



The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

YOUR FREE COPY > THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND

Issue 15 – September 25 – October 8 – 2009

+ COMPLETE CITY LISTINGS – INSIDE!

www.grapevine.is

The Power Of Free Speech

Legendary Director
Milos Forman
On Truth, Liberty,
Censorship
and Maltöl

- + **Why Do We Have So Many Sex Crimes?**
- Iceland's Resources On Sale**
- Meet Your New Editor!**
- Drinking With Sheep**
- Riff Raff**
- + **Complete Reykjavík Listings! – Lots of cool events**
- Opinions! Reviews! Comix!**

We stumbled upon Czechoslovakian legend Milos Forman at Kaffi Hressó the other day. The good man was sitting at a table, smoking a cigar and drinking some Maltöl. He was more than happy to engage Grapevine in conversation on subjects as diverse as free speech, communism, chess and Tom Cruise. Read all about it. **PG. 14.**

Davíð Oddsson's 1st Editorial!

"Meet the new boss, same as the old boss"



Greetings, nation,

It is with great pleasure that I address you all today (all y'all tourists, travellers and others our fine system does not recognise as being Icelandic, I greet y'all too).

Finally, the good guys have regained their strengths and are slowly taking the reigns again, nearly a year after this once great nation was all but destroyed by irresponsible banksters, irresponsible EEA regulation makers, irresponsible consumers (I'm looking your way, flatscreen television owners), irresponsible future governments and irresponsible people that disagree with my politics and/or personal preferences.

Yes, I, Davíð Oddsson, am now steering this vessel of information, and as you may remember, I was the only single person on Earth that warned against the then-imminent ECONOMIC

COLLAPSE (you wish you'd listened to me as I cried my warnings from the obscure, easily ignorable post of Central Bank manager now, don't you?).

This was, of course, beautifully demonstrated by my most devoted of disciples, political science Professor Hannes Hólmsteinn Gissurarson, in a recent issue of this up-until-now flawed publication). And it's true. We did all the right things; we de-regulated, we privatised, we sold off banks to responsible parties (-slash-party affiliates), we created conditions for ultimate wealth and prosperity. Indeed, Iceland was on the fast track to Utopia, right up until I foolishly left others to steer the country back in 2004.

That was a mistake I do not plan on repeating.

So, as I've told you, we're taking back the reigns of Icelandic society, all pumped up and ready to steer it back to glory after a dark year of doubt and fear. It's like in that Leonard Cohen song, "First we take Manhattan, then we take Berlin," except we're actually trading 'Manhattan' out for 'The Media' and 'Berlin' for 'Iceland'. But you get my drift.

We are able to do this with the help of some good friends that have somehow managed to retain some of their hard-earned BILLIONS OF KRÓNUR through the current government's reign of terror and taxation. They most graciously offered to buy out certain branches of the local media for our disposal, so that we could convey the good people of Iceland the message that THEY'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG and the people that are pretending to be cleaning up after us are actually imposing harsh taxes, mass unemployment and ludicrous interest rates on the nation for fun. And because they're incompetent. And socialists.

Incompetent, fun-loving socialists,

that's what your current government amounts to. Are you happy, nation?

They're not even trying, those guys. They just sit around all day, laughing it up, playing the blame-game. I for one, unlike those incompetents who *really* are to blame for everything, refuse to play the blame-game, fun game that it is,

When you think about it, how could I even be responsible for anything? It's just not rational. According to recent scientific studies by the political science department of the University of Iceland, existence itself actually began in February of 2009 (some scientists actually claim it started in September of 2004), rendering anything that happened prior to those two respective dates absolutely irrelevant, as it didn't happen. How could our current problems stem from an imaginary time before time that didn't even exist? (apologies to Tom Tomorrow).

Anyway. I'm back. Or here for the first time. Or whatever. What's important is that *I now run this show*, and we're going to see some changes around here, starting next issue.

"What will those changes entail?" you ask?

Well. I'm not sure. I've never edited a magazine before, and I just took over this one in time to write the editorial. So your guess is as good as mine, although I will promise you that I intend to devote a lot of space to my agenda of regaining power and, eventually, rebuilding this once fine nation. I'm also thinking of putting in more comix and human-interest stories, and expanding the poetry section.

I also dream of publishing more original fiction, although I hear that could cause a stir with the advertisers.



Cover Photo:

Baldur Kristjánsson
www.baldurkristjans.is

On Cover:

Milos Forman
Stylist: Ellen Loftsdóttir
Makeup: Hafdís Hinriksdóttir
Thanks: Kormákur & Skjöldur, Hjörtur Hjartarson og Björg Magnúsdóttir

Printed by Landsprent ehf. in 25,000 copies.

THE REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE
Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavík
www.grapevine.is
grapevine@grapevine.is
Published by Fröken ehf.

EDITORIAL:

+354 540 3600 / editor@grapevine.is

ADVERTISING:

+354 540 3605 / ads@grapevine.is

PUBLISHER:

+354 540 3601 / publisher@grapevine.is

PUBLISHER:

Hilmar Steinn Grétarsson
hilmar@grapevine.is

EDITOR:

Haukur S Magnússon
haukur@grapevine.is

JOURNALIST:

Catharine Fulton / catharine@grapevine.is

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl
Dr. Gunni
Bergur Ebbe Benediktsson
Bob Cluness
Matthías Árni Ingimarsson
Flosi Þorgeirsson
Bogi Bjarnason
Valur Gunnarsson
Hugleikur Dagsson
Birkir Fjalar Viðarsson
Haukur Már Helgason
Ian Watson

EDITORIAL INTERNS:

Rebecca Louder / rlouder@grapevine.is
Louise Petersson / louise@grapevine.is
Michael Vladimír Zelenko / michael@grapevine.is

FOOD EDITOR:

Sari Peltonen

ON-LINE NEWS EDITOR:

Paul Nikolov
paulnikolov@grapevine.is

ART DIRECTOR:

Hörður Kristbjörnsson
hoddi@grapevine.is

DESIGN:

Jóhannes Kjartansson
layout@grapevine.is

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Hörður Sveinsson / hordursveinsson.com
Julia Staples / julia Staples.com

SALES DIRECTOR:

Aðalsteinn Jörundsson
adalsteinn@grapevine.is
Guðmundur Rúnar Svansson
grs@grapevine.is
DISTRIBUTION:
distribution@grapevine.is
PROOFREADER:
Jim Rice

PRESS RELEASES:

listings@grapevine.is

SUBMISSIONS INQUIRIES:

editor@grapevine.is

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES:

+354 540 3605 / subscribe@grapevine.is

GENERAL INQUIRIES: grapevine@grapevine.is

FOUNDERS:

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

The Reykjavík Grapevine is published 18 times a year by Fröken Ltd. Monthly from November through April, and fortnightly from May til October. Nothing in this magazine may be reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the publishers. The Reykjavík Grapevine is distributed around Reykjavík, Akureyri, Egilsstaðir, Selfoss, Keflavík, Ísafjörður and at key locations along road #1, and all major tourist attractions and tourist information centres in the country.

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

Bárújárn

Skuggasörf

hrukkublikk

Download the free track of the issue SKUGGASÖRF at www.grapevine.is

"Something new, something new, I need something new," goes the chorus of our track of the issue. Well, it does when you translate it. In any case, those seeking new things to listen to should do themselves and their novelty-seeking ways a big ol' favour by checking out psychobilly-deathsurf outfit Bárújárn who, as it happens, donated this issue's track for your downloading pleasures. It's called Skuggasörf ("Shadowsurf") and it kicks many sorts of ass. Bárújárn are yet to release an album, but they have been playing up a storm in Reykjavík's shady bars and garages this year, winning over unsuspecting audiences by way of their anarchistic, rowdy live shows and infectious melodies. Skuggasörf is a fine sample of what the band is capable of, even though it leaves a little to be desired production-wise. Also, check out their video for the song, currently being removed from YouTube. It features some of the most awesome penis-on-haddock action you'll see this year. Hopefully.



gogoyoko presents an Iceland Airwaves Edition of:

Grapevine Grand Rock

Jeff Who? + Morðingjarnir + Feldberg
+ Mr. Fogg (special int'l guest)

Grand Rokk // 22:00 // Friday October 9 // 1.000 ISK

gogoyoko

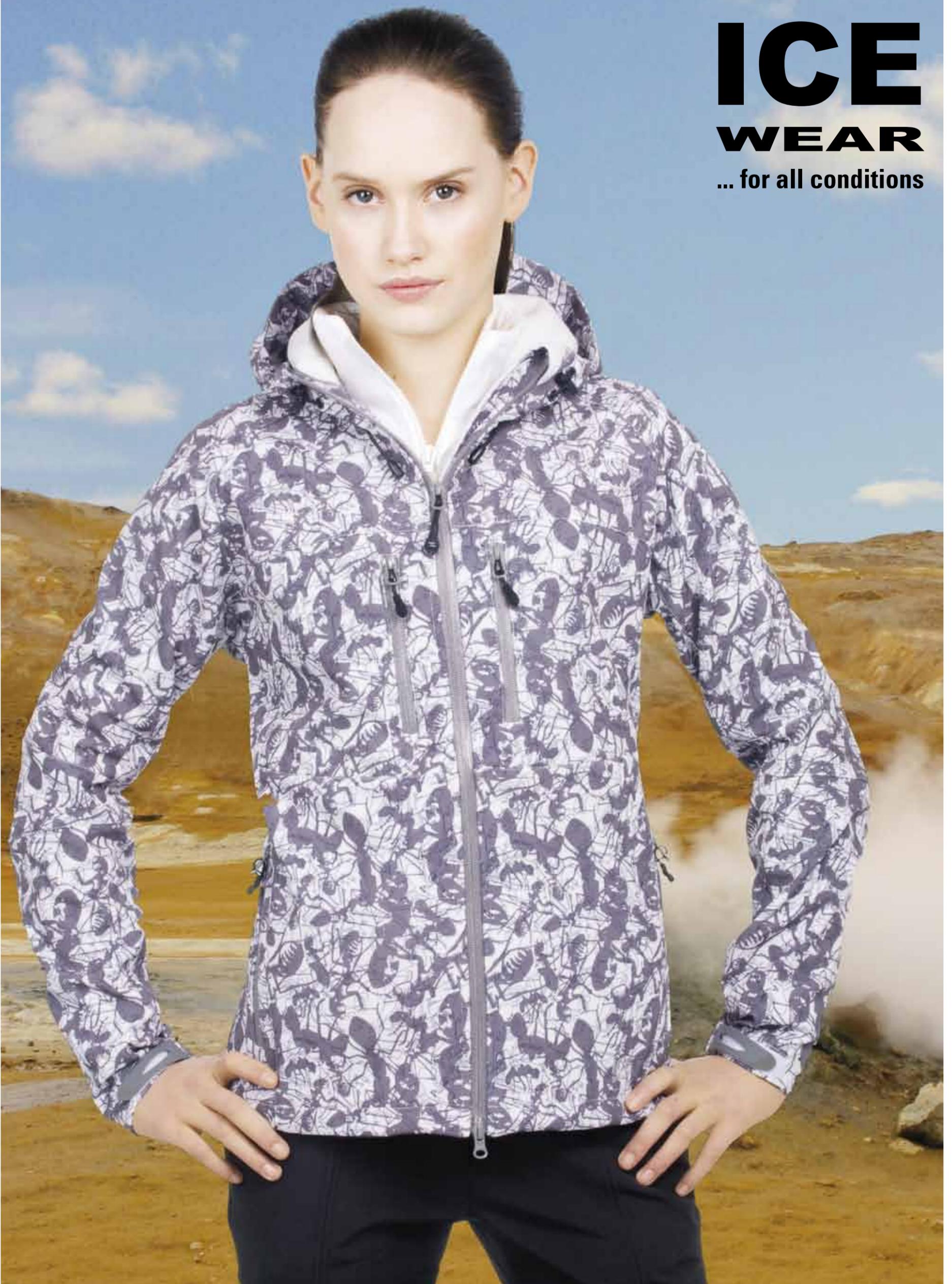
SIXT

rent a car

Tel +354 577 60 50
www.sixt.is

ICE WEAR

... for all conditions



ICEWEAR clothes and products are available at the following stores:

REYKJAVÍK:

Handprjónasambandið,
Laugavegur 64
The Viking, Hafnarstræti 3
The Viking, Laugavegur 1
Islandia, Kringlan

Icefin, Nóatún 17
Ull og Gjafavörur, Hótel Saga
Ísey, Laugavegur 23
Hitt hornið, Laugavegur 100
Álafoss, Mosfellsbær

OTHER LOCATIONS:

Blue Lagoon, Shop
The Viking, Hafnarstræti 104, Akureyri
Sport og útivist, Á stéttinni, Húsavík
Selið, Mývatn
Mývatnsmarkaður, Mývatn

Gullfosskaffi, Gullfoss
Geysir Shop, Haukadal
Byggðasafnið, Skógar
Víkwool, Vík í Mýrdal

Drífa ehf, Suðurhraun 12 C, 210 Garðabær, Sími 555 7400, Fax. 555 7401, icewear@icewear.is, www.icewear.is



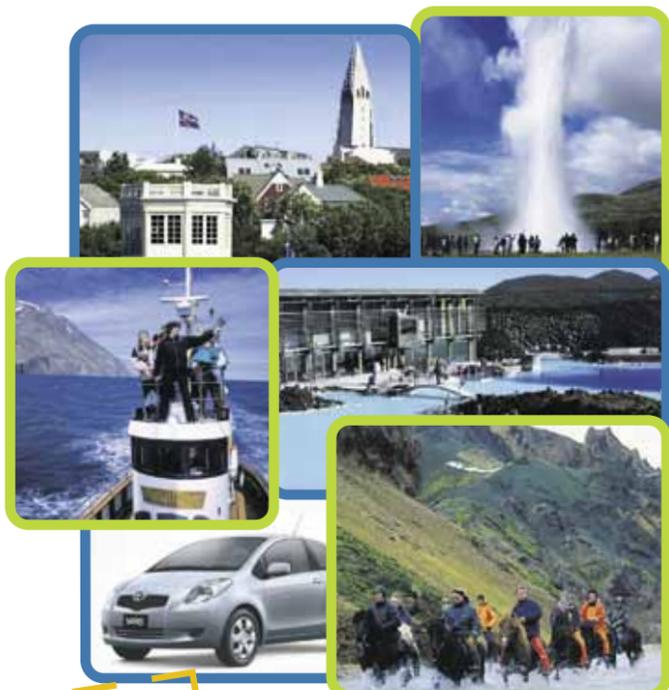
THE OFFICIAL TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

All you need

for a great holiday

Iceland's Largest Booking Service

City Centre Booking Service // Bus Tours and Activities
Hotels and Guesthouses // Car Rentals // Horse Riding
Whale Watching // Internet and Phone Centre



FREE BOOKING SERVICE

Simply the most comprehensive booking service in the City. We specialize in customizing travel packages to suit your interests and needs.

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

ITA ICELAND TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

VAT Cash Refund – Money Exchange

Reykjavik WELCOME CARD

See more and save more when visiting Reykjavik.

Free admissions, discounts off tours and city buses, shopping, restaurants and services for 24, 48 or 72 hours. Great value for money.

The Welcome Card can be purchased at:
City Hostel | Hilton Hotel | Loftleidir Hotel
Saga Hotel | Hlemmur Bus Station
BSI-Bus Station | The National History Museum
Iceland Travel Market - Bankastræti
Tourist Information Centre - Aðalstræti

www.visitreykjavik.is



Sour grapes and stuff

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

4 Letters

Hi.
My wife and I went to Iceland last month (August) and had a good time. One thing that I noticed is that everywhere I went #2: hotel, public toilet, etc. the toilet paper was stiff and hard like a piece of paper that my third grade teacher would pass out for doing math problems. Is this the norm, or just saving money and using the cheap stuff for foreigners and people out and about? I'll admit that when I was in Bonus I didn't "squeeze the Charmin" so to speak. Just curious if I could make a killing starting a soft-toilet paper export business.

Ben

Dear Ben,
thank you for your letter.
I think I speak on behalf of the entire Icelandic nation in saying, in the immortal words of Ol' Dirty Bastard:
"Oooh, baby, I like it raw."

Dear grapevine,

I am writing in response to your immigration article. You define Realative, "as a dependant child or parent" as does the immigration office. to clear that up here is a personal example that I find funny:

My daughter is Icelandic. I do not qualify because she is a child and cannot apply for me until she is eighteen. I was married to her father but as soon as we divorced it became increasingly difficult for me to stay here. I left the country for 9 months and was almost deported when I returned. It didnt seem to matter that my 8 year old was dependant on me, the law only provides for an aging parent dependant on a citizen. It also doesnt matter that I have paid taxes here for the last nine years according to the immigration office I have only been here for a year. I speak Icelandic. I fill all the requirements for applying for citizenship or permanent residency except being married to an Icelander.

With one divorce under my belt I no longer believe in marriage. Where does it leave me? I reapply year by year for a temporry permit to work and live here but each year it is a fight. I cannot vote. I cannot receive unemployment or welfare benefits like other single mothers receive or student loans. I doubt if seriously ill that I wouldnt be asked to pay for my care.

So if you are sure that this is the way you want to treat us I prefer to have that fraction of tax that I pay for unemployment welfare and healthcare refunded to me. Lets be fair about this.

It should be of note that a few years back the senator, Jónína Bjartmarz, secured an Icelandic citizenship for her daughter in law shortly after her arrival in Iceland. She did not fulfill any of the requirements nor did she speak the Icelandic language. It is a slap in the face.

So again its not what you know but who you know in Iceland.

b.r. neal

Dear B,
thank you so much for your letter. It is a pleasure to run. We need stories like yours to demonstrate how utterly out of touch some of the people running the system are.

Seriously. I wrote that without any hesitation. The stories that occasionally reach us at the Grapevine are enough to completely convince one that some of the people running the system are completely and utterly out of touch with both reality and humanity.

Sour grape of the month

A case of POLAR BEER for your thoughts.

We're not gonna lie to you: we really love us some beers. Some folks would call it a problem, but beer never gave us any problems. In fact, over the years, it's solved most of 'em. A frosty glass of cold, frothy, bubblicious, golden-tinted beer has consistently failed to let us down. In the immortal words of Homer J. Simpson: "Mmm... Beer..."

Now, since we're real pleasant and giving folks here at the Grapevine, we thought we'd share some of that wonderful POLAR BEER with you, our readers. Henceforth, until the end of days (or our Polar Beer- sponsorship program, whichever comes first), we will reward one MOST EXCELLENT LETTER with a case of the Polar Beer. You read right. A full case of beer. At your disposal.

Give us your worst: letters@grapevine.is



(light)

MOST AWESOME LETTER:

Good afternoon,

Just returned from a great hiking trip to Iceland where I came upon your excellent paper.

I read with interest your article on the difficulties people encounter in legally emigrating to Iceland. While interesting, the article omitted one crucial element: there is no universal right to live in whichever country one wishes. I realize that the concept of citizenship may be lost to a new generation of globally minded individuals, but citizenship and the accompanying right to live in a country is tied to more than a parochial sense of identity. With citizenship comes a number of rights (e.g. voting, social services) and responsibilities (e.g. paying taxes, obeying laws) that are fundamental to the fabric of a nation's political, economic and social identity, development and overall well-being.

Furthermore, it's also important to underscore that Iceland's immigration laws are no more stringent than most other European Union states. In fact, I thought it a bit rich to read commentary from three American citizens who fell ill-treated by Iceland immigration system when immigrating or moving for professional reasons to the US is no picnic for most people since 9/11.

I think its marvelous that people love Iceland so much they wish to live there, but to characterise negatively Iceland's immigration system is unfair and, frankly, not realistic.

p.s. if this qualifies for the case of Polar, well, keep it for yourself and have it my honour.

Michael A. O'Neill, Ph.D
Sessional Lecturer/Chargé de cours
Political Science/Sciences politiques
University of/Université d'Ottawa

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your informative and well put letter/ Merci de votre instructif et bien mit la lettre.

Yours is without a doubt this issue's MOST AWESOME LETTER. You had us at "keep it for yourself."/ Votre lettre est sans un doute notre plus AWESOME LETTRE. Vous nous avez à "gardez-le pour vous-même."

All fun aside, this is an interesting topic to ponder. If the concept of citizenship, as well as the concept of the nation-state is dead to a new generation of globally minded individuals, as you suggest, is it maybe time to seriously reconsider them?

After all, they are mere constructs, and thus dependent on us for survival. It's like in the Neverending Story or something. If we quit believing in them, they go away.

Perhaps, there is a better way? Gosh, I hope so.

vince one that some of the people running the system are completely and utterly out of touch with both reality and humanity.

Oh, of course they have their stringent rules to rely on, to lay back on – where would the modern bureaucrat be without rules to guide his every action. We wouldn't want our bureaucrats running around making decisions of their own, lord knows they're probably not qualified to anyway. Also, it would make for a random and unreliable system. "There have to be rules."

Still, you've got to question the merits of a system that in every case fails to take the individual and his situation into consideration, unless, of course, he is in some way connected to a member of government.

Hi, I dont know if it is too late but I just wanted to write you a few words about your last issue 101.

I'm from Iceland and Ive been living in switzerland for my whole life. I always came to iceland on holiday during the summer or at Christmas. And the thing I always read here was grapevine. Now with your last issue you put all the past covers and it was funny because I remembered every one when I was here and the great partys we had during that time . really cool

The thing I didnt like was in the article about aids. The writer or an intervenant talks about aids vs. diabetes . I really think we shouldnt make a "disease ranking". Personnally I think it depends on each per-

sonne and how every one reacts. because what is easier to talk about aids vs sclerose ? aids vs cancer ? diabetes vs ... I think its a lack of respect against the single human beeing. I mean you can see a guy kill himself because of anything.

Ok its not really glamorous to talk about that but I wanted to give My opinion.

I appreciate your work . peace,

Edvald Thorsson

Dear Edvald,

Thank you for your letter. It is good to know you drew some enjoyment from our totally narcissistic and self-centred 101st issue. We certainly had our fun making it, being self-centred, narcissistic magazine-geeks.

As for your beef with Catharine Fulton's HIV article, I think you're actually misunderstanding what was said there. The individual quoted was merely trying to explain that the AIDS virus is, for some, still enshrouded in shame, even though there is nothing shameful at all about it. It's a disease, same as any other disease. Diabetes included.

Diseases are generally bad; I think we all agree on that. Oh, I'm sure there are some cool diseases out there, if you look hard enough. Like HULK-disease, or Spiderman-disease or any of those diseases that turn folks into superheroes. Those seem pretty cool. In any case, I am not interested in participating in any debates that have to do with the hierarchy of disease.

Hressingarskálinn

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

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



THE CENTRE
The Official Tourist Information Centre in Reykjavik

Aðalstræti 2 • 101 Reykjavík • Tel +354 590 1550 • info@visitreykjavik.is • www.visitreykjavik.is



WE'LL TAKE YOU THERE!

DAY TOURS TO ALL THE MOST EXCITING PLACES IN ICELAND



RE-44 - 09:00

Gullfoss - Geysir & Langjökull Snowmobiling

Autumn 09-19
SUN THU FRI SAT

Our Gullfoss – Geysir & Langjökull Snowmobiling tour puts you in touch with some of Iceland's most famous and exciting natural phenomena.

We stop at Þingvellir national park which is known for its exceptional beauty and historical importance. Onwards we head to the world-renowned geothermal area around Geysir hot spring where you discover spouting springs of various formations and appearances. From there we continue to Gullfoss, the queen of Icelandic waterfalls. Next we kick the action into higher gear to get even closer to Iceland's nature - an exhilarating one-hour tour across the endless white snowfields will not leave you intact.

PRICE 19800 ISK



Book now on www.re.is

Book now by calling 580 5450



Special Internet Offer*
Online discount code: **GV3071009**

RE-80 - 09:00
Glacier Adventure
All Year 09-19
SUN MON WED FRI SAT *
Take a ride to the top of the world on a snowmobile and see the amazing Sólheimajökull from above the larger Mýrdalsjökull glacier and be pleasantly surprised by the magnificent views.
This tour is not recommended for children
*Daily from 1 October.
PRICE 21500 ISK
PRICE 26700 ISK
Book now on www.re.is



RE-04 - 09:00
The Golden Circle
All Year 09-17
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
Don't miss out on the fascinating experience the Icelandic Golden Circle gives you. On this tour we take you to the geysers, the famous Gullfoss waterfall along with a visit to Þingvellir National Park. This tour is a must to make your visit to Iceland complete.
PRICE 9800 ISK
Book now by calling 580 5450



Relax at the Blue Lagoon
All Year FLEXIBLE
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
There is no better way to start or end your Iceland adventure than by bathing in the famous Blue Lagoon.
For our very flexible schedule please refer to our brochures.
RETURN BUS FARE 2800 ISK
RETURN BUS FARE AND ADMISSION 5900 ISK



Special Internet Offer*
Online discount code: **GV1511009**

RE-15 - 09:00
South Shore Adventure
All Year 09-19
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
Iceland's South coast is ideal for nature lovers of all kinds. Spectacular scenery, striking waterfalls, stunning views of glaciers, black lava sand coastline, charming villages and impressive rock formations all day long.
PRICE 12300 ISK
PRICE 15400 ISK
Book now on www.re.is



RE-81 - 09:00
Take a Walk on the Ice Side
All Year 09-19
SUN MON WED FRI SAT *
Want to see and feel something completely different? Why not take a walk on a glacier and experience a surface that you have never been able to walk on before! Take a tour with us and try something new - a once in a lifetime experience for most.
*Daily from 1 October.
PRICE 17900 ISK
Book now by calling 580 5450



Special Internet Offer*
Online discount code: **GV031009**

RE-05 - 13:00
Reykjavik Grand Excursion
All Year 13-15:30
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
Get to know the capital with an expert by your side. We take you around Reykjavik with a guide and show you the highlights of the city. The tour ends at the National Museum of Iceland where you can see Icelandic culture at its best.
PRICE 3900 ISK
PRICE 4900 ISK
Book now on www.re.is



Special Internet Offer*
Online discount code: **GV031009**

RE-08 - 09:00
Saga Circle
All Year 09-18
SAT
This tour is perfect for all Saga enthusiasts. On this tour we take you around the area where one of the Icelandic Sagas took place - along with enjoying spectacular landscape. Come and follow in the footsteps of the Vikings with us.
PRICE 14000 ISK
PRICE 17500 ISK
Book now on www.re.is



RE-24 - 12:30
Gullfoss - Geysir Direct
All Year 12:30-18
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
In one afternoon you spend your time encountering cross-section of Iceland's natural wonders and geological phenomena: the historical Þingvellir national park, Geysir geothermal area and the amazing Gullfoss waterfall.
PRICE 8600 ISK
Book now by calling 580 5450

* In order to activate the special internet offers you need to enter the online discount codes when booking on www.re.is
Special internet offers on this page can be booked through 31 October 2009.

For further information and details on tours please refer to our brochures.

flybus flybus+

BSÍ Bus Terminal / 101 Reykjavík / 580 5400 / main@re.is / www.re.is



Reykjavik Excursions
KYNNISFERÐIR



Sex Crimes In Iceland

Þórdís Elva Þorvaldsdóttir Bachmann highlights a delicate subject

Sexual violence seems to be somewhat of an epidemic in Iceland. The fact of the matter is that, aside from Greenland, Iceland holds the record for sex crimes in the Nordic countries. Sad, kind of scary, but true nonetheless. Let's take a look at some hard facts: an average of ten rapes get reported per 100,000 inhabitants in Denmark, Finland and Norway per year. In Iceland, this number reaches 24. Also, a notably higher percentage of Icelandic children experience sexual violence before the age of 16 compared to the other Nordic countries.

Now why is that?

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Although sexual violence is a subject that has been widely debated in Iceland, little has been done by authorities to improve the local situation. Very little money and effort is put into the battle against sex crimes. Apparently, no one has bothered to investigate the entire system and research where things can be improved.

Until now, Þórdís Elva Þorvaldsdóttir Bachmann has decided enough is enough. She is an actress turned playwright turned writer who just published a book about gender and sexual violence in Iceland in an attempt to highlight the subject.

"I wrote the book after reading about an acquittal in a rape case I found particularly heinous. Part of the reason for the acquittal was the fact that the woman didn't fight her attacker enough, according to the court. In my mind, that's simply blaming the victim," explains Þórdís.

Initially she meant to write a letter to the papers protesting the verdict. In the end, though, she had written an entire book on the subject. Fully aware of the fact that she was perhaps not the best person to pen it (not being an expert in any fields relating to sex crimes and all), she dropped everything and moved in with her parents, as nobody was paying her to write it.

"I sought out skilled professionals and experts who were generous

enough to give me interviews, advice, sources and vast information. Basically, I did my best to track down every prevalence study that has been conducted on gender and sexual violence in Iceland. Also, the book cites numerous international surveys and researches, to get a better picture of Iceland's status in these matters in an international context."

A NEGLECTED MATTER

The book is a critical and current view on how sexual violence is handled within the justice system, in the media and in public debate. According to Þórdís, her main conclusion is that sexual violence has been seriously neglected by the Icelandic authorities. For example, she summed up the total amount of words that five out of the six political parties decided to spend on the issue of gender and sexual violence before the 2007 elections. The result: 154 words, in total. In comparison, the paragraph you are now reading totals 93 words.

Þórdís claims authorities are ignoring and/or neglecting a long list of matters concerning sexual abuse. And she has some tips as to what needs to be done to improve the situation: "The resources for survivors of sexual violence are financially starved. The main counselling centre in Iceland, Stígámót, often struggles to make ends meet. The Rape Crisis Clinic had to fire all of their specially trained nurses this spring due to cutbacks. More so, law reforms are sorely needed. Also, people who exhibit violent behaviour are not court ordered to have any sort of treatment, only incarceration. Lastly, victims of domestic violence are still removed from Icelandic homes, as opposed to removing the perpetrator. For the past years, around 70% of rape cases handled by the Attorney General—who litigates all cases of violence on behalf of the state—have been discontinued. The list goes on and on. Basically, it would be easier to list the things that have NOT been neglected, than the things that need changing."

THE SILENT PROBLEM

The book also sheds light on sexual violence against men, a topic that is rarely spoken about or heard of. Little is known about these crimes in Iceland, but the numbers are considered to be higher than previously believed.

Between 1993 and 2008, 57 men sought help at The Rape Crisis Clinic in Reykjavík. The stereotypical rape in mainstream culture takes place in a dark alley, where the perpetrator is a dangerous, armed lunatic and the victim is a young woman, who screams and fights her attacker with all her might. All things considered, this form of rape is very, very rare.

"I think this lack of awareness stems from the fact that we generally

don't think of men as possible victims," said Þórdís. "A man once told me how he took a cab home from downtown after a night of partying. He passed out in the cab and woke up in the Öskjuhlíð area, as the cab driver was raping him. This man didn't dare tell anybody about the incident, because, as he stated, "these things should not happen to anyone, and especially not to guys."

"This may sound strange, but some chapters are actually quite humorous. Besides, some of the misconceptions surrounding rape are so ridiculous, it's hard not to make fun of them."

GETTING THROUGH IT

One might wonder who would have the stomach to read through a book about something as heavy as sex crimes. Fear not, Þórdís ensures that the subject is approached with certain lightness. "This may sound strange, but some chapters are actually quite humorous. Besides, some of the misconceptions surrounding rape are so ridiculous, it's hard not to make fun of them. For example, last year, local authorities in Malaysia ordered women not to wear lipstick and high heels to prevent them from being raped. This is rather mysterious to anybody who has ever owned lipstick and stilettos, and doesn't connect these items to sexual attacks. Seriously, what's with them Malaysian heels?"

Getting back to the fact that there is such a high amount of sex crimes committed in Iceland: what's up with that?

It's quite a mystery. I think we have to face the simple fact that violence of this nature simply seems to be more common in Iceland for some reason. In my opinion, it is of utmost importance to figure out that reason, and the Icelandic authorities should treat it as an urgent matter. ☹

✉ LOUISE PETERSSON
☎ HÖRÐUR SVEINSSON

Final Count Down 350.org Calls On Communities Worldwide



Without a number you're nobody. Potheads have 420, Satanists claim 666 and now a group of environmentalists have some digits of their own: 350. Three hundred and fifty isn't just a primitive semi-perfect number (trust us, it is), it also refers to the parts per million (or ppm) of CO2 our planet can sustain without suffering the effects of global warming: famine, drought, environmental degradation and blistering sunburns for millions of ill-prepared northerners.

To that effect, a worldwide network of scientists and promoters have banded together to spread their gospel through an organization called, surprise: 350.org. The problem is we've already reached 385.92ppm. So if the world really is galloping full steam towards disaster, why is it still so goddamn cold outside? Well, it's kind of like food poisoning—by the time you feel it, it's too late. We're all better off preventing the calamity in the first place.

350.org has called for a day of action on October 24th and they couldn't have picked a better date. With the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen taking place in early December, organisers need to spread a cultural buzz in time to put pressure on the participating nations. Plus, October 24th is United Nations Day, the perfect time to attract attention to their cause.

Actions in over 100 countries have been planned including cooking events in Nairobi, marches in Tokyo, 350 model wind generators in Kiev, and a 350-person human chain in Cadena, Venezuela. Now 350.org wants Icelanders in on the party. Drink 350 beers with 350 friends. Then try to walk 350 meters backwards. Eat 350 hot dogs in 350 minutes. Cuddle with 350 kittens for 350 hours. Look, we couldn't care less what you do, just do something. ☹

NORDIC HOUSE - KNOWLEDGE AND DESIGN

The Dill Restaurant is open
Mon - Tuesday 11:30 - 17:00
Wednesday - Saturday 11:30 - 22:00
Sunday 12:00 - 17:00
Special events/occasions - open until 22:00 hours (check website for details)
Tel: +354 522 7022
dillrestaurant.is

Norræna húsið / The Nordic House
Sturlugata 5
101 Reykjavík
Tel: +354 551 7030
www.nordice.is

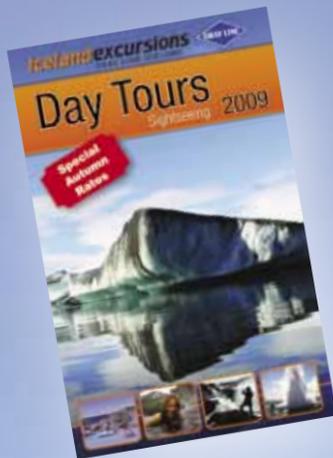
Enjoy Iceland

with the best* local tour expert

Sales Office and Bus Terminal



All tours depart from our sales office at Lækjartorg in Reykjavik city centre.



CHECK OUT OUR DAY TOURS BROCHURE WITH OUR NEW SPECIAL AUTUMN RATES



AH33 Northern Lights Mystery

Join us for a mysterious trip - away from the city lights - to hunt for the Northern Lights, also known as the Aurora Borealis.

Season: 15/9 2009 - 15/4 2010

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Departure: 20:00

Duration: 3 - 5 hours

Price:

49.00 €

SPECIAL OFFER*
30 €
4.900 ISK

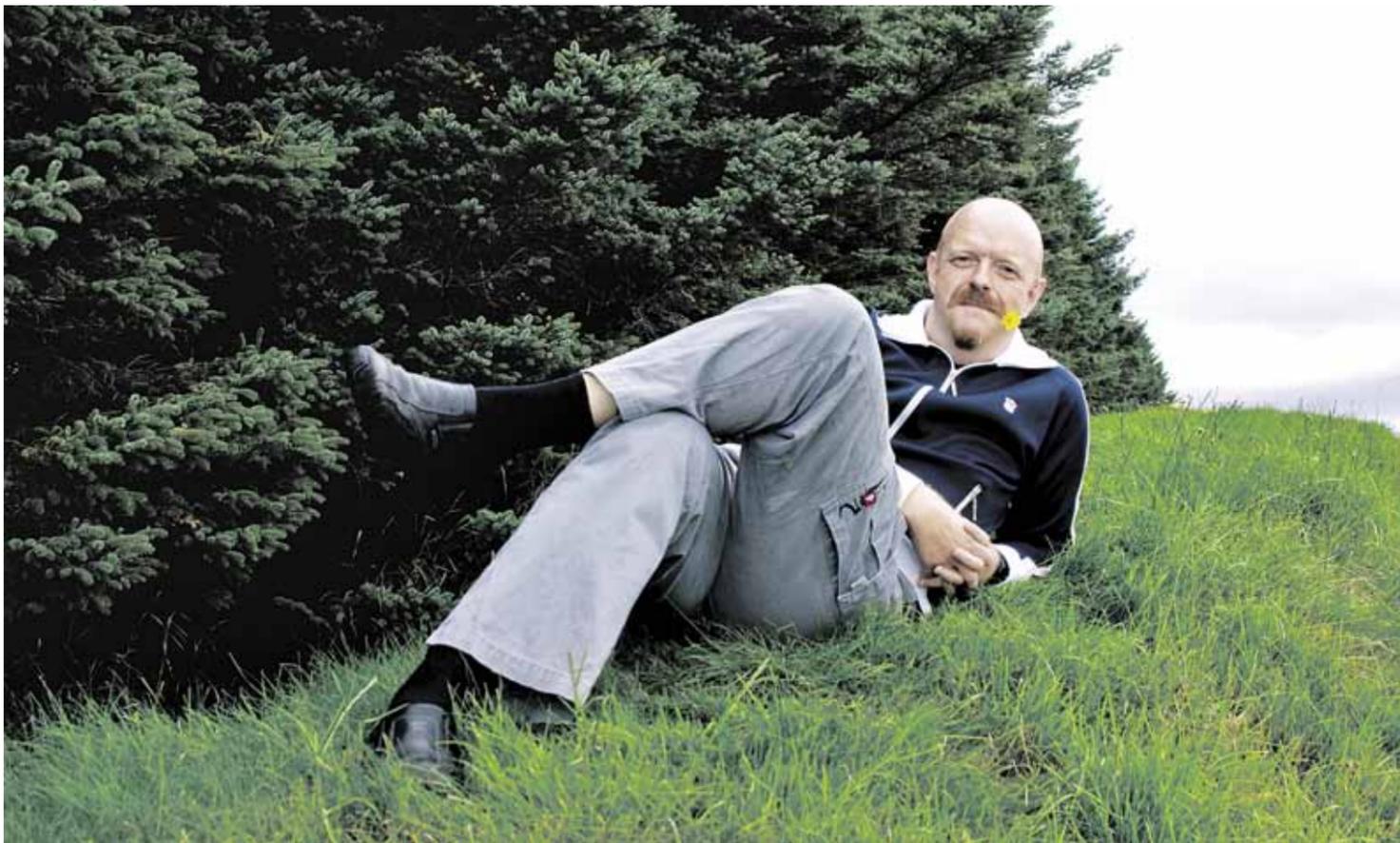


Iceland Excursions - Gray Line Iceland / Hafnarstræti 20 / 101 Reykjavík / Tel. : 540 1313 / www.grayline.is / iceland@grayline.is

Icelandexcursions
GRAY LINE ICELAND



*According to the Dear Visitor study done by Tourism Research and Consulting in the summer of 2008 and winter 2008/2009, Iceland Excursions had a significant lead compared to competitors in satisfaction and quality.



Dr. Gunni Lists Iceland

It's somewhere in the top ten, apparently

There's not a lot to know about Iceland, right? It's a small island. Not a lot of folks there. And its 'city' of Reykjavik is smaller still. You ought to get a good run through of the whole thing with fifteen minutes or so of Googletime.

Not at all, though. If we really believed that, we probably wouldn't have bothered making a hundred and one (and counting!) issues of Grapevine detailing all the best (and worst) of Icelandic life. And we're not the only ones. Musician, author, journalist and blogger Gunnar Hjálmarsson (AKA Dr. Gunni) recently released his first guidebook on Reykjavik. Entitled *Top 10 Reykjavik and Iceland*, the book is packed with information on all things pertinent to the casual visitor; where to go, where to eat, what to see and what to do.

We like the book, we find it one of the most comprehensive tourist overviews to Iceland currently available and we will happily recommend it to our friends that are coming over (actually, we were upset about the whole thing, as we were planning on making a similar book of our own). We got Dr. Gunni to tell us all about it (full disclosure: Dr. Gunni is a regular contributor to the Grapevine; he regularly writes our 'History of Icelandic Rock Music' columns).

"Basically, it's the kind of tourist book I would like to have when I visit a new place," Gunni tells us. "And since it's

enveloped in that 'top ten' formula, it's pretty straight to the point. It's contains a lot of information on a lot of different subjects, although the focus is mostly on Reykjavik. We do have a little bit of space devoted to the countryside, and to explaining Icelanders in general."

Who is it intended for?

Well, it's mostly aimed at English-speaking tourists that come to Iceland without knowing a lot about the country. People between the ages of 20 and 50. I didn't undergo any market research prior to writing, I mostly did it in the way I imagined I would like my tourist guides written.

Being a big music enthusiast, the book does touch on that subject quite a bit. I think that a lot of the tourists we get are here because they're familiar with Björk and Sigur Rós, I don't believe anyone's here because we were a bubble society a couple of years ago.

Are all the things on your top ten lists based on your own experience and likings? Or did you consult with outside parties?

I did seek advice on the fields that I am not especially interested in, such as gay life and Reykjavik churches. The best chapters, or my favourites, are what I write out of my own interests and experiences, but I did realise I couldn't only write about that.

Do you have a favourite category in the book?

'The top ten of Icelandic candy' is a great new list. I haven't seen anything like it in any tourist book I've read, but would really love it if they all had one. They always have lists of restaurants and hostels, but you never get to know about the candy that the locals love to treat themselves with. It's like candy is some sort of third-rate hobby.

"I don't believe anyone's here because we were a bubble society a couple of years ago."

Some of our constant readers might know you as a 'consumer watchdog'—we did a story based on your activities on that front last year. Are consumer issues featured prominently in the guidebook?

You might say I was placed in the position of consumer watchdog, rather than seeking it out. I just made a section on my website that reported on places that were prone to overcharge, and that seemed to find a big audience. But it's a hobby of mine, I'll admit as much, and it's reflected in the book. We have spots on cheap-ish restaurants, places to buy

second-hand clothes and the like. And we do come out and say that Bónus is the cheapest place to shop for groceries, and that people should avoid shopping at the 10-11 convenience stores. Which is funny, as the same company runs both. But maybe tourists don't care so much about cheap these days, now that the Króna has shat its pants so profoundly.

You've always been sort of an alt. hero in Iceland, placed firmly on the borders of Icelandic culture, not having much to do with the mainstream. A tourist book like yours probably has to have a mass appeal to work. So how do the two go together? For instance: Do you like stuff normal people like? Are you fit to guide everyone?

Well, I believe that the people that choose to come to Iceland aren't that normal in the first place. I don't think the casual tourist makes his way all the way over here. I mean, what could normal people get from this place anyway? Going to the trouble of flying all the way to this rock that's inhabited by a miniscule number of souls and has nothing going except for some crazy nature and weird musicians? 🍷

HAUKUR S MAGNÚSSON
JULIA STAPLES

Small Talk – Important Still



Now, like I already told you, I grew up in a village and thus I mastered, subconsciously, the skill and effectiveness of banal small-talk.

After eighteen years in a fjord, I moved to the city of Reykjavik. Fast forward and I've lived in three different continents and travelled wide and far. Not living in a place of a few hundred, I suddenly had hundreds of thousands of people at my disposal. Now I could pick out people who appealed to my intellect, my hobbies and my silly little quirks. Hell, I could form a metal band IN MY IMAGE by simply posting an ad at any given music store.

My small-talk edge slowly dulled, because here I was, mostly talking to like-minded folks. Gone was the crazy baker who picked on me for having long hair. The mentally challenged girl on a tricycle didn't top off my paper route by going into detailed discussions about her little dog's poo and private parts. For years and years, I never came across grumpy dockworkers that I bummed a knife from. I wasn't hanging out on the docks. I still don't.

As I got older, I became increasingly picky as to whom I talked to and who was lucky enough to be graced by my presence, let alone indulge with me in any meaningful way. The small-talk edge continued to dull.

Thirty one years of age, I became a part of my fjord community again and it was only then that I realised my small-talk skills had vaporised and disappeared. It happened this summer.

I was on an organised mountain walk with an amalgam of villagers, old and new. We talked about mundane and banal things and I appreciated it, recognising the importance of socializing and bond-building. Plus, I was shooting the breeze with people I hadn't shared anything with in over than a decade. But I found myself wishing they would not talk to me. For too many years, I'd spoiled myself with a loaded smorgasbord of individuals tailored to my every quirk. I longed for my sharp small-talk edge of old. Regretfully, it was lost.

The whole summer I tried to regain it, to no avail. Coincidentally I feel incompetent to a degree. Too bad. 🍷

WHAT? Welcome to Iceland
Here's how to find
WHO? WHERE?

People Businesses Maps Direction

Quick guide to the information you need while enjoying your stay

www.ja.is

já - the answer



October 8 - 10

In front of the University of Iceland

OktoberROKKfest
Tuesday

Arstíðir · Soundspell · Lights on the Highway · Who Knew · Króna · Hoffman · Mammút · Dikta · Ensími

Oktober Festival
Friday

Real Oktoberfest with food, music, outfits and of course lots of beer.

Oktober Sveitbaball
Saturday

No. 1 Icelandic pop band Skítamórall celebrates 20th anniversary with the biggest sveitaball ever in Rvk.

Festival wristband only 2.500 kr.

www.oktober.is



AMEVENTS

SHÍ

Music | Iceland Airwaves

Coming In The Airwaves Tonight...

It's happening again, oh yes it is!



Finally! The biggest party before the winter comedown is less than a month away. They have weathered the storm like everyone else and have come out kicking. Now the 11th annual Iceland Airwaves festival, running October 14th to 18th, is poised to deliver five of the wildest, most fun, music-filled days of your life. Since its inception in 1999, the festival has steadily grown, each year featuring a bigger, more notorious party than the one that preceded it.

KREPPA MUSIC

The group behind the festival, Mr. Destiny, has always had a rather modest budget in terms of booking international acts, and even moreso when it comes to international marketing. According to Egill Tómasson, artistic director and booker for the festival, their campaign with Icelandair has been very successful, but their biggest marketing asset has always been the word of mouth spread by pleased festivalgoers. Suffering quite a sting from the currency drop over the course of the last year, Mr. Destiny were never deterred from their plans. "There was never any doubt that it would happen," says Egill. "Last year, we stood in the eye of the storm and we knew it couldn't get any worse. We made it through that, so we can make it through anything."

As for booking, their situation is tighter than previous festivals, and they have had to display a lot of pragmatism. Egill tells me they had no intention of compromising the quality of the music, however there was a slight shift in focus to go with the local flow, booking international acts that fit into the current vibe in the city. This was not the hardest task, since the festival has never gone for the biggest names or most obvious

acts. Thus, festivalgoers should notice that visiting acts have been selected to fit into what the good people of Mr. Destiny believe the current Reykjavik music scene to be about.

DON'T FEAR THE UNKNOWN

Last year's Airwaves saw the likes of Crystal Castles, The Mae Shi, Simian Mobile Disco and Fuck Buttons gracing the headliner list. While you may not have heard about any of this year's international acts, you'll likely be writing home about them. With regards to the sceptics who fear the festival is less exciting than years past, Egill has one word for them: research. "Once we have announced the line up, just check it out," he says. "There are always sceptics, but there are always hidden treasures within the line up. Just do your research and you will find your own gem." This year's festival will thus likely please active bloggers with all the buzzworthy bands set to play.

After all, the festival's focus has always been the Icelandic scene and Egill says he currently feels it is stronger than ever. There are between 130 and 150 local acts booked to play this year's festival and they feel that even if they had no internationals, the festival would feel different, but the Icelandic bands would pull it off on their own easily. "It's their home turf, and this weekend they go full on," says Egill about the local talent. "Those groups make up around 600 people, which is a good base to start the party. Then you have all these crazy foreigners coming in, looking for some good music, and it just explodes!"

HIGHLY CONCENTRATED

The festival draws in a large number of international attendants, making the

crowd a somewhat even mix of locals and foreigners. Kerstin Ganzemueller, travel and artist relations manager at Mr. Destiny, says that festival attendants often become infatuated with the event, coming time and time again. They describe their audiences as fun loving, thinking music fans—folks who are more proactive with their music and involved in discovering new artists. For this reason, Egill sees music piracy as a positive thing, especially with regards to younger people.

What truly sets the festival apart, according to Egill and Kerstin, is how compact the whole event is. Apart from their legendary Blue Lagoon hangover party, the entire thing takes place smack dab in 101, with venues barely steps away from each other, so one never has to move far to cover a lot of ground and see all the shows.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE

The weathered Airwaves vet can expect a few new things on the menu this year, such as the comeback of some old venues that haven't been used in a while, and a bunch of altogether new ones. These new venues may not have very large capacity, but they will certainly give the overall festival more grounded surface. Festivalgoers will also be happy to know that Prikki's Rock & Bacon breakfast, ongoing throughout the event, will be starting at 7:00am this year. Definitely eat a yummy, greasy breakfast and kill your hangover after partying on Saturday night, because this year is going to close with a big bang. On Sunday night, which has been fairly low key in the past, they plan to throw the party to end all parties. See you there. ♡

✍ REBECCA LOUDER
✉ EMMA SVENSSON

Opinion | Louise Petersson

Why Whale?

I'm worried. Quite troubled and downright concerned. But before looking further into the subject at hand, I would like to plea for some sort of understanding from the general public, from which I expect to get my ass kicked after the statements to come. That said, let's get down to business:

Since moving to this rock of a country there is one matter that has caused me an extensive amount of distress. It was while driving along the ring road and passing Hvalfjörður the other day when I saw the old whaling station up and running. A boat was either coming or going, I couldn't tell which. The thought of a whale potentially being offloaded made me sick to my stomach, and reminded me of the reality of which I am now living. A reality where whaling is considered fine and dandy.

What shocks me the most is the fact that no Icelander seems to either

- care
 - know what the hell whaling is about.
- The consumption of whale meat is something so natural and common I'm beginning to wonder if anyone has ever considered how or why the animal ended up on their plate. It's time for an eye opener.

Back in the day, an orgy of unrestrained whale hunting almost sent a hell of a lot of species to near extinction. Finally, in 1986, environmentalists reached a breakthrough when the International Whaling Commission (IWC) voted to prohibit whaling with a global moratorium. That means whaling was banned, people, banned and prohibited everywhere. Or as the IWC states: "the commercial whaling moratorium sets commercial catch limits on all whale species in all areas to zero." However, some countries (Iceland being among them) thought: "Fuck this."

For the unversed, Iceland officially resumed commercial whaling in 2006—this after a 17 year standstill of the industry. Along with Norway, Iceland is openly flouting the IWC's rules being the only countries in the world conducting commercial whaling. Japan hunts whales using the pretence of "scientific whaling," something Iceland had also been doing since 2003.

So back to why this whole whaling business is oh so wrong. First and foremost I would like to make very clear that I oppose all forms of animal suffering and that I am against any kind of industry where animals are harmed for our own sakes. I personally believe that there is no difference in eating cow vs. whale; one is just as bad as the other. Many seem to have the impression that the argument of being against whaling is based on cuteness.

To be honest, that's just stupid. Besides, the basic fact that there is a global moratorium on whaling, the main issues on why whaling is so screwed up comes down to three points: it's not OK to kill endangered species, whales cannot be guaranteed to be killed humanely and the industry does more harm than good to Iceland as a nation.

Fin whales are endangered. Iceland hunts fin whales. Whalers often argue that they conduct sustainable whaling and that their catches will not deplete the populations. These arguments are based on doubtful science, often brought on by the whaling nations themselves. The fin whale is on the Red List of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. They are also listed as endangered by the UN World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Endless numbers of NGOs will agree. As far as I'm concerned, it is a fact. I rest my case.

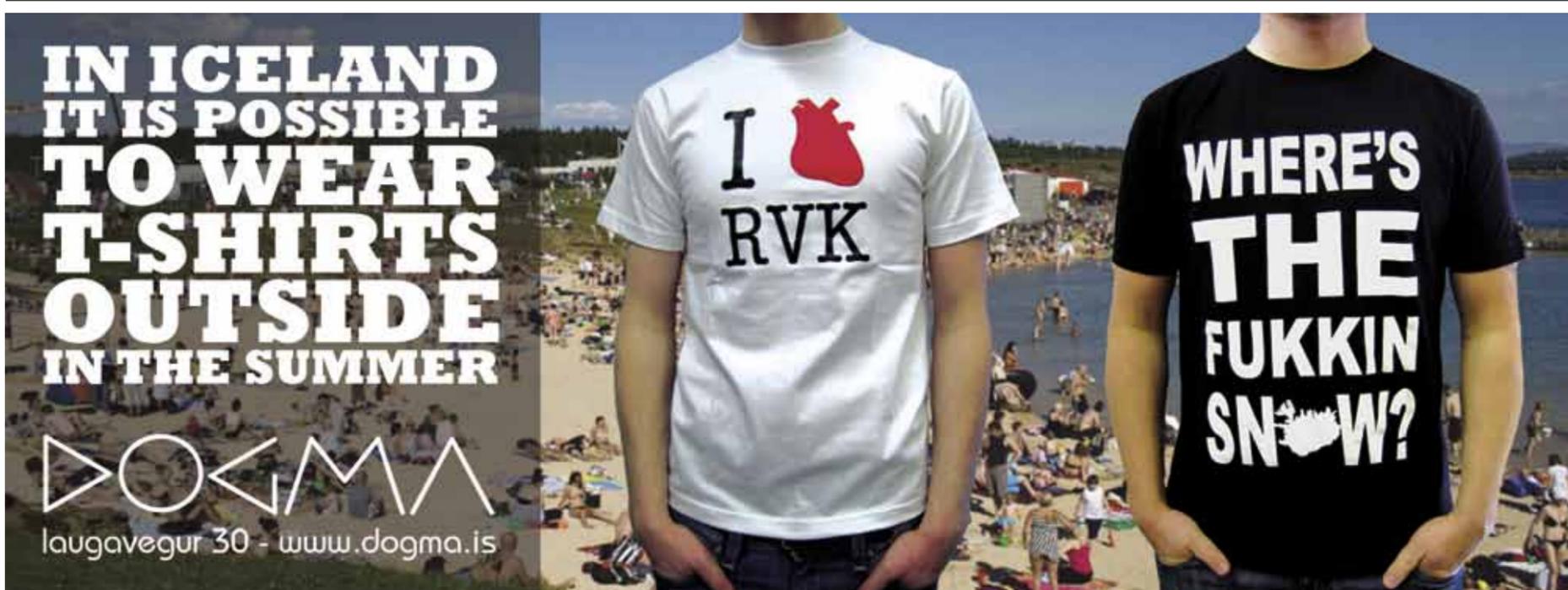
Next issue: compared to the somewhat more humane slaughter of livestock, the process of killing whales is nothing less than brutal and cruel using explosive harpoons that puncture the skin, exploding inside the body and all. More often than not it takes quite some time before the whale actually dies, which causes excessive suffering. There is no way to guarantee an instant death. Which just isn't nice.

Last but not least, whaling isn't all that great for Iceland's international reputation and neither is it all that profitable. The whale watching industry brings in more revenue than whaling possibly could, and there is little or no market for exporting the stuff.

Before leaving office this year, the former government issued a major increase of the whaling quota to 100 minke and 150 endangered fin whales annually for the next five years. It should be stated that fin meat is not eaten in Iceland and again, the export market is looking extremely slim. Sadly, the newly elected government has allowed the proposed quota at least for this year.

All I ask is that one ought to think twice about what purpose whaling serves. But if you simply couldn't care less for the creatures themselves, maybe you should think again before eating whale meat for your own sake. The blubber of dead whales in some areas is so highly contaminated with PCBs and pesticides that it would be classified as toxic waste; that, among other things, affects reproduction.

And that's just not right, is it? ♡



NEW BOOK
ICELANDIC NATURE & POEMS
 ENGLISH, FRANÇAIS, DEUTSCH & ICELANDIC



FIND YOUR ESSENCE IN ICELAND



Salka www.Salka.is



ATV/Quad tour by the Blue Lagoon

Trip to the Moon

You will experience nature in a different way!

You will experience

- ★ *Black sandy beach where Clint Eastwood made his film Flags of Our Fathers*
- ★ *Hot homemade chocolate*
- ★ *Bridge between two continents*
- ★ *Oldest lighthouse in Iceland*



Optional: Relax in the Blue Lagoon after the ATV tour

Daily at 10:00 from our base.

Pick-up at 08:30 from your hotel in Keflavik or Reykjavik.

Price 112 EUR per person for two people on a bike. Add 28 EUR for a bike for a single person.

Add 17 EUR for the pick-up service.

Duration: Flexible.

Included: 3-4 hours ATV guided tour, lunch pack and all transportation.

www.atv-adventures.com

info@atv4x4.is

+354-857-3001

Call us

or

Book through our website



EXPECT HANG OVERS...



NASA

THE BIGGEST CLUB IN DOWNTOWN REYKJAVIK. LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND. WWW.NASA.IS

Article | Education

It's Back to School Time!

Welcoming Háskóli Íslands' new batch of international students



A new season is upon us. The summer months that have treated us so well have now bid us adieu, as have the tourists and the long, bright days. Temperatures are cooler, nights are longer, vacations are over and school has reconvened. This means a fresh batch of international students have made their way to Iceland's magnificent capital for a semester or two of socializing, drinking, partying, and studying. In that order.

WELCOME TO REYKJAVÍK!

Two hundred and seventy Háskóli Íslands (HI) exchange students descended on Reykjavík over the past month, accompanied by some 3 or 4 hundred international degree students. With such programs as Erasmus making intra-Europe exchanges a piece of cake, most of the exchangees hail from the continent. "German, Finnish, Danish, Swedish, French and Spanish students are the biggest groups, but we do also get an increasing number of students from North America and Asia, even one or two Australians and New Zealanders each year," says Erla Björk Atladóttir of HI's Office of International Education.

Erla Björk's office helps new students with all the pesky paperwork needed to study in Iceland and finds them places to live. Along with the Student Union and the Erasmus Student Network the office has also arranged a buddy program that hooks international students up with Icelanders. Björn Teitsson, International Officer of Stúdentaráð at HÍ (SHÍ) hopes that such a program will

"help the foreign students to get into the Icelandic routine as quickly as possible."

The international students orientation went down on the 31st of August and since then ESN, SHÍ and the HÍ International Office have been helping the new recruits settle in with faculty orientations, a "Rat Race" around campus and a massive "get to know your buddy" party—complete with free booze for ESNers—earlier this month. ESN Reykjavík will keep the kids entertained the semester through with ongoing shindigs at Batteríið, rafting adventures and the like. There's nothing like the life of an Erasmus!

ADVICE FROM THE PROS

While a student exchange seems like somewhat of a no-brainer—go to location x, meet people, party, go to class—Erla Björk and Björn have some advice for the newbies in town.

"International students tend to stick together and regret not having made many Icelandic friends during their stay," said Erla Björk, "so I always encourage students to take part in events organised by the departmental student associations, that seems to be the best way to meet locals."

Björn, on the other hand, suggests, "[memorizing] the opening hours of ÁTVR, give learning Icelandic a shot and basically have a good time. Oh yeah, look out for the Soirées du Twist!"

CATHARINE FULTON
JULIA STAPLES

Meet the new students!



EIRIK, NORWAY, 24

Studies: Icelandic

"I study Nordic languages back home and I've been to Iceland and fell in love. It's a beautiful language, a beautiful country, so why not? I've already done a trip around the country, some friends and I rented a car so now I just want to sit back and relax and check out some of the pools around the city."



SUNNY, CHINA, 24

Studies: Icelandic

"I arrived mid-August and I've liked it very much. I'm here to study for half a year and I want to see some of the nature and learn about Icelandic culture. I've just started my studies so I don't speak any Icelandic yet, but I'm looking forward to learning."



MOLLY, UNITED STATES, 20

Studies: Anthropology

"I'm kinda shocked at how few people are in the city. I can walk from my apartment to the school or down town and pass nobody on the streets. I really like that about it so far. I'm really looking forward to meeting Icelandic people, learning some of the language and exploring the country. And drinking beer."



PAUL, CANADA, 25

Studies:

A smattering of things "Iceland is full of paradoxes and dichotomies and I find it perplexing—mostly in Icelandic people and culture and I'm not sure how to make heads or tails of it. I find it very curious though. The combination of something like animism while at the same time being hyper-consumeristic I find very strange. While in Iceland I'd like to just hang out and make music. That's it."

"International students tend to stick together and regret not having made many Icelandic friends during their stay."

Article | Aftermath

Dirty Deeds Bought Dirt Cheap?

Iceland Starts Selling Its Resources



Reykjavík City Council approved the sale of 32 percent of Reykjanes-based geothermal energy plant HS Orka to Canadian-come-Swedish company Magma Energy on September 16th in front of a group of protestors, who grew more rowdy as the meeting went on.

Earlier this summer Magma Energy, the latest venture of long-time mining industry hotshot Ross Beaty, acquired an 11% share in HS Orka from Geysir Green Energy. Beaty's Magma is now the proud owner of 42 % of HS Orka, along with exclusive rights to the geothermal fields of Reykjanes for up to 130 years.

"Icelanders don't know what we're all about, and they don't understand the world that we live in."

For perspective, note that in 130 years, everyone currently living on Earth – and a lot of folks that haven't been born yet – will be dead.

In an interview with the Grapevine, Beaty explained his foray into geothermal energy. "I'm an entrepreneur so I've started many companies, and this time around I wanted to build something green. I looked at geothermal and it just fit." The self-proclaimed environmentalist shakes off accusations of hypocrisy for spending the past 35 years in mining – arguably the most destructive industry on the planet – chalking up such beliefs to the bias and "ignorance" of the public.

Another accusation that Beaty chalks up to ignorance is the distrust of the Icelandic people for deals that see the nation's resources in

the hands of foreign firms. "I would suggest that is ignorance and complete nonsense," asserted Beaty when asked his thoughts on Magma being thought of as an opportunist, taking advantage of the weakened Icelandic economy. "It's just because Icelanders don't know what we're all about, and they don't understand the world that we live in."

The sale of a portion of Reykjavík Energy's share in HS Orka was put forth as a wise business move by Reykjavík's mayor Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir, saying "the only responsible option for the City of Reykjavík was to approve the sale of OR's shares in HS Orka to Magma Energy Sweden AB."

Others on the city council and members of Alþingi have spoken out against the deal, however, expressing concerns for this landmark agreement opening the doors for more foreign purchases and rampant privatization of valuable natural resources. Social Democratic MP Ólína Þorvarðardóttir told the Grapevine "I am deeply worried that this sale has opened the floodgates for huge foreign companies to rush in to get a similar 'bargain.' Even though we are just talking here about the utilisation right of the resources, we have to keep in mind that the profit of the resource depends on the utilisation right. What's the use of having ownership of a resource if you don't have the right to profit from it?"

More information on Magma Energy, their purchase of HS Orka and the potential for continued privatisation of Iceland's resources will be available in the October 9th issue of the Grapevine.

CATHARINE FULTON
HÖRÐUR SVEINSSON

Dance with Us!

Hemmi & Valdi

We are here:
Laugarvegur
Klappargatigur

Laugavegi 21 - 101 Reykjavik - 551 6464

STAY WITH US!

REYKJAVIK Backpackers

GREAT VALUE ACCOMMODATION IN THE HEART OF REYKJAVIK!
+354 578 3700
WWW.REYKJAVIKBACKPACKERS.COM

gogoyoko presents an Iceland Airwaves Edition of:

Grapevine Grand Rock

Jeff Who? + Morðingjarnir + Feldberg
+ Mr. Fogg (special int'l guest)

Grand Rokk // 22:00 // Friday October 9 // 1.000 ISK

gogoyoko

The REYKJAVÍK
GRAPEVINE



**ALDAR
AFMÆLI
2009
CENTENNIAL
100 ÁRS
JUBILÆUM**

ÍSLAND :: KVIKMYNDIR ICELAND :: FILM

BERLÍN – KAUPMANNAHÖFN – REYKJAVÍK
BERLIN – COPENHAGEN – REYKJAVÍK

Sýning í Þjóðmenningarhúsinu sem veitir yfirsýn yfir íslenska kvikmyndagerð frá 1904 til 2008. Um 100 íslenskar kvikmyndir af öllu tagi til sýnis í fullri lengd.

Exhibition in the Culture House providing an overview of Icelandic filmmaking. About 100 films can be viewed in full length.



The Culture House - Þjóðmenningarhúsið
National Centre for Cultural Heritage

Hverfisgata 15, 101 Reykjavík
Tel.: +354 545 1400, www.thjodmenning.is

Opið daglega
kl. 11.00 – 17.00

Open daily between
11 am and 5 pm.



2009

READERS' SPA AWARDS

WINNER

MEDICAL/THERMAL SPA/NATURAL SPA
BLUE LAGOON
ICELAND

BLUE LAGOON
ICELAND



Energy for life
through forces of nature

Blue lagoon is open daily

www.bluelagoon.com

Feature | Interview with Milos Forman

Milos Forman's Masterclass

Milos Forman is sitting at café Hressó, just about the only bar in Reykjavík where one can still sit and smoke. In his hand he has a very large cigar, and in front of him is a bottle of malt. No, he's not boozing in the middle of the day. This is the local version, Maltöl, much beloved by Icelandic children.

Milos looks up as I sit down in front of him. Old and wizened eyes gaze at me. They have seen the end of World War II, Nazi occupation and communist takeover, the legendary Prague Spring of 1968. They have also directed some of the greatest films ever made, brought Mozart to life and turned Jack Nicholson into a madman. Large parts of 20th century Czech history can be told through the life of Milos Forman. So can a sizeable part of cinema history. He is not bad company. There is so much I want to ask him. Therefore, I am somewhat surprised when, like any average Icelandic journalist, I find myself asking not about him or his work, but about Iceland.

✍ VALUR GUNNARSSON
📷 BALDUR KRISTJÁNS



So you first heard about Iceland when Bobby Fischer played here?

"My friend Lubomir Kavalek was Bobby Fischer's second in Reykjavik." **Did Kavalek also emigrate from Czechoslovakia after 1968?** [The Fischer-Spassky match took place only four years after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and Forman's emigration to the West]

"Yes he did. Kavalek later became the US chess champion."

Do you think it was a chance for him to get back at the Russians through Bobby Fischer, after the invasion of Czechoslovakia, as the famous water polo match against the Soviet Union was for the Hungarians in 1956?

"Yes, it was very similar. The Hungarians hoped that the Western democracies would come and help. They didn't, and the same happened in Czechoslovakia. They didn't want to start World War III."

I understand that there was a sense in Czechoslovakia at the time that they were betrayed by Western intellectuals, who at the time were busy protesting against capitalism.

"I went to France at the time and I met some of my heroes, such as Truffaut. I couldn't understand that these people were trying to drag the red flag up while we were trying to pull it down. For them, the pendulum had swung too far to the right, while for us at the same time, it had swung too far to the left."

TWO KINDS OF CENSORSHIP

Forman's countryman Milan Kundera wrote *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* about the Prague Spring. Forman, however, is more interested

in going farther back in Czech history. He is currently trying to make a movie about the Munich conference in 1938 when Hitler met with Chamberlain, Daladier and Mussolini and was given permission to march into the Czech borderlands.

How is your film on the Munich conference going?

"We have the screenplay, and locations have been found and some of the cast. But they can't find the finances. They are still trying. There's little chance that the film will be made, but we'll see."

In Czechoslovakia, you couldn't make the films that you wanted, which is presumably why you left, but in Hollywood, you now can't make the film that you want to, because it doesn't appeal to the studios?

"Look, under communism, there was this ideological pressure. In America, that doesn't exist at all. But there is a commercial pressure. Whoever puts money in the film wants money back. I prefer commercial pressure, it is up to the audience whether they like it or not. With ideological pressure, you are at the mercy of some ideologue."

But Hollywood is always trying to replicate last year's success. As they say, nobody knows anything. "If something has success, they want to repeat it. That's normal."

Surely, this must be restraining for a filmmaker such as yourself that appeals to more discerning audiences?

"That's life," he says nonchalantly.

CUTTING OFF EXTREMES

It's obvious that Forman is rather fond of free speech. When he made *The People vs. Larry Flynt* in 1996, about

the *Hustler* editor and his lawsuits, he was criticized by both Christian organisations and feminists for glorifying pornography.

In *The People vs. Larry Flynt*, you defend free speech, even if it takes the form of pornography.

"They sued him and he won. The Supreme Court decided that free speech should be protected, even if it's uncomfortable speech. Comfortable speech doesn't need protection. Uncomfortable speech does. It was a very important decision by the Supreme Court to ensure that even uncomfortable speech should be protected."

Noam Chomsky said much the same thing, when he even defended neo-Nazis' right to free speech.

"It's true. It's ridiculous to say, 'Yes, we want democracy, but we want to control what is said.' It doesn't work that way. Democracy is either for everybody or for nobody. It's as simple as that."

So, do you see Larry Flynt as a hero of free speech?

"I don't know whether he really did it to protect free speech or just to sell more pornography. I don't know, and to be honest, I don't care. When the communists took over, they made laws that we have to protect the system. They said: 'We don't want to curb free speech, just the extremes.' So they cut off the extreme voices. But then, something else that was not extreme before now becomes extreme. So you cut off those voices. Again, something has become extreme that wasn't before and they cut them off too. After a while, everything is censored and controlled. So it's a slippery slope."

After Iceland's economic collapse,

we seem to be hearing a lot of voices we didn't hear before. The market seemed to be very efficient in cutting off those voices earlier...

"Well, 'whoever criticises the president or this or that minister is seen as attacking the whole country, so we have to stop that.' Well, that's ridiculous."

NOT GUILTY ABOUT SALIERI

Forman returned to his homeland in the early '80s to make a film where Cold War Prague was used as a stand-in for Rococo Vienna.

When you were making *Amadeus* in Prague, American flags were rolled out on the set on the 4th of July. Did you plan that?

"No, I didn't even know about it. It was prepared by the technicians. On the 4th of July, suddenly, instead of Mozart's music, the American national anthem was played in the theatre and the flag was rolled out. Six hundred extras were there and when the anthem started to play, they didn't know what was happening. When they realised it, they all stood up, except for the members of the secret police. It was a funny situation."

At that point, America still represented freedom to the Czechs. Do you think it still does?

"It's a very complicated situation still today. A lot of economic and political power is still in the hands of former communists and secret police people who are now big capitalists. It's like a mafia and they all help each other. It will take another generation or two." *Amadeus*, set in late 18th Century Vienna, is probably Forman's most famous film and often counted among the greatest films of all time.

It was based on Peter Schaffer's play, which suggested that Mozart's rival, Salieri, was partially responsible for his death. In fact, Salieri later taught Mozart's son.

Did you ever feel guilty about implicating Salieri in Mozart's death, which is probably untrue?

"No, I don't feel guilty towards Salieri. After the movie came out, suddenly everybody started listening to his music. It was everywhere."

CHANGE HAS TO COME FROM WITHIN

Forman's latest film, *Goya's Ghosts*, deals with the Spanish inquisition in the late 18th Century, a period Forman seems to go back to a lot.

"There is an interesting parallel between events in the early 19th Century and now. Napoleon liberated Spain from the inquisition. But he didn't realise that the changes have to come from within society, not from outside. Suddenly, he became the occupier and not the liberator of Spain. It's the same with Iraq. The Americans thought they would be welcomed as liberators, but that didn't happen. Any change has to come within."

What possessed you to make a film based on *Dangerous Liaisons*, set in late 18th Century Paris, after they had just made a major film after Laclos' novel?

"We started first, but they were faster. I've loved the book since I was in school. It's all written in letters where one person is competing with the other about who is the worse human being. So they take pride in being bad. In the letters, they describe to each other what they want the other person to read. But if Marquise de Merteuil

The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE iNFO



Music, Art, Films and Events Listings + Eating, Drinking and Shopping + Map

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL AND
ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND.

Issue 15 2009

www.grapevine.is



NORDISK PANORAMA

Various Locations

September 25-30th,

What is the most definitive cultural pastime imaginable?

Only two things come to mind. One would be drinking tea with Milan Kundera while reading poetry to a cat. The other would be attending a Nordic short- and doc film festival. While the former sounds fun, the latter is certainly more attainable. You can, in fact, definitely experience it at the annual **Nordisk Panorama Five Cities Film Festival**, which takes place in Reykjavík this year. In plain English: this means that Regnboginn Movie theatre will be swamped with turtle-neck wearing culture-vultures from September 25-30.

Among documentaries screened at the festival are films about comedy in North-Korea (*The Red Chapel*), city planning in Helsinki (*Hanasaari A*), rape and murder in Trondheim (*Nemesis*), the Italian TV-monopoly as controlled by their PM Berlusconi (*Videocracy*) and black culture in Detroit (*Black Nation*). The short flicks deal with the typical hyperborean themes like suicide (*November*), loneliness (*Anna, Fish, Epic Fail*), a handful of flicks about adultery (e.g. *Sheep, Truth or Dare*) and domestic violence (*Beast*). But there are also more cheerful themes.

Information on schedule and prices can be found at www.nordiskpanorama.com

BEB

MUSIC

CONCERTS & NIGHTLIFE

Den Danske Kro
Kro Bodega Pub

Aben hverdag fra kl. 14:00
(the only danish kro in Iceland)

Ingólfsstræti 3 101 Rvk

PRESCRIBING WITH LOVE MUSIC FOR YOUR LIVE EXPERIENCE

How to use the listings
Venues are listed alphabetically by day.
For complete listings and detailed information on venues visit www.grapevine.is

25 FRI

- Bakkus**
22:00 DJ KGB.
- Bar 11**
22:00 DJ Matti.
- Batteriíð**
20:00 Réttir Reykjavík Round-Up. Check out rettir.is for full schedule.
- Café Rosenberg**
22:00 Ljótu Hálfvitarnir.
- Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music.
- Cultura**
22:00 House DJs.
- Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music.
- English Pub**
22:00 Live Music.
- Grand Rokk**
20:00 Réttir Reykjavík Round-Up. Check out rettir.is for full schedule.
- Hressó**
22:00 Dalton and DJ Maggi.
- Jacobsen**
22:00 Réttir Reykjavík Round-Up: múm DJ set and guests.
- Kaffibarinn**
23:45 DJ B Ruff.
- Kaffi Hljómalind**
22:00 S.L.A.T.U.R.
- Kaffi Zimsen**
22:00 DJs Nino and Dramatík.
- NASA**
20:00 Réttir Reykjavík Round-Up. Check out rettir.is for full schedule.
- Oliver**
23:00 Ladies Night with DJ Brynjar Már.
- Prikið**
22:00 V.I.P. Weekend with resident band and Danni Deluxxx.
- Sódóma**
20:00 Réttir Reykjavík Round-Up. Check out rettir.is for full schedule.
- Thorvaldsen**
22:00 DJ Jay Arr.

26 SAT

- Bakkus**
22:00 DJ Árni Sveins.
- Bar 11**
22:00 DJ Biggi Maus.
- Batteriíð**
20:00 Réttir Reykjavík Round-Up. Check out rettir.is for full schedule.
- Café Rosenberg**
22:00 Ljótu Hálfvitarnir.
- Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music.
- Cultura**
22:00 House DJs.
- Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music.
- English Pub**
22:00 Live Music.
- Grand Rokk**
22:00 Réttir Reykjavík Round-Up. Check out rettir.is for full schedule.
- Hressó**
22:00 Ímynd and DJ Maggi.
- Jacobsen**
22:00 Réttir Reykjavík Round-Up presents: **Breakbeat.is with Hudson Mohawke (UK).**
- Kaffibarinn**
23:45 DJ Maggi Légo.
- Kaffi Hljómalind**
22:00 Punk Night.
- Kaffi Zimsen**
22:00 DJs Nino and Dramatík.
- NASA**
20:00 Réttir Reykjavík Round-Up. Check out rettir.is for full schedule.
- Nikita**
21:00 GusGus album release show. Free admission.
- Oliver**
00:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- Prikið**
22:00 V.I.P. Weekend All-Star DJs: Addi, Danni, Benni, Gísli, Krúsi, Árni and more.
- Reykjavík Art Museum**
20:00 Elektra Ensemble. 1500ISK for adults, 1000ISK for children, students, seniors and disabled.
- Sódóma**
20:00 Réttir Reykjavík Round-Up. Check out rettir.is for full schedule.
- Thorvaldsen**
22:00 DJ Tender.

27 SUN

- Café Rosenberg**
22:00 Kim Bock Quartet.
- Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music.
- Kaffi Hljómalind**
22:00 Okidoki presents: **The Hangover Concert.**
- Kaffi Zimsen**
22:00 Movie night.
- Prikið**
23:00 V.I.P. Weekend Hangover Cinema, screening **Seventh Samurai.** Free popcorn.

28 MON

- Café Rosenberg**
22:00 Jaguar.
- Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music.
- Kaffi Hljómalind**
10:00 Join Kaffi Hljómalind on their last open day!
- Kaffi Zimsen**
21:00 Best Friends Day. 2 for 1 beer.
- Prikið**
22:00 DJ Gauti.

29 TUE

- Café Rosenberg**
22:00 Hek.
- Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music.
- Oliver**
22:00 Live Karaokei with Trúbador Raggi.
- Prikið**
22:00 Kokteibandið and guests.

30 WED

- Café Rosenberg**
22:00 Buff.
- Café Rót**
20:00 Grassroots Night.
- Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music.
- Kaffibarinn**
23:45 DJ Indjáni.
- Kaffi Hljómalind**
18:00 Ghetto Yoga.
- Prikið**
22:00 Introbeats.

1 THU

- B5**
21:00 Live Music.
- Bar 11**
22:00 Kreppa Nights with DJ Óli Dóri and live music.
- Café Rosenberg**
22:00 Buff
- Cultura**
22:00 House DJs.
- Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music.
- English Pub**
22:00 Live Music.
- Hitt Húsið**
20:00 The Vulgate and guests.
- Hressó**
22:00 Troubadours Jogvan and Vignir.

- Jacobsen**
22:00 Breakbeat.is.
- Kaffibarinn**
23:45 The Airwaves Tickle with Ljósvaki and DJ Alfons X.
- Kaffi Hljómalind**
17:30 Ghetto Yoga.
- Kaffi Zimsen**
22:00 Ólafsvaka night. Beer for 490 ISK.
- Kjarvalsstaðir**
12:15 Trio of Reykjavík.
- Oliver**
22:00 Inngó Veðurguð. Beer for 500 ISK.
- Sódóma**
22:00 Alice in Chains Tribute Concert
- Thorvaldsen**
20:30 Salsa & Mojito night. Free salsa lessons and mojitos for 1000ISK.

2 FRI

- Bar 11**
22:00 DJ Biggi Maus.
- Café Rosenberg**
22:00 Lester Young Tribute Band.
- Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music.
- Cultura**
22:00 House DJs.
- Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music.
- English Pub**
22:00 Live music.
- Kaffibarinn**
23:45 Terrordisco.
- Kaffi Hljómalind**
20:00 Farewell Hljómalind concert.
- Kaffi Zimsen**
22:00 DJs Nino and Dramatík.
- Jacobsen**
22:00 Thank God It's Friday with Gísli Galdur and Sammi Jagúar.
- Oliver**
23:00 Ladies Night with DJ Maggi.
- Sódóma**
22:00 Jeff Who? + guests.
- Thorvaldsen**
22:00 Boogie Night with DJ Siggí HÍð.

3 SAT

- Bar 11**
22:00 Gulli Ósama.
- Café Rosenberg**
22:00 Hundur í óskilum.
- Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- Cultura**
22:00 House DJs.
- Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music.
- English Pub**
22:00 Live Music.
- Hressó**
22:00 Ímynd and DJ Fannar.
- Jacobsen**
22:00 Aaron Carl (WallShaker Music, Detroit, USA) with Yamaha (ICE).
- Kaffibarinn**
23:45 DJ Gísli Galdur.
- Kaffi Hljómalind**
20:00 Farewell Hljómalind concert.
- Kaffi Zimsen**
22:00 DJs Nino and Dramatík.
- Oliver**

Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

Amsterdam Hafnarstræti 5 D3	Dubliner Hafnarstræti 4 D3	Nýlenduvörurverzlun Hemma & Valda Laugavegur 21 F5
Apótek Austurstræti 16 E3	English Pub Austurstræti 12 E3	Næsti Bar Ingólfsstræti 1A E5
B5 Bankastræti 5 E4	Glaumar Tryggvagata 20 D3	Óliver Laugavegur 20A F5
Babalú Skólavörðustígur 22 F5	Grand Rokk Smiðjustígur E5	Ólstofan Vegamótastígur F5
Batteri Hafnarstræti 1-3 D3	Highlander Lækjargata 10 F3	Prikið Bankastræti F5
Bar 11 Laugavegur 11 E5	Hressó Austurstræti 20 E4	Rósenberg Klapparstígur 25 F6
Barbara Laugavegur 22 F6	Hverfisbarinn Hverfisgata 20 E5	Sódóma Reykjavík Tryggvagata 22 D3
Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20 E4	Jacobsen Austurstræti 9 E3	Sólón Bankastræti 7A E4
Boston Laugavegur 28b F6	Kaffi Hljómalind Laugavegur 23 F6	Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 E3
Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 E5	Kaffi Zimsen Hafnarstræti 18 E4	Vegamót Vegamótastígur 4 F5
Café Paris Austurstræti 14 E3	Kaffibarinn Bergstræðastræti 1 F5	
Balthazar Hafnarstræti 1-3 D3	Karamba Laugavegur 22 F6	
Celtic Cross Hverfisgata 26 E5	London/Reykjavík Tryggvagata 22 D3	
Dillon Laugavegur 30 F6	NASA Porvaldsenstræti 2 E3	

Sódóma Reykjavík - Live Music Venue
Tryggvagata 22
101 Reykjavík
[facebook.com/sodomarvk](https://www.facebook.com/sodomarvk)



Are you local?
...you can be for a night!

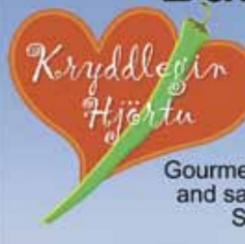
Hangikjöt, plockfiskur and harðfiskur are as interesting to eat as they are to pronounce. After dinner, stay for the "frábæra" live music and our "fræga" Reykjavik nightlife.



Íslenski Barinn
Reykjavík

www.islenskiabarinn.is • info@islenskiabarinn.is
The Icelandic Bar • Austurvöllur • Reykjavík • Tel: 578 2020

Mountain view **Buffet**



Gourmet soups and salad bar. Seafood.

Skúlagata 17
101 Reykjavík
www.kryddleginhjortu.is
Tel: 588-8818

SIXT
rent a car

Best located downtown hotel
in Keflavik
5 min from the airport

Special summer offers

contact us now
tel: +354-4209800
www.airporthotel.is

Tel +354 577 60 50
www.sixt.is

Licensing and registration of travel-related services

The Icelandic Tourist Board issues licences to tour operators and travel agents, as well as issuing registration to booking services and information centres.

Tour operators and travel agents are required to use a special logo approved by the Icelandic Tourist Board on all their advertisements and on their Internet website.

Booking services and information centres are entitled to use a Tourist Board logo on all their material. The logos below are recognised by the Icelandic Tourist Board.



List of licenced Tour Operators and Travel Agencies on: visiticeland.com

VÍKIN MUSEUM CAFÉ
Traditional Icelandic delicacies!

OPENING HOURS:
Summer (June 1st – September 14th)
Daily from 11am to 5pm
Winter (September 15th – May 31st)
Tuesdays – Sundays from 1pm to 5pm

VÍKIN
MUSEUM BY THE SEA
MARITIME MUSEUM | GRANDAGARÐI 8 | REYKJAVÍK
WWW.SJOMINJASFN.IS

MUSIC SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER

– continued –

OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

Akureyri
Græna Hattinum
September 25 & 26
Mánar frá Selfossi
10pm - Possible entry fee

Ísafjörður
Kaffi Edinborg
September 25 **Bubbi Morthens**
8:30pm - Possible entry fee

Keflavík
Paddy's
October 1 **Pub quiz**
9pm - Free
October 2 **Deep Jimmy**
Midnight - 1500ISK
October 3 **Grammið**
Midnight - Free

Sellfoss
800 Bar
September 25 **DJ Þórður Daniel**

HOTEL KEILIR

Best located downtown hotel
in Keflavik
5 min from the airport

Special summer offers

contact us now
tel: +354-4209800
www.airporthotel.is



Creative Crates Reykjavík Art Museum Ongoing until January 3rd '10

Tokyo-based J-Pop artist Yoshitomo Nara's recently opened installation, "Crated Rooms" frames paintings, drawings and sculptures in a series of industrial-grade crates and spaces. Nara and his collaborator, Hideki Toyoshima, make good use of the space, giving a dynamic, exploratory feel to a gallery that might otherwise feel cold and concrete. At first glance, Nara's large-eyed characters exude a sense of childlike wonder and innocence. The devil is, of course, in the details: there's something uneasy about the rushed drawings and the crates give off an illicit, black market feel. A mummified, child-like figure is stuck in what looks to be an interrogation room; a young girl plays with a skull; tears dot cheeks on a number of paintings. Something's not quite right here—we just haven't been able to put our finger on it yet. **MZ**



DJ Margeir & his Symphony Orchestra conducted by Samuel Samuelsson

Laugardalshöll ☺ 21:00

2900ISK

As a club DJ, Margeir has been laying down the gospel since the early 90s, filling slots at Borgin, the seminal Rósenberg club and in venues all over the world. He has appeared alongside Carl Cox, Daft Punk, Booka Shade and Trentemøller and has also hit the decks in support of Kraftwerk and Björk. Assembling members of the acclaimed Icelandic Symphony Orchestra, the collective has been gathering admirers and high regard wherever they go. Margeir and Samuel have arranged strings to go alongside their creative DJ sets and have been performing with the members of the orchestra, often with GusGus vocalist Daniel Ágúst. Performing as part of EVE-Online's Fanfest Party on Top Of the World, the performance, will include music themed to EVE Online. It is not to be missed. **SW**



Thursday Foreplay Concert Series

Hitt Húsið ☺ 20:00

Every Thursday in October, Free

Once again, the all-free Thursday Foreplay shows are back! Since 2002, the good people at Hitt Húsið have been supporting young musicians aged 16-25 by setting up a forum in which they can both play and experience live shows, providing them with equipment and facilities. This upcoming month they will be hosting the likes of The Vulgate (1st), In Samsara (8th), The Sleeping Prophets (22nd) and Swive (29th), as well as a slew of opening acts. All shows are free and open to anyone 16 and older. Go see the promising young talent this city is breeding. **RL**

Art | Venue finder

101 Gallery
Hverfisgata 18A | **F6**
Thu-Sat 14-17 and by appointment
www.101hotel.
is/101hotel/101gallery/

Artótek
Tryggvagata 15 | **D5**
Mon 10-21, Tue-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-19, Sat and Sun 13-17
www.sim.is/Index/Islenka/
Artotek

ASÍ Art Museum
Freygata 41 | **G10**
Tue-Sun 13-17

Árbæjarsafn
Kistuhylur 4

The Culture House
Hverfisgata 15 | **F6**
Open daily 11-17
www.thjodmenning.is

Dwarf Gallery
Grundarstígur 21 | **H8**
Opening Hours: Fri and Sat 18-20
www.this.is/birta

The Einar Jónsson Museum
Eiriksgata | **G9**
Tue-Sun 14-17
www.skulptur.is

Fótógrafi
Skólavörðustígur 4a | **F7**
www.fotografi.is

Gallery 100°
Bæjarháls 1
www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100/
Open weekdays from 08:30-16:00

Gallery Auga fyrir Auga
Hverfisgata 35 | **G7**

Gallery StartArt
Laugavegur 12B | **G7**
Tue-Sat 1-17
www.startart.is

Gallery Ágúst
Baldursgata 12 | **F9**
Wed-Sat 12-17
www.galleriagust.is

Gallery Fold
Rauðarástígur 14-16 | **J9**
Mon-Fri 10-18 / Sat 11-16 / Sun 14-16
www.myndlist.is

Gallery Kling & Bang
Hverfisgata 42 | **G7**
Thurs-Sun from 14-18
this.is/klingogbang/

Gallery Turpentine
Ingólfstræti 5 | **F7**
Tue-Fri 12-18 / Sat 11-16
www.turpentine.is

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre
Gerðuberg 3-5
Mon-Thu 11-17 / Wed 11-21 / Thu-Fri 11-17 / Sat-Sun 13-16
www.gerduberg.is

Hitt Húsið
– Gallery Tukt
Pósthússtræti 3-5 | **E6**
www.hithusid.is

i8 Gallery
Klapparástígur 33 | **G7**
Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and by appointment. www.i8.is

Living Art Museum
Vatnsstígur 3 – **G7**
Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17 / Thu 13-22. www.nylo.is

Lost Horse Gallery
Skólástræti 1 | **F6**
Weekends from 13-19 and by appointment on weekdays.

Hafnarborg
Strandgötu 34,
Hafnarfjörður

The National Gallery of Iceland
Frikirkjuvegur 7 | **E8**

Tue-Sun 11-17
www listasafn.is
The National Museum
Suðurgata 41 | **C9**
Open daily 10-17
natmus.is/

The Nordic House
Sturlugata 5 | **C11**
Tue-Sun 12-17
www.nordice.is/

The Numismatic Museum
Einholt 4 | **K9**
Open Mon-Fri 13:30-15:30.

Reykjavík 871+/-2
Aðalstræti 17 | **D6**
Open daily 10-17

Reykjavík Art Gallery
Skúlagata 28 | **H6**
Tuesday through Sunday 14-18

Reykjavík Art Museum
Open daily 10-16
www listasafnreykjavikur.is

Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum Sigtún
Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17 | **E5**
Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagata | **K11**

Reykjavík City Theatre
Listabraut 3

Reykjavík Maritime Museum
Grandagarður 8 | **C3**

Reykjavík Museum of Photography
Tryggvagata 16 | **D5**
Weekdays 12-19 / Sat-Sun 13-17
www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
Laugarnestangi 70

ART

GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

COCKTAIL PLEASURES AND VISUAL STIMULATION

How to use the listings
Venues are listed alphabetically by day.
For complete listings and detailed information on venues visit www.grapevine.is

OPENING

SEPTEMBER

26 ☺ 1pm

ASÍ Art Museum

Roles

Guðjón Ketilsson exhibits new sculptures and drawings in the Ásmundarsalur. He explores buildings, spaces and furniture, their roles and parallels with the human body. An artist talk will be held in the museum on Sunday October 4th at 15:00. Ongoing until October 18.

26 ☺ 1pm

ASÍ Art Museum

Lothar Pöpperl

Lothar Pöpperl exhibits paintings, photographs and three dimensional works in Gryfjan and Arinstofa. Ongoing until October 18.

26 ☺ 12pm

Reykjavík Museum of Photography

André Kertész - Ma France

Exhibit of André Kertész's photographs of France.

ONGOING

Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum

Permanent Exhibition:

The Shape of Line.

A new retrospective of works by Ásmundur Sveinsson. The exhibition focuses on abstract works from 1945 onwards.

May 01 - April 30 2010

RHYTHM- Ásmundur and Our Age

This exhibition showcases contemporary artists that tackle similar issues as Ásmundur did in his time, but in a context of a new age.

The Culture House

Permanent Exhibition:

Medieval Manuscripts

March 28 - January 10 2010

ICELAND::FILM

This exhibition traces for the first time the development of Icelandic filmmaking from its origins around 1904 to the year 2008.

September 16 - December 1

Postal History and Transport

The Library Room

Current exhibitions:

August 12 - ongoing

National Archives of Iceland - 90 years in the museum building.

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Culture House.

Sheepskin, Saffian and Shirting

Exhibiting the tools and equipment used in book binding.

Exhibition Series:

Paintings by Hulda Viljálmsdóttir.

The Einar Jónsson Museum

Permanent exhibition: **The ork of sculptor Einar Jónsson.**

Gallery Ágúst

Autumn Exhibition

An exhibit consisting of new artwork of various media by a group of five different artists. Ongoing until October 10.

Galleri Fold

September 19 - October 4

Haukur Snorrason exhibits his photography.

Galleri Tukt

Portrait a Day

September 19 - October 3

An exhibit showing a series of portraits by photographer Ernir Eyjólfsson. One photo was taken for each day this summer to capture people in their own environment during their usual day to day activities.

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre

August 12 - October 17

Cartoon courses for teenagers

Halldór Baldursson's course will cover the basics of political cartooning: symbolism, exaggeration, sarcasm and

analysis, with a look at the history of cartoons and their role in the present age. The event runs every Saturday and costs 5500ISK.

August 20 - October 18

Headlines...

Caricatures by Halldór Baldursson 2007-2009.

August 20 - October 11

Stories without words

Ólöf Erla Einarisdóttir exhibits photo-manipulated pictures.

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre Boginn Gallery

August 19 - November 8

Rising From the Summer Sea

Steinunn Einarisdóttir exhibits oil, watercolour and acrylic paintings

Gljúfrasteinn Laxness Museum

Gljúfrasteinn was the home and workplace of Halldór Laxness (winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955) and his family for more than half a century. It has now been opened to the public as a museum, unchanged from when Laxness lived there.

Kling & Bang Gallery

Sleepless Nights: Visions from Western Canada

A group exhibition that brings together nine contemporary artists from the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia. The exhibition looks to (re-)engage the cultural and historical connections between Western Canada and Iceland.

Living Art Museum

The museum is closed for restoration and will open on a new location in January 2010.

National Gallery of Iceland

Ongoing through October 18

Hidden Treasure: Treasures In Public Possession?

Works from the three Icelandic state-owned banks' collections, along with some works from the National Gallery.

The National Museum

Permanent exhibition:

The Making of a Nation

Heritage and History in Iceland is intended to provide insight into the history of the Icelandic nation from the Settlement to the present day.

January 31 - November 30.

Encounters.

Archaeological excavations at many locations around Iceland have been funded by Kristnihátíðarsjóður (the Millennium Fund). Finds from some of these excavations are on display in an exhibition suitable for the whole family.

The Numismatic Museum

Permanent exhibition:

The Central Bank of Iceland and the National Museum of Iceland jointly operate a numismatic collection consisting of Icelandic notes and coins.

Ráðhús Reykjavíkur

Dulin Himintungl

Kim Linnet exhibits her 360° panorama photos of Iceland.

Reykjavík 871 +/- 2

Permanent exhibition:
The Settlement Exhibition

Reykjavík Art Museum

Hafnarhús

September 3 - October 18

Children of Nature vs. Antichrists.

Consisting of twelve large paintings of selected frames from films by Lars von Trier and Friðrik Thor Friðriksson, and a multi-media installation by Ari Alexander Ergis Magnússon.

September 3 - October 18

D 13 Ingibjörg Birgisdóttir

The D project is a series of exhibitions at Hafnarhus, drawing its name from one of the museum's galleries. For the ongoing series, the Reykjavik Art Museum commissions new work by promising artists who have not had prior private exhibitions in Iceland's major museums.

September 17 - January 3 2010

The Crated Rooms in Iceland

A new installation by world-renowned artist Yoshitomo Nara in collaboration with Hideki Toyoshima. The room-sized installation, which consists of shipping crates and billboards, places Nara's iconic images in a new and unexpected context.

Reykjavík Art Museum

Kjarvalsstaðir

September 12 - November 8

Blink

The exhibition explores the role of visual illusion in Icelandic art from the middle of the 1960s until today. Included are paintings and sculptures by the artists Eybor Guðmundsdóttir, Hreinn Friðfinnsson, Ólafur Eliásson, JBK Ransu and others. The way artists



Pórir SF 77

Gallery Verðandi

September 18 - October 16

Photographer Brynja Dögg Friðriksdóttir decided to hop aboard a ship in her home town Höfn in Hornafirði one day in February and spend the day at sea. The result? A photo exhibition showing snapshots of the crew of Pórir SF 77, which just happens to be the name of the ship she boarded as well as the title of the exhibit. Brynja Dögg is an amateur photographer who has worked in Icelandic TV, newspapers and magazines. Apparently, the day at sea was only meant to be a small project but the reactions to the photographs taken were so good she simply had to put on an exhibition. So if you're up for some sailors at work action, Gallery Verðandi is the place to be. LP

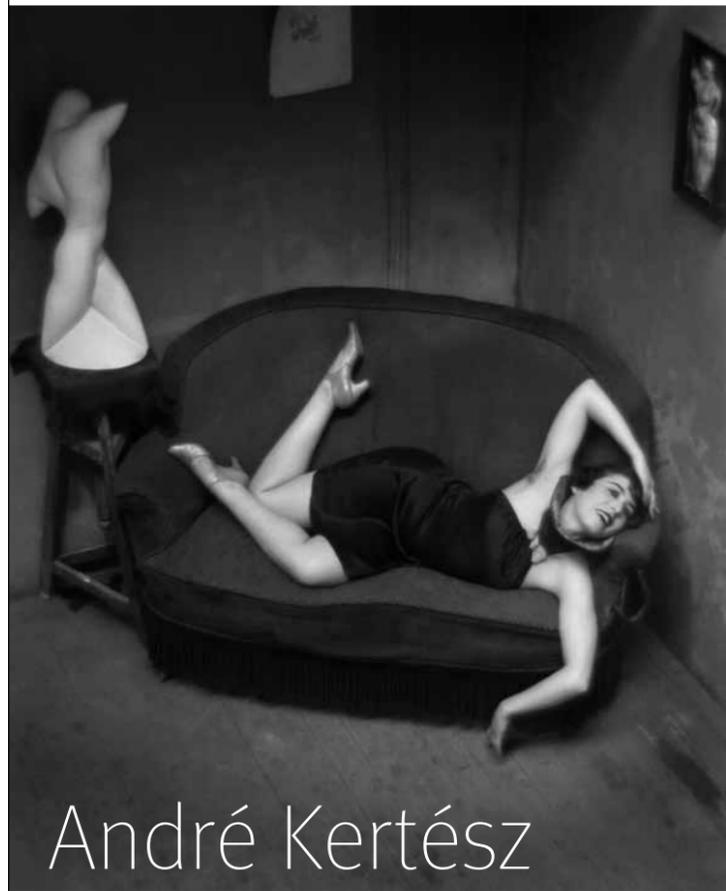


Portrait a Day

Gallery Tukt

September 19 - October 3

Photography student Ernir Eyjólfsson just opened his very first major exhibition at Gallery Tukt. And boy is it major! No less than 92 pictures are shown in the exhibit Portrait a Day, all taken from the 1st of June till the 31st of August this year. Basically, Einar spent the summer snapping away with his camera capturing people in their own environment; at work or during their usual day to day activities. You could say that the result shows a glimpse of Icelandic society as it is today. Seen through a photographers lens, that is. Ernir Eyjólfsson is currently studying at the Reykjavik Technical School and his exhibit is free of charge and open for all. LP



André Kertész

Ma France

26 September 2009 - 17 January 2010

LJÓSMYNDASAFN
REYKJAVÍKUR
Reykjavik Museum of Photography



Tryggvagata 15, 6th floor · 101 Reykjavik · Tel. 411 6390 · www.photomuseum.is
Opening hours 12-19 mon-fri, 13-17 weekends · **ADMISSION FREE**

Live Music

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

- » Ching ching bling bling
- » Skorpulifur » Orustubjarki
- » Peter & Wolf
- » Molestin Records
- » Momentum » Muck, Myra
- » Logn » Plastic Cods

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

- » Okidoki » Black Man is god ...
- » Matthew Collings (UK)
- » Rökkurró » Ljósvaki
- » Útidúr » Caterpillar men
- » Bárufjóm » Dynamo Fog

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

- » Black Metal Concert

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER

- » Grapevine Concert



Grand Rokk
Reykjavik

Grand Rokk » Smiðjustígur 6 » IOI Reykjavik



ITALIAN CUISINE
IN REYKJAVÍK

PISA

**RISTORANTE
GUESTHOUSE**

LÆKJARGATA 6 B TEL. 5787200
www.pisa.is pisa@pisa.is

Glaetan
Bookcafé / Bókakaffi
Laugavegi 19 • Tel: 511-1180
www.glaetan.is

Good price english
Novels

Chocolates
Swiss Mocha
Caffé latte
Cappuchino
Espresso
...and m.m.

**RESTAURANT
FOR SALE**

Laugavegur

9 000 000 Isk

info:

veitingarstadur@gmail.com

MAP

Places We Like

1 Kaffifélagið

Skólavörðustíg 10

Kaffifélagið has been a Grapevine favourite since they opened on Skólavörðustígur a couple of years back. The small coffeehouse always delivers an excellent cup of Italian-style coffee, and downtown regulars can spring for a clip-off coffee card to save on each purchase.

2 Nonnabiti

Hafnarstræti 9

Delicious and relatively cheap considering how massive and filling their sandwiches are. The Luxury Sub, with salty pork, veggies, sauce and pineapple is a brilliant combination of flavours for late-night munchies. It's just as satisfying and filling during more civilized hours as well. And the service is fast if you're in a rush. CF

3 Habibi

Hafnarstræti 18

This small restaurant offers up a concise menu of delicious Arabic cuisine, from shawarma to kebabs and falafels. The staff is really friendly and accommodating of requests to kick up the spiciness or tone it down if the customer so desires. Habibi seriously hits the spot after hours of partying (or any other time of day) so it's convenient that the place is open until 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday. CF

4 Krua Thai

Tryggvagötu 14

This is the best affordable Thai food on offer in Reykjavík. Rice is always fluffy, the spicy kick is just right and the spring rolls are always crispy cylinders of deliciousness. The servings are hearty too, so you're bound to leave satisfied. CF

5 Kaffitár

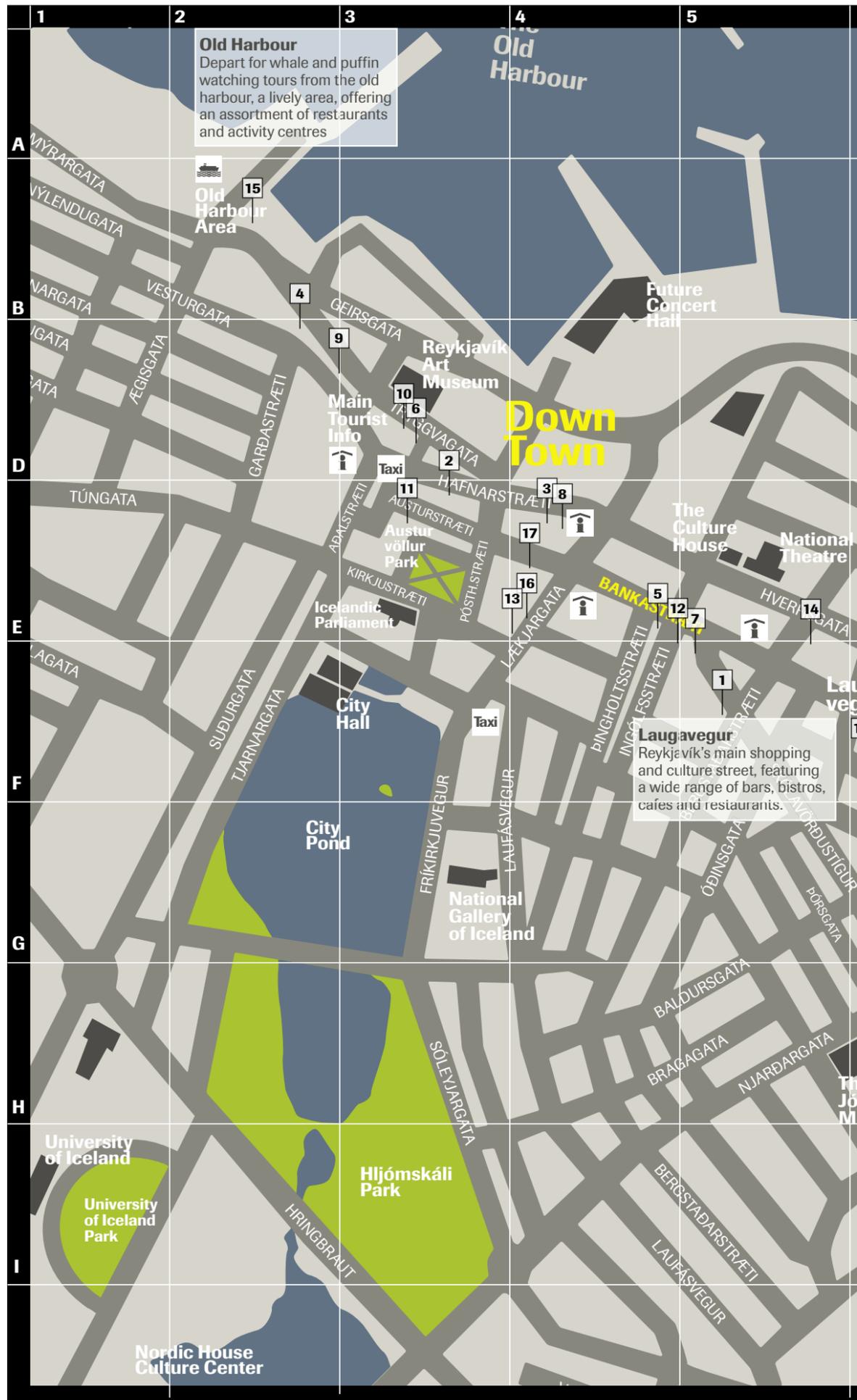
Bankastræti 8

Kaffitár on Bankastræti is a comfortable little café with a great selection of coffee, tea and baked goods on offer. Since Kaffitár is also a big-name Icelandic roasterie the caffeinated beverages on the menu are quality. The wi-fi makes this a nice place to sit and chill with your laptop as well. CF

6 Sódóma Reykjavík

Tryggvagötu 22

Newly opened Sódóma on Tryggvagötu is already a hit with party crowds and gig-goers alike. An extensive venue, filled with reasonably priced beverages and reasonably good looking people. Some of Iceland's finest musical ventures have played in recent months, and their schedule looks promising too. Also, make sure to visit their men's room for a glance at the "Pissoir of Absolution". JB



7 Deli

Bankastræti 14

Getting a good slice of pizza on the go can be an utter ordeal. If you're not careful, you'll frequently wind up paying good money for a cardboard wafer that has been sitting in a heater box for a week. Not at Deli, however. Their slices are consistently awesome and fresh, the topping selection is intriguing and tasteful and, best of all, they're really cheap. HSM

8 Pizza King

Hafnarstræti 18

To be honest, this isn't the best pizza up for grabs, but it's cheap, not pre-heated (like at various other pizza places downtown), and the guys are rather cool. Their pizzas are always bulletproof, and they offer various great offers on top of it, which you should definitely check out. SKK

9 Café Haiti

Tryggvagötu 16

The first time I entered this exotic little joint, meaning to buy myself a take-away espresso, I ended up with two kilos of fresh and roasted coffee beans due to some language complications and way too much politeness. Since then I have enjoyed probably way-too-many wonderful cups of Haitian coffee, but they're always as nice, so the two kilos were definitely worth it. SKK



**Live Music Every Night • Live Soccer
Icelandic Beer on Draif and Bottles
And our Infamous Wheel Of Fortune**

POLAR BEER

POLAR BEER

POLAR BEER

THE ENGLISH PUB

at Austurstræti 12





For a map of outside downtown Reykjavik check out links on www.grapevine.is or the Icelandic phonebook website www.ja.is

10 Bakkus

Tryggvagötu 22 – Naustarmegin

A new and welcome addition to Reykjavik's bar scene, Bakkus serves up reasonably priced beer, a really impressive selection of international vodkas and an atmosphere unlike any other in town. An eclectic mix of patrons, regular live music and movie nights keep this place interesting and always inviting. Expect dancing on tables and to-the-death foosball battles. CF

11 Havarí

Austurstræti 6

Even before it opened, Havarí was everybody's favourite new music and design store. Headed by Svavar Pétur and Berglind of Skakkamanage, the shop shills the musical goods of Kimi Records, Borgin Hljómplötur, gogoyoko and Skakkaþopp as well as posters, art, design products and clothing. The stop is only open until January 12 so check it out while you can! CF

12 Prikið

Bankastræti 12

Prikið is one of those places that shape-shifts. It's a warm café with photographs of their senior frequenters on weekday mornings, a hung-over hangout on weekend afternoons, and during nights it's filled to the brim with what remains of Iceland's hip hop scene. Go there in daytime for the cheap burgers; enter at night for some OTT hip-hop debauchery, old skool and the latest bangers alike. SKK

13 Kornioð

Lækjargötu 4

How about filling your face with cakes at the delightful Kornioð. They taste so good, you would gladly push your own mother over for even the slightest of sniffs. Not a sweet tooth? Well, try their delectable sandwiches then, I recommend the egg and bacon ciabatta! At only 590ISK plus all the Pitu Sósa you could dream of, what more could you ask for on your lunch break? JB

14 Grand Rokk

Smíðjustígur 6

The only 'real' bar in town, no doubt. In downtown Reykjavik it's hard to rumble into a pub not crowded by musicians or artsy folks, but this one is an exception. Whether it's 4AM on a Friday or 5PM on a Monday you'll see the same flock of John Does, taking a break from their daily routines, enjoying a shot 'n' a brew. If you want to witness an earnest Icelandic 'Cheers' or a 'Moe's' - this is the place. Oh, and on weekends, they play host to some awesome concerts, too. SKK

15 Sushismiðjan

Geirsgötu 3

This is a seriously great place to grab a quick and quality sushi lunch. Pre-prepared boxes of maki and nigiri are reasonable priced and really well made, amply filled with deliciously fresh ingredients. The indoor seating area is limited to some stools and outward-facing wall-mounted tabletops but there are a couple of tables and chairs set up outside the front door for those wanting to watch the ships and tourists in the harbour while they eat. CF

16 Pizzuverksmiðjan

Lækjargata 8

Best. Pizza. Ever. Seriously, this pizza is ridiculously delicious, and the chilli and garlic oils that accompany it are to die for. Added bonuses of this joint are the super-friendly owner, Óli, and the cool and casual atmosphere in which to stuff your mouth with slice after slice of cheesy, crusty goodness. CF

17 Hressó

Austurstræti 20

You know, Hressó is basically the only place I go for coffee. Why? Their coffee is decent to excellent, but their forte is surely their wonderful patio, where you can enjoy the spring breeze in the sun, wrap yourself in a blanket beneath an electric heater in January and at all times: smoke. They boast of quite the prolific menu, but I'd reconsider the playlists to tell you the truth, too much of Nickelback really hurts. SKK

18 Karamba

Laugavegur 22

Hotspot in town Karamba is a colourful and eclectic bar on Laugavegur with a comfortable atmosphere, typically great music and a chill crowd. This is a good place to relax or to do some serious drinking or to relax. Plus, their decors are done strictly by Grapevine-friendly artists, such as Lóa (who does our comics), Hugleikur Dagsson (who illustrates the monster column) and Bobby Breiðholt (who's done a lot of nice illustrations for us); they are truly a sight to behold. CF



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



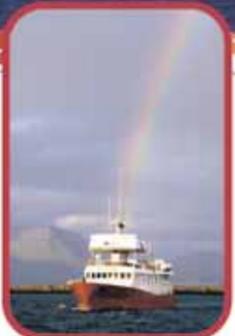
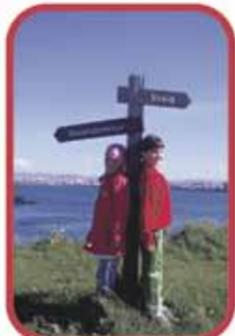
ICELANDIC Fish, Lamb & Chicken in original PAKISTANI & INDIAN curries, TANDOORI dishes, TANDOORI Nan breads Kebabs, Samosas, Vegetarian specialities, LUNCH BUFFET (11:30--15:30) & DINNER OFFERS



PAKISTANI-INDIAN KEBAB & CURRY CUISINE

AUSTURSTRÆTI 4, Tel. 551 0292 www.shalimar.is




Whale Watching and Puffin Island

Take part in an adventure at sea with an unforgettable trip into the world of whales and sea birds. Conveniently located in Reykjavik's Old Harbour, a three hour tour can bring you up close to the whales in their natural habitat.

Free entry to the Whale Watching Centre for our passengers.

Viðey Island Nature, History and Art

Viðey Island is a unique site that combines history, culture and nature, and is only a few minutes from the city by boat.

Ferry scheduled with 9 daily departures.

Viðeyjarstofa Café is open from 11:30 to 17:00

Make sure it's Elding!



Elding Reykjavik Whale Watching
Tel: (+354) 555 3565
Online booking: www.elding.is

Iceland is a dish best served cold

Bílar og fólk ehf.

☎ 551 1166 - www.bogf.is

Don't let the rough exterior fool you!

Scheduled Busses
Linienbusse
Linjebussar
Bus régulier
Ætlnarbílar




Our busses are warm on the inside!

ART GALLERIES

— continued —

use colors, lights and shapes in a variety of media to create a feeling of disorientation is examined. Curated by Helgi Már Kristinsson
September 12 - November 8

Blinkworks
Blinkworks is an educational, family-oriented workshop in the North Gallery in conjunction with the exhibition Blink. Guests are invited to try their hand at enjoyable projects related to op-art, optical illusion, and science.

Reykjavik Maritime Museum
Current Exhibitions:
Living Museum by the Sea; Arterial for Country and City; From Poverty to Abundance; The Shark - Light and Life Energy; Hidden Craftsman.

The Reykjavik Museum of Photography
August 28 - October 20

Polar Extremes
Lisa Blatt lived in Antarctica for two months and camped for more than one month. Polar Extremes, a result of this journey, portrays the fragility, beauty, and criticality of Antarctica.

Skuld Bookstore Verðandi Gallery
September 18 - October 26
Pórir SF 77
Brynja Dögg Friðriksdóttir exhibits her photography.

OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

Akureyri
Akureyri Art Museum
August 29 - October 18
The Selection. Icelandic photography from 1866 to 2009.

Café Karólína
October 3 - November 6
Bryndís Kondrup
November 11 - December 4
Bergþór Morthens
December 12 - January 1 2010
Sveinbjörg Ásgeirsdóttir

Álafoss
Varma
September 26 - October 11
Art exhibition - Lýðveldið við lækinn.

Borgarnes
The Icelandic Settlement Centre
Permanent exhibitions:
The Settlement of Iceland; The Saga of Egill Skalla-Grímsson.

Current theatre productions:
Brák - a monologue by Brynhildur Guðjónsdóttir.
Mr. Skallagrímsson - a monologue by Benedikt Erlingsson.
Storms and Wars - a monologue by Einar Káason.

Hafnarfjörður
Hafnarborg
August 29 - November 1
In Deep Water
The sea and the self-consciousness of a nation in Icelandic contemporary art. This exhibition displays works by artists that have used the sea as an inspiration both as a natural phenomenon and way of life; the sea both takes and gives life.

Hveragerði
Andans Konur
Paris - Skálholt: Gerður Helgadóttir · Nína Tryggvadóttir.

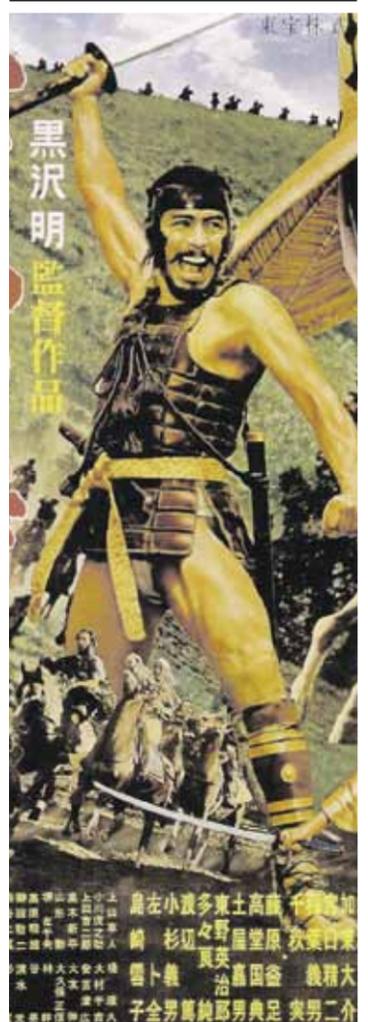
Stykkishólmur
Library of Water
Permanent Exhibition:
Roni Horn installation. The artist has replaced stacks of books with glass columns containing water gathered from Iceland's glaciers and glacial rivers.



German Expressionist Cinema

Café Rót
Every Monday in October, 9:00pm, Free

Depression. Betrayal. Insanity. Angst. Absurdity. Darkness. Death. The themes of German expressionism are a good fit for the increasingly shorter days and colder nights looming over us. Café Rót will drive the point home all month with an intellectually stimulating and spiritually draining selection of expressionist classics, such as Fritz Lang's "M" and F.M. Murnau's "Phantom." Since Mondays are the bleakest of all days, it's a highly appropriate start to the week. Their cozy environment make it the perfect place to sit and ponder the deeper things in life. **RL**



Seven Samurai Sunday

Prikið
Sunday, September 27th, 23:00, Free admission

If honor, betrayal, glory, romance and battle sound like the rest of your weekend, you might as well make it your Sunday night too. Prikið's weekly Hangover Cinema screening is particularly juicy this week with a showing of Akira Kurosawa's 1957 chef d'oeuvre, The Seven Samurai.

It's 1587 in feudal Japan and feuding bands of samurai are wreaking havoc on a defenseless population. A group of farmers collect their funds and recruit a rag tag collection of, for lack of a better word, freelance samurai to protect their land, freedom and wellbeing. What happens next can only be described as a beautifully directed, tear jerking, hilarious free-for-all mess.

Meanwhile, Prikið's free popcorn is working miracles and the weekend's debauchery is wearing off: you can see straight, your headache is lifting and your stomach is calming. In fact, you're thirsty and even though you haven't slept since Friday night, a nice cold beer starts sounding pretty good: you've been caught in Prikið's trap. **MZ**



Expand Yr Mind At Nordisk Panorama
ScandTastic shorts and docs, right in 101

So far, this September has proven a buffet for movie... buffs. And it's not letting up. With RIFF still going strong, yet another fine film fest will commence today. It's called Nordisk Panorama, and you need to check it out. Seriously.

Nordisk Panorama is an annual film festival that travels the Nordic countries and focuses on shorts and documentaries. And now, it has hit Iceland. For the next six days (starting today, so run to the theatre), they will screen the cream of Scandinavia's shorts and doc crop, at the veritable 101 institution Regnboginn on Hverfisgata.

The Scandinavian film scene is all but conventional, with directors like Lars von Trier and Lukas Moodysson—both veterans of Nordisk Panorama—running amok, challenging conventions. Nordisk Panorama embraces this tradition and celebrates it. At the fest, you'll find documentaries about serious issues like human rights violations in Burma and North Korea, as well as lighter, less conventional themes such as bored civil servants and events that take place in normal Finnish living rooms.

The shorts deal with classical Scandinavian themes like loneliness, depression and nudity, but anything can happen and they are far from banal. Be careful not to miss out on the Icelandic films, which include the stunning documentary "Dreamland." It's worth mentioning that a pass to see all 72 films is only 2.000 ISK—individual screenings (usually about 2 hours of film) go for 500 ISK. **BEB**

For further information, a full schedule, etc., visit: www.nordiskpanorama.com

Flick Picks From Nordisk Panorama
Documentaries

The Red Chapel

"A journalist, a spastic and a comedian travel to North Korea with a mission to challenge the conditions of the smile in one of the world's most notorious regimes." Their pretext is being a small theatre troupe on a cultural exchange. This is surely one of the more interesting glimpses of life in North Korea you'll get in a while.

Saturday, September 26 - 14:00
Tuesday, September 29 - 14:00

The Living Room of the Nation

This doc provides a poetic, portrait-like view into six Finnish living rooms. A collage of everyday events, the film is a story of change, loneliness, responsibilities and the unavoidable passing of time.

Sunday, September 27 - 22:00
Monday, September 28 - 14:00

Shorts

Anna

Anna is a 12-year-old girl that lives in a small fishing village. In her life, she is facing crossroads. Her surroundings are changing—and so is she. Anna is a film about how sometimes it seems impossible to share all the emotions that we struggle with, and how difficult it is to put trust in others.

Sunday, September 27 - 14:00
Monday, September 28 - 14:00

Mirror

The title of this film stems from the quotation from one of the bodybuilders featured in it: "To be a great bodybuilder you have to be very narcissistic. A 100 metre sprinter has the time to fight against, a weightlifter the weights. The bodybuilder only has the mirror."

Saturday, September 26 - 10:00
Monday, September 28 - 12:00



Our kitchen is open
to **23:30** on weekdays
and **01:00** on weekends

*Taste the
best of
Iceland...*

**Icelandic
Gourmet Fiest**

Starts with a shot of the infamous Icelandic spirit Brennivín

Smoked puffin with blueberry "brennivín" sauce

Icelandic sea-trout with peppers-salsa

Lobster tails baked in garlic

Pan-fried monkfish with lobster sauce

Grilled Icelandic lamb Samfaina

Minke Whale with cranberry-sauce

Chocolate cake with berry compoté and whipped cream



RESTAURANT- BAR
Vesturgata 3B | 101 Reykjavík
Tel: 551 2344 | www.tapas.is

Outside Reykjavik | Venue finder

Keflavík
Suðsuðvestur
www.sudsudvestur.is
Hafnargata 22
230 Reykjanesbær
421-2225

Hafnarfjörður
Hafnarborg
www.hafnarborg.is
Strandgata 34
220 Hafnarfjörður
585-5790

Borgarnes
The Icelandic Settlement Centre
www.landnam.is
Brákarbraut 13-15
310 Borgarnes
437-1600

Stykkishólmur
Vatnasafnið / Library of Water

Akureyri
Akureyri Art Museum
www listasafn.akureyri.is
Kaupvangsstræti 12
600 Akureyri
461 2610

Populus Tremula
poptrem.blogspot.com/
Kaupvangsstræti 12
600 Akureyri

Kunstraum Wohnraum
Ásabyggð 2
600 Akureyri

Mývatn
Mývatnsstofa

Egilsstaðir
Sláturhúsið

Seyðisfjörður
Skaffell
www.skaffell.is
Austurvegur 42
710 Seyðisfjörður
472-1632

Hveragerði
LÁ Art
www listasafnarnesinga.is
Austurmörk 21
210 Hveragerði
483-1727

The Vinebar

LOOK AT THE VINE-SIDE OF ICELAND

VÍNBARINN KIRKJUTORG 4 (CENTER OF REYKJAVÍK) OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

BALKANIKÁ

-KITCHEN-

Welcome to only

Balkan restaurant in Iceland

Here you will find rich variety of fresh salads, vegetarian dishes and delicious Balkan grill

Prices from 790 kr. up to 1.690 kr.

Open every day from 11.00-23.00

Vitastigur 10 / 101 Reykjavík / tel.562-8484



BEZT Í HEIMI* LOBSTER SOUP
1100.- kr

**MOBY DICK
ON A STICK**

PURTRIFED SHARK
marinated in Icelandic schnapps
HARD FISH



Verubúð 8 / tel.553 1500 / Geirsqata

— OPENING HOURS : 11³⁰-22⁰⁰ —

icelandic FISH & CHIPS

Organic bistro

Creating a tradition

Tryggvgata 8/Geirsgata, 101 Rvk
Tel: 511-1118
Open: mon-sat 11:30-21:00/sun 17:00-21:00

by the sea
and a delicious lobster
at Fjöruborðid in Stokkseyri



At the seashore the giant lobster makes appointments with mermaids and landlubbers. He waves his large claws, attracting those desiring to be in the company of starfish and lumpfish.



< Only 45 minutes drive from Reykjavik

Eyrbraut 3 · 825 Stokkseyri · Iceland · tel. +354-483 1550
fax. +354-483 1545 · info@fjorubordid.is · www.fjorubordid.is

F FOOD

FOR YOUR MIND, BODY AND SOUL

REVIEWS



True Blood

Opened in 1989, Argentina is one of the best restaurants in town, known as the place to go for your meat fix. An atmospheric cross between American steak house and old-fashioned class, with its white tablecloths and dark wood deco, former Grapevine editor Bart Cameron described Argentina as the place where John F. Kennedy would take a lady if he were alive and living in Reykjavik. No sign of JFK, but Argentina does host peppermills the size of small children, a bull's head on the wall and a sizzling grill as its righteous centerpiece.

Our waiter had broad shoulders, dark eyes and a dark suit, serving us in short huskily accented sentences with all the joie de vivre of a South-American assassin. We loved his shotgun-service style instantly—and prayed the Lord to have nothing to complain about.

Following a surprise from the kitchen, scallops with cauliflower, I started with a very good beef carpaccio (2150 ISK) peppered up with rocket, while my date chose seared scallops on champagne risotto with basil and parmesan (2250 ISK), a succulent and satisfying combination. Both starters were surprisingly Italian in their flavours.

For main, I had lamb tenderloin with marinated garlic (4950 ISK). The garlic was delicious and the 250g portion of meat plentiful and as good as it always is in Iceland, if not particularly memorable. My date, son of a meat farmer, had the long wished for 200g beef tenderloin (5280 ISK), but to his disappointment the taste of the Icelandic beef didn't quite justify very light cooking.

Both lamb and beef were cooked just right. My medium was juicy and on the rare side, while my date discovered that the kitchen indeed knew what bleu means (very rare). I on the other hand discovered that bleu means kissing goodbye to a romantic dinner in order to watch your partner chew on bloody pieces of meat like a cannibal.

We tried to rescue what was left of the flames with the help of the warm Varlhona chocolate cake (1750 ISK). It has been on the menu since late 1990s and with good reason: Warm, rich, delicious, it was worth every single second of the stipulated 20 minutes waiting time.

✪ - SARI PELTONEN

Argentina

Barónsstíg 11a

What we think: Bloody good

Flavour: Must-eat meat

Ambiance: Steakhouse meets fine dining

Service: Charming, shotgun style



Fresh Icelandic specialities

Wide variety of
international dishes



Aðalstræti 2 / 101 Reykjavík / Tel: 5174300 / geysirbistrobar.is



Friendly family restaurant
in the City Center

A menu where everyone has a
great variety to choose from

Tryggvagata 20 / Tel: 562-3456 / grillhusid.is

Italian cuisine / Fresh home made pasta

Basil & Lime

Ristorante | Bar



Klapparstíg 38
101 Reykjavík
555 3696
www.basil.is



Lost in Tapas

Tapas Bar

Laugarvegur 20b

What we think: When in Iceland, do Tapas as the Icelanders do

Flavour: Spanish in abundance; also main courses on the menu

Ambiance: Cosy

Service: In Sunday gear



The only one of its kind in town, Tapasbarinn serves up a gigantic menu of around 60 different tapas, from the all-Espanöl olives to more local takes like whale and lobster. While tapas on its home turf is mostly a quick bite by the bar desk, the Icelandic version is a sit-in affair. After testing the patience of the waitresses—who tended to always be there when not needed and never when needed—we tackled the abundance of choice: We decided to share a fiesta of 9 tapas, all priced between 600–1100 ISK.

We loved the fillet of lamb in delicious liquorice sauce. We also enjoyed the salt fish croquettes, comfortably warm and soft in the inside, yet crunchy on the outside

and served with a good aioli. We ate bacon wrapped scallops and dates, a successful variation on the ever-so-good combination of meat and dates. We tried patatas bravas, which were too mild, but were cheered up by the refreshing salad Valenciana with melons. We also got a dry salt fish Catalana and equally dry tuna teriyaki. Again on the overcooked side were escargots with good buttery mushrooms at the bottom of the portion. And when the table did not fit more plates, we ate a generous bowl of hearty Valencian paella from a bar stool. Of all the dishes those with local ingredients emptied faster than the more authentic Spanish efforts.

And regardless of the waitress' disbelief when faced with the amount of food we were ordering, we easily had room for dessert: Ice cream and a lovely, sweet and soft Crema Catalana with strong coffee (1.090 ISK including coffee), por favor.

✦ - SARI PELTONEN

GRAPEVINE FOOD REVIEW KEY

- 0 God-awful
- ✦ Awful
- ✦✦ Passable. Much room for improvement
- ✦✦✦ Good, but not great.
- ✦✦✦✦ Really rather good
- ✦✦✦✦✦ Extraordinary

The food is rated in three categories: Fast food: Pizza, pylsa and kebab, food on the go (0–2000 ISK) Mid-range: Everyday eateries, sit-in. (mains 2000–4000 ISK) Fine dining: Fancy, expensive-type food. (3-course dinners 6000 and up)

To best judge the restaurant experience, the Grapevine conducts its reviews anonymously. The sole exception is the payment

method: When the bill arrives, the reviewer presents a written statement, previously signed by the restaurant management, allowing the reviewer and one companion a meal on the house for review purposes.

Using this approach, we aim to best preserve the reviewer's objectivity (and the restaurants' consistency), within the humble means of a free newspaper.

The Grapevine does not favour foie gras over fast food. Restaurants are reviewed for what they are; both burger and beluga can be extraordinary in their own right. In all evaluations, the food is key: Does it taste good? Is it properly prepared? Are the ingredients fresh and of high quality? Secondary considerations include setting, service and value for money.

All opinions expressed are the critic's own. **SP**

SHOP AND EAT: GOING GLOBAL

1 SUSHIBARINN

The main street sushi shop is the closest thing in town to authentic Japanese. Battleships, hand rolls, weekly specials and occasional drama amidst the stressed-out hipster sushi chefs.

Laugavegur 2

2 SUSHISMÍÐJAN

Sushi by the Old Reykjavik Harbour. Skip the take away shop with premade sushi trays and go for the recently opened restaurant.

Geirsgata

3 DOMO

Fancy some fancy sushi for dinner? At DOMO the sushi is good and the service even better. Also offers other courses on the menu.

Pinghóltsstræti 5

4 HORNÍÐ

Our downstairs neighbour, Hornið has served its consistently good Italian for 30 years. Cosy, good, mid-priced, "The corner" is a classic that has yet to fall.

Hafnarstræti 15

5 FRU LAUGA

A rare treat on the island—a farmers market stocking products of the season. Located in Laugardalur, open Wednesdays through Saturdays. Doors are open 12–6pm, but go early—the store gets busy and the goods go quickly. For information on new batches, check them on Facebook.

Laugalækur 6

6 VOLARE

Newcomer in the backyard building from Laugavegur cooks up unfussy Italian. Friendly service.

Laugavegur 55

7 LA PRIMAVERA

Fancypants Italian hidden upstairs from Austurstræti, La Primavera's offerings are modern Northern Italian and notoriously good.

Austurstræti 9

8 GLÓ

Organic restaurant, a collaboration with the Rope Yoga studio at Laugardalur, offering daily dishes, soups and salads as well as a juice bar.

Engjateigur 19

9 SHALIMAR

A firm favourite among the Grapevine staff for years, Shalimar's old slogan "Where hot means hot," still bears some truth to it.

Austurstræti 4

10 AUSTUR-INDÍA FÉLAGIÐ

Austur-Indía Félagið has been the crème de la crop of Icelandic-Indian restaurants for the past 15 years. And if Harrison Ford likes it, it must be good. Reservations recommended.

Hverfisgata 56

11 AUSTURLANDA HRADLESTIN

A take away chain with brilliant Indian. Everything on the menu is good, Tandoori Lamb and Tikka Masala downright great. Several locations, see www.hradlestin.is

Hverfisgata 64a

For full restaurant and food listings and venue finder visit www.grapevine.is for detailed information.

All the best adventures take place under a bridge...

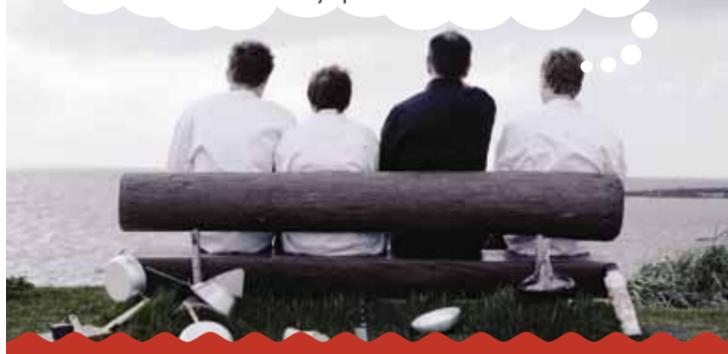


The restaurant **Fish Company** is the newest addition to the culinary flora in down town Reykjavik.

Savour the wide variety of Icelandic fish and meat plates, inspired by various food cultures from **around the world**.

Table reservations : +354 552 5300

info@fishcompany.is - fishcompany.is
Under the bridge at Grófartorg - Vesturgata 2a
101 Reykjavik - Iceland



VEGETARIAN CUISINE

Skólavörðustígur 8 b, tel. 552 2028
Open from 11:30 am–21:00 pm
www.graennkostur.is



Food & Drink | Venue finder

3 Frakkar Baldursgata 14 | **F9**
Aktu Taktu Skúlagata 15 | **K8**
Alibaba Veltusund 3b | **E3**
American Style Tryggvagata 26 | **E5**
Argentina Steak-house Barónstígur | **I8**
Austurlanda-hradlestin Hverfisgata 64A | **H7**
Á Næstu Grösom Laugavegur 20B | **G7**
B5 Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
Bakkus Tryggvagata 22 | **D3**
Basil & Lime Klapparstíg 38 | **G7**
Babalú Skólavörðustígur 22A | **G8**
Balthazar Hafnarstræti 1-3 |

D6/E6
Bæjarins Beztu Tryggvagata | **E6**
Brons Pósthússtræti 9 | **E6**
Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**
Café Loki Lokastígur 28 | **G9**
Café Paris Austurstræti 14 | **E6**
Café Roma Rauðarárstrígur 8 | **J9**
Domo Pinghóltsstræti 5 | **F7**
Einar Ben Veltusundi | **E6**
Eldsmíðjan Bragagata 38A | **G9**
Fiskmarkaðurinn Aðalstræti 12 | **D6**
Geysir Bar/Bistro Aðalstræti 2 | **D6**
Garðurinn Klappastígur 37 | **G7**
Gletan book café Laugavegur 19 | **F5**

Grái Kötturinn Hverfisgata 16A | **G7**
Grillhúsið Tryggvagata 20 | **E5/ E6**
Habibi Hafnarstræti 20 | **D5**
Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar ("Bullán") Geirsgata 1 | **D5**
Híolla Batar Ingólfstorg | **D6**
Hornið Hafnarstræti 15 | **E6**
Hótel Holt Bergstaðarstræti 37 | **F7**
Humarhúsið Ammtmanstígur 1 | **E7**
Hressó Austurstræti 20 | **E6**
Icelandic Fish & Chips Tryggvagata 8 | **E5**
Indian Mango Frakkastígur 12 | **G6**

Jómfrúin Lækjargata 4 | **E6**
Kaffi Hjómáland Laugavegur 21 | **G7**
Kaffitár Bankastræti 8 | **F6**
Kaffivagninn Grandagarður 10 | **D1**
Kebabhúsið Austurstræti 2 | **E6**
Kofi Tómasar Frænda Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Krua Thai Tryggvagata 14 | **D5**
La Primavera Austurstræti 9 | **E6**
Lystin Laugavegur 73 | **H7**
Mokka Skólavörðustígur 3A | **F7**
Nonnabiti Hafnarstræti 9 | **E6**
O Sushi Lækjargata 2A | **E6**

Pisa Lækjargötu 6b | **E6**
Pizza King Hafnarstræti 18 | **E6**
Pizza Pronto Vallarstræti 4 | **D6**
Pizzaverksmiðjan Lækjargötu 8 | **E6**
Prikið Bankastræti 12 | **F6**
Ráðhúskaffi D7 Tjarnargata 11
Santa Maria Laugavegur 22A, | **F7**
Segafredo Lækjartorg | **E6**
Serrano Hringbraut 12 | **I3**
Shalimar Austurstræti 4 | **E6**
Silfur Pósthússtræti 11 | **E6**
Sjávarkjallarinn Aðalstræti 2 | **D6**
Sólón Bankastræti 7a | **F6**

Sushibarinn Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Svarta Kaffi Laugavegur 54 | **H8**
Sægreifinn Verbuð 8, Geirsgata | **D5**
Tapas Vesturgata 3B | **D5**
Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 | **E6**
Tíu Dropar Laugavegur 27 | **G7**
Tívoli Laugavegur 3 | **F7**
Vegamót Vegamótastígur 4 | **G7**
Við Tjörmina Templarasund 3 | **E7**
Vítubar Bergþórugata 21 | **H9**

nítjándi.

Experience great cuisine accompanied by a **breathtaking view**

...in the tallest building in Iceland



Enjoy weekend brunch or delicious buffet for a quality price

Open everyday from 11 AM - 2 PM

gogoyoko

gogoyoko.com at Réttir - Reykjavik Round-Up
Saturday, September 26th @ NASA

21.00 Nolo

22.00 Leaves

23.00 The State, The Market

& The DJ (DK)

00.00 Apparat Organ Quartet

01:30 Dr. Spock

More on blog.gogoyoko.com



haha
hahavarí

HAVARÍ

Pop-up Concept Store About Music & Art CD's, LP's, Digital Music, Apparel, Posters, Books

Artwork, Design Products & Other Fun Stuff Off-Venue Program Daily During Réttir

We're at **Austurstræti 6, Reykjavík**

A Brief History of...

Kaufman should tape themselves at home as they would see themselves playing Andy Kaufman. They all did. Jim Carrey sent me a tape, Kevin Spacey, Ed Norton. Ten to twelve big names sent a tape. The final decision was between Jim Carrey and Ed Norton. Ed Norton was wonderful, but Jim Carrey was more experienced in stand up comedy. For People vs. Larry Flynt, I did screen tests with various actors for the role of Larry's lawyer, and Ed Norton was the best."

The next film you made about an artist after Amadeus was Man on the Moon. It seems to suggest that Andy Kaufman sacrificed a part of his personality, his humanity even, to become a great comedian. There is a movie called The Life and Death of Peter Sellers which seems to suggest the same about its subject matter.

"I never met Peter Sellers, but there is a similarity. I talked to a lot of people who knew Peter Sellers and nobody could say who the real Peter Sellers was. Andy Kaufman was exactly the same. I talked to his parents, his brother and sister and his girlfriend, and I asked them who the real Andy Kaufman was, and his parents tell me they don't know. It's not easy."

"I (ALMOST) SHOT BOBBY FISCHER"

Do you think that to become really good at something, you have to concentrate on that exclusively and don't manage to become a full rounded person? Bobby Fischer could be another example.

"Absolutely. But Bobby Fischer was certifiably... his genius as a chess player affected something else in his brain. I met him many times. I wanted to make a film about the match. He lived then with some nuns in some kind of a cult. I talked to a nun about making a film with Bobby Fisher. The nun said 'alright, Mr. Fischer will meet you at three o'clock in the afternoon.' I said 'where?' and she said: 'We will call you half an hour before and tell you where.' She called at 14.30 and told me to come to a motel at the outskirts of Los Angeles. I drove to be there at three o'clock and came to this little, dingy hotel. Bobby Fischer came in the room. I tried to say hello and he put a transistor radio on the table and put it on full blast. Then he started talking. He was paranoid and thought they might be listening on hidden microphones somewhere. Very strange character. This was before he went to Belgrade to have the match with Spassky during the embargo."

So was it after Bobby Fischer came to the set that you decided not to make a movie with him?

"No, I was shooting and invited him to come to see the dailies in Los Angeles. He would only come after dark. Afterward, I met him in his hotel room and the only thing he said was: 'That actress is fat.'"

It seems that Bobby Fischer sacrificed a part of his humanity to become a great chess player. Andy Kaufman may have done the same. So did Salieri in the film, but then he can't even make music.

"I was not aware of these connections, but there they are. Being a genius, they have to pay something for it. Bobby was a genius. I think it's wonderful that Iceland took care of him and gave him the citizenship. I've heard he's buried here. Is it far? I want to see his grave."

"We can arrange that," interjects his handler.

"Is there any other special Icelandic drink?" Forman asks, pointing to his empty bottle of Maltöl. I suggest Appelsín, but he's not interested and praises the virtues of Czech beer instead. Milos Forman heads off, perhaps in search of Bobby Fischer. Despite his portrayals of other artists, he seems a contented man who enjoys his cigars, his Maltöl and the movies. Whatever sacrifices he has made for his art, he made them long ago. He once said that "in my relatively short life I have lived through six or seven different social and cultural systems. First the Democratic Republic of Czechoslovakia, then the limited democracy before World War II, then the Nazi regime. After the Nazi regime there was a kind of democracy again for three years, then came the Stalinist regime, then the reformed Communist regime, and now I am living in a free country."

So whatever the flaws of democracy, Milos Forman seems to be enjoying it. 🍷

The Czech Republic

1910s

As part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Czechs go to war with Russia, Britain, France and Serbia in 1914. The Czech experience is brilliantly satirized in Hasek's The Good Soldier Svejk. A group of Czech POWs in Russia take over the Trans-Siberian Express in one of the more surreal chapters of the Russian Revolution. For a while, they control a large part of Russia, before marching back home through Siberia and Canada. Edvard Benes forms an independence movement in Paris in 1915 called The Maffia. Czechoslovakia becomes an independent country after World War I. Benes is the first foreign minister of the new country.

1920s

Unbeknownst to virtually everyone, Franz Kafka is buried in Prague in 1924. He is later acclaimed as one of the greatest writers of Western Civilisation. Skoda, formerly the largest arms manufacturer in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, starts making civilian products such as cars and trains.

1930s

Benes becomes President in 1935. He opposes German claims to the Sudetenland border areas. At a meeting in Munich in 1938 between Hitler, Mussolini, Daladier of France and Chamberlain of Great Britain, Hitler is allowed to annex the Sudetenland in return of guarantees for Czech independence. Benes is forced to resign under German pressure and Slovakia becomes a German puppet state. In March 1939, the Nazis march in and take over the rest of the Czech lands in spite of the Munich treaty. Benes goes into exile for the second time.

1940s

The Prague rising against the occupying Germans starts on May 5th. Obergruppenfuhrer Karl Frank makes good on his promise to drown any rebellion in a sea of blood. Around 2000 Czechs are killed before the resistance surrenders on May 8th. The day after, the Red Army enters the city. The area of Ruthenia is annexed by the Soviet Union. Benes becomes President again after independence is restored. Remaining Germans are deported from the Sudetenland. The communists take over after a coup in 1948 and join Comecon the following year. Benes resigns and dies six months later. Gottwald becomes President.

1950s

Stalin purges many, including members of the communist party. Czechoslovakia, though rich compared to other Eastern bloc countries, falls farther behind Western Europe. The country becomes a founding member of the Warsaw Pact in 1955. Novotny becomes President in 1957.

1960s

In early 1968, Alexander Dubcek becomes head of the Communist Party. He attempts to introduce freedom of speech, economic reforms and limited elections. In August, Soviet and Warsaw Pact troops enter Prague. Student Jan Palach sets himself on fire in protest. The reforms are brought to an end. Dubcek is forced to resign in April 1969 after Czechoslovakia beats the Soviet Union in The World Ice Hockey Championships. Gustav Husak becomes head of the communist party. Many artists emigrate, Milos Forman in 1968 and Milan Kundera in 1975.

1970s

Living standards briefly increase but stagnate after the 1973 oil crisis. Playwright Václav Havel become leader of the opposition in 1977 and is frequently imprisoned. Czechoslovak cartoons become popular in Iceland.

1980s

In 1985, Gorbachev becomes the new Premier of the Soviet Union. The Czech communists reluctantly follow his lead in reforms. The country does not suffer the same economic problems as the USSR. Nevertheless, the first mass protest, the "Candle Demonstration," is held in 1988. This escalates into full-blown revolution, the Velvet Revolution, in November 1989. Half a million people protest in Prague and a two-hour general strike is called. By the end of the month, the communists have relinquished power and dismantled barbed wire at the German and Austrian border. Dubcek become speaker of Parliament and Havel becomes President.

1990s

In 1993, Slovakia and the Czech Republic become separate countries. Prague becomes a World Heritage site and is called "The Coolest Capital in the World," with up to 40.000 American expats living there. Most claim to be working on a novel. The country joins NATO in 1999. Few novels materialise

2000s

In 2000, 15.000 anti-globalisation protesters take to the streets in Prague. In 2002, the city is ravaged by floods. In 2003, Havel leaves office as his second term ends. Concurrently, he is occasionally spotted around Reykjavik. Meanwhile, two young Icelanders spend a few months in Prague, pick up a copy of the street paper The Prague Pill, think that's rather a good idea and head back home to found The Reykjavik Grapevine. In 2004, the Czech Republic joins the European Union. 🍷

Milos Forman

1930s

Born on 18th February, 1932 in Cáslav in Czechoslovakia. His father, Rudolf, is a professor and his mother runs a summer hotel. Both are Protestants.

1940s

Rudolf is arrested for distributing banned books during the Nazi occupation and dies in Buchenwald in 1944. His mother dies in Auschwitz in 1943. Milos goes into hiding with relatives. He later discovers that his biological father is a Jewish architect who escaped the Holocaust. At age 13, Forman is expelled from school for making fun of a party official. Vaclav Havel is one of his schoolmates.

1950s

Because of his expulsion, the only university that will admit Forman is the Prague film academy. In 1953, former school mates the Masin Brothers escape to West Germany after being chased by 20.000 policemen, becoming Czech folk heroes.

1960s

Makes his first film, Audition, in 1963 and Black Peter a year later. Along with classmates Passer and Ondricek, Forman becomes one of the major Czech directors, but his critical style is seen as troublesome by the regime. In 1965, he makes Loves of a Blonde, which is nominated for an Academy Award for best foreign film. His last Czech movie is The Fireman's Ball in 1967, written by Ivan Passer. When the Soviets enter Prague in 1968, Forman is in France. While there, he is fired from the Czech studio he works for and decides to emigrate to the US. He becomes a professor of film at Columbia University.

1970s

Makes his first American film, Taking Off, in 1971. Partly set at a Tina Turner concert, it wins the Grand Prix at Cannes. In 1975, he makes One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest, which became the first movie in 40 years to win all five major Academy Awards. The movie is produced by Michael Douglas and Saul Zaentz, who later produces Amadeus and Goya's Ghosts. Kirk Douglas is supposedly pissed at his son for giving the leading role to Jack Nicholson rather than himself. In 1977, Forman becomes a naturalised American citizen. In 1979, he makes a film version of the 1968 musical Hair. The movie gathers largely positive reviews, but is disowned by the original writers of the musical. Ondricek does the cinematography, as he will continue to do on Forman's next films.

1980s

In 1981, Forman makes Ragtime about racism in early 20th Century America. He takes over the project after Robert Altman leaves. It is the last film to star James Cagney, and is nominated for eight Academy Awards, but does not win.

Forman returns to Prague to make Amadeus, which comes out in 1984. It wins eight Academy Awards, including best picture. Both Tom Hulce and F. Murray Abraham are nominated as best actor, with Murray winning. Forman wins his second Oscar as director. In 1989, Forman makes Valmont, based on the novel Dangerous Liaisons. Meg Tilly stars along with Annette Bening and Colin Firth. It is nominated for an Oscar for best production design. The year before, Stephen Frears had made a version of the novel starring John Malkovich, Glenn Close and Michelle Pfeiffer that was nominated for seven Academy Awards and won three.

1990s

The now Czech Republic abandons communism in favour of capitalism after the Velvet Revolution. The phrase zhasnout, from Firemen's Ball, meaning "lights out" and used there to describe petty theft, is often invoked to describe the privatisation process. Forman abandons at least two projects, sumo film Hell Camp and Disclosure, later directed by Barry Levinson. In 1994, Forman publishes his autobiography, Turnaround. In 1996, he gets his own asteroid, 11333 Forman. That same year, he makes People vs. Larry Flynt with Ed Norton and Woody Harrelson. The film received rave reviews and won Forman his third Oscar nomination, although this time he does not win. In 1999, Forman makes Andy Kaufman biopic Man on the Moon starring Jim Carrey. The film receives mixed reviews but is hailed by some, as is Carrey's performance. Forman's two sons, Andrew and James, are named after Andy Kaufman and Jim Carrey.

2000s

Milos Forman plays a priest in Ed Norton's directorial debut, Keeping the Faith. In 2006, he makes Goya's Ghosts with Natalie Portman, Javier Bardem and Stellan Skarsgård. The film is a Spanish production but shot in English. The film receives mixed to negative reviews. In 2009, Forman attends the Reykjavik film festival in 2009, while still trying to finance his next film, Ghosts of Munich. 🍷

is so bad, why did Madame de Volanges give her the daughter to take care of? Why was she loved in society? The same with Valmont. Why did everyone fall in love with him? So that's what interested me. What's not in the letters?"

So the story itself is a fabrication by the characters in it, you seem to suggest?

"Yes."

Hair came out in '79 but it was about events in '68. How was it to relive the changes, coming from communist Prague to hippie California?

"The timing is one of the reasons the film did not become a big success. In the late '70s, it was not recent and not yet nostalgia. I wanted to do it when I came to the US in '69, for non-political reasons, but the rights to the film were so complicated that I wasn't able to make it until the late '70s. Now the film is playing repeatedly on American television. It's nostalgia now, it's not dangerous anymore."

NO FAMOUS ACTORS

Forman didn't get to make a film with Bobby Fischer, sadly, but he has worked with some of the biggest names in cinema. However, for Amadeus, he decided on largely unknown actors.

You didn't want to have famous actors in the roles?

"No, if you had Tom Cruise playing Mozart, people wouldn't see Mozart, just a famous face."

Is it different to work with big stars rather than unknown actors?

"Good actors who become stars are usually very nice people to work with. Ed Norton is a wonderful guy to work with. So's Jack Nicholson. Carrey, the same. Annette Bening is wonderful, perfect."

Why did you cast Jim Carrey as Andy Kaufman?

"Every comedian wanted to play the part. Andy Kaufman is an idol to them. But I couldn't ask Jim Carrey or some other people to do a screen test. So what I did was that I sent the word out that whoever was interested in playing Andy

The Kings Of The Seventies



By spring of 1973, both Gunnar Þórðarson and Rúnar Júlíusson had turned 28. Behind were the most popular groups of the beat and hippie age, Hljómar and Trúbrot. Trúbrot had just declined when they decided to resurrect Hljómar and found a record label with the same name. Singer/drummer Engilbert from the original lineup joined the team, along with singer superstar Björgvin Halldórsson. The new Hljómar did an album in 1974, but the music had nothing to do with the Hljómar of old. Instead, the contents were more related to Trúbrot, hard rock and balladry, with a dash of reggae.

"Hljómar 1974," as the album got to be known, sold a lot less than these guys were used to. There was a lot of money at stake, as the guys had mortgaged their homes for capital. The only way to fight back was, naturally, to make the sort of music that people would pay good money for. The conclusion was a new band with the same members, called *Ðe Lónlí Blú bojs* ("The Lonely Blue Boys," written Icelandic style). Their first LP was released in 1975 and became a great success. The LP took its title track from The Beach Boys' "Fun Fun Fun" – "Stuð stuð stuð" – and featured original compositions by Gunnar along with Icelandicised cover versions of popular foreign hits. One of the tracks became a 'monster hit of the seventies,' *Heim í Búðardal* – "Home to Búðardalur." The lyrics, by living legend Þorsteinn Eggertsson, deal with a guy daydreaming what will await him when he returns home to Búðardalur after slaving away

1. Where's this Búðardalur, then? **Ðe Lónlí blú bojs in 1975: Gunnar, Björgvin, Engilbert and Rúnar**
2. **Pú og ég** debut looking all candlelight disco-ish.
3. **Einu sinni var** – The biggest selling album in Iceland ever!

building the Sigalda power station. The song put the small village of Búðardalur on the map, and was so popular that stickers that read "Where is this Búðardalur, then?" became a popular item.

Rúnar ran the Hljómar record label in Iceland while Gunnar moved to England. He had toiled away in Iceland for more than a decade and wanted to try something new, being a session-man in England sounded good. Not much happened with these plans, but Gunnar worked on several records that Hljómar eventually released. There was his own solo album, a sophisticated record that sold poorly as it had no hits, and a children's album, *Eniga Meniga*, with songs by young writer Ólafur Haukur Símonarson sung by a young girl, *Olga Guðrún Árnadóttir*. *Eniga Meniga* eventually became a huge hit and is considered one of Iceland's most beloved Icelandic albums, with its socially conscious lyrics and lively music. Gunnar also finished two more *Lónlí blú bojs* records, *Hinn gullni meðalvegur* ("The Golden Average") with more superhits and a Christmas album.

Having sold so many records in 1975, Gunnar felt he wasn't getting the sort of money he deserved. Rúnar had managed the Hljómar records accounts and when Gunnar sent in his lawyers Rúnar was obviously not impressed. Nothing rotten was to be found, but there was no return to the Hljómar business after this. Instead, Gunnar founded his own *Ýmir* Records, and Rúnar started his *Geimsteinn* imprint. This was the end of Gunnar's and Rúnar's close working relationship, but they would record together again when Hljómar returned in the 21st century, with two more studio albums and many, many comeback gigs, the last being in Liverpool's Cavern Club shortly before Rúnar's untimely death in December of 2008.

Separately, the old blood brothers of Icelandic pop were to make many significant albums. With his *Geimsteinn* imprint, Rúnar hit it big with country-pop band *Brimkló's* debut album and his own debut solo album in 1976. Both albums sold more than 5,000 copies so Rúnar brimmed with inextinguishable optimism

ever since and ran *Geimsteinn* with hits and misses until he passed away. Gunnar's *Ýmir* label had some success too. A comedy album by Halli, Laddi and Gísli Rúnar sold well, but a disco pop solo album by Engilbert Jensen sold less. Gunnar wasn't really record mogul material though, and he was to have more success making albums for others.

In 1976, along with singer Björgvin Halldórsson and producer/bassist Tómas Tómasson, Gunnar made the album *Einu sinni var* ("Once Upon a Time"), a collection of old Icelandic poems that school kids had learnt in school for decades, set to new music by Gunnar. Many, including some teachers, felt the album should be banned as it "distorted the tradition," but the general public wholly disagreed and the album went on to become the best selling Icelandic album of all time, selling more than 20,000 copies before Christmas of 1976. A second album failed to repeat the sensation a year later.

Gunnar had many projects running. He made a second solo album in 1978, a double album no less, with "difficult" music and some tracks he had written for director Hrafn Gunnlaugsson's short films. With vocal group *Lummurnar* (The Pancakes), many felt Gunnar had hit an artistic low. Some even went as far as calling him "the biggest enemy of Icelandic music." *Lummurnar* sang old Icelandic pop songs set to disco beats programmed and produced by Gunnar. Two albums were made in 1977 and 1978 and sold like, uh, hot pancakes.

Pú og ég (You and I) was yet another project of Gunnar, a swank disco duo made out of singers Helga Möller and Jóhann Helgason. Gunnar shows his studio wizardry on the 1979 album *Ljúfa líf* (Sweet life), a honey drenched disco album that naturally went on to sell like crazy. *Pú og ég* were to make two more albums and had some success in Japan, where—for some unfathomable reason—the Gunnar-produced Icelandic disco hit a home run. ♡ - DR. GUNNI

By Dr. Gunni, based on his 2000 book *Eru ekki allir í stuði?* (Rock in Iceland). A revised update of the book is forthcoming in 2010.

100% Merino wool

JANUS woolen underwear is made from the finest Merino wool which is soft and comfortable. It keeps your body dry and warm and does not itch.

JANUS **Janusbúðin**

Laugavegur 25, 101 Reykjavík & Hafnarstræti 99-101, 600 Akureyri
s. 552-7199, fax. 562-7199 s. 461-3006, fax. 461-3007
www.janusbudin.is

'ISEY

Laugavegur 23
Tel: 5526970

THE VIKING
FAMILY BUSINESS FOR 50 YEARS

THE VIKING : INFO

Laugavegur 1 • Reykjavík • 581 1250
Hafnarstræti 3 • Reykjavík • 551 1250
Hafnarstræti 104 • Akureyri • 4615551

email: theviking@simnet.is

SOUVENIR SHOP

TAX FREE SHOPPING

CHECK OUT - WWW.THEVIKING.COM

HORNIÐ
Restaurant ~ Pizzeria

Hornið opened in 1979 was the first restaurant of its kind in Iceland, a restaurant with a true Italian atmosphere. Hornið is known for good food made out of fresh raw materials, good pizzas baked in front of the guests, good coffee and comfortable service.

Lunch offers every day.

Open every day from 11.00 to 23.00

For reservations call 551-3340

Restaurant Hornið – Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavík – s. 551 3340 – www.hornið.is

Music | Album Reviews



múm
Sing Along to the Songs You Don't Know (2009)

[mumtheband](#)

múm go acoustic and lose the refrigerated sounds. This is a good thing.

Now on their fifth album, múm have once again gone further into acoustic territory with *Sing Along To Songs You Don't Know*. With its predecessor, *Go Go Smear The Poison Ivy*, múm left atmosphere alone and delved further into the more luminous moments in campfire sing-a-long, producing songs that could be taken at face value with only an acoustic guitar as accompaniment. Not to say what we have here doesn't experiment in refrigerated blips or synth-infused bleeps, but as múm get older, it feels the auxiliary sounds diminish, leaving their pop more bare. Naked, even.

And herein results in an album that embodies its moniker to the core. This is a set of songs that try to be open, inclusive and plaintive, a collection of participatory ditties, so to speak. With opener 'If I Were A Fish,' jilted guitar plucks meander around lilting vocals filled with questions, almost inviting the listener in immediately to answer them. Seashell percussion and trumpets peer in and out, but here the focus is the words, the invitation. múm want you back, that's for sure.

And so it goes, moving forward through some deliberately acoustic numbers, such as the gorgeous 'Húllablabbalúú', interspersed with sporadic oddball antics, like the cowbell heavy 'The Smell Of Today Is Sweet Like Breast Milk In The Wind'. This one aside, as a collection it's less experimental, and repeated listens suppose that this was intentional. Take the quiet but affecting closer, 'The Last Shapes Of Never'. Historically, this juxtaposes the band's canon, as it's a simple strum buttressed with a choir, almost as if they are imitating a church service. It stays plaintive, and in such it succeeds. It's quiet, affecting, mature and sombre pop. They do want us to sing along, of course. **-SHAIN SHAPIRO**



The XX
XX (2009)

[thexx](#)

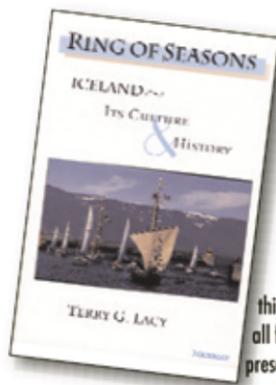
Look past the indie posturing and listen to the lovely sounds they make....

The XX are the latest UK indie sensations coming from south London. Barely out of their teens, at first sight they look as if they couldn't fight their way out of a shopping bag. And their debut album is full of songs about longing, cloying emotion and foppy haired sex. This is my kryptonite and it usually brings me out in a rash.

So why am I still listening to it after a week? Simply because of the tunes. The XX have an incredibly bleak, sparse sound (staccato plucked guitars, quiet drums, breathed vocals). And they also add a healthy dose of ambient electro, R&B drum patterns and bass lines to their mix. Even the track "Crystallised" sounds like a slowed down "Wicked Game" by Chris Isaak.

While they aren't a party on type band, they are perfect for when you suffering that Sunday comedown, or when Iceland has one of those typical

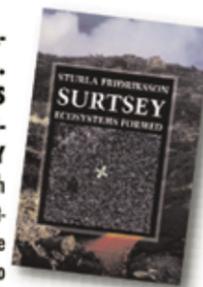
"It stays plaintive, and in such it succeeds. It's quiet, affecting, mature and sombre pop. They do want us to sing along, of course."



RING OF SEASONS. ICELAND: - IT'S CULTURE AND HISTORY

Terry G. Lacy brings both the perspective of an outsider and the familiar eye of a long-term resident to this delightful exploration of all facets of Iceland, past and present. She conveys her story with a skillful interlacing of history, religion, politics, and culture to paint a vivid picture of the way Icelanders live today.

"This fascinating book is a must for anyone who is interested in Iceland." - Dick Ringler



SURTSEY - AN ECOSYSTEM FORMED
Dr. Sturla Fridriksson describes the birth of the island in 1963 and how in itself it became an interesting geological phenomenon and a biological laboratory, where scientists could investigate how organisms disperse across the ocean to remote islands and how plants and animals colonize completely barren areas such as Surtsey. Available in English, French and German. Surtsey was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2008.



THE MANUSCRIPTS OF ICELAND

In this collection of articles scholars present the story of Icelandic manuscripts, their medieval origins, the literature they contain and its influence up to the present day. This book is a tribute to the central role that medieval Icelandic literature played in forging national identities in N-Europe.



BILINGUAL SERIES

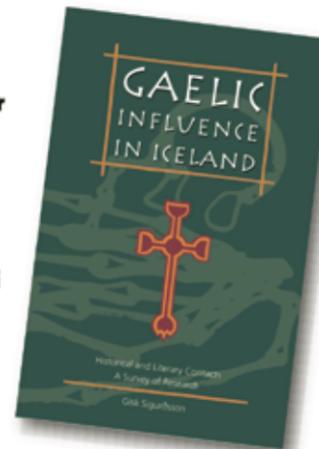
A selection of literary masterpieces, each containing the original text and an Icelandic translation.

Albert Camus: L'Étranger – Útlendingurinn

Federico García Lorca: Yerma – Yerma

Federico García Lorca: Poemas – Gustur úr djúpi nætur

Franz Kafka: Die Verwandlung – Umskiptin



GAELIC INFLUENCE IN ICELAND

GÍSLI SIGURDSSON

Why were the Icelanders the only Nordic nation in the Middle Ages to produce secular heroic prose narratives in the vernacular? Is it possible that the first Icelanders were under enough cultural influence from the Gaelic world to establish an entirely different tradition of story telling and poetic talent from that of their Scandinavian homelands?

AVAILABLE IN ALL MAJOR BOOKSTORES

UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND PRESS

haskolautgafan.hi.is – hu@hi.is – tel. 525 4003



Now offering catering service!

sushibarinn

laugavegur 2 101 reykjavik ☎ 552 4444

Open:
Mondays-Saturdays 11:30-22:30
Sundays 16:00-22:00



GOOD NIGHT & GOOD MORNING

In the heart of Reykjavik city center, Centerhotels offer the perfect setting for your stay in Iceland. The hotels boast modern Scandinavian design, providing guests with a sophisticated and stylish environment.



CENTERHOTELS

www.centerhotels.com

Tel.: 595 8500 - Fax: 595 8511 - Email: reservations@centerhotels.com

Stakes Is High

Grapevine Visits The Icelandic Poker Championship



Gambling has been a touchy subject in Iceland over the years, especially when it involves cards being dealt, small and big blinds. Yet there seems to be a loophole in the law, and thus last weekend around 200 poker players gathered at the Nordica Hilton Hotel to compete at the Icelandic Poker Championship. The 200 were of course hoping to take home the title of Iceland's best, as well as seeing a portion of the 6.000.000 ISK Grand Prize find its way into their bank accounts.

The hotel's two halls were packed with players and you could hear various shrieks of "YES!" or (indeed) "NOOOOH!" sounding from the tables, as players either saw their stacks grow higher or—as the game is apt to go for most—smaller and smaller. Tensions were high and so was the temperature; the rooms got hotter and hotter with every passing hour of play. Fourteen hours later, at two in the morning, only thirty players had any chips in front of them,

advancing to the second day of play.

The tournament saw its share of Icelandic celebrities (or what counts as celebrity in Iceland) putting chips into the pot and contributing to the cash prize. Olympic silver medallist Sigfús Sigurðsson could not repeat his 2008 Beijing success, going out on the first day. TV comedian Auðunn Blöndal made through the cut to day two, only to be eventually taken out by the would-be champion, much to his dislike.

23 HOURS OF POKER

On day two, the poker playing commenced at noon with thirty players competing for a seat at the final table. It appeared as if most of the players had managed to get some sleep, although the game was on the slow side in the beginning. Fortunately, their play picked up and some five hours later only nine remained to earn a seat at the final table. The atmosphere was thick with tension,

and it didn't take long until players were going all in, before leaving the table—all out.

After 23 hours of poker, it was Axel Einarsson who wound up as the last man standing, beating Matthías Vilhjálmsson's hand with a pair of Queens over Axel's suited Joker, Eight of hearts, taking home a cool 1.5 million ISK. Vilhjálmsson did not leave empty handed, his second place warranting a little over a million ISK. In third came Logi Unnarsson Jónsson, with 700.000 ISK.

So it would seem like tournament poker is here to stay in Iceland, as the police left the event alone, and next year's event is already in the planning stages. ♣

✍ MATTHÍAS ÁRNI INGIMARSSON
📷 MATTHÍAS ÁRNI INGIMARSSON

Opinion | Drugs

The War On Drugs, The War On You



Short and to the point is the word. Here is some common sense: With an economic deathblow being dealt to a crumbling country, keeping assets in the country is paramount. Bearing that in mind, I contend that a police force stretched severely thin is better spent on pressing matters of actual socially detrimental crime rather than non-issues like domestic cannabis growing.

Marijuana, having now thankfully evolved from an import to a self-sufficient homegrown market, harms only the user, not your average taxpayer. The herb is neither lethal nor conducive to violence or crime. All it fosters is a lack of ambition, giggling fits and a mellow, creative high. And some mad munchies.

According to news reports, 800 kilos of raw material have been seized in a series of overachieving police raids. This equals perhaps half a ton of end product at a street value of over 2.250.000 ISK, roughly, according to ridiculously inflated post raid prices. With the keeling currency and the re-emergence of smuggling, a conservative estimate of a mark up doubling wholesale to street price, for that huge batch, we're looking at a shipping out of 1.125.000 ISK in sorely needed currency to countries such as Denmark, the Netherlands and Morocco.

The crux, however, is that the more weed seized, the more local demand is exposed, and with ever added exposure of want, the need for de-criminalization is laid bare. With a populist force of de-



mand, although not yet fully emerging to speak their mind from out of the shroud of taboo, an outburst of indignation will at some point erupt as a response to ceaseless bullying by the narrow-minded forces that be. And when the people will take no more, the police know from bitter experience, law and order will be crushed under the heel of the masses.

Currently, 240 convicts are waiting to serve their term within the seriously over crowded Icelandic prison system, most of whom are guilty of crimes worse than herbiculture. Locking industrious green-fingered gentlemen up seems like a mindless police crusade, engineered to regain respect for a law keeping institution much maligned during the last year.

Politics are naught but a hunt to fulfil the populist stated wants and needs, yet this is not reflective of its true inner opinion. They will never admit defeat in the war on drugs. A war on drugs is, however, only a war on the human condition, and the human condition cannot be vanquished.

Hence many man-hours, endless taxpayer money and column upon column of newsprint is wasted on chasing mankind's very own tail. Whatever one's poison, an addict as well as the casual user will fill his or her need no matter the price, making any preventive measures but an added hurdle, conducive to crime within the sphere of harder substances, rather than a social benefit.

Complete legalisation is therefore the only way and the benefits are both social and medicinal as well, regarding quality of life for thousands of casual users. This far outweighs any claims of increased abuse, claims that bear no proof by statistics from de-criminalized countries, and which, if they did, the policing expenditures saved along with the added income from taxation would no doubt comfortably finance any additional need for rehabilitation. ♣

✍ BOGI BJARNASON

Reykjavík Downtown Hostel

Your dream location in downtown Reykjavík

Enjoy the comforts of your private room or share a room with new friends

Excellent kitchen and common areas, WiFi

We will help to make your plans and experience in Iceland unforgettable

Your friends at the new HI Hostel at Vesturgata 17 look forward to welcome you



Reykjavík Downtown Hostel

Vesturgata 17 | 101 Reykjavík | Tel. 553 8120 | www.hostel.is

TAKE AWAY

PICK YOUR FAVORITE PLATE



Lækjargötu 2a. / Borgartúni 29. tel. 561 0562

ALI BABA



Shish Kebab
Falafel
Shawerma



Veltusund 3b, v.Íngólfstorg
S: 445 4445

Music | Album Reviews



Circle of Ouroboros
Tree of knowledge (2009)

circleouroborusfinland

A great idea, but shitty production robs them of any glory.

What is it with the Finns when it comes to music? Perhaps it's their landscape or the lack of sunlight, but whenever they make music it almost seems that they are bound by law to make it as twisted, dark and brooding as possible. These guys are no exception. While Circle of Ouroboros have been labelled as "progressive Black metal," the bony fingers of 80's New wave and post punk are all over their sound. The best way I can describe them is if Joy Division's Ian Curtis listened to heavy metal instead of David Bowie. Certainly songs such as a "Root Casket" have lashings of blackness and trepidation. But all of this is undone by truly shoddy production that overloads the guitars, makes the drums almost inaudible and the vocals sound like they've been done in the studio toilets. Damn, so close but a ruined opportunity to make a new take on metal music.

-BOB CLUNESS



Me, the Slumbering Napoleon
Marske by the sea EP (2009)

slumberingnapoleon

A bit rough around the edges but a good debut.

MTSN are a noisy four piece who have been wowing crowds all this year with their energetic live shows and positive reviews. And finally their debut EP is out to the baying public. Thankfully some of their live energy has transferred onto record. The title track "She's a maniac" and "Marske by the Sea" are the strongest tracks, both showing a great line in dirty, scuzzy, blues-tinged rock. Allied with Binni's screaming lead vocals, it's rather reminiscent of Minutemen and a harder Blues Explosion. They do fall down a bit however with a cover of Jimi Hendrix's "Purple Haze" that should only ever be done by schoolboy cover bands. And while "3537 Dogs" is the most expansive song, the production is not as clean as the rest of the EP. But this is definitely a band that's on the up and up. Long may it continue.

-BOB CLUNESS



Sólstafir
Köld (2009)

solstafir

Definitely one of the best Icelandic albums of the year.

Sólstafir have come a long way from their humble black metal beginnings in the mid-nineties. Too few metal bands dare to experiment. For many metalheads, the onslaught of thundering drums and wailing guitar solos has reached such puritanical levels that it is in many ways comparable to religious obstinacy.

Those that stray away from the well-trodden left hand path are frowned upon as outcasts and pariahs. Sólstafir have definitely experienced this. But that is one of this strange band's most admirable traits: They do not care whether you like what they're doing or not. They go their own way. I remember seeing them in concert a few years back, where the audience was left shaking their heads as the band left the stage (this writer being no exception). They played only three songs, but somehow managed to stretch those songs to 45 minutes!

At times I found myself quite bewildered and confused, trying to figure out what they hoped to achieve with all this experimenting. Their latest offering, Köld, does however hint at an answer. It is an intriguing blend of metal and indie rock, with raw and emotional vocals that at times create a haunting atmosphere. The mood is one of both sorrow and beauty. This is music you could listen to on a rainy Monday while lamenting the turn your dreary life has taken. With Köld, Sólstafir have stamped themselves forever in Icelandic music history as one of the most interesting bands to date. It's an awesome album that leaves you in a daze.

-FLOSI PORGEIRSSON



HARK
EP (2009)

harkice

Akranes' ugliest, heaviest and best.

Coliseum without the rock. Breach without the crashing sadness. Like a less hectic Breather Resist. A less frantic, slow, riff-heavy Converge. A drunker Hope Conspiracy. A dash of hard hitting sludge. More straight up Botch and Coalesce. Training For Utopia. Oh my mind, why can't you come up with strong words as opposed to redundant comparisons? These thoughts crept into mind and I'm telling you about it. As you can clearly see HARK evokes some serious mid to late 90s feelings in me, and I applaud that, 'cause they are certainly the only band locally to do that since Minus and Klink, and in an international context this type of music is much needed. Honestly.

But don't go thinking this is some throwback stuff. That's not it at all. The noise level, groovy riffs, headbangery, complete disregard for pleasantness and the fact this is a trio, firmly puts Hark in a league with the most current of acts. The only thing Hark needs is a touch of uniqueness to cut away from what is currently going on internationally and what came before. Until then, this EP will be in constant rotation because it oozes attitude and self assurance.

-BIRKIR FJALAR VÍÐARSSON



Available
at most respectable
souvenir stores.

VARMA
The Warmth of Iceland

WWW.GLOFI.IS

ELEGANT SURROUNDINGS
SUPERB CUISINE
MODERN COMFORT

Gallery
Restaurant

PRESERVING QUALITY
IS OUR BUSINESS

Open daily for lunch and dinners
Special offer on Monday
and Tuesday – 3 course dinner
for only 4200 ISK.

Reservation: tel. 552 5700,
e-mail: gallery@holt.is



Bergstaðastræti 37 s. 552 5700
holt@holt.is www.holt.is

Lækjargötu 8, 101 Reykjavík
PizzuverkSMÍÐJAN
57 88 555 www.pizzuverkamidjan.com



TRY OUR SEAFOOD GOURMET PIZZA

opening hours: Mon - Thu 11:30 - 22:00, Fri - Sat 11:30 - 06:00, Sun 17:00 - 22:00

Entertainment | Comix



Frank Castle, The Punisher: Six Hours to Kill

Duane Swierczynski & Michel Lacombe

Like so many readers and writers of this beloved mag, you're probably a bleeding heart liberal. You're against whale hunting and capital punishment. That's okay, this reviewer is too. Kinda. On a good day. Well, killing is wrong. Even killing killers (even killing killer whales!). But since we're all a single chromosome away from being chest-pounding apes, it can be frustrating to remain that civilized in this twisted world of molesters and meanies. Thank Christ then, for Frank Castle, the Punisher. The comic book that actually quenches your natural bloodthirst.

The Punisher originally appeared in The Amazing Spider-Man #129 (didn't even have to Google that!) and quickly rose in popularity. Most likely because he didn't capture criminals, he slaughtered them. A Batman without the bullshit.* Through the years, he's had a fruitful career within the Marvel universe.

Later on, editors realised that the mainstream Marvel universe was too spandexy for all of the Castle's bloodletting. There are kids reading

these things for Kirby's sake! Thus, the MAX imprint was born. A department within Marvel headquarters, where writers have the freedom to remove classic heroes from their natural surroundings and write edgy stories about them. "Edgy" meaning you can swear and show tits. And thankfully, way more gore.

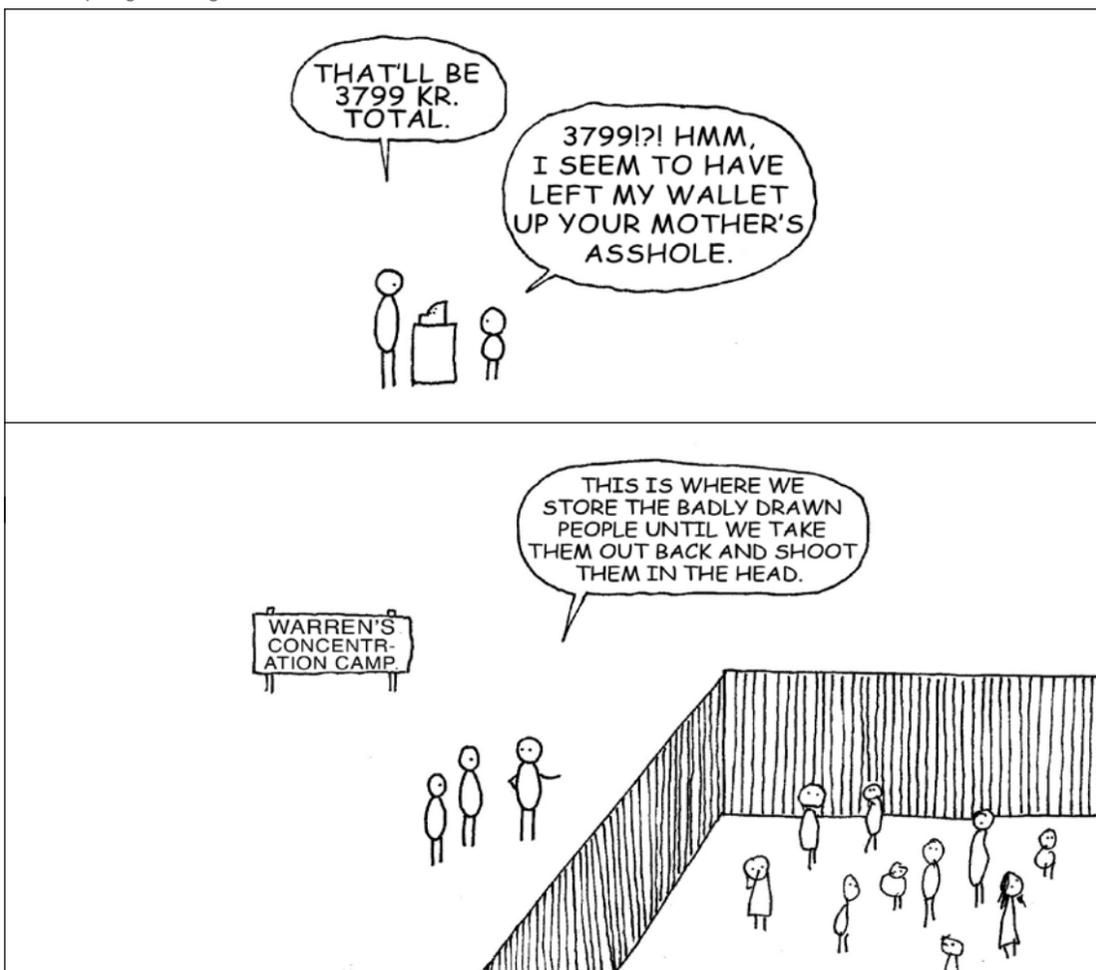
The first ten volumes (simply called The Punisher MAX) were written by Garth Ennis and remain one of his best works to date. So filling his shoes would be a challenge. It doesn't seem like it, though, for former true-crime novelist Duane Swierczynski. He manages to actually make you giggle with glee as Castle crushes a rapist's skull. In his second volume: Six hours to kill, we follow our anti-hero as he is poisoned and has six hours to live. Which means of course six hours to massacre every square metre of earth-scum he manages to find. Fun!

Oh, and he accidentally kills a whale in this book, too. Accidentally!

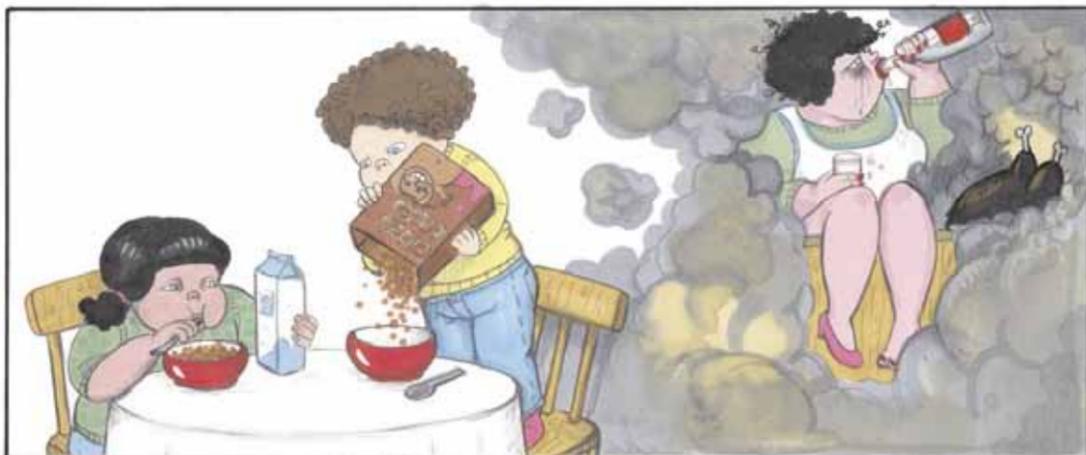
* That's not a Batman diss. The sentence just sounded cool. ☺

HUGLEIKUR DAGSSON

— by Hugleikur Dagsson



— by Lóa Hjálmtýsdóttir



— by Elo Vázquez and Óttar Norðfjörð



HOW ICELANDERS SEE ICELAND



HOW ICELAND REALLY IS

Entertainment | Gaming



The Party On Top Of The World

Eve Online opens its doors to Iceland, and the Universe

WHAT: www.fanfest.eveonline.com
WHEN: October 1-3, 2009 Reykjavik
TICKETS: Full Tickets cost 5000 KR

Brace yourself for the Eve Online Fanfest where Icelandic gaming company CCP opens its doors to hundreds of players and entertainment press from around the world. Those unfamiliar with the popular sci-fi MMORPG (massively multiplayer on-line role playing game) are invited to come and discover one of the more popular of its kind over three days, culminating in one of the most creative parties Reykjavik's Laugardalshöll has ever held.

Eve Online is a popular game in which people from all over the world fight each other in a 'single-shared' space (one universe shared by all players). You're forgiven for thinking that there's nothing extraordinary about an online game or its fan festival, but since CCP announced its new venture DUST 514 earlier this year, the gaming industry's collective gaze

turned to the Reykjavik based gaming company in anticipation.

So, why go to Fanfest? Essentially it's a celebration of a decade of the company's work, the first major opportunity for CEO Hilmar Veigar Pétursson to show players all the work put into developing EVE Online in the past year, and a chance to show the world what CCP have been striving so hard to achieve with their new project, Dust 514.

HERE IT IS!

"DUST 514 will redefine its genre. Never before has a first person shooter (FPS) been directly linked into a massive online world like Eve Online, offering console gamers the opportunity to participate in a momentous war," says Magnús Bergsson, CCP's VP of Sales. "CCP is going to concentrate the gaming and social

experience PC-based MMO gamers enjoy and allow console gamers to directly take part in that experience, while at the same time playing a first class, adrenaline-fuelled FPS. That is what DUST 514 will offer, beyond the enjoyment of a perfectly executed headshot."

Apart from a sneak peak trailer released at the Games Developers Conference earlier this year, Fanfest will be the first time any information on the game is released.

THE PARTY ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Fanfest's program includes lectures and roundtables on Eve Online's development and expansions, interactive agent missions for guests, huge-scale player tournaments, a keynote speech, and The Party On Top Of The World on the 3rd. Event organizer Oddur Ö. Halldórsson

describes the party as a transformation of Laugardalshöll "into a sci-fi space station for a massive concert with Margeir and his Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Samúel Samúelsson, Developer Band Röxör and many, many more surprises."

Hundreds of people from around the world will descend on Reykjavik for Fanfest to celebrate their love of this one game. That's pretty incredible! The event highlights the massive community following that Eve has amassed and applauds all the hard work that makes Eve a success. More importantly, it shines a spotlight on Iceland, as many players stay for weeks at a time. Finally, it's a positive example of a creative and passionate Icelandic enterprise taking the world by storm. ☺

STEVIE WARD

Free Classifieds:

You can advertise in our classifieds for free at www.grapevine.is. Categories like housing available, housing wanted, job openings, job needed.

» www.grapevine.is



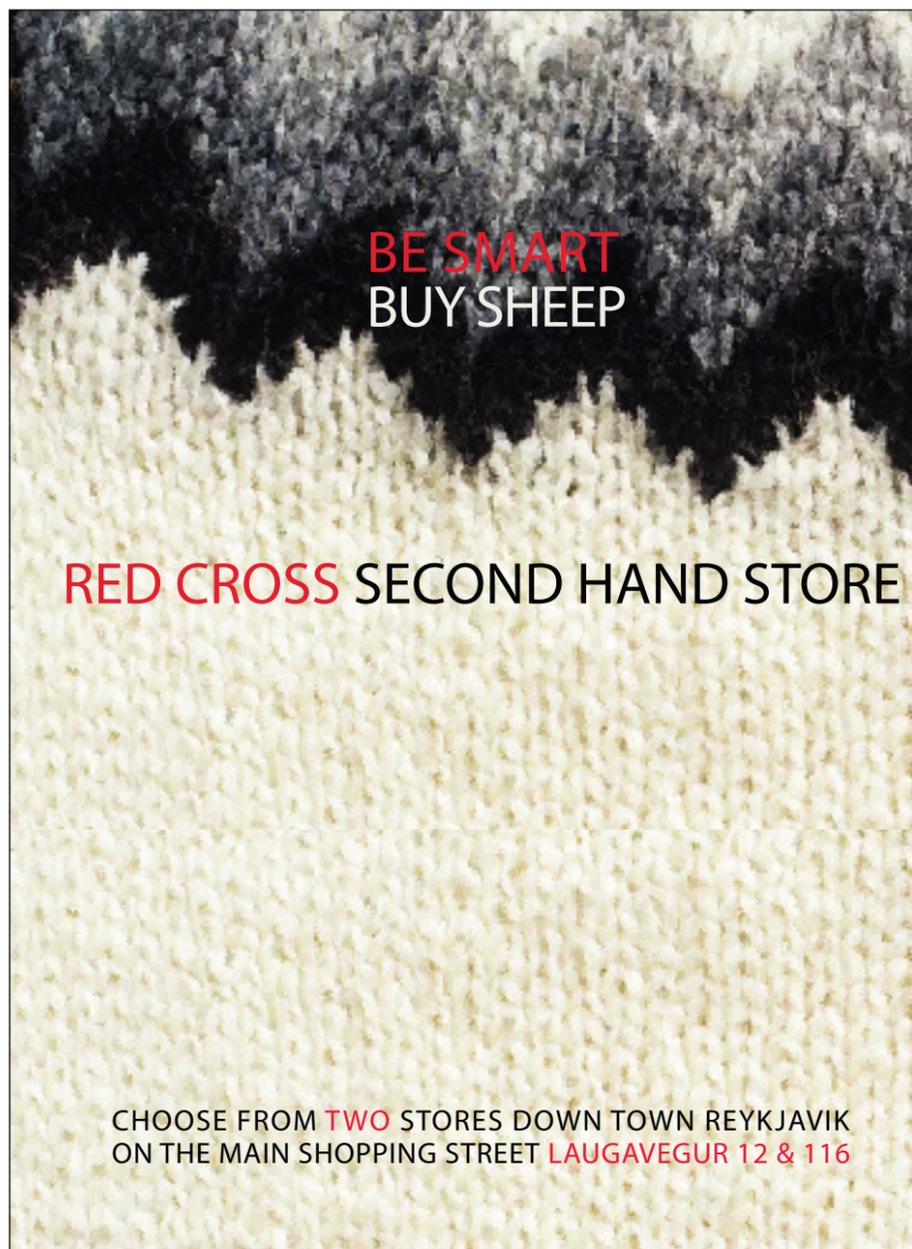
THE LOBSTER HOUSE HUMARHÚSIÐ

The Lobster house takes pride in giving you the best, with top-class cuisine and highly praised service.

Our menu consists of a variety of meat and fish dishes, and lobster is our speciality.



HUMARHÚSIÐ
Amtmannsstíg 1 / 101 Reykjavík / Tel: +354 561 3303
www.humarhusid.is



BE SMART
BUY SHEEP

RED CROSS SECOND HAND STORE

CHOOSE FROM TWO STORES DOWN TOWN REYKJAVÍK
ON THE MAIN SHOPPING STREET LAUGAVEGUR 12 & 116

 Icelandic Red Cross

There Ain't No Party Like a Réttir Party

Getting shitfaced, sheep style



All summer long, the sheep roam hills and fjords without a care in the world. Lambs nestle into their mothers' backs until they are too big to carry and rams stubbornly block the passage of tourists on roads. They fatten up on grass and lichen and their hair grows long and lush. Then September rolls around, the supply of woollen sweaters is depleted and there's barely any lamb meat on the supermarket shelf. The time has come for réttir, the annual gathering and distribution of the herds!

The three hundred year old tradition is one of the most important events of the year for Icelandic farmers and their families, bringing together entire communities. On top of herding sheep, the weekend-long affair is well known for long horsebacks rides, stopping at every farm in the area for coffee, traditional sing-alongs, eating your own weight in kjötsúpa ('meat soup') and copious alcohol consumption.

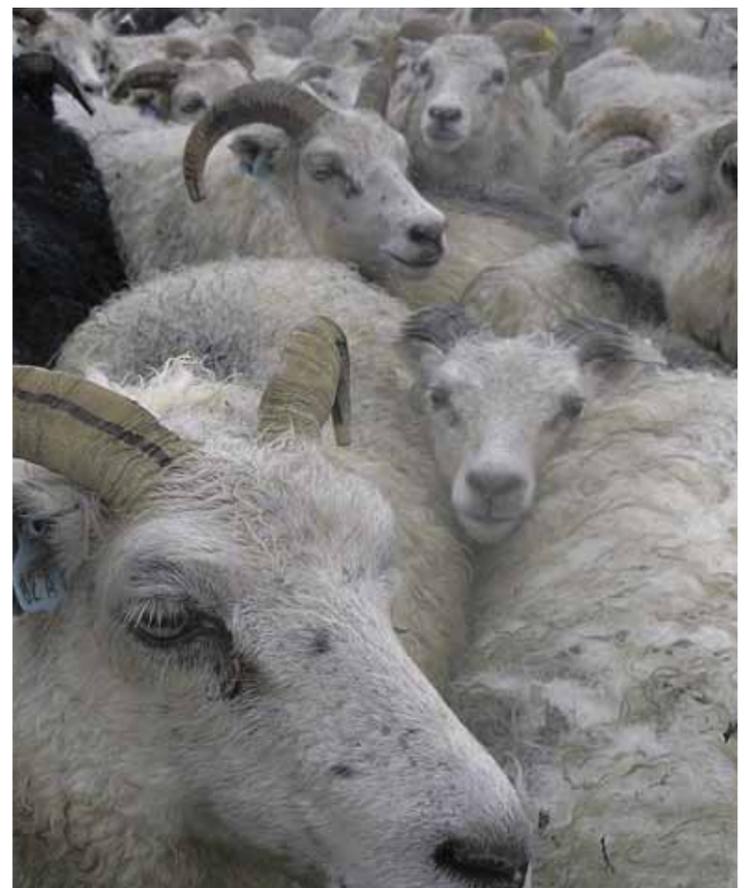
RÉTTIR #1: SHEEP EVERYWHERE!

We spent the first day at Högnastaðir, a farm in Flúðir owned by a delightful couple named Jón and Helga. The first order of business was to help shoe the horses and get drunk in a barn. The rest of their huge family arrived in the evening and we all got a good night's sleep. Except my friends and I, who drank until 3 AM. Oops. Bright and early on Friday morning, we got ready to go out to our first réttir in the county of Hrunamannahreppur. We rode horseback to and from the réttir, drinking all along the way.

We arrived at the main event around mid-day. The whole thing takes place in a large round enclosure called... réttir, consisting of an outer and inner circle, with several pie-slice compartments between the two. Each compartment is designated to a farm for their sheep or their horses. There are also two compartments that are open on the outer end through which the sheep are brought in. The



Did you know that sheep smell pretty awful when you're rounding them up? They certainly don't smell like that when they're roasting in an oven.



inner circle is known as 'the public,' where sheep and human come head to drunken head.

Sheep run amok, bleating and bucking and generally avoiding being mounted by children who grab their horns and drag them over to the farm that matches their ear-tag. Young folks stand around shooting the shit and carelessly passing around bottles. Farmers lock arms around shoulders, holding each other up and singing old folk songs that everyone knows by heart. Orange and green rain suits abound.

The 9-year old girls in our group have each climbed aboard a sheep and are giggling triumphantly. One little boy is standing over a sheep that has laid down on the ground and doesn't know what to do about it. A weathered old gentleman has a big ram by the horns, its front feet off the ground, effortlessly swinging it to the pen. A gorgeous young blonde girl in an orange rainsuit stumbles through with her

hands gripped on a pair of horns and a cigarette hanging from her mouth. I get distracted by something funny and I'm knocked into the mud by a running animal. Convicted embezzler-slash-MP Árni Johnsen plays the guitar in the middle of the public. Everyone is peeing everywhere. A giant ram runs by me, one of his horns ripped off and it's gushing blood all over his left side. I get really drunk and lose track of time.

Back at Högnastaðir that evening we have the traditional meat soup with the whole family. It's unbelievably delicious and filling. It feels like Thanksgiving. There's a grown-ups' table, a kids' table and the 20-somethings on the couch. The night sees a steady in-and-outflux of visitors from the area, mostly other farmers, who stop in for drinks, coffee, soup and songs. I try to keep up but after twelve hours of drinking I go take a nap and die for the night.



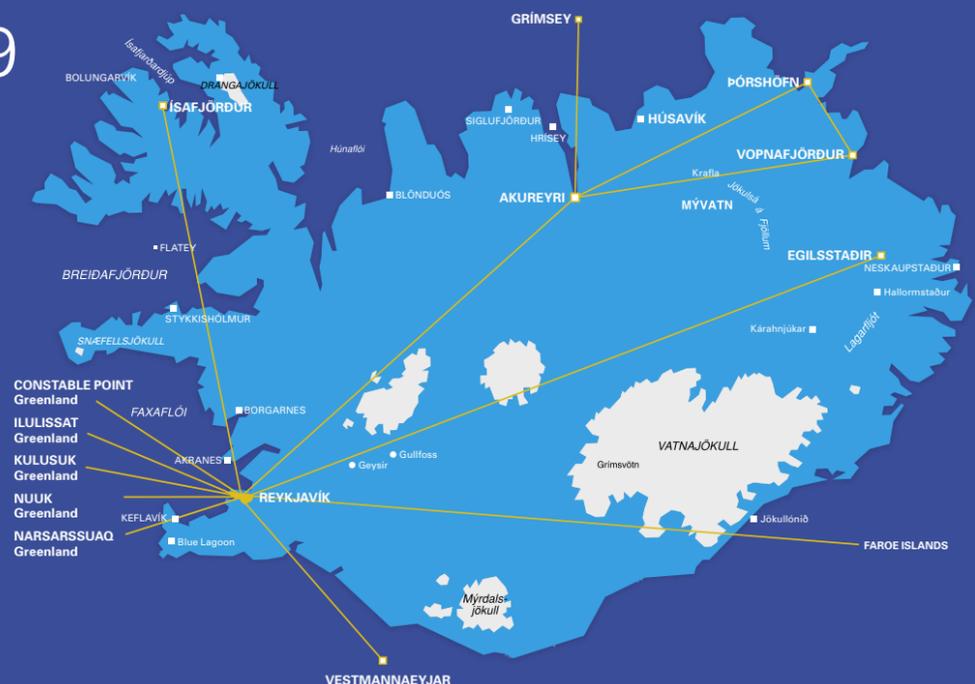
AIR ICELAND

Fly and discover Action-packed day tours 2009

Air Iceland is your West Nordic airline, a customer-driven service company responsible for scheduled domestic flights and flights from Iceland to the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

Air Iceland offers a variety of day tour packages, in Iceland and to Greenland, which include flight, bus transfer and guidance. All these magical locations are but a short, comfortable flight from Reykjavik.

Come fly with Air Iceland





RÉTTIR #2: WHERE THE FUCK AM I?

Our second spurt of réttir was in the next county over, right next to the waterfall Faxi. The weather was much nicer on day two, hence a lower quotient of hideously coloured raingear. I saw many familiar faces from the day before, mostly people I shared booze with. Only a few sheep still ran about in the public, but the kids quickly get them to their pens and the public becomes a zone for socializing exclusively. We spent the better part of the first hour hunting down Ingimar's friend. Somehow I found myself sitting on an old bus that someone has converted into an awesome camper, watching a dude drink out of two bottles at the same time.

We found a designated driver and started making the rounds to farms. At our first stop in Einholt, Ingimar and his friend Fannar broke out guitars and troubadoured the shit out of the place. Then we moved on to our friend Steinka's uncle's farm where I make a pitcher of vodka-cranberry, eat three bowls of meat soup, play the pump organ terribly, and forbid the playing of "Hotel California." Our next designated driver takes us over to another farm called Kjóstaðir with its gigantic stable full of various wildlife. I attempt to chase chickens for longer than is funny. Eat four more bowls of soup. Three old drunk men singing folk songs pull me across their laps as I scream for help.

Suddenly I am in Reykholt, kara-

okeing to ABBA with a pair of 6-year old girls. I get dragged into the dining room and sit around a table attempting to speak English and Icelandic with very little success at either. Ingimar tells me we are going to the town ball. A real honest to god ball! With a bad cover band and couples dancing and kids hanging outside smoking and getting into romantic disputes! We dance to Icelandic standards until the place runs out of beer and we get kicked out. We then stumble through Reykholt to Steinka's house at Lord-knows what time and pass out on the couch.

The hangover and sickness that ensued (which I have christened 'sheep flu') were epic, and by all means worth the journey. The experience was by far the most Icelandic thing I have ever been immersed in. From going through new parts of the country on a horse, to watching the process of gathering up sheep and fraternizing with older generations, the whole weekend was a wonderful blur of drunken madness. I even grew fond of the giant green rain suit. ☺

✍ REBECCA LOUDER
📷 REBECCA LOUDER

Travel | Ásbyrgi

Giant Horses, Hidden Folk And UFOs

A trip to Ásbyrgi is good for the imagination



Sleipnir was one hell of a horse. Born of the eternally mischievous god Loki (while in the form of a seductive white mare, naturally) and Svaðilfari, the magical stallion of a stonemason-impersonating giant; and not limited to only four legs like others of his breed, this eight-legged beast was as smooth as silk and could transport his rider, Óðin, across land, water, air and even between the lands of the living and the dead. That's enough to put Mr. Ed to shame.

Then one day, perhaps a little too confident of his fancy-walking abilities, Sleipnir totally dropped the ball and allowed one of his massive hooves to stomp down onto the earth, leaving an imprint a kilometre wide and more than three times as long. Today, the physical proof of this godly tale is the horseshoe shaped canyon Ásbyrgi.

Located in the north of Iceland, in the Jökulsárgljúfur National Park, Ásbyrgi is a sight to behold and to experience. While being in a building

with a whimsical shape—the penis mall, perhaps—doesn't necessarily impact on the experience within said construction, hiking within Ásbyrgi truly feels like being miniaturized and wandering around the impression left by a horse in the mud. It's no typical walk in the park. Meandering along the base of Eyjan, the platform-like island in the centre of Ásbyrgi, the bowl of the impressive canyon stretches on and on and, once the end of the island is reached, continues on and on in the opposite direction, completing the rough semi-circle. It's as impressive as the horse that created it.

Adding to the mystique, the tall vertical stone faces of the canyon and the island are rumoured to constitute the capital city of the hidden folk. Imagine millions of little hidden eyes peering out at you as you navigate your way among the stretches of berry bushes and lush green trees and prepare to feel slightly creeped out. It doesn't help matters that the canyon

makes for some echoes of epic proportions, transforming the hum of yet-to-be-seen cars into eerie warbling sounds of spacecrafts coming from all directions.

If the fear of a monstrous horse returning, peeping-tom hidden folk and imaginary UFOs get to be too much and impede on your enjoyment of this gem in Iceland's landscape, maybe forget all that and just look at Ásbyrgi from the scientific perspective: a big canyon carved out by the flooding of the Jökulsá á Fjöllum some 10,000 years ago. A less sensational tale, sure, but Ásbyrgi is sensation enough on its own. ☺

✍ CATHARINE FULTON
📷 CATHARINE FULTON

www.airiceland.is



8 hour Day Tour
Nature's Hot Spot

→ Vestmannaeyjar



12 hour Day Tour
Lake Mývatn

→ Mývatn



10 hour Day Tour
In the Footsteps of the Fishermen

→ Eskifjörður



12 hour Day Tour
Birds and Blue Waters

→ Ísafjörður



12 hour Day Tour
Highlights of the North

→ Mývatn



2 or 5 hour Evening Tour
Beyond the Arctic Circle

→ Grímsey



2 night Hotel Package
A Different World

→ Greenland – Kulusuk – Ammassalik



8 hour Day Tour
Remarkable Greenland

→ Greenland – Kulusuk



Contact Air Iceland or
travel agent for reservation.

Dead Girls In The Snow

Every film festival has one semi-pornographic film to generate debate. Last year it was Short Bus, this year it's Lars von Trier's *Antichrist* that gets the job done. Trier seems, like his compatriot Lukas Moodyson, to believe that the filmmaker's task is to make his audience as uncomfortable as possible. In this he succeeds, admirably. But what is the point? For a while, it seems to be posing an interesting question. Satanists tend to believe that Satan is a metaphor for nature and hence good. But what if nature is, in fact, truly Satanic? Instead of dealing with this question, we get an orgy of genital mutilation which quickly becomes tiresome. Skip the movie, go look at the stills in the Reykjavík Art Museum instead.

At the other end of the spectrum is *Patrik 1.5*, as much of a feelgood movie as they come. A gay couple adopts a teenage problem child. It is enjoyable to watch, compare and contrast with similar scenes from TV show *Six Feet Under*.

It used to be that documentaries critiquing capitalism were only shown at underground gatherings where you would look both ways before entering. It says a lot about the changing mood of our times that they have now become a staple at film festivals. *Food Inc.*, which includes Eric Schlosser, the man who gave us *Fast Food Nation*, is a decent stab at the meat industry. Really, why is a hamburger, which costs a lot to make, cheaper than a bag of carrots? Why do we subsidise junk food but not vegetables?

Another documentary that does a good job of enlightening the viewer on some of the issues of the day is *Defamation*, about how anti-Semitism is being used in Israel. The scenes of the students travelling to Auschwitz in a closed bus say more than many a news story about the problems in the Middle East. "I want to learn to have that look in my eye, which says 'Never Forgive,'" says one of the children.

Being a Finnish drunk seems to be a pleasant prospect. Mika Kaurismäki steps out of big brother Aki's shadow for *Three Wise Men*. The film takes place among three drunk men at a karaoke bar on Christmas Eve, all sharing their hard luck stories. It doesn't come to much more than a mildly interesting evening at the bar, but at least you skip the hangover.

One of the festival's more interesting experiences was the Norwegian art film *Dead Snow*, which poses the question: "What would happen if a group of teenagers ran into a group of Nazi zombies while hiking?" The film answers this question in considerable detail. Being able to see it in a swimming pool (one of the fest's gimmicks) was fun, even if the sound was a bit off.

Storm is one of this festival's pleasant surprises. One just doesn't see enough of films about European bureaucrats who all speak English with various strange accents. In fact, it is a gripping story about a lawyer who tries to get a Serbian War Criminal convicted in spite of corruption and politics on her side. Perhaps they'll soon make a similar movie about Eva Joly.

Francesca, however, is one of this year's disappointments, despite having offended Alexandra Mussolini. A film about Romanian immigrants in Italy is promising. Sadly, they never get there and it is hard to feel sympathetic for people who seem to have no idea what they are doing.

Deadgirl was this year's Midnight movie. It is an interesting take on the vampire myth, and a juxtaposition of the *Twilight* series. A group of teenagers find a living dead girl and decide to use her as a sex slave. The film probably says more about the strict caste system in American sexuality than it intends, and is in any case more realistic than *Revenge of the Nerds*. ☹

VALUR GUNNARSSON



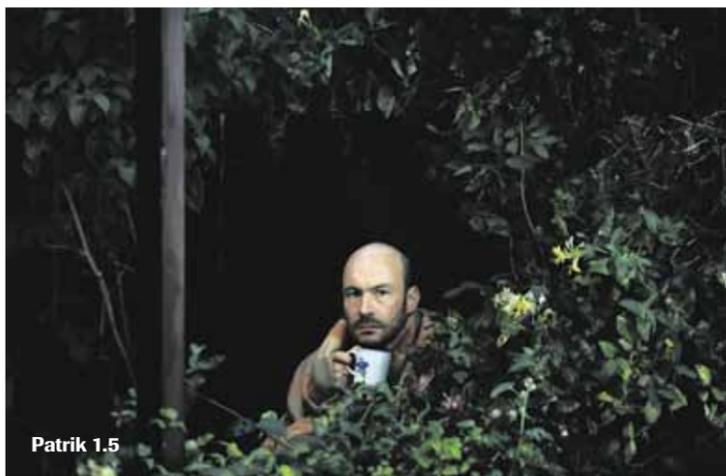
Antichrist



Three Wise Men



Storm



Patrik 1.5



Francesca



Deadgirl



Dead Snow



Food Inc.



Defamation

Oh no! It's The Radiophonic Paramilitaries

Regardless of whether cinema used to be truth 24 times per second or lies at the same rate, it is now becoming something else entirely. It is tempting to make some grand declaration—it is always tempting to make grand declarations. But perhaps the greatest novelty to be observed at the Reykjavík International Film Festival (RIFF) is the inversion of silent cinema, the invention of imageless cinema.

In between short films, in the two short film programs offered, the festival 'screens' radiophonic narrations, as they are labelled in English—the Icelandic term used in the catalogue is hljóðmyndir which would translate simply as "audio-images." These are short pieces of edited audio recordings—stories told in an interview setup, that is monologues from within dialogues, mixed with environmental sounds, documentary recordings and ambient music. While they run in the sound system, they are accompanied with subtitles in English. Apart from the modest sans-serif typeface which, in case you do not understand the original language, can be taken as a minimal but fundamental piece of montage giving meaning to the otherwise ambiguous soundscapes—the screen is blank.

TWO BILLION TIMES PER SECOND

Some of these pieces are captivating. Perhaps the most memorable one from the first program is 'Nunaqarfimmiut' or 'The Settlers' by Else Olsvig, where a man from Greenland relates the first time he shot a whale. The power of this piece is not least due to the tension created between the subtitles and the mixed audio, for a non-Greenlandic speaking audience. The pieces in Icelandic, however, also worked well, and the audience found "I don't want to talk today," Þorgerður E. Sigurðardóttir's piece about Pre-menstrual Syndrome, at first perplexing, then highly entertaining.

Now, an audio-channel without images is not a new medium—it's called radio and it has been around for a while. Bringing these pieces to the cinema, however, reveals some fundamental changes happening to cinema, deep down under, or looming by the gates: cinema is no longer anything at 24 frames per second, it is a lot of different things happening at the rate of around 2 billion times per second—that is the current ticking rate of the microprocessor in a normal PC.

Whereas all other spheres of art, media and representation have in a relatively short period of time added cinema to their bag of joys—from edited video footage in internet-based newspapers, to video-blogs and YouTube, not to mention the prevalence of video-art in all places intended for elevated coolness, in bars as well as galleries—this has not been a mutual appreciation. The cinematic tradition, the group of people professionally and/or passionately involved in filmmaking, has been reluctant to get mixed up with these other fields of practice.

POP EXPLOSION

Visual art remains a prop or deco within narrative films: sculptures used as background for a Woody Allen date, paintings used to show off the riches of the owner of a house. Radio has a curiously rare presence in films, but 'radiophonic narrations' would perhaps fit in as something listened to by characters who remain as visual and dramatic as ever. Whereas the democratization of cinema has changed the way other media function, other media have not altered cinema to the same extent at all. The one-way relationship between cinema and other expressive media is not to be lamented, nor is it an occasion for artistic guilt. It is still a highly curious fact.

Something can be learned from the history of music in the 20th century. While Russian Schönberg decomposed



Inland Empire

the classical tradition and revolutionized music from within that tradition with the invention of atonal music, thus setting the scene for modern, academic music, another revolution took place on the side. Or rather, an invasion: namely, the radio.

Radio, and subsequently the recording industry, gave grounds to the explosion that we now know as pop. In terms of scales and melodies, pop music is highly traditional, and even, one could say, born stagnant. Its creative evolution takes place first and foremost in a different dimension—what is vaguely referred to by 'sound'—the details of orchestration and developments of attitudes. In many places there is now, decades later, a great flux between academic musicians and pop musicians, but the two worlds of music have also managed well, each on their own terms, while ignoring each other completely. The world of music has settled for something akin to a two-state solution.

The premises for those fundamental changes in music as art, and as a social thing, were technological changes. When a mic and an amp can pick up a whisper and deliver it to thousands, the sophisticated technique of opera singers just seems silly.

AMATEUR PORNOGRAPHERS, YOUR MOTHER

There is a parallel to be drawn here. A revolution is taking place, not from within cinema, but from the outside, like an invading army. For better or worse the Americans are coming into cinema's Iraq. Youtubers, video-bloggers, amateur pornographers, visual artists, and your mother are making material that starts running at the push of a play button. As of yet, no Schönberg is in sight, though perhaps David Lynch may be on the way to somewhere along with his *Inland Empire*.

Cinema is no longer 24 frames per second of anything, but whatever happens after you press a play button. Among classical filmmakers whatever happens after you press the play button is very likely to sport a central character, a beginning, a middle and an end. In pop-film—the three minute jingles on YouTube being exemplary—the variation is wider and more chaotic.

This is not to hail the lack of tradition or the death of tradition, but a new lineage unfolding. At this embryonic state, popfilm probably has its own Woody Guthrie standing in a line somewhere, but no Bob Dylan is there yet to point him out to the rest of us.

The image-less cinema on the black screen, which nonetheless kept an audience watching and listening for around three minutes per piece, revealed the fact that what we were watching had never come near celluloid. We were watching a QuickTime file, composed of any digital elements that can fit a timeline, visual or not. The invasion of the radiophonic narration is a symptom of the changes taking place, a crack in the ground, or the paramilitaries at the gates. Those of us in the mood for drama can already hear them rattling their cameras. ☹

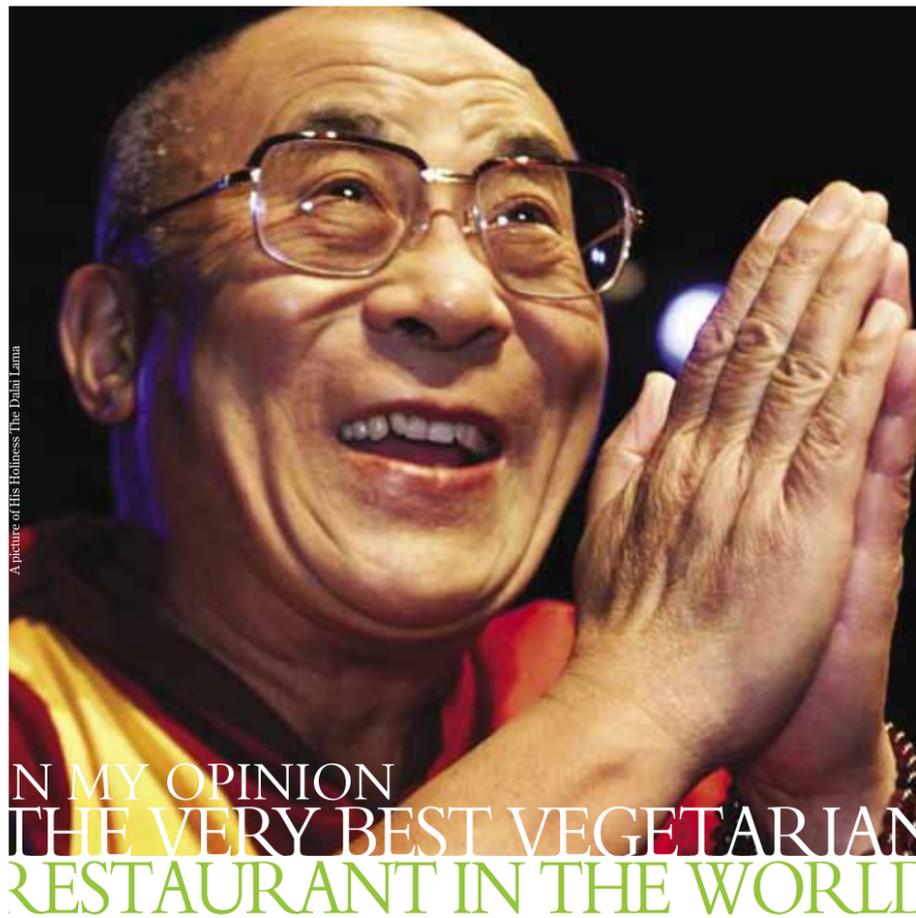
HAUKUR MÁR HELGASON



New super duper
Moods of Norway store has opened
 in the Kringlan shopping mall



moods of norway
LAUGAVEGI 51 & KRINGLUNNI • 551 4337



**IN MY OPINION
 THE VERY BEST VEGETARIAN
 RESTAURANT IN THE WORLD**

Benjamin Dov

OK, His Holiness The Dalai Lama did not eat at our restaurant when he visited Reykjavik. But he sure should have. Join the many famous people who like, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Obama, Paul McCartney, Nelson Mandela, David Lynch Madonna, etc. And become one of our happy regular customers.

Where the famous people eat, you are very safe!



Laugavegur 20b & KRINGLAN Shopping Centre, Reykjavik
 Tel: (+354) 552 8410 * www.anaestugrosu.is

ZIMSEN

Hafnarstræti 18 - 101 Reykjavík - www.kaffizimsen.is

Best friends day every monday from 7 pm

2 Large draft 900 kr. - 6 euros

'Olafsvaka every thursday

Large draft 490 kr. - 2,70 euros

Student discount every day until midnight

Large draft 600 kr. - 3,40 euros



Speaking Like A God



They say human beings use language to make sense of their surroundings. We frame, categorise and systematise the objects around us with the help of nouns and verbs and adjectives. The sky is blue. The horse gallops swiftly. The sentence is a ridiculous rhetorical filler. We do this to understand each other, to convey information, give orders, ask for favours. To some, thought is practically unthinkable (!) without language. If there is no word for mother, then there is no mother—or, at the very least, no mother to speak of.

And yet when we've finally managed to raise and strengthen these structures enough to have some sort of conversation, we start picking them apart. We join the boy-scouts to sing gibberish like Ging Gang Goolie; we giggle at Smurf-books with debates about whether an object should be called "a smurf-opener" or a "bottle-smurfer"; we can't be bothered with films in (real) languages we don't understand, but who can withstand the charm of a Klingon conversation?; we play computer games in simlish; listen to music in hopelandic and scat; devise made-up languages of our own—pig Latin, rhyme-slang, arpy-darpy—to cloak our darkest secrets from our parents and/or the police.

There are many theories about divine languages spoken by God, angels, Adam and Eve, languages of pure universal harmony. Some Pentecostal Christians speak in tongues—"glossolalia", as it's called—which is believed to be a holy language, perhaps from Eden and perhaps from Heaven itself. These people fall into some sort of trance and start speaking something which resembles a language, and indeed has linguistic structures, although the sounds usually originate from the speaker's native tongue. These divine languages sound mostly like gibberish—like complicated pig-Latin or simplified Klingon, like very basic sound-poetry—at least to the uninitiated. Religious zealots from the glossolalian's particular sect would, of course, be more likely to sense "the presence of God" than the presence of, let's say, hopelandic.

In the 13th century the Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick II, had his servant experiment on newborns to see if, undisturbed by human languages, the infants would eventually start speaking in the language of God (presumed to be Hebrew, Latin, Arabic or Greek). The infants were completely isolated from hearing any language. They never spoke and they died for they could not live without "the gladness of countenance."

Jacob Grimm, of the famous Brothers Grimm, theorised that if God speaks any language involving dental consonants, He must have teeth, and

since teeth are made for eating and not for speaking, He must not only be a talker but also an eater which, as the Dutch philosopher Frits Staal put it (according to Wikipedia): "leads to so many other undesirable assumptions that we better abandon the idea altogether." We can only assume that Staal means He might speak with His mouth full.

Poetry, as everyone knows, is full of gibberish. Not only are poets often deliberately labyrinthine as well as voracious neologists and portmanteurs—making up new words with varying degrees of sanity—but some of them actually attempt to write pure nonsense, utterly bereft of any sense. The Russian Futurists wrote poems in a language they called Zaum, a transrational language to awaken the creative imagination from its drowsy everyday existence. The Dada-poets had Hugo Ball's Karawane and Dada-Mertz had Kurt Schwitters' opus magnum, the Ur Sonata. Since the beginning of the twentieth-century sound-poetry has a non-stop history. But even before the birth of the so-called avant-garde, there was nonsensical poetry. In Iceland, Æri-Tobbi wrote his tercets and quatrains in the 17th century; in 13th century Catalonia the troubadour Cerverí de Girona had his own songs of gibberish, and 16th century Italy had Teofilo Folengo. The history of poetry is blotted high and low with work of such inspired delirium.

Perhaps, deep down inside, we are not as impressed by "actual" language as we sometimes let on. Perhaps we feel there are other ways of using and abusing our tongue, our language centres and vocal cords—a thinking beyond mere meaning. Like screaming. Like laughing. Grunting. Like giggling. And then, if I'm allowed to quote "meaningful" poetry to drive my point home, perhaps Emily Dickinson had something like gibberish in mind when she wrote "Much madness is divinest sense / To the discerning eye; / Much sense the starkest madness." And maybe Kurt Schwitters said it all, when he said: "Ziiuu ennze ziiuu nnskrmmüüü, / ziiuu ennze ziiuu rinnzkrmmüüü; / rakete bee bee, rakete bee zee".

The Pictures In Our Heads



With stardust in our eyes and worthless fluff on our minds it's difficult to perceive reality. The glamorous shine is too bright, the din too distracting, to even see the doors behind which deals are being made that seal the fate of a nation, potentially for generations to come. We're too concerned with celebrity gossip and the anecdotes of acclaimed hot shots of the film industry to educate ourselves on the deals being made by our business leaders and politicians—and wasn't that the same guy that screwed everybody over just last year? How's that for juicy gossip?

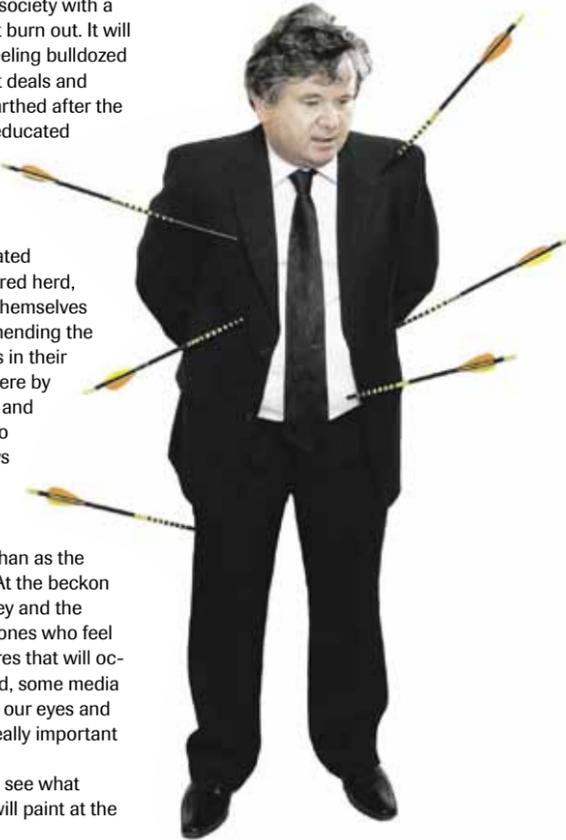
We wonder, sometimes to ourselves and sometimes even aloud, why people don't seem to care. Why people don't show up to protest anymore when their country is being sold. Why people don't seem bothered with the ongoing involvement of corrupt, immoral and criminal men and women in Iceland's economy—the economy that they murdered but the re-growth of which they feel entitled to play a part in and financially benefit from. Not enough people are paying attention, not enough people are blowing whistles, not enough people care to inform themselves. Or is it that the very people charged with informing the public have gone to bed with the corrupt among us?

The media is the watchdog of the

people in a functioning society. It is in a privileged position that comes with the responsibility of passing along pertinent information to the masses, the people not able or allowed to see what goes on behind the velvet rope. A society with a functioning media will not burn out. It will not tire from constantly feeling bulldozed by the onslaught of secret deals and corporate deception unearthed after the fact. It will be active and educated and in power—fitting since democracy is, by definition, power by the people.

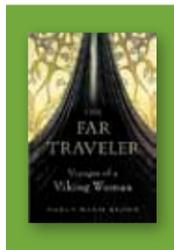
Walter Lippmann equated mass society to a bewildered herd, incapable of thinking for themselves and incapable of comprehending the world beyond the pictures in their heads, the pictures put there by the powerful and wealthy and the media (technically also part of the herd) that bows to power and wealth, the media that functions as a lap dog of corporations and governments rather than as the watchdog of the people. At the beckon call of the ones with money and the ones with power and the ones who feel entitled to paint the pictures that will occupy the heads of the herd, some media is trained to throw dust in our eyes and distract us from what is really important in life.

It will be interesting to see what pictures Davíð Oddsson will paint at the helm of Morgunblaðið.  - CATHARINE FULTON



The Far Traveler: Voyages of a Viking Woman

Nancy Marie Brown
Harcourt (2007)



The title and blurb of this book leads you to think it's about Guðrīður Þorbjarnardóttir, the wife of Þorfinnur Karlsefni and mother of Snorri Þorfinnsson, the first European child to be born on the North American continent.

But in fact, *The Far Traveler* is a very general book about literature, ships, North Atlantic settlement, archaeology, and Christianization in the Viking Age. It puts women's experiences in the foreground, and it does talk about Guðrīður, but it's not really about her or her voyages.

The Far Traveler works best as an intro to the scholars who have tried to reconstruct life in the medieval north through archaeology, genetics, anthropology and literary studies. Indeed, Brown's background is as a science writer and she is skilled at interviewing

scientists. Her interest in Iceland dates back to studying Old Norse literature in college.

Some of the better passages in the book are about Brown's own experience volunteering on a dig in Skagafjörður. The images the book left me with are archaeological: excavating a farm in Greenland as it's being eroded by a rushing river; Brown's visit to L'Anse aux Meadows, the Viking site in Newfoundland; a face-off over whether to strip turf layers by hand or with a backhoe; scraping away ash layers and looking for the old walls of a longhouse in Skagafjörður.

Brown speaks with a number of scientists who cast doubt on Jared Diamond's perhaps faddish theory that the Greenland colony collapsed because Icelanders couldn't adapt their palates to local resources like fish.

Brown pursues a few special topics. Chapter 3 muses on the sexual independence of women in pre-Christian Europe as opposed to the Christian idealization of virginity. Chapter 9 is a detailed discussion of Viking Age techniques for weaving cloth. Chapter 10 describes how the sagas saw the transition from paganism to Christianity.

The book meanders. It was difficult to follow the story of Guðrīður. I was

never able to keep her life story straight. A relationship chart of her immediate family would have helped. Better maps and a few inexpensive black-and-white photographs would also have made the book more attractive. The book does provide a nice annotated bibliography of books on Viking Age Iceland.

By the end of the book, I got the feeling that at some point the author's agent or editor looked at a manuscript or book proposal about the Viking Age in general and said "Don't you think we could reshape this around a more saleable theme? This Guðrīður, maybe use her life story to structure the book with? And definitely beef up the women's history angle here. Sprinkle in some goddess references and yes, do that weaving chapter." If the text of the book never quite caught up with this idea, that would explain why it's a bit at odds with the book's title.

Brown has written a previous book about Icelandic horses. She is a companionable and sincere author, with a genuine interest in the North. Overall, I'd recommend this book to medieval Iceland buffs. But the story of Guðrīður never quite comes together and the book doesn't quite stand out enough to urge on general readers.

 - IAN WATSON



VIKINGWORLD
ICELAND

OPEN DAILY FROM 11:00 TO 18:00

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

VIKINGABRAUT 1 - 260 REYKJANESBÆR - VIKINGAHEIMAR.COM - OPEN EVERY DAY FROM 11:00 - 18:00

Fire is needed by the newcomer
Whose knees are frozen numb;
Meat and clean linen a man needs
Who has fared across the fells.*

The Icelandic Sheep,
Keeping the people alive since 874 AD.

*From the Hávamál, 1300 AD



 Icelandic
Sheep Farmers

bladur@gmail.com / photo: AJS

03. OCTOBER 2009



VIKING
Lettol



From Detroit. Michigan.

AARON CARL (WallShaker Records)

House, Tech House, Ghetto Tech

YAMAHO (IS)

1000.- Entrance Fee

Jacobsen

PAGE 22:

Convicted embezzler-slash-MP Árni Johnsen plays the guitar in the middle of the public. Everyone is peeing everywhere. A giant ram runs by me, one of his has horns ripped off and it's gushing blood all over his left side. I get really drunk and lose track of time.

Rebecca Louder experiences the rounding up of sheep, Icelandic-style.

PAGE 14:

Look, under communism, there was this ideological pressure. In America, that doesn't exist at all. But there is a commercial pressure. Whoever puts money in the film wants money back. I prefer commercial pressure, it is up to the audience whether they like it or not. With ideological pressure, you are at the mercy of some ideologue.

Valur Gunnarsson flies over the cuckoo's nest with Milos Forman.

PAGE 6:

The resources for survivors of sexual violence are financially starved. The main counselling centre in Iceland, Stígamót, often struggles to make ends meet. The Rape Crisis Clinic had to fire all of their specially trained nurses this spring due to cutbacks. More so, law reforms are sorely needed.

Sex crimes are a big problem in Iceland. Þórdís Elva Þorvaldsdóttir has researched them extensively, and she wrote a book detailing her findings.

PAGE 26:

The sentence is a ridiculous rhetorical filler. We do this to understand each other, to convey information, give orders, ask for favours. To some, thought is practically unthinkable (!) without language. If there is no word for mother, then there is no mother—or, at the very least, no mother to speak of.

Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl speaks like a God.

PAGE 20:

Those groups make up around 600 people, which is a good base to start the party. Then you have all these crazy foreigners coming in, looking for some good music, and it just explodes!

Airwaves is coming! Airwaves is coming!

Unique Explore Iceland



ITA Tour desk at the Official Tourist Information Centre in Reykjavík

Aðalstræti 2, 101 Reykjavík
Open from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm

Other locations:

Hilton Reykjavík Nordica
Suðurlandsbraut 2, 108 Reykjavík
Open from 8 am to 8 pm

Icelandair Hotel Loftleiðir
Hlíðarfótur, 101 Reykjavík
Open from 8 am to 8 pm

Radisson SAS Hotel Saga
Hagatorg, 107 Reykjavík
Open from 8 am to 8 pm

Iða - Visitor Centre, 2nd floor
Lækjargata 2a, 101 Reykjavík
Open from 10 am to 10 pm

Cruise Liners Visitor Centre
Skarfabakki, 104 Reykjavík
Open from 8 am to 8 pm

Book your day tours and activities with us!

 **Ferðamálastofa**
Icelandic Tourist Board
Certified Travel Agency

ITA ICELAND TRAVEL
ASSISTANCE

Lundinn Souvenirs, Skólavörðustígur 10, 101 Reykjavík, Tel: 555 6308

We would love to see you at our souvenir shop at Skólavörðustígur.

YOU ARE SUCH A PUFFIN

LUNDINN
THE PUFFIN



Bring this coupon and get a selected T-shirt for free if you buy for more than 5.000 kr.