



The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE



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Issue Nº 18 – December 5 - January 2, 2009

+ COMPLETE CITY LISTINGS – INSIDE!

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How The CRUNCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!



+ The Independence Day Uprising

Moral Bankruptcy = Economic Bankruptcy

Beware of the **Christmas Cat**

Slaughterhouse: Culture Centre

Much like the citizens of Who-ville, the people of Iceland are being cheated out of Christmas by an ugly old troll. Well, several ugly old trolls actually. The Grinch believed that if he stole all the Christmas stuff, the Whos would abandon the whole thing and stop singing those bloody carols. The Chrunch took our jobs, homes, businesses and savings. But unlike The Grinch, he is not likely to give anything back.

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EDITORIAL

All good things must come to an end. And so it is that after three years at the Grapevine, the last two as editor of the paper, I feel it is time for me to step down and infuse this publication with some new blood and a new way of thinking. Yes, I came on board just about the same time that the banks started to boom, so it is probably best that I leave with them as well.

The last three years have been a particularly enjoyable time for me. I learned a great deal, and I hope that in some small way, I have made a difference. If not, well, so be it, I did it all for the money anyway. What stands up during this time is the incredible fortune I've had to work with so many great people. I've been blessed with good co-workers during my time as editor, and I can't thank these people enough. Without all of you, I'd probably not have lasted six months.

I realise that these are precarious times for a publication like this one. Dwindling advertising revenue threatens every media in the country, and for a small company like this one, there is a thin line between financial success and failure. I am optimistic however. I have complete faith in those I've left behind and I remain confident that this is a publication of great value in this country.

I leave you in the capable hands of Haukur S. Magnússon, a talented writer and somewhat talented guitar player. I am convinced that he is the right man to take this publication to the next level and I look forward to pick up future copies of the Grapevine to see all the ways in which it has improved.

For those of you who have followed the magazine during my time, I thank you. See you on the other side.

MASTHEAD

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THE COVER

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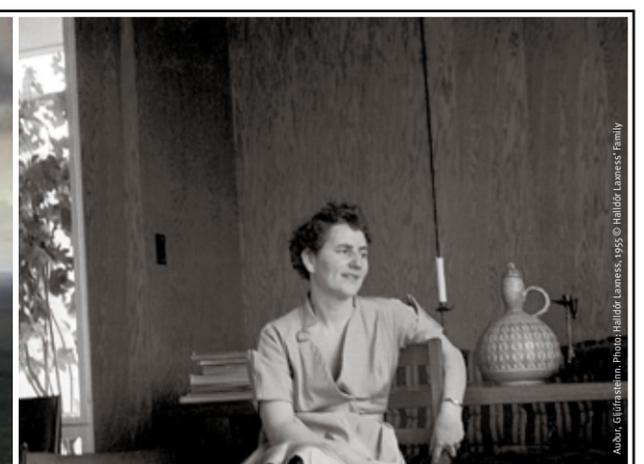
The Credit Crunch



MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS – EDDAS AND SAGAS
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LETTERS

Sour Grapes

SAY YOUR PIECE, VOICE YOUR OPINION, SEND YOUR LETTERS TO LETTERS@GRAPEVINE.IS OR TEXT +354 893 9589

As a retired Canadian banker, I want to suggest an alternative restructuring monetary plan for Iceland, and as a friend believe it can provide hope for future generation rather than another mountain of debt and the eventual loss of your rights and assets.

Question: if Egil's treasure were found today would it have value? The answer of course is yes because it was supposed to be gold and silver, which has a value today just as it did in Egil's time and it would have kept up with inflation and still be 'worth a fortune' in present times.

The most successful currency in the history of man has been those tied to the gold standard. A coin containing gold has immediate world-wide value and can not be discounted nor manipulated. The best example is the "Solidus" (or nicknamed the 'Bezant') that was coined by emperor Constantine in Constantinople in the 4th century A.D. It contained 65 grains of gold and this currency became accepted all over the known world for 800 years. If the Bezant were in existence today, it would still have a real value. 65 grains of gold equals .1369 troy ounces, multiplied by current gold price of \$700USD/ounce, equals \$95.83 in US dollars. This would be the current and indisputable world-wide value of the Bezant today. What other ancient currency can make this claim?

The problems that got Iceland into this mess and indeed so very many other countries, is the debt-based monetary system that prints worthless pieces of paper and issues them as debt. It was debt that got you into this situation and the "experts" now say, more debt will get you out. It's like paying off the Visa Card with the Master Card, and I believe the reason so many of your citizens are thinking of leaving Iceland today is that in their heart they know that these future loans and increased debts will enslave all future generations of Icelanders as well as hand over your assets of fishing and energy and airspace, etc, etc to the bankers of the world.

My suggestion is this: As a person might go into bankruptcy and start over, so should Iceland. Say to the world, "we are very sorry, but this is what has happened. We will endeavor to repay our debts when we get going again." And to 'get going again' accept a loan from a like-minded country like Norway (currently said to offer \$650 millionUSD value) and with this money buy gold and mint a new currency tied to gold. As with the Bezant it can have a defined number of grains with a 99.99% purity and will immediately have world-wide acceptance and value.

Of course the current 'expert' bankers will aggressively challenge this because they want their debt machine to continue, but I have no doubt that a NISK (new Icelandic Kroner) tied to gold will protect the value of your currency in future and allow you economy to restart.

To go along with this, the new banks of Iceland must stop issuing Fiat money (paper) and stop the practice of 'fractional reserve lending' (increasing the money supply with no value attached). The banks now become issuers of 'script money' backed and fully exchangeable' into gold. In this way there will not be inflation to take away the value of the currency, and as gold is accepted around the world, the NISK would also be guaranteed that same acceptance. Banks should return to their original function of safe-keeping real assets, and not the printers of worthless paper and speculative investors.

This, then is the concept to restart your economy and restart trade with the world, but most of all to keep your heritage and your assets for the future generations of Icelanders.

John Zufelt

Dear John,
While the Grapevine tends to agree with all extreme measure and radical ideas, and I do believe that your points are valid, I fear that our current monetary system is so entrenched in our collective psyche for us to be able to revert back to the gold standard. But, if you set up the petition, I'll sign it.

Editor

Dear

I know your country is impact of economic. Have any cooperation chance in trade with us?

we are a company in Taiwan of Asia.
Chan

Dear Chan,
Thank you for your kindness. Now if you would put all your money in an envelope and mail it to the address on the preceding page.

Editor

Hi!

I got tired to watch icelandic people wasting money! I have had enough and give you my tips for free!

EVERY YEAR HUNDREDS OF TOURISTS VISIT GEYSHIRES AND GULLFOS FOR FREE!! FREE!
Why?

Start taking some payments.

Susana

Dear Susana
I disagree wholeheartedly. I strongly believe that our natural wonders should remain open to all free of charge. Enjoying nature is a birthright, not a privilege. Besides, these good people have already spent a fortune coming over here to see the Geysers and Gullfoss. And they spend considerable amounts while here, so indirectly they are paying anyway. In any case, I think the small amount of money this might return will do little to improve our situation.

Editor

I don't know how to respond this but some people from England now calling me as a terrorist just because I live here. This is what one of the guy left me message -

"o muji terrorist .. hamro gov ko paisa khane??
Translation in English would be - hello terrorist , why you are taking our government money ? brown did very good job freezing icelandic assets u livin in a country full of terriost which implies that u are terrorist aswell "

This guy is fully ignorant and he has lack of knowledge of the term "terrorist" in deeper concept. If it was even said by native Englishman I would still say - lack of knowledge of the term. I wish Icelandic government will take some legal action that anti-terrorist law been applied against Iceland.

Anil

Dear Anil,
In so far as I can make sense of your letter, I think you have suffered for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. You should maybe look into joining the In Defense initiative at www.indefense.is.

Editor

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RE-62 - 21:00*

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 Winter

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*16 October - 14 March at 21:00 and 15 March - 15 April at 22:00.

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RE-05 - 09:00*

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SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT 

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*From 1 January 2009, new operation time: 11:00-14:00.

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RE-81 - 09:00

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SUN WED FRI SAT 

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RE-24 - 12:30

Gullfoss - Geysir Direct

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RE-08 - 09:00

Saga Circle

  All Year

SAT 

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RE-15 - 09:00

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OPINION

BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON — PHOTO BY JÓI KJARTANS

A Farewell to Films?*Icelandic film industry faces serious financial problems*

BY SIGURÐUR KJARTAN KRISTINSSON

During the golden years of the Icelandic miracle economy, the country's film industry grew. During its epoch, almost a dozen Icelandic films were premiered each year, a giant leap from the two or three we had come to expect. One of the main reasons for this step forward was that many independent producers, ones that had profited from the rapidly growing economy, financed the projects. In earlier times Icelandic filmmakers had relied almost completely on state funding, something that obviously stunted the industry's growth and amount of films it was able to produce. It looks like we might be headed back for those times. The formerly prosperous independent benefactors of Icelandic films have ceased wheeling barrels of money to their glass-chrome palaces. Rumour has it that some of the country's leading production companies are going broke. Even if any of them have the stability to actually produce a feature film, their outlook for scoring a short-term loan to finance the production is little to none. Are we looking at an untimely end to the "Icelandic film summer"?

Laufey Guðjónsdóttir, manager of the Icelandic Film Centre, says no. "Of course we are looking at difficult times in terms of private funding, which will diminish substantially, but we aren't pessimistic at all". Last year the State approved increased contributions to the Centre, but it is uncertain whether that will stand. If the worst speculations come true, the current funding will even be decreased. Laufey remains optimistic that those in power understand the significance of Icelandic film production, but if there are cutbacks, Laufey says, some projects would be in real jeopardy.

Iceland's picturesque landscape has attracted many foreign film crews to Iceland and international blockbusters, such as *The Flags of Our Fathers* and *Batman Begins*, were partially shot here. It's not only the landscape that attracts, but also the 14% tax reimbursement, which production companies get from the Icelandic government when the production has been finished. For some time, Academy award nominee Ridley Scott has been planning to make a movie about the historic meeting between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, held in Reykjavík in '86, but a strenuous negotiation has been ongoing between the government and Scott's production company. In any case, it will surely be a boost to the Icelandic economy to get a foreign project of this proportion to the country. The favourable exchange rate of the Icelandic Króna has made film production in Iceland much more feasible for foreign companies and Laufey expects this area of the business to grow a lot. "I think the government will be pleased because the foreign investment arrives to the country before the refund is made" Laufey explains when asked about the costs of reimbursing 14% of projects of that size. So it seems that foreign film production in Iceland could increase, while Icelandic production could return to its old primitive state. It might even be wise for Icelandic filmmakers to take their business abroad. Should this become reality, and the only movies filmed in Iceland are foreign, while Icelanders go ashore, it might be accurate to say that there is no such thing as an Icelandic film anymore, right? 🇮🇸

**It's the Innovation, Stupid!***Following the crash, Iceland needs to rethink its economy*

Hjálmar Gíslason is a computer programmer who has launched four start-up companies in the last 11 years, and some of them have even been successful. He has been outspoken about the need to change the prevailing policy in Iceland when it comes to creating business and employment opportunities and the need for innovation and diversity for the Icelandic economy.

"The problems for Icelandic start-up companies used to be that they couldn't get financed and they couldn't find employees. Now the problem is just that they can't get financed," jokes Hjálmar Gíslason. Despite the humorous tone of his remark, it remains completely valid. "The banks and other big companies in Iceland were like a suction for talented people," he explains. Well-educated and creative people from all professions were attracted by the financial stability of working for large corporations, and as a result, the number of new start-up companies in Iceland has decreased every year since 2000.

"It used to be that all our economy was based on fish. Then it was fish and aluminium. Tourism has become the third pillar for our economy, and banking was the fourth. We can't afford to

lose any one pillar. We need more diversity in the economy to be able to withstand a blow like this," Hjálmar says. But how should we approach the daunting task of rebuilding our economy and creating employment for the future? "Let's look at our resources. We have fish, nature, energy, and then we have people. These are the resources that we to build an economy from," he explains. "The problem that we need to solve is how do we harvest the manpower. I don't think we can do that unless we create an environment where talented people with ideas can easily start up and build a company." Hjálmar maintains that this environment not be mainly driven by government funding, but rather financial incentives for investors who are willing to put their money up for chance of long-term gain from innovative companies.

THE INVERTED PYRAMID OF START-UPS

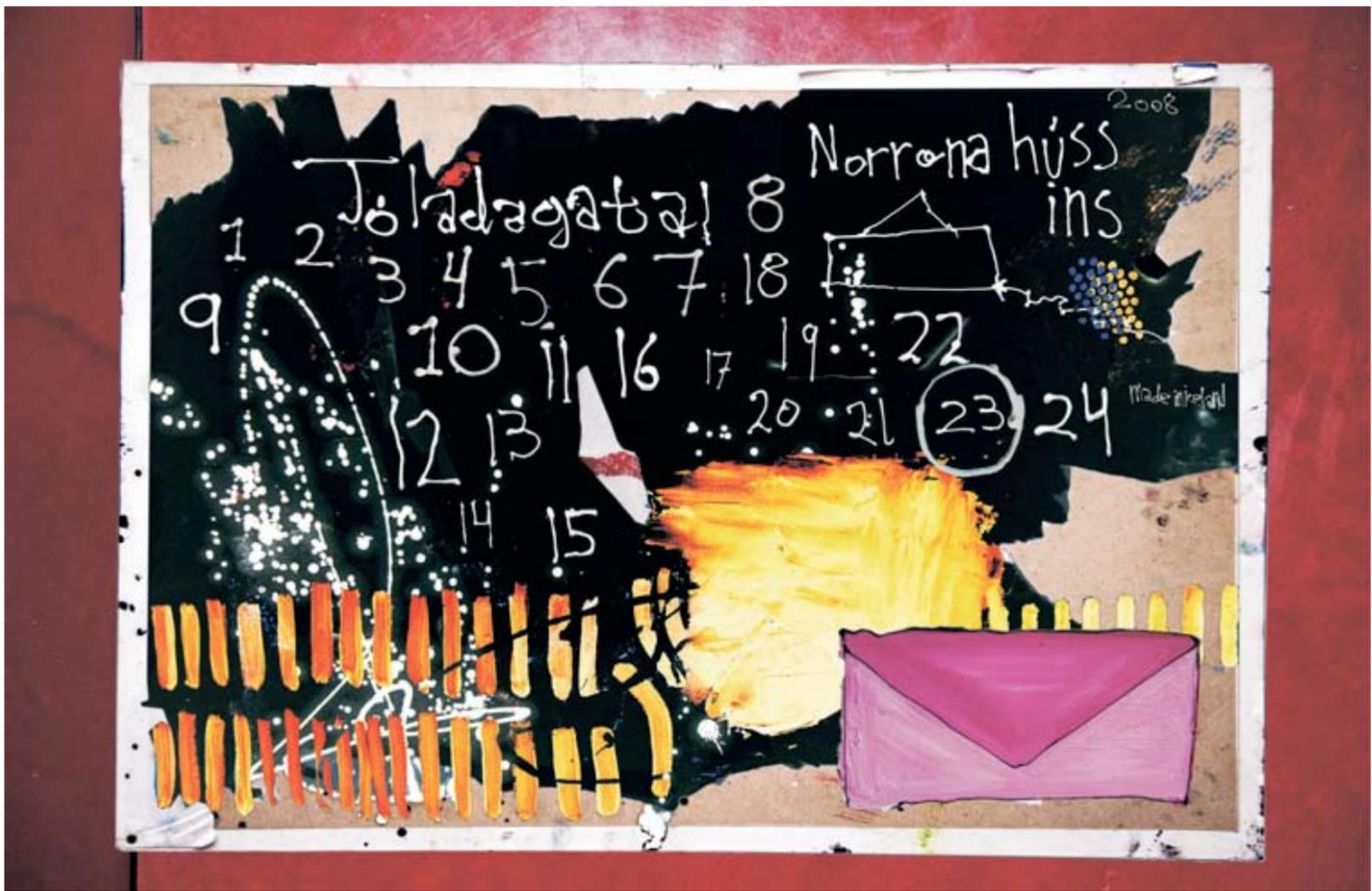
"People will need to realise that not all companies can be successful. That's not what innovation is about. It is more like a pyramid. 1000 people get an idea, 100 of them turn into companies, ten of them survive, and maybe one of them becomes a superstar." Hjálmar also points out, that unsuccessful companies are seldom a complete failure. "Founding a start-up is a great learning experience, and as long as that experience is not lost, something is gained. Successful start ups are often on their third or fourth try."

"Look, right now, there are several promising companies that could very well survive if they

somehow find capital to get through this recession. They just need access to temporary financing. It is important that we don't let the companies that could survive, fail for the wrong reasons. It is much better to help them now and then perhaps let them die on their own terms later if it comes to that." Hjálmar says. "People must realise that 100 small companies that employ four people each, create the same amount of jobs as one company that employs 400 people like an aluminium smelter. The difference is that creating 100 small companies does not require the same investment as an aluminium smelter, but perhaps one of them could yield just as much return in the long run."

But despite the gravity of the current economic situation Hjálmar maintains that the current crisis is an opportunity for innovative, talented people. "How often in your lifetime do you get to be a part of rebuilding a whole society both politically and economically? This is a great opportunity and I think people should be excited to be a part of shaping the Next Iceland." 🇮🇸

COMIC STRIP BY LÓA HJÁLMTÝSDÓTTIR



Jóladagatal Norræna hússins

- Hallgrímur Helgason * Kirakira * 2008
- Motion boys * Hildur Vala alla dagaklukkan 12:34
- Sprengjuhöllin * Jón Gnarr * www.nordice.is
- Duo Stemma * Jón Ólafsson
- (2) ~~Sr Karl Sigurbjörnsson~~ * Björk Guðmundsdóttir
- (3) ~~Vox feminae~~ (4) ~~Högni úr Hjaltalin~~ * Djass með inga og Danna
- Kristín Þóra Haraldsdóttir * Ásdís Sif Gunnarsdóttir
- Egill Ólafsson og Valgeir Guðjónsson * Reykjavík!
- Ari Trausti Guðmundsson * Ófeigur Sigurðsson * Sjón
- (1) ~~Steinar í djöpinu~~ * Kristín Mjöll * Solla og Sandra



The Day We Started Fighting Back



"We will not go quietly into the night! We will not vanish without a fight! We're going to live on! We're going to survive! Today we celebrate our Independence Day!"

These words were spoken by a fictional President in a, let's face it, pretty terrible movie. Still, when you learn that your economy is fiction and a bad one at that, words from a crappy Hollywood film can resonate pretty strongly. On our Independence Day, December 1st, we started fighting back. The people of Iceland got farther into the halls of power than they have for a long time, right into the Central Bank itself.

It was a long time coming, but now it's here.

THE GROWING MOVEMENT

Ever since the Prime Minister's so-called "Disaster Speech" on October 6, where he outlined the crash of the Icelandic economy, a crowd has gathered outside the parliament building every Saturday afternoon to voice their discontent and demanding the resignation of the government, the Central Bank directors, and other key figures associated with the collapse. The turnout has grown steadily, from 500 people at first, to roughly 7000 on November 22, the largest demonstration yet.

The crowd of Saturday afternoon protesters is made up of people from all walks of life and persuasions. Some carry the EU flag, others an anti-EU flag. On November 22, representatives from the Alliance Party Youth Movement invited people to "throw away the króna" and brought buckets for this purpose, while a group of women who call themselves "The Women's Emergency Government" climbed up onto the statue of founding father Jón Sigurðsson and draped the statue in a pink dress.

The protest ended, as usual, at 16.00. And for the third week running, a group of mostly young people then gathered outside the Parliament building and pelted it with eggs and other food-stuffs, including hamburgers and pasta. One window was broken. A young man who concealed his face with a scarf climbed onto the Parliament balcony and put up a banner with the words "Iceland: Sold to the IMF for 2 Billion Dollars."

So far, few policemen have been apparent during the protests and have not intervened in the egg throwing. Meanwhile the police task force, known as "The Viking Squad," have been on alert just out of sight in the Parliament basement. They have not provoked the crowd by a show of force, perhaps because they know how little it would take for them to lose control.

THE FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS

One week earlier, a young man climbed up onto

the roof of the Parliament building and raised the flag of the Bónus food chain where the Icelandic national flag usually flies. Bónus is a part of Jón Ásgeir Jóhannesson's Baugur investment empire, which owns the majority of the country's food stores as well as most of the media, and is widely seen to be one of most powerful men in the country, and a key figure in the economic crash.

The man carrying the Bónus flag was Haukur Hilmarrsson, also a member of the Saving Iceland group, which has carried out many direct actions at the building site of the controversial Kárahnjúkar dam. In 2005, Haukur was arrested for climbing onto a construction site and sentenced to pay a fine or serve 18 days in jail. He opted to be jailed instead. After serving four days of his sentence, he was released, since the jail was needed to host more serious offenders.

Hilmarrsson thus had 14 days left of his sentence when he was let go and resumed his studies as a philosophy student at the University of Iceland. A week after he raised the Bónus flag on the Parliamentary Building, his class was invited to visit the Parliament building on a school trip. It was there he was arrested by the police, and told he now had to serve the rest of his sentence. Hilmarrsson maintains that he has never evaded authorities and no previous attempt has been made to inform him that he was required to return to finish his sentence.

ASSAULT ON THE PRECINCT

The following day, November 22nd, Hörður Torfason implored the authorities to set him free. After the speeches, hundreds of people walked over from the Parliament building to the police station, demanding his release. They chanted the slogan "Let Haukur out, put Geir in," a reference to Prime Minister Haarde. Eva Hauksdóttir, Haukur's mother, gave a speech on the police office steps, asking for her son's release.

With no apparent progress being made, the demonstration soon escalated. Several people started kicking at the doors of the police station. Eventually, the outer door gave way and protesters surged through. There, they were met by an inner door. When the second door started to give way to the force, police on the other side sprayed the crowd with mace.

This dispersed the protesters away from the door, while The Viking Squad in riot gear emerged to clear the steps. The crowd initially fell back, but then surrounded the policemen on the steps and started pelting them with eggs. There, they stood face to face for an hour.

THE ONION

Protesters called for an ambulance to take away those who had been injured by the mace. It took the ambulance half an hour to arrive. Protesters

claim this was because calls for help had been rejected by police. Meanwhile, some protesters passed onions among the crowd, as this supposedly helps people breathe after a mace attack. One of those hospitalized was Eva Hauksdóttir. Another was a 16 year-old girl.

Just as Channel 2 was starting a live broadcast from the demonstration, Haukur Hilmarrsson suddenly emerged on the police steps. An unknown person had paid his fine and he was free to go. On the police office steps, Haukur said that even though he was opposed to paying the fine, he had agreed to the release as he did not want people to be injured.

"If people want to protest, it has to be in order to change the government, not to rescue one man," he said.

A VISIT TO THE BANK

The following Saturday passed quietly, even as thousands of people gathered outside of the Parliament building. Perhaps this was because of the biting cold, or because there was no real focal point for people's anger apart from the empty building. The MP's were away and no one was being held prisoner.

December 1, was a different story. That day marked the 90 year anniversary of Iceland as an independent state, even though it did not become a republic until 1944. Thousands of people gathered on Arnarhöll, by the statue of first settler Ingólfur Arnarson, right between the real palaces of power, the Seat of Government and the Central Bank.

Which one is the bigger culprit? People voted with their feet, and once the speeches were over, they headed for the Bank. They crowded into the foyer, and stood there face to face with three policemen. In between pelting them with eggs, the crowd made attempts to win them over.

Surprisingly enough, this seemed to work, and the crowd erupted into applause when the policemen left their posts. The crowd surged through the second door and into the bank. It was only here that they realised that they had in essence been trapped. Behind glass doors, around 30 policemen in full riot gear stood waiting.

The police declared the proceedings to be an illegal protest, and an officer with a bullhorn said they would use mace to disperse the crowd. So far, the police has shown remarkable restraint in the face of angry crowds, but here they seemed about to resort to sterner measures. It was a long way back out into the open air, and unleashing teargas here on people trying to get out of harm's way would undoubtedly have resulted in severe injuries and possible fatalities.

ODDSON HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

The crowd put their hands in the air to show that if

they were to be rushed by police, they would do so unarmed. They then sat down, and this seemed to avert the attack. The police put their shields down. Another standoff started on each side of the glass, each side trying to stare the other down. Almost.

"They won't look into our eyes," said one of the protesters.

The crowd burst into spontaneous song of a verse of "The Times They Are a-Changing," among other numbers. This was interrupted when Police Chief Geir Jón Þórisson entered the crowd and tried to induce them to leave, but to no avail. "We won't leave without Davíð Oddsson," responded the crowd. Former Prime Minister and current Central Bank director Davíð Oddsson had by then long since left the building.

The Police Chief left and on the other side of the glass, the Viking squad lined up again. It seemed the volcano was about to erupt. People tried to cover their faces as best they could, in the event of teargas.

A HERO FROM MOSÓ

Then, a young man from Mosfellsbær defused the situation. "We'll leave if you will," he said. It did not take the cops long to take him up on his offer. The police stood down and evacuated their side of the glass. On the other, the protesters filed out into the cool Reykjavik night. The danger of being maced in cramped spaces had abided for now. A token victory had been achieved, even if the protesters' goals were no closer to fulfilment.

What next? It seems that every other protest, things start to happen. Things were building up for a month. On the fifth Saturday, people started throwing eggs at the Parliament building, a then striking event that has now become commonplace. On the seventh, the crowd raided the police station. The eighth passed uneventfully, but the first of December did not. Perhaps this pattern will continue. There is the possibility that the coming of what seems to be a very cold winter will put a damper on things. But the economy is only going to get worse, and this might make tempers flare in spite of the creeping frost. ❄️

THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE COMING OF WHAT SEEMS TO BE A VERY COLD WINTER WILL PUT A DAMPER ON THINGS. BUT THE ECONOMY IS ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE, AND THIS MIGHT MAKE TEMPERS FLARE IN SPITE OF THE CREEPING FROST.



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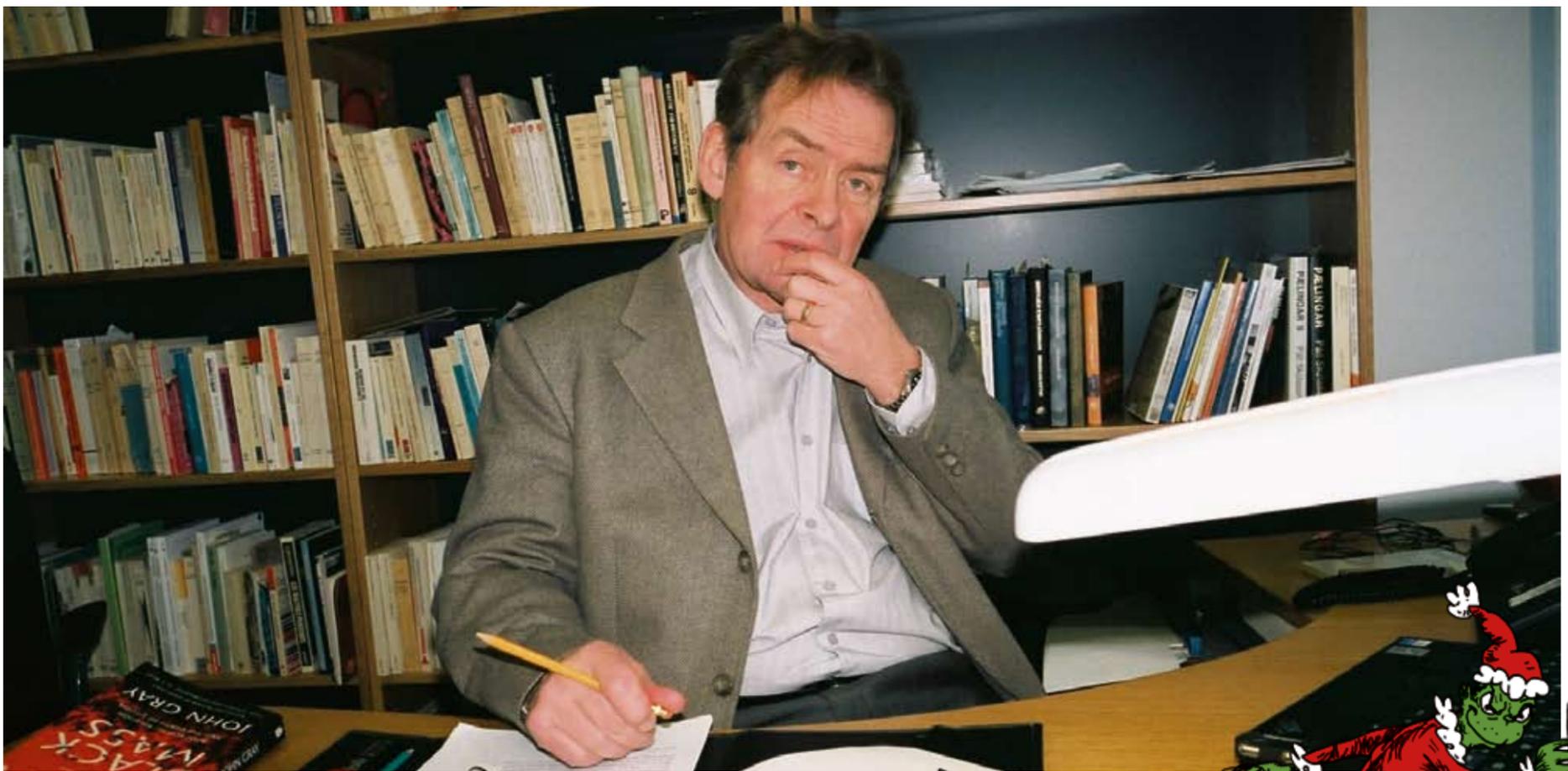
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Involuntary Treason

The philosophical sides of the economic crisis



Páll Skúlason is a professor of philosophy at the University of Iceland, and former Rector at the same institution. A Grapevine reporter sat down with Páll to discuss the philosophical implications of the current economic crisis.

Philosophers have been outspoken about the current economic crisis. Is this in some way a moral or a philosophical problem?

I would like to draw a distinction between the philosophical questions this raises and the moral questions. Philosophically speaking, these are exciting times, because we are witnessing the end of a certain world. It is a world governed by an ideology which seeks to explain everything by purported laws of economics and has preached that the free market is the only correct way to run human society. This ideology is of course related to economic globalization, and one should not underestimate its influence on almost every aspect of human life in recent times. I think we must look at the downfall of the Icelandic banking system in the light of this ideology and of the policy of economic globalization which has been so dominant worldwide.

Philosophically speaking, we are witnessing great changes to the social world. The disasters we are facing are economic, but at the same time, they are social, political and cultural as well. One might even say that they have their metaphysical dimension. The material world affects our attitudes and beliefs. It permeates our thoughts, our homes, and our private lives. The bank crash has many implications, not only on the economic aspect of our existence, but also on the way we think about the meaning of our personal and social existence. We know that our social lives are changing drastically because of the financial crisis. This break is even more radical than people realise, because the institution upon which we build our social reality, the state, has failed in its main function, namely to provide security and stability for its citizens.

What the Icelandic nation is experiencing is that the state, the fundamental institution that is supposed to ensure our common safety and well-being, is unable to fulfil its role. It has failed dramatically. **Justice should be the founding principle of the state, but it seems like recently, that principle has been substituted for the principles of efficiency and the bottom line. Do you agree?** Yes, that is because here in Iceland the focus has been on the state as an instrument of power. But this is merely a technical aspect of the state. The state also

has an ethical aspect – and people should never forget that fact. Indeed, the technical and the moral aspects should never be separated. They are two sides of the same coin. On the one hand the state is our fundamental institution that grounds our moral duties, such as justice and safety which are ethical concerns. On the other hand, the state is an instrument for reaching certain aims through governmental institutions. But these aims should always be grounded on morality. If we tend to look at the state as a mere instrument, the claim for justice is forgotten.

We rarely see the matters of the state discussed unless it is a discussion about economic matters.

Yes, and this tendency has been growing. The policy of the dominant political parties in Iceland has been to reduce the activity of public institutions and move resources which have belonged to the public domain into the hands of individuals through privatization. This is in the spirit of neo-liberalism which has been the policy of the Icelandic government for many years now. The free market ideology which accompanies this policy has become a kind of “common sense” for many people.

There has been very little public criticism of this ideology. To take an example, the word ‘competition’ has been much too widely used and applied here and is the key term of the ideology we have been presented with lately. Competition has been praised for being always for the good, which is obviously false. This is moreover a word that is an ideal tool for tarnishing or disintegrating the idea of our common interests that bind us together, the idea we need to preserve and uphold.

Competition instead of cooperation?

Let’s not forget that competition can in many cases be very good! The task is to be able to apply it correctly or, in other words, to determine when it is for the good and when it is harmful. But if you only ever talk about competition, competition, competition, you push the idea of cooperation off the table. The ideas of cooperation and communal enterprise have been forced aside in this reality in which we have been living. Notice also that competition, whether in the market or even in sports, relies on cooperation. Without cooperation, the idea of competition does not even make sense.

Is greed a motivational factor in this crisis?

What we have witnessed with globalization – and we have been a part of that process – is the attempt to always increase the production of material goods in an effort to further increase the production of material goods. Money, or capital, is the means to this end. Globalization has brought growth to financial institutions, we played this game and we were quite successful for a few years; apparently we became

one of the richest nations in the world. Nobody was a ‘real man’ unless he was aiming to make more money. Our whole society was brainwashed with the idea that the most important goal in life was to make money. Money became the measure of all things.

A society like this can never prosper. Greed is the impulse ever to strive for more money or more material goods without any consideration as to the meaning of the goods in question. A society that is governed by the idea that money is the only value becomes inevitably corrupt and succumbs to greed. It forces economic thinking upon all aspects of life, upon politics, upon families, upon aspects of life in which money really has no value and is of no importance, aspects of life where other values matter more.

For example, you don’t go to school in order to become rich. You go there to get an education. But what we have seen is that young people have fallen prey to the idea that you only go to school to get a degree which is exclusively seen as an investment, a stepping stone to a high paying job, i.e. something which pays you interests on this investment.

This has perhaps been very apparent in Icelandic universities, where the increase in students in business related fields has been almost astronomical. And this leads us to something else, which is the commodification of education.

Yes, there has been a tendency to look at students as consumers, and the relationship between teachers and students as that of a seller and a buyer. This is downright corrupting. Education does not follow the laws of economics. This sort of thinking has become very prevalent in our society, and this is a corrupting way of thinking.

Will this crash result in changes? Or is this perhaps just a minor setback?

I hope that we will have the good fortune to turn away from this development and try to create another form of society. We must realise that the society that we have been building was intolerable. A society that is primarily governed by the laws of economy is deeply flawed. It does not take fully into account political values like democracy and fairness, ethical values like justice and friendship, or social values like respect and privacy. There are two changes that need to be made if we are to improve our society. On the one hand, we will need to rebuild the state and make sure that it functions properly. Iceland is a very young state, and it has never functioned as it should. Our democracy is flawed. This is undoubtedly related to our size. Instead of governing the state as a political entity, there has been a tendency to govern the state in the

same way that you would run a family or a small company.

Number two: we need to create an economy in accordance with our abilities, that is, production based on what we are capable of producing. And we need to maintain consumption in relation to our production capabilities. There has been a divide between our production and our consumption that is completely unnatural. We have consumed much more than what we have produced.

How do we go about this?

I don’t believe anyone had bad intentions, but the people who have led this country have made far too many mistakes and have clearly failed to do their duty. They have lost all credibility, and I don’t think they will ever regain it. They have no alternative but to resign. This goes for the government as well as key financial institutions. What has been most blatant was the carelessness. People did not pay attention to the signs that were clear. The situation was reported as very serious more than a year ago, and no one reacted in a responsible way. I heard someone describe this as “involuntary treason.” The people responsible have to leave, and we need to clear the table and start over.

We need to strengthen the foundations of democracy, and the most important thing is that the democratic institutions start working the way they should. We need to separate the three branches of power more clearly. The legislative and the executive branches are too closely entangled. The parliament as a legislative power has been ruined. It is completely in the hand of the executive power, something like 90% of all laws passed in parliament originate within the executive branch. So in fact, there are just a few people who make all the decisions.

In addition, the parliament is meddling in all sorts of technicalities that should never be in their hands in the first place. Parliament should focus on the big picture, safeguarding our common interests. The legislative branch has two main goals, to set laws, and to protect our rights and common interests. But the system has failed its supervisory role. What has happened is that we are like a group of teenagers that wakes up one day to find out that their parents have carelessly and not safeguarding their interests. 

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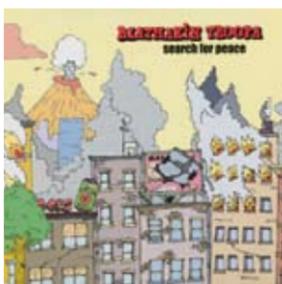
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GHOSTIGITAL, FINNBOGI PÉTURSSON & SKÚLI SVERRISSON *Aero*


REVIEWED BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE

To get things straight right at the beginning, this is not an ordinary Ghostigital album. "Aero" is not even an ordinary album. This time there are no pumping beats, no shouting, no clashing electronica. The collaboration of the band with Finnbogi Petursson and Skúli Sverrisson has led to 5 songs, of which the first lasts more than half an hour, just like the "Sirkus Requiem" they did in memory of the famous club. This time it is flights that Ghostigital and their allies are being inspired by. The result is more a collection of cushy sounds than songs, and best labelled as ambient. No song structures, developments or vocals. Even if this description sounds a little bland, "Aero" is a very interesting album. The band wants it to be played in planes or in phone waiting loops. Thus, the record provides quasi-functional music: it is meant to be playing in the background and therefore provides less emotional thrills than environmental convenience. That is why "Aero" runs out of the competition. It is rather a basic commodity, and this is meant in a very positive way.

**THE VERDICT**

Well-tempered jazzy Downbeat

LISTEN

www.myspace.com/beatmakintroopa

BEATMAKIN TROOPA

Search for Peace



REVIEWED BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE

Despite his young age, Beatmakin Troopa has quite a moved history in Iceland's Hip Hop scene. After being part of the legendary Twisted Minds Crew and having contributed to the solo works of his bandmates Mystic-One and Rain, he teamed up with his father, sound artist Jafet Melge, to start the Ambient project Stereo Hypnosis. Beatmakin Troopa has released two instrumental records on his own, which make "Search for Peace" already his third solo-release. You can tell from the songs that this guy is no beginner: the new album sounds very sophisticated and all of a piece. Again Beatmakin Troopa finds your ear by mixing laid-back beats with jazzy, catchy lounge tunes. At the same time this cocktail is way more relaxed and less sinister as on the EP "Surprise Visit". If you are interested in some well-tempered jazzy downbeat background-music, this is your record.

CONCERT REVIEW BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE — PHOTO BY JÓI KJARTANS



EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY, COURTESY OF SIGUR RÓS

A Short Trip to Hopeland



I was expecting a special Sigur Rós show this night. For one thing, the band had just finished their recent tour, which had been their first one without their fellows Amiina in years. How would Sigur Rós do as a four-piece rock outfit?

Second, the band has always underlined their love for home, which is why the expectations of seeing the band here in Iceland are even higher for a guest to this country. They would definitely have to fork over some extra efforts to justify my expectations. To start with good news: Sigur Rós delivered absolutely.

The evening opened with the band For A Minor Reflection, which also supported Sigur Rós for the back end of their tour. I had been totally into this band when they had their demo out, but my interest decreased with the release of their new album which could not keep up the fragility and beauty of the band's older material. The songs simply do not spark and this was also the case when the band performed live this night.

After them, Sigur Rós hit the stage, which they had transformed it into a dimly lit space that

served as scene for the first song "Svefn-g-englar". The mixture of melancholic atmosphere and powerful rock outbursts of this song became a perfect example for the rest of the concert, which was really a balancing act between both. The choice of songs contributed very well to this, too, as there were poppy hymns like "Gobbledigook" or "Hop-pipólla" but also the typical epics like "Popplagið" and "Glósóli".

The band's excellent musical appearance was complemented by an elaborate technical staging. The comfortable stage design of the beginning was more and more transferred into a surreal space by huge balloons, videos and finally a curtain of water. This way Sigur Rós took their audience on a musical as well as a visual journey into their fantastic "Hopeland".

The trip ended after two encores where it had begun one and a half hours before: in Reykjavík's handball stadium Laugardalshöll with four exhausted but lucky people on stage and 3000 of them in front of it.

WHO

Sigur Rós
For A Minor Reflection

WHERE

Laugardalshöll

WHEN

Sunday, November 23

THE VERDICT

The band's excellent musical appearance was complemented by an elaborate technical staging.

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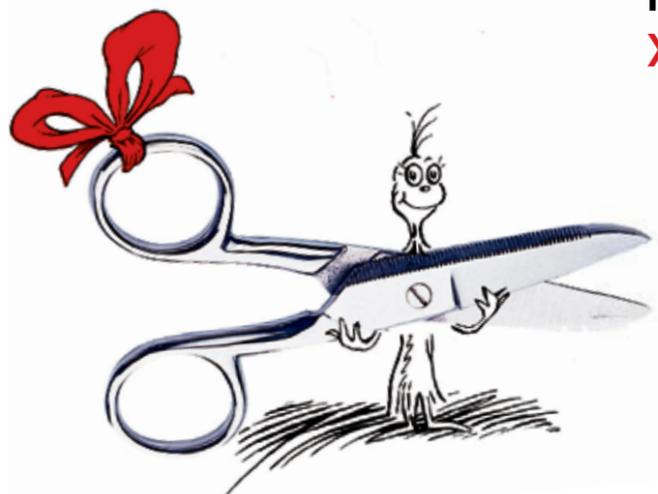
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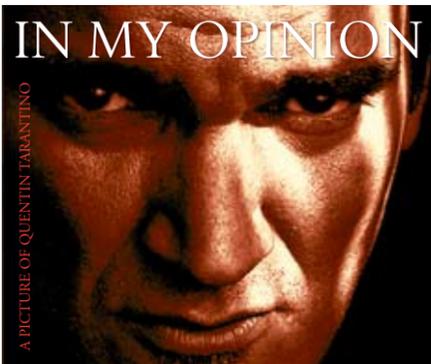
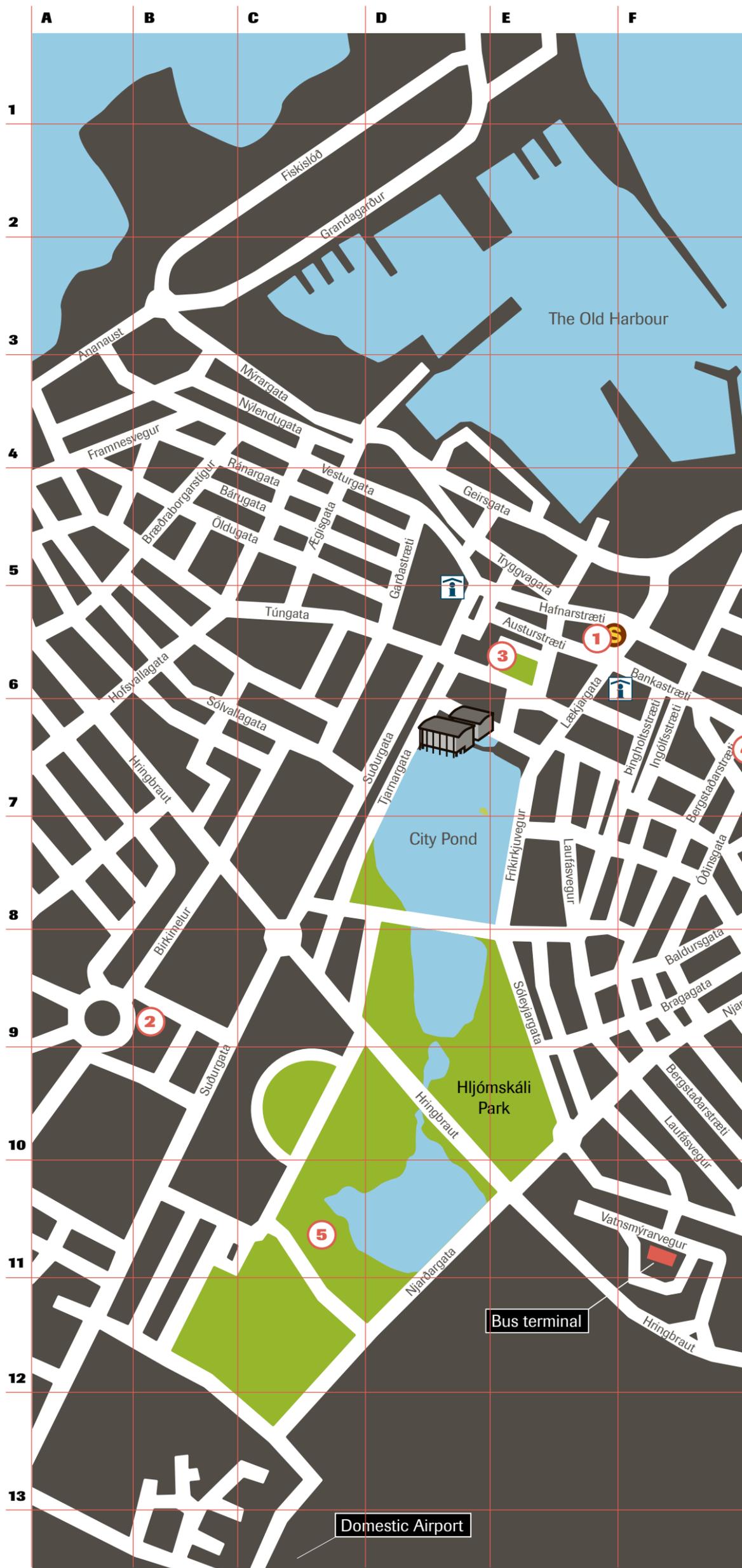
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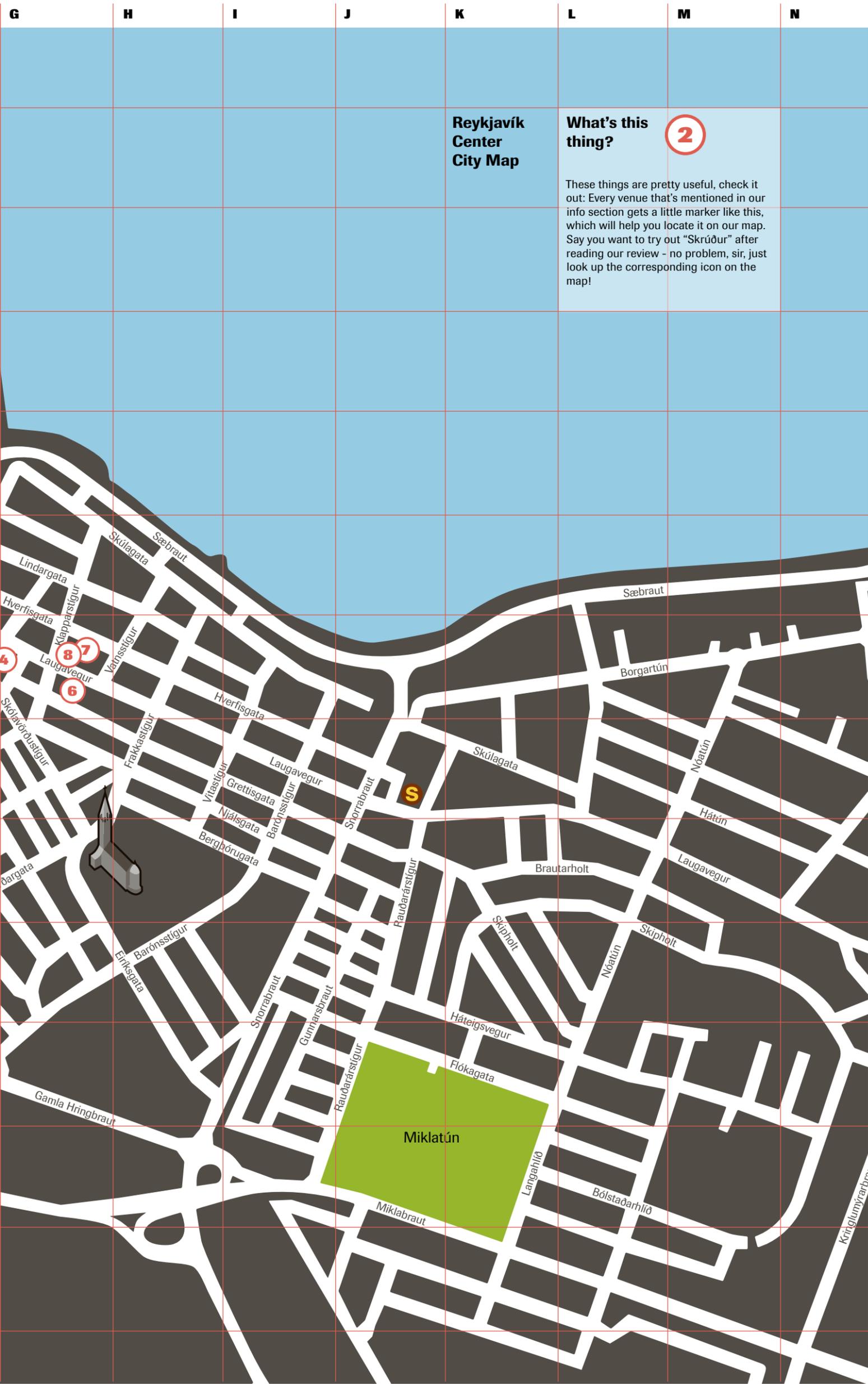


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Osushi Lækjargata 2a Og Borgartún 29 | Sími : 5610562

SUSHI
THE TRAD

Café Loki

Icelandic plate

Enjoy some solid homemade Icelandic food.

Food

MAKE FOOD NOT BOMBS

Reviewed by **Richard Foley** – Photo by Jói Kjartans

An alternative restaurant every Saturday between 1pm and 5pm would be “Make food not Bombs” which for the past few weeks, in conjunction with the parliamentary protests, has been called “Make Food not Governments.” The group is an ever-changing political demonstration, depending on their shared political opinions and current issues affecting the world. The original organisation started in America, to protest capital income the government received from produce such as food, which was used for making arms for the military. Recently The Peace house has been used to prepare the meals, which in itself was created in protest against the NATO base and an army here in Iceland.

All meals cooked are vegan and several dishes are prepared every week: stews, salads, rice, pasta, roasted vegetables etc. However, the food arranged depends on the people who are volunteering on the day, and what they decide to make when they see what food has been gathered or

donated by the supermarkets, the bakery, farmers and restaurants.

The food donated is considered to be un-sellable because it has a short “shelf life,” as they say in supermarket terms, and will not last long in the home. Or in the farmers’ case, they cannot sell some produce that will not have much of a shelf life in the supermarket, so it is kindly donated to the organization. All the food is cooked one or two days after being collected, hence little time has been left for the food to go bad.

One volunteer whose son also participates said, “Everyone helps for their own reasons, you take your own meaning from the protest.” It would seem that a consistent theme throughout the organization’s protests is to be aware of your surroundings and not to merely accept what the public is told. This is good advice in any circumstance. So whether you agree with the politics, don’t believe in wasting food, or just would like to share in a good,

healthy meal downtown on a Saturday, I would strongly recommend coming down and trying the meals, or even consider participating if you feel inspired to share your culinary skills with Reykjavík.

Where:
Lækjartorg
101 Reykjavík

1 E6

How much:
Free

What we think:
Give this gesture of goodwill a try.



Food & Drink | Venue finder

3 Frakkar
Baldursgata 14 | **F9**
A seriously Icelandic atmosphere and traditional Icelandic dishes prepared in the good old-fashioned way. RSVP and keep your ears pricked for wild whaling tales!

Af lífi og sál
Restaurant
Laugavegi 55b | **H7**
A high street backyard restaurant where the menu changes every night, so who knows what’s for dinner? But serving such dishes as grilled dolphin, baccalao and kangaroo, you can’t go wrong by dropping by for lunch or dinner.

Aktu Taktu
Skúlagata 15 | **K8**
This drive-in destination in 101 Reykjavík is busy day and night and the burgers are especially tasty. The caramel shakes are a local favorite.

American Style
Tryggvagata 26 | **E5**
With a soft bun and lots of veggies, you can settle into a booth and eat for hours. Big portions for authentic American dining.

Argentína Steak-house
Barónstígur | **I8**
True to its name with tender steaks and flamingly vibrant South American décor. Generous portions, fine wine, liqueurs and cigars make an excellent choice in fine dining.

Austurlanda-hraðlestin
Hverfisgata 64A | **H7**

Though a bit expensive for take-away, it is well worth it for a spicy bite of this Indian cuisine. A few tables to the side for those who choose to dine in.

Á Næstu Grösom
Laugavegur 20B | **G7**
Regarded by many to be the best vegetarian place in town, “First Vegetarian” offers a healthy and tasty menu of vegetarian and vegan dishes. Indian theme on Fridays a hit.

B5
Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
By day a chic little bistro with good food and a prime location for Laugavegur people watching-by night a stylish bar with a “whiskey room” and Manhattanesque clientele.

Babalú
Skólavörðustígur 22A | **G8**
It’s tough to miss café Babalú walking up Skólavörðustígur. A cozy place for coffee and cake, the well-worn, homey ambience makes it difficult to leave.

Bæjarins Beztu
Tryggvagata | **E6**
The oldest fast-food in Iceland, it is feasibly the best hot dog stand in Europe. Don’t be intimidated by the perpetual line in front – an absolute must and worth the wait.

Brons
Pósthússtræti 9 | **E6**
Called a bistro, but more a restaurant in quality, Brons is

settled in the place of former popular Café Kaffibrennslan. Brons focuses on mediterranean cuisine and is famous for serving dishes that are as large as they are delicious.

Café Cultura
Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**
Cultura is a café/bar with a party feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.

Café Loki
Lokastígur 28 | **G9**
With a splendid view of Hallgrímskirkja, Café Loki is the perfect place to take a load off your feet and enjoy some solid homemade Icelandic food.

Café Paris
Austurstræti 14 | **E6**
With an outdoor terrace, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.

Café Roma
Rauðarárstígur 8 | **J9**
Roma, an Italian deli and café, offers a variety of breads, soups as well as tempting desserts. For a good bargain, come at lunchtime for the specials.

Café Victor
Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D6/E6**

A hangout for older for-igners, Victor attracts a diverse crowd, both in age and origin, a rule that extends to the musicians that play there.

Domo
Þingholtsstræti 5 | **F7**
The elegantly decorated Domo serves delicious French-Asian cuisine, excellent sushi and has a great wine list. A sure choice.

Eldsmiðjan
Bragagata 38A | **G9**
Totally satisfying oven-baked pizza with a wide choice of toppings-snails an unusual specialty. Well worth the cost. Order, take away or eat comfortably among the paintings.

Fiskmarkaðurinn
Aðalstræti 12 | **D6**
Run and co-owned by the national team of chefs, this establishment specializing in Japanese cuisine has everything planned to the last detail, ensuring a relaxing evening.

Geysir Bar/Bistro
Aðalstræti 2 | **D6**
Situating in the dignified Geysir Building at the corner of Vesturgata and Aðalstræti, this stylish bistro is always a good place to grab a tasty bite for a reasonable price.

Garðurinn
Klappastígur 37 | **G7**
“Ecstasy’s Heart” is a simple, friendly, family-run vegetarian restaurant on Klappastígur. Offers an ever-changing menu of specials and soup du jours, alongside a basic menu

Grái Kötturinn
Hverfisgata 16A | **G7**
Legendary for its early opening ours, the Gray Cat serves amazing

breakfasts and coffee that packs a wallop. A splendid way to start you off on your day.

Grillhúsið
Tryggvagata 20 | **E5/E6**

With a menu of reasonably priced home-style food, Grillhúsið has satiated hungry regulars since 1994 with juicy burgers, sandwiches, steaks and fish dishes.

Habibi
Hafnarstræti 20 | **D5**
A reliable source of high quality shawarma and falafel. Important ingredient for successful living.

Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar (“Bullán”)
Geirsgata 1 | **D5**
Considered by some to be the best real hamburger in Reykjavík, “Bullán” does serve some mysteriously delicious burgers, guaranteed to take the edge off any hangover.

Hlöllla Batar
Ingólfstorg | **D6**
The first sub sandwich shop in Iceland, Hlöllla Batar has a large selection of creatively named sandwiches with equally imaginative contents. Good for an adventurous bite.

Hornið
Hafnarstræti 15 | **E6**
Since 1979, this Italian restaurant has been a longtime Reykjavík staple. Famous for its pizza and stuffed calzones, it proudly offers an affordable menu of high-quality dishes.

Hótel Holt
Bergstaðarstræti 37 | **F7**

Housing Iceland’s most renowned restaurant, The Gallery, an evening here is an unforgettable experience. Delicious French-inspired cuisine and fine wines await.

Humarhúsið
Ammtmanstígur 1 | **E7**

One of the oldest restaurants in the country, the lobster house is known of course for its lobster and also its impressive cognac lounge. Fine intimate dining.

Hressó
Austurstræti 20 | **E6**
With a spacious neutral interior and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd. Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.

Icelandic Fish & Chips
Tryggvagata 8 | **E5**
Not your average fish’n’chips joint, but a healthy restaurant using only organic vegetables and quality fish products. The spiced skyr side a special treat.

Indian Mango
Frakkarstígur 12 | **H8**
Specializing in delicious dishes from the Goa region of India, honed to perfection in the owner’s period as head chef at the Four Seasons. Incredible service as well as food.

Food SKRÚÐUR

Reviewed by **Sveinn Birkir Björnsson** – Photo by Jói Kjartans

Julefrukost, or Christmas buffet, is a time honoured Scandinavian Christmas tradition that has grown very popular in Iceland in recent decades. In the old days, before Christmas became a celebration of consumerism, the extended family would gather to feast on every conceivable (or perhaps available) good course they could think of, knowing full well that eating good food is the focal point of any good celebration. In modern times, families tend to opt for a simpler and less time consuming approach, but to celebrate this old customs, friends, families and co-workers join together at restaurants for a Christmas buffet during the days leading up to Christmas.

Recently, I visited Skróður Restaurant, located in Hótel Saga, to experience their approach to the traditional festival food. Although there is no single set menu for Julefrukost, there are a few obligatory courses. Herring is one of them, and in my experience, restaur-

rants tend to underestimate the importance of the herring tradition, both historically and thematically. Skróður does well here, scoring high for an excellent applesauce herring. Another obligatory course, gravlax (cured salmon) was also a particular highlight. The blackened salmon and Christmas halibut were well received, but I must admit that I was a little put off by the sight of beef carpaccio among the courses offered, considering the origin and the tradition of the occasion. Smoked lamb is an essential part of the Icelandic festival cuisine, and Skróður offers a mild tasting, lightly salted meat, which is just the way I prefer it, although I was a little disappointed to find that the equally essential white sauce that goes with it was missing. This needs to be fixed no later than yesterday.

Skróður offers three main meat courses, turkey, roast pork and lamb. All three were excellent, but I admit that I

missed having either Christmas ham, or smoked pork fillet, both of which are customary. I have no complaints though, I was so full by then that I hardly had room for ice cream and the much anticipated almond rice pudding. All in all, Skróður offers a good, traditional Christmas buffet, although it didn't contain all my favourites.

Where:
Hótel Saga v/ Hagatorg

How much:
5.900 ISK **2** B9

What we think:
Good ol'fashion julefrukost, minus some personal favourites.



Jómfrúin
Lækjargata 4 | **E6**
These days, good Smörrebröd can be an elusive delicacy. Lucky for us out in the colonies, it's alive and well at Jómfrúin with fresh eel imported specially from Denmark.

Kaffi Hjómáland
Laugavegur 21 | **G7**
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great lunches and food but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.

Kaffitár
Bankastræti 8 | **F6**
Kaffitár celebrates good coffee, and serves it in abundance, along with sweet treats and tasty if pricey special blends. Eat in or to go, a great way to enjoy your morning boost.

Kaffivagninn
Grandagarður 10 | **D1**
By the harbor, this lunch and coffee place is a gathering place for all sorts of tough folks. If you want traditional Icelandic food, a great place to see another side of Reykjavík.

Kebabhúsið
Austurstræti 2 | **E6**
The name says it all, really.

Kofi Tómasar Frændu
Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Nestled in a basement location, Uncle Tom's Cabin has the feeling of a back-alley London Café. On weekends it becomes a happening and diverse bar.

Krua Thai
Tryggvagata 14 | **D5**
We dare you to find a better meal for the same price anywhere else. Every dish is delicious. Just eat what looks best to you on their colorful menu.

La Primavera
Austurstræti 9 | **E6**
Though it sounds strange, La Primavera serves delicious traditional North Italian cuisine using only local produce. A startlingly tasty combination and a local favorite.

Lystin
Laugavegur 73 | **H7**
Specialising in Icelandic ingredients, cooked in a fusion of Asian and French cuisine.

Mokka
Skólavörðustígur 3A | **F7**
Operating since 1958, Mokka is the city center's oldest coffee joint and founder of Icelandic coffee culture. Regular art exhibits are always worth a look.

Nonnabíti
Hafnarstræti 9 | **E6**
"Nonni" is one of the more popular junk-food places in town, renowned for its greasy sandwiches and its unique Nonni-sauce. Open late for a midnight cravings.

O Sushi
Lækjargata 2A | **E6**
Also called "The Train", O Sushi's most intriguing feature is a conveyor belt that runs around the entire restaurant delivering a buffet of authentic sushi straight to your table.

Pizza King
Hafnarstræti 18 | **E6**
This little place serves not only the cheapest but largest slices downtown. A local favorite, and open until 6 on Friday and Saturday nights.

Pizza Pronto
Vallarstræti 4 | **D6**
With a convenient location and late hours, a good place to snack in between bars. Three sizes of pizza with a good selection of toppings. A cheap, if unhealthy, choice.

Pizzaverksmiðjan
Lækjargötu 8 | **E6**
Some say, these guys are making the best in town. You will have to find out yourself. However they have the most original menu written on the wall and the Pesto Pizza is outstanding!

Prikið
Bankastræti 12 | **F6**
Part of the Reykjavík bar scene for decades, this café/bar has a fairly cheap menu and attracts a mix of students and old regulars. Mostly R&B and Hip-Hop on weekends.

Raðhúskaffi | **D7**
Tjarnargata 11
Located in the City Hall with a great view of the pond, this café has a good selection of pastries and a good place to relax. Regular art exhibits add to the aesthetic.

Santa Maria
Laugavegur 22A, | **F7**
Authentic Mexican food, directly from the stove of the owner's mother, who is an authentic Mexican.

Served with a healthy distaste for anything texmex. Also the best quality/price ratio in town with every dish under 1000 ISK.

Segafredo
Lækjartorg | **E6**
The Italian coffee chain makes its way to Lækjartorg Square, bringing strong espresso and Italian lunch snacks to grab on the way to work or just to enjoy on the spot.

Shalimar
Austurstræti 4 | **E6**
Shalimar sports the conceit of being the northernmost Indian restaurant in the world and has fine daily specials. We recommend the quite addictive chicken tikka masala.

Silfur
Pósthússtræti 11 | **E6**
Extravagant upscale restaurant situated in the Hotel Borg. The new French style cuisine is brought by professional and friendly service, you get a selection of fine wines and you can choose from an exotic and excellent menu - assumed that you can afford the not less extravagant prices.

Sjávarkjallarinn
Aðalstræti 2 | **D6**
Elegant Seafood Cellar focuses on gourmet seafood and tantalizing asian-fusion dishes. Share the exotic menu, courses selected by the chef, with a friend for the most fun.

Sólón
Bankastræti 7a | **F6**
Truly a jack-of-all trades establishment. By night a decent res-

taurant, by day a café/bistro and on Friday and Saturday nights a nightclub. Art exhibitions on the walls to top it off.

Sushibarinn
Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Deceptively ordinary Sushibarinn has recently become the talk of the town among Reykjavík sushi lovers, serving, in our opinion, the very best rolls in city.

Svarta Kaffi
Laugavegur 54 | **H8**
A cosy second floor café, their fame lies partly in their tasty Súpa í Brauði (Soup in Bread) and also in their romantic atmosphere. Good for a few early evening drinks.

Sægreifinn
Verbuð 8, Geirsgata | **D5**
Right next to the harbor, Sægreifinn fish shop is like none other in the country. With a diverse fish selection, exquisite lobster soup and good service, an absolute must-try.

Tapas
Vesturgata 3B | **D5**
For those with a bit of money and time to spare, Tapas serves course after course of delightful miniature dishes. Also serves tasty and unusually affordable lobster.

Thorvaldsen
Austurstræti 8 | **E6**
Dress formally for this fancy spot, and come before 12 to avoid a long line. DJs play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Tíu Dropar
Laugavegur 27 | **G7**
An old-fashioned café with warm atmosphere and generous coffee refills. A thoroughly pleasant establishment.

Tivolí
Laugavegur 3 | **F7**
A stylish bistro with a wide variety of selections and positively charming atmosphere.

Tjarnarbakkinn
Vonarstræti 3 | **D7**
Right above the lóno theater, an ideal place to go before shows. Nice views of the pond and outdoor dining in the summertime. The lamb comes especially recommended.

Vegamót
Vegamótastígur 4 | **G7**
Vegamót's kitchen is open until 22.00 daily and sports an appealing lunch menu. Come for a tasty brunch on weekends. If you like Óliver, try Vegamót and vice versa.

Við Tjörnina
Templarasund 3 | **E7**
A Reykjavík classic with menu exclusively of traditional cuisine, as frequented by tourists as it is by locals. A perfect opportunity to try Icelandic delicacies.

Vitabar
Bergþórugata 21 | **H9**
Really a bar, but best known for its hamburgers. Burger and fries for 500 one of the best deals in town, but Forget-Me-Not blue cheese and Garlic Extravaganza are also winners.



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DECEMBER

5. FRI Nuno Lx
& Gísli Galdur a.k.a Dj Magic

6. SAT Maggi Lego
& Dj Natalie a.k.a Yamaho

10. WED PAUL MORITZ (AUS)

11. THU Maggi Lego

12. FRI LIVE
ÆLA + BLOODGROUP
+ Dj Alfons X

13. SAT LIVE
DLX ATX + SYKUR
+ Dj Jón Atli a.k.a Sexy Lazer

16. TUE LIVE JAZZ
WAYNE SPORTER

17. WED
UNIVERSITY PARTY
+ Dj Mads (DK)

18. THU Ási Disco

19. FRI LIVE
RETRO STEFSON
+ SUDDEN WEATHER CHANGE
+ CARPET SHOW
+ Dj Impulse

20. SAT LIVE
SPRENGJUHÖLLIN
+ BOB JUSTMAN
+ Dj KGB - Christmas Special

26. FRI

TATATA
XMAS



+ DJ TaTaTa + DJ Jói Megabeib
+ DJ E&E crew + Special appearance by DJ Fokkup

27. SAT LIVE
WULFGANG

+ Nuno Lx & Hjalti a.k.a Casanova

Music

FM BELFAST, HJALTALÍN & SPRENGJUHÖLLIN

What started as a duo – just for fun – three years ago has, in the meanwhile, become one of Iceland's most successful acts and a playground for some of Reykjavík's most talented musicians. FM Belfast's live crew 2008 counts up to 8 artists gathered around the core of Árni Rúnar Hlööversson, Árni Vilhjálmsson and Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir. Recently, the three released their long-awaited debut album "How to make friends",

which crowns FM Belfast's track record so far. To make this a night of new songs, there will be two other bands playing who recently released new albums: Hjaltalín will introduce their new record, which is called "Sleepdrunk Seasons", and Sprengjuhöllin will be around having their new longplayer "Bestu kveðjur" with them.

What
Sigur Rós
Where:
NASA, Thorvaldsenstræti 4,
101 Reykjavík
When:
December 26 at 23:00

3 E6



Music

BLOODGROUP

Within two years Bloodgroup, from the east of Iceland, has become one of the hippest fish in the wide pond this country has to offer in electronic music. As many before them they had their maiden concert at Airwaves, and from there on their catchy songs and distinctive vocals have been stuck in the heads of many. Their debut album "Sticky Situation", which they released through their own label Sild ehf., also carried the word to countries abroad. This brought the band tours in Germany, Norway, Denmark, Great Britain and so on. Twice there has even been new blood in the Bloodgroup family. In 2007, they were joined by famous DJ Benni-B-Ruff, and in 2008 Super-Sound-Nerd Styrmir was added to the line-Up. Now a six-pack, Bloodgroup are ready to bring some heat into Icelandic clubs again.

What:
Bloodgroup
Where:
Kaffibarinn, Bergstaðastræti 1,
101 Reykjavík
When:
December 28 at 21:00

4 G7

Art

NORDIC HOUSE CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

Last year the Nordic House in Reykjavík had their very special Christmas Calendar for the first time. All December from the first to the 23, popular artists, writers, actors, poets and of course musicians and bands from Iceland and Scandinavia stepped out of one of the doors at 12:34 (one-two-three-four) and performed for 15 to 20 minutes. As the event was a huge success, they decided to set up the Calendar again. This year's line-up is not less formidable. Among others it includes by now: Björk, Jón Gnarr, Sprengjuhöllin, Hallgrímur Helgason, Motion Boys, Egill Ólafsson and Valgeir Guðjónsson, Sjón, Steinar í djúpinu, Reykjavík! and Jón Ólafsson. Naturally the event is free.

Where:
Nordic House
When:
December 1 - 23 at 12:34

5 C11



Listings

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

Music & Entertainment

FRIDAY DEC 5

- **Apótek**
23:00 Live music with various DJs.
- **B5**
23:00 DJ Símon Gorillafunk.
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Nuno Lx, Gísli Galdur a.k.a DJ Magic.
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music.
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Arnór.
- **Grand Rokk**
21:00 Singapore Sling. Kid Twist and Evil Madness open.
- **Háskólabíó**
19:00 Icelandic Symphony Orchestra. A Benefit Gala- Call of Life.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Singers Dalton Böddi and Danni playing.
- **Hverfisbarinn**
22:00 The Viking Giant Show.
- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 Gullfoss & Geysir.
- **NASA**
23:00 TBA.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 DJ Ást & Guests.
- **Sólon**
00:00 DJ Áki Pain.

SATURDAY DEC 6

- **Apótek**
00:00 Various DJs.
- **B5**
23:00 DJ Funky Flavor.
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 DJ Maggi Lego & DJ Natalie a.k.a Yamaho.
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music.
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Atli Kef.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Band Menn Ársins playing, afterwards DJ Maggi.
- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 DJ Magic & Alfons.

- **Laugardalshöll**
16:00 and 20:00 Jólagestir Björgvins.
- **NASA**
23:00 Buff and Baggalútur.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 DJ Yamaho.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Elín Eypórs.
23:00 Mogadon.
- **Sólon**
23:00 Ground floor-DJ Rikki G
Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain.

SUNDAY DEC 7

- **Hallgrímskirkja**
11:00 2nd Sunday in Advent. Festive Mass with The Reykjavík Boy's Choir.
17:00 Christmas Concert with The Hallgrímskirkja Motet Choir and Reykjavík Boys Choir.
- **Hljómaland**
18:30 Punkrock Benefit show for Hljómaland. DYS, Swords of chaos and the best hardcore band in the world.
- **Q Bar**
22:00 Hangover Night with DJ Pille Palle. Special offers at the Bar.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Rommtommtomm accompanied by Ragnheiður Gröndal and Mugson.
- **Salurinn Concerts**
15:00 Gilligill.

MONDAY DEC 8

- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Geir Harðar release concert.

TUESDAY DEC 9

- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Movie Night. special offer at the bar.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Memphismafia.

WEDNESDAY DEC 10

- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Paul Moritz (AUS).
- **Hallgrímskirkja**
20:00 Olivier Messiaen. Celebration concert - Centennial of birth "La nativite".
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Blæti, Balkan Jazz.

THURSDAY DEC 11

- **B5**
23:00 DJ Funky Flavor.
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 DJ Maggi Lego.
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 Band Mama's Handbag playing.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Singers Jogvan and Vignir.
- **Kaffibarinn**
22:00 FKNHNSM DJ's.
- **Q-Bar**
22:00 DJ Ási.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Sigurður Breiðfjörð release concert.
- **Salurinn Concerts**
20:00 Baggalútur.
- **Sólon**
21:00 Green Thursday Party
Upstairs: Live music with Ingó & Veðurguðimír
Ground floor: DJ Andrés with 110 Sparkling.

FRIDAY DEC 12

- **B5**
23:00 DJ Símon Gorillafunk.
- **Bæjarbíó (Hafnarfirði)**
20:30 KK and Ellen.
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Live Bands: Bloodgroup and Æla.
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music.
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Stjáni puts on the 90s weekend.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Johnny And The Rest in Concert.
- **Íþróttahöllin á Akureyri Concert**
20:00 Frostrósir 2008.
- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 DJ Terrordisco.
- **NASA**
23:00 Óstaðfest.
- **Q-Bar**
Suprise Guests.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Hraun Christmas concert.
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Áki Pain.

SATURDAY DEC 13

- **Apótek**
23:00 Various DJs.
- **B5**
23:00 DJ Einar (pop, funk, hip hop).

Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

22 Laugavegur 22 | **G7**
A popular place among the city's party scenesters, this three storied bar makes for a great night out with chatting upstairs and dancing downstairs with regular DJs.

Amsterdam Hafnarstræti 5 | **E6**
Kaffi Amsterdam seems to have been around forever, though recently it's been reinvented as a live venue. Good music, cheap beer, and colorful characters to be found.

Apótek Austurstræti 16 | **E5**
Sporting a chic and pristine interior with a healthy club atmosphere.

B5 Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
By day a chic little bistro with good food and a prime location for Laugavegur people watching | by night a stylish bar with a "whiskey room" and manhattanesque clientele.

Bar 11 Laugavegur 11 | **G6**
The sweetest Rock joint on the northern hemisphere. Mötley Crüe would have played this bar 25 years ago and still be talking about it.

Belly's Hafnarstræti 18a | **E5**
Belly's deserves praise for having the cheapest bar prices around.

Good for anyone looking for a deal, there are enough tables for everyone and TVs for sport | watching.

Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20 | **E5**
Named after the Iceland's most legendary sports commentator, this is the place for the three Bs: ball, burger and beer.

Boston Laugavegur 28b | **H6**
A fresh addition to the Reykjavík bar scene. Roomy bar floor, nice sofas and stylish interior make this a comfy café as well as a tavern with good, unintrusive music.

Café Cultura Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**
Cultura is a café/bar with a party feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.

Café Paris Austurstræti 14 | **E5**
With an outdoor terrace, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.

Café Victor Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D4**
Victor attracts a diverse crowd, both in age and origin, a role that extends to the musicians that play there.

Celtic Cross Hverfisgata 26 | **H6**
Arguably the most authentic Irish pub outside Ireland, a very lively space where you'll often find live music, sometimes two bands playing at once.

Dillon Laugavegur 30 | **H7**
The quintessential rock pub Dillon serves moderately priced drinks, and has pretty good music, too. The mix of students and tattooed tough guys always creates a fun atmosphere.

Dubliner Hafnarstræti 4 | **E5**
The city's main Irish pub attracts quite a lot of foreigners, though there's an influx of locals on weekends. Good if you're looking for the darker stuff on tap.

Glaumbar Tryggvagata 20 | **E4**
The premier sports bar in town, though after the final whistle, DJs take the floor and begin a night of feverish dancing.

Grand Rokk Smiðjustígur | **G6**
As its Viking theme accurately displays, this hardcore chess hang-out is no place for the lily livered. Take the pub quiz on Fridays at 17:30, the winner gets a free case of beer!

Highlander Lækjargata 10 | **E7**
If you prefer Scottish to Irish, this might be the place for a single malt.

Hressó Austurstræti 20 | **E5**
With a spacious neutral interior, pleasant courtyard and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd. Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.

Hverfisbarinn Hverfisgata 20 | **G6**
After a long line, you'll get in and wonder what all the fuss was about. You may end up here if you're still going at 4 on a Sunday morning, in which case it's just as good as any.

Kaffi Hljómaland Laugavegur 23 | **G6**
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great food and coffee but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.

Kaffibarinn Bergstráðastræti 1 | **F6**
A popular place to grab a drink after work, this daytime coffee joint rolls with night-time activity on weekends with live DJs. Parties often pound until dawn.

NASA Þorvaldsenstræti 2 | **E6**
The main live venue in town. If you are look-

ing for a decent band, chances are you'll find it at NASA.

Næsti Bar Ingólfstræti 1A | **F6**
On nights where queues snake down Laugavegur, Næsti Bar can be great place to sneak off to and chat with friends over a beer. Frequentated also by the literary and acting elite.

Óliver Laugavegur 20A | **H7**
This nightclub attracts a crowd of crazy dancers that may not be for everyone. In which case, air conditioning and fine food make Óliver a good lunch spot.

Ólstofan Vegamótastígur | **G6**
No tricks here. You'll want just simple beer in this simple pub. Also the hangout for Reykjavík intellectual circles

Prikió Bankastræti | **F5**
Part of the Reykjavík bar scene for decades, this café/bar has a fairly cheap menu and attracts a mix of students and old regulars. R&B and Hip-Hop plays on weekends.

Q-Bar Ingólfstræti 3 | **F6**
A roomy gay/straight bar. Some of the best DJs in town play regularly, making it an especially lively space on weekends.

Rex Austurstræti | **E5**
Rex is quite fancy and you may feel out of place if you don't dress up a bit. One of the more posh spots in town.

Rósenberg Klappartígur 25 | **G7**
Live music venue that has something to offer every single night, ranging from rock to jazz to poetry. You name it, they got it.

Sólon Bankastræti 7A | **F5**
Truly a jack of all trades establishment. By night a decent restaurant, by day a café/bistro and on Friday and Saturday nights a nightclub. Art exhibitions on the walls to top it off.

Thorvaldsen Austurstræti 8 | **E5**
Dress formally for this fancy spot, and come before 12 to avoid a long line. DJs play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Vegamót Vegamótastígur 4 | **G6**
Vegamót's kitchen is open until 22:00 daily and sports an appealing lunch menu. Come for a tasty brunch on weekends. If you like Óliver, try Vegamót and vice versa. The party goes on late.

JS Watch co.
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ข้อคิด 10 ประการ

1. คิดในแง่ดี จะทำการอันใดก็ง่ายขึ้น
2. ถนอมน้ำใจแก่บุคคลที่ท่านรัก
3. ไม่แก่เกินไปที่จะไฝหาเรียนรู้อะไร
4. ผิดเป็นครู
5. เคลื่อนไหวร่างกายเป็นประจำ ทำให้ชีวิตสดชื่น
6. ไม่ควรทำชีวิตของท่านให้ยุ่งยากโดยไม่จำเป็น
7. พยายามเข้าใจและให้การสนับสนุนแก่บุคคลรอบข้าง
8. ไม่คิดย่อท้อ, วิ่งเข้าสู่วินัยความสำเร็จของชีวิต
9. ฝึกฝนและค้นหาทักษะให้กับตนเอง
10. ตั้งจุดมุ่งหมาย และสร้างฝันให้เป็นจริง

LYDHEILSUSTÓÐ - HÍÐ HÉL

Geðrækt

New in Reykjavik? Need help getting started?

Service centres provide information about social services

The department of welfare gives information and advice about social entitlements and provides support in cases of social or personal problems for registered residents in Reykjavik. For general information about operations in the City of Reykjavik and additional information on e.g. specific housing benefits, pre-school applications or financial aid, you should contact service centers in your own neighbourhood:

- **Vesturgarður**, service centre for the residents of Vesturbær district, Hjardarhagi 45-47, tel. 411-1700
- **Miðborg and Hlíðar**, service centre for the residents of the city centre and the district of Hlíðar, Skulagata 21, tel. 411-1600
- **Laugardalur and Háaleiti**, service centre for the residents of the districts of Laugardalur and Háaleiti, Sidumuli 39, tel. 411-1500
- **Breidholt**, service centre for the residents of Breidholt, Alfabakki 12, tel. 411-1300
- **Ábær and Grafarholt**, service centre for the residents of the districts of Arbaer and Grafarholt, Bæjarhals 1, tel. 411-1200
- **Miðgarður**, service centre for the residents of Grafarvogur and Kjalarnes, Langarími 21, tel. 411-1400

City of Reykjavik
Department of welfare

Borgartún 12-14
105 Reykjavík
Tel: 411 9000
www.reykjavik.is

Listings

- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Live Bands: Dlx Atx and Sytkur.
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music.
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Atli Kef puts on 90s weekend.
- **Háskólabíó**
17:30 Emiliana Torrini.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Troubadours Gotti and Eisi playing.
- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 DJ Casa Nova.
- **Laugardalshöll**
16:00 and 20:00 Frostósir 2008.
- **NASA**
23:00 Ný- Dönsk, Iceland's beloved pop band in concert.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Kárius & Baktus.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Ljótu Hálvitarnir.
- **Sólon**
23:00 Ground floor: DJ Rikki G
Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain.

SUNDAY DEC 14

- **Háskólabíó**
20:00 Emiliana Torrini.
- **Q-Bar**
21:00 Hangover Night.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 The Trio of Þórunn.

MONDAY DEC 15

- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Ragnheiður Gröndal release concert.

TUESDAY DEC 16

- **Café Cultura**
22:00 Live Jazz.
- **Q-Bar**
21:00 Open Mic night with Elín Ey & Myrra.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Svavar Knútur hosts a troubadour night.

WEDNESDAY DEC 17

- **Café Cultura**
23:00 University Party with DJ Mads (DK).
- **Hlégarður (Mosfellsbær)**
20:30 Bubbi Mortens.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Ómar Guðjónsson's Trio.

THURSDAY DEC 18

- **B5**
23:00 DJ Einar.
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Así Disco.
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 Live music with band Jólakettir (funky Christmas music).
- **Hressó**
22:00 Singers Jogvan and Vignir in Concert.
- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 Bloodgroup in Concert.
- **Nasa**
23:00 TBA.
- **Q-Bar**
22:00 DJ Ási.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Borgardætur Christmas Concert.
- **Sólon**
21:00 Live Music with Ingó Idol.
DJ Andres playing.

FRIDAY DEC 19

- **800 Bar (Selfoss)**
20:30 Bubbi Morthens.
- **B5**
23:00 DJ Einar.
- **Café Cultura**
22:00 Live Music with Retro Stefson, Sudden Weather Change and Carpet Show.
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Lurkur.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Singers Jogvan and Vignir in Concert.
- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 Sykur (Electro, Pop) in Concert.
- **Langholtskirkja**
23:00 Jólasöngvar.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Back from London: DJ Kvikindi.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Borgardætur Christmas Concert.
- **Salurinn**
20:00 Megas & Senubjófarnir.
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Áki Pain.

SATURDAY DEC 20

- **B5**
23:00 DJ Jay Oh! (Pop, Hip Hop).
- **Café Cultura**
22:00 Live Concert with Sprengjuhöllinn and Bob Justman.

- **Broadway**
23:00 Ratatat and FM Belfast.
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Lurkur.
- **Háskólabíó**
14:00 and 17:00 Christmas family concert I and II by the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Singers Gotti and Eisi in Concert.
- **Langholtskirkja**
20:00 Christmassongs.
- **Nasa**
23:00 University Christmas party w. DJ Paul Oscar
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 DJ Shaft.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Kristjana Stefánsdóttir Christmas Blues Concert.
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Rikki G from Radio 95.7.
DJ Áki Pain.

SUNDAY DEC 21

- **Langholtskirkja**
20:00 Christmassongs.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Rommtomtomtom Concert.

MONDAY DEC 22

- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Christmas Concert Vox Fox accompanied by Various Guests.

TUESDAY DEC 23

- **B5**
21:00 DJ Grýluson (Folk, Blues).
- **Hressó**
22:00 Troubadours Jogvan and Vignir
- **Q-Bar**
21:00 Special Open Christmas Mic with Elín Ey and Myrra.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 KK & Maggi Eiríks.

THURSDAY DEC 25

- **Café Cultura**
23:00 DJ Kári.

FRIDAY DEC 26

- **B5**
23:00 DJ Funky Flavor.
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 DJ Tatata, DJ Jói Megabeib, DJ E&E Crew, DJ Fokkup.

Upcoming...
Releases

Check us
At Kolaportið
Flea market in
December



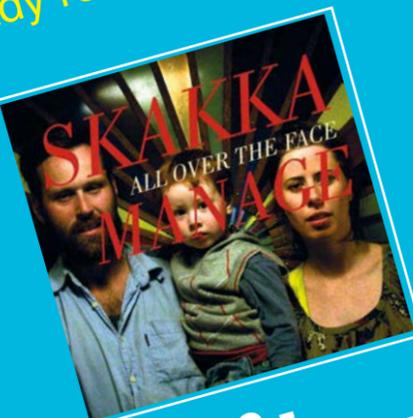
Retro stefson - Montaña
Already released!



Reykjavík! - The Blood
Already released!



FM Belfast -
How to Make Friends
Already released!



Skakkamanage -
All Over the Face
Already released!
Buy our stuff at...
www.kimirecords.net



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Art | Venue finder

101 Gallery
Hverfisgata 18A | **F6**
Thu-Sat 14-17 and by appointment
www.101hotel.is/101gallery/
Located in the 101 Hotel, features a broad selection of international and local contemporary art.

Artótek
Tryggvagata 15 | **D5**
Mon 10-21, Tue-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-19, Sat and Sun 13-17
www.sim.is/Index/Isenska/Artotek
An Icelandic art exhibition space and art dealer. Pieces are available for purchase or lease.

ASÍ Art Museum
Freyrugata 41 | **G10**
Tue-Sun 13-17
Run by the ASÍ labour union, features mostly contemporary Icelandic art. Free entry.

Árbæjarsafn
Kistuhylur 4
An open-air museum featuring arts-and-crafts fairs and exhibitions in the summer.

The Culture House
Hverfisgata 15 | **F6**
Open daily 11-17
www.thjodmenning.is
A Museum of Icelandic cultural history, with an ongoing exhibition of the original manuscripts of the sagas and eddas.

Dwarf Gallery
Grundartígur 21 | **H8**
Opening Hours: Fri and Sat 18-20
www.this.is/birta
An independently run basement Gallery,

Gallery Dwarf hosts exhibitions which speak straight to the hearts of the "cute" generation.

The Einar Jónsson Museum
Eiríksgata | **G9**
Tue-Sun 14-17
www.skulptur.is
Features a permanent exhibition on the sculptor Einar Jónsson as well as temporary exhibits.

Fótógrafi
Skólavörðustígur 4a | **F7**
www.fotografi.is
Features photographic exhibitions by local photographers.

Gallery 100*
Bæjarháls 1
www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100/
Open weekdays from 08:30-16:00
An art museum run by the Orkuveita Reykjavíkur energy corporation. Features contemporary art by Icelandic and foreign artists.

Gallery Auga fyrir Auga
Hverfisgata 35 | **G7**
Independently run art museum featuring Icelandic art.

Gallery StartArt
Laugavegur 12B | **G7**
Tue-Sat 1-17
www.startart.is
Contemporary Icelandic and foreign art. Admission is free and the gallery is run without any government funding.

Gallery Ágúst
Baldursgata 12 | **F9**

Wed-Sat 12-17
www.galleriagust.is
Galleri Ágúst is a contemporary art gallery in the centre of Reykjavík. With an ambitious programme of exhibitions, it also presents and sells art-work of Icelandic and international artists.

Gallery Fold
Rauðarástígur 14-16 | **J9**
Mon-Fri 10-18 / Sat 11-16 / Sun 14-16
www.myndlist.is
More of an art auction than just a gallery, Fold also evaluates and exhibits art.

Gallery Kling & Bang
Hverfisgata 42 | **G7**
Thurs-Sun from 14-18
this.is/klingogbang/
Exhibits upcoming and established contemporary artists as well as hosting screenings, lectures and performances.

Gallery Turpentine
Ingólfstræti 5 | **F7**
Tue-Fri 12-18 / Sat 11-16
www.turpentine.is
Houses a collection of Icelandic contemporary artwork as well as works from old Icelandic masters both for display and sale.

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre
Gerðuberg 3-5
Mon-Thu 11-17 / Wed 11-21 / Thu-Fri 11-17 / Sat-Sun 13-16
www.gerduberg.is
Located in Breiðholt, the Gerðuberg cultural centre hosts both exhibitions and events.

Hitt Húsið - Gallery Tukt
Pósthússtræti 3-5 | **E6**
www.hitthusid.is
Initially thought of as a hobby centre to keep the youth from drinking, Hitt húsið is still operational and organises events as well as hosting art exhibitions in their Gallery - Gallery Tukt.

i8 Gallery
Klapparstígur 33 | **G7**
Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and by appointment.
www.i8.is
Represents work by an eclectic mix of Icelandic and international contemporary artists.

Living Art Museum
Vatnsstígur 3 - **G7**
Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17 / Thu 13-22.
www.nylo.is
A non-profit gallery that organises 8-10 larger exhibitions every year as well as other cultural events.

Lost Horse Gallery
Skólastræti 1 | **F6**
Weekends from 13-19 and by appointment on weekdays.
Located in a renovated stable off Laugavegur, features work by local artists.

The National Film Archive
Hvaleyjarbraut 13
www.kvikmyndasafn.is
The National Film Archive of Iceland screens old movie classics and masterpieces twice a week for 500 ISK per ticket.

The National Gallery of Iceland
Frikirkjuvegur 7 | **E8**
Tue-Sun 11-17
www listasafn.is
Houses the national art collection and is the centre of research and documentation of Icelandic art.

The National Museum
Suðurgata 41 | **C9**
Open daily 10-17
natmus.is/
Established in 1863, this museum features exhibits on Icelandic cultural heritage.

The Nordic House
Sturlugata 5 | **C11**
Tue-Sun 12-17
www.nordice.is/
Explores and promotes Scandinavian culture with regular lectures, films and exhibitions.

The Numismatic Museum
Einholt 4 | **K9**
Open Mon-Fri 13:30-15:30.
Presents a cultural history of Iceland through analysis of collected coins, medals and books.

Reykjavík 871+/-2
Aðalstræti 17 | **D6**
Open daily 10-17
Museum on the founding of Reykjavík. Located in the oldest house in the city. Tours in English on Mondays and Saturdays at 14.00

Reykjavík Art Gallery
Skólugata 28 | **H6**
Tuesday through Sunday 14-18
The city's public art gallery features works by Icelandic artists.

Reykjavík Art Museum
Open daily 10-16
www listasafnreykjavikur.is
Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum
Sigtún Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17 | **E5**
Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagata | **K11**
Specialising in contemporary art by local and international artists. Free entrance.

Reykjavík City Theatre
Listabraut 3
Presenting Icelandic music and dance performances as well as dramatic theatre, produces six new shows each year.

Reykjavík Maritime Museum
Grandagarður 8 | **C3**
With a fishing trawler-turned-exhibit space, educates on the maritime and fishing traditions of Iceland.

Reykjavík Museum of Photography
Tryggvagata 16 | **D5**
Weekdays 12-19 / Sat-Sun 13-17
www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is
Features work by local and international photographers, as well as an archive on the history of photography.

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
Laugarnestangi 70
Features a permanent exhibition of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson's works.

Art BOOKWORKS OF ICELAND

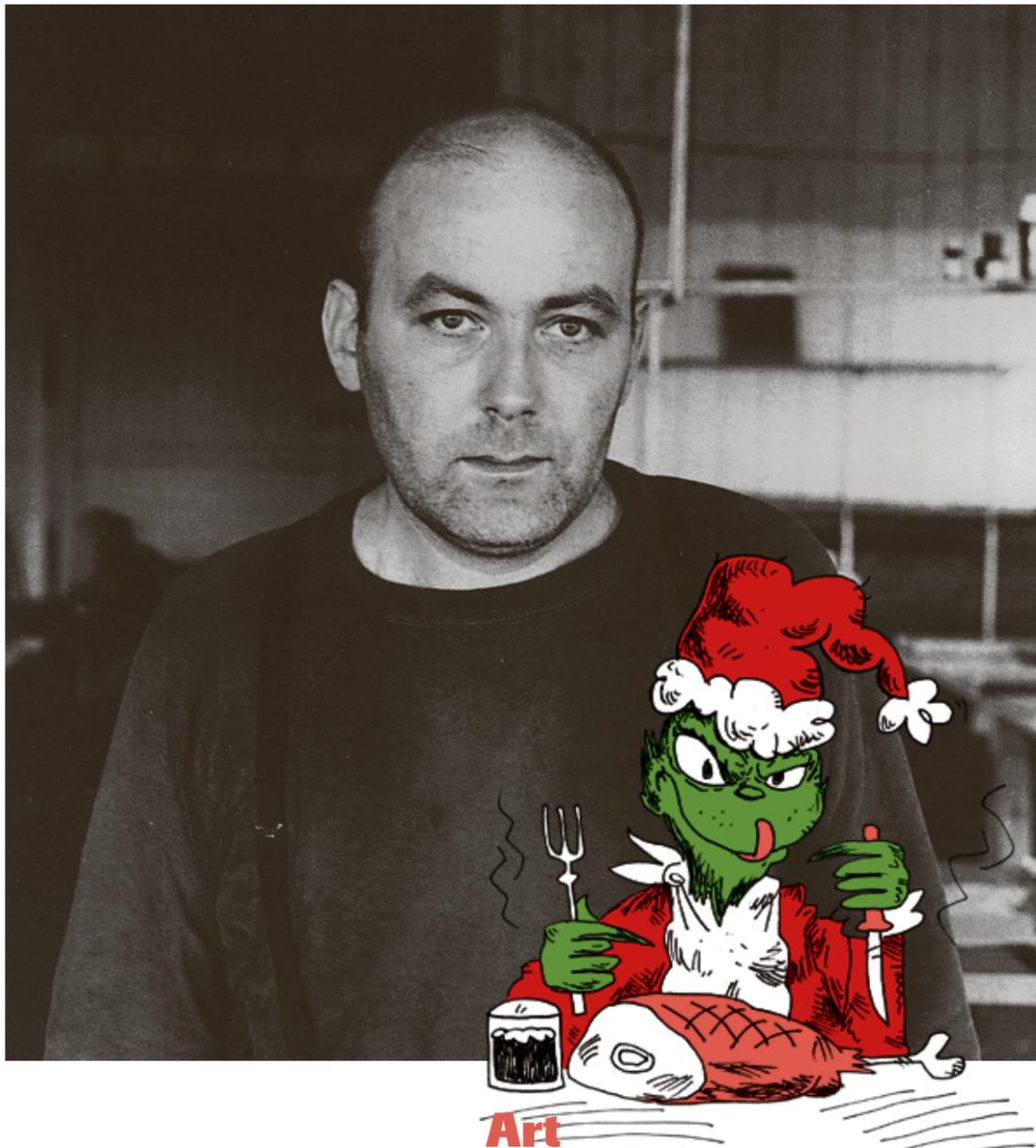
For the 30th anniversary of the Living Art Museum, the longest established artist-led museum in Iceland, the board of members have decided to celebrate the year by focusing entirely on their collections donated by artists. The museum has planned a major selection of events throughout the year, with auditing and exhibiting the work collected. For the "Bookworks of Iceland" exhibition, the artist Thorvaldur Thorstianson, who curates the show, has shown a deep interest in the process the museum has undergone, and organized

the artist bookwork shop "Útúrdúr" to relocate for the exhibition. Bookworks by a number of famous figures in Icelandic art will be on display, such as the artists Rurí, Magnús Páilson and works by Detier Roth, who some consider vital in creating the contemporary art scene in Iceland. The artist Thorvaldur Thorstianson, who wants to stimulate creativity within the community, has produced small book for the visitors to contribute their personal bookworks and participate in the exhibition.

Where:
The Living Art Museum,
Laugavegur 26
(back-entrance)
101 Reykjavík.

When:
December 12 - January 17
Open weekdays 10:00-17:00,
saturdays: 12:00-17:00

6 G7



Art BALDUR GEIR'S SUPERFICIALITY



The artist-run gallery Kling and Bang has a history of displaying significant, contemporary art exhibitions, with this show being no exception – a unique glimpse into the world of the Icelandic artist Baldur Geir Bragason's first solo shows. The "Superficiality" exhibition at Kling and Bang is a feast of post-modern ambiguity, surrendering itself to impractical objects whose function has been lost in its design, like the Rocking Chair (2007) which holds little pleasure in its use. As the title explains, this show does not pursue to be practical but superficial. The crude ways of crafting the sculptures and flippant forms of display the work demonstrates this. The artist provokes connections back to traditional styles of painting commonly used within still life. Through his making of peculiar vases and box containers, beautiful objects are placed into paintings. Each container is handmade and painted by the artist.

Where:
Kling & Bang gallery,
Hverfisgata 42, 101 Reykjavík
When:
December 13 - January 18
Open Thursday to Sunday
from 14 - 18

7 G7



UPCOMING CONCERTS

A CHRISTMAS FAMILY CONCERT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH @ 2 pm
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH @ 5 pm
Conductor | Bernharður Wilkinson
Host | Barbara the Clown

VIENNA SPECIAL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7TH @ 7.30 pm
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH @ 7.30 pm
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9TH @ 7.30 pm
SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH @ 5 pm
Conductor | Markus Poschner
Soloist | Disella Lárusdóttir

A selection of popular waltzes and operetta arias by Strauss, Lehár and Bernstein.

YOUNG SOLOISTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH @ 7.30 pm
Conductor | Bernharður Wilkinson
Soloists | Hulda Jónsdóttir, violin
Bjarni Frímánn Bjarnason, viola
Natalía Druzhin Halldórsdóttir, mezzo-soprano
Johannes Brahms | Violin Concerto
Béla Bartók | Viola Concerto
Arias by Verdi, Musorgsky, and Tchaikovsky

Tickets sold at www.sinfonia.is
or tel. 545 2500.
All concerts take place in Háskólabíó.

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ICELAND SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA



Katrín Elvarsdóttir / Sigrún Sigurðardóttir

HEIMA-HEIMAN HOME-AWAY

13. sept.
2008 -
11. janúar
2009



LJÓSMYNDASAFN REYKJAVÍKUR
Reykjavik Museum of Photography

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



Read about Icelandic contemporary
literature on www.literature.is

Icelandic Literature

Reykjavik City Library. Tel: 563 1717. www.borgarbokasafn.is

Art ROMM TOMM TOMM

Behind the stage name Rommtommtomm hides the popular Icelandic bass player and composer Tómas R. Einarsson. Einarsson, who belongs to the big names of the international jazz scene, can look back to a nearly 30 year long career, which brought him to play with celebrities as Chet Baker and Kenny Drew. He recorded more than 13 records which made him popular at jazz festivals around the world like The Konigsberg Jazz Festival, Berliner Jazz Tage and the Glasgow Jazz Festival. Enough name-dropping! Einarsson recently released "Trúnó", his new album, which contains 12 pieces of refreshing Latin jazz, recorded together with guitar wizard Ómar Guðjónsson and singer Ragnheiður Gröndal. Einarsson's band on stage will also be supported by

Mugison, whose rough but gentle voice will add one shot more of rum to this cocktail. If you want some Caribbean feelings combined with the Icelandic dry sense of humour in this cold and wet wintertime, you must not miss this concert.

Who:
Tómas R. Einarsson & Ragnheiður Gröndal
Where:
Café Rosenberg, Klapparstígur 25-27, 101 Reykjavík
When:
December 7 at 21:00

8 G7



- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Arnór.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Band Dalton in Concert.
- **Nasa**
23:00 FM Belfast, Hjaltalín and Sprengjuhöllin.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 Party Zone with loads of guests.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 KK & Maggi Eiríks.
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Aki Pain.

- **Hallgrímskirkja**
17:00 Festive sounds on New Year's Eve.
- **Hressó**
22:00 New Year's Eve at Hressó with DJ Maggi.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 TBA.
- **Sólon**
21:00 New Year's Eve party with DJ Aki Pain.

THURSDAY JAN 1

SATURDAY DEC 27

- **B5**
23:00 DJ Jay Oh!
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 Live in Concert: Wolfgang.
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Lurkur.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Band Birting in Concert.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 TBA.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 KK & Maggi Eiríks.
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Rikki G from Radio 95.7. DJ Aki Pain.

- **Hallgrímskirkja**
17:00 New Year's Day Haendel Celebration. Messiah by G.F. Haendel.
- **Sólon**
21:00 Live music with Ingó Idol. Dj Andres playing.

FRIDAY JAN 2

SUNDAY DEC 28

- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Sigríður Thorlacius plays classics by Jónas Árnason and Jón Múli.

- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Valdi.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Band Dalton playing.
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Aki Pain.

Art

TUESDAY DEC 30

- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Anna Mjöll & Co.

- **ASÍ Art Museum**
Nov 29- Dec 21 Jólakjólár
- **The Culture House**
Permanent exhibitions: *Medieval Manuscripts*; The Library Room. Current exhibitions: *Surtsey - Genesis*
The exhibition traces the emergence and evolution of the island Surtsey until the present day and predicts its geographical and ecological development over

WEDNESDAY DEC 31

- **B5**
21:00 DJ playing.
- **Glaumbar**

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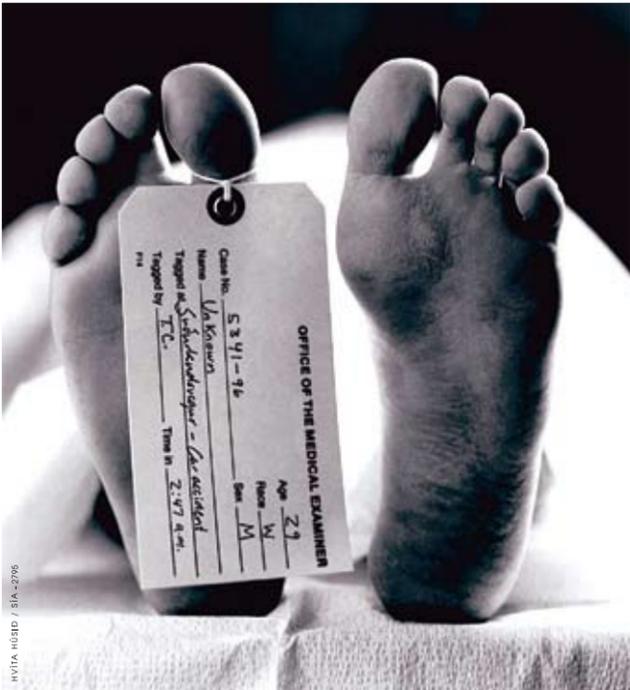
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From Beyond the Oceans - Translations and original writings by Helgi Hálfánarson

The thematic exhibition currently on view in the Library Room is dedicated to Helgi Hálfánarson's translations and original writings. The Late View - Halldór Laxness' Photographs Nobel Laureate and cosmopolitan Halldór Laxness was better known for his writing but also proved to be a good photographer. This is an exhibition of his works.

Exhibition Series

Ásta Ólafsdóttir displays her artwork at the Culture Shop.

○ **The Einar Jónsson Museum**

Permanent exhibition:
The work of sculptor Einar Jónsson.

○ **Gallery Ágúst**

Oct 25-Dec 13
Guðrún Kristjánsdóttir exhibition
Pictures that are our daily landscapes, are equally incomprehensible as a world of emblems from a another culture, where an encyclopedia is needed for a revelation. But there are no entries about the patterns that surrounds us. The transformation of the snowforms is so quick that the generated pictures dissolve by degrees, and only one spot is left behind, dark or lucid, recessive and laughing.

The instability is casted into our senses and one more pattern-picture is added to the collection, like a record of something we don't know what is, but we still keep it and refine upon, for if one day, it might open up a vision.

Jan 1-Dec 31 (2009)

Works of Hiroyuki Nakamura.

○ **Gallery Kling & Bang**

Dec 12 - Jan 18
Baldur Geir Bragason:
Yfirborðskennnd - Superficiality.

○ **Gallery StartArt**

Gunnar Árnason -Kraninnkraminn
Bubbi - Guðbjörn Gunnarsson
Sigríður Ágústsdóttir - Línur
Friðrika G. Geirsdóttir - Mana
Guðbjörg Ringsted - Finleg
Ása Ólafsdóttir - Þórdís Alda
Sigurðardóttir.
Nov 27 - Dec 30
Sigrún Eldjárn
Lára Garðarsdóttir
START ART listamenn
Sigrún Sigvaldadóttir

○ **Gerðuberg Cultural Centre**

Nov 15 - Jan 11
Boginn Gallery: Memories Folk
-artist Halldór Viðar Garðarsson's
exhibition of oil 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.

Dec 7

Reading:
Auður Jónsdóttir - Vetrarsól
Hallgrímur Helgason - 10 ráð til að hætta að drepa fólk og byrja að vaska upp
Kristín Ómarsdóttir - Sjáðu fegurð þína
Einar Kárason - Ofsi

○ **i8 Gallery**

Nov 6 - Dec 7
Guðrún Einarsdóttir Exhibition
On November 6th, Guðrún Einarsdóttir, the first volume in a series on Icelandic contemporary artists, will be released. The series is published by Crymgea with support from the Dungal Art Fund.

○ **Living Art Museum**

Dec 6 - Jan 17
A bookwork exhibition overseen by Þorvaldur Þorsteinsson.

○ **The National Gallery of Iceland**

Oct 11 - Jan 18
Love at First Sight: Modern and temporary art from the Würth collection
The private collection of the German industrialist Reinhold Würth has grown enormously during the last decades. It is now considered one of the largest private collections in

Europe in terms of modern and contemporary art. The exhibition displays the recent acquisitions from this important private collections, where Impressionist works to contemporary German and international art will be on display.

○ **The National Museum**

Permanent exhibition:
The Making of a Nation
June 6 - Jan 21
Over the Ocean and Home:
Icelandic artefacts from Sweden.
Sept 27 - Nov 30
The Nation, the Country and the Republic: Exhibition of the works of photographer Vigfús Sigurgeirsson, both photos and videos from between 1928 and 1958.

○ **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.

○ **Reykjavík 871 +/- 2**

Permanent exhibition:
The Settlement Exhibition

○ **Reykjavík Art Gallery**

Current exhibition:
Magnús Tómasson, Pétur Már Pétursson and Tolli

○ **Reykjavík Art Museum - 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.

○ **Reykjavík Art Museum - Hafnarhús**

Sept 18 - Jan 2009
Erró - Point to the east, point to the west
Nov 20 - Jan 11
D10 Andrea Maack
Sept 18 - Jan 11
Parallel Universes
A private Exhibition by Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir
Sept 27 - Jan 11
ID LAB
Sept 27 - Jan 11
Imaginary Friends:
Exhibition by Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir
Nov 6 - Jan 11
Inside / Out - Hlynur Hallsson

○ **Reykjavík Art Museum - Kjarvalsstaðir**

13 Sept - Jan 4
Bragi upside Down
May 18 - Jan 4
Jóhannes S. Kjarval - Key Works: The current exhibition in Kjarvalsstaðir's east gallery features key works from the museum's collection along with works on loan from the Labour Unions' Art Gallery and from the collection of Ingibjörg Guðmundsdóttir and Þorvaldur Guðmundsson.
Sept 13 - Jan 4
Visual Symphony - The Art of Bragi Ásgeirsson for 60 Years

○ **Reykjavík 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.

○ **Ásmundarsafn**

Aug 22 - Dec 31
Water Carrier Exhibition

○ **The Reykjavík Museum of Photography**

Sept 13 - Jan 11
Home/Away Photography
Exhibition: An exhibition documenting over 50 years of asylum seekers in Iceland, charting back to 1956.

○ **Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum**

Permanent exhibition:
Works of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson.

OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

For more information about art outside Reykjavík visit grapevine.is

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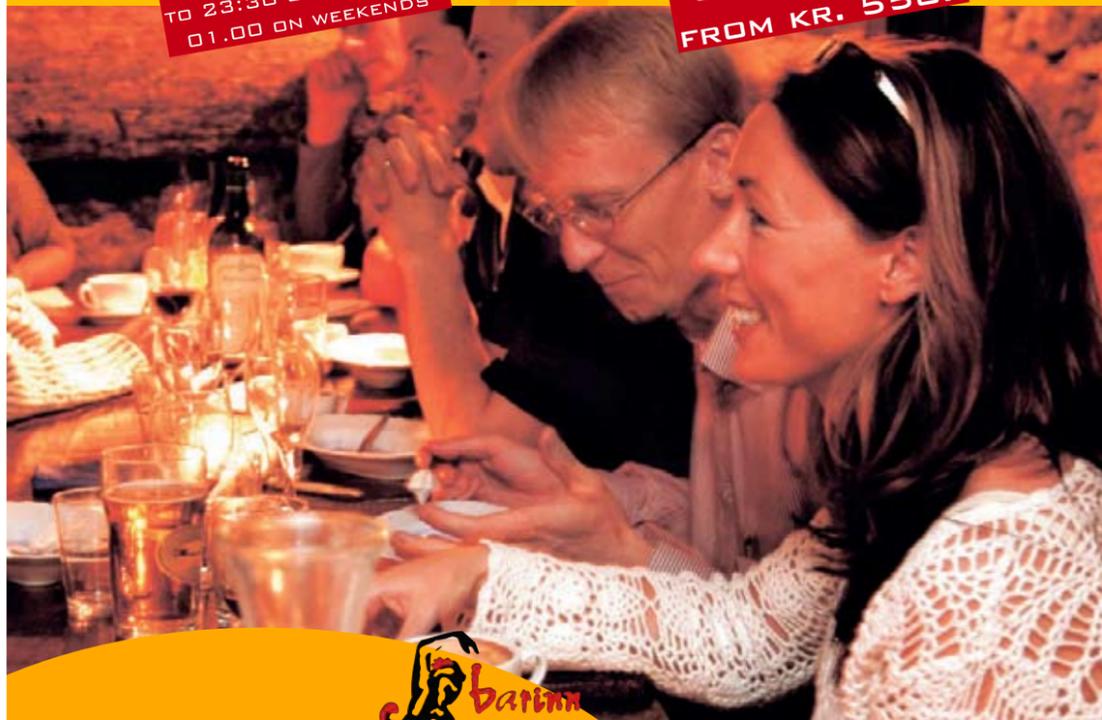
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Kjarvalsstaðir
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Visual Symphony

13 September 2008 - 4 January 2009

Reykjavík Art Museum



Hafnarhús
ID-LAB
27 September 2008 - 11 January 2009



Ásmundarsafn
Water Carrier
22 August - 31 December
Watercolours by eleven artists

Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17 daily 10-17
Thursdays to 22

Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagata, daily 10-17

Ásmundur Sveinsson
Sculpture Museum,
Sigtún, daily 13-16

Free admission



Little Shop of Ink

BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON — PHOTO BY JÓI

In 2006, Össur Hafþórsson's interest in tattoos led him to organise the first Icelandic Tattoo Convention. After the third successful instalment of the Convention, Össur decided that a yearly festival was not enough to quench the thirst that the Icelandic tattoo community had for Iceland, and the next logical step was to establish a studio for international guest artists. "The main reason for opening Reykjavík Ink was the interest I felt from the artists who visited the festival to come here and work for a longer period of time," he explains.

Unlike most owners of tattoo studios, Össur is not a tattoo artist himself. In fact, unlike other tattoo studios in town, Reykjavík Ink does not have a residential artist, but rather serves as home-ground for various guest artists that Össur brings in. But despite being a layman, of sorts, Össur says Icelandic tattoo artists have accepted his studio in a positive manner. "I did not do this because I thought the Icelandic artists were no good," he explains, "but the tattoo scene here is very small and people wanted to see more variations, more styles."

One of the frequent guest artists at Reykjavík Ink is Sofia Estrella, from St. Augustine, Florida, currently in Iceland on her sixth visit. "I've done just about everything in 27 years of tattooing," says the veteran. "I've tattooed all over the world and Iceland is not particularly different. People get tattoos for the same reasons all over, but they tend to connect with the area. In Iceland I do more Viking and rune tattoos than I would somewhere else, for example."

She does not remember a special piece as her favourite, but says she enjoys doing memorial tattoos. "Tattoos have a healing power for grieving people. I've done a lot of memorial tattoos. I've done tattoos using people's ashes in the ink so their loved one is always with them." But she's not willing to do anything. "If I don't feel comfortable with doing a tattoo, I'll send people somewhere else. The client comes first, and they should get the product they desire for their hard earned cash. But in general, if I can draw it, I can tattoo it."

Reykjavík Ink
Frakkastígur 7, 101 Reykjavík
Open daily from 12-22.



Shopping | Venue finder

12 Tónar
Skólavörðust. 15 | **G8**
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66°North
Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
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Aftur
Laugavegur 23 | **G7**
Aftur's internationally acclaimed label is proudly displayed here in their shop/studio.

Álafoss
Laugavegur 1 | **F7**
The downtown outlet for famous makers of traditional Icelandic woolens.

Belleville
Laugavegur 25 | **G7**
Stuffed with trendy streetwear designs as well as funky magazines and media.

Blue Lagoon Store
Laugavegur 15 | **G7**
All the natural skincare products from the famous geothermal spa at their outlet here.

Brim
Laugavegur 71 | **H7**
Big surf wear, skate wear, and snowboard shop.

Börn Náttúrunnar
Skólavörðustígur 17a | **G8**
The basement children's toy store sells clothes and toys only made of organic products as well as books about childcare and parenthood.

Cintamani
Laugavegur 11 | **F7**
Featuring quality Icelandic outdoor gear, you can even book an excursion on the spot.

Dead
Laugavegur 29 | **G7**
Artist Jón Sæmundur Auðarson's own

hand-printed Rock and Roll label, Dead, plus others.

Dogma
Laugavegur 32 | **H7**
Dogma offers street clothing with interesting prints. Hooded sweaters and T-shirts made by both Icelandic and foreign designers can be found.

Einvera
Laugavegur 35 | **H7**
A cosy little shop with a great selection of hand-picked second hand clothing for girls who like to dress differently. Also available is the Icelandic designer label Kalda.

Fígúra
Skólavörðustígur | **G8**
This shop features Icelandic designer wear, everything from street clothes to party dresses.

Friða Frænka
Vesturgata 3 | **D5**

A real treasure chest of antique furniture and vintage accoutrements to perk up your apartment.

G-Star Raw
Laugavegur 86 | **I8**
A store for the Dutch jeans brand, an edgy collection with innovative details and washes.

Galleri Sautján
Laugavegur 91 | **I8**
Stocking many hip labels, a unisex store offering casual business wear to evening dress wear.

Gilbert
Laugavegur 62 | **H8**
Watchmaker Gilbert Guðjónsson has sold watches and clocks on Laugavegur for over 40 years. Recently, Gilbert designed his own line of wristwatches.

Glamúr
Laugavegur 41 | **H7**
A flashy vintage clothing shop with every-

thing from necklaces to fur coats to kimonos.

Green Apple
Laugavegur 20 | **G7**
The tiny shop combines massage and other relaxation products with organic products.

Gyllti Kötturrinn
Austurstræti 8 | **E6**
One of a few second hand shops that have popped up in recent year, Gyllti Kötturrinn also offers some pieces by locals.

Handþrjóna-sambandið
Skólavörðustígur 19A | **G7**
All sorts of hand knit woollen clothing as well as fine yarns and knitting supplies.

Iða
Lækjargata 2A | **E6**
A great source for all kinds of reading material, with restaurants on the second floor.

Kisan
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
An interesting mix of items from all around the world you won't find anywhere else.

Kisuberjatréð
Vesturgata 4 | **D5**
A lovely gallery/gift shop run by ten artists and designers where they sell their products.

Kolaportið
Tryggvagata 19 | **E5**
Featuring the best in contemporary Icelandic design of everyday items of any kind.

Kraum
Aðalstræti 10 | **D6**
Featuring the best in contemporary Icelandic design of everyday items of any kind.

Kronkron
Laugavegi 63B | **I8**
This hip new shop stocks the latest trends in everything from socks to sweaters.

KVK
Laugavegur 27 | **G7**
Small yet stuffed designer shop KVK, which stocks a nice selection of local designs.

Liborius
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**
One of a kind, very high-end shop featuring the latest, crispest designs for both sexes.

Marimekko
Laugavegur 56 | **H8**
Finnish designer brand Marimekko has found its spot on Laugavegur. The Marimekko concept store stocks a wide selection of the colourfully printed designer products.

Mál og Menning
Laugavegur 18 | **G7**
A multi-level store with games, books, souvenirs and a bustling café on the top floor.

Moods of Norway
Laugavegur 51 | **H8**

The new clothing shop on Laugavegur closes the gap between the clothes you wear on Saturday for your night off and those you wear the following Sunday at church. From casual shirts and pants to the eye-catching tux: they have it.

Nakti Apinn
Bankastræti 14 | **F7**
Offers an amazing array of colourful designer wear as well as contemporary media.

Nexus
Hverfisgata 103 | **I8**
The biggest comic book and gaming store in Reykjavík has something for everyone.

Noland
Laugavegur 32 | **H7**
A new skate shop offering fresh tees and sneakers from Krew, Supra and more.

Rokk og Rósir
Laugavegur 17 | **G7**

Second-hand clothing for the fairer sex at a reasonable price.

Skarhúsið
Laugavegur 12 | **F7**
Glittery accessory shop stuffed with cheap jewellery, bags or other small items.

Skífan
Laugavegur 26 | **G7**
Selection of CDs, DVDs and computer games as well as some Icelandic films with English subtitles.

Spúitnik
Laugavegur 32 | **G7**
One of the best second-hand shops in the country, with recycled clothes at a range of prices.

Systur
Laugavegur 70 | **H7**
For whatever women's lingerie needs you might have, this is the store to satisfy them.

Trilogia
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**

A collection of trendy designer wear fills the shop, summery dresses, sweaters and skirts.

The Viking
Hafnarstræti 3 | **E5**
This large tourist shop sells all sorts of smart souvenirs to bring back home.

Dorsteinn Bergmann
Skólavörðustígur 36 | **G8**
Since the 1940s this small store has offered a huge selection of household supplies for a laughable low price.

Anatomie
Skólavörðustígur | **G8**
A great little shop with an excellent selection of sportswear.

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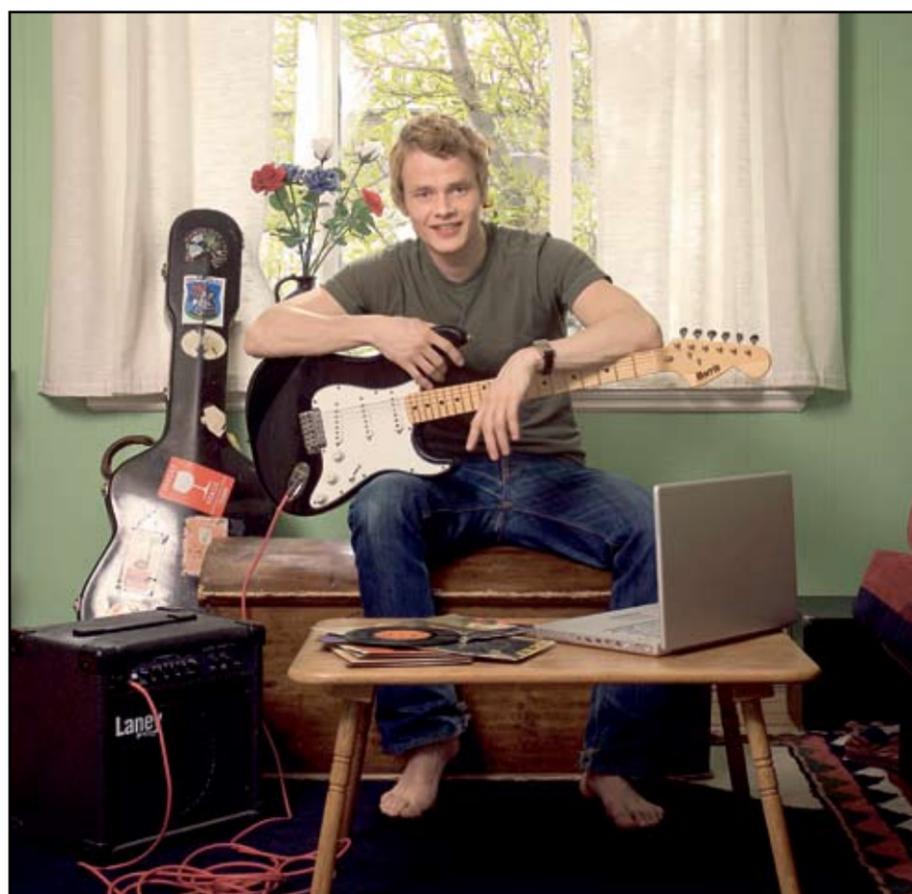
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Housing Financing Fund

ILLUSTRATION BY HUGLEIKUR DAGSSON

The Christmas Cat

BY HAUKUR S MAGNÚSSON

“We’ve got this database of monsters and creatures in our past. These stories are fascinating, it’s a shame that they’re not used more in modern culture,” remarked comic artist Hugleikur Dagsson in an interview this summer. The Grapevine promptly drafted Dagsson to illustrate a series of articles on these monsters of yore. For this ninth instalment in the series Dagsson depicts one of Iceland’s creepiest critters and the reason we sport cool new threads during the holidays; Jólakötturinn, the Christmas Cat.

Jólakötturinn is a lovable, wholly unholy beast, a sort of proto-fashion police whose impeccable sense of style, in your face attitude and lack of respect for human life terrified Icelanders into stylistic submission in ways that today’s anorexia-inducing Vogues and Cosmopolitans can only dream of. The ginormous cat’s sole purpose in life is to eat children (and adults, some say) that do not get a new piece of clothing before Christmas. Yes, it devours financially disadvantaged children. This is the kind of message Icelanders like to send out in their folklore: if you do not have the money or means of acquiring new items of clothing before the festival of lights, you will be eaten by a gigantic cat. This is one of the reasons that Icelanders clock in more hours of overtime at their jobs than most European nations: to avoid the cat, we stayed up sewing or knitting in the olden days, and we stayed up graphic designing or stock-brokering in early 2008.

Some versions of the Jólakötturinn story actually claim he did no such thing as eat kids, opting rather to steal all their food and holiday treats instead. While its a far cry better than chewing them to a bloody pulp and devouring their tasty flesh, its still real mean of him. Not much is known about Jólakötturinn’s origins, in fact a famous poem about him by Iceland’s beloved bard Jóhannes úr Kötlum accurately proclaimed that “no one knows where he’s from or where he goes”.

Although he is believed to have terrified Icelanders since the dark ages, written records detailing the murderous feline and its children-eating ways only go back to the nineteenth century. He is thought to be the house-cat of the evil troll Grýla (she also liked the taste of children – more on her in next issue), her troll husband Leppalúði and the non-trollish thirteen mischief-making Yule-lads in a cave somewhere up in the mountains. As far as we know, Jólakötturinn and his evil, biting teeth are still at large. Merry Christmas, everybody! 



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X-MAS

Candy From Trolls

BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE — PHOTO BY JÓI KJARTANS

The basement of the restaurant Tabasco's has been transformed into a small theatre, where these days the man-eating Christmas troll Grýla, lures in her victims with the irresistible smell of cookies and smoked meat. Suddenly she appears from the twilight, but really, not as ugly and old as I imagined; and in contrast to her misanthropic reputation, she opens quite friendly: "Hello, I am glad that you all could come. Take a seat and help yourself to some cookies." This is a friendly invitation to the play "Let's talk Christmas," a theatrical introduction to the Icelandic Christmas customs and fairytales.

For the next hour Grýla told her visitors about Icelandic cuisine first and foremost, as 'Jól' – like Christmas in most countries – is definitely a food-centred holiday. Grýla even serves a piece of most of the meals she introduces during her play, so that all of her guests can try the treats. Grýla also told her own story and how her cunning offspring, The Yule-lads, the Icelandic version of the Santa Claus. Every night for thirteen days leading up to Christmas, the Yule-lads come down from the mountains one by one, bringing treats.

With the show was, Grýla took off the headscarf and took a deep breath after her non-stop talk. The young woman who emerged from underneath the disguise is called Ólöf Hugufrún Valdimarsdóttir and has just graduated as an actor in England: "This play is my first engagement as an actor in Iceland. I thought it would be a good start." A friend of the actress wrote the play: "It has been penned by Snæbjörn Ragnarsson. He has already done much writing for stage and TV, although 'Let's talk Christmas' is his first play in English." The original idea of staging an entertaining crash-course in Icelandic Jól-customs for foreigners, however, came from a friend of Ólöf's, Anna Bergljót Thorarensen, who also acts as a producer for the play with her theatre company Kraðak. "Anna is a real Christmas fan," Ólöf explains. "That is why 'Let's talk Christmas' is not even the second play with a Christmas background in Kraðak's program this winter." 

Let's Talk Christmas is shown at 14:00 every day until Dec. 31, in the basement of Tabasco's, Hafnarstræti 1-3, 101 Reykjavík



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Slaughterhouse: A Culture Centre

BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON

It is midday when a Grapevine photographer and journalist get on board a plane heading to Egilsstaðir on the east coast of Iceland. The day's objective is a simple one. To visit the cultural centre Slátturhúsið (Slaughterhouse) and take part in the Days of Darkness, a local art and culture festival, celebrating the return of winter with an ambitious program by both local and visiting artists.

Originally built in 1946 as a slaughterhouse for sheep and cattle raised by the surrounding farmers, Slátturhúsið closed its operations around 2000. In 2006, a group of ambitious people seized the rather large empty building to house a production by the local theatre group, in the sizeable freezing room, where the meat used to be stored until it was shipped off for production and packaging. Subsequently, the municipality bought the house, and it has since been used for cultural events, art exhibitions, concerts, plays, an annual shorts and video film festival, and other events of culture. The house has also been used by the local youth centre and is open every night for young people with extensive programmes on a regular basis. Inside, there is a recording studio and practice facility for musicians, and a fully equipped studio for video production.

"The role of the house is to encourage cultural life in the region," says director Kristín Scheving. "The building is ideal for this operation, there are many spaces of different sizes that serve different opportunities, so it is just as easy to house a small exhibition as it is as a bigger event in the "Freezing Room."

From the outside, the house looks very much like a slaughterhouse or another industrial complex, rather than a cultural centre. Inside, the house has been extensively restored, but the raw nature of an industrial building is inescapable. The raw character of the building serves as a great backdrop for the displays, but work still remains to further restore the house to better accommodate its current role.

We arrive in time to enjoy an exhibition opening by the local photography club on the upper floor, just where I imagine the kill floor to have been. In the adjoining space, the arts club is exhibiting their works. The night's programme also includes a performance by the visiting metalcore band Celestine from Reykjavík, joined by a local hardcore band called Chino.

The concert is a great success. The pitch darkness of the Freezing Room creates the perfect surroundings for the post-apocalyptic sounds of Celestine, and local heroes Chino surprise the visitors with a killer performance. 

Daily flights to Egilsstaðir are available from Air Iceland.
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The formerly prosperous independent benefactors of Icelandic films have ceased wheeling barrels of money to their glass-chrome palaces.

Sigurður Kjartan Kristinsson wonders about the future of the Icelandic film industry.

PAGE 8

A young man who concealed his face with a scarf climbed onto the Parliament balcony and put up a banner with the words "Iceland: Sold to the IMF for 2 Billion Dollars."

Valur Gunnarsson walks amongst the protestors.

PAGE 10

The ideas of cooperation and communal enterprise have been forced aside in this reality in which we have been living.

Páll Skúlason shares a few thoughts on neo-liberalism.

PAGE 12

In my experience, some restaurants tend to underestimate the importance of the herring tradition, both historically and thematically.

It is that time again. Enjoy the Julefrukost.

PAGE 19

This is the kind of message Icelanders like to send out in their folklore: if you do not have the money or means of acquiring new items of clothing before the festival of lights that is Christmas, you will be eaten by a gigantic cat.

More monster and mythical beings, X-mas edition.

PAGE 28



Little Moods of Norway has been doing the hibbety-dibbety on the international fashion dance floor for barely 4 years now, the philosophy is still the same even though the Norwegian oil price is as flexible as a Bulgarian gymnast after 14 tequila shots.

Our main goal, besides making our grandmas happy, is to make happy clothes for happy people around the world.



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XMAS**

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+ DJ Jói Megabeib
+ DJ E&E crew
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