

REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

New Wave

News: Not the good kind, the pandemic kind

3 Men, 1 North

Culture: The Grapevine's Fringe Award winners

LGBT(heatre)

Art: Queer teens take to the streets!

Reykjanes!

Travel: It's not just for volcanos anymore



BEING NONBINARY, IN ICELAND AND EVERYWHERE

Nonbinary people have always existed, all over the world, but are only recently getting noticed in Eurocentric countries. We explore what being nonbinary means, the challenges they face, and what needs to change for the better.



COVER ART:

Photo by Art Bieciak.

On the cover: **Ari Logn, Regn and Reyn**, three nonbinary Icelanders, enrobed in a nonbinary pride flag.

First



06: COVID Strikes Back

06: Saga's Turning Blue
07: Nordic Gods & Finnish Rock Gods



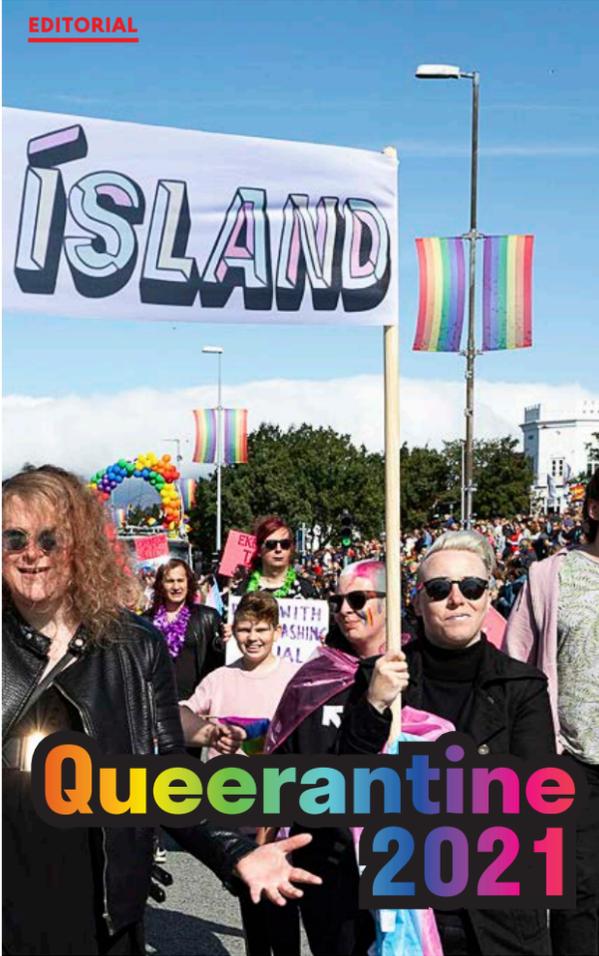
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EDITORIAL

Andie Sophia Will Not Shut Up

A recent comment on one of our YouTube videos complained that I should shut up about being trans and nonbinary; that it's in fact straight cis people who are actually marginalised, and "freaks" like me are taking over.

There's an old saying that goes: "when you're accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression." I would argue that even pushing for equality also gets framed by the privileged as oppression.

When I see how trans issues are framed by mainstream media, especially in the US and UK, as a journalist I am constantly astounded at how editorial standards go right out the window when covering this topic. Seldom, if ever, are any actual trans people interviewed for these pieces. Repeatedly debunked cranks are given uncritical platforms for their hate. Small wonder that anti-trans legislation in the US, and hate crimes both there and Europe, have been running rampant.

But we would be kidding ourselves if we believed this can't happen in Iceland. There is a small cadre of bigots forever yelling about "only two genders" and "you can't change your sex", and we would be doing ourselves a disservice by pretending it's not happening.

This is why I will not shut up. This is why Pride is still important everywhere. So we hope you'll enjoy the perspectives of three nonbinary Icelanders in this issue's cover story. Through listening and learning, tolerance can flourish.

Hannah Jane's Sentimental Sermon

Last year, Andie Sophia and I wrote our joint Pride editorial at the tail end of the widespread Black Lives Matter protests. I remember sitting at this same desk thinking that the hatred gripping our shared birth country couldn't possibly get more extreme. If you had told me that in months, insurrectionists would storm our Capital Building encouraged by our then-President, I would not have believed you. But here we are.

This year, the news is currently dominated by the Delta variant. Cases worldwide are exploding and the topic of social revolution has retreated once again to the background.

For me, Pride 2021 was a light at the end of the tunnel, but now it's, once again, a quiet affair. So how does one celebrate Pride by their lonesome? Well, by remembering that Pride was not originally a party. It was a protest.

Queer and reproductive rights in European countries have continued to decline horrifically. There's been a massive uptick in anti-Asian and anti-Semitic crimes in the US and trans women continue to be murdered at a disproportionate rate worldwide. QAnon—and its hateful cousins—still flourish in the darkest corners of the internet, leaving a trail of victims in their wake.

Bigotry is a rabbit hole and while it might not always be front-page news, it's always there. So love and listen to your neighbours. Humanity need not be so cruel. 🍷

Andie Sophia Fontaine & Hannah Jane Cohen
Grapevine Goddesses and co-editors of this issue



John Pearson is a Reykjavik resident who combines writing with professional backgrounds in music, broadcasting, scuba diving, engineering and underwater photography. He loves puns, alliteration and lists that have three things in them.



Hannah Jane Cohen is based out of Iceland by way of New York. She's known for her love of Willa Ford, David Foster Wallace, and other such "intellectuals." Her visionary work is known for expanding the definitions of emotion, introspection, and above all else, taste. Hannah is also the current Drag King of Iceland, HANS.



Polly is a hard-working journalist by day and an enthusiastic ball-catcher by night. A four-year-old dachshund mix with an IQ of a five-year-old human, Polly has been the official Chief Of Morale at the Grapevine for eight months and is a regular contributor to the Grapevine Newscast on YouTube. Woof.



Alina Maurer is a media studies intern at the Grapevine. She studied all things Icelandic at HÍ and can finally distinguish Marvel's Thor from the real Þór. After a year's break in Germany she came back to Iceland due to missing the ocean and Icelandic ice cream. She loves pretzels, clay art and boiling in hot tubs.



Catharine Fulton is a writer and editor who has been involved with the Grapevine for many years, from being our online news editor to staff journalist. She is now our beloved copywriter. Outside of dealing with our writers turning in work late, she also has two extremely cute kids.



Erik Pomrenke collects graduate degrees and is currently studying literature and historical linguistics at HÍ. His MA thesis is probably going to be about law and memory, but it changes every week. In his spare time, he likes to memorize inflection paradigms and chill to death industrial and harsh noise.



Andie Sophia Fontaine has lived in Iceland since 1999 and has been reporting since 2003. They were the first foreign-born member of the Icelandic Parliament, an experience they recommend for anyone who wants to experience a workplace where colleagues work tirelessly to undermine each other.



Brittnee Kiner is an American political science student-turned temporary resident of Iceland, seeking asylum from the quagmire of US politics. Riding her horse-drawn wagon from the Oklahoma prairies, she found refuge on an Atlantic island. A rock climber from the plains, she's got a serious soft spot for ice cream.



Valur Grettisson is an award-winning journalist, author and playwright. He has been writing for Icelandic media since 2005. He was also a theatre critic and one of the hosts of the cultural program, 'Djöflaeyjan' on RÚV. Valur is not to be confused with the dreadful football club that bears the same name.

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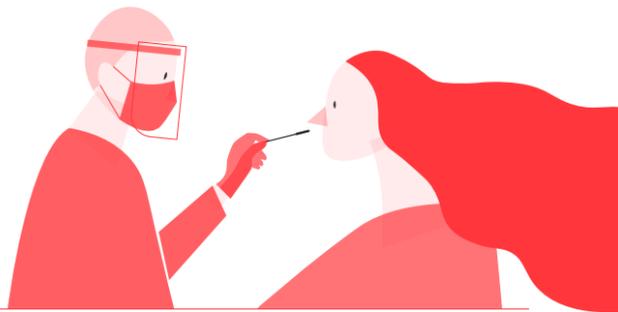
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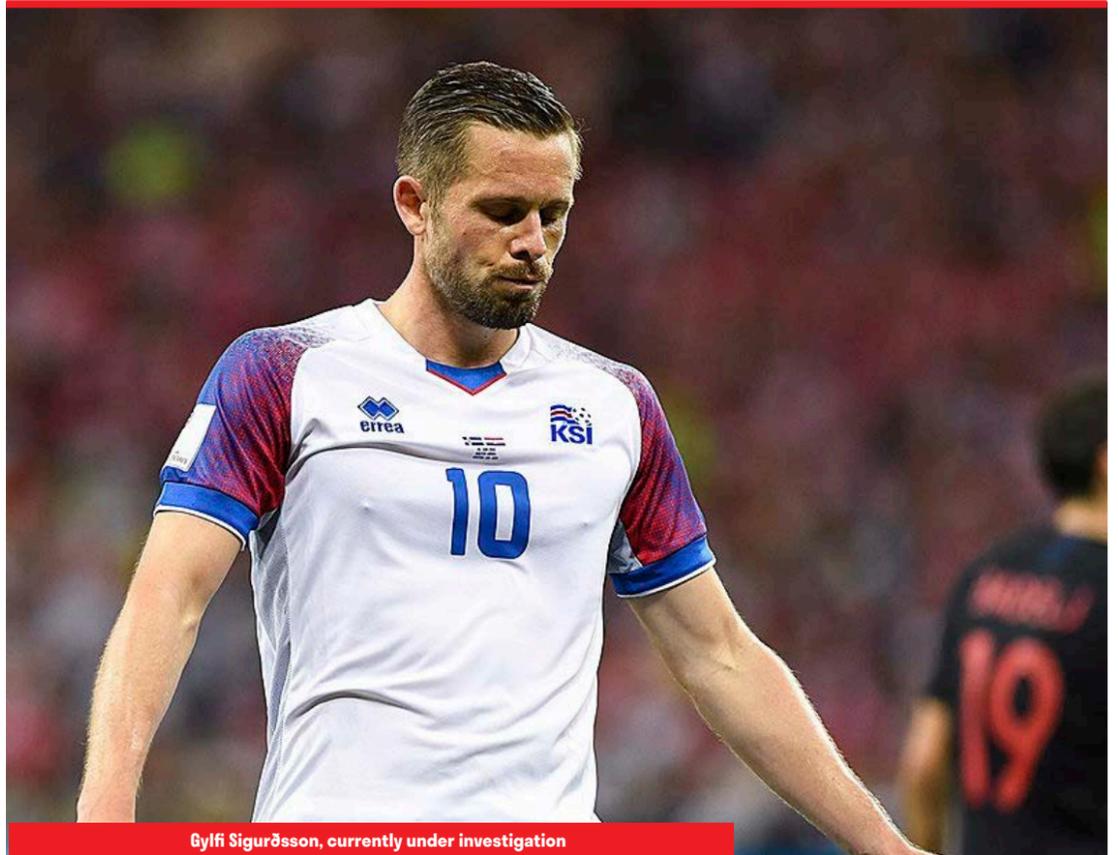
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Gylfi Sigurðsson, currently under investigation

What Are Icelanders Talking About?

Good vibes only in the comments

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photos: **Soccer.ru/Wikimedia Commons**

NEWS It probably goes without saying, but the big news in Iceland right now is the **Delta variant of the coronavirus**. Within a couple weeks of Iceland throwing aside all domestic restrictions and making the border considerably easier to cross, new cases began to crop up rapidly—even amongst the vaccinated. Single-day records were shattered, new domestic restrictions were put in place and popular August events were cancelled.

This seemed to give fuel to **the small, but loud, anti-vax contingent in Iceland**. It later came to light that while most of the new cases were amongst vaccinated people, the actual percentage of vaccinated people who subsequently became infected has not even crossed 1%. Even so, one woman loudly confronted a group of pregnant women in line to get vaccinated, becoming so unruly that police were called to escort her away. This person was subsequently doxxed by mainstream media and some questioned her mental health. Just a reminder: some perfectly sane people can have wildly wrong and inaccurate views.

In other news, **elections are coming up** and recent polling is revealing some highly unusual

possibilities for autumn. Iceland has almost never had a one-party ruling government; two parties are usually the norm. However, recent polling has shown that even a **three-party coalition will be next to impossible**. More shockingly, some of the possible ruling coalitions—if the recent polls are reflected in the voting results, that is—may be possible without the Independence Party, Iceland's conservatives. This is huge news and it's a surprise it isn't being more widely reported. The Independence Party has been a part of nearly every ruling coalition since the country became an independent republic

in 1944; it took the literal collapse of the financial system to get them out of power.

In less exciting news, **Gylfi Sigurðsson**, a football player for Everton and the Icelandic National Team, is reportedly **under investigation in the U.K. for sexual offences against a minor**. Though he wasn't named in the British press—they only said it was a “married, 31 years old and plays regularly with his national team”, which narrowed it down to two people, Gylfi being one of them—sources speaking with the Icelandic press did identify him. Gylfi was reportedly arrested, his house searched and some unnamed items were seized. Subsequently released on bail, he has denied the charges against him—whatever the nature of his reported crime may be. That will have to come to light later. 🍷



Bjarni Ben, presumably voting for himself



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www.grapevine.is
grapevine@grapevine.is

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PUBLISHER

Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson

hilmar@grapevine.is
+354 540 3601
publisher@grapevine.is

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Valur Grettisson

valur@grapevine.is

NEWS EDITOR

Andie Sophia Fontaine
andiesophia@grapevine.is

CULTURE EDITOR

Hannah Jane Cohen
hannah@grapevine.is

PHOTO EDITOR

Art Bicnick
art@grapevine.is

LISTINGS DIRECTOR

Hannah Jane Cohen

listings@grapevine.is

COPY EDITOR

Catharine Fulton

MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST

John Pearson
johnpearson@grapevine.is

INTERNS

Brittnee Kiner
brittnee@grapevine.is

Alina Maurer
alina@grapevine.is
Erik Pomrenke
erik@grapevine.is

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Elvar Ö. Egilsson
Joanna Jakubek

SALES DIRECTORS

Aðalsteinn Jörundsson
adalsteinn@grapevine.is
Helgi Þór Harðarson
helgi@grapevine.is

FOUNDERS

Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson,
Hörður Kristbjörnsson,
Jón Trausti Sigurðarson,
Oddur Óskar Kjartansson,
Valur Gunnarsson

CONTACT US:

→ **Editorial**
+354 540 3600
editor@grapevine.is

→ **Advertising**
354 540 3605
ads@grapevine.is

→ **Distribution & Subscriptions**
+354 540 3604
distribution@grapevine.is

→ **Press releases**
listings@grapevine.is

→ **General Inquiries**
grapevine@grapevine.is

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Katrín, holding her breath

Government Announces New Domestic Restrictions

A refresher...

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine**

Fighting the coronavirus can only go as well as people follow the health guidelines. As there seems to be some persistent confusion on the subject, here are the pandemic restrictions in place as of August 6th. The current restrictions will be in place up to and including August 13th. As always, the latest COVID-19 news and restrictions can be found on covid.is.

Photo: **Art Bicnick**

At the border

Travellers to Iceland, including residents and tourists, must present a negative COVID test—either a rapid test or PCR—on arrival that's not more than 72 hours old. This applies to the vaccinated and unvaccinated alike.

Failure to do so could net you a hefty fine—up to 100,000 ISK—so do be sure

to come correct.

Domestically

Public gatherings are capped at 200 people. Masks are required in indoor spaces. People will be required to maintain a distance of one metre between one another. Restaurants, clubs and pubs can't let new patrons enter after 23:00, with the last person required to leave at midnight. Pools and gyms are limited to 75% of their maximum capacity.

All of this is to be in place until August 13th.

But are vaccines safe???

You may have been alarmed to see recent news that most of the new infections for the coronavirus are among vaccinated people. This point might have you questioning the efficacy of vaccines. Don't fret: there's more.

According to data provided to reporters by the Directorate of Health, when the total number of vaccinated people and the number of those who subsequently caught the virus are taken as a whole, the effectiveness of these vaccines comes into focus.

In any given group of people vaccinated by a particular vaccine, the percentage of those who later contracted the virus never surpassed 0.18%. Furthermore, even amongst the infected, their symptoms have been far milder than those unvaccinated.

So rest assured: vaccines work and you should get yours if you haven't already. 🍷

ASK AN

Expert

Q: Why Was Blue A Dangerous Sign In The Icelandic Sagas?



A reader picking up the Sagas of the Icelanders can often be struck by the strange modernity of the prose. However, there are also many implications that are very foreign to us. For instance, a rider dressed in blue was very often a frightening sight. We turned to **Dr. Anita Sauckel**, post-doctoral researcher and teacher at Háskóli Íslands, for answers.

In the Sagas of Icelanders, depictions of clothing are an essential part of the plot. Different kinds of garments not only help the audience identify certain characters, but they also express gender, social status, travels, as well as emotions and specific intentions.

A very special type of garment in the Sagas is a cloak or tunic of the colour *blár*; this Old Norse adjective can be translated as "blue," "black" or "blue-black." This colour seems to be associated with death, aggression and violence. For instance, in mythology, Hel, the goddess of death, is described to be half the colour of human skin and half *blár*.

Saga characters wearing clothing in blue-black more often than not find themselves in dangerous situations or are in the mood for killing: In 'Valla-Ljóts saga,' the chieftain Ljót Ljótólfs-son owns two outfits that reflect his current state of mind; whenever Ljót was in a good mood he would wear a brown tunic, but should he be in a "slaying mood" he would wear a short blue-black tunic.

However, blue-black garments in the Sagas are not reserved only for men. Women are depicted wearing them as well! The most prominent female character wearing *blár* is Guðrún Ósvífrsdóttir of 'The Saga of the People of Laxardal,' who is depicted in the colour as her husband is killed. 🍷

LOST IN GOOGLE TRANSLATION

The War Planet Cometh

On the evening of **July 2nd, 2021, skies darkened across southwest Iceland.** A loud crack reverberated through the sky, shaking the very earth below as a mysterious figure emerged from the clouds above.

Against the pale northern night, it hung, bigger than the moon. Mountain ranges, clouds and oceans swirled above in perfect detail, unveiled in an instant.

Geologists and meteorologists across the country scrambled to interpret the readings of seismographs, barometers, and a battery of remote sensors across the southwest of the nation as clouds of dark ships hovered in battle array.

The War Planet had arrived.

This is the image that passed through my mind upon reading recent news of a meteoroid detonation over

southwest Iceland, leading me to dive into the finer points of Icelandic meteorology and astronomy. The original headline from Morgunblaðið ran as "**Vígahnöttur möguleg skýring á drununum,**" which Google translate artfully rendered as "**War Planet Possible Explanation for the Drones.**" Besides the obvious strangeness of "War Planet," I might point out that "drones" here refers to loud sounds, not the airborne cameras.

The most common word for a meteor is *loftsteinn*, and true to the rugged simplicity of the Norse tongue, it quite literally means "air stone."

Steinn will be familiar enough to anglophones out there, but we also might recognise our old friend *loft* from such fine cognates as *aloft*, *lofty*, the loft of a building, and the German airline Lufthansa.

There is, however, another more

obscure word for a meteor in Icelandic: *Vígahnöttur*, which translates literally to "war globe."

From Old Norse *víg*, meaning "battle," we have here a fine compound with *hnöttur*, or "globe," to denote a dangerous ball from outer space.

By the way, mythology nerds may recognize *víg*- from *vígriðr*, literally "battle surge," the plains on which the battle of Ragnark is fought. **EP 🍷**

War Planet possible explanation for the drones



Vígahnöttur möguleg skýring á drununum



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See you on the Boulevard, Ullr

Ullr, The Hanoi Rocks Of The Norse Pantheon

The Grapevine has never forgotten these rock gods

Words: Remember Hanoi Rocks? Man, they rocked! To this day, I can't get enough of "Boulevard of Broken Dreams." You feel me?
Hannah Jane Cohen
Photo: Stop lying. I know you don't remember them—if you even have any idea who they are.
Hanoi Rocks 'Oriental Beat'

A brief history of (glam) time

For the uninitiated, Hanoi Rocks was a Finnish glam rock band from the 1980s. The group has been cited as a major influence by bands you might have actually heard of, such as Guns N' Roses, Poison, and Mötley Crüe. Unfortunately, despite their prolific musical impact, Hanoi Rocks had a rather short-lived career—debuting in 1979 and calling

it quits in 1985 after the tragic death of drummer Razzle following a party at Vince Neil's house.

So while Hanoi Rocks arguably pushed a new sound, spawning some massive hits for other bands—c'mon "Paradise City" baby!—no one outside Finland or Sweden or basement glam rock aficionados really gives them any attention or recognition. They certainly don't garner repeated plays at every strip club around the world or VH1 dating shows.

To sum it up, Hanoi Rocks are basically the Ullr of the glam rock world.

Who tf is Ullr?

Ullr is a rather enigmatic Norse God. He's rarely mentioned in old writings,

save for sparse appearances in the 'Grimnismál' and the 'Atlakviða.' At one point, there was apparently some glorious story about him sailing off into the ocean, but whoever had that document probably thought it was too mainstream and threw it out like a worn copy of 'The Da Vinci Code.'

Wait, too mainstream? Well, the thing about Ullr is that his name was, in the times of old, adopted as the title of many locales in southern Sweden and western Norway, meaning that he was, at said time, an extremely influential deity. That said, we, in the times of new, know basically nothing about him, which is a shame, considering how other super popular ancient mainstream texts like 'The Iliad' are now studied intensely by Ivory Tower academics who would never even breathe on a copy of 'The Da Vinci Code.'

So what do we know about Ullr? Well, his dad was the star Aurvandil. And we don't mean star in the Mötley Crüe sense—he was literally a burning spheroid of plasma. Ullr was apparently also really good at archery. And there we go. That's it. Ullr was basically Katniss Everdeen if she had been born in the Andromeda galaxy and then everyone decided The Hunger Games and space were lame.

So Ullr was super famous at one point before humans—the elitist hipsters we are—deemed him too popular and pretended they were never even into him, turning their attention to more obscure gods like Þór and Freyr. Barf.

And Ullr was lost to history. Just like Hanoi Rocks. 🍷

Superpowers:
Unclear. Presumably super awesome and likeable.

Weaknesses:
Too awesome and likeable.

Modern Analogy:
Hanoi Rocks... didn't you read the article?



Ingólfstorg circa 1977, photo from Ljósmyndasafn Reykjavíkur

JUST SAYINGS

„Hallærisplanið”

This edition of Just Sayings isn't so much about an Icelandic catchphrase as it is about a cultural institution: Hallærisplanið.

Hallærisplanið literally means “the tacky lot” and can be more precisely translated as “the cringe zone.” But it's more than a concept; it's an actual place, located where Ingólfstorg is now. In the 60s, 70s, and even much of the 80s, it was the de rigeur hangout spot for Reykjavik teenagers. Kids from all over town would meet here to drink, chat

and put on their best tryhard airs to showcase how cool they were.

Today, young people go to the internet to do these things, but Hallærisplanið still lives in the hearts of many Boomer-aged Icelanders, who in all likelihood have many embarrassing memories of their time there. ASF 🍷

GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST



Svarti Laxness - Hvaddagera
Summer vibes with a dark twist from Svarti Laxness, the musical persona of all-round renaissance man Davíð Þór. “Hvaddagera”—which translates roughly as “what are you doing?”—bawls in all robust beats and bouncing bass underneath Davíð's smooth lyrical flow. But the track feels edgy, like someone who comes into a room but declines to take their coat off or sit down. JP

expansive and suffocating. Nico cites “loelandic telluric forces, volcanoes, ghosts and deities” as the entities which permeate his work. It's the kind of music I could invite to wash over me, if I was in the right mood. But that would have to be a pretty weird mood. And I wouldn't want to indulge it for too long. JP



Monstra - Nobody
loelandic darkwave/ electro-punk duo Monstra go way back, having performed together for about a decade before COVID hit and they changed their style, swapping acoustic guitars for synthesizers. The result is slick, dark, danceable, and catchy. It compares favourably to the bests of old school post-punk, goth rock and new wave, with a kick of added girl power. If, like me, you have a playlist titled “Vampire Dance Party,” you owe this a listen. EP



Ásta - Melabúðin
The quaint and quirky corner store Melabúðin is fitting inspiration for folk artist Ásta's most recent single, which floats between sharp downbeats and folksy upbeat. The track centres around an experience Ásta had one December evening at the iconic shop. She noticed some teenage boys swaggering around, attempting to ooze with coolness. Ásta's lyrics capture vulnerabilities through overheard conversations and observations. An unconventional tune created from the most ordinary of circumstances. BK

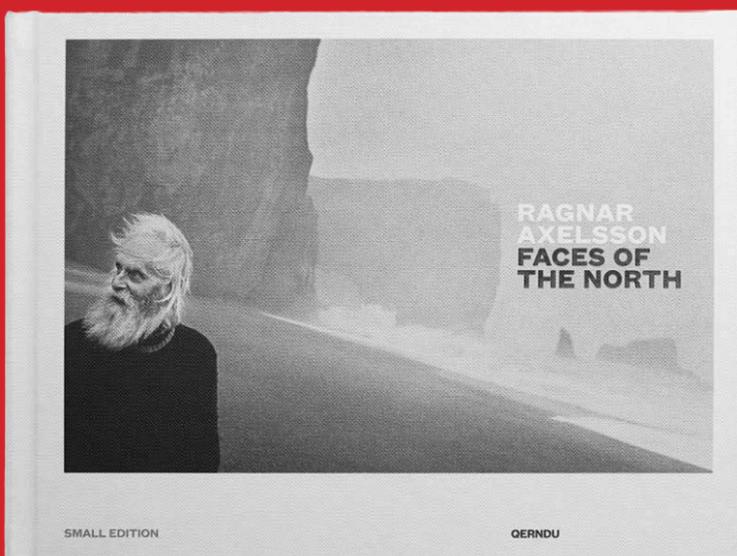


Daniel Hjálmtýsson - Back To Bed
Occupying a space between gothic, post-punk, singer-songwriter and what might broadly be called “dark rock,” Daniel Hjálmtýsson's latest single is a song that is greater than the sum of its parts. What binds it together is Daniel's voice, which shares great adjectival overlap with fine coffees and wines; one might say it sips well. Play this song as you take off your weather-worn duster and pour yourself a whiskey, sinking back into your armchair as you think of lost loves and forgotten memories. EP



Nico Guerrero - Streams of Oblivion
Dissonant. Discordant. Disturbing. Sonic drones and twisted guitars smother an anxiety dreamscape, spiralling upwards around each other into a space that is simultaneously

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(From the left) Regn, Reyn and Ari Logn

BEING NONBI-NARY: IN ICELAND AND EVERYWHERE

The existence of nonbinary people is gaining slow but steady recognition in many Eurocentric countries—Iceland included. While we celebrate the fact that Iceland officially allows for a third legal gender marker—X—and has somewhat relaxed their naming laws, most of the challenges nonbinary people face have more to do with the reality of living in a society that only accepts a binary view of gender.

In this feature, we spoke with three nonbinary Icelanders—Ari Logn, Regn Sólmundur Evu and Reyn Alpha Magnúsar—about their experiences with their gender identities, the challenges they face and what needs to change and how.

WHAT DOES 'NONBI-NARY' MEAN ANYWAY?

Simply put, nonbinary is an umbrella term for a set of gender identities that do not adhere entirely, or at all, to the binary male and female. As it is not a “third gender” but a category in itself, many nonbinary people can have very divergent gender identities from one another—agender people, bigender people and fae gender people are a few

examples. Far from being a recent trend or fad, nonbinary gender identities have existed in many cultures around the world for millennia, with examples including the ‘Yan Daudu of sub-Saharan Africa, the Nádleehi of the Navajo people and the Fa’afafine of Samoa, to name just a few.

The “recentness” of nonbinary gender identities in Europe and North America is only relative to most Eurocentric cultures. For many cis people in these countries, and even for many binary trans people, nonbinary people are a “new” concept that they are just now beginning to know.

In Iceland, nonbinary people are legally recognised, at least as far as gender markers in the National Registry are concerned. Naming laws have also been slightly relaxed; names are no longer relegated to only for men or only for women, and some gender-neutral names have made it into the lexicon.

It's time to say it loud: nonbinary people have always existed.

Words: [Andie Sophia Fontaine](#) Photos: [John Pearson](#)

Still, legal and societal challenges persist. In the course of our interviews, the patterns that emerged include the challenges of living in a community that sees gender in purely male or female terms, the desire to not want to make anyone uncomfortable by simply being yourself, the gendered nature of the Icelandic language and the lack of representation of or education about nonbinary people.

LET'S TALK GENDER

When asked what nonbinary gender identity they abide by, Regn and Ari Logn describe themselves as agender—that is, lacking any gender at all—while Reyn is not entirely sure.

“I describe myself as agender,” Ari Logn says. “I just don't feel like ‘woman’; it never fit me, it never belonged to me, in the same

way ‘man’ didn't either. Everyone around me sort of linked in with ‘womanhood’ and ‘manhood’ but I just didn't. That's the only way I can describe it. I just dress how I think is nice and that's it. I don't feel like I have a masculine or feminine spirit, I just... am.”

I also describe myself as agender, in a way that I don't feel a connection to womanhood or manhood,” Regn says. “But I tried out different gender identities that go under the nonbinary umbrella. I had tried genderqueer, which is itself a pretty big umbrella, but it wasn't exactly on point. I thought I was trans masculine for a while; like maybe a feminine trans man or even androgynous trans man, but that didn't fit, either. So I landed on the agender term, but it doesn't really reach all parts [of me]. I feel like I have a gender of some sort, but it's just really not connected to femininity or masculinity. It's more like something very different. I haven't found a term yet. The closest I got was aporagender [a gender identity that is neither male, female, nor “something in between”] But I go with agender because people understand it a bit more. I don't feel any connection to traditional femininity and masculinity.”

“I don't really have a specific label for my experience of gender,” Reyn says. “I originally landed on agender. At the time I thought I didn't really care about gender expression

"You see around you society putting expectations on you. It puts in your head that you have to do things a certain way to be a successful human."

think of this sign I've seen in pictures from some Pride parade which said: 'People think gender is male and female, when actually it's just a big ball of wibbly-wobbly gendie-wendie stuff'. I agree with that."

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you're raised in a binary community, how do you even come to understand that you're nonbinary? For many, it comes from either chance representation, or simply meeting other nonbinary people.

"I never heard the word 'nonbinary' until I met other nonbinary people," Regn says. "I was a really androgynous child. People wouldn't mistake me for a boy but I felt like a boy most of the time, since I was like 8 or 9. I also realised really young that I was pansexual. I came out in 2018, when I was 20. I was working with children at the time and there was this tiny little child who pointed at me and said, 'You're a woman!' and I never felt so confused in my entire life.

"Then I went into this self-reflection, asking myself if I was being a misogynist, like, do I hate women? Why don't I want to be a woman? I was a really big feminist, I was the president of the feminist committee at MH [Menntaskóli við Hamrahlíð, a secondary school]. So I thought of course I don't hate women, I love women. What is this? Why am I reacting like this? This sent me into a spiral of an existential crisis, and was really reflecting."

They continue: "Then I met a queer person at [the nightclub] Gaukurinn during the summer, and they were like 'how do you identify?' and I said 'I think I identify as nonbinary' and it felt so good to say that. I let people use whatever pronouns they wanted, so I was always 'she' for like half a year after that. After I came out, I became so much more confident in myself, so I started asking people to use they/them, or hán in Icelandic."

"I have this memory of seeing Boys Don't Cry as a kid," says Ari Logn. "I was just amazed. There was something in my brain that was like 'I connect to this'. I watched a lot of things as a kid and I hadn't connected to anything like I did to this. I didn't even really know about gender at that age; I just saw it and thought 'this makes sense'. Having that experience as a really young person, it took me some time to realise how transness related to me, though.

"My life hasn't really been very traditional, so I really didn't have gender expectations put on me by family, apart from 'you have a vagina so you're a woman'. If there had been pressure I never noticed it, anyway. I feel good about that. But you notice society putting expectations on you, which subconsciously

puts in your head that you have to do things a certain, very 'traditional' and capitalistic way to be a successful human. That has definitely had an impact on me, and that's why I felt such relief when I realized I could just be 'me'. I'd say that in the last five years since coming back to Iceland I've definitely settled a lot more into being comfortable in my skin as a nonbinary person. I would say it's definitely safer for me to be who I am here, compared to the UK. I have a lot of privilege as a white Icelander."

NOT WANTING TO BOTHER ANYONE

A common theme that came up in these interviews was not wanting to make binary people feel scared or uncomfortable when confronted with the reality of nonbinary people. This desire to spare the feeling, real or imagined, of binary people can keep many nonbinary people in the closet, months or even years after understanding their own gender identities. Another closeting force is growing up in a binary culture and having societal expectations based on one's assigned gender at birth foisted upon you.

"When I hit puberty I had a lot of guy friends, and they sort of expected me to become a woman," Regn says. "They kind of all slowly evaporated around me, which was really hard, so I became preoccupied with male approval, which is really bad for anyone. I became really obsessed with becoming as feminine as I possibly could; I wore dresses all the time, I did a lot of traditionally feminine things even though I didn't really care for them. That led to eating disorders, depression, I was just very sad all the time.

"Then I went to MH, which is a school that has a reputation for [allowing students] to be whoever [they] want to be. When I figured out that I was nonbinary, everything just fell into place and made sense in a way that I could actually feel comfortable with myself. Being my whole, true self, which is so liberating and I still feel so blessed that I actually came to this conclusion. I've never looked back."

Adds Reyn, "I think if there was any external pressure, it would have been from society as a whole, media and maybe some friends—most of my friends for most of my life have been straight cis boys, who have a tendency to maybe think more about these things than some other groups might."

"I wasn't really bound by these things at all, but I did start to notice after I realised I was nonbinary that these expectations are everywhere. Continuously being labelled by gendered terms by other people. You can never just be a person. I think that's what

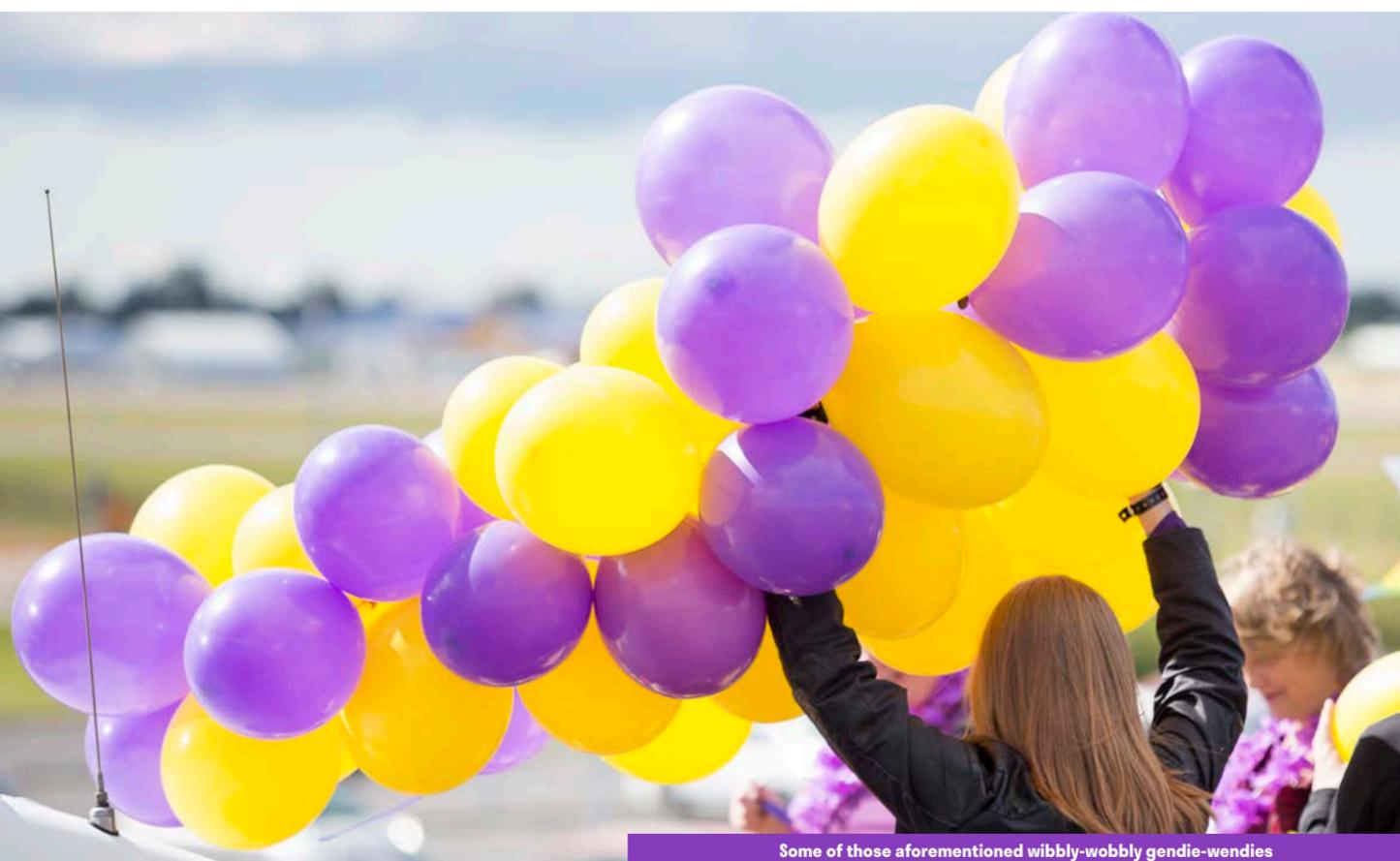
bothered me the most, because I wasn't following gendered expectations. Coming out helped with that, because I could finally have a reason for not wanting people to address me in certain ways. I think also, to some extent, it alleviates some of the pressure to conform to societal norms. It was mostly just a relief to be able to stop pretending that there was nothing going on, so as to not rock the boat before I was ready. People understand better now why I feel the way I do and why I've been the way I am."

"I think a lot of people are scared of nonbinary people, because we're not comfortable," Ari Logn says. "We're outside of society's comfort. I've sensed in people that I've encountered this uncomfortableness. I don't really know how to address it though. I've tried, like 'hey these are my pronouns, no big deal, if you want information I can give it'. And I try to give information but some people will just make you feel bad about even stating and asserting your pronouns or identity. Funnily enough I've encountered a lot of well meaning people who think that because I'm not woman, I'm automatically 'man'. It's the other default. I will have men, more of the time, asking if it's OK to use 'he' instead. I'll say 'hán' and they'll hear 'hann'. It's like they realised that it's 'not woman' so they go to 'the other one'. But there's more than just man or woman."

CONFRONTING MISCONCEPTIONS

Even after coming out, nonbinary people will very often find themselves having to continuously educate binary people on who they are and what their gender identities mean.

"I always think of this sign I've seen in pictures from some Pride parade which said: 'People think gender is male and female, when actually it's just a big ball of wibbly-wobbly gendie-wendie stuff'. I agree with that."



Some of those aforementioned wibbly-wobbly gendie-wendies



They're here to stay!

"A lot of the time when I tell people I'm not a man or a woman, some people assume that I'm intersex," Reyn says. "And that's if people know what intersex is, which is not common. I've also had people tell me 'you can't be nonbinary; you're wearing a dress and makeup'. I feel like they don't understand that even if we look at the binary, there's no right way to dress a man or a woman; you can be a man in a dress or a woman in a suit, so I can be nonbinary in a dress with makeup. When I'm wearing more masculine clothes, people are like 'so are you a man today?' Also when I tell people I'm nonbinary, some people think that nonbinary is just one gender, like a gender in itself. But it's an umbrella term. You can be just nonbinary in itself, but there are so many other identities under there. A lot of the time people can't get their head around that there's no connection to the binary there, because people have been taught that there is a binary and nothing else so it's really new to people. I get that, and I always approach this topic kindly and gently, because I don't want to scare people off. I want people to understand more than they're scared."

"I think this thing treating nonbinary as a third gender option right next to man and woman is pretty common," Reyn adds. "Sometimes they'll think this third gender is called by its pronoun, like 'There are three genders: karl, kona and hán'. I've also had people say something to me in masculine language terms, correct themselves, but then switch over to feminine. It's still wrong; it's just a different wrong."

ICELANDIC CHALLENGES

Like many languages, Icelandic is heavily gendered. This applies not just to pronouns, or the genders of certain nouns, but even adjectives. Fortunately, Icelandic does recognise a gender-neutral case, which has made the language more flexible for nonbinary people than languages that may recognise only two gender forms. However, Icelandic still has plenty of room for change to accommodate everyone and some neologisms have

been invented—most notably, hán, a gender-neutral pronoun.

"I am a language enthusiast, and I have such a big love for Icelandic," Reyn says. "It's such an amazing, beautiful language. Because I love the language so much, I acknowledge the need for change, because languages are supposed to serve the people using them; not the people using them serving the language. Languages are supposed to be accommodating. So I think all the new words that we're seeing right now are all such powerful words that I can't wait to hear being used regularly. When I first started wanting people to use hán, I also felt a bit uncomfortable with the gender-neutral ending because it's used mainly for objects. I got used to it, but I feel other people are still uncomfortable with it and I understand it totally, but other people are just going to have to get used to it."

"There's plenty of room in Icelandic for gender-neutral speech," Reyn says. "I think the efforts that have been made so far have been very successful. Hán of course being the most popular gender-neutral pronoun for referring to people. To me it's just very natural sounding, easy to say—in fact I sometimes use it accidentally for everyone."

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

When it comes to what needs to change in our society that might make it more inclusive of nonbinary people, representation plays a big role.

"What I feel is that there is a huge lack of nonbinary role models," Reyn says. "I don't see myself anywhere, except [in] these very fringe culture spaces deep on the internet. Not being able to see myself in any role models is pretty hard. I think that's the reason why I didn't come out until I was 20. I probably would have realised sooner that I was nonbinary if there were a discussion about it."

But even within the context of representation, the kind of representation also matters.

"We've definitely gotten better at nonbinary representation, too, but I think it lacks diversity," Reyn says. "Almost every nonbi-

nary person who gets represented is a thin, white, androgynous person, or a thin, white, AFAB [assigned female at birth] person. There's not a lot of representation of AMAB nonbinary, or those who are disabled, fat, or people of colour. It's this white, very slim, Eurocentric people in black shapeless clothing. And I hate that."

"I think it's got a lot to do with societal attitudes," Reyn says. "Visibility of nonbinary people plays into that because, traditionally, if nonbinary people are covered at all, it's about how special they are for being nonbinary. It's slowly changing for the better. But I've also been seeing more and more nonbinary stories [in traditional media]. It's not much, but it's a big improvement. People still are very clueless, so they need to be exposed to this more. People have to learn—that's the root of most problems, because they don't know what to say to you, how to treat you, how you want to live your life, and that just makes it really hard for everyone. Especially for people who are marginalised and aren't understood, it's exhausting to continuously have to explain yourself, every time, to everyone."

"There's also the naming laws in Iceland. I only have half of my name legally recognised due to them. I think it has more of an effect on people than people realise. Official organisations and companies, everywhere you go, being called something that you do not wish to be called. The laws don't control what people are named; they only control what people are named officially, so effectively, it's just making the National Registry inaccurate. It doesn't serve us as well as it should, because of these senseless limitations on people's names and gender markers."

Ultimately, nonbinary people just want the same as any other human being might: the freedom to be their authentic selves, to have the same rights and representation as anyone else, to be included in the language of the community—and most of all, to feel free to be happy just the way they are. ♡

"Because I love the language so much, I acknowledge the need for change, because languages are supposed to serve the people using them; not the people using them serving the language."

Happening

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Circular Economy Concert

Toolraiser 2021

Aug. 20-21st - 14:00 & 12:00 - Prikið & R6013 - Bring a tool!

Reykjavik's DIY, or rather DIT, scene is booming and one of its pillars is the Reykjavik Tool Library, whose annual Toolraiser campaign is back. At this BYOT (bring your own tool, obviously) extravaganza, food, music and fun is covered by a donation of a drill, hammer, sickle or other such gear for the Tool Library's ever expanding stocklist. The lineup includes 20+ acts that are sure to wow. **HJC**



BM RETURNS COWARDS

Misþyrming & Vonlaus

Aug. 14th - 19:00 - Gaukurinn - 2,000 ISK

Do you check the latest underground metal blogs in between squat sets? Do your hulking arms threaten to crush your laptop as you search for the latest Chilean war metal, a gale of blast beats fluttering out of your vintage studio monitors? Well, you'll be in good company with notoriously Nietzschean Icelandic black metal *übertmenschen*, Misþyrming, who emerge from their tombs for their first post-COVID pagan feast at Gaukurinn. Expect dizzying, head-pounding riffage and true battle jackets. Bring your own animal blood. **EP**



Countryside Art

The Factory

Until Sept. 13th - Djúpvík & Þingeyri

An abandoned Djúpvík herring factory, covered top to bottom in beautiful art. An old village house in Þingeyri, chock full of multimedia pieces. This can only mean one thing: The Factory exhibitions are alive and roaring, necessitating a trip to the Westfjords for any cultural connoisseur. This year's lineup is as spectacular as ever and seriously—you'd be doing yourself a disservice by missing it. **HJC**

CULTURE NEWS



IKEA, Black Coffee, Saunas & Juggling

No smiles for the Norse

'Three Men From The North' are the Grapevine's 2021 Fringe Award Winners

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photos: **Art Bicnick & Joanna Jakubek, Provided by RVK Fringe**

The IKEA KALLAX shelving unit stands at 77 centimetres high. With four square shelves and a variety of muted colours, it's one of those IKEA pieces you'll find at probably every single house in Scandinavia. That said—it usually holds books and knick-knacks. You probably haven't seen it used for acrobatic stunts and ballet choreography, but that's exactly what audiences found at "Three Men From The North"—one of the biggest hits of this year's Reykjavik Fringe Festival.

The show was made by the Nordic Council—a circus troupe composed of juggler Merri Heikkilä from Finland, Swedish aerialist Jakob Jacobsson, and resident Icelandic circus guru Bjarni Árnason. The group won the coveted Grapevine Prize at the 2021 Reykjavik Fringe awards, but the show is so fantastic we'd happily write about them, award or no award.

Accidents happen

"It's a tableau of things that we as northerners have in common," Jakob says, distilling the circus performance down into a few words. "Adding to that, coming from the north means handling emotions and dealing with things in a certain way—there's a precision and methodology there that we bring to the show."

'Three Men From The North' journeys through many Nordic stereotypes, from the funny—a juggling act with accordion choreography—to the serious, such as a monologue about the plight of a repressed Finnish man accompanied by death-defying aerial stunts. No matter where you're from, it's a romp through the Nordics that invites you to giggle at those clichés—IKEA furniture, woolen sweaters, more IKEA furniture—that truly define the Nordic psyche.

But the humour of the show comes not only from their celebration (and sometimes mockery) of their own cultures, but the very actions of the men themselves. As a trio, they've integrated "mistakes" into their circus performances, adding a layer of humility and relatability that's both unexpected and hysterical. While the audience is certainly duped the first time one drops a club or stumbles through a trick, once they get the wink-wink humour that each fumble is intentional, they begin to

cheer at both the triumphs of their physical prowess, but also the moments when they fail.

"Accidents happen," Bjarni laughs. "We want to work with failures. The idea that just because something didn't go the way I planned doesn't mean it's a mistake. When you start performing, mistakes can become an even bigger fantasy. It can become the best story. We all know what it's like to be screamed at because you spilled on your mother's Christmas dinner tablecloth. It's very human."

Vulnerable masculinity

One of the most affecting aspects of the show though is the trio's nuanced exploration of masculinity. Nordic men have often been associated with being both stoic to the point of irrationality, but also rather whimsical. In "Three Men From The North", Merri, Jakob and Bjarni take this dichotomy in stride.

"[Masculinity] is a theme that, very often, when you start dealing with gender roles and norms, a lot of people will back up and get

a little defensive because they don't want to hear about those topics," Jakob explains. "We don't try to evaluate or cast judgement but rather show different ways of approaching them. Hopefully, it gives people a bit of space to reflect, not in an aggressive way, but in a way where people can arrive at their own conclusions."

"Vulnerability is something that we work a lot with, but not in a sense that is traditionally showcased," he continues. "All the things we do on stage are incredibly fragile in terms of a stage relationship, so we have to have a lot of things in sync between the three of us that puts us in a place where none of us can do these traditional macho things." He pauses. "And I think that kind of masculinity is not shown often enough."

With COVID continuing its dark reign, it's unclear when the Nordic Council will take the stage again. But three men in particular promise to return to Iceland as soon as possible for an encore run of 'Three Men From The North'. In the interim—there's always another KALLAX shelf to build. 🍷

Check out the Nordic Council on Facebook and Instagram at @TheNordicCouncil.



Yes, those are IKEA fabric storage bins they are wearing



A neon sign and burlesque? We're in

Creating Possibilities In The Underground

The National Theatre Of Iceland provides a stage for marginalised artists

Words: **Brittnee Kiner** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

Recognition of Iceland's vibrant arts culture radiates across the globe—as does the assumption that the scene has always been as diverse as it is today. In reality though, much of Reykjavik's underground artists have always been just that—underground. It's only recently that traditionally “low” artforms, like burlesque, cabaret and drag, have begun to depart from the confinement of queer bars and other diversity-friendly venues. Now, they're knocking on the door of Þjóðleikhúsið, Iceland's National Theatre.

Key to this radical change is

Gréta Kristín Ómarsdóttir, Creative Director of the National Theatre Basement, Kjallarinn. After a year-long renovation of the space—which was long kept alive by improv performances—she's ready to reopen, pulling aside the velvet curtain of the historically non-diverse institution to make room for what she refers to as “raw art.” And what's “raw art”? Well, it's the kind of culture that has always existed in the margins, but now it'll be given the same respect and attention as culturally mainstream theatrical and operatic performances. And it's about time.

Cultural capital

“Queer culture was practically non-existent [when I grew up],” Gréta explains. “That has a lot to do with why it's important to me and why I have a passion for it. I wasn't born with any cultural capital.”

Gréta was born in a small town, she explains, so exposure to queer culture was minimal until she moved to Reykjavik. This led to a bit of a crisis of identity—representation matters. “Being a queer person, I had this identity that didn't really relate to what was expected of me. So, I had to sort of make my own,” she says. Eventu-

ally, Gréta stumbled into the academic world, which allowed her to create, reshape and understand her own identity. “That's how I came into the theatre. I see it as a tool to recreate what's possible.”

Fostering a future

Alternative art forms, Gréta emphasises, have long struggled to make their way through the doors of institutions like the National Theatre, which has focused on more conventional performances.

“Historically and politically, theatre is about creating possibilities for people,” she says. “We have to be aware when we're working in theatre, we're actually creating meaning—especially for a public institution that's funded with public money.”

Of course, the queer community also pays taxes, making their representation equally valid. Therefore, Kjallarinn is about to present one of its most dynamic and diverse stages yet. “We also have to be aware of what stories we are telling,” she explains, passionately. “This is a place where [artists] can grow and elevate their form.”

Radiating warmth, Gréta admits that she hopes to “create a family here and give the artists an opportunity to grow. I want the audiences of the National Theatre to get something that they don't expect.”

“It's also for queer people who have been marginalized but have found glamour in their grievance to create their own culture,” she says. And now they can share that with the world.

Restoration of old charm

Stepping into the dimly lit Kjallarinn, you would never guess that its wooden and warm details endured a large scale renovation this year. Gréta and her team managed to revive the space, restoring its original charm. The entrance even

underwent a facelift. “It's no longer like you're coming to the dentist,” she laughs. Hints of nostalgia pervade, though, but with a touch of vintage class; you can almost smell the glamour emitting from the wall panels.

While creating a comfortable space for the public was important, above all else Gréta wanted to give artists a nice place to perform. And starting in September, guests will be able to catch

matinées along with drag brunches next spring hosted by the legendary drag queen Gógó Starr.

The atmosphere will be mild by day, Gréta explains, but the space will transform into a speak-easy style theatre by night, equipped with a full bar. Cocktail

names will be adorned with references to the shows of the night, such as the “Burlesque Spritz” or “Improv Mule.”

“I just wanted to add to an already blossoming scene.”

Under the pavement

Gréta's ultimate goal is to create an elevated space for marginalised artists. “All of these scenes have grown so much in the past five years, such as the drag scene in Iceland—it has just blown up,” she continues. “Kjallarinn is a classic joint—it doesn't have sticky floors and you don't have to rely on tips to actually survive working in this field. I just wanted to do my part to add to an already blossoming scene.”

Whether you're creative, queer or just curious, take a moment to step below the streets of Reykjavik into the revitalized Kjallarinn, opening soon. Cabaret, burlesque, drag artists and more will transform the once bland basement into a vibrant playground of entertainment and expression.

See the schedule for upcoming shows at [Kjallarinn at leikhusid.is](http://Kjallarinn.at/leikhusid.is).



Cue the champagne! Oh wait, Gréta's way ahead of us

Farmers Market

ICELAND



OUR STORES IN REYKJAVÍK: FARMERS & FRIENDS



Laugavegur 37



Hólmaslóð 2 / Grandi

WWW.FARMERSMARKET.IS



Awwwww <3 <3



Barónessan

Barónsstigur 27

Flowers! Queer-owned flowers! Look, if you've spent any time on lesbian TikTok, you know queer ladies love some peonies. So pick some up at this downtown flower boutique and wow your partner with a bouquet, along with a handmade vegan dinner and screening of some Sarah Paulson show. Queer ladies love Sarah.

a French couple, this shop sells high-quality French products as well as other hard-to-find delicacies for the gastro-inclined. Don't have time in the midst of the festivities to stop by the store? You can also order online at hyalin-shop.com. We'd love it if you got some goods for us too and dropped them by the office, btw.



Æsir Cannabidiol

Hverfisgata 39

It's 2021. Happiness is out of control. Gay-owned CBD oil has taken the country by storm, meaning that no one is riddled with bodily or mental pain after too much dancing at the various Pride drag shows. Civilisation rises. Britney is freed. Carly Rae Jepsen's 'Emotion' is finally given the respect it deserves. Life is good.

Time For Your Wallet To Come Out!

Your guide to Reykjavík's queer-owned businesses

Words: [The Official Grapevine Queer Capitalist Community](#) Photos: [Provided By Locations](#)

How can you best support queers? With your money, obviously. To be honest, there were WAY too many queer-owned spots to choose from in Reykjavík, so here's a selection of our favourites.

fundamental queer sexual awakening?



Café Babalú

Skólavörðustigur 22

Many a Grapevine interview has been conducted in the cosy upstairs seating area of Babalú. Warm and cheery, Babalú is a Reykjavík institution, serving up lovely coffee and even lovelier vegan carrot cake. So if you're looking for a post-parade pep up, get some caffeine and conversation at this Grapevine favourite. They also have a Star Wars themed bathroom. And what was Princess Leia if not a



Modus Hár

Stórhöfði 33

Hair is to queers what 'Friends' is to cisgender straight people. To get it done by people who do it right, head to Modus Hár. Owned by a queer couple, the place has a great vibe and can serve up pretty much anything you want. They are also a big supporter of the local queer scene, which must be applauded. For northerners, there's also a location in Akureyri and for those far out in the countryside, the same owners also operate harvorur.is which is our favourite online store for hair care in Iceland.



Pallett

Strandgata 75, Hafnarfjörður

Just because you're in Hafnarfjörður doesn't mean you can't contribute to the Gay Agenda™. Tucked away in the harbourside town, Pallett Coffee Shop serves up flaky pastries, delightful veggie sausage rolls, and some truly spectacular coffee. Bring your queer British friends. They'll freak out (respectfully and quietly, of course.)



Hyalin

Hverfisgata 35

Along with candles, tarot and astrology, queers also notoriously love to cook. Owned by



Sæta Húsið

Laugavegur 6

OK, SÆTA HÚSIÐ IS QUEER OWNED. WHAT? The Grapevine office's Pride Department freaked out after learning said information because we love Sæta Húsið. So if you've been drooling over that luscious Thai-rolled ice cream on Instagram, we have good news! This queer-owned spot is ready to serve deliciously fresh rolled ice cream, mixed with all sorts of candy and fruit. Also, they are queer-owned.

“What was Princess Leia if not a fundamental queer sexual awakening?”

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August 6th — September 2nd

In Your Pocket



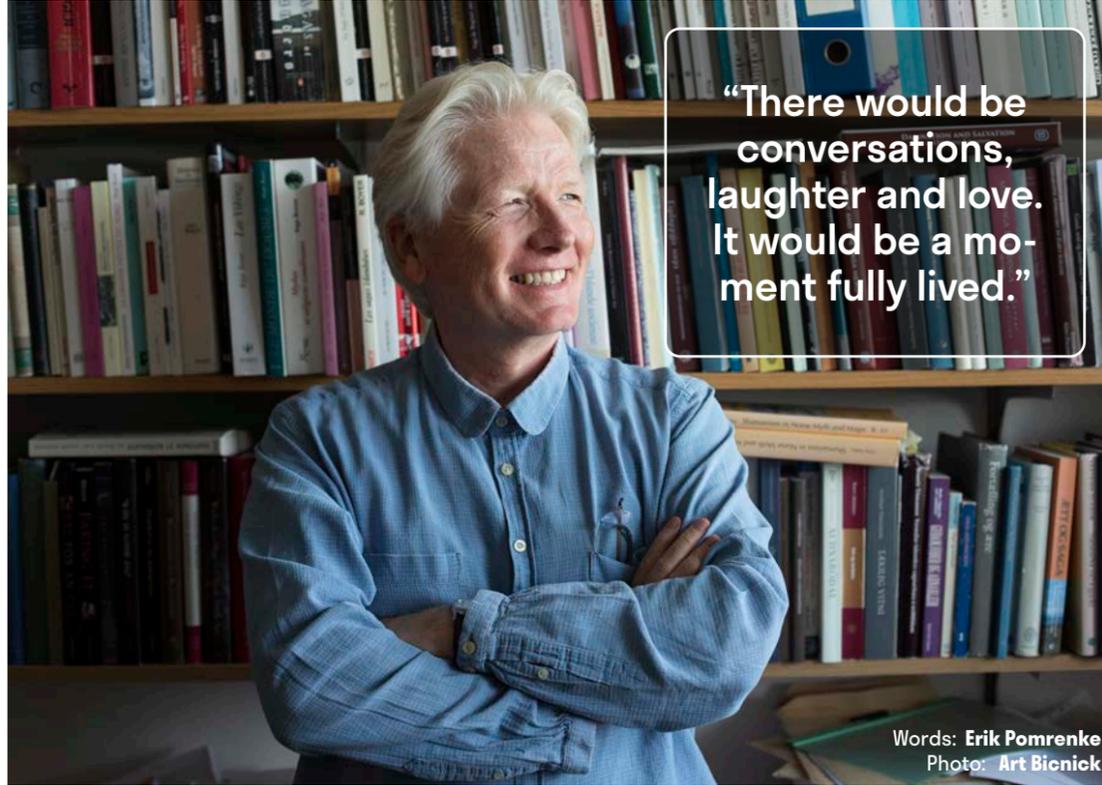
Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

Perfect Day

Dance, jive & have the time of your life



“There would be conversations, laughter and love. It would be a moment fully lived.”

Words: Erik Pomrenke
Photo: Art Bienick

Torfi Tulinius

Torfi Tulinius is a professor of Icelandic Medieval Studies at the University of Iceland. He completed his PhD at the Sorbonne in 1992 and has written extensively on the Icelandic family sagas, with an emphasis on genre and form.

We muse with him on his ideal day and, by extension, the good life.

Walking & remembering

Humanity remembers the past and projects itself into the future. This ability is a blessing and likely one of the reasons for mankind's success as a species. As all blessings, however, it has negative aspects. Too often, we are so busy mulling over the past or worrying about the future that we forget to seize the moment in all its warmth and beauty.

My best possible day would be one of fully lived moments.

Waking up in a bright room and remembering a sweet dream while seeing a loved one still slumbering

close by. Enjoying a light and tasty breakfast while following the news, until my thoughts turn to the tasks that await me: writing a paper, preparing a lesson, practicing guitar. Morning is for letting oneself be engrossed by one's projects, the pleasure of seeing them progress, of getting things done, of acquiring new skills, but also of developing ideas, testing them, seeing where they take me.

Acting & thinking

It is also essential to follow what is happening in intellectual life, to be alert to what can possibly be of use to me in my work. Equally important is to be creative in adapting it to my needs. Working with ideas and managing to explain and illuminate some aspect of reality is a pleasure and a privilege.

I enjoy physical activity, preferably in the form of contest. Midday would be a game of tennis, basketball or, later in the afternoon, golf. I love the exercise, the fun, the joy

of winning and the fact that losing does not matter, also the interaction with other players, the camaraderie of sports.

Intoxication & being together

Good evenings are spent with loved ones: my wife, my family, my friends. Exchanging stories, watching a game of football, savoring a good meal, excellent wine, but only occasionally as consuming alcohol too frequently dims the light of being. The same applies to television and the Internet. Though they enrich our lives, they are like memory and anticipatory thinking in the sense that they keep us away from the joy of the moment, as well as frustrating our deep need for community. A perfect evening would be without either of these two fixtures of modern life. It would be spent with friends and family. Instead of staring at screens, there would be conversations, laughter, and love. It would be a moment fully lived. ♡



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Venue Finder

Venues	Museums & Galleries
Austur Austurstræti 7 D3	ART67 Laugavegur 67 F7 Open daily 9-21
American Bar Austurstræti 8 D3	Ásmundarsalur Freyjugata 41 G6 Open Tue-Sun 8-17
Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54 E5	Ásgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74 G4 July 8-Sep 1, Mon-Fri
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The Map

Get the bigger, more detailed version of The Reykjavík Grapevine City Map at your nearest hotel or guesthouse, with selections from our Best-Of awards, vital info, downtown bus stops and a wider view of the city.

Dining

1. Blackbox Pizza

Borgartún 26

Blackbox is a solid competitor for best pizza pie in the city. Thin crust, inventive toppings, delivery—what else could you ask for? We'd particularly recommend the Parma Rucola, which serves up all the parma ham goodness you could wish for. For those journeying outside the city, they've also got a location in Akureyri.

2. Chikin

Ingólfsstræti 2

This ain't your mama's KFC. No, Chikin—Reykjavík's first dedicated hot chicken and bao joint—manages to be at once both totally sophisticated foodie cuisine and also food that'll definitely fill the hole in your soul you usually quench with a spicy Twister. So grab some chicken with pickled daikon, shiitake mushrooms, miso mayo and lots of other delicacies.

3. Hosiló

Hverfisgata 12

A newcomer on the block who has certainly made a big stir! Hosiló is a small spot—seating around 30 patrons at full capacity—that offers an eclectic rotating menu of local fresh food. The offerings feature meals from around the world, from French cuisine to Northern Africa goodness, and much more.

4. Kaffi Laugalækur

Laugarnesvegur 74a

For many a young parent, the cafe stop at the end of a long stroll is the proverbial pot of gold. Kaffi Lækur is especially popular with new parents, with a special kids' corner for crawlers and drawers. The generously topped chicken and pesto 'litla gula hænán' and the 'shawaramabake' are our top lunch picks. Also, if you're keto, don't miss 'em,

5. Brauð & Co

Frakkastígur 16

First off—don't miss Brauð & Co's pretzel croissants unless you really don't want to have a spiritual experience. We also swear by their "snuður"—cinnamon bread rolls smothered with a sugary glaze. They take it a step further and stuff the classics with blueberries and whatnot, eliciting inappropriate satisfied moans. Get there early to snatch a warm one.

6. Snaps

Pórgata 1

Year after year, regardless of how many restaurants open and close, Snaps remains a timeless classic. Be it lunch, date-night dinner, lazy weekend brunches or a boisterous Christmas work party, Snaps is the perfect venue for a boatload of memories. Steady standbys include the deeply savoury onion soup (with a union of its own we suspect), the house-made fries with crispy rosemary that begs to be a meal on its own, and a textbook crème brûlée topped with an envious snap.

7. Hlemmur Mathöll

Hlemmur

Once a bus station and now a bustling food hall—we love a repurposed space. Hlemmur Mathöll is a classic in the Reykjavík dining scene, with everything from Vietnamese street food to delicious gelato to old school Italian pizza present. Yum.

8. Dragon Dim Sum

Bergstaðastræti 4

For those of us longing for dim sum in Reykjavík, cravings have often had to be satisfied with daydreams of visits past to dim sum houses of Chinatowns abroad. But then Dragon Dim Sum arrived with their fare, which is the perfect marriage between Icelandic ingredients and labouring of Asian dim sum passion. Don't miss their bao or shao mai, and don't worry, their carrot vegan dumplings are also sublime.

9. Lamb Street Food

Grandagarður 7

Pure Icelandic lamb with a middle eastern twist—that's what you'll get at this juicy local eatery where pure kebab is served up with no processed meat. For all you vegans though, never fear, the fresh made salads and hummus are equally wowing. This ain't your regular kebab spot.

10. Laundromat

Austurstræti 9

Have you ever wanted to have lunch and do your laundry in a public place? You're in luck. The Laundromat Cafe on Austurstræti is open (again) for business. Whether you want brunch, a sandwich, or a burger, they have a quality selection of food made to order. Their brunch ain't nothing to scoff at either,

11. Nauthóll

Nauthólsvegur 106

Just behind the University of Reykjavík overlooking the Nauthólsvík geothermal beach is Nauthóll, the definition of a hidden summertime gem. The restaurant is one of those places that downtown Reykjavík rats might call "too far away," but with the advent of public scooters, you can arrive there in style in but 15 minutes. Without hyperbole, there probably isn't a better outdoor view in the city than this place—and their Scandinavian fare is good too.

Drinking

12. Prikíð

Bankastræti 12

Prikíð is the bar version of the "I'm going to bed early tonight vs. me at 3 a.m." meme. At 22:00 you'll have a bunch of regulars relaxing at the bar sipping brews, but arrive at 3:00 and it's Project X. Their outdoor smoking area should be applauded too. Hang out long enough and you'll be sure to buddy up and find an afterparty.

13. Röntgen

Hverfisgata 12

If the cancellation of literally everything is damping your glamorous rock and roll style, Röntgen at Hverfisgata 12 will cure what ails you. This place—a relative newcomer—is already a stalwart in the bar scene, with a stellar atmosphere, great drinks and a lineup of the best DJs in Iceland. Just remember to raise a glass to the good doctor Wilhelm Röntgen (who discovered x-rays) while sipping your tipples.

14. Húrra

Tryggvagata 22

Húrra is BACK! ARE YOU SERIOUS? YES, WE ARE! After a despairing absence from the local scene, the beloved favourite has returned with a vengeance. Seriously—in the few weeks they've been open, the bar/venue has already had shows from heavyweights like Skrattar, Skóffinn and Mannveira. Stop by for vibes, alcohol and other fun things like that you know. Also, their bathroom renovation is pretty crazy.

15. Veður

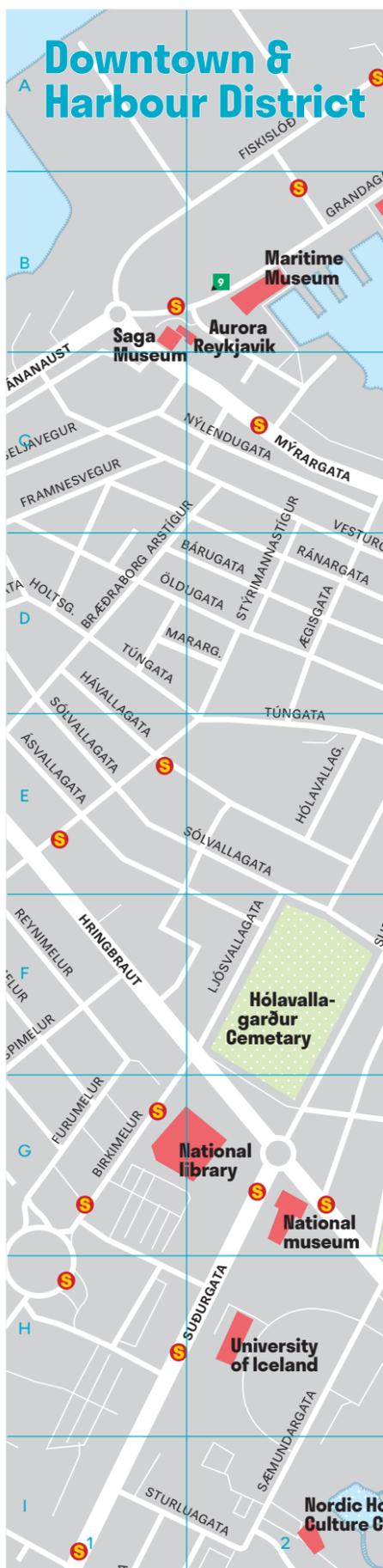
Klapparstígur 33

This charming, low-key, hole-in-the-wall serves up some great cocktails and a dedicated crowd that has grabbed the heart of the Grapevine, even though we are a magazine and not humans. If you feel fine relaxing and chatting, it's still a nice and sophisticated bar, but they've also got an edge. Sometimes they play punk music. \m/

16. Íslenski Barinn

Ingólfsstræti 1a

Of the many nation-themed drinking



establishments in Reykjavík, The Icelandic Bar is the only one that is also a restaurant. Go there at night and maybe you'll meet an elf or Björk or something—that's all people know about Iceland anyway.

17. Mál og Menning

Laugavegur 18b

Wait, a new bar/music venue? Yup! And you thought the pandemic had destroyed all culture in this town. But never fear—Bókabúðir Máls og Menningar is here. There's live music most nights, from DJs to jazz, and during the day, the legendary Bókin is operating from the basement. Seriously—we anticipate this place will be a game-changer in the local cultural scene. Takk fyrir.

E

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New In Town ☆



Loo.koo.mas

Laugavegur 30

Sure, donuts are cool, but have you ever had loukoumas? These Greek “donuts”—more accurately described as fried dough, traditionally drizzled with honey, cinnamon and sesame seeds—are a light, crispy, airy treat that you can pick up at Loo.koo.mas, which just opened up at Laugavegur 30. Served with a home-spun charm, loukoumas are fried to order, always fresh and make for a great snack while enjoying some window shopping. We recommend the chocolate and cream topping—yum! **ASF**

18. Dillon

Laugavegur 30

A mix between grunge and classy, Dillon Whiskey Bar dominates their little stretch of Laugavegur. Crammed most nights with rockers, metalheads, and tourists looking for a place to mumble AC/DC songs into their beer, Dillon boasts a wide selection of over 100 whiskies and hosts some of Iceland’s best hard rock bands on the weekends.

19. Petersen svítan

Austurstræti 12

The sun is finally out, which means it’s time for your annual pilgrimage to Petersen svítan. Never been? Well, make sure to bring your sunglasses

because this place has one of the best views in Reykjavik and also very fashionable clientele. Look over the city and have a beer in almost entirely direct sunlight (!!!!!!!!).

Shopping

20. Íslenska Húðflúrstofan

Ingólfsstræti 3

This classic shop caters to all styles, with a roster of artists that serve up everything from realism to neo-school and more. We’d particularly recommend the hand-poked pieces by Habba (@habbanerotattoo). Not only are they gorgeously ornate in that straight-out-of-800-AD-way, but they might save you from spirits.

21. Nielsen Sérverzlun

Bankastræti 4

Way more than your average design store, Nielsen is filled to the brim with knick-knacks from all over, from gorgeous diaries to cosy towels and all the candles you could desire. Stop by, grab something for a gift and don’t forget a little something for yourself.

22. Fótógrafi

Skólavörðustígur 22

Fótógrafi claims to have been one of the first photo galleries in town. While its interior is tiny, there’s a surprising number of photos to be found inside. The pictures on display are mainly shot in Reykjavik or

elsewhere in Iceland and all of them have a slightly different, edgy take on the island, instead of adding to the abundance of touristy subjects.

23. Stefánsbúð/p3

Laugavegur 7

Stefánsbúð showcases local designers and second-hand high-fashion finds (hello 1990’s Gucci!) as well as accessories from quirky international brands. Fun and zany, you don’t know what you’re going to find but you know it’ll be exciting.

24. Lucky Records

Rauðarárstígur 10

Lucky Records is probably the biggest record shop in Iceland, with

shelves upon shelves of new and used vinyl and CDs on offer. If that’s not enough, they’re notorious for their expert staff whose knowledge goes far beyond the latest Björk or Sigur Rós offerings. In fact, it’s best if you just let them take the lead.

25. Húrra Reykjavík

Hverfisgata 18A

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“Every walk in the mountains or the forests is a black metal moment. Black metal is an echo of nature in my books.”



Adrian looking truly grim

Untamed Negativity

Adrian Brachmann’s explosive entrance to black metal

Words: Erik Pomrenke Photos: Provided by Adrian

Album

Listen to Adrian’s work at nidstong.bandcamp.com and akthganaheth.bandcamp.com.

For the last two years, Iceland has been cursed with a deluge of heavy albums and EP’s, bursting upon us like rats pouring out of Nosferatu’s crypt. With various projects, including Äkth Gánahëth, Níðstöng, Fimbulþul, Spectral Full Moon, Úlfhéðinn and others, the appearance of the mysterious Adrian Brachmann on the Icelandic Black Metal scene was sudden and prodigious.

It is not often that a musician emerges ex nihilo with so many ideas and his corpus to date represents something of an omnibus of contemporary extreme music, dabbling in dark ambient, black metal, hardcore punk and noise. Clearly, Adrian is not a man who spent his lock-down watching Netflix.

Raw productivity

“Currently, I have four main projects going,” Adrian says, as if it were the most natural thing in the world. “Two of them are black metal projects and two are what one would call dark ambient or dungeon synth. While they all have a common influences, I definitely see them as completely different ideas.”

Adrian is something of a black metal traditionalist, citing bands like Darkthrone, Ildjarn and Celtic Frost as important influences. But his traditionalism is by no means small-mindedness and he fervently listens to everything from hardcore bands like Integrity and G.I.S.M. to Berlin-school ambient and neofolk. “Outside influences can lead to great results from time

to time,” he admits. But with regard to his own creative projects, he generally stays true to metal.

Of course, not all of us hoard rare Norwegian demo tapes. So for readers unacquainted with these niche subgenres—what does Adrian’s music actually sound like? “Raw, cold and primitive,” is his terse response.

What is Icelandic black metal?

Like so many artists, Adrian draws inspiration from the landscape and nature of Iceland. That said—he’s originally from Germany and only moved here some years ago.

“I’d consider my music Icelandic insofar as Iceland has been the environment that surrounded me when I wrote and recorded it,” Adrian states. “Iceland itself has had tremendous influence on how the music turned out in the end.”

Icelandic black metal has developed a very distinct sound in the last years, but the sounds of Äkth Gánahëth and Níðstöng represent a departure from the more dissonant, anxious sound of household favourites Misþyrming and Svartíðauði. In contrast, both Äkth Gánahëth and Níðstöng are more energetic, punky, affirmative and, dare one say, fun?

“Musically, I don’t see myself anywhere near any of the bands on this island, although I respect them a lot,” Adrian confesses. “My influences come from a different part of black metal.”

Untamed negativity

Adrian was raised on a steady diet of extreme metal and hardcore from the tender age of 15, citing the “relentless raw energy and untamed display of negative emo-

tion” as what drew him into the scene. “Every walk in the mountains or the forests is a black metal moment,” he explains. “Black metal is an echo of nature, in my books.”

Although Adrian’s previous band, Fourth Crusade, was a vegan metallic hardcore project—quite different sonically from his dungeon synth and ambient projects—there is, as Adrian explains, a spiritual continuity between them.

“I would always view music or art in general as a vessel of the artist’s spirit,” he says. “Hence, I al-

ways see a connection of music and some certain set of views or ideologies that are reflected in it. What I think and what I love or hate will always be a central influence on my music, even if it’s not necessarily reflected in the lyrics.”

In times of plague

Of course, it’s impossible for an artist to not be affected in some way by COVID. For a solo artist, however, COVID also presented some opportunities for creative productivity.

“The consequences of the pandemic were the cradle of the music that I create these days. Without COVID and all the frustrations and anger that it has caused me I’d likely never have recorded these songs,” Adrian says.

Recording solo allows for great freedom and while many of us were wasting away in quarantine, Adrian was furiously producing material.

“People started to vent through music and art so I think this pandemic pushed the creativity in many individuals all over the globe and helped them to create art from honest feelings,” he concludes. “As of now, I can’t really tell what will happen after this. But I don’t really see it all ending anytime soon.”

So have we seen the end of Adrian’s curse? The omens say otherwise. 🍀



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Event Picks



Brennuöld Fest 2021 ★

Aug. 28th - 13:00 - KEX Hostel - 4,500 ISK

A new festival? Count us in. Brennuöld fest, based at KEX Hostel, is all about the darkest,

gloomiest and most eerie tunes around, meaning it'll be a good palate cleanser from

all the cute acoustic music you usually get in the Icelandic summer. Featuring a lineup of Grapevine goth favourites Kælan Mikla, U.K. doom droners Bismuth, Dutch black metal duo Doodswens, other Grapevine faves PORT, and more, it'll be sure to dim the midnight sun with some much needed leather and lace. Dress to depress. (But don't forget to have fun.) (Or don't.) (Fun might be anti-goth in your view.) (Not in ours.) (We love fun and also crying to 'The Crow' alone in our rooms.) **HJC**



The Office Pub Quiz ★

Aug. 19th - 21:00 - Lebowski Bar - Free!

Sip on a nice Merlot with an oaky afterbirth and eat some mixed berry yoghurt as you flex your knowledge of The Office. Make sure to show up early so you don't have to sit in the annex and note that scores will be counted with the Kelevin, so we can't promise it'll be accurate. Also, don't wear green. It's whorish. **HJC**



The Vintage Caravan ★

Aug. 28th - 21:00 - IDNÓ - 4,000 ISK

Psychedelic rockers The Vintage Caravan released their fifth album, 'Monuments,' last April and now that we're all vaccinated, they're finally having their hotly-anticipated release show. So expand your mind (no drugs required) and take a trip that'll probably include a lot of fringe and guitar solos. **HJC**



MUSIC NEWS The recent uptick in COVID cases meant that the many festivals of Verslunarmanahelgi, Iceland's beloved party weekend, have been cancelled or rescheduled. **Pjóðhátíð**—the biggest one—has been postponed and is currently expected to be held sometime at the end of the summer. All tickets are still valid but they can also be refunded or transferred to Pjóðhátíð 2022. **Innipúkinn** has similarly been cancelled, with an option to either have your ticket refunded or opt to donate the money to the artists affected. Laugarbakk's **Norðanpunk** won't be held either and—you guessed it—tickets will be valid for next year's festival or refunded. Lastly, the newest festival on the market—Gaukurinn's **Hljóðhátíð í eyrum**—has been rescheduled to run October 7th to 10th. The lineup and tickets will remain the same, though there is an option for a refund. So... we guess 2022 will be fun. Thanks, Delta.

August 6th—September 2nd

Concerts & Nightlife

Events listed are all live performances and DJs. Venues are listed by day. For complete listings and detailed information on venues visit grapevine.is/happening. Send your listings to: listings@grapevine.is.

Friday August 6th

★ REYKJAVÍK PRIDE ★

Shameless: A Proud Comedy Show With Kimi Taylor & Jono Duffy
19:00 Tjarnarbió
Drag Djók: Lady Bunny, Sherry Vine, Heklina & More!
20:00 Gamla Bió
Apocalyptic Pride Drag Show
20:00 Gaukurinn
Queer Jazz
21:00 Mál og Menning
Queer Cruise
18:30 Elding Whale Watching
DJ Þorgerður Jóhanna
20:00 Kex Hostel

Saturday August 7th

★ REYKJAVÍK PRIDE ★

Pride Parade!
14:00 Reykjavík
Party Karaoke - Pride Edition!
20:00 Gaukurinn
CYBER
20:00 Kex Hostel
Drag Brunch
11:00 Gamla Bió
Your Silent Radiance - Seigla
12:00 Harpa
Final Recital: Spanisches Liederspiel - Seigla
20:00 Harpa
Organ Summer
12:00 Hallgrímskirkja

Monday August 9th

Krullan
20:00 Mál og Menning

Tuesday August 10th

Karaoke Party!
20:00 Gaukurinn

Wednesday August 11th

Múlinn Jazz Club: Arctic Swing Sextet
20:00 Harpa
Continue
20:00 Gaukurinn

Folk Music Night

20:00 Kex Hostel
Then I Will Rejoice And Cry: Schumann & Schubert
20:00 Harpa

Thursday August 12th

Una Stef & The SP74
20:00 Mál og Menning
Tuð & Hælsæri
20:00 Gaukurinn
Pub Quiz
20:00 Kex Hostel
A Magical World of Two Pianos
20:00 Harpa

Friday August 13th

Inspector Spacetime & DJ Óli Dóri
20:00 Kex Hostel
Dömer og herra Burlesque Show
20:00 Tjarnarbió
Mikael Máni: Nostalgia Machine
20:00 Harpa
Valborg Ólafs
20:00 Gaukurinn
Jónas Sig
20:00 Bæjarbió

Saturday August 14th

★ **Misþyrming & Vonlaus**
20:00 Gaukurinn
Creative Mending Workshop
15:00 RVK Tool Library
Clowning Around: Circus Day
13:30 Fimleikar Fylkir
Jónas Sig
20:00 Bæjarbió
Organ Summer
12:00 Hallgrímskirkja

Sunday August 15th

Dungeons & Dragons Night
20:00 Gaukurinn
Kristinn Smári Kristisson & Trio
16:00 Harpa
Seed Harvesting Workshop
15:00 RVK Tool Library

Tuesday August 17th

Karaoke Party!
20:00 Gaukurinn

Wednesday August 18th

Jack & Joey
20:00 Gaukurinn

Thursday August 19th

★ **The Office Pub Quiz**
21:00 Lebowski Bar
Benni Hemm Hemm
20:00 Kex Hostel
New Classics & The Icelandic Symphony
20:00 Harpa
Klaki
20:00 Gaukurinn

Friday August 20th

★ **Toolraiser 2021**
17:00 Prikið
Sykur & Vill
20:00 Kex Hostel
Volcanova: Radical Waves Release
19:00 Húrra

Saturday August 21st

★ **Toolraiser 2021**
14:00 R6013 & Prikið
Party Karaoke!
20:00 Gaukurinn

Sunday August 22nd

Bokashi Composting Workshop
15:00 RVK Tool Library

Tuesday August 24th

Karaoke Party!
20:00 Gaukurinn

Wednesday August 25th

KisiMjá, El Royalé & Pinulitlar peysur
20:00 Gaukurinn

Thursday August 26th

Iceland Country Music Festival 2021: Sycamore Tree
20:30 Bæjarbió
Pub Quiz
20:00 Kex Hostel
Krullan
20:00 Gaukurinn
Upcycle Candle Workshop
17:00 RVK Tool Library

Friday August 27th

Iceland Country Music Festival 2021: Klaufar

20:30 Bæjarbió

Valdimar
20:30 Harpa
Úlfúð
20:00 Gaukurinn
DJ Silja Glömmi
20:00 Kex Hostel

Saturday August 28th

★ **Brennuöld Fest**
13:00 Kex Hostel
★ **The Vintage Caravan**
21:00 IDNÓ
Jón Jónsson
21:00 Harpa
Reykjavík Jazz Festival: LILJA & Kathrine Windfelt Sextet
20:00 Harpa
Reykjavík Jazz Festival: hist og
22:30 Harpa
Coney Island Show
20:00 Gaukurinn
Iceland Country Music Festival 2021: Axel O & Stefania Svavars
20:30 Bæjarbió

Sunday August 29th

Björk Orkestral
17:00 Harpa
Singer/Songwriter Night
20:00 Gaukurinn
Reykjavík Jazz Festival: Stína Ágústsdóttir, Henrik Linder, Joel Lyssarides & Family Band
20:00 Harpa

Monday August 30th

Reykjavík Jazz Festival: Hröðmar Sigurðsson & Ludvig Kári Quartet
20:00 Harpa

Tuesday August 31st

Reykjavík Jazz Festival: Þorgrímur Jónsson, Rósa Guðrún & Strokkvartettinn Saggi
20:00 Harpa
Karaoke Party!
20:00 Gaukurinn
Margskonar Rómantik
20:00 Harpa

Wednesday September 1st

Reykjavík Jazz Festival: Andrea's Bluesmen
20:00 Harpa
Reykjavík Jazz Festival: Anna Gréta Trio & Ambrose Akinmusire Quartet
20:00 Harpa

Thursday September 2nd

Reykjavík Jazz Festival: Broken Cycle Trio & ASTRA
20:00 Harpa



On August 27th, record label **Sono Luminus** will drop a world premiere recording of Grapevine-favourite (and former cover star) **Anna Þorvaldsdóttir's first string quartet**. It'll be played by the three-time Grammy nominated **Spektral Quartet**, who originally commissioned the work and performed it live for the first time at the Kenny Center in 2019. It's Anna's first string quartet and, as you'd expect from the composer, it's been described as a sonic tapestry that pushes the boundaries of the instruments. Spektral violinist Doyle Armburst called it, "devastatingly personal and profoundly expansive at the same time." Just what we need to cheer up.



Greek conductor and pianist **Kornilios Michailidis** has been named **Conductor-in-Residence at the Iceland Symphony Orchestra** for the upcoming season. There are many projects on the roster, including an abridged version of Mozart's *Magic Flute*, new symphonic music by **Högni Egilsson** and the Icelandic premiere of **Daniel Bjarnason's 'From Space I Saw Earth'**. According to our research, it's *not* about Jeff Bezos. **HJC**

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RAGNA RÓBERTSDÓTTIR
10 June - 28 August 2021

Art

“They are just so full of ideas and energy. And they are so confident.”



The teens doing a show inspired by the Pansy Craze of the 1930s

Queer Teens! To The Streets!

The shining, inspiring family of Pride's Queer Street Theatre workshop

Words: [Hannah Jane Cohen](#) Photos: [Art Bicnick](#)

an award-winning rapper and even a trombone player, which Kimi—a former trombone player herself—is particularly obsessed with. “They were practising a number from Moulin Rouge and at one point I’m like, trombone solo here?” She laughs.

A force of nature

For Kimi and Sigurður, working with the teens has also made them re-examine their own queer youths.

“Oh, it was completely different,” Kimi says quietly, of her own experiences. “I wasn’t out [at their age]. And the dialogue was so different. I certainly didn’t have a queer group of friends growing up because nobody was out. So it’s really lovely to be around young people who are expressing who they are through their art. And they have such clear voices.”

“It’s almost overwhelming at times,” Sigurður adds. “You can’t help but think, ‘Oh, if I had that or if this was everywhere!’ Just think of all the crap you could have skipped by figuring yourself out then.”

“Seeing the relationships they are building together as a group. Just watching them dancing as a group outside Hallgrímskirkja. They were like a little force of nature,” Kimi concludes. “When they are doing that, nothing can touch them. And that makes my heart warm.”

Street Theatre

Check out the Queer Street Theatre at [@youthpridestreettheatre2021](#) on Instagram and [@youthpridestreettheatre](#) on TikTok.

“There is so much self-expression here—I feel very free!” Freya, a member of the new teenage Queer Street Theatre workshop excitedly gushes. Though it’s just her fourth day in the program, the group—all queer and between the ages of 15 and 17—already seem like a family. “It’s been great,” Syd, another member, chimes in. “Everything we are doing has a purpose even if it’s just fooling around. This all means something to us,” they say sentimentally.

Over Reykjavík Pride, the teens will take to the streets daily to perform. The workshop has quickly become more than just an outlet for choreography or comedy for the group. It’s a much-needed oasis, a place where they, as queer youths, can find their own tribe—people who understand them on a level many others won’t.

“I think it’s super fun to have people to just be idiots with. That doesn’t happen enough,” performer Þór adds, smiling broadly. “Social anxiety? Bye!”

Trombone solo?

“They are just so full of ideas and energy. And they are so confident,” project facilitator (and resident ‘Cool Aunt’) Kimi Tayler raves of the group. “Yes, we were definitely not that confident,” Pride Festival Manager Sigurður Starr Guðjónsson adds, laughing. “But to be that age and so out, proud and loud. I love that we are able to give a platform for that and I hope that it

inspires others just as much as it inspires us.”

From the get-go, the plan was to have daily performances throughout Pride from the 3rd to the 8th to August. That said, Kimi and Sigurður couldn’t have anticipated just how passionate the group would be.

“They want to do everything and more,” Kimi says. “Today, I went out for lunch and I came back and they weren’t there. Then I got a message, ‘Kimi, come to Hallgrímskirkja!’ I go there and they are in the street doing dance routines.” She beams—an extremely proud aunt.

“They’ve come up with some really fun and joyful ideas, but there are also some quieter performances. They are really intensely reflecting on their community,” Kimi continues. “They want to have a dance party one day and something like a memorial the next. It’s amazing to see such different reflections.”

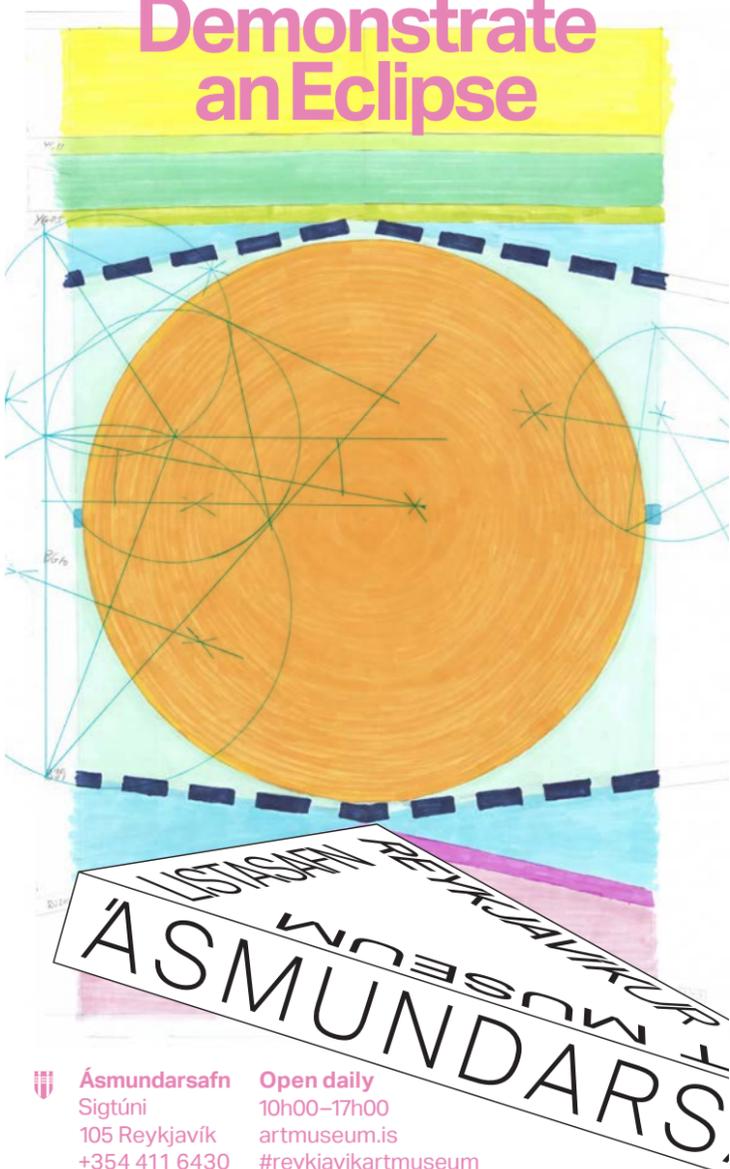
The group is certainly a multi-talented bunch. They’ve got singers, dancers, actors, roller skaters,



Kimi “The Cool Aunt” Tayler, along with Syd and Þór

13.05.–03.10.2021

Sirra Sigrún Sigurðardóttir
Ásmundur Sveinsson
As If to
Demonstrate
an Eclipse



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Our Picks



★ Intruder

Until August 28th - Blanda in Blönduós

Shoplifter. Need While you might be used to seeing

the legendary artist's kaleidoscopic works gracing the walls of the most established art galleries, this time, she's taken it to the remote island of Hrótey in Blönduós in Northern Iceland. Set in the natural cacophony of the small island, the artificial nature of her large-scale hair-stallation is put in stark context. For those unacquainted with Shoplifter's style, she uses vibrant artificial hair to create alien worlds that'll make you feel you're entering a new dimension—one where the walls crawl with dizzying cotton candy and sickly sweet skies. We'd like her to redecorate the Grapevine office and plan on crowdfunding our efforts at the nearest opportunity. Pls donate. No, seriously. **HJC**



★ Hulda Vilhjálmstöðir

Aug. 14th-Sept. 4th - Pula

If Pula is putting it up, you know it's good. This exhibition features Hulda Vilhjálmstöðir in an exploration of nature and abstract, old

and new. She's one of the most prolific artists in the country—within close to 50 solo exhibitions and 40 group exhibitions on her record. We love a hard worker. **HJC**



★ Voyage

Until Aug. 28th - Y Gallery

Your favourite gas-station-cum-gallery is here with a new exhibition, this one by Pór Sigurþórsson. Pór's work explores the passage of time;

something we've all become extremely acquainted with during the last year and a half. **HJC**



★ Iðavöllur

Until Oct. 17th - Hafnarhús

The title 'Iðavöllur' refers to the location in the Völuspá where gods meet to reassemble the world following Ragnarök. Here, Hafnarhús makes

their own meeting place, where a massive group of artists show their work reflecting on the new millennium. Unsure if Baldr will be in attendance. **HJC**

August 6th-September 2nd

Art Listings

Events are listed by venue. For complete listings and detailed information on venues, visit grapevine.is/happening.

Send your listings to: listings@grapevine.is

Opening

GALLERY PORT

Guðlaug Mía & Jóhanna Kristbjörg
Guðlaug Mía and Jóhanna Kristbjörg come together for this upcoming exhibition. There's scant information on it right now, but knowing Gallery Port and the duo, it'll be special.
• Opens on August 7th, 2021
• Runs until August 19th, 2021

Ongoing

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

Of The North
'Of the North' (2001) is created from Steina Vasulka's archive of video recordings, mostly of Icelandic nature—either the surface or microscopic views: microbes, as well as crashing waves and melting ice, landslips and an array of natural phenomena relating to the formation and destruction of our planet.
• Runs until January 9th, 2022

HELLO UNIVERSE

It's 2021 and we're over Earth. Enter Finnur Jónsson. The avant-garde art of Finnur—the first Icelandic artist to address outer space in his works, in the first half of the 20th century—presents the artist's unfettered interpretation of the marvels of the celestial bodies, which are the theme of this exhibition. Always remember: We are but matter experiencing itself on a pale blue dot.
• Runs until January 9th, 2022

Death Is Elsewhere

Ragnar Kjartansson's opus "Death is Elsewhere" made its debut in 2019 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Now, it's back in the artists hometown for a summer long residency at the National Gallery. Featuring ya fav musician twins GYÐA, Kristín Anna, and (randomly) those two brothers from the National, the seven-channel video installation sees a single song played without end in a continuous loop. Filmed around the summer solstice in southern Iceland, "Death is Elsewhere" is a referential work that turns romantic clichés on their head with irony, nihilism and absurdity to spare
• Runs until September 19th, 2021

EINAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM

Permanent Exhibition
The museum contains close to

300 artworks including a beautiful garden with 26 bronze casts of the artist's sculptures.

REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM

Settlement Exhibition
As Viking ruins meet digital technology, this exhibition provides insight into Reykjavík's farms at the time of the first settlers.

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The Silent But Noble Art
Sigurhans Vignir (1894-1975) left the museum an archive of around 40,000 photographs. Many of these document everyday Icelandic society just after the creation of the Republic of Iceland in 1944—a christening, labourers at work, people skating, the occupation of Iceland during World War II by British troops, a beauty pageant, a birthday party, a wigmaker... and so on.
• Runs until September 19th, 2021

REYKJAVÍK MARITIME MUSEUM

Fish & Folk
Name a better duo than fish and Iceland. You can't. So come learn about the history of Icelandic fisheries from row boats to monstrous trawlers.

Melckmeyt 1659

Melckmeyt was a Dutch merchant ship that crashed near Flatey Island in 1659. Explore the wreck here, with two images of different origins against each other.

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

Kristín Porkelsdóttir
You've probably seen Kristín Porkelsdóttir's work before though you might not know it. She's designed the packaging of countless foods as well as Icelandic banknotes and other famous items. Come see her progression as an artist.
• Runs until January 30th, 2022

Behind the Scenes — Natural Dyes: A Modern Perspective

Where do textile colours come from? Nowadays many are chemical, but this project shows the wide range of colours one can produce naturally in Iceland.
• Runs until September 12th, 2021

Miniatures

Modelmaker Sveinbjörn Gunnarsson takes up residence at the Design Museum. Come watch the exemplary

artist transform ordinary materials into the extraordinary right in front of your eyes.

• Runs until September 19th, 2021

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

Eternal Recurrence

Jóhannes S. Kjarval—after whom the museum is named—is put in dialogue with a number of prominent contemporary Icelandic artists including Ólafur Elíasson, Ragnar Kjartansson, Steina and Eggert Pétursson. Now that's a lineup.
• Runs until September 19th, 2021

HAFNARBORG

Discotheque

Arnfinnur Amazeen's exhibition presents new works that draw inspiration from the ambiguous imagery of Icelandic night club culture in the seventies and eighties. While the title is a reference to revelry, what we have here is nonetheless a rather dreary discotheque. There is no glitz and glamour to be found here, only the subtle indication of something that has already happened.
• Runs until August 15th, 2021

Cadence

Guðmunda Andrésdóttir is one of Iceland's most influential abstract painters. Beginning in the 1950s, she was part of the Icelandic geometric abstraction movement—and notably one of the only women. She's known for intriguing contradictions that explore the difference between the sensitive and the calculated, the emotional and the rational. Come give her the respect she deserves.
• Runs until August 22nd, 2021

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - ÁSMUNDARSAFN

Sirra Sigrún Sigurðardóttir & Ásmundur Sveinsson: As If To Demonstrate An Eclipse

Sirra's work is cosmic in nature, often connected to speculation about our position within the inner workings of nature, physics and the forces that drive the world. Her works often display our position as individuals, our significance and insignificance. As an existentialist paper, who ruminated on our own obscurity, we can't agree more.
• Runs until October 3rd, 2021

Design for Sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson

Five product designers take over the museum shop at Ásmundarsafn with objects inspired by Ásmundur Sveinsson's world and heritage.
• Runs until October 3rd, 2021

HÍÐ ÍSLENSKA BÓKMENNTAFÉLAG

Abstract Reality

The ground floor of the Hotel Saga will play host to a series of abstract art works by Valtýr Pétursson. He

used abstraction to express sudden cultural, social and political shifts in Iceland, so his pieces are the perfect thing to stare at and reflect on our own relatively abstract times. But don't worry: it's an uplifting and colourful exhibition, so no need to bring the tissues.
• Runs until August 31st, 2021

NORDIC HOUSE

Rockscramblers

Rockscramblers is inspired by the illustrated poetry of poet Mats Söderlund and illustrator Kathrina Skarðsá. On view are the illustrations and poetry in their original forms and one can also interact with a mysterious recording of Söderlund himself, a cave where young visitors can have a cozy time and (!!!) a new climbing wall.
• Runs until September 5th, 2021

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS

Iðavöllur: Icelandic Art in the 21st Century

In 2021, Reykjavík Art Museum focuses on the microenvironment, with an aim of displaying the growth of the Icelandic art scene. The whole Hafnarhús becomes the setting for a powerful exhibition of new works by young artists who may be considered to be in the lead for their generation, and assumptions can also be made about the larger context of Icelandic and international contemporary art.
• Runs until October 17th, 2021

GERÐARSAFN KÓPAVOGUR ART MUSEUM

Object of Desire

A collaboration between Singapore and Iceland, 'Object of Desire' will travel between both countries with an exploration of "things" (i.e. the desire, distribution, and reproduc-

tion of "things"). Anti-consumerists rejoice.

• Runs until August 26th, 2021

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

Kristján Magnússon

Backyards, sheds, clothes-lines and, now and then, a cat. Photographer Kristján Magnússon trains his lens exclusively on a narrow, enclosed swath of the urban environment: the back-lots of residential areas in the older parts of Reykjavík.

• Runs until August 29th, 2021

Spessi 1990-2020

Spessi, a.k.a. Sigurþór Hallbjörnsson, has forged a unique style within the field of fine-art photography. His work presents cold hard reality, unvarnished and uncensored. Hidden pockets of society are prominent in his work, interspersed with cultural life. His choice and handling of material is provocative, yet also imbued with humanity and humour.

• Runs until August 22nd, 2021

HARBINGER

Earth Abides

Guðrún Tára Sveinsdóttir is all about the inner world. Combining words, video and music in her works, she gives access to one's own mind and deepest emotions. Here, she uses everything from knitting needles to silk dresses to show the challenges of daily life in the loveliest way.
• Runs until August 21st, 2021

GERÐURBERG

Non-stop Vibrating

You might have heard about the vandalism of Sígga Björg Sigurðardóttir's work in her newest exhibition. Now, after a short break, it's back. "It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see." - Thoreau
• Runs until August 13th, 2021

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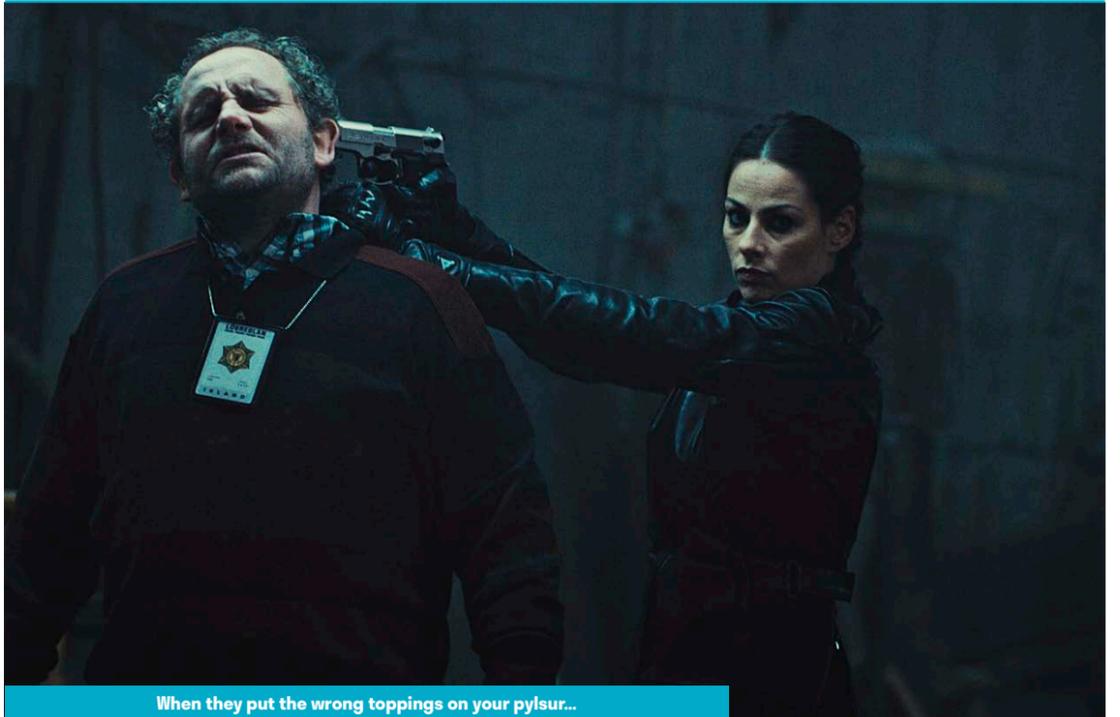
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Film



When they put the wrong toppings on your pylsur...

A Super-Cop Solving Crimes

'Leynilögga' brings action and comedy to the Icelandic film scene

Words: **Alina Maurer** Photo: **Stills from 'Leynilögga'**

"I think it's a comedy made by people who want to be making an action movie," Hannes Þór Halldórsson laughs, referring to his upcoming directorial debut 'Leynilögga'. His name probably rings a bell—but from a totally different sector. A professional footballer and goalkeeper of the Icelandic national team, Hannes is unarguably most famous for saving a penalty kick from Lionel Messi in the World Cup in 2018. However, defending the goalposts is not his only passion—he has long been in the filmmaking industry, directing numerous advertisements and music videos. Now, he's finally here with a full-length feature.

Jack-of-all-trades

"I've been working as a filmmaker for 15 years. But now I've made my first feature film—which was always my goal—and earlier than I expected," he says. 'Leynilögga', he explains, is a comedy-action-drama, which is quite atypical for Icelandic filmmaking.

"Icelandic films often have this tendency to be quite slow and depressing. Many of them are good—

but they're not always fun," Hannes describes. "The core concept was to make an action movie placed in the small city of Reykjavík. None of the things happening make sense [...] but because we're making a comedy, we can allow ourselves everything."

The movie—which Hannes co-wrote with Nina Petersen and Sverrir 'Sveppi' Þór Sværnisson—is a romp through the lens of a cop.

"The cop's name is Bússi and he is the number one badass cop in Reykjavík. But then there's another guy, the best cop in Garðabær, and they're rivals. The two towns don't like each other," Hannes explains. "Then the two cops have to deal with a mysterious series of bank robberies, where nothing seems to be stolen. So they must partner up and there's a lot of tension between them."

Of course, there's a twist—no spoilers here—that Hannes promises will surprise viewers. All we can say is that the aforementioned macho-cop Bússi is dealing with some personal issues. "He needs to get over his own prejudice," Hannes elucidates. "There is a journey and we are taking the subject

seriously. We really worked on giving the movie soul."

Movie/football balance

The idea for 'Leynilögga' arose ten years ago, when Hannes took part in the popular Icelandic comedy show "Auddi & Sveppi". Just for fun, Sveppi and Hannes created a rough trailer for 'Leynilögga' and the idea was stuck.

"We had been talking about it for years after the trailer came out. In fact, we were contacted by movie companies in Iceland, so we wrote the first draft back in 2012. But then I became a professional football player and was abroad for six years and the project just fell to the side," Hannes says. Eventually, the production company Pegasus contacted the duo and the first seeds for success were sown. Now, 'Leynilögga' will premiere at the Locarno Film Festival, while screening in Icelandic movie theatres at the end of August.

This was a fun movie

Above all else, Hannes hopes this film will bring some laughter and joy in these difficult times. "I think people are thirsty for some fun movie entertainment, so this is a fantastic time to come out with Leynilögga," he muses.

"I just want people to say, 'This was a fun movie.' That's my number one goal," he concludes, pulling down his sunglasses and smiling. "But if it leaves something behind and raises some questions, that's a nice bonus." 🍷



A scene you see often on the streets of Reykjavík



An idyllic moment for the group

Definition Please?

Backwards or forwards, Ólafur Kram has a sound all their own

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

Music

Check out Ólafur Kram on all streaming platforms and catch them live at Toolraiser.

The winners of this year’s Músiktilraunir, Ólafur Kram quickly became a local favourite in the Reykjavík scene. Serving up a cacophony of genres, the band—which consists of trumpeter and singer Birgitta Björg Guðmarsdóttir, guitarist and singer Eydis Egilsdóttir Kvaran, bassist and singer Guðný Margrét Eyjólf, keyboardist and singer Iðunn Gígja Kristjánsdóttir, and drummer Sævar Andri Sigurðarson—has made a brand of punk all their own.

Yalpdrow

Ólafur Kram was originally called Gaia, but the group went back to the drawing board after many Icelanders had trouble pronouncing it. They spitballed other potential band names, but nothing felt right. Then, at the unlikelyst of times, inspiration struck—or rather, *noitarípsni* did.

“On Christmas night, I had an epiphany. It was like a lightning bolt from the sky that ‘Mark Ruffalo’ backwards is ‘Ólafur Kram,’” Birgitta laughs, causing the rest of the group to break into giggles.

“I think it’s an appropriate name in that our lyrics and the words we pick are very decisive and particular,” Eydis says. “There are many words hidden in our lyrics, so it’s appropriate that our band name is wordplay.”

The group cites songs that, when put in an acrostic poem, spell out the names of band members. They also often modulate rhyming words to create new imagery. “We’re playful in the way that, for example, *sjó* and *snjó*—the Icelandic words for sea and snow—sound very similar. So in one song, we say, ‘he’s throwing a seaball’ instead of a snowball and that they’re ‘swimming in the snow,’” Guðný explains.

Guðný also has some very powerful lyrical commentary on the hierarchy of the Icelan-

dic words for toaster, the group explains. “The word for toaster is very debated in the Icelandic community,” Birgitta reiterates. “Some people say *brauðrist* while others say *ristavél*.”

“Brauðrist is more proper,” Guðný asserts, smiling. “It’s more educated.” This then prompts a lively discussion on when and where it’s acceptable to use either term—a very Ólafur Kram moment.

Knup detacude

And just like their multifaceted exploration of language, musically, Ólafur Kram

is an anomaly. From one song to another, they seamlessly journey from punk to jazz to rock to even things like bossanova and disco. You just can’t define them—forwards or backwards.

“We always put our own flair on everything, which I think is this chaotic feeling,” Eydis muses. The others agree, describing their music as “educated punk”.

“We’re the result of coming from very different musical backgrounds. Like Iðunn has a lot of jazz in her musical background while I just listened to Taylor Swift,” Guðný laughs. “We have people that are very skilled and educated in their instruments and oth-

ers that are new.”

The group’s sound is, as they emphasise, ever-changing, so much so that they even regard their debut release ‘nefrennsli / krossaflens’ as more of a time-capsule of their sound at that particular time. In fact, they play most of those songs completely differently nowadays.

“Once we tried to write a waltz for couples to dance too, but then it wasn’t a waltz, it was a screaming song,” Guðný says, laughing.

“For us, in everything we do, we go in every direction we want,” she concludes.

“We always put our own flair on everything, which I think is this chaotic feeling.”



Another idyllic moment for the group, complete with a dog-friend

sushi
social

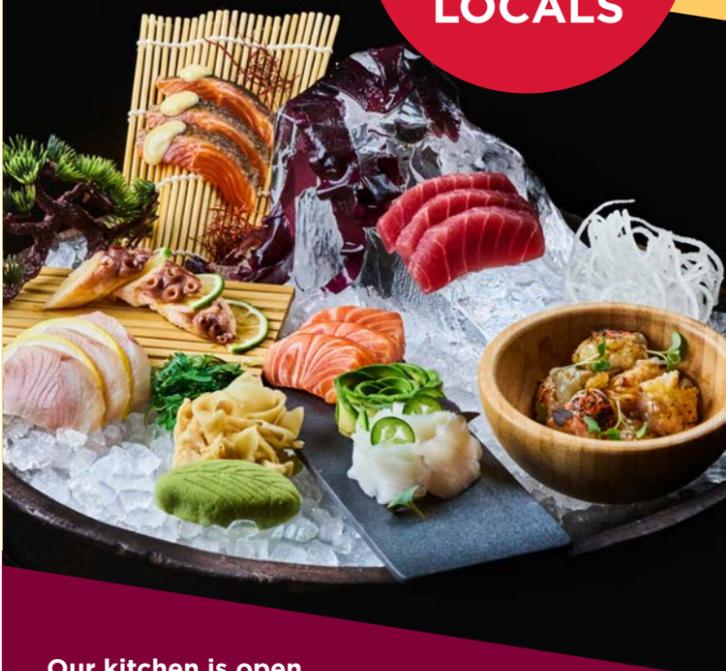
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Track By Track

The Reykjavik Grapevine 24
Issue 08—2021



The latest strain of Mannveira

'Vítahringur' By Mannveira

Once you start, there's no turning back

Words: **Erik Pomrenke & Mannveira** Photos: **Elvar Ö. Egilsson**

Album

Pick up Mannveira's 'Vítahringur' at record shops around Reykjavík or online at darkdescentrecords.bandcamp.com. You can also listen to it on all streaming platforms.

At the origin of every genre lies a raw energy that defies rules and norms, but inevitably, even the most extreme become restrained by convention. Mannveira's latest release—surprisingly their debut, although the band has been around for 10 years—rediscovers the purely manic misanthropy at the heart of black metal with some new influences, including some truly fucked up death industrial ritual cult shit in the intro and a generally more consonant and affirmative tone throughout. So if you're looking for a soundtrack for tearing someone's head off, here you go. We sat down with the group to talk about the album track by track.



Ópin rjúfa þögnina

Originally this song was just a riff that we jammed on during soundchecks and used to fill our timeslot, but we all felt that it deserved to be worked on a bit. And after a solid 45 minutes or so of collective stankface and thumbs-upping, we had a song. It's just the kind of dirty, sinister mid-tempo ball slapper that we all like, so it made perfect sense as an opener to the album.

Í köldum faðmi

Setting the tone for the rest of the album, "Í köldum faðmi" is about embracing self-destruction, i.e. willingly digging your own grave. The song itself flows surprisingly well considering how many different ideas were thrown at it. It also wasn't supposed to be the longest track of the album, but c'est la vie. The intro (as well as the rest of the ambient breaks on the album) were done in collaboration with D.G., who was a tremendous help in creating this album.

Vítahringur

"Vítahringur" was the first song we started writing on the album way back in 2015. It's a slow moving, heavy mood-ruiner in case

anyone was having too good of a time in the first half. It's also a constant reminder of how long it took to get this fucking album done.

"Vítahringur" is also more or less the idealistic hub of the entire album—it's all about finding solace in misery and the rude awakening when you realize there is no turning back.

It also has a guitar solo, which is fun?

Framtíðin myrt

Akin to the idea of no turning back, "Framtíðin myrt" is an abstract ode to ensuring there is no going back, as well as ruining the path ahead. The years that it took to get this album out into the world squeezed some of the post-teen angst and fury out of us, but not all of it, so this song was sort of inevitable. Possibly the least dissonant track of the album with probably the most nihilistic ideas behind it. Then again, not a lot of positivity throughout the album.

Kverkatak eilifra martraða

Very much the conclusion of the whole album, "Kverkatak eilifra martraða" is just an ugly, hateful pit of riffs and misery that dissolves into nothing toward the end. Very much a fitting end to "Vítahringur" as a whole.

"'Vítahringur' is a slow moving, heavy mood-ruiner in case anyone was having too good of a time in the first half."



Btw, they had nothing to do with the Delta variant (or so they claim)

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FUCKS YOU UP**

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BASTARD BREW
Every day from
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Beer 500 ISK,
Wine 700 ISK.

BRAVÓ
Every day from
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Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

BREWDOG
Wed-Sun
14:00 to 17:00.
Beer 990 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK.

CAFÉ BABALÚ
Every day from
19:00 to 21:00.
Beer 690 ISK,
Wine 795 ISK.

DILLON
Every day from
14:00 to 19:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 850 ISK.

FJALLKONAN
Every day from
15:00 to 17:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK.

FORRÉTTABARINN
Every day from
16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

ÍSLENSKI BARINN
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 700 ISK.

IDA ZIMSEN
Every day from
8:00 to 10:00.
Coffee 400 ISK.

**JUNGLE COCKTAIL
BAR**
Every day from
17:00 to 20:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

KAFFIBARINN
Every day from
15:00 to 20:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine (On Wed.)
800 ISK.

KAFFIBRENNSLAN
Every day from
16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 550 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

KALDI
Every day from
16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 850 ISK,
Wine 850 ISK.

KEX HOSTEL
Every day from
15:00 to 19:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

LAUNDRMAT
Every day from
20:00 to 22:00.
Beer 650 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK.

LOFT
Every day from
16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

MIAMI
Every day from
15:00 to 19:00.
Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK,
Cocktails 1,200
ISK.

PRIKID
Every day from
16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 600 ISK.

PUBLIC HOUSE
Every day from
15:00 to 18:00 &
23:00 to 1:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 890 ISK.

PUNK
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

PETERSEN SVÍTAN
Every day from
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Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

ROSENBERG
Every day from

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Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 950 ISK.

RÖNTGEN
Every day from
15:00 to 20:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK.

SÆTA SVÍNID
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

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Every day from
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Beer 790 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

SKÚLI CRAFT BAR
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Beer 900 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

SPÁNSKI BARINN
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SÓLON
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Wine 800 ISK.

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Every day from
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ÖLSTOFAN
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Wine 800 ISK.



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awaits to calm
your stressed
soul. Try the
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homemade
ginger beer and
be enchanted!
Happy hour at
Luna Flórens is
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Sunday at 16:00
to 19:00. See you
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pizza with 3
toppings -1,000
ISK-Vegan option

Tapas Barinn
Every day
17:00 - 18:00
Half off of
selected tapas
Various prices

Deig / Le Kock
Every day-All day
Doughnut,
coffee & bagel
-1,000 ISK

Sushi Social
Every day
17:00 - 18:00
Truffle potatoes
1,000 ISK
Avocado fries -
690 ISK
Lobster sushi,
ribs & more -
890 ISK

**1,500 ISK
And Under**

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búlla Tómasar**
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fries & soda -
1,390 ISK

Gló
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month - 1,290 ISK
Vegan option

Shalimar
Monday - Friday
12:00 - 14:30
Curry - 1,290 ISK
Vegan option

Sæta Svínid
Every day 15-18
Chicken wings -
1,190 ISK
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1,390 ISK

Sólon
Monday - Friday
11:00 - 14:30
Ceasar salad -
1,490 ISK

Lemon
Every day
16:00 - 21:00
2f1 Juice +
sandwich

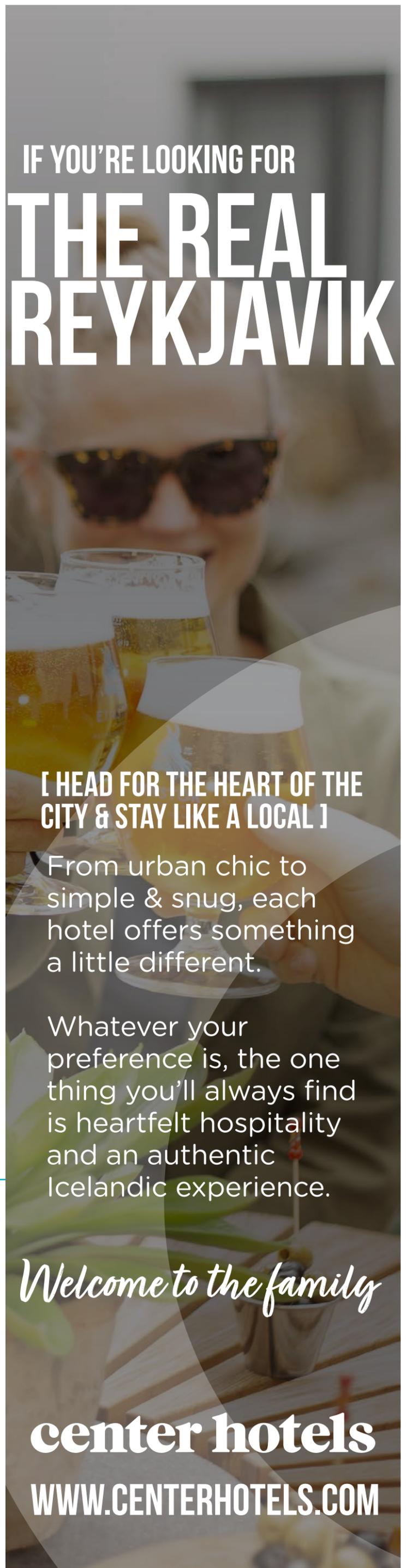
1,095 ISK
Vegan option

**Uppsaliir - Bar
and cafe**
Every day 11-14
Burger & fries -
1,390 ISK
Vegan option

**2,000 ISK
And Under**

Sólon
Monday - Friday
11:00 - 14:30
Fish of the day -
1,990 ISK

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Old Norse, New Audience

Dr. Jackson Crawford's Curious Path From Academia to YouTube

Words: Erik Pomrenke Photo: Provided by Dr. Jackson Crawford

Jackson, wishing you all the best from the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming

Up in the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming, a pickup truck pulls over and out steps a pair of cowboy boots. A man saunters toward the camera and, tipping his brimmed hat, begins to lecture about historical language change and umlaut mutation.

Far from a graduate school-fueled Lynchian fever dream, this is the work of Dr. Jackson Crawford, a man who has quietly become a minor internet celebrity by teaching Old Norse on YouTube. Incidentally, he also wears a cowboy hat.

From academia to YouTube

"There just wasn't a lot of good accessible information about it," Jackson explains. While he was teaching at the University of California Berkeley, Dr. Crawford had a revelation: although he was teaching one of the most popular undergraduate offerings, there was very little reliable information about it online. Also, like many graduate students, he was broke.

"It's like what they say about restaurants, you can get it cheap and fast, but it won't be good. You can get it fast and good, but it won't be cheap," he explains. "And then the information that was easy to get was often these gurus online shouting at you about how Thor wants you to get buff. So I thought, well, there's a niche here for someone who knows this stuff well, and isn't so personally wrapped up in some narrative about it."

He began uploading short videos to YouTube on topics like Old Norse grammar, pronunciation and misconceptions surrounding Norse mythology. He quickly developed an audience, becoming one of the most popular online sources for mythology, language and history.

A budding interest

Dr. Crawford's intellectual pursuits began, like many children, with dinosaurs.

When his middle school offered Latin class, he jumped at the chance to learn, he thought,

about their names. However, Latin quickly proved to be a gateway to a broader interest in languages and their origins. "From studying Latin, I realized that languages evolved," he recalls. "And because I could see that Spanish was a later continuation of the same language, I thought, well, what did English come from?"

These early questions led him to delve deeper and, like many a budding scholar, Dr. Crawford fondly remembers digging through piles of books in his younger years.

"There was this huge bookstore in Denver called Tattered Cover and my grandma took me down there," he says. "One day, I'm just picking through stacks of used books and I found a grammar of Old English. And because I had enough grammar from Latin to understand the grammar, I decided that language evolution was just the most fascinating thing in the world."

From there, he taught himself Old Norse in college and a lifelong love of words and the rules that govern them was born.

Family resemblance

"Something I always think about is þúert," he says. "Because it looks so alien on the surface. You learn how to say *ég er, þú ert*, and don't necessarily realize that it's English: thou art. These languages are so closely related that they have the exact same irregularities in the *be* verb. To me, that's just such a telling piece of deep connection."

One of Dr. Crawford's favorite etymological coincidences concerns the English words *do* and *gear*.

The English verb, *do*, and German *tun*, surface quite consistently throughout the Germanic languages, but this root is conspicuously absent from Scandinavia, which instead use derivations of *gera*. Through history, this verb did eventually find a place in English, although as Dr. Crawford describes it, it is a neglected corner of our language, the word *gear*. So when we *gear up* and *get ready*, we are quite simply "doing."

Interestingly, the *do* and *tun* words may be responsible for the past-tense of regular verbs throughout the Germanic languages, as one of the leading theories why Germanic languages end their past tense verbs with -d and -t is that these early Proto-Germanic speakers may have had

constructions analogous to "walk-did," which eventually shortened to "walked" with time.

Picking up the sagas

Of course, Dr. Crawford doesn't just teach about language. One subject that most attracts people

to both Iceland and Dr. Crawford's channel is the Icelandic family sagas, a literary genre that is half history, half artistic invention. For many people, this medieval literature can seem inaccessible, and Dr. Crawford has made it his mission to open this world to those who wouldn't otherwise be able to access it.

"One tip that I would give is don't be afraid to reread. You know, these stories were made by and for a culture where people's family ties were clearly very prominent in everyone's mind; you could keep track of these genealogies really easily. A saga will mention someone as an eighth cousin in Chapter 1, and when that person comes up again in Chapter 44, you're just supposed to remember this. There's no guardian angel of sagas who's hovering over you while you read it, but sometimes we have weird pride when reading, like I can't go back and check this."

Not a Viking, not a cowboy

Finally, one must ask—what's with the hat?

"I wanted people to see that you don't have to decide to be a Viking to be interested in this stuff. I'm really just being myself."

Dr. Crawford received his PhD in Old Norse and Historical Linguistics at the University of Wisconsin and taught at UCLA, UC Berkeley and University of Colorado. You can check him out at youtube.com/jacksoncrawford.

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Words: Hannah Jane Cohen
Photo: Art Bicnick

Oddný Svava Steinarsdóttir

Oddný Svava Steinarsdóttir (24) is a graphic designer, kindergarten teacher and drag queen Lola Von Heart.

Wearing:

- Jacket from Gallerí Sautján
- Some old shirt and cardigan
- H&M Men pants
- Rake! Tómasdóttir scarf
- Random jewelry
- Doc Martens—they're old, withered, torn and loved

Describe your style in 5 words:

First off, **sizeless**. We all know clothing sizes are a myth! The number on your clothing is not the number for your body, it's just the number for sizing the actual fabric, so even though I might be size whatever, I'm still going to probably have clothes that are every size between, up and down. I don't buy clothes for the size, I buy them for how they look, so a big part of how I dress is wearing oversized things like that. Next up, **unisex** and **neutral**. I love browns, blacks, greys and whites. **Old**—both in how they look and also just old. I also mix **patterns** like nobody's business.

Favourite stores in Reykjavík:

Definitely **Extraloppán**. I really love old clothing that people don't want to use anymore and either they fit me perfectly or I get to modify and change them. Otherwise I really love **H&M Men**. The best pants that ever fit me are at H&M Men. I also love **Fatamarkaðurinn** and **Gyllti kötturinn**.

Favourite piece:

These pants are my favourite pants for sure, but this is just basically my favourite outfit. That said, I think my favourite things are knit sweaters. I'm always cold, for one, so they keep me warm, but they look good with a dress, pants or whatever.

Something I would never wear:

Cheetah print.

Lusting after:

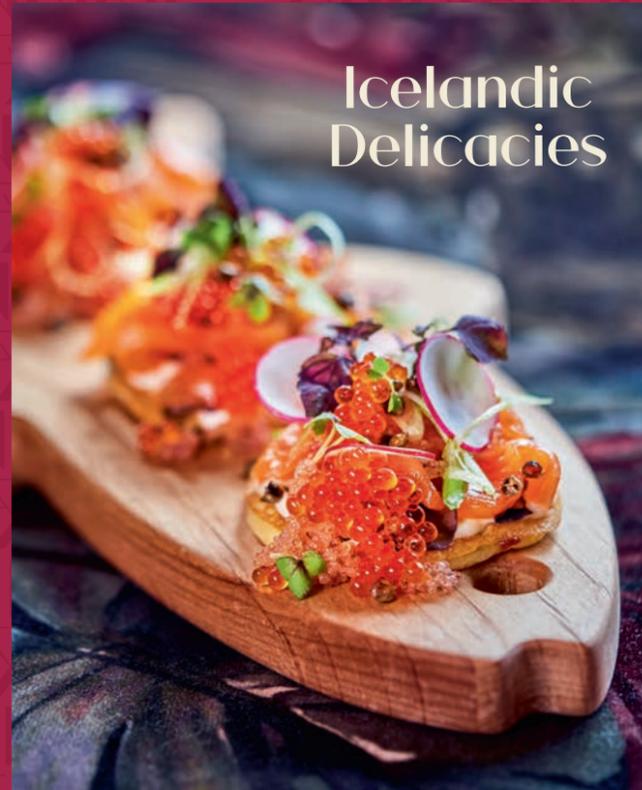
A nice faux leather chest harness. Also, low Doc Martens. 🐾

FJALLKONAN

KRÁ & KRÆSINGAR

Fjallkonan is a new lively restaurant & pub in the heart of Reykjavík offering a selection of Icelandic and international dishes from local ingredients.

Casual and cosy atmosphere yet still fun and festive. Stop by for snacks & drinks, lunch or dinner.



Icelandic Delicacies



Must try dishes

LAMB & FLATBREAD

Slow cooked lamb, traditional Icelandic flatbread from the Westfjords, carrot purée, pickled red onions, horseradish sauce

ARCTIC CHARR & BLINI

Lightly cured arctic charr, chickpea blini, horseradish sauce, roe, crispy lentils, yuzu-elderflower dressing

ICELANDIC PLATTER

- > Puffin, crowberry gel
- > Minke whale, malt glaze
- > Lamb tartar, chive mayo

THE LAMB BURGER

Bacon, mushroom & date duxelle, pickled red onions, pickled cucumber, rucola, smoked cheese, fries

SKYR ETON MESS CHEESECAKE

White chocolate "Skyr" mousse, meringue, raspberries, raspberry sauce

Happy Hour 15-17
every day

FJALLKONAN WELCOMES YOU!

NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF ICELAND



WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

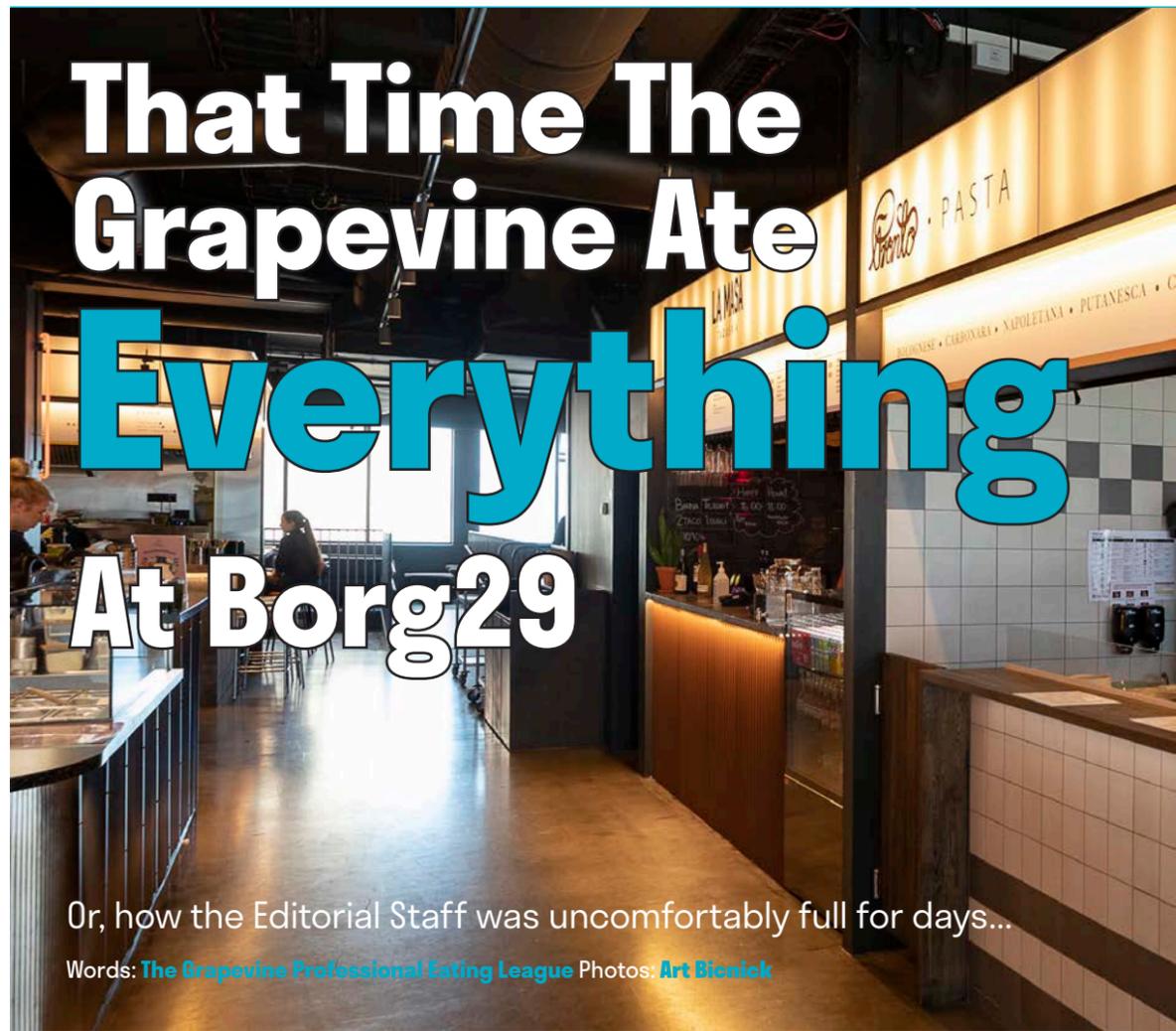


The National Museum of Iceland
Suðurgata 41, 101 Reykjavík

Opening Hours
Daily 10–17
Closed on
Mondays 16/9–30/4

www.nationalmuseum.is
+354 530 2200
@icelandnationalmuseum
@thjodminjasafn

Food



That Time The Grapevine Ate Everything At Borg29

Or, how the Editorial Staff was uncomfortably full for days...

Words: [The Grapevine Professional Eating League](#) Photos: [Art Biscnick](#)

What does Reykjavik love more than building hotels? Food courts, of course! It was with tempered stomachs that we approached the latest gastro-court in Reykjavik, Borg29 Mathöll. How soon it all melted away as we sampled dish after dish that was, without exception, excellent. Every offering has an idea behind it and an energy of playful competition runs throughout the place. Chefs check out what everyone else is doing, keeping the standards high, while the open layout keeps everything beautifully on display. The view isn't bad either.



Taqueria. Created after owner Einar Örn Einarsson went on a taco-fueled journey through Miami, the selling point for this place is their fresh tortillas, which use corn directly imported from Mexico—in fact, it's the same one that wowed Einar in Miami. You won't find anything, and we mean *anything*, like it in Iceland. The fish tacos are a must, but seriously, they could serve us anything on those tortillas and we'd be pleased. In fact, if La Masa could drop off some tortillas at the Grapevine office, we wouldn't complain.

sumac

GRILL + DRINKS



Yuzu

You ever try something and immediately think, “Yeah, this is going to be a problem for me.” Well just take one bite of a Yuzu burger and you'll be worried for your wallet, as this place is something you'll crave on the daily. The gastro-burger joint already made its mark on the dining scene with its Hverfisgata location, but now they've got a smaller locale at the food hall, with a selection of crowd favourites. So what's our obsession? No doubt the Stóri Yuzu. It's a Big Mac tribute burger in honour of the travel restrictions, which has prevented many from getting the real thing. Eating one is somewhat of a spiritual experience, as it manages to quench that primal urge for good ole' fast food, while also being distinctly high-end. Of course, the Chili burger is another favourite. Basically everything here is amazing.

Bál Vín og Grill

Award-winning chef Hafsteinn Ólafsson is not resting on his laurels with his latest project, Bál Vín og Grill. Bál, meaning fire, features a variety of grill classics like skewers, steaks, and fish. But where Hafsteinn's eye for presentation and attention to detail truly shine are the small dishes and appetizers; these are dishes clearly made by someone with passion, taste, and a sense of play. The dishes are perfectly curated, with modern classics like parma-wrapped dates and more adventurous offerings for the discerning foodie, like chicken pâté and beef tartare. I admit, before my time at Bál, I had never sampled a tartare. But with a creamy horseradish and delightful flatbread, this may now be a new addiction.



La Masa Taqueria

The taco has a storied history in Iceland. In fact, you could probably do a dissertation on that topic alone. But whatever chapter you've stopped writing at, add another for La Masa

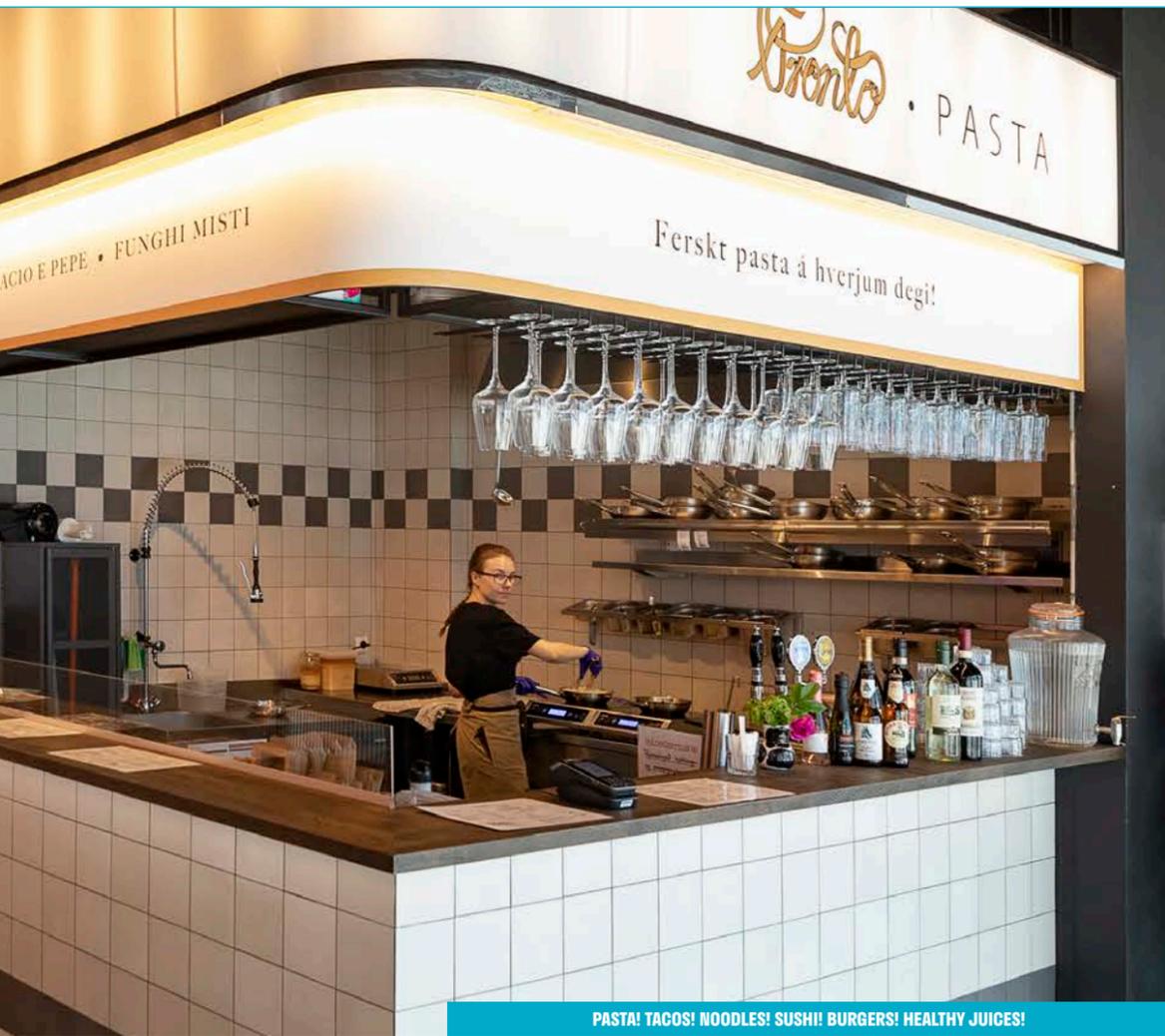


Wok On

It's Wok On, baby. We all know you've been in that situation where all you want is noodles. In fact, we're stressed about making this issue right now, so we'd like to gorge ourselves on some noodles. But as longtime Wok On eaters, we swear they are the best place to cure everything from unquenchable hunger (their portion size tho) to the worst hangover to a hankering for creativity, as you can put anything you want on your noodles. But for us, it's all about the Kóngurinn—egg noodles with chicken, beef, broccoli and much more—as the dish that never fails to delight and never gets old. That said, when half our office was on Keto (yes, that actually happened), the Keto special was many times savoured for its zucchini noodle carb-like wonder. Rock on.

Laugavegi 28
537 99 00

sumac@sumac.is
sumac.is



PASTA! TACOS! NOODLES! SUSHI! BURGERS! HEALTHY JUICES!



Svala Reykjavík

You're torn: on the one hand, you could grab a delicious burger; on the other hand, you could make the "healthy" choice. Luckily, Svala has solved this dilemma. The smoothie bowls are filled to the brim with things like succulent nuts, granola, fruits, and chia seeds—we particularly loved the Prince Charming—meaning you get to feel full and better than your fellow lunch patrons without sacrificing taste. And then there's the drinks. Everything from the green smoothie to the Boom beet juice (a must-order) felt like a want, not a should.



Umami Sushi Bar

Oh yeah, there's sushi too. Named after that elusive fifth basic taste, this restaurant is the place to order the 10 piece Chef's Special. Take away your own choice and let the professionals decide what is the freshest and most delicious of the day—they know what they're doing. That said, you must complement that with their miso and garlic laced edamame and tuna tartare.



Hipstur

Hipstur, as you might imagine, serves up stylish, international dishes. The offerings, however, are not simply fusion-for-the-sake-of-fusion, but intelligent twists on tradition. The bacalao, for instance, is a traditional Iberian dish with roots firmly in Iceland. With a side of focaccia (made in-house, of course) and the overall quality, it represents a great value. Also on offer are vegan dishes with wide appeal, including a delicious open-faced sandwich piled high with a forest floor's worth of mushrooms, horseradish, onions, apples and other goodies.



Natalía Pizza

God bless Iceland, but they don't exactly know how to make a pizza. The Domino's here has a pizza with dates and cream cheese on it, for Christ's sake. But Natalía pizza goes back to the source, circumventing Scandinavian misconceptions of what this flatbread means to the world.

The crust is fired to perfection in a real oven (with flames and all) and the toppings are without exception high-quality and well-paired. Try the parma ham loaded with greens for something light and fresh, or the pizza Natale for gooey, meaty indulgence.



Pronto Pasta

Reykjavik has been in dire need of a proper pasta place for years so you can just imagine the excitement when Pronto Pasta arrived. A full-on fresh-pasta-cooked-right-in-front-of-you, it's got that local Italian charm that has been sorely lacking in the Reykjavik food scene. While you can't go wrong with a Bolognese, here's the secret: Get the mushroom pasta, with lovely cream sauce, and put some shrimp on it. This dish was recommended not only by the chef of Pronto, but the owners of Borg29 (and Wok On) and Yuzu, along with other local foodies we talked with after. Seriously, conversations after we mentioned we stopped by Borg29 included, "Did you get that shrimp mushroom pasta?" Yes, we did.

Check out Borg29 at Borgartún 29.



Hverfisgata 12



Happy hour / 4–7pm
Beer / Wine / Cocktails



Travel

“Apart from some grazing sheep leaving their trails around the site, not a single human soul is in sight, emphasizing the lonesome wilds we are in the midst of.”

Finding Paradise

The hidden Highlands of the Reykjanes Peninsula

Words: Brittnee Kiner & Alina Maurer · Photos: Art Bicnick



Travel distance from Reykjavik: 37 km

As if the Icelandic landscapes already famous on social media weren't enough, Mother Nature added a freshly blazing volcano to the roster of awe-inspiring scenery. However, the recent eruption in Geldingadalur isn't the only reason to visit the Reykjanes Peninsula. If you can't manage a multi-day venture into the Highlands during your drive around the country, we have a hidden gem for you only 30 minutes away from Reykjavik.

A little Landmannalaugar

The Reykjanes Nature Reserve—part of the UNESCO Global Geopark—is home to Sogin, an area that resembles a mini Landmannalaugar, one of the highlights of the Highlands. Nearby, there's also Lambfellsgjá, an astonishing lava canyon in the midst of the peninsula's seemingly endless lava fields. Both mystical treasures promise an escape from the masses, as only sheep accompanied us on our journey through the reserve.

Dancing in a Duster

Journeying around Iceland, it's easy to question which century you're in. Paved roads can be a treasure to come by and hidden gems are no exception. Travelling to less popular spots like the Reykjanes Nature Reserve certainly doesn't promise to be the most comfortable, but we didn't come for comfort. There's nothing quite like bouncing around in a Dacia Duster on the pitted, gravel road to the reserve—it almost feels like a dance. Be sure the

vehicle you're traveling in is a 4x4 with high clearance because the rocks show no mercy.

But with palms sweating and tires crawling, we eventually made it to the end of the path. While there were previous (unsuccessful) attempts to harness the area's geothermal energy, there's now a gravel lot at the end of the road, Vigdisarvellir, featuring the abandoned drilling area. If you've made it this far, give some kudos to that Duster that everyone picks on—no one said it would be easy.

Winding through the valley

Stepping out of the car, the bright green scenery astonished us with sharp mountain tops. Compared to other Icelandic landscapes though, it was nothing unusual—or so we thought. We set off and after hiking around the edge of a luscious green hill and following a couple of munching sheep, a steamy geothermal patch blessed us with that beloved sulfur smell, which can't help but make one wonder what slumbers below the earthly surface under your feet. Making our way through the narrow valley, following a small rippling water stream—quite an atypical occurrence on the peninsula—we were met by colourful clay patches covering the ground as we moved towards Sogin.

The clay shone in numerous dazzling shades of orange, whites and blues at the entrance of the natural depression of Sogin. It's, to put it simply, otherworldly. The vibrant natural

coloring of the ridges surrounding the landmark stands in stark contrast to the typical green grasses and desolate lava fields lying beyond the site. But apart from some grazing sheep leaving their trails around the area, not a single human soul lied in sight, emphasising just how lonesome and remote are the wilds we stood in the midst of.

Putting the ice in Iceland

Iceland hasn't always been as warm and cozy as it is today—it actually used to be cold, believe it or not. Or well, it used to be cold-er.

The last ice age began around 2.6 million years ago, ending just 10,000 years ago. During that time, much of the island was covered in an ice sheet, but there were a lot of eruptions going boom beneath the vast glaciers. The diverse hues of Sogin, a depression in hyaloclastite ridges, were developed from such a subglacial eruption. As magma met ice, it led to a thermal shock and cacophony of colour.

After exploring “Little Landmannalaugar,” we drove back down the pitted road to Eldborg crater and set out on another hike as a storm began to roll in—how typically Icelandic.

Disappearing into the depths of lava

As rain began to fall, we reached Lambafellsgjá, an open fissure in

an oval hyaloclastite mount named Lambafell, literally meaning “lamb's mountain.” Luckily, the gorge offered us some refuge from the typically Icelandic weather (“skítaveður”).

Weirdly enough, the opening to Lambafellsgjá is at ground level—the same as the rest of the endless lava fields shaping the scenery. But once in the canyon, the pure height of the lava rock walls dwarfs you into breathlessness. Approximately 20 metres of rock stood beside us, framing a narrow path through the hazy gorge. Gentle mist falling down on us made the whole place even more mystical.

While essentially showering inside the basaltic canyon, we explored the unique formations of its walls. The sides of the canyon are dotted with basaltic pillows—basically blobs of lava that cooled underwater during an eruption. The shadows and sheer size of the gorge make the hike even more eerie on a rainy, hazy day. Since the canyon is quite shallow, we decided it was time to face the storm that awaited us beyond its protection.

As you're tagging along on the pilgrimage to the Reykjanes's newest attraction—yes, the volcano—consider stopping at Sogin and Lambafellsgjá. Often skipped by the tourist crowds, you're likely to be joined only by sheep. Like the rest of the country, this area is truly a gem and must be treated as such. So take your trash and never leave more than footprints—the elves will thank you! 🍄

Support the Grapevine!
View this QR code in your phone camera to visit our tour booking site



Not a soul in sight (unless you count plants and lichen)



Alina & Brittnee, acting natural in nature

Post-Covid CALAMITY!

Words: Total Astrology Experts Alina & Hannah Jane

The amateur astrologers of the Grapevine were having a blast in the post-COVID cosmos until Delta struck. But how will you do when this all inevitably ends? The stars speak.

Aries

Aries... There's a limit to how much people want to hear you bitch about how miserable your COVID experience was. Everyone was there. Literally everyone in the world experienced the pandemic and most others didn't have Netflix, Disney+, Hulu, Amazon Prime and HBOMax subscriptions. Use your empathy. We know you have it in you.

Taurus

It's a shame your sourdough starter didn't survive the pandemic, but we admire your courage in the face of adversity. Use this opportunity to start a new life, for there's a lot of other options out there. A kombucha scoby perhaps?

Gemini

It's natural to feel confused in this new NEW normal. Are you

supposed to hug people? For a Gemini, that's a daily struggle. Please, don't feel pressured to show the affection you've always lacked in your cold, dark soul. Others can sense the insincerity and, to be frank, it's off-putting af.

Cancer

Well... despite being vaxxed you ended up the unlucky one who got COVID after restrictions were lifted. Our constellations recommend you stay away from Instagram and Twitter this month to protect your mental health. No one wants to see others dancing in a club while you sit on your sofa and cough.

Leo

Finally! It's safe to hold a karaoke mic. Wow the crowd with your "Wuthering Heights" interpretation, complete with the original choreography.

Virgo

Take a deep breath. We all know the past year has stressed you out like nothing before. You have been carrying around spe-

cial hazard masks, five different hand-sanitizers and even ended up brewing one in your basement because you didn't trust the store bought varieties. Being around people stresses you out and you'd love to go into another lockdown so you can go back to munching frozen pizza on your crusty couch. Life's back, so get out of your comfort zone ASAP.

Libra

As always, you're somewhere in the middle. After going to therapy during the day to cope with the return of social interactions, you're back in the cocktail bars drinking away your sorrow and anxiety. While listening to your trusty government, you can't quite shut out the anti-vaxxers and are always on the verge of making your own rules. But hey—try to relax and stop being awkward.

Scorpio

The reason you haven't received any party invites isn't because they aren't happening.

Sagittarius

Well it took about two hours after your Jansen vax for you to totally forget about the past year and resume your reckless behaviour of kissing people on the cheek and taking puffs of stranger's cigarettes. We'd recommend watching out for the Delta variant, but knowing the charmed luck of

Sags (despite being fucking idiots) we bet you'll be fine. Can't say the same for Virgos.

Capricorn

Hide. The stars urge it.

Aquarius

It's an understatement to say that people are excited to finally see some live music again. Take advantage of this by forming the solo post-brutal tech death project you've always dreamed of.

Pisces

We're ethereal all-knowing beings, Pisces. We see the bottles of hand-sanitizer in your purse and watch you discreetly applying them under the table after you're socially pressured into shaking someone's hand. Welcome to your new life. There's a lot of conspiracy Facebook groups we think you'd love. 🍷



WELL, YOU ASKED



German Invasion!

Words: Alina Maurer

A German answers some questions from Germans. Stupid questions call for stupid answers. But well, you asked...

I'm a German tourist and currently in Iceland. I don't want it to be obvious that I'm not from here. How can I fit in?

Well, just the fact that you're of German descent is going to make it difficult. Not sure if it's a certain look or behaviour, but recognizing us is quite easy. It's all about the money for German creatures, so the first step to blend in is not being cheap. I know it's hard. But Iceland is not a Turkish haggle market; you cannot succeed. Icelanders are sneaky enough to rip you off, while making you believe you made a good deal. One more thing, don't you dare smuggle your own German food just to save some pennies. Broaden your Pretzel-horizon and try something new—you can have your wurst at home. Here, we eat pylsur.

Step two for passing as an Icelander: Stop using tissues and start snorting mucus up your nose—best if it comes with a distinct sound. Also, always start your sentences with "Heyrðu" and loudly blurt out "Ha" if you didn't quite catch something.

Lastly, no hiking attire is allowed on Laugavegur. To be clear, the one downtown. There will be no avalanches or heavy river crossings on the main shopping street. Leave your "Jack Wolfskin" outfit at home—it is neither cool, nor stylish and never will be.

Why do I need to shower naked at the Icelandic pools? I don't like being naked around strangers.

Toughen up. Nobody is gonna look at you because everybody is too busy dealing with their own insecurities. Get over it and just freaking clean yourself. Nobody wants to sit in the same hot tub as you, when you're crusty and haven't cleaned your butt in a few days. If you still try to disobey, the pool shower guard might find you as they check for naughty tourists. They will yell at you, while Icelanders look with a disapproving look. It's not worth it, buddy. 🍷



CITY SHOT by Art Bicnick

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