiting to see if things will improve at The Icelandic National Broadcasting Service (RÚV) and whether they will increase its contribution to Icelandic filmmaking and TV programming.”

Rúnarsson's short movie, *Síðasti Bæringur í Dalnum* (*The Last Farm*), was nominated for an Oscar in 2004 and his next short movie, *Two Birds*, starts shooting in August. “As the situation is today,” Rúnar continues, “most production companies are producing their own projects and it can be hard for a new filmmaker to make his own movie. If you are, for example, doing a movie with a 100 million ISK budget, you can get 40% financial support from the Icelandic Film Centre but the rest is up to you, and gathering 60 million ISK isn't something you do in a matter of minutes. You need to have been attending cocktail-parties at Cannes for the past ten years, been to festivals



On the Lot

around the world and know some Germans who can provide funding.”

Icelandic Filmmakers are particularly incensed over the lack of support from the National Broadcasting Service (RÚV), where most Icelandic films end up being shown. “RÚV takes almost no part in funding Icelandic movies,” states Friðrik Þór Friðriksson, whose film *Children of Nature* was nominated for an Oscar as the best foreign language film in 1992. Friðrik is Iceland's most experienced filmmaker after nearly 30 years in the business and producing or directing over 50 films. His production company, The Icelandic Film Corporation went bankrupt almost three years ago, after taking a huge loss on an expensive project, an event that most Icelandic filmmakers agree was a major backlash for the industry.

He adds: “In Denmark, the Danish Broadcasting Service (Danske Radio) is obligated to fund 25% of all projects that are produced. If we intend to run a National Broadcasting Service, it needs to take more

part in the production. We those who have the most is RÚV, since all these come there anyway, and usually viewer rating.”

His opinion is also shared by one of Iceland's most successful movies such as *1C Kormákur* got an opportunity to Heaven, starring Forrest before making *Jar City*, the film in Iceland to date. Ba RÚV's obligation is not only

“We need to get more to work in television. better preparation for more than working on short film ing short films is negative. is much closer in form to a short movie. It is good

info.

▲ ASÍ Summer Exhibition *Cannibal Corpse at NASA* Nupen's Aggressive Artworks *Sound of the Geysir* Breakbeat Club-Night *Photography at Belleville* Georg Guðni Retrospective *Installations at Kling & Bang* *A Long-Awaited Music Hang-Out* Rock Fest *Eistnaflug* *Skyr: A Beginner's Guide* Food Reviews *Shopping* Music, Art, Films and Events Listings ▲



(nýló)^{B5}

Anna Sigmond exhibits at
The Living Art Museum



Dwarf Gallery – June 30 - July 29

Dorophone Number Five

On June 30, artist and designer Halldór Arnar Úlfarsson will open his first solo exhibition in Iceland at the Dwarf Gallery, a small basement showroom located on Grundarstígur 21. Halldór, who lives in Helsinki, Finland, has been busy with building various adventurous works from such materials as wood, snow and electricity. Entitled Dorophone Number Five, his project exhibited at the Dwarf Gallery features a video installation and a unique musical instrument, named the Dorophone, which is an electro-acoustic string instrument he has been developing since 2004.

"The instrument receives its sound from sound-feedback. An Electromagnetic pickup senses the

vibration of the strings and sends the amplified sound back to the body of the instrument. This is how the droning sound-circle is created, with various interesting over- and undertones," the press release reads.

"Halldór has become somewhat of a cult figure to a small group here in Reykjavík" artist and curator and the gallery's owner Birta Guðjónsdóttir says, adding that the Dorophone has been played at various occasions and as well as being used as session instruments in a few released projects in various countries. The band múm, for example, commissioned him to develop an instrument, which they play in concerts. Japanese harp-player and contemporary composer, Emi

Maeda, has asked him to create yet another one, which will be ready this coming October.

Halldór has now travelled from Finland to Iceland, carrying his new Dorophone in its specially made box, which he will open on June 30 and introduce the Dorophone to Icelandic audiences.

He has played his instruments at various venues and exhibited his works around the world and will, of course, perform and play in the opening on Saturday, from 5 to 7. The exhibition will be on display until July 29.

Dwarf Gallery, Grundarstígur 21, open Fri – Sun from 18–20.

ASÍ Summer Exhibition

An exhibition featuring paintings from the ASÍ Museum collection opens on June 30. On show are several works painted by two of the most important twentieth-century Icelandic landscape painters, Jón Stefánsson and J.S. Kjarval, including Kjarval's famous work Mountain Milk, painted in 1941. The painting shows us a scene from Þingvellir in idealised, unbreakable calm. It has been described as the incarnation of the most beautiful enchantments to be seen at Þingvellir.

The exhibition also features works by contemporary artists such as Birgir Andrússon, whose work deals with the Icelandic cultural heritage; Guðrún Kristjánsdóttir, who gives us an original view of the Icelandic landscape; and Anna Eyjólfssdóttir, who uses the architecture of the Museum in her sculpture.

The exhibition is open until August 26 and admission is free.

ASÍ Art Museum, Freyjugata 41, www.asi.is



NASA – June 30 & July 1

Cannibal Corpse at NASA

US death-metal monsters Cannibal Corpse will play two shows at NASA this coming weekend, one on Saturday June 30 (starts at 22:30) and an all-age concert on Sunday, July 1 (starts at 19:00). The band has gained a superstar-like following among the world's metalheads, who are in abundance in Iceland, so expect to witness some gruesome madness.

Opening acts on Saturday are local rockers in Changer and the

recently-turned four-piece Minus, who will be playing its first gig with a changed lineup and a brand-new bass player (which will undoubtedly attract a large crowd of loyal fans). For the Sunday show, bands Forgarður Helvítis, Momentum and Severed Crotch will warm up the crowd. Price per ticket is 2,500 ISK.

TICKETS AT midi.is

Geysir – July 7

Sound of the Geysir

Every Saturday this July, The garden at Hotel Geysir will play host to some of Reykjavík's most underrated and underappreciated rock. Tired of being forced to play sleazy downtown bars and clubs, bands like Singapore Sling, Lights of the Highway, Esja, Reykjavík!, The End, and others in the indie rock vein have found a friendlier alternative. The shows will begin at 1 o'clock and the bands will play for as long as they want into the afternoon.

After the sets have ended, the event will become a barbeque with Tuborg beer. While the event and the show itself are free, the food and beer are not. So bring your dinero. After the barbeque, there will be a big bon fire with acoustic guitars and friendly, (most likely) intoxicated people.

The first event will be Saturday July 7, when Esja and The End will play. Find a ride!



Hafnarborg – June 28 - August 5

Nupen's Aggressive Artworks

Kjell Nupen exhibits at Hafnarborg A solo exhibition of the works by Norse contemporary artist Kjell Nupen opens at Hafnarborg, The Hafnarfjörður Institute of Culture and Fine on June 28. Nupen studied at the Academy of Art in Oslo and later at the State Academy of Art in Dusseldorf, Germany. He soon made a name for himself as a young and promising artist and has exhibited his works extensively. Political art predominated within the art scene at the time he was starting his career. During the 1970s, Nupen's art arose

to a large extent out of his criticism of the established society, which characterised his earlier work. In the 1980's, this political and aggressive side to his art softened and colourful landscape scenes began to appear in his work.

The exhibition, which features various paintings and graphics, is open daily and will be on display until August 5.

Hafnarborg, Strandgata 28, Hafnarfjörður, www.hafnarborg.is



NASA – July 14

Breakbeat Club-Night

Breakbeat.is presents yet another Club-Night, this time featuring the extremely successful multi-talented British drum & bass DJ, producer, actor and musician Goldie, playing NASA on Saturday, July 14. Goldie is currently promoting his newest album, Malice in Wonderland, which is his first LP in almost a decade. Released under his moniker, Rufige Kru, the 13-track album features a darker sound and more hardcore beats than his previous work.

Goldie has been a leading act in the drum & bass scene for more than

10 years. His 1995 release, Timeless, caught global attention and is today considered among the most admired and influential albums in the dance-electronic music genre. His own music label, Metalheadz, founded in 1994 is equally respected, having released some of the biggest talents in the scene, including Optical, Adam F and Lemon D.

This show will be the second time Goldie performs at NASA. In 2005, he played the packed venue to an uber-excited crowd of dance-crazed locals and has visited Iceland on sev-

eral other occasions in the past. He, for example, played Laugardalshöll along with Björk in 1996.

Touring with Goldie this time around is MC Lowqui who will be performing at the NASA show, but opening acts are local DJ's Aggi Agzilla and Breakbeat.is DJ's Kalli and Ewok.

Tickets will be sold at Smekkleysa record store on Laugavegur 28. Admission fee is 2,000 ISK.

NASA, Thorvaldsenstræti 2. (Starts at 22:00)

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

Music

■ **Bar 11**
Laugavegur 11
A popular hangout spot for Reykjavík's rockers and their young idolaters with DJs playing classic rock'n'roll hits.
Fri 29.06 House DJ
Sat 30.06 House DJ
Fri 06.07 House DJ
Sat 07.07 House DJ
Fri 13.07 House DJ
Sat 14.07 House DJ
■ **Barinn**
Laugavegur 22
Vibrant late-night party place and a nice roomy bistro during the day.
Fri 29.06 DJ Skeleto / DJ Enrir
Sat 30.06 Groovebox
Tue 03.07 DJ Troopa
Thu 05.07 Breakbeat Party
Fri 06.07 Velvet Ego live / Shaft / Þórir B. and DJ's Mr. Cuellar and Velvet Ego. Starts at 22:00
Sat 07.07 DJ Yamaho and Gisli Galdur / DJ Enrir
■ **Café Cultura**
Hverfisgata 18
Music from the world's four corners
Fri 29.06 DJ Lupin
Lau 30.06 DJ Böddi
Thu 05.07 DJ Migel
Fri 06.07 DJ Kristin
Sat 07.07 DJ's Steinunn and Silja
Thu 12.07 DJ Migel

Fri 13.07 DJ's Steinunn and Silja
Sat 14.07 DJ Eyþór
■ **Café Paris**
Austurstræti 14
Fri 29.06 DJ Lucky plays soul, funk, reggae and hip-hop
Sat 30.06 DJ Börkur plays soul, funk, reggae and hip-hop
Fri 06.07 DJ Lucky plays soul, funk, reggae and hip-hop
Sat 07.07 DJ Börkur plays soul, funk, reggae and hip-hop
Fri 13.07 DJ Lucky plays soul, funk, reggae and hip-hop
Sat 14.07 DJ Börkur plays soul, funk, reggae and hip-hop
■ **Gljúfrasteinn**
– Halldór Laxness Museum
270 Mosfellsbær
Sun 01.07 Bergþór Pálsson and Anna Guðný Guðmundsdóttir
Sun 08.07 Háfríð Vigfúsdóttir and Kristján Bragason
■ **Hressó**
Austurstræti 20
Here, troubadours play sing-alongs until midnight, followed by DJs playing whatever the crowd is aching for at the time.
Fri 29.06 Touch followed by DJ Maggi
Sat 30.06 Flat Five followed by DJ Maggi
Thu 05.07 Tepokinn Jazzband
Fri 06.07 Pub-lic followed by DJ Bjarni
Sat 07.07 Tryggvi Vilmundar followed by DJ Bjarni
Thu 12.07 Böddi and co.
Fri 13.07 Gotti and Eisi followed by DJ Maggi
Sat 14.07 Menn ársins followed by DJ

Bjarni
■ **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 29.06 DJ Benni B-Ruff
Sat 30.06 DJ Lazer
Thu 05.07 DJ Terrordisco
Fri 06.07 DJ Árni Sveins
Sat 07.07 DJ Casanova
Thu 12.07 DJ Paul Moritz
Fri 13.07 DJ Nuno
Sat 14.07 DJ Gisli Galdur
■ **Laugardalshöll**
Engjavegur 8
Tue 10.07 Toto in concert. Admission fee 5,300 ISK.
Fri 29.06 The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra and Dúndurfréttir perform Pink Floyd's The Wall.
■ **NASA**
Thorvaldsenstræti 2
Sat 30.06 Cannibal Corpse in concert. Opening acts: Minus and Changer
Sun 01.07 Cannibal Corpse in concert. Opening acts: Forgarður helvítis, Momentum and Severed Crotch
Mon 02.07 The nature conservation movement Saving Iceland presents: concerts set to raise awareness of Iceland's nature. Performers include múm, Ólöf Arnalds, Bogomil Font, Magga Stína, Rúnar Júl, Ellen Eyþórs, Mr. Silla and Mongoose, Bloodgroup, Evil Madness, Skátar, Ljótu Hálfvitarnir, Retro Stefson, Strakovsky Horv and DJ Árni Sveins. Admission fee 2,500 ISK

Sat 07.07 Gay-pride warm-up
Sat 14.07 Breakbeat presents: DJ Goldie along with MC Lowqui, DJ Aggi Agzilla, Kalli and Ewok. Admission fee 2,000 ISK.
■ **Prikið**
Bankastræti 12
Fri 29.06 Frískó followed by Gullfoss & Geysir
Sat 30.06 Graffiti competition featuring barbeque and DJ Benni B-Ruff
Fri 06.07 Prikið DJ
Sat 07.07 Prikið DJ
Sat 14.07 Prikið DJ
■ **Q-bar**
Ingólfsstræti 3
Stylish and vibrant gay / straight-friendly bar and party venue. Cosy on weekdays and full of surprises on weekends.
Fri 29.06 DJ Dive de la Rosa
Sat 30.06 80's night with Beauty and the Beast
Wed 04.07 DJ Miss Brown
Thu 05.07 DJ Surprise Night
Fri 06.07 Gisli Galdur Disco Night
Sat 07.07 DJ Kiki-ow
Thu 12.07 DJ Maggi Legó
Fri 13.07 DJ Peter Parker
■ **Reykjavík City Theatre**
Listabraut 2
Sat 30.06 Ljótu hálfvitarnir release concerts. Admission fee 1,800 ISK.
■ **Sirkus**
Klappastígur 30
Playing reggae, country and occasionally hosting live gigs on weekdays, Sirkus's veteran DJs keep the party going till late on weekends.

Fri 29.06 DJ Maggi Legó
Sat 30.06 Concerts in the garden at 17:00: Retro Stefson and FM Belfast / DJ Árni Sveins
Sun 01.07 DJ Ívar Pétur
Thu 05.07 DJ Peter
Sat 07.07 Grapevine presents: Take me down to Reykjavík City concert series. Rafnans and Retro Stefson, (starts at 16:00) and Reykjavík! and Ultra Mega Technobandið Stefán (starts at 21:00) / DJ Árni Sveins
■ **Museums & Galleries**
■ **101 Gallery**
Hverfisgata 18
Thu.-Sat. 14-17 and by appointment
www.101hotel.is/101hotel/101gallery/
Jun 14 – Jul 19
Ice Cream Land
Paintings by Guðmundur Thoroddsen
■ **Anima Gallery**
Ingólfsstræti 8 / Lækjargata 2
Tue.-Sat. 13-17
www.animagallery.is
Jun 15 – Jul 1
O+
Erla Þórarínssdóttir exhibition
■ **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**
Freyjugata 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
■ **The Einar Jónsson Museum**
Eiríksgrata
Tue.-Sun. 14-17
www.skulptur.is
Permanent exhibition:
The work of sculptor Einar Jónsson
■ **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
Jun 30 – Jul 15
Dórofunn
Halldór Arnar Úlfarsson exhibition
■ **Gallery 100 Degrees**
Bæjarháls 1
Mon.-Fri. 8:30-16
www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100
Current exhibition:
Teslatune
Finnbogi Pétursson exhibition

■ **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 Sævar Karl**
Bankastræti 7
Mon.-Fri. 10-18
Sat. 10-16
www.saevarkarl.is/
■ **Gallery Tukt**
Pósthússtræti 3-5
www.hittusid.is
May 30 – Jul 14
Sculptures and photographs by Catherine Ness
■ **Gallery Turpentine**
Ingólfsstræti 5
Tue.-Fri. 12-18
Sat. 11-16
www.turpentine.is
Current exhibition:
Steingrímur Eyfjörð exhibition
■ **Gel Galleri**
Hverfisgata 37
Mon.-Fri. 10-19
Sat. 10-17
■ **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**
Klappastígur 33
Tue.-Fri. 11-17
Sat. and by appointment 13-17
www.i8.is
Jul 12 – Aug 28
Magnús Pálsson exhibition
■ **Kling & Bang Gallery**
Laugavegur 23
Thu.-Sun. 14-18
Free Entrance
www.this.is/klingandbang
Current exhibition:
Ryan Parteka, Sigríður Dóra Jóhannsdóttir and Björk Guðnadóttir group exhibition
■ **Living Art Museum**
Laugavegur 26
Wed., Fri.-Sun. 13-17
Thu. 13-22
www.nylo.is/
May 26 – Jul 8
Bread and Animals
Installation by Anna Sigmond Guðmundsdóttir
■ **The National Gallery of Iceland**
Frikirkjuvegur
Tue.-Sun. 11-17
Free Entrance
listasafn.is
May 10 – July 8
Cobra Reykjavík
A retrospective presenting the international abstract art group Cobra

■ **The National Museum**
Suðurgata 41
Open daily 10-17
nrmus.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 Kristin Jónsdóttir.
■ **The Nordic House**
Sturlugata 5
Tue.-Sun. 12-17
www.nordice.is/
■ **Reykjavík 871 +/-**
Aðalstræti 16
Open daily 10-17
Permanent exhibition:
The Settlement Exhibition
■ **Reykjavík Art Museum – Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum**
Sigtún
Open daily 10-16
Admission ticket is valid for three days in all three museums.
Free entrance every Thursday.
www.listasafnreykjavikur.is
March 31 – December 31
Folk Tales
An exhibition of works by Icelandic draughtsmen who took on the task

of illustrating folk tales from the oral tradition.
April 2 – December 31
The Shape of Life
A new retrospective of the works by Ásmundur Sveinsson. The exhibition focuses on abstract works from 1945 onwards.
■ **Reykjavík Art Museum – Hafnarhúsið**
Tryggvagata 17
Open daily 10-17
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.
■ **Reykjavík Art Museum – Kjarvalsstaðir**
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
■ **Reykjavík City Hall**

Vonarstræti
www.rvk.is
Jul 7 – Jul 22
Monsters and Liqut Works
Ólafur Þórðarson exhibition
■ **Reykjavik Museum**
Kistuhylur 4
Open daily from 10-17
www.arbaejaarsafn.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 – Sept 9
Automatos
Ólaf Otto Becker, Páll Stefánsson and RAX
May 15 – Jul 4
The Resistance Collection
Unnar Örn exhibition
■ **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
May 19 – Jul 1
Quadro Pop
Davíð Örn Halldórsson exhibition
■ **Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum**
Laugamestangi 17
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
Fríða Gyfladóttir exhibition
Jul 7 – Jul 29
Hulda Vilhjálmsdóttir exhibition

Outside Reykjavik
■ **Skaftfell**
Austurvegur 42, Seyðisfjörður
www.skaftfell.is
Jul 7 – Aug 4
Tumi Magnússon summer-exhibition featuring video installations
■ **Horna fjörður Cultural Centre**
Nýheimum, 780 Horna fjörður
www.hornafjordur.is/
menningarmidstod
Jun 28 – Aug 7
Svavar Guðnason summer exhibition
Jun 29 – Jul 30
■ gital / Film / Oil
Hlynur Pálmason exhibition
■ **Gallery Klettur**
Helluhraun 16, Hafnarfjörður
Open Sat. 10-14. At other times by arrangement.
■ **Hafnarborg**

Strandgata 34, Hafnarfjörður
Mon.-Sun. 11-17
www.hafnarborg.is
Jun 28 – Aug 5
Paintings
Work of the Norse artist Kjell Nupen
■ **Gljúfrasteinn**
– **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.gerdersafn.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 13-15, Borgarnes
Opening hours: May to September 10-20; September to May 11-17.
www.landnam.is
Permanent exhibitions:
The Settlement of Iceland: The Saga of Egill Skalla-Grimsson
■ **Suðurovestur**
Hafnargata 22, Keflavík
Thu.-Fri. 16-18
Sat.-Sun. 14-17
www.sudsudvestur.is
Jun 30 – Aug 12
Birgir Snæbjörn and J.B.K. Ransu exhibition
■ **Vatnasafn / Library of Water**
Bókhliðustigur 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 February 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
■ **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**
Brekkgata 9, Akureyri
Mon.-Sat. 14-18
www.daligallery.blogspot.com
Current exhibition:



Sirkus – July 7

Grapevine Concerts at Sirkus

On July 7, the Grapevine summer concert series: Take me down to Reykjavik City is proud to presents a whole-day outdoor music fiesta in the garden of bar Sirkus. Boasting a nice stage and plenty of seats, the garden is ideal for early gigs, which usually attracts a thirsty crowd. The concerts feature four acts

and start at 16:00. First to take the stage is young electro-band Rafhans followed by the youthful multimembered bossanova-surf-pop-group Retro Stefson, which, founded in 2005, has been catching a lot of well-earned attention. After hours of beer drinking, sunbathing and shopping some vintage items at the Sirkus

street marked (open until 18:00), it will be time for the latter two acts of the day. At around 21:00, rockers in Reykjavik! will perform their set and the gig concludes with Ultra Mega Technobandið Stefán, who will play until near midnight.

Sirkus, Klapparstigur 30

Dagrún Mattiasdóttir exhibition
■ **GalleriBOX**
Kaupvangstræti 10, Akureyri
www.galleribox.blogspot.com
Current exhibition:
Birta Guðjónsdóttir exhibition



Films

- **Die Hard 4**
Borgarbió, Háskólabíó, Laugarásbíó, Regnboginn, Smárabíó, Sambíóin Keflavík
- **Fantastic Four 2**
Borgarbió, Laugarásbíó, Regnboginn, Sambíóin Keflavík, Smárabíó
- **Hostel: Part 2**
Sambíóin Keflavík, Smárabíó
- **Shrek 3**
Laugarásbíó, Sambíóin Akureyri, Sambíóin Álfbakka, Sambíóin Kringlunni, Smárabíó
- **The Last Mimzy**
Smárabíó
- **Ocean's 13**
Sambíóin Akureyri, Sambíóin Álfbakka, Sambíóin Kringlunni
- **Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End**
Sambíóin Akureyri, Sambíóin Álfbakka, Sambíóin Kringlunni
- **Zodiac**

Sambíóin Álfbakka
■ **Code Name the Cleaner**
Sambíóin Kringlunni
■ **28 Weeks Later**
Regnboginn
■ **Premonition**
Borgarbió, Regnboginn
■ **The Hoax**
Regnboginn
■ **Blind Dating** (June 29)
■ **Evan Almighty** (July 4)
■ **The Lookout** (July 6)
■ **Harry Potter 5** (July 11)

Movie Theatres

- **Regnboginn**, Hverfisgata 54
101 Reykjavík, Tel. 551-9000
- **Háskólabíó**, Hagatorg
107 Reykjavík, Tel. 525-5400
- **Laugarásbíó**, Laugarás
104 Reykjavík, Tel. 565-0118
- **Smárabíó**, Smáralind
201 Kópavogur, Tel. 564-0000
- **Sambíóin**, Álfbakki 8
109 Reykjavík, Tel. 575-8900
- **Sambíóin**, Kringlan 4-12
103 Reykjavík, Tel. 575-8900
- **Sambíóin Akureyri**, Ráðhústorg
600 Akureyri, Tel. 461-4666
- **Nýja-Bíó**, Hafnargata 33
230 Reykjanesbær, Tel. 421-1170
- **Selfossbíó**, Eyravegur 2
800 Selfoss, Tel. 482-3007

TICKETS AT midi.is

Music Art Films Events

Music Art Films Events



Belleville – June 29 until end of summer

Photography Exhibition at Belleville

French photographer Alexis Zviaffoff opens an exhibition inside the fashion shop Belleville on Friday, June 29. Zviaffoff, who is a self-taught photographer, experiments with various formats in his works. His exhibition at Belleville is a mix of three projects, including a series of prints presenting street-scenes, portraits and skateboarding pictures shot in Russia and LA. The exhibition also includes a five-minute video entitled Pepper's Poetic Justice, featuring a homeless man, "Pepper", in the streets of downtown LA. The video will be screened continuously during the shop's opening hours.

"The selection is quite eclectic and shows how diverse my work can be," Zviaffoff explains, adding that the images mix well with the atmosphere inside the small shop. "The video may sound like a cliché, but it was never

my intention to make a film. I was working in my studio in LA and this homeless man walked past the building every day and paid me a visit. I began taking pictures of him and he liked the photos so much that he started doing a little performance for me, which I documented on video. But this was all very spontaneous" he explains.

The third aspect of the project is his new photography book, Distance, published by Nieves Books, containing 50 pages of photographs from Russia he shot with an old-school 110 Pentax pocket camera during a recent trip to the country. The book shows a range of spontaneous snapshots, with landscapes and architecture details, mixed with a few portraits. The book is for sale at Belleville and the exhibition will be on display until September.



Living Art Museum – Until July 8

Anna Sigmond's Bread and Animals

Contemporary artist Anna Sigmond Guðmundsdóttir currently exhibits an original and stimulating installation at the Living Art Museum (Nylo). Opening inside the museum in May, this is her first solo exhibition in Iceland and it is now in its final days. Anna, who lives in Norway, is half-Icelandic and her installations are today internationally renowned as the art world. She has been involved in solo as well as group exhibitions around the world in recent years and, for example, participated in the Manifesta 4 project, which took place in Frankfurt in 2002.

Entitled Bread and Animals, Anna's colourful installation inside Nylo's spacious and raw exhibition space, divided into two large rooms, is sort of like a giant painting, covering every inch of the walls and floors of the museum, which understandably took days

to create. Visitors entering the museum can immediately view drawings taken from newspapers, encyclopaedias and novels, cuttings from children's books and comic books, as well as words and sentences sprayed all over the space in the form of graffiti. Anna Sigmond used the Internet a great deal when preparing her project by writing diverse words and sentences in the search engine Google to find pictures and texts, both old images as well as contemporary photographs, which she then used to create her installation. This curious mix forms a large picture that the viewer virtually walks into and from there can try to understand, or misunderstand, all the small pieces in the large puzzle.

The exhibition will be on display until July 8 and the museum doesn't charge admission fee.



Akureyri Art Museum – June 30 - August 19

Georg Guðni Retrospective

The contemporary artist, Georg Guðni Hauks-son, is one of the more renowned Icelandic painters today. Born in 1961, he studied at the Icelandic College of Arts and Crafts in the early 1980s, and later at the Jan Van Eyck Akademie in Holland. He has exhibited extensively around the world ever since. From the beginning of his career, he has been highly respected and influential as he gave rise to a whole new genre of Icelandic landscape painting in the late 1980s.

On June 13, a retrospective featuring the works of Georg Guðni opens at Akureyri Art Museum where three of the museum's galleries are devoted thematically to the artist's main subject matter: mountains, valleys, and horizons. Inspired by the Icelandic landscape, his paintings are characterised by formal simplicity with a densely layered atmospheric quality that

makes them optically engaging. "His landscapes, subtle yet powerful, possess a refined sensibility not only to the Icelandic countryside he portrays, but also to the profound emotional and corporeal relationships with the natural environment that stand available to us all" the press release reads.

For this occasion, a new book on Georg Guðni's career will be published by the Akureyri Art Museum. The book includes an introduction and detailed analysis of Guðni's early career written by Hannes Sigurðsson, Director of the Museum, who explains that whereas the exhibition treats Guðni's paintings thematically – highlighting his approach to mountains, valleys, and horizons – the book is essentially constructed in a chronological order with the aim of providing an accessible overview of Guðni's evolution as an artist.



Gallery Kling & Bang – Until July 29

Installations at Kling & Bang

An exhibition featuring American artist Ryan Parteka and local artists Sigríður Dóra Jóhannsdóttir and Björk Guðnadóttir, recently opened at gallery Kling & Bang. Curator Birta Guðjónsdóttir selected the three artists and says that they set out to use the challenging space this small two-floored gallery has to offer to analyze it and give it a new meaning. "Previous exhibitions at Kling & Bang have all been curated by the gallery's organisers. When they asked me to work with the space, I started thinking about what the gallery stands for and reviewed their previous exhibitions, which have featured very sensational artists who have been putting on aggressive and confrontational shows, which I find appealing. I have though always mostly been working with more gentle subjects so it was logical for me to do something completely different," she explains.

The artists share a similar background, which deals with subjects such as spiritual matters, the subconscious and human instinct. In this collaboration, they examined the exhibition space from the inside and used its interiors as part of the whole art piece. Björk Guðnadóttir, for example, uses one wall to create her landscape drawings while Sigríður Dóra invited immigrants to the gallery for some curious conversations, which she reveals with a video installation and drawings. The basement is dedicated to Ryan Parteka and his life-support machine replica which he calls Eucrasia / Dyscrasia.

The exhibition will be open until July 29 and the artists will continue working inside the space and they invite various artists to participate in the project.

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



A Long-Awaited Music Hang-Out

Text by Steinunn Jakobsdóttir Photo by Leó Stefánsson

Inga Sólveig Friðjónsdóttir was scouting for a nice spot for her new bar and concert venue when she stumbled upon a hidden treasure in a Hafnarstræti alley, next door to club Gaukurinn. The building used to house the rather shabby pub Rökkurbarinn and the slot machine parlour Gullnámán, but all evidence of previous houseguests have long vanished and the place has been completely renovated and redecorated, boasting a roomy floor with a bar, a DJ cage and nice stage as well as a downstairs lounge room. The name still remains a secret, but the place can accommodate 300 people and is equally suitable for cosy seated concerts as well as more crowded and rowdy rock shows, and could easily become a long-awaited centre for local musicians and music lovers alike.

Scheduled to open its doors to a thirsty audience in the middle of July, the bar will undoubtedly come to be a true haven for rockers and their followers, who have been desperately lacking a proper venue that is reasonably sized and focuses with an ambition on the thriving music scene that Reykjavik has become so renowned for. Curious travellers

who are eager to experience Icelandic culture and to catch a glimpse of what is going on, will now have a better chance of actually seeing a show of some sort, which will be a great boost for the downtown area.

"The plan is to host live gigs at least four times a week but the place will be open daily as a regular bar. We want to provide a good venue for bands and musicians who are doing something creative and original. When the bar opens, they will have a reasonably sized place that is much cooler than all the other venues in the city and provides good facilities for the bands and the audience, a high-grade sound system and the bands will be able to charge admittance," Gylfi Blöndal, the organiser explains.

"What kind of music will we be focusing on? I would just say Alternative music in the widest sense of the term," he adds.

A Musical Mix

It's safe to say that local musicians as well as the city's music lovers are waiting with anticipation for the place to open its doors, as the scene

has been suffering from a lack of good venues for the past years. In fact, there is not a single club in the city centre hosting concerts on such a regular basis today. At the same time, the music industry has been growing and many new acts have been catching attention and making a name for themselves locally as well as internationally. It should therefore not be too hard booking gigs numerous times a week and mixing new bands with the up-and-coming and more established ones, creating a great vibe on weekdays and weekends. For the concertgoers there is another bonus, at least for those who need to wake up early next morning and attend to their daily duties.

"We plan to have the concerts start at a decent hour. There have been so many complaints in the past about how late the concerts tend to start. If people want to party after the show, they can of course stay until the bar closes," Gylfi adds.

A bar focusing on the music scene is not only a positive development for the city, but can be a first step for bands who have perhaps never played in public before.

"We want to provide a good venue for bands and musicians who are doing something creative and original."

"I would think that it is our responsibility to care for young and inexperienced bands. That is beneficial for everyone. If we give young bands the opportunity to play, they will become more experienced and hopefully play many great gigs at our bar in the future. The music scene is also continuously experiencing some renewal and more and more bands are now touring around the world and gaining experience. In my view, the scene is also growing in size by the minute and established bands are popping up in every corner. I am convinced that a bar like this one can be profitable. Of course there probably will be some badly attended shows but the next night could be sold-out. You have to look at the big picture to make it work," he adds.

Pop-Quiz and Rockumentaries

When asked whether they have a plan for the summer or if they have booked some big names to play at Organ in the next couple of weeks, owner Inga explains that she has been careful not to make too many long-term plans until everything is in its place. "I don't want to do anything before I have all the permits I need to open the place, and we can't get the permits before everything inside is completely ready. All I know at the moment is that we will be part of the Airwaves festival, but I definitely want to book international acts at least once a month" she says and Gylfi agrees, adding: "Five years ago people were booking great bands to play in Reykjavik on a regular basis, bands that would never play Laugardalshöll but were still worth all the expenses."

They tell me that the venue will be much more than a concert venue and a bar. It will be a new meeting spot for all those interested in music, featuring various happenings and events. "Every Friday after work will be time for pop-quiz. Everyone knows something about music; many even think they know a lot, so now it will be time to find out. We are also planning on screening some interesting rockumentaries and documentaries twice a month and see if people are interested in watching a film together and have a good time. We might even organise lectures on music, as was sometimes done at gallery Klink & Bank, and was a really fun format. By organising events of this kind, we will hopefully appeal to people interested in music, no matter if they are creating their own or not," Gylfi explains.

Bands and DJ's interested in playing can contact Gylfi Blöndal: gylfiblondal@gmail.com



Rock Fest Eistnaflug

Text by Steinunn Jakobsdóttir Photo by Árdís Björk Jónsdóttir

For the third time around, the annual rock festival Eistnaflug will take over the town of Neskaupsstaður on July 13 and 14, attracting a loyal crowd of hard-core fans and rockers alike from all over the country. Due to increasing popularity among local musicians and their followers, the festival's organiser saw no other option than to expand the party and present a two-day extravaganza, open to all ages.

Whereas last year's 17 acts attracted a crowd of 300 people, there is no way to tell what the turn-out this year will be. Featuring a mix of approximately 40 established and up-and-coming rock, punk, and metal-bands, the line-up includes I Adapt, Changer, Morðingjarnir, Celestine, Severed Crotch, Bootlegs, Mammút, Sólstafir, Andrúm and Momentum. The concerts will take place at Hotel Egilsbúð from noon to midnight on Friday and Saturday, after which the music fiesta reaches its peak with a rowdy party until morning. Admission fee is 1,500 ISK for one day and

2,500 ISK for the two-day festival.

Neskaupsstaður is located in East Iceland, approximately 700 kilometres from Reykjavik, but as Eistnaflug tends to draw plenty of party-animals from the capital, special cheap bus trips have been organised for this occasion. The rock-buses will leave from the BSÍ Bus Terminal at 8:00 on Thursday morning and drive back from Neskaupsstaður around noon on Sunday, July 15. Price per ticket is 6,500 ISK.

Also worth mentioning is the camping site at Neskaupsstaður, which will be reserved for those attending the rock fest. Camping at the area is free for everyone with a tent and will be based in a good distance from the more quiet family folks and weary hikers.

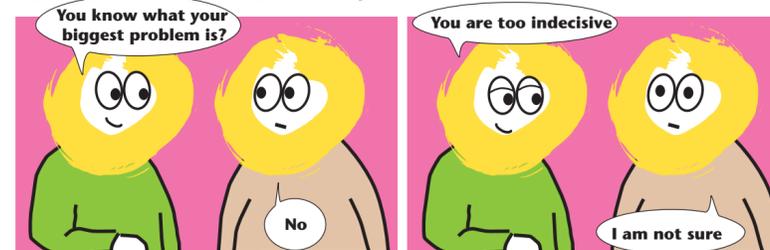
For more info see: www.eistnaflug.is or myspace.com/eistnaflug. To book bus trips contact the festival's organizers at stebbimaggi@simnet.is

Energy for life through forces of nature

www.bluelagoon.com

BLUE LAGOON ICELAND

Lárus & Lárus



ARCTIC ADVENTURES

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.

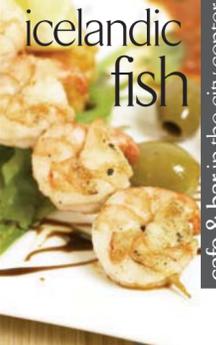
www.adventures.is | +354-562-7000





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 Reykjavík
at Tryggvagata close to the harbor



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

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 emphasizes 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.

3 Argentina Steakhouse
Barónsstígur 11

True to its name, restaurant Argentina specialises in Argentinian steaks and southern decorations where dancing flames in the fireplace welcome every guest that walks inside. The tender meat, excellent wines, generous portions and a selection of quality cognac, whiskey, liqueurs and cigars all help make it a recommended place for fine dining.

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 Svárvarkjallarinn
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 Reykjavík match the great combination of good price, excellent food, and fast service available at Shalimar. On the menu are assorted Indian-Pakistani 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
Verðubúð 8, Geirsgata

Located right next to the Reykjavík 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 kinds 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: Underground
Veltusund 1, 101 Reykjavík

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.



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 Reykjavík, 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, 'glaumur' 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 Súfistinn
Laugavegur 18

On the top floor of the giant bookstore Mál og Menning, you'll find the casual booklover coffee house Súfistinn. What we love about this place is the selection of books and magazines you can take from the store and read while enjoying a breakfast, light lunch or afternoon coffee. Browse the shelves and grab a table.

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
Klappargatgur 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.vegamot.is. If you like Oliver, try Vegamót and vice versa.

23 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 Reykjavík.

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 Reykjavík 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 Reykjavík'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 Reykjavík 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
Ingólfstræti 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 ranges 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. 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, Erotrokris 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 Reykjavík, 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%



www.farmersmarket.is



CHEYENNE
Laugavegur 86-94



G-STAR RAW
REYKJAVIK STORE
LAUGAVEGUR 86-94



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



DISCOVER ICELANDIC SEAFOOD
At the Reykjavik harbour

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 Reykjavík'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.-



Home Restaurant and Spa

Hlíð, 225 Álftanes, tel: 565 2723 / 898 6440

On the inlet at Hlíð lies one of Reykjavík's best kept dining secrets. In what also has to be the best view from any dining room window in the capital area, homemade authentic Thai cuisine is served at the Home Restaurant and Spa. After running various Asian restaurants and stores, including Reykjavík's first Asian take away in the late 80s, Bogi and his wife Nok – who is originally from Thailand – opened the Thai restaurant in their home at Hlíð in 2004.

For 5,500 ISK, diners are served a Thai Feast consisting of Tom Yum Ka Gung, a delicious coconut citrus soup with mushrooms and black tiger prawns; Massaman Pork Curry and Ginger Chicken served with jasmine rice and salad; and Pad Thai. We were also offered an equally tasty but off-the-menu dish consisting of shrimps, tomato and Asian greens in oyster sauce. As you would expect from the price, the food is the freshest and of the highest quality that you'll find in any Thai restaurant in Reykjavík. There is one catch though – the restaurant only serves groups of six or more.

Although the menu is set, Nok and Bogi are more than happy to accommodate any dietary requirements their diners may have – just let them know in advance. And although they specialise in Thai food, they can also prepare traditional Icelandic cuisine.

For dessert, caramel cake and creme puffs were served with coffee. We were also invited to try some of the exotic fruit sitting on the decorative dishes on the family dining table where we were seated. While Bogi and Nok made us feel right at home with their friendliness and personal service, they normally let guests dine alone. With such delicious offerings and a unique dining experience, you won't be surprised to hear that they are booked out until mid-September.

But don't just come here for the food. In a small building next to the home restaurant is the soon to be opened Thai spa. Here you can relax in the outdoor saltwater spa while listening to the waves crashing on the rocks below before inhaling the scents of lemon grass, tamarind and ginger in the detoxing herbal sauna. Thai aromatherapy and herbal massage will also be available.

Reviewed by Zoë Robert



Café Roma

Laugavegur 118 (Entrance from Rauðarárstígur), 101 Reykjavík, tel.: 562 0020

Café Roma is proof of the theory that the further you stray from the city centre, the fewer English inscriptions you will find. In that respect this café has all the attitude of a place that is tucked away in Breiðholt, when in reality it's just a stone's throw from the Hlemmur bus station. They don't cater much to the tourists, Café Roma, and I suspect that it's because they'd have to hike up the prices on their deals until the local clientele were forced to find another place with good, cheap deli-style sandwiches and breads.

Roma is an all-purpose store-bakery-café combination. On the left side of the shop there are all sorts of store made breads selling for 300 ISK by the loaf or 180 ISK for a half-loaf. In a glass case are tidy pastries (kleina bread and chocolate covered kleina bread are 155 ISK to go) doughnuts and croissants. The store portion of the restaurant contains refrigerators with your basics: ham, milk, cheese, and soft drinks. There is also a surprising assembly of inexpensive soy products as well. The coffee menu at Roma is cheap and diverse, with a wide selection of Roma tea for 245 ISK a cup, espresso for 230 ISK and Hot Chocolate w/ cream for 330 ISK. To make any drink soy it is only 30 ISK, and to add syrup it is 20 ISK. The café also features large paintings of a wide-eyed blonde with greeting card versions of the paintings available at 250 ISK.

My friend and I both ordered the soup of the day with a half-panini and a cup of coffee for an astoundingly cheap 880 ISK. The meal included a first round of thick tomato soup in a sizable bowl with thick slices of fresh whole oat bread. The second course was a grilled "chicken-ham" (thin slices of chicken) panini with mozzarella, green pepper, and mustard on a crunchy French roll. Though the sandwich appeared thin and the ingredients sparse, it was flavourful and surprisingly filling.

I like Café Roma because it is one of the few places outside of the bustling main shopping area that has the feel of a neighbourhood café. Oh, and the brave idea of serving considerable portions for cheap doesn't exactly hurt them either.

Reviewed by Chandler Fredrick



Café Victor

Hafnarstræti 1-3, 101 Reykjavík, tel.: 561 9555

Victor is one of the many places in Reykjavík that try to maintain balance on the fine line between being a restaurant and a bar. Understandably, this can be a difficult line to tread since the bar format does not necessarily make for a classy restaurant. In Victor's case, this situation is greatly improved by the fabulous location. Situated right by Ingólfstorg Square, the large windows offer a good view of the surroundings. There is something inherently good about sitting inside Victor and watching the skaters perform tricks on the square. In the summertime, the tables on the sidewalk also offer a perfect place to enjoy the sun with a cold beer, or another beverage of your choosing.

But lets try to focus on the food for a moment and forget about the fabulous location. Victor offers a pretty good selection of the more or less standard lunch menu, rich in pasta dishes, various sandwiches (the Club FM sandwich is a mini-legend in this town), hamburgers and other small dishes. Starters are typically priced around 1000 ISK, while the sandwiches and burgers top out around 1500 ISK, freedom fries included.

Victor also offers a more elaborate 'meat and fish' menu, with prices ranging from 2-3000 typically, which is a little high in my opinion, compared to other similar places in the near vicinity, although some of the selection sounded positively exciting. My companion opted for the Wiener schnitzel, which I understand is a popular dish with the over 70 crowd. The dish was served without the obligatory slice of lemon, a crime punishable by death in some countries, in particular Austria. After this mistake had been corrected, my companion readily admitted that the dish was good.

Myself, I opted for the BBQ spare-ribs. I think I made a wise choice; the ribs were good, although if I had to do it again, I would probably order something a little less messy. The soup of the day was included with both dishes, but I think the less is said about that, the better.

It is worth pointing out that Victor offers what they call 'the tourist menu,' which a reasonably priced three course meal inspired by Icelandic cuisine, featuring the all-Icelandic fish stew among other dishes. That is a pretty sweet deal for 3,200 ISK.

Reviewed by Sveinn Birgir Björnsson



Skyr: A Beginner's Guide

Text by Chandler Fredrick

Skyr (pronounced 'skeer') is a traditional Icelandic dairy product made from pasteurised skim milk without omitting certain kinds of milk cultures and bacteria. The milk is generally heated to 90-100° C, and after a while a coagulating called rennet (which actually comes from enzymes in the cow's stomach) is added to thicken the solution. The whey is then separated from the skyr through a straining fabric. The remainder from this process is called 'mysa,' which is also sold in stores as a popular drink. Skyr is often referred to as a kind of yoghurt with a much thicker consistency. However, because it tends to have similar bacteria types, unflavoured skyr actually has a taste similar to fresh cheese.

There are several companies that manufacture skyr: MS, KEA, and Húsavíkur jóгурt. Most manufacturers make skyr with added ingredients and fruit flavours. Each company has its own take on the dairy product, including the Skyr.is 'Drykkur' (or 'Drink'), a kind of 'floating skyr' that is saturated with milk in order to make it drinkable.

It's no wonder that skyr is a popular breakfast food for Icelanders, as it is loaded with protein, calcium and B-vitamins. However, be warned that even though it is touted as healthy and non-fat, many of the flavoured skyr products are loaded with artificial flavouring and sugar. To go with the more natural Skyr products, look for brands that have 'án sykurs' (without sugar) or 'án sætuefna' (without artificial sweeteners) printed on the label.

Taking advantage of 10-11's 'Skyr Bar' for 418 ISK is an excellent introduction to the Icelandic dairy food. On top of offering 9 different types of skyr and yoghurt, the bars also boast 3 different kinds of fruit and 6 different types of cereal toppings. Skyr and granola or muesli is also very popular.

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 | auslurmörk 25 | 810 hveragerði

There is no love sincerer than the love of food

George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)

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

SUSHI THE TRAD

LÆKJARGATA 2a IÐUHÚSINU
101 REYKJAVÍK 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 Reykjavík – 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.udafoss.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, Víðimelur 29, Tel: 552 6751
 For a full list visit Ministry for Foreign Affairs: www.mfa.is/diplomatic-missions/icelandic-missions/
 ■ **Internet Access**
 Most coffeehouses have wireless Internet access.
 Computers with Internet connections are available at:
Ráðhúskaffi City Hall, Tjarnargata 11
Bí Bus Terminal, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10
Ground Zero, Vallarstræti 10
The Reykjavik City Library, Tryggvagata 15
The National and University Library, Armgrimgata 3
Tourist Information Centre, Aðalstræti 2
 Icelandic Travel Market: Bankastræti 2
 ■ **Opening hours**
Bars and clubs: According to regulations bars may be open until 01:00 on weekdays and 05:30 on weekends.
Shops: Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat 10-16, Sun closed. The shopping centres Kringlan and Smáralind as well as most supermarkets and tourist shops have longer opening hours.
Swimming pools: weekdays 06:30-22:30, weekends 08:00-20:30 although some may be open an hour longer.
The State owned ÁTVR liquor stores: Mon-Thu 11-18, Fri 11-19, Sat

11-18.
 Banks in the centre are open Mon-Fri 09-16.
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 children. Complete route map at: www.bus.is. Tel: 540 2700
 Buses run from 07:00-24:00 on weekdays and 10:00-24:00 on weekends
 ■ **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_travel_service/
 A useful brochure, Accessible Reykjavik, can be found at tourist offices.
 ■ **Car rentals**
Átak Car Rental, Smiðjuvegur 1, Tel: 554 6040
ALP, Dugguvogur 10, Tel: 562 6060
Avis, Knarravogi 2, Tel: 591 4000
Eurocar, Hjallahraun 9, Tel: 565 3800
A.G Car Rental, Tangarhöfði 8-12, Tel: 587 5544
Atlas Car Rental, Dalshraun 9, Tel: 565 3800
Berg Car Rental, Tangarhöfða 8, Tel: 577 6050
Hertz, Flugvallavegur, Tel: 522 4400
 ■ **Airlines**
Air Iceland, Reykjavíkflugvöllur, 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 occasional cultural events and conferences but its main purpose is to be an information and counselling centre and serve as an advocate for the rights of immigrants in Iceland.
 Hverfisgata 18, Tel: 530 9300

www.ahus.is
 ■ **Icelandic Travel Market**
 Bankastræti 2, Tel: 510 5700, www.kleif.is
 Information on day tours, accommodations, car rental and everything else you need to know when travelling in Iceland.
 ■ **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 exchange service, tax refund and selling the Reykjavik Tourist Card. The Reykjavik Tourist Card gives admission to city busses, 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 travelling in Iceland.
 ■ **Goethe Institute**
 Tungata 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 information 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 Engineering and Technology, Höfðabakki 9, Tel: 577 1400, www.thi.is
Iðnskólinn í Reykjavík, Skólavörðuholti, Tel: 552 6240, www.ir.is
The University of Iceland – Department of Continuing Education, Dunhagi 7, Tel: 525 4924, www.endurmenntun.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, starting at 14:00. The Roman Catholic Church also has masses in English and Polish.
 Other religious movements in Reykjavik are for example:
The Muslim Association of Iceland, Armúli 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, Suðurlíð 36
Zen Buddhism in Iceland, Reykjavíkurvegur 31
Independent Church, Háteigsvegur 101
The Russian Orthodox Church in Iceland, Sólvallogata 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 Municipal employees, Grettisgata 89, Tel: 525 8300, www.bsrb.is
The Association of Academics, Borgartún 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, Grettisgata 89, Tel: 525 8340, www.sfr.is
 ■ **Useful Websites**
www.visitreykjavik.is (The official tourist website of Reykjavik)
www.gayice.is (Information about the gay scene in Iceland)
www.fjolmenningarsetur.is (The Multicultural Centre)
www.hostel.is (Hostel International in Iceland)
www.vinnumalastofnun.is (Public employment services)
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 unrestricted 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.domsmlaraduneyti.is
Unemployment benefits: Directorate of Labour, Public Employment Service, Tryggvagata 17, Tel: 515 4800, www.vinnumalastofnun.is
Icelandic social security number (kennitala): National Register, Borgartún 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 time you have one month to apply for an Icelandic driver's license. Applications are at police stations.
Tax card: Tax office, Laugavegur 166, Tel: 563 1100, www.rsk.is
Rent subsidies: Social Service Office, Tryggvagata 17, Tel: 411 9000 www.felagsthjonustan.is

Sound of Geyser

Summer concerts

at hotel Geysir, Haukadal every weekend in July.

Saturday 7 July

Esja

The end

Tarnús jr

Steini

Jónsson Morgan

Kidrama

Orrustubjarki

The show starts at 13:00

and its free!!!

Following weekends: Singapore Sling, Lights on the highway, Shadow parade, Isabella, Dicta, Grasrætur, Sampling & Raguel and more...

A MUST DO FOR THE VISITOR...

THE SETTLEMENT CENTRE
 IN BORGARNES

Two unique exhibitions:
 THE SETTLEMENT OF ICELAND
 and
 EGIÐS 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

automatos
 Olaf Otto Becker · Páll Stefánsson · RAX

1. June – 9. September 2007

LJÓSMYNDASAFN REYKJAVÍKUR
 Reykjavik Museum of Photography

Tryggvagata 15, 6th floor · 101 Reykjavík · Tel. 563 1790 · photomuseum@reykjavik.is · www.photomuseum.is
 Opening hours 12-19 mon-fri, 13-17 weekends · ADMISSION FREE



980 ISK

A coffee thermos is an essential item to bring for the camping trip or Sunday picnic. At Þorsteinn Bergmann, you'll find them in numerous colours and all of the plastic cups, glasses and plates you need.
Þorsteinn Bergmann, Skólavörðustigur 36

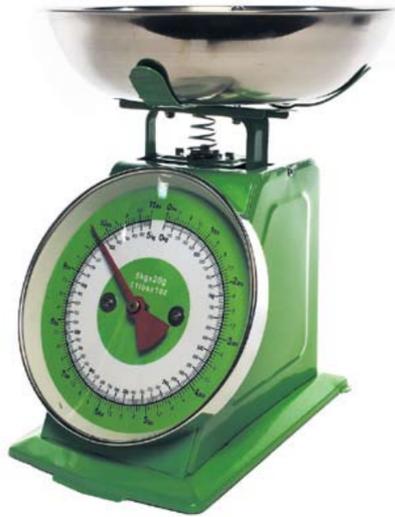
79,000 ISK

Japanese designer label Undercover combines rock and classics in an elegant way with this trendy dress, sold at fashion shop Liborius. Designed by Jun Takahashi, the dress is from his summer 2007 collection and only one item is for sale at the shop.
Liborius, Laugavegur 7



89,000 / 52,000 ISK

Undercover's menswear line, designed by Jun Takahashi, has gained a cult following around the world for unique and sophisticated collections. Liborius stocks his newest creations, including this stylish shirt and jacket. Matching pants are also available.
Liborius, Laugavegur 7



1,580 ISK

Established in the 1940s, the small yet stuffed store, Þorsteinn Bergmann, offers various selections of household supplies and decorative items for a laughably low price, including this green scale which can be a useful tool in the kitchen.
Þorsteinn Bergmann, Skólavörðustigur 36



2,800 ISK

At Gyllti kötturinn (The Golden Cat), you'll find lots of stylish vintage belts in various colours, which go well with a pair of jeans or a nice dress and add the final touch to your look.
Gyllti kötturinn, Austurstræti 8



2,400 ISK

Specializing in vintage clothing and accessories, downtown fashion boutique Gyllti kötturinn (The Golden Cat) stocks everything from shoes and jewellery to shiny leggings and glamorous party dresses, all in good condition. A nice selection of cool wallets and handbags are now in stock.
Gyllti kötturinn, Austurstræti 8



Pay Attention!

Liborius

Laugavegur 7, 101 Reykjavík

Attracting a mixed clientele with an eye for unique design and quality fabrics, fashion shop Liborius has relocated at Laugavegur 7. Opening its doors three weeks ago, this one-of-a-kind high-end shop boasts a nice selection of cutting-edge designer clothing for both sexes.

Liborius stocks labels such as the Japanese designer brand Undercover, as well as Geoffrey Small, ThreeAsFour and Belgian designer Ann Demeulemeester, who co-owner Jóhann says is the biggest name in store and a pioneer in the fashion industry. Her summer 2007 collection features romantic and feminine clothing with a rockin' attitude while her menswear collection is inspired by the 1910s and 1920s. Shoppers will also find Schiesser underwear, Damien Bash

accessories, and limited addition shoes from Bless, as well as fashionable multifunctional unisex garments from Milano-based designer label Marios and the grunge-meets-cowboy menswear line from Number N(i)ne. An added bonus is that the shop's owners try to buy only one item of each sort.

In a small side room inside the shop, one will find a tiny gallery, entitled Dandruff Space Shrine, created by curators Oddný and Uggi and which is devoted to literature. The first exhibition features an installation by Arnaldur Finnsson where he has covered the walls with pages from his old novel.

It's also worth mentioning that tourists get a 14% tax-free discount.



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 sauðján mens: Diesel Energie Nudie G-Star	womens: Diesel Miss Sixty Nymph Sisters-Point Modstrom Samsö Samsö
gs skór <small>shoestore</small> mens: Lloyd Paul Smith Bunker Sendra Boots Bull Boxer Bronx	womens: Again & Again Gardania 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 sauðján

Spaksmannsspjarir
ICELANDIC DESIGN

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

15% OFF MENU PRICES
SUNDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS
WITH THIS COUPON

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

TONY'S COUNTY
ÖLFUSHÖLLINNI
We are different!

Resturant 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

REYKJAVÍK MOSFELLSSÞÉÐ
SANDGERÐI Garður KEFLAVÍK
NJARDVÍK Hafnir Vogar HVERAGERÐI SELEOSS

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



THE REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE AND THULE PRESENT:

TAKE ME DOWN TO REYKJAVÍK CITY

THE CONCERT SERIES

Saturday, July 7 - 16:00 - Sirkus, Klapparstígur (the garden)

RAFMANNS

FREE

RETRO STEFSON

Saturday, July 7 - 20:00 - Sirkus, Klapparstígur (the garden)

REYKJAVÍK!

FREE

ULTRA MEGA

TECHNOBANDID

STEFAN

IN COLLABORATION WITH:



... need participation from interest to protect, and that movies end up being shown only get between 70–90%

... red by Baltasar Kormákur, successful filmmakers. After di- 11 Reykjavik and The Sea, nity to direct A Little Trip Whittaker and Julia Stiles, most successful domestic Itasar also points out that y related to financing.

... opportunities for filmmak- Working in television is a skin feature length films is. I don't mean that mak- But a made for TV movie a feature length film than to be able to gain experi-

... ence from working in TV instead of making a feature length film that 500 people will come to see" Kormákur states.

... Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir, Minister for Education, who oversees both RÚV and the Icelandic Film Centre and the government's participation in the film industry, says she is aware of the situation and steps have been taken to increase RÚV's participation in Icelandic filmmaking. "We have just signed a new agreement with the Association of Icelandic Film Producers that sets a better framework for how RÚV is involved in the funding."

Should Iceland Demand Epics?

"Approximately 95% of Icelandic filmmakers don't get full funding and that fact tends to result in them being bitter and angry. Bitterness is the filmmaker's biggest disease," claims director and producer Ólafur Jóhannsson at Poppoli Pictures. His company has mostly focused on documentaries, or what he likes

to call "visiomentaries", where the script is directed but all the main characters are real. Poppoli's recent projects include Africa United, Blindsker, Act Normal and the newest output, Queen Raquela, a film documenting the lives of ladyboys in the Philippines, which will premiere in September. A feature length movie is also in the works, a Kung-Fu comedy called Higher Force, starring Ingvar E. Sigurðsson and Sopranos actor Michael Imperioli.

Jóhannsson himself is used to the lack of funding: "I usually manage to get up to 70% of the finances I need to make my films. I don't pay myself large salaries and my staff is underpaid, but making the films is worth it. That's the biggest reward. Filmmakers shouldn't expect to get all the funds they need to make their movies. That's a big misunderstanding."

Fríðrik Þór Fríðriksson, however, says that foreign funds are no longer as open to Icelanders as they used to be and that production of large scale projects is not only unviable, but impossible: "You can't produce expensive Icelandic movies, expensive period movies for example, with the funding system we have in place now," Fríðrik says. In his opinion, the next step should be to establish a risk fund for filmmakers in order to finance more expensive projects. A typical Icelandic movie project requires a budget between 100–200 million ISK, but Fríðrik says we will need to be able to fund films for up to 2 billion ISK.

"In the next few years we will see a wave of cheap movies made in Iceland, not bad movies, but we will see a stream of cheap movies set in modern times, which will demand a great imagination. We are talking about making Dogma 95 movies basically, for a 100 million ISK budget. These will mostly be movies about social disasters, alcoholism, or cancer just like the dogma movies are. The lack of funding for expensive projects is limiting the artistic possibilities of filmmakers and screenwriters in that sense," Fríðriksson says and admits that he has been thinking about a risk fund in relation to his desire to film the Icelandic Sagas in particular.

Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir, Minister for Education, told the Grapevine that she understands this frustration, and that a special fund for bigger projects has been discussed and will be considered in future negotiations, but "right now it is my opinion that we should prioritise the funds so that we can create more projects made for TV."

Baltasar Kormákur, on the other hand, does not share those worries: "I'm not sure if it should be possible to fully finance such expensive projects through Icelandic funds," he says. "Every story can be told in a relatively cheap manner, but if you want to create an expensive epic movie, I don't think it is unreasonable to demand that is commercially viable. I think it is only natural that people create a name for themselves as filmmakers in order to be able to make expensive movies. Almadóvar made 20 movies before he got to where he is today. It is ridiculous to expect to be able to make a movie for one billion ISK or more here in Iceland if you don't have the name recognition to attract funding from foreign investors. So, I don't fully understand this complaint," he says and adds that the way the funding system is set up now, it allows young directors to create medium-size movies that can earn them the recognition to move on to bigger things.

Realistic Expectations

"Icelanders tend to demand that every Icelandic movie becomes a hit" says Baltasar Kormákur. "The fact is that when it comes to movies, perhaps one out of ten become successful. In all of Europe, there are only a few titles each year that are shown anywhere outside of their home country. The majority of Icelandic movies are invited to international festivals."

"In many ways, I think the Icelandic movie industry is in an upswing," Kormákur continues. The situation has improved a lot with a new contract between the government and Association of Icelandic Film Producers, signed last year. Hopefully, that will result in a better product. There is always room for improvement, but I think the industry right now is turning out a more balanced product. Technically, we see far fewer movies that do not meet standards."

In Fríðrik Þór's opinion, however, Icelandic filmmakers are spreading their energy too thin. He believes that it is realistic to expect Iceland to produce around five feature length films every year but, in order for that to be viable, it takes a more concentrated effort. "In my opinion, there are simply too many struggling production companies here. I have always advocated for creating one unified film production company. But, everybody wants to be the King, so it has never been possible. For a production company to develop, it needs to produce three to four films every year, and possibly one foreign project as well. That is realistic, but a company would need more directors and producers to support such an operation."

The Narrative Tradition

Iceland is known for its narrative tradition. From the sagas, to Halldór Laxness, Icelandic literary tradition is rich. This creates a peculiar dilemma for Icelandic filmmakers. The majority of Icelandic films that have been well received domestically are based on material written for another medium, i.e. a novel or a play.

"It is a shortcoming of the Icelandic movie industry that a field of screenwriters has not developed," says Baltasar Kormákur. "Nobody can make a living in Iceland writing screenplays, so Icelandic writers understandably focus on books. It is the same problem in the theatres. Icelandic authors have occasionally written scripts, but they lack proper training. Directors can often adopt a story written for another medium to a screenplay, but then they are mostly dramatising the story for their medium. I think you need to be a writer to write a good script, it demands all the same elements, creating characters and creating a storyline. When you adopt a previously written material to the screen, you are working with a writer. I wish I had a good writer to work with who was only writing for the screen. It can be a very good collaboration. The Director often has a good perspective of the story and can offer some criticism. Writers sometimes become too involved in their work to see the faults."

Fríðrik Þór believes that Icelandic writers could also benefit from the collaboration. "I think writers that have worked on movie screens have gained from that as well. Their books often become more picturesque. There are many Icelandic books that are ideal for adapting to the screen. But I am always hoping for a writer who takes an idea and turns it into a script directly, without first writing a book, but many of them are such 'effectivists.'"

Baltasar Kormákur also offers another explanation for the popularity of the adopted novel/play: "When a material has been previously introduced and people know it, it is more likely to attract an audience, think of the DaVinci Code for example. That is also why we see so many sequels made. People like to see what they know. We are a little like children in that sense, we always want to be told the same story again. But let's not forget that there have also been stories that have been adopted from books here in Iceland that have not done well."

End Credits

As both the Minister for Education, Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir and the Icelandic Film Centre's director Laufey Guðjónsdóttir point out, films are an important part of the nation's cultural heritage.

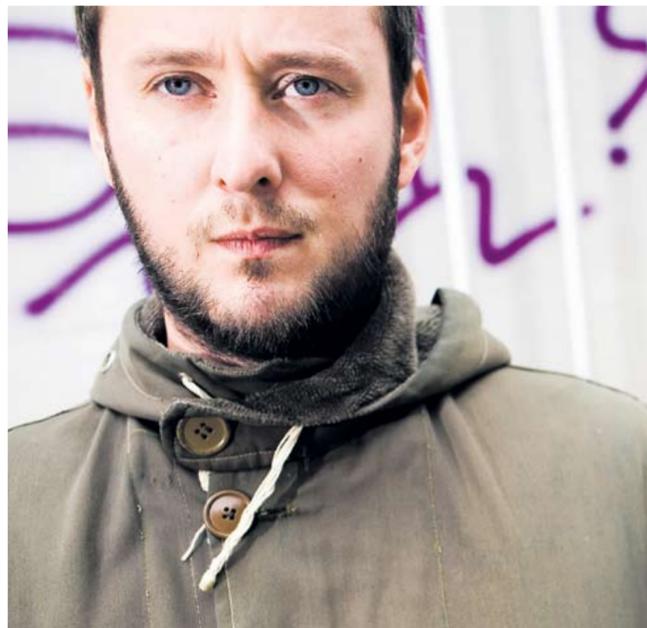
Despite the relative success of Icelandic filmmakers at international film festivals, audience numbers have been on the decline for years. Especially among younger audience, as studies have shown that the average age of people who attend Icelandic movies is much higher than the average age of the general moviegoer.

Filmmakers point out that coverage of Icelandic films in local media is often misleading. Media outlets generally speak highly of the success of Icelandic movies at film festivals, but don't seem to mention that many films do poorly in Icelandic cinemas and distribution on foreign ground is often difficult.

A partial explanation for poor attendance is that with increased production capabilities and an average of five Icelandic films coming out each year, the novelty of Icelandic films has worn off. Icelandic audiences no longer accept sub-standard Icelandic movies out of national pride, and demand something that compares to the best in other countries.

The recent success of Baltasar Kormákur's Mýrin (Jar City), which drew over 80,000 people at the box office, a new record for an Icelandic movie, shows that Icelandic audience will turn out for a movie that grabs their interest. Icelandic audiences in return will need to realise that without their participation and support, the Icelandic film industry will likely not turn out many such movies.

"Approximately 95% of Icelandic filmmakers don't get full funding and that fact tends to result in them being bitter and angry. Bitterness is the filmmaker's biggest disease."



Representing a New Generation

Text by Steinunn Jakobsdóttir Photo by Leó Stefánsson

Director Rúnar Rúnarsson has been an active member of the local film industry since secondary school, when he started his career as an independent filmmaker by making a short-film with his friend, Grimur Hákonarson. After taking the first step, he has gone on to direct several films and worked as an assistant for Icelandic directors in films such as *Thicker Than Water* (2006) and *A Man Like Me* (2002). His most acclaimed projects include the documentary *Leitin að Rajeev* (2002) and the short-film *The Last Farm* (2004), telling the tale of an old man living in an isolated countryside farm. Both films received great critical reviews and *The Last Farm* was nominated for an Oscar in 2005 and won numerous well-earned awards at festivals around the world. Today, Rúnar is considered one of the more promising young directors in Iceland.

"[The Oscar nomination] of course helped my career a lot. I have always been full of myself but at that point I finally got my due," he says. At the moment Rúnar is studying filmmaking in Copenhagen. "I just finished my second year at the National Film School of Denmark. It is a tough four-year programme but the school takes really good care of its students and we get all the finance we need to make our movies." He's spending his summer vacation in Iceland and plans on using the time to film his latest short-film, *Two Birds*, which he describes as a teenage film about

a Friday binge with a sweet-and-sour touch. The film will be partly funded by the Film Centre of Iceland. "The film is produced by Zik Zak Filmworks and is in pre-production at the moment. For the last couple of days I have been meeting with actors and the schedule is to start shooting in August."

So far, Rúnar has mostly been focusing on making short-films but upcoming projects include two feature films he is developing. "These are films about ordinary people. In my opinion, we are all interesting in one way or another. We all have a story to tell; we have experienced some catastrophes as well as happy times in our lives and found ourselves in a crisis when we need to make an important decision that will have some consequences" he explains. "The challenge is to tell these stories in an interesting way," he adds.

The audience will have to wait a bit to see his first feature on the big screen as Rúnar has two years left in school. "At first I plan to finish my studies and take a vacation for six months or so. Perhaps take my family to the Caribbean or Aruba and get some tan, but I will probably start filming after three years. When asked if he has a long-term goal, he says: "I just want to continue telling my stories and become better at it. Hopefully people will enjoy it."



In Movies, Ignorance is Bliss

Text by Sveinn Birgir Björnsson Photo by Leó Stefánsson

Silja Hauksdóttir is a 31-year old filmmaker from Reykjavík. She graduated with a B.A. degree in philosophy from the University of Iceland in 1999, and directed her first film in 2004, although she has been working in the film industry since the late nineties. "I guess I first started to be interested in filmmaking through acting in films," Silja explains when I ask her how she went from studying philosophy to making movies. "I was dabbling in acting with theatre groups when I was in secondary school and through that I started acting in films. I realised that I wanted to work in this industry, but I knew did not want to be an actor."

After finishing her philosophy degree, Silja started working in television and doing freelance work for various production companies, before deciding to study directing at the FAMU academy in Prague. In 2000, Silja and her friends Birna Anna Björnsdóttir and Oddný Sturludóttir, wrote the best-selling novel *Dis*, about a 23-year old girl who fears she is too average, the adaptation of the book later became her directorial debut. "I wrote the novel with my friends, and we then turned into a screenplay and as soon as I finished the film school, the screenplay was turned into a movie. That's when I really started," She explains.

The film was well received, and despite having little or no experience in directing, Silja

maintains that it was a positive experience "Ignorance is bliss, you know. Of course I had the advantage of knowing the character of *Dis* extremely well, I had been working with this story and its characters for years, the book was published in 2000 and the movie was made in 2004 and I was working with the story more or less for all that time."

After finishing *Dis*, her next project was a documentary, *The Choir*, which follows a women's choir on tour through Italy. Lately she has directed several 'docucommercials' in Africa on behalf of UNICEF as well as directing commercials for SagaFilm and working as a writer for the award winning TV-sitcom *Stelpurnar* (The Girls), which she will also direct next winter. Silja is currently working on a short film and a screenplay for a feature length film, *Chance of Rain*, which she developed in 2005 when she joined the Binger Film Lab in Amsterdam to study screenwriting. She prefers not to reveal much about the project, saying only that it will be a simple Reykjavík story about relationships and people coming of age.

Our talk turns to the low number of women in her field. "Filmmaking is probably the most expensive form of art you can work with," Silja explains. "You need to have access to money and I think that is the best explanation. Throughout history, money and power have been, and still are to some extent, used against women. Now there is your headline."



Sir Gussi: A Metal Knight

Text by Chandler Fredrick Photo by Leó Stefánsson

Okay, so his name is actually Gunnar Guðbjörnsson. While he's not officially knighted, his studio space might just become the next Camelot for the promotion of Icelandic music. Following a long love affair with the national Hardcore and Heavy Metal music scenes, the twenty-something advertiser decided that it was time to use his video making talents to promote underground Icelandic rock. After years of scheming, the window of opportunity was finally opened for Guðbjörnsson when *Sirkus Reykjavík*, the television show for the cultural magazine by the same name, asked him to shoot and edit one of their episodes on local music.

For each episode of 'Sleepless in Reykjavík,' Sir Gussi chooses either an Icelandic Hardcore/Heavy Metal band or a band that will be performing in Iceland. He then conducts a quick interview with them and often places and edits it over with clips of the band's old live shows or promotional materials. Bored by the typical interview format, Sir Gussi opts for a host-less show, allowing the musicians themselves to take the reigns and guide their own episode: "I like to let the bands tell people what they want to tell them." The explanatory section of the episode is then followed by the payoff of either a music video or a live performance. And the show is not without its humour: The *Cannibal Corpse* episode is followed by their caricatured cameo in *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*.

The 'Sleepless in Reykjavík' series currently consists of nine 10-minute episodes and four 'extras.' The episodes tend to be short, as Sir Gussi explains, because the series is just a 'draft' for a longer show at this stage. Expansion seems to be the modus operandi for Sir Gussi, and if he is able to find the right sponsors he will not only do episodes on other styles of Icelandic music, but (as per the request of a widespread fan base) he will do them in English! Though the immediate future of "Sleepless in Reykjavík" seems to be confined to the bandwidths of Internet broadcasting websites, Sir Gussi explains that a forthcoming episode will feature an interview with *Cannibal Corpse*, who play *NASA* on July 7.

The response to 'Sleepless in Reykjavík' has been extremely positive, especially among those involved with the music scene itself. Though the series began only a month ago, most of the episodes on Youtube have hundreds (if not thousands) of views, and the *Cannibal Corpse* episode (episode 9) is featured in the 'Suggested' section on the Icelandic internet broadcasting website *Kvikmynd.is*.

Up until this point, there has been little to no consistent video broadcasting for Icelandic hardcore and metal bands. The closest thing to 'Sleepless in Reykjavík' is a show called 'Saturday Night with Jon Olafsson,' in which Olafsson conducts formal interviews with big-name Icelandic acts. Interestingly enough, Sir Gussi is currently the only known Icelandic filmmaker documenting the Icelandic underground music scene.

To see the videos, visit www.youtube.com/user/SIRGussi or search kvikmynd.is for 'Sleepless in Reykjavík.'

Reykjavík 871
Landnámssýningin
The Settlement
Exhibition

Step into the Viking Age

The exhibition and museum shop are open daily 10-17

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

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.

Reykjavík City Museum

Icelandic design

An outstanding collection of Icelandic design

A new design shop in the oldest house in Reykjavík

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

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

GOING HOME?

Sexually transmitted diseases are more common than you think.

Take care – with condoms!

LANDLÆKNISEMBÆTTID
Directorate of Health

Best prices close to you!

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

Tel: +354 562 6060
www.budget.is

"Europe's finest hot dogs"

(The Guardian 2006)

Bæjarins beztu pylsur

- at Reykjavik harbor



Revenge of the Barbarians
Dir. Hrafn Gunnlaugsson

Perhaps the first Icelandic movie to garner international attention, the Revenge of the Barbarians is set in 10th century Iceland and tells the story of a young Celt (and very possibly a Ninja) named Gestur (it is probably important for the symbolism of the movie to mention that his name translates to 'guest' in English) whose family was murdered by Viking barbarians somewhere on the shores of Ireland when he was a child. As a grown up man he heads to Iceland to seek his revenge. The silent hero is reminiscent of the Clint Eastwood's characters from Sergio Leone's spaghetti-westerns. The movie is a cult favourite among Viking enthusiasts and I have yet to meet a Swedish person who does not remember the line 'pungur hnifur' (heavy knife). Directed by Hrafn Gunnlaugsson, the most notable performance of the movie is by Sveinn M. Eiðsson.



Children of Nature
Dir. Friðrik Þór Friðriksson

Nominated in the best foreign language film category at the 1992 Oscar's Award (The Italian Mediterraneo won the award), Children of Nature is one of the most critically acclaimed Icelandic films. The film tells the story of two elderly people who escape the old folks home on a stolen jeep for one last look at the remote village they grew up in. The narrative is carried as much through the beautiful imagery of desolate landscapes as it is through the sparse dialogue, which is mostly single lines of dialogue between the main characters. The international success of the Children of Nature came as vitamin injection to the Icelandic movie industry that resulted in more ambitious and professional Icelandic films. Directed by Friðrik Þór Friðriksson, Children of Nature stars veteran actors Sigríður Hagalin and Gísli Halldórsson.



Devil's Island
Dir. Friðrik Þór Friðriksson

Based on a novel by Einar Káráson, and inspired by real persons, the Devil's Island is set in post WW II Iceland and evolves around several poor families living in barracks left by the U.S. Army after the war. I guess in other parts of the world they would be called 'trailer trash.' The story is mostly focused on a large extended family living under one roof. The grandson is the volatile Baddi whose alcoholism is tearing the family apart. We watch him deteriorate from being a handsome young man, every girl's dream boy, to self-pitying bastard. Throughout the film, he is engaged in a not so friendly brotherly rivalry with his brother Danni. There is lot's of black humour in this movie, despite the dire storyline. Directed by Friðrik Þór Friðriksson, it stars Baltasar Kormákur as Baddi, who turns in a great performance as Baddi.



Angels of the Universe
Dir. Friðrik Þór Friðriksson

Based on a semi-biographical novel by Einar Már Guðmundsson, based on the life of his brother, Friðrik Þór Friðriksson's Angels of the Universe brings us the story of Páll, an artistic and sensitive young man. Being dumped by his girlfriend, Dagny, triggers his descent into madness and we follow him on his way to inevitable doom –at home with his parents who finally cannot cope, and in the mental institution, Kleppur. The movie depicts the horrible conditions of people living in mental institutions, although the inmates offer several moments of great dark humour, not the least Baltasar Kormákur in a great role as one of the inmates at the mental institution who writes Beatles songs and sends them to John Lennon telepathically, outshined only by Ingvar E. Sigurðsson in the leading role. The film also owes a lot to the music score by Hilmar Örn Hilmarsson and Sigur Rós.



101 Reykjavík
Dir. Baltasar Kormákur

It is quite possible that this film is entirely responsible for the notorious reputation the Icelandic nightlife has acquired in foreign countries. Based on a novel by Hallgrímur Helgason, the film tells the story of the Hlynur (Hilmar Snær Guðnason), a 30 year old dedicated slacker who lives with his lesbian mother and spends most of his time rummaging through the internet in search for porn or drinking into the wee hours at Kaffibarinn. His life takes an unexpected turn when he falls in love with his mother's Spanish love interest, played by Victoria Abril, creating a rather odd love triangle. The film offers some great scenes from the Reykjavík nightlife. Directed by Baltasar Kormákur, the movie was his first array of directing for the screen.



The Sea
Dir. Baltasar Kormákur

Baltasar Kormákur's second movie was based on an extremely successful play by Ólafur Haukur Simonarson, which tackled the most debated political question in Iceland since the days of our independence struggle: the fishing quota system. Set in an undisclosed little fishing village in Iceland, it tells the story of a patriarch who summons his very-much-so dysfunctional family as he prepares to relinquish the reins to the family's fishing company. As his offspring try to convince the old man to sell the business and move to the city, ancient family feuds play out against the backdrop of a small fishing village striving for survival in a globalised economy and the eventual showdown includes incest, alleged murder, attempted patricide, breaking and entering, prostitution, and arson. This may all sound very serious, but the story is told with Directed by Baltasar Kormákur, The Sea stars notable Icelandic actors Gunnar Eyrjólsson, Kristbjörg Keld and Hilmar Snær.



Nói Albinói
Dir. Dagur Kári Pétursson

Nói Albinói is the story of young Núi, living in a desolate small town in the Westfjords of Iceland. He longs to go away, preferably to Hawaii apparently. Núi, living with his grandmother, is expelled from school, gets works at the cemetery as a gravedigger in the midst of winter, and eventually decides to rob a bank (unsuccessfully) to finance his trips to Hawaii. Yes, things are tough all over. There are some unforgettable scenes in this movie: Núi negotiating the depth of graves with the pastor, and the bookstore owner reading from Sören Kierkegaard's Ecstatic Discourse From Diapsalmata. Director Dagur Kári does a great job of depicting life in a small town Iceland, and creates a lovable character in Núi, wonderfully portrayed by Tómas LeMarquis.



Cold Light
Dir. Hilmar Oddsson

Based on a novel by Vigdís Grímsdóttir, Cold Light tells the dramatic story of an unhappy art student called Grimur, who is ravaged by events from his past. The story moves back and forth in time, as we learn about Grimur's happy childhood and the terrible tragedy that now causes Grimur's depression and unhappiness. After falling in love with his arts teacher, Grimur is forced to deal with his past and work out his emotional problems. Filmed on location in Seyðisfjörður, the scenery of this movie is breathtaking. This powerful adaptation was directed by Hilmar Oddsson, starring father and son duo Ingvar E. Sigurðsson and Áslákur Ingvarsson, as Grimur at different ages, and Ingvar's daughter Snæfríður Ingvarsdóttir as young Grimur's sister. The acting of the young siblings is a remarkable achievement, and the film is worth seeing twice for that alone.

Text by Sveinn Birgir Björnsson

Icelandic Art ... The Essence of a Nation

Artist: Gunnella

Art Gallery Fold
offers the country's largest selection of contemporary Icelandic art

LISTMUNASALA **fold**

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

Sandgerði within reach Welcome

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

Sandgerði has a Nature Research Centre – The Suðurnes 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

Don't miss **KISAN** when in downtown Reykjavík.

A truly unique concept store carrying world known brands as well as local delights like the quality sweaters from **Farmers Market** – only place in downtown.

Annick Goutal, Bonpoint, Farmers Market, Orla Kiely, Sonia Rykiel, Jamin Puech, Petit Bateau, Steiff ...

KISAN
CONCEPT STORE
Laugavegi 7 • 101 Reykjavík
Sími 561 6262 • www.kisan.is

This exciting new multimedia exhibition tells the story from an island's dramatic birth from the depths of the Atlantic Ocean through its forty year history to the current day – and beyond, glimpsing the future 120 years hence.

The exhibition explains the Government's decision to submit an application to UNESCO to designate Surtsey a World Heritage Site.

SURTSEY GENESIS

SURTSEY – GENESIS. EXHIBITION AT THE CULTURE HOUSE

The Culture House - Þjóðmenningarhúsið
National Centre for Cultural Heritage
Hverfisgata 15, 101 Reykjavík
Telephone 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 200. Free entry for children 16 years of age or younger. Admission is free on Wednesdays.

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

BUS PASSPORTS IN ICELAND UPPLIFDU FERDALAGIÐ MEB OKKUR! EXPERIENCE ICELAND WITH US!

FREEDOM & FLEXIBILITY...

- Choice of four different passports
- Lower bus fares
- Jump on anywhere
- Jump off anytime
- No time limit
- Valid June - August

... **TO YOUR ADVANTAGE!**

BUS PASSPORTS ARE SOLD AT LEADING TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES AND TRAVEL AGENCIES IN ICELAND.

www.trex.is **Hópfæðamiðstöðin** Vesttravel **TREX** Travel Experiences

Hesthals 10, Reykjavík SÍMI/TEL 587 6000 & Hafnarstræti 77, Akureyri SÍMI/TEL 461 1106 FAX 567 4969 E-MAIL info@trex.is URL trex.is



Bertel!
Bertel!

On their Myspace page, Bertel! claim that it "is a band of many stages of technology." This and the fact that they hail from Seltjarnarnes just spells out "Rich Kids with Expensive Equipment" to me. The quartet is probably influenced by the likes of Scandinavian Nintendo dance-punk bands that you're simply not art-school enough to know about. The band relies heavily on raging synthesizer arpeggios, gritty guitar, fast dance beats and pretty good production. And it's clear from every track that the guys know their music: the compositions are obviously complex and the overall performance is clean and tight. Still, there's just too much happening, and the vocals are a definite weak point in the EP. Since it's all about the energy of the music itself, nothing about this 7 track EP is particularly engaging. I'd be willing to wager my feet that Bertel! is a phenomenal live band, but the CD format definitely doesn't compact their energy. This EP simply soared right past me. *CF*



Perfect Disorder
White Trash Lullabies

There are several positive elements at work on this primal release from rock/metal outfit Perfect Disorder. The rhythm section sounds confident and capable, the guitar riffs sound strong and the production level is high. Also, when I listened to it in my car, it made me want to drive faster, which is a good thing I guess. Overall, this is a solid and sturdy rock album, although it is not perfect. Singer Edward shows limited range and the lyrics are overly simplistic, as they often tend to be with Icelandic bands singing in English. Perfect Disorder draws much of their inspiration from old-school metal, going so far to add an instrumental song on here. The songs Velvet Pussy and Delightful Exorcism are highlights, although the minute-long hidden song after song 12 is a good addition, and shows that the singer is capable of more. *SBB*



Helmus und Dallí
Drunk is Faster

This CD is almost worth half the price for the album design alone. Helmus and Dallí are two guys who perform electronic club music of some kind, even if they often sound as they are trying not to be too serious about it. Apparently, they also like ice cream a lot. And masks. And they have many friends as well. Unfortunately, I think a great part of this CD will be lost on most listeners. The beats are actually quite good, and I found myself surprisingly entertained by their quirky electronic/country music mix, despite their best efforts to entertain with their humorous take on it. There is something strangely attractive to listening to two clowns singing about deep fried monkeys. I am certain that their live shows could well be the stuff of legends in years to come. *SBB*



The Exploding Boy
Self-Titled

Only because I'm a fan of Chameleons UK is that the Interpol rip-off trend doesn't piss me off. Some of it's good, some of it sucks, but it's all moody and absolutely perfect for long car rides in the dark with the windows down. The Swedish six-piece Exploding Boy definitely steals from the Interpol book (it even seems that Johan Sjöblom has won the verisimilitude contest when it comes to Paul Banks' voice), but not always in vain. I would even say that parts of The Exploding Boy successful take up where Interpol's Turn On the Bright Lights left off. And though they don't have the genius guitar work that Interpol has, there are some shimmering Ocean Rain-era Echo and The Bunnymen riffs on tracks like Cold Things Start to Burn. The Exploding Boy have a lot of growing up to do, especially in the area of originality, but the moody song-writing is considerable on their self-titled album. *CF*



Various Artists
Screaming Masterpiece

Many visitors and fans of Iceland enjoy the film Screaming Masterpiece, by Ari Alexander Magnússon. The film features the best and brightest of Iceland's "Cute Generation", and some of our staff were so repulsed by it that we ran a feature discussing how many things had to go wrong in the world before this film came out. To Mr. Magnússon's credit, he documented a great number of extraordinary musicians, among them Björk, Mugison, Sigur Rós, Bang Gang and Aparat Organ Quartet. He also found the exact theme that unites them... or the flaw. While all of these musicians can be appreciated on their own, together, on one disk, they became intolerable. So much cutesy cute, so much sugar, and you begin to hate the whole lot of them. If you are a fan of any of the bands on this disk, avoid at all costs. *BC*



Benni Hemm Hemm
Kajak

Benni has been named Golden Boy of Icelandic pop in this publication. Judging by his debut, released last year, the title isn't far off, winning two awards at last year's Icelandic Music Awards. The music sounds something like indie big-band pop, with trumpets, acoustic guitar and horns playing a big part, at times reminiscent of the ever-influential Belle and Sebastian. Benni is a good songwriter, the melodies are interesting but the album suffers from Benni's singing, which really isn't strong enough. I struggle to imagine a time when I would put this CD on, maybe as a prelude to some heavy drinking and dancing with some party people of the cute generation – it sounds as if it would be a lot of fun to see performed live – but isn't really suited for the home stereo. Benni proves that he's a talented songwriter and the band performs well. It's simply not the follow-up I was anticipating. *PH*



Mugison
Little Trip

Mugison's sonic companion to Baltasar Kormákur's most recent attempt at filmmaking is rather like Ally Sheedy's character in The Breakfast Club: Moody, tormented, dirty, unpredictable and while occasionally so pretentiously quirky that it makes one groan in exasperation, intriguing, inviting and altogether something to smile about. Also interesting is the album's firm cock-rock opener, Go Blind, easily Mugison's best song yet and hopefully the shape of things to come for him. *SE*



Lay Low
Please Don't Hate Me

Lay Low's country blues is a breath of fresh air into Icelandic music life. Especially considering the fact that girls of her age hardly ever produce anything this original. Lay Low's strength lies in composing fine tunes but it's the lyrical department that could use some quality control. Songs mostly about love and regret with a fair bit of hymn-like lyrics that at times suffer from the syndrome so many artists trying to express themselves in a non-native tongue suffer from – not knowing the language they're working with. But the songs are excellent, the production good and the guitar playing fine. An honest, somewhat original (at least by Icelandic standards) album that doesn't sound like a debut at all, but the work of an experienced artist. A fine CD. *PH*



Whales & Puffin Island

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

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

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

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

← Puffin season →

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



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

Reviews by Bart Cameron, Chandler Fredrick, Páll Hilmarrsson, Sindri Eldon and Sveinn Birgir Björnsson

cultura
cafe • bar • bistro
hverfisgata, 18
open every weekday 11:30/01:00 * weekends (fri/sat) 11:30/04:00

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

Diamond Circle
Unique Nature
Dettifoss
Ásbyrgi
Hljóðaklettur
Mývatn
Goðafoss
Grenjadarstaður
Húsavík
Melrakkasléttur
Raufarhófn
Information centre
Garbarstraut 7 | 640 Húsavík | ICELAND | Tel: +354 464 4300
e-mail: info@husavik.is | www.markthing.is

Should you be laughing at this?

„Of course you should, no question about it.“

Amazon.com





Celebrating Buckley

Text by Bogi Bjarnason Photo by Ása Laufey

Who: **Various artists**
Where: **Austurbær**
When: **June 13, 2007**

Jeff Buckley might have had the greatest set of lungs ever to grace this earth with a song. So, putting on a show to commemorate the tenth anniversary of his accidental passing is something you'd better pour all of your heart and soul into – which the producers of this event did fully and selflessly, with a near capacity show in Austurbær that will no doubt help keep Buckley's memory alive in Iceland for years to come.

With radio personality Andrea Jónsdóttir as obvious MC of the evening, the night kicked off with a video greeting from Jeff's mother Mary Gilbert out of her L.A. office. We were all thanked and wished a good time – which put a nice stamp of legitimacy to the proceedings.

Putting Lights on the Highway's singer Kristófer Jensen at the vocal helm of the undertaking is exactly the move one might expect, and he did Jeff Buckley justice with many heartfelt and near perfect renditions of material both from the album Grace and later tracks that never made it to the studio on Buckley's lips. But alas, Kristófer is only human and he kind of dropped the ball on Last Goodbye and by the encore performance of Eternal Life his voice was shot.

Joining Kristófer at the helm was Sverrir Bergman, who may have stolen his thunder with the climactic Dream Brother, leaving Kristófer to play catch-up with an excellent rendition of Forget Her. On Hallelujah, guest performers Helgi Valur and Bjarni were both

last minute replacements who nonetheless sounded well rehearsed, although Bjarni smiled his way through a couple of fumbles. While this was not the high point I was hoping for, Helgi Valur carried the tune well and this proved to be the most sombre of moments and the only time I found to really reflect on the tragic drowning that ultimately brought us in front of this stage tonight.

Among the other guests were: Diva De La Rosa, who lent her odd, blues-laden and beautiful voice to Lilac Wine; Andrea Gylfadóttir, with a neither here nor there version of Satisfied Mind; and bursting out off left field, hedonistic funny man Finni Prik with the mood-lighting ruckus of MC 5's Kick out the Jams.

In conclusion, I found no major faults with the show at all, although I could only wish for one of the singers onstage to have matched Buckley's remarkable width of register and fire of that drawn out high pitch wail he'll effortlessly send rippling down your spinal column. As well, a Corpus Christi replacing a non-Grace tune would have hit the spot.

A nice addition to the evening's proceedings, or a particularly funny faux pas depending on how you look at it, was when the computer-projected images of Buckley on the silver screen behind the stage announced that someone has just signed in to MSN.



How Do You Like AIR?

Text by Chandler Fredrick Photo by Leó Stefánsson

What: **AIR and Kate Havnevik**
Where: **Laugardalshöll**
When: **June 19, 2007**

They're veterans, AIR. They've been doing the album-tour-album-tour format for almost a decade now, squeezing in the occasional festival gig just to show the world that they've got a massive fan base. The band has been touring for its latest release, Pocket Symphony (Astralwerks), which is a slower album that doesn't pack the same complex punch that Talkie Walkie does.

Opening for the French duo was the Björk-inspired Kate Havnevik. The Norwegian songwriter is touring for her debut album Melankton (Republic), and has arrived after playing a long North American tour with AIR. Kate came out in a big purple dress and with a haircut that looked exactly like a frizzy map of the southern United States. Her only other band members were an afroed trumpet player and a wriggling bassist. Kate's sound was humungous, her voice spectacular. But as gorgeous as some of her songs were, and as clean and professional the production of her live set was, it still wasn't classy. Havnevik's set felt more like glorified 3-man karaoke than a live music show. It seemed like an empty magic trick of huge invisible orchestras and electronic beats with a small woman trying to time up with the electronic wizardry. At times the microphone even created, and the hugeness of her set was thrown greatly off balance.

When AIR came on it was relieving to see actual instruments on the stage, and this is AIR we're talking about, so there was a ton of

unbelievably rare analogue keyboards. The tech nerds swooned. AIR played a few songs from Pocket Symphony, and a few songs from Talkie Walkie. The consistency of their chilled-out set made me wish I had grabbed seating, but it also made me wish they were playing some of their more moving songs. To be honest, I was a little disappointed that they didn't play Surfin' on a Rocket, because it's one of my all time favourites. Song-wise, AIR did justice to Pocket Symphony's Once upon a time and took things to another level with the buzzing synthesiser solo on Venus.

Now, it's difficult to talk about this show without mentioning the work of the sound guy. I suspect that the once-lively audience was thrown off by AIR's slower set, but something was clearly taking the edge off of their generally sharp sound. Though the keyboards soared and the drums punched, the vocals sounded like they were coming out of your neighbour's cheap P.A. system. It was strange that while the opener's vocals were impressive, the soundboard didn't do much for AIR.

After the set ended, the audience did its little encore dance for AIR, and the band came out to play Talkie Walkie's Alone in Kyoto and Moon Safari's Sexy Boy. Then they left again. At this point, many weary fans headed out for the theatre's doors.

But lo and behold, Air came on for a third encore song and finally indulged in some outer-spaceyness, eventually cramming La Femme d'Argent into a thousand knots of looping keyboards as they left a blinking, stary backdrop.

When AIR came on it was relieving to see actual instruments on the stage, and this is AIR we're talking about, so there was a ton of



Better Late Than Never

Text by Zoë Robert Photo by Bogi Bjarnason

Who: **Hjálmar, Megas and KK**
Where: **NASA**
When: **June 23, 2007**

Icelandic/Swedish reggae band Hjálmar set the perfect example of how not to reward their dedicated fans. Let me explain. Hjálmar were due on stage at around midnight but didn't show until 1:00 am. Although I'm not a longstanding fan – I'll admit that I hadn't heard their music until recently – my patience as a reviewer was pushed to the absolute limit. Yeah, I know this is Iceland and people party late, but one hour late, come on! Normally I would expect an established band to be say 15, 20, 30 minutes late but not a whole 60.

In my exhausted and pessimistic state, sitting on the floor with some other punters waiting for the show to start, I was reminded of the time I waited one and a half hours (it may have even been more than two hours, I can't recall now) for Guns N Roses to come on stage at a festival a few years back. Axl Rose is notoriously late. But when people starting flooding into NASA after 12:30, I realised that either Hjálmar too had a reputation for being late, or the venue staff had given me the wrong start time. But it wasn't long before others began irritatingly checking their watches.

Around 12:45 people started getting restless and shouting out for Hjálmar to get their act together. By 1:00 am they set the stage. The six piece group, consisting of guitars, bass, drums, keyboards and organ, spend their time between Reykjavik and Stockholm.

The crowd was as diverse as unfortunately Hjálmar's songs were not. It must be said

though that Þorsteinn Einarsson's melodic vocals (in Icelandic) were a pleasant surprise. But was it just me or did the volume seem to get increasingly louder as the night went on?

What is admirable about Hjálmar, though, is their ability to attract such a variety in their fan base. There were quite a few older members of the crowd; dressed with various reggae accessories they were clearly here to see Hjálmar and not Icelandic rock legend Megas, who was to appear on stage later in the evening. They surely knew the words to some of the songs, anyway.

Singlet tops and bare stomachs were the choice of dress for some girls who clearly thought they were in the birthplace of reggae. But with temperatures of 18°C earlier in the day, you can forgive them for mistaking Iceland for the tropics. I'm sure this was a slightly different experience for many. The air was, well, unscented. The crowd at NASA seemed to respect the smoking ban now in place in Iceland. A smoke machine compensated for what would have otherwise been lacking in terms of atmosphere.

Those standing closest to the stage got into the groove and adopted a continuous swaying motion to the chilled out reggae beats. Hjálmar are apparently known for their long sets and were scheduled to play a two and a half hour set. With that in mind – and don't get me wrong I did enjoy their set – I left after the first hour content that I had just seen (perhaps) the world's most northerly reggae band in the world.



Swooning With The Rapture

Text by Chandler Fredrick Photo by Gulli

Who: **The Rapture and Motion Boys**
Where: **NASA**
When: **June 26, 2007**

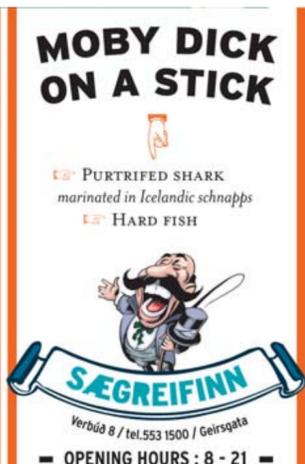
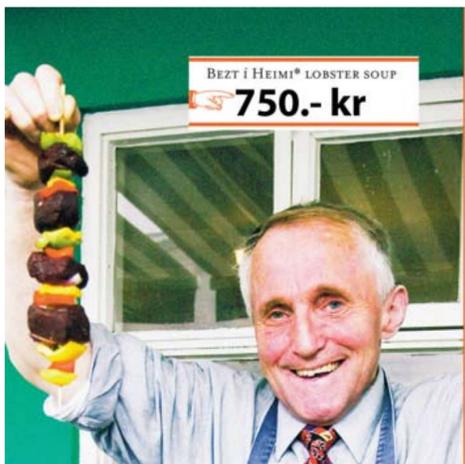
I wonder if the Motions Boys have been having nightmares about power. For those of us who were there for the Great Motion Boys Power Blowout of 2007, there was undoubtedly a little anxiety in the anticipation of Motion Boy's second live set. The "What if's?" seemed to be popping up everywhere, and you had to wonder if the May 24 accident was a matter of faulty electrical cables, or fate.

So when Birgir Ísleifur came on stage at around 9 o'clock, people crowded the front very nervously. There was something fragile and delicate about the audience, as if they were all concerned for the Motion Boys and their performance at the biggest venue in the city. I hate to say this, but the crowd was so delicate with the Motion Boys that I think they might have been afraid that breaking out into one single dance step would blow the power right out again. Even though the incredible, all-star line up put on a top-notch performance, and Birgir Ísleifur had all the Mick Jagger moves a crowd could ask for (moves that should have inspired any audience to swoon, Icelandic or not), the Icelandic audience was again more stubborn to dance than a middle-schooler with braces.

One justification might have been that most of the songs Motion Boys played at NASA have been inaccessible since their last show (only Waiting to Happen and Hold Me Closer to Your Heart are available online). The unfamiliarity with the music may have made people less

willing to dance, but I still don't buy it. I was disappointed with the fact that the Reykjavikians didn't make an effort to show their support for a good local act. When I saw the way they moved for the headlining act, I was slightly unsure of their loyalty to their own music scene.

On came The Rapture, four dark Brooklynites in thrift-store t-shirts. The band immediately exploded into the scratchy guitar and rickety bass riff from Out of the Races and Onto the Tracks. The Rapture played a lot of stuff from Echoes, and Pieces of the People We Love, which are not my favourite albums, but the sound in the theatre was gritty enough and I didn't feel like I was listening to their overproduced albums. The band was not as entertaining to watch as Motion Boys, but front man Luke Jenner managed to pull some cool tricks out of the bag. I had heard and seen him play the clanky dance riffs a la Gang of Four, but I had no idea that he could shred at the guitar, and once he started playing quicker and faster the energy in the room peaked. By now it seemed that half the dance floor was full-on leaping into the air. And even though it was an American act, it was nice to see that the Icelanders at least knew how to get sweaty.



Looking for tickets to concerts in Iceland?

GET THEM ONLINE! midi.is

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 Reykjavik

GAUKUR Á STÖNG
REYKJAVÍK
Since 1983



Fighting Hypothermia on Iceland's Highest Peak

Text and photos by Fabrizio Frascaroli

“Crevasse!” The deal was that a yell would warn the party whenever a chasm and potential danger was spotted in the ice. In practice, things went quite differently. Our guide simply vanished in a white cloud right before our eyes. Yell or not, it was rather evident that we had actually happened to incur a crevasse, subtly concealed by snow. We all ducked at once – as we had been instructed to do in similar cases, before entering the glacier – to exercise further traction on the rope and give the leader the necessary stability for rescuing himself. Then, it was just a matter of waiting.

The following minutes passed slowly, staring through the mist at the snow mantle that stretched ahead, my knees firmly dug in the snow. There was no real reason to be stressed about the situation – good experience, a rope, and an ice tool should make for a certain rescue, and I knew that we would shortly see our guide again. But I realised that my head was getting especially fuzzy, not a good sign. The bite of the cold had been unforgiving over the last hour, as we moved slowly across crevassed areas, cautiously probing the terrain around us. This sudden halt represented an even harsher trial.

The temperature had to be a few degrees below 0 up there, at almost 1,800 metres above sea level. A strangely comfortable torpor and sense of dizziness began to envelop me in a soft but inexorable grip. However ridiculous that may have been, the idea of just lying down and taking a nice nap on the snow felt particularly tempting, even wise – after all, why not make the best out of that nuisance of a stop? In my mind I recognised what looked like the first symptoms of a hypothermic reaction, and that needed to be fought back. Keeping awake became a commandment, and I tried

to focus my attention on absolutely pointless but engaging operations: setting my anorak's zippers open and close with the mouth only, grabbing stuff from the rucksack without taking it off my shoulders, moving small items from one pocket to the other.

It seemingly worked, but only for a short while – the will to resist soon failed me again, and I indulged in blaming my state not on the effect of the cold, but rather on the exhausting hours that lay behind. I knew deep inside that this was not the case, but the alternative explanation did not sound completely unlikely.

Heading Out

The alarm woke me up at 3:30 in the morning, the time I usually go to sleep when in more urban environment. Rendezvous was set at 5:00. “This is the longest guided tour in Europe, so we need all the possible hours of the day,” the guide explained later. If you spend enough time in this country, you will get acquainted with all these strange records that Iceland prides itself on.

Requiring some ten to fifteen hours walking, the ascent to the 2,119 meter summit of Hvannadalshnjúkur is no short practice indeed. It was a clear and chilly morning; it appeared to have snowed during the night and frost had lain on my tent's walls. I soon found out I was not the only one who needed to sprint along the avenue of the Skaftafell campground to warm up in view of the day's first occupations. After a generous breakfast and the necessary 'good morning' cigarette, I packed up the rucksack with all the essentials for the day (an extra layer of clothing, some pairs of gloves, camera and films, an abundance of food and water, a thermos for hot tea, and of course ice axe, harness and crampons).

As we met up at the Mountain Guides tent and base camp, I was delighted (as much as surprised) to discover I was not the last one arriving, as the party was still slowly assembling. Doddi would be our guide for the day. A lively fella, with a quick smile, and almost a childlike expression – at a first glance you would not credit him as an experienced mountaineer. Not until he puts on cap and sunglasses, at least. But then a staggering change occurs – the outdoor enthusiast reveals himself – and you can no longer doubt that you are in absolutely secure hands. This is the second year in a row he is working for the Icelandic Mountain Guides. All of the party members were finally introduced: seven of us, plus the leader. Some did not talk at all, perhaps burdened with expectations. Some talked too much. Expensive gear and winter clothing on display; that was how a fashion competition for mountaineers would look like, I guess.

Spiking up from the southern edge of the Vatnajökull glacier, Hvannadalshnjúkur – which for our comfort we will simply refer to as ‘the Summit’ – is no less than Iceland's highest peak. And as such, it constitutes a favourite destination of seasonal pilgrimage for both local climbing devotees and enterprising visitors. To add further charm to the location – as if the altitude and being towering above Europe's largest glacier were not enough – is the fact that we are also in a highly volcanic territory: “the Land of fire and ice,” you must have heard that. At about 1,800 metres a big caldera should be visible, just on the route to the top. “But in case of sudden eruption, we'll still have some time to flee and run for cover” we were reassured. There are different alternatives for tackling the ascent to the Summit – walking in an almost straight trajectory due North over the Sandfell mountain represents

the most direct and easiest option, the one commonly proposed in guided tours.

Vatnajökull Glacier

A short 10-minute drive took us to the roots of the hills, where the actual walk started – at a leisurely pace, to spare energies in view of the long effort and not pay a bitter toll on the initial and steepest part of the ascent. Even there, at only 80 metres above the sea, the thin layer of snow deposited during the night conferred an arctic flavour on the surrounding landscape, vast and still asleep in the dawn's sharp air. The horizon enlarged and disclosed awe-inspiring sights as we gained altitude. The westernmost slopes of Vatnajökull loomed clear in the distance, as well as Mýrdalsjökull, the other great glacier of the south where Katla is nested, Iceland's moodiest and most unpredictable volcano.

The light of the sun suddenly vanished behind a curtain of thick clouds, and we found ourselves walking in mists, with a visibility of barely a couple of dozen metres ahead. And then the party-leader disappeared into a hidden crack.



Reaching 1,000 metres above sea level revealed an abrupt and relatively quick affair, and there, acting like a threshold, a ridge of snow-clad moraines signalled the entrance into glacial terrain. Spaces became ampler and more open, exposing us to the chill of the blowing north-easterly winds. Harnesses made their appearance (for safety's sake, we would carry on as a rope-party from that moment), and Doddi got a first opportunity to show his skills. With quick and secure hands, he began to handle carabineers and apply knots on the ascension rope. “You'll be the last in the line” he told me while securing my harness. I replied with a giggle, flattered by the thought that covering the rear guard represented a special honour and a token of trust. Unfortunately for my ego, I later read in a mountaineering textbook that it is a common norm to reserve the last position in a rope-party to the slowest climber.

As the snow mantle grew thicker, I felt the steps becoming increasingly heavier and slower. Weariness began to surface – not so surprisingly, as we had already been climbing for nearly six hours – but it still was well counterbalanced by the sense of achievement given by the surroundings: inebriation for the rising altitude, and wonder before the icefalls and remote peaks gradually appearing under the midday sun. Also the Summit had finally revealed itself, emerging like a dome in the distance. Weariness apart, I was feeling especially galvanised by the fair weather that seemed to be blessing our endeavour – very unexpectedly, as compared to the former day's pouring rain. Under such a clear and luminous sky, the scenario stretching before our gaze truly held a terrific power. At 1,600 metres, after probing the area for possible hidden cracks, our guide quickly erected a basic snow wall,

behind which we found repair from the winds and took a slightly longer and most enjoyable break. It was not the Summit, but the apex of our trip – unfortunately, our fortunes were rather swift to change.

As the glacier gained in incline, the risk for crevasses also increased – even more insidious because of the new snow that fell during the night. Our march slowed down. Even the most experienced guide and the most willing group is helpless against the volubility of the weather. Passing from summer to winter took only a few minutes. The light of the sun suddenly vanished behind a curtain of thick clouds, and we found ourselves walking in mists, with a visibility of barely a couple of dozen metres ahead. And then the party-leader disappeared into a hidden crack.

Crevasse

It is hard to reckon how many minutes passed before we got to see him again. I can only say that the sight of Doddi re-emerging from the crevasse, so thoroughly covered in snow that he resembled a puppet, was so relieving and at the same time so comic that it immediately brought more warmth back to my body than all the concentration exercises I had tried to undertake in the meantime. We pushed forth again, but it was just a matter of minutes before we came to a halt again, and the guide exhorted us to gather around him. As the last member of the rope-party, at least, I had the honour of being waited for.

“I will not proceed further with so little visibility and such a high risk for crevasses,” Doddi explained “I am afraid that the circumstances are against us, and we should turn back.” Upset expressions appeared on most faces. Finally, Doddi took the initiative again: “I know, it sucks... But in such conditions, and

with so much fresh snow on the slopes, it may even happen that we get to walk parallel to a crevasse all at the same time, and that could prove disastrous.” Correct. A party of merry and enthusiastic mountaineers falling simultaneously into an evil chasm does not really sound like an enjoyable plan, and everybody did actually seem quite inclined to recognize the argument as very reasonable – no more words were needed before we inverted our course and took aim to the valley again, with lower spirits, bent backs, and under a thin drizzle.

As for me – who, thanks to the newly quickened pace, had eventually come back to my full faculties – the thought of giving up when already so close to the goal felt disappointing. At the same time, I recognised that the ascent to the summit of Hvannadalshnjúkur – which I was attempting for the first time – had already become a new favourite of mine, having part of the accomplishment left to be completed just represented one additional reason for starting to look forward to the next assault.

Following that effort, I spent two more days in the Skaftafell National Park, joining what other activities Icelandic Mountain Guides run there – a thorough exploration of the nearby glacial tongue Svinafellsjökull, as well as a first introduction to the thrilling discipline of ice climbing. Less strenuous than the ascent to the Summit – but not less enjoyable – demanding less stamina, and allowing a more casual approach, both offers appeared excellent as a first introductory step, suitable for all, to glacier travel and the basics of mountaineering (as some part of the time was dedicated to teaching the essentials of the gear).

I was pretty favourably impressed by the service Mountain Guides provided, and in a number of ways. First and foremost, the young

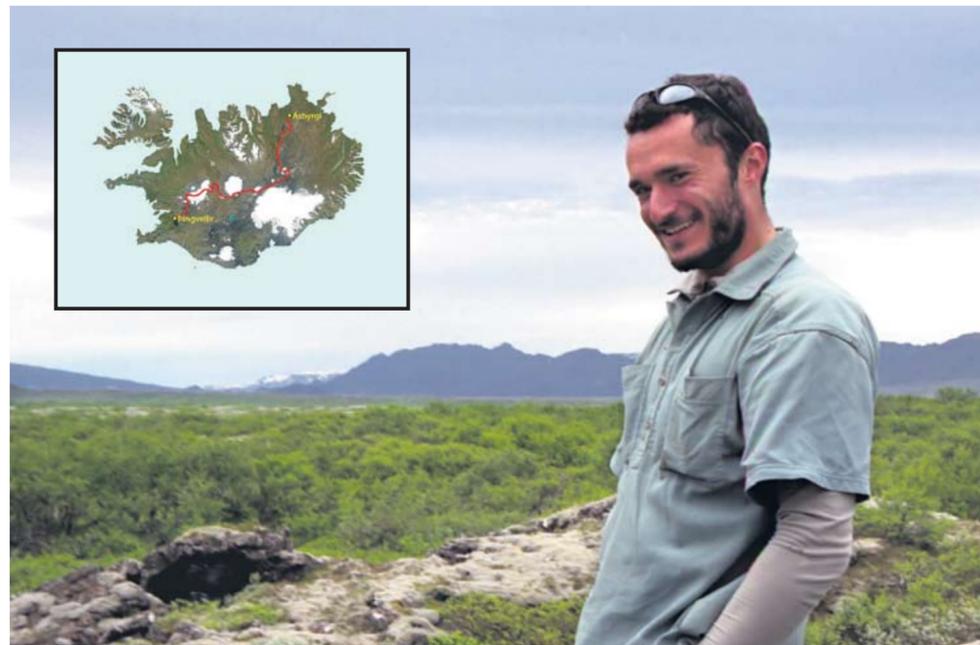
guides proved able to facilitate humour and enthusiasm with undoubted professionalism, adding a light touch to the experience. It was equally positive to notice the great care that was constantly given to the surroundings; I was nearly scolded by Haukur, my guide, on the second day as I inadvertently dumped onto the snow a tiny piece of the aluminium foil wrapping my chocolate. Finally, and much to my delight, it was surprising to see how no budget had been spared on gear. The harnesses, axes, and crampons supplied to each tour participant were all in good shape and of top-quality, the sort of stuff you would be advised to buy by any expert, or in any respectable store.

A highly positive experience, in definitive, and one that can safely be recommended to any wilderness traveller or outdoor enthusiast in Iceland.

Icelandic Mountain Guides run climbing tours to Hvannadalshnjúkur, as well as many other activities, both in the Skaftafell National Park and elsewhere.

Tel: 587 9999, www.mountainguide.is

In my mind I recognised what looked like the first symptoms of a hypothermic reaction, and that needed to be fought back.



The Lonesome Traveller: Delusional at Last

Text and photo by Fabrizio Frascaroli

This summer, *The Grapevine* will send the famous mountaineer (well, he may not be famous yet, but he surely will be at the end of this journey) Fabrizio Frascaroli, a long time contributor to the magazine, on a dangerous and desolate journey through the Icelandic Highlands. His goal is simple – to walk from one end of the country to the other. The walk is expected to take around 40 days. *The Grapevine* asked Frascaroli to write a little about his trip and found out that he may already have gone delusional from the lonesome times ahead, as he sat down to interview himself.

"Well, of course it'll be difficult!" Fabrizio stretches his hand out to the cigarette pack and appears nervous, as the conversation hits the subject of the hardships he will face on the way ahead. Quite curiously, I feel I am getting quite stressed and in a vein for smoking too. Comfortably sitting on a sofa at home, wearing a fleece that has clearly known too many winters, and looking like someone who definitely is not on his way out, Fabrizio is telling me about his imminent summer adventure: a forty-day solo expedition across the Icelandic Highlands, organised in cooperation with Cintamani and the Reykjavik Grapevine. Yes, he surely has some reasons to be stressed and, given the high degree of confidence between us – after

all, we have known each other for almost thirty years – he does not bother to hide it. So, how did this plan come about? Well, the thought of crossing the whole country's interior on foot, from one corner to the opposite one, has been with me for several years... I finally seem about to realise it. Precisely, where will you be walking from? And where to? And how will the journey develop?

I'll start in Ásbyrgi, the hoof-shaped canyon in the North-East, and end in Þingvellir in the South-West, just one hour (driving) away from Reykjavik. The tour will include such locations as Mývatn, Askja, Sprengisandur, Þjórsárver, Kerlingarfjöll, Kjölur, and a three-day traverse of the Langjökull icecap. It should roughly be a total of 550 km of off-trail walking, which I expect to cover in thirty-five to forty days circa, including a few rests in between.

Have the locations on the route been selected according to some particular criteria, or merely following your personal inclinations?

This is a good question, thanks for asking me that. I meant to put together an itinerary that touched at the same time on the remote and on the well-known, and especially one that could give a sample of all of the diversity and variety of Icelandic landscapes – I think I man-

aged. On the way I'll encounter green valleys, barren glacial and lava deserts, geothermal areas and volcanoes, wetlands pululating with life, and plenty of glaciers – all the best Iceland has to offer, except for the sight of the Ocean, maybe. I think, in this sense, the route to be highly representative of the whole country.

At a different level, also the starting and ending points of the trek have some special significance: Ásbyrgi is place of mythological memory, while Þingvellir represents the breeding ground for Icelandic institutions and political life. As such, the journey can be seen as symbolising the progress of mankind from mythos to logos. Or, in a more personal way, as a sort of initiating quest bringing me back from the mists of an outlaw and ghost-infested wilderness, to the world of the living and of civilisation. A Freudian reading could also be possible.

Yes... Just a curiosity regarding your trip and your symbolic views around it: has anyone yet stood to question your mental inclinations?

Some did, and I actually think you were among them.

Ok, perhaps I was a bit harsh, but I still am not sure I grasp the point about your endeavour. I mean, is there anything more to it than you proving something to your-

"It should roughly be a total of 550 km of off-trail walking, which I expect to cover in thirty-five to forty days circa, including a few rests in between."

self (and to me)? Interesting remark. And yes, in my intentions there definitely is more. I am just convinced that first-hand contact with and thorough knowledge of one's surroundings is fundamental in shaping a more motivated and better-informed ecologic awareness. In this sense, I think that trying to promote an interest for the outdoors and their fruition can represent a concrete contribution to a sound environmental cause. And for this purpose, it is of course very important that this enterprise will have a secure media outlet.

Do you refer to the Reykjavik Grapevine? Yes, precisely, as an extensive report of the journey will be published as a series of articles, starting this August. It is something similar to what we already did last year with the Lonesome Traveller series, only on a bigger scale. Yes, but do not forget that last year you did only the walking, while I wrote the articles, and it's likely going to be the same now... But why solitude?

Well, being among people is quite a job, and summer should be a moment for vacations, shouldn't it?

Will you bring any pastime? For the first time, I think I'll bring a book on a backpacking tour, but I haven't decided which one yet. No music, as that would alter too radically my approach to the Highlands.

What sort of difficulties do you expect to encounter on the way?

Well, at a more general level, some of the areas I'll cross are among the most forbidding in the country: rough terrain, shortage of water, and surely no human beings for many days in a row. More specifically, some glacial rivers could turn out difficult to wade, and the traverse of the Langjökull icecap is, of course, a source of major concern. It is the weather, however, that worries me the most: if it becomes unforgiving, things might actually become really hard. But I should not think of all of this, if I still want to live!

And how are you preparing for it?

Overall, I'm feeling quite ready, both at the physical and mental levels. So I am mainly working on some technical details now: proof-testing the gear, studying maps and the geography of the areas I'll cross, and trying to gather as much information about them as possible. Knowing at every moment what to expect from the territory is what I personally deem to be most important. Also, I am going to finally clean-shave, so I won't have to carry a razor.

The Playground Hvítá River

Text by Chandler Fredrick
Photo by Leó Stefánsson

The people at Arctic Rafting could tell just by looking at me that I had never been rafting in my life. I assumed that by showing up in a hipster windbreaker, a flannel button-up and a pair of hiking boots I might appear 'outdoorsy.' I hadn't realised that this trip I was taking was called 'River Fun' not 'River Nightmare.'

After a 2-hour ride into the scenic southlands, our van pulled up to a large shack in the middle of nowhere. Once inside, we were surprised to find a humungous suiting room with hundreds of wetsuits, helmets, jackets, and one-size-fits-all booties. The shack was filled with other rafters and the atmosphere inside was alarmingly serious – we were all going to get wet.

A white bus picked up our group (30 people) and drove us out to a clearing on a hill just above the Hvítá (White River). We grabbed our oars and gathered round Águsta, a compact and tough Icelander who instructed us on rowing, turning and, most conveniently, on holding on. We were then ordered to carry the huge rafts down a series of steep, grassy slopes.

Once we got into Hvítá, the current carried us down green canyons and a few spots of quickly moving water. Águsta, like some golden blonde Valkyrie, shouted orders and commands while our flummoxed group awkwardly skidded into the rapids. I wasn't exactly holding on for dear life, but there were definitely times when the level 2 waves had my adrenaline going.

As we came out of the first set of rapids, we entered a narrow canyon made of the kind of rocks you only read about in grade school geology classes. We nestled the boats into an enclave and our guides lead us to the top of a 30-foot high cliff. They pointed down to the milky Hvítá and told us to jump. I was particularly sceptical when Águsta said that jumpers sometimes feel the shelf of the river with their feet but, as I saw heavier guys surviving, I leapt.

We eventually entered a wide and calm section of the river that Águsta called "the playground." Boats began attacking one another with rafters splashing like 6 year-olds in a pool. We even played a balancing game where one person would stand at the front, another at the back, and the rest would put the boat into a spin. The goal? Don't fall into that cold river.

Arctic Rafting's 'River Fun' kills two birds with one stone – the drive out to the gorgeous Hvítá offers some breathtaking southern Icelandic panoramas, and the river itself is as exciting in summer as the amateur rafter could hope.

Trip provided by Arctic Rafting.
Tel.: 562-7000, www.arcticrafting.is



Experience Ice-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

Vidley island

History - Nature - Art

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

- 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

Vidley Tours / Tel: +354 533 5055
www.vidley.com / elding@elding.is

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 [AS] in the natural habitat of seals and birds. Peace and quiet, fun and enjoyment - an unforgettable adventure.

Stokkseyri
t@stokkseyri.is
www.tofragardurinn.is
1 354 483-3800

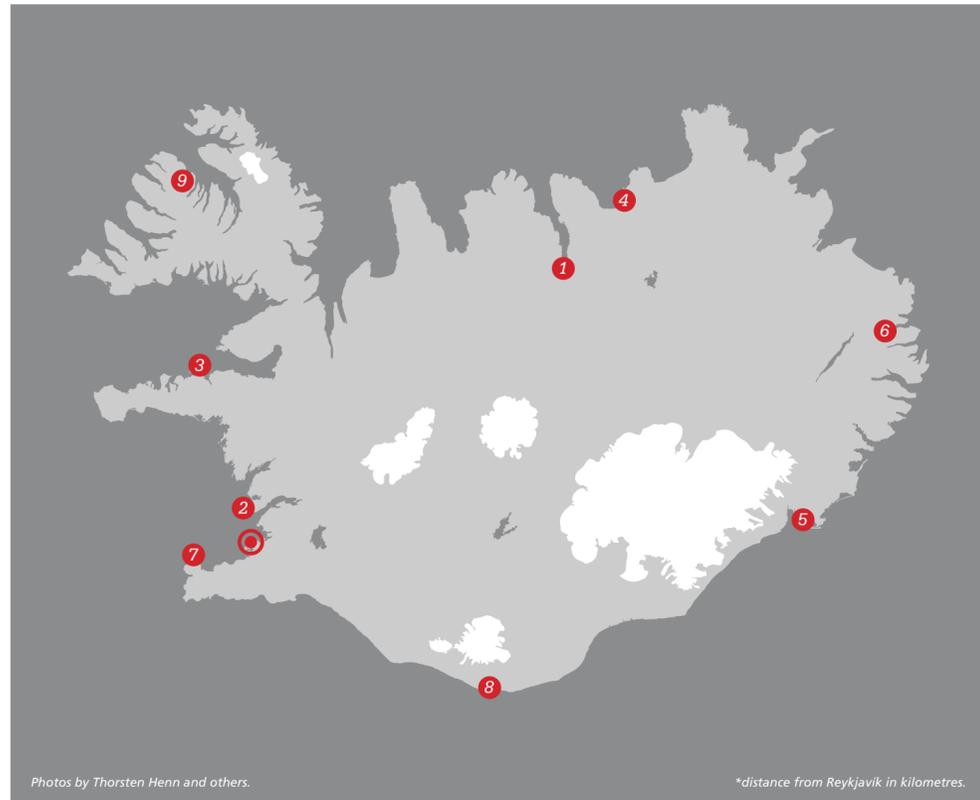
KAJAKAFERDIS
STOKKSEYRI
kajak@kajak.is
www.kajak.is
1 354 896-5716

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



Photos by Thorsten Henn and others.

*distance from Reykjavik in kilometres.

two ca. 50 km



Akranes
A town of 6,000 people, Akranes is only a 35-minute drive from the capital. Two Irish brothers settled the town in 880 and today the townspeople celebrate the settlement annually with a family festival called the Irish Days, taking place on July 6 to 8 this year. Activities for visitors are varied and range from exploring interesting museum exhibitions in the Garðar area, sunbathing on the town's famous sand beach Langisandur or relaxing in the public park Garðalundur, a spacious area with lakes, trees and a large playground for the children.

three ca. 170 km



Stykkishólmur
The small village of Stykkishólmur is considered one of the more magical municipalities in the country. Surrounded by historical sites and natural beauty, the town is located on the north shore of the Snæfellsnes peninsula. The small and colourful houses are built around the harbour where fishing boats are docked alongside cruise ships and ferries. The town is the gateway to the Breiðarfjörður islands and several companies organise daily sight-seeing trips among the thousands of small islands where one can spot wild birds flying around the boat while tasting freshly caught scallops.

four ca. 480 km



Húsavík
The fishing town Húsavík, which sits at the shore of Skjálfandi bay, has been experiencing a great increase in tourism in recent years. The biggest draw for travellers is the fact that the Skjálfandi bay is known for being an excellent whale-watching spot and many companies offer daily whale-watching excursions from the harbour. Visitors should also check out the Whale Museum, located by the harbour. The museum was founded in 1997 and provides information on cetaceans and Iceland's whaling history. The Húsavík church, which is one of the oldest wooden churches in Iceland, is also worth a look.

five ca. 460 km



Höfn í Hornafirði
The small coastal town Höfn in southeast Iceland is surrounded by natural beauty. Various fascinating trips can be organized from Höfn, including sailing around the ice blocks on the Jökulsárlón lagoon, taking a bus trip to the Nature Reserve of Lönsöræfi and drive up the giant Vatnajökull glacier in a superjeep. For those fascinated with the nearby ice cap, a new museum featuring an impressive glacier exhibition focusing on glaciology, nature conservation, national parks and researches done in Vatnajökull is open daily all year round.

six ca. 680 km



Seyðisfjörður
This charming community in East Iceland is renowned for its natural beauty and artistic creativity. The tiny village of 700 inhabitants is located by the end of the Seyðisfjörður fjord and surrounded by steep mountains on three sides. Small and colourful wooden houses and an old harbour characterise the town, which is an extremely attractive and lively holiday spot. During the summer months, artists from all around the country flock to town to throw exhibitions or take part in culture festivals. The summer highlight is the annual L.ung.A art and music festival, taking place on July 15 to 22 this year.

seven ca. 50 km



Garður
Located on the northern part of the Reykjanes peninsula, the small community Garður is only a ten-minute drive from the Keflavik international airport. The town's trademark is the two old lighthouses down by the coast which offers a great panoramic view over the Faxaflói bay. The coastline also happens to be an excellent bird-watching spot. As Garður is an old fishing village, a museum dedicated to fish processing, The Garður Folk Museum, was established in 1995 and features a collection of old boat engines, fishing gear and other historical items.

eight ca. 450 km



Ísafjörður
A trip to the capital of the Westfjords, Ísafjörður, is a worthwhile journey as the town and its surroundings offer plenty of activities for travellers. The town is renowned for being a mix of a thriving fishing and music community and is for example home to the annual music festival Aldrei fór ég suður, growing in size and popularity every year. The nearby mountains and valleys boast many scenic hiking trips, after which you can relax at a downtown café with a drink in hand and chat with friendly locals.

nine ca. 190 km



Vík
The small coastal village Vík í Mýrdal is the southernmost town in the country and contains many interesting sights to explore. The town's natural surroundings offer attractions such as green meadows, expansive sand deserts, glaciers and glacial rivers and only minutes away from town is Dyrhólaey, a long preserved promontory stretching from the coast and out into the ocean. The area is rich with birdlife and picturesque views and while hiking down to the town's beautiful black sand beach you can view the large Reynisdrangar rock pillars in the near distance.

one *ca. 390 km



Akureyri
Located on the shore of the majestic Eyjafjörður fjord on the north coast, Akureyri is the second largest town in the country and a popular weekend getaway. Activities for travellers are multiple as the town is rich with culture, history and a diverse music scene. The town centre boasts numerous bars, restaurants, cafés, art museums, galleries and fashion shops and during weekends the whole area turns into a vibrant nightlife destination for those in the mood to party. Options for visitors looking for a more relaxed recreation are multiple as well, and a stroll around the Kjarnaskógur wood, an 800-hectare preserved outdoor area south of Akureyri, comes highly recommended. Another possibility is a ferry trip to Hrísey, the second largest island off the coast of Iceland, which will only take about 15 minutes. With a population of only 200 people, the island is extremely beautiful and rich with birdlife. Afterwards it's ideal to go for a swim in the Akureyri swimming pool.

b5

Bar - Bistro

Bankastræti 5 □ 101 Reykjavík □ b5@b5.is □ www.b5.is □ www.myspace.com/b5_bar

What's on? www.getrvk.com

b5 offers internet access and provides a laptop, free of charge

Opening hours:

Sun-Wed, 11:00 - 24:00
Thursday 11:00 - 01:00
Fri - Sat, 11:00 - 03:30

13 HOTELS AROUND ICELAND

1 ML Laugarvatn • 2 Íkí 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.

A HAPPY ENDING EACH DAY

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

Dining out?
Check out our
many food
reviews online!

WWW.GRAPEVINE.IS

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

Housing Financing Fund for everyone

-Buying a home – Need a loan?

HFF's Mortgage Loans

- Same terms anywhere in Iceland
- Loans for up to 90% 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.

www.hff.is

FABRIKKA

Pioneering Sculptures

Text by Zoë Robert
Photo by Leó Stefánsson

You'll find Ásmundarsafn, the Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum, in a unique building near Laugardalslaug swimming pool, just outside of the city centre. Looking like some sort of lunar space station, the large, white domed building was designed and constructed mostly by Sveinsson (1893-1982) himself and was originally used as his home, studio and an exhibition hall. In designing the unusual building, the artist was apparently influenced by the architecture of the Mediterranean, traditional Arab domed houses and the pyramids of Egypt.

Today, the place is an art gallery that features work by Sveinsson, one of the pioneers of sculpture in Iceland, but also exhibits work by other Icelandic artists. The first thing you'll notice when you enter the exhibition area is how bright the whole place is – light pours through the windows in the domed roof, reflecting off the whitewashed walls and ceiling.

Currently on display until December is The Shape of a Line exhibition, which consists of some of Sveinsson's abstract sculptures made from iron, copper and bronze pieces and rods. The bizarre shapes are said to be inspired by Egyptian art and history as well as Icelandic nature, literature and people. For some interesting gift ideas, check out the selection of casts of Sveinsson's work from the museum shop.

Also on display, until the end of the year, is a selection of illustrated traditional Icelandic folk tales passed down through the generations by oral tradition. The best thing about the whole place, though, is the building itself. Take a walk in the surrounding garden and check out the huge outdoor sculptures.

As the gallery is part of the Reykjavik Art Museum, the museum ticket is also valid for the Hafnarhús and Kjarvalsstaðir museums.

Ásmundarsafn
Sigtún, 105 Reykjavík, tel.: 553 2155.
Open 10:00 – 16:00 daily.
Admission: 500 ISK, free on Thursdays.



"I like to go down to the old harbour. It reminds me of my youth in Reyðarfjörður."

Bóas Hallgrímsson is the lead singer for the hedonistic punk band Reykjavík!

AIR ICELAND

Fly and discover

Air Iceland destinations

airiceland.is
tel. 570 3030

Get your action-packed day tour brochure at hotels, airports or any travel agent.



Culture: best enjoyed on a street corner.

Photo by Leó Stefánsson



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

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 Snæfellsnes
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

WOMEN'S SHELTER
KVENNA ATHVAF tel. 561-1205

Hótel Djúpvík, Árneshreppi
The eastjords of the Westjords
tel: 451 4037
djupavik@enerpa.is | www.djupavik.is
Historic Exhibition (of Djúpvík), sleepingbag acc, kayak rental, hiking, tranquility.



Grandagarði 8 - Tel.: 517 9400
Open this summer
11 am - 5 pm Closed Mondays

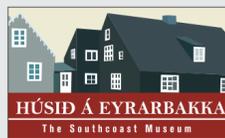
Come to Flatey - a floating island where time stands still. Experience its special atmosphere in a cosy environment. Email: info@flatey.is Tel: 5557788 / 4227630



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



FRÉYJUGÖTU 41
101 REYKJAVÍK
TEL: 551 9383



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

single, double, triple, family room, studio, apartment, sleeping bag in dormitory



Frejyggata 24
102 Reykjavík, Iceland
Tel: (00354)890-1773
(00354)552-5515
book@aurorahouse.is
www.aurorahouse.is



Grandagarði 8 - Tel.: 517 9400
Open this summer
11 am - 5 pm Closed Mondays

Your home on holiday
HOTEL Hammes
Tel: 4386893 Grundarfjörður



Special price for Grapevine readers
Hafnarfjörður Guesthouse
Hjalabraut 55, 220 Hafnarfjörður
Tel: 00354 5050916
email: info@hafnarfjordurguesthouse.is
www.hafnarfjordurguesthouse.is
Beautifully located guesthouse and Camping, in the local town of Hafnarfjörður, 15 minutes from Reykjavík.
5.000 ISK/69 Euro for a double room.
1.000 ISK/29 Euro for sleepingbag accommodation.
1.000 ISK/12 Euro for Camping.
(Bring this ad for this price!)

Accommodation

Alaborg Apartments
Tel. +354 861 3320
alaborg@alaborg.is
www.alaborg.is
Well furnished apartments in the heart of Reykjavik or in Alafoskvos 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
Suðurhlíð 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 Reykjavík. The area is under special law of conservation. Golf course is free, parking free. Swimming pool 100. metr

Dagsbrún Guesthouse, Skagaströnd
Nice housing in Beautiful surroundings Tel:+3544522730/8942884
dagsbrun545@simnet.is, www.nattbrun.is.
Dagsbrún guesthouse offers made up beds in single or double rooms, breakfast is included. Sleeping bag accommodation.

Bakki, Laugarbakka
tel: 4512987
email: gudinga@ismennt.is
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 here, 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, Sleepingbag accommodation 1000 ISK, Pettingzoo 300 ISK.

Guesthouse Butterfly
Ránargata 8a
101 Reykjavík
tel: 894 1864
email: butterfly@simnet.is
www.kvasir.is/butterfly
Cosy little nonsmoking guesthouse in a quiet street in the center of downtown Reykjavik. Free internet and refreshments.

Job Needed
Student from Poland is looking for a job as a waiter, bartender, kitchen assistant or any other from July(preferably in Reykjavik). I've already got experience from working in Iceland. Contact by mail: blesna@poczta.onet.pl

Looking for a job in Iceland. Contact Kundan Raj Mishra via email: mishrakr@gmail.com, or call 823-2814.

Hardworking, responsible woman looking for casual evening and weekend work. Anything considered including cleaning, housekeeping, babysitting. Ph 864 4994

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 falkf_parra@hotmail.com or on +447988850331

Seeking apartment or room to rent/sublet/ share near University of Iceland for August and September. Friendly, responsible, non-smoking female professional. Need a house-sitter? I can water your plants, feed your cat. Contact by email: yaxford@buffalo.edu

Two students from Poland are looking for a flat or room in a reasonable price to rent from August till December or even longer. Contact by mail: blesna@poczta.onet.pl

International student looking for a single room in 101 from now until October. Friendly, laidback, respectful, and clean. Will need the room just for sleeping as I work full time and spend most of my spare time with friends. I will be able to provide references if necessary. Mobile: 8699752 or Email: Sebastian@rinas.net

INTERNATIONAL ORGAN SUMMER IN HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA

9 June - 5 August 2007

Lunch time concerts Thursdays and Saturdays at 12 noon (Admission 1.000 ISK)
Evening concerts Sundays at 8 PM (Admission 1.500 ISK)

Box office in Hallgrímskirkja

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

Stuffed with stuff

I realized that my head was getting especially fuzzy, not a good sign.

Fabrizio Frascaroli watches his climbing guide disappear into the snow on Iceland's highest peak.

Page 30

I was disappointed with the fact that the Reykjavíkians didn't make an effort to show their support for a good local act.

Chandler Fredrick watches the planted feet of Icelanders during the Motion Boys set.

Page 29

When refugees arrive in Iceland they are provided with a twelve-month integration program. The Municipality of Reykjavik provides refugees with free housing including heating and electricity, medical care, financial support and obligatory intensive Icelandic language classes.

Zoe Robert examines the process of becoming a refugee in Iceland.

Page 14

Women's employment has increased a lot in Iceland and in Europe, but at the same time that means women have been entering low-wage jobs, and the gender pay gap increases

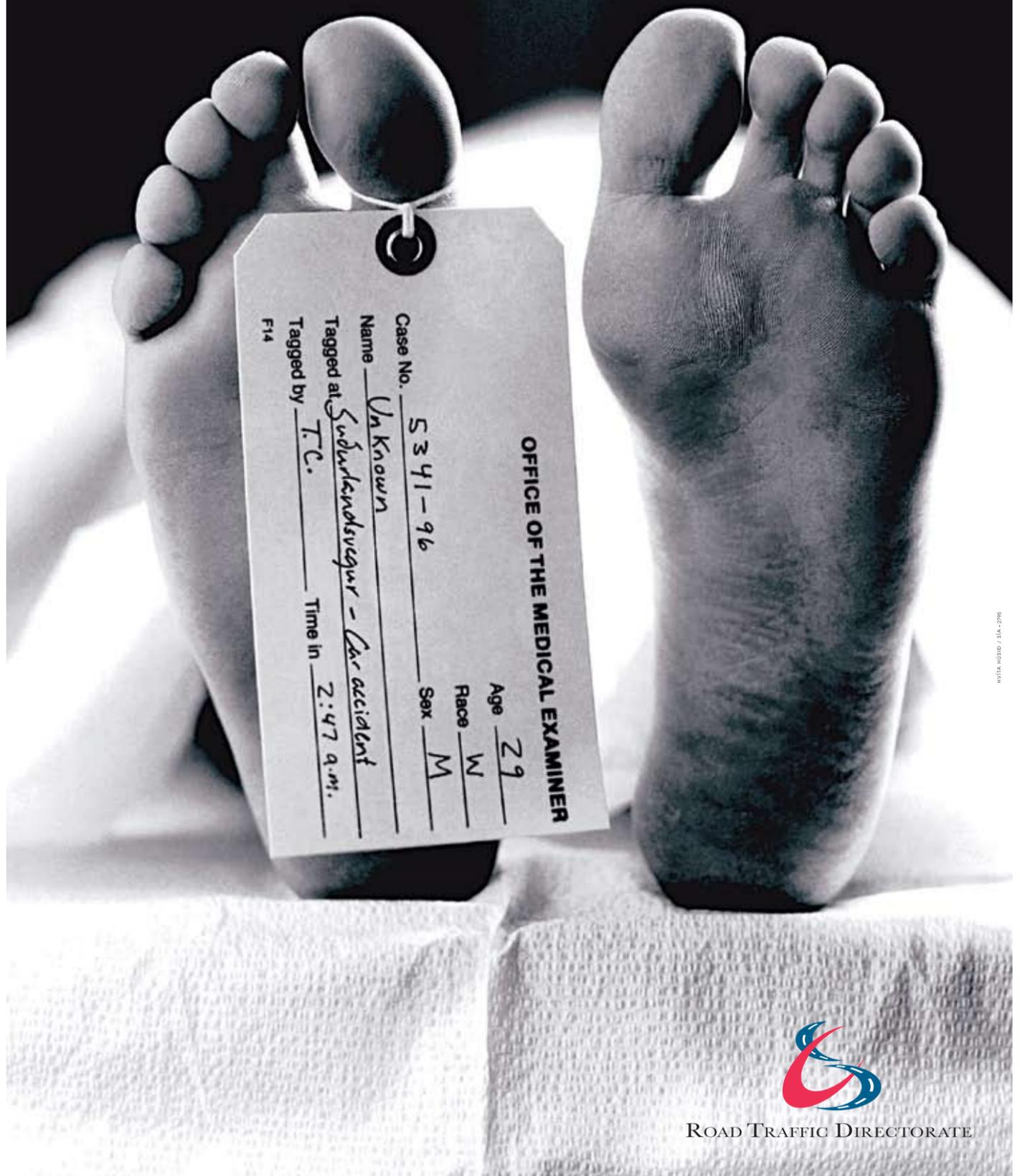
Lilja Mósesdóttir, a professor of economics at Bifröst University, explains the faultiness of Iceland's supposed egalitarian status.

Page 8

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

FREE
BOOKING SERVICE
City Centre
BOOKING SERVICE