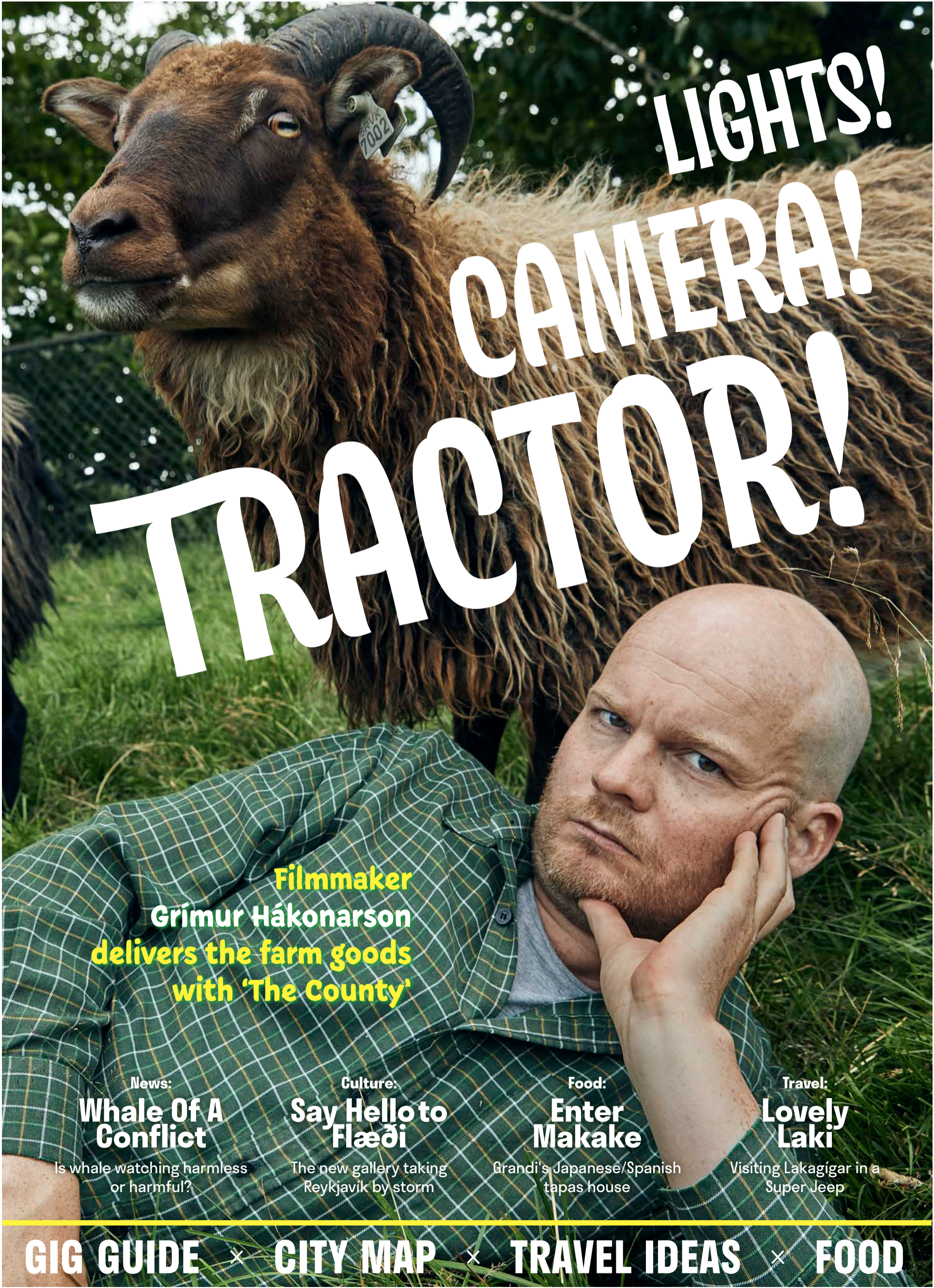


REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE



LIGHTS!
CAMERA!
TRACTOR!

Filmmaker
Grímur Hákonarson
delivers the farm goods
with 'The County'

News:
Whale Of A Conflict

Is whale watching harmless or harmful?

Culture:
Say Hello to Flæði

The new gallery taking Reykjavík by storm

Food:
Enter Makake

Grandi's Japanese/Spanish tapas house

Travel:
Lovely Laki

Visiting Lakagíggar in a Super Jeep



COVER PHOTOS:
Ari Magg
www.arimagg.com

ABOUT THE COVER:
Photographer Ari and director Grímur Hákonarson tried to depict Grímur's roots, as much of his inspiration

comes from time spent with relatives in the Icelandic countryside. As there wasn't much time to spare, the Icelandic countryside is portrayed by Húsdýragarðurinn, the Reykjavik zoo.

First



14: In Wonderland With The Raven

13: Dissoriented Whales
14: Vatnajökull Becomes UNESCO Heritage Site



24: Flowing Freely In Gallery Flæði

26: The Gospel Of Drunk Food
39: Ed Sheeran's Show: Our Review



48: Lakagígar: A Lassie On Laki

46: Whale Watching In Akureyri
45: Kröst On The Hot Plate



The County/The Country

EDITORIAL 'The County,' the latest film directed by our cover star Grímur Hákonarson, raises hard questions, not only about Iceland's business mentality, but also about the status of things when it comes to farmers in Iceland. The film attacks a rotten culture that Icelanders have in some ways not addressed for a long time and is still blooming in our society in some form or another.

monopoly and the fear of some vague threat that competition from another company will take everything away from them.

This is a real debate that has been ongoing in Iceland, often grounded in nasty populist rhetoric, especially when talking about the European Union or asylum seekers. But it also reflects a hard truth about Icelandic farmers and their fear of big bad EU regulations—like opening the market to the import of unfrozen meat products—while they barely survive within the closed Icelandic system, which allows monopolies to ensure a handful of people are always getting richer.

In short, the movie tells the story of Inga, an Icelandic farmer, who finds herself in a tough spot when tragedy knocks on her door. Amid her sorrow, Inga finds a channel for her anger by attacking a local business that disguises itself as a cooperative, but has actually turned its back against the ideals on which it was founded, and is now driven by profit for the few, at the expense of the hard working farmers in the county.

Hopefully, 'The County' will create a new platform for debate, and get people thinking that something has to change, not only with how Icelandic businesses often monopolize an industry—which is incredibly damaging for consumers and farmers alike—but also, that there is something rotten in a system where farmers and producers fail to make ends meet.

The co-op in Grímur's movie, Kaupfélag Erpsfirðinga, is based on a real company and he is not trying to disguise it very well. In truth, it's not really about one county; it's about the entire country. The co-op's fortune is founded on

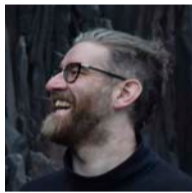
This has to change, and Grímur's new film may be the catalyst for a sensitive national debate. **VG**



Elin Elisabet is an illustrator and cartoonist born and raised in Borgarnes. At the tender age of 15, Elin moved to Reykjavik and hasn't looked back, except for the annual springtime impulse to move someplace quiet and keep chickens. Elin likes folk music, stationery, seal videos, the country of Ireland, and eggs.



Hannah Jane Cohen is based out of Iceland by way of New York. An alumni of Columbia University, Hannah has lived on five continents and speaks three languages fluently. Her visionary work is known for expanding the definitions of emotion, introspection, and above all else, taste.



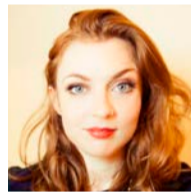
John Rogers is an Englishman who first joined Grapevine as a music writer, later graduating to Managing Editor. A constant traveller and a lover of art, culture, food & nightlife, he edits our Best of Reykjavik, Best of Iceland, and Iceland Airwaves sister publications. His first book, "Real Life," was published in 2014.



Shruthi Basappa traded the warmth of Indian summers for Iceland's Arctic winds. She's a food enthusiast masquerading as an architect at Sei Studio, and loves obsessive attention to detail. When not leading our Best of Reykjavik food panel, she can be found trying to become a Michelin restaurant inspector.



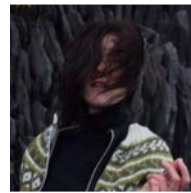
Sveinbjörn Pálsson is our Art Director. He's responsible for the design of the magazine and the cover photography. When he's not working here, he DJs as Terrordisco, hosts the Funkpátturinn radio show, or sits at a table in a Laugardalur café, drinking copious amounts of coffee and thinking about fonts.



Josie Gaitens is a Grapevine intern who is also a freelance arts project coordinator, musician and writer from the Scottish Highlands. She was once erroneously referred to as the Queen of Scotland by a Malaysian newspaper and has been falsely using that title ever since.



Andie Fontaine has lived in Iceland since 1999 and has been reporting since 2003. They were the first foreign-born member of the Icelandic Parliament, in 2007-08, an experience they recommend for anyone who wants to experience a workplace where colleagues work tirelessly to undermine each other.



a rawlings is Grapevine's literature correspondent, also covering environmental news, travel, and more. An interdisciplinary artist whose work focuses on environmental ethics, dysfluency, and watery bodies, her books include 'Wide slumber for lepidopterists' and 'Sound of Mull.'



Lóa Hlin Hjalmtýsdóttir is a national treasure. One of Iceland's leading illustrators, when she's not drawing in her unique style, she's the front-woman of Icelandic electro-pop supergroup FM Belfast. Her comic strip Lóaboratorium appears every issue on page 8, and is also available as a daily dose on her Twitter.

Volcano & Earthquake Exhibition

Photo: Eyjafjallajökull Eruption 2010



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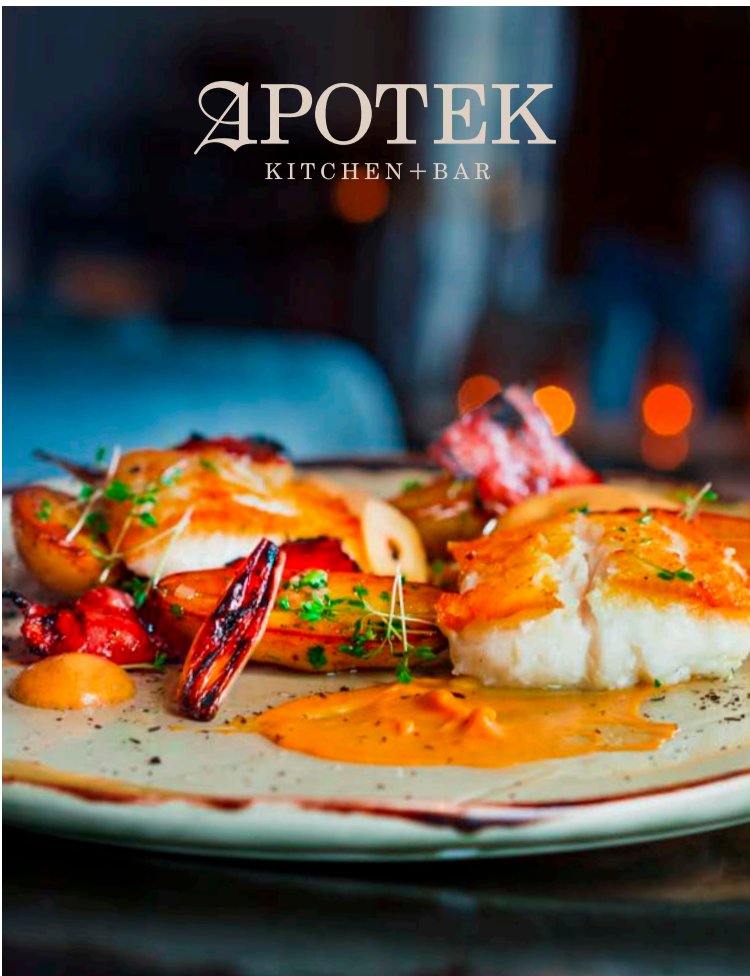
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more remarkable having seen
the inside of its machinery.**

- Financial Times -



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Pride's here! It's queer! Get into it.

What Are Icelanders Talking About?

WAB is here. Pride is here. Jim Ratcliffe, too

Words: Sam O'Donnell Photo: Art Bicnick

NEWS When it comes to land ownership, one would expect, at the very least, there would be some provision requiring the purchaser to reside in the country in which the land is purchased. This has proven not to be the case in Iceland, where billionaire **Jim Ratcliffe has bought up massive amounts of land in the interest of conserving Atlantic Salmon.** Apparently, with enough money and some semblance of noble motive, anyone can purchase land here.

As a whole, it's become an issue that foreigners are buying up entire farms and allowing the land to fall into disuse. The good news though, is that the Minister of Transport and Local Government, Sigurður Ingi Jóhannsson, has been working to reinstate restrictions on who can and cannot purchase land in Iceland. The bad news is that these provisions have been in the works since September 2018 and nothing has happened. Hopefully something passes soon, before somebody buys more land and allows it to turn to shambles.

Sparkles included

It's that time of year again; **Reykjavik Pride is in full swing.** The two-week-long string of events is the perfect way to celebrate your beautiful queerness (or support the beautiful queerness of others) in whatever way your heart desires.

Whether you go to a drag show, the parade, the gala, or all of the above, it is an experience not to be missed. Note, there's no need to worry about toting around the tots: The parade is family-friendly and open to all ages. Check out the Grapevine's Guide to Pride online for more info.

Bow down

Budget airline WOW Air went under earlier this year, much to the devastation of many króna-pinching Icelanders. The question on everyone's lips has since been: Where can we meagre peasants purchase tickets on a budget so we, too, may go on holiday? **The new airline, WAB is the answer.** They are in the financial stages of the venture, and have bought a 300 square metre office in Garðabær. WAB has already begun hiring new employees, and they hope to have the company running full blast by the fall, with planes flying to 14 locations in North America and Europe. Fingers crossed. ✨

CARTOON



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Crack open a cold one. Pay for it first.

The 1.8-Million Króna Beer Run

Northern Police Department investigates nearly a ton of beer stolen from a youth vocational program

NEWS

Over 1,900 liters of beer was stolen from a youth vocational programme on the night of July 2nd, according to Akureyri police. As we all know too well, there comes a time in every seasoned criminal's career when taking candy from babies eventually loses its kick. Then before you know it, you find yourself ripping off the educational programmes of your local teenagers.

Words: Logan Sigurðsson

Photo: Art Bicnick

Investigation Underway

The Northern Police Department are still working to find the mastermind whose stolen goods were near totally reclaimed the night immediately

following incident. One person has been questioned in the investigation so far, but the boozy bandit is still very much at large.

The volume of the stolen beer amounted to nearly a tonne, and was being packaged for Viking gift boxes. The gift boxes at Vínúðin are priced at 2,417 kr. a pack and include five different 500ml beers, or 2500 ml in the total set. So, the amount stolen was approximately 760 gift boxes, that's one beer for you and 3,799 of your closest friends, coming to the colossal total value of 1,836,920 ISK. And while it should be duly noted that the Reykjavik Grapevine does not condone theft or

any other crime, if you ever find yourself at the end of your rope, wall-to-wall with liquor, don't hesitate to reach out to our team for a timely drink review.

Vocational Programme To Continue

The gift boxes were being packaged at the Fjölsmiðjan centre, which prepares young people ages 16-24 years old for the general labour market or further education. The centre works with the youth to develop learning abilities and social skills; damage control skills being one of the programme's newest features.

Jokes aside, Fjölsmiðjan operates in cooperation with social services, municipalities, and the business community to provide opportunities to young people who are facing challenges. Those in the programme are described by the agency to be at a crossroads in life, so it is fortunate that, despite this heist, they will not miss out on the experience, as the programme is expected to continue.

Erlingur Kristjánsson, director of the centre, said the programme had been doing well, with this particular initiative with Coca Cola European Partners (the distributors of Viking beers) ongoing since last winter. For three hours a day, young people within the programme would prepare gift-boxes, which would then be housed by the manufacturer across the street.

In response to the theft, Erlingur told Fréttablaðið, "We have decided to set up surveillance cameras" noting that whoever committed the crime was familiar with Fjölsmiðjan, which previously had no surveillance system.

But be warned, not all the stolen goods have been recovered. So if, coincidentally, Christmas came early for you this year, perhaps now is the time to kindly ask that buddy of yours for a gift receipt. 🍷

ASKA Biologist Q: Why Do Whales Strand?



Words: Sam O'Donnell
Photo: Provided by the subject

In the wake of the recent beachings of pods of pilot whales in Snæfellsnes and Reykjanes, we reached out to marine biologist Edda Elísabet Magnúsdóttir, to ask: why do whales strand?

Pilot whales come into shallow waters for many reasons. Sometimes they are avoiding or escaping something, such as sound pollution from sonar or seismic activity. But there is also another reason, which is probably the most likely one: They are following prey.

Pilot whales primarily feed on squid. But, in some cases, when that prey is scarce or that prey moves, the whales swim to other types of prey. We think they are currently hunting mackerel. Mackerel fishermen see them around their boats, they are seen where there is a lot of mackerel, and we know that the whales sometimes feed on them.

The whales also go into shallow waters because there are forces they are not specifically adapted to, such as strong tidal currents. Strandings have been happening during spring tide—which actually occurs in mid-late summer—when there is a large difference between low and high tide. The tide will go out rather quickly and they're suddenly stranded.

What could also be happening is the leading animal, usually a matriarch, might somehow be disoriented, lost, sick, or hurt, so she might not be able to navigate properly, and the group follows. Pilot whales have strong familial bonds, and they don't leave each other, particularly not the matriarch. So if she gets into trouble, the whole pod gets into trouble. 🍷

FOOD OF ICELAND

Tópas



A sunny day of camping turned ugly this summer thanks to a flavour

that still lingers in my darkest nightmares. I took a swig of what I

understood to be an innocent, liquorice flavoured schnapps. Needless to say, I was bewildered by the only logical conclusion responsible for the concoction: Someone had mixed their booze and their mouthwash in a bid to optimise space in their backpack.

As an enthusiast of multitasking and efficiency, I could have let this go. How-

ever, my so-called friend went on to inform me that in fact, this spirit—Tópas—is a purposeful combination of herbs and the beloved strong Icelandic liquorice.

Liquorice is a versatile root, I'll give it that. Who can truly deny the star-quality of a plant that can both flavour cigarettes and serve as a laxative? Icelanders have been cultivating

liquorice since settlement times, and due to import restrictions following the Great Depression, it was actually the only candy flavour until the 1990s. That is, unless you rolled the dice with an American soldier to smuggle you a bag of M&M's and inject some colour into your life.

As an American myself, my taste-buds recognise a milder liquorice flavour that

actually derives from star anise rather than true liquorice root. Perhaps I'm just recovering from the lie I've been living, or maybe it's just a preference to spit out my mouthwash. Nonetheless, if you're looking to freshen up while up on a night out, look no further than a shot of Tópas. **LS** 🍷

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Cue "Ice Ice baby"

Be Cool, Or The Summer Will Suck

If it freezes the night before the first day of summer, everything is gonna be Gucci!

ICELANDIC SUPERSTITIONS

Words: Valur Grettisson

Photo: Art Bicnick

One of the oddest traditions that Icelanders have is to look at the weather the night before the 24th of April—the first day of summer—to forecast the months ahead. It's vital that summer's eve is really cold and the ground freezes. If this happens, you see, it means that the whole summer will be, as they say, Gucci.

Good weather?

As a test, farmers would often put out a sea shell full of water overnight on April 23rd to see if the water would freeze. If the summer and winter froze together, they believed, the fields would be late to bloom. Scientifically, for this to happen, they needed a cool and wet summer

for the first half, and a dry one for the second. This might be good for farmers, but definitely not for office workers who use their four weeks of vacation in the early summer, as the author of this piece did.

But, of course, what do farmers really know about good weather? Farmers don't see the relentless sun as positively as us city slickers. We just want to get some vitamin D in our blood and get a tan while we are it, goddammit.

Strong superstition

This superstition is so strong in Iceland that the media reports about it on the morning of the first day of summer. So it's safe to say that this is more than a silly belief, it's intertwined into the culture. ♡

JUST SAYINGS

„Hvað Dvelur Orminn Langa“

This bizarre saying translates to: What's keeping the long worm? What it means in practice is: Why the hell is this taking so long?

But what's up with the worm? Well, it's not really a worm, but a ship of Ólafur "The King" Tryggvason, who ruled Norway in the year 995. Snorri Sturluson first coined the phrase in Heimskringla, the most famous saga ever written. The words were spoken by some other king and an earl, who were tired of waiting for Olaf's ship to arrive, as they were anxious to kill him as soon as possible.

The phrase is sometimes still used in Iceland and is not that odd to say, especially if you want to sound super cool. VG ♡

LÓABORATORIUM



GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST

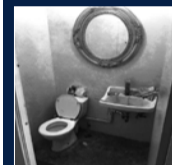
The must-hear music of the issue



Krummi - Stories To Tell
Krummi is a legendary rock and roll figure in Reykjavík, who also plays a part in making the best goddamn vegan food in town at Veganæs. His new song, "Stories To Tell," is the first offering from his new solo project. A solid country-blues folk song with a nice melody, it's a far cry from his metal years, but an interesting development for a good artist. VG



GKR - ENN AD LÆRA
After GKR's re-emergence with the somewhat depressing "SKROLLA," he's back with a similarly introspective track. While it's a rather generic trap song, the lyrics wow. With a hopeless vibe, GKR debates whether he wants to fit in or be an outsider in the rap scene, or if he even has a choice. Cheer up GKR. We like you. HJC



GÓÐXÆRI - Tú Trakk
A "album" that spans two minutes, the heavy punk effort 'Tú Trakk' is a fantastic thing to rebel to. While it was probably written, recorded, mixed, and mastered in the span of one hour, it's actually pretty fucking good. Breakdowns, desperate screaming, left wing ideology, and general havoc-ry, it's something we'd love to see this played live. HJC



Bubbi Morthens - Límdu saman heiminn minn
Bubbi Morthens is a solid Icelandic version of The Boss himself, Bruce Springsteen. He released a new album, 'Regnbogans stræti' (Rainbow Street, in English), just before Gay Pride. This song is classic Bubbi: solid craftsmanship but a little hollow. All in all, it's more of the same formula that we have heard from him over the past years. It's basic Bubbi pleasing the crowd. And there is nothing wrong with that. VG



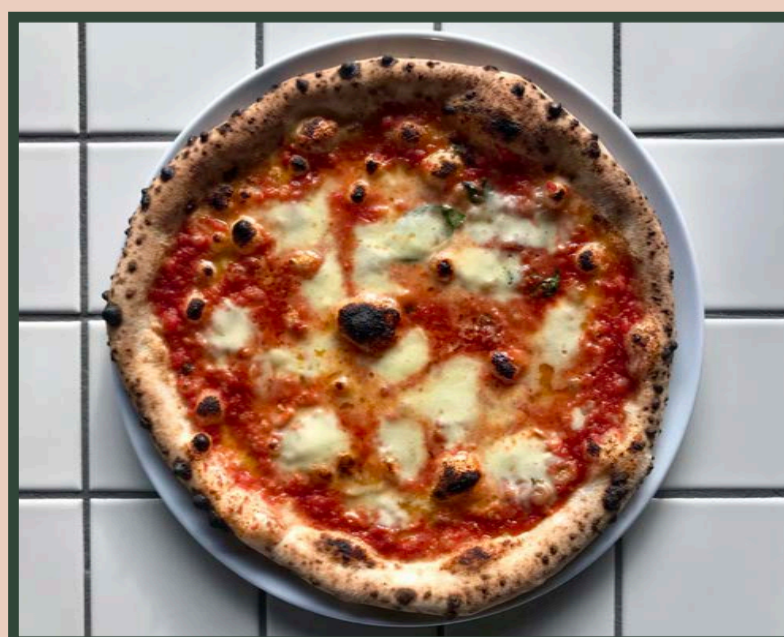
Joey Christ - Sagga ft. 24/7
A lethargic and in short, "Sagga" is the "Esskeetit" of Iceland—some absolutely meaningless word that is supposed to sound cool. The song is well composed but the lyrics are of course some echo of overblown American-Icelandic machoism. Nice for hip hop lovers; a tough one for haters. VG



Tara Mobee - ATYTA
For fans of Halsey and other pop woman, Tara Mobee will be a welcome addition. "ATYTA" is not her best work—the track demotes her powerful voice into a blanket haze of autotune. But she's young, talented, and still finding her niche. We're anxious to see what happens next. HJC

Listen, watch & hear more tracks: gpv.is/play

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 <i>The Climber</i> Theresia Ramm Guide	 <i>The Recorder</i> Nacho Oria Guide	 <i>The Observer</i> Katrina Davies Guide	 <i>The Islander</i> Ingibjörg Ósk Ingvarsdóttir Guide – Ticket Sales	 <i>The Pro Golfer</i> Hafþór Hermannsson Guide	 <i>The Endeavour</i> Freyja Pétursson Guide	 <i>The Enthusiastic</i> Serena Lagorio Guide	 <i>The Journalist</i> Mark Badalan Guide	 <i>The Boyfriend</i> Jack Cowley Guide
 <i>The Footballer</i> Kaelon Fox Assistant	 <i>The Mustang</i> Sverrir Yngvi Karlsson Head Captain RIB Speedboats	 <i>The Original</i> Hermann Daðason Head Captain Oak Boats	 <i>The Navigator</i> Aðalsteinn Steinþórsson Captain	 <i>The Tough Guy</i> Ingimar Eydal Óskarsson Captain	 <i>The Gentleman</i> Hallgrímur Guðmundsson Captain	 <i>The Farmer</i> Bjarni Eyjólfsson Captain	 <i>The Cosmopolitan</i> Sarah Arndt Captain – Guide – Ticket Sales	 <i>The Adventurous</i> Daniel González Captain – Guide

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THE REAL THING

Overpaid Footballers ...Or Are They?



It turns out that our football gods need more than glory and blood to survive—apparently, they actually need to get paid. Recently, the Icelandic players' association surveyed all the players in the Pepsi League about how much they were being paid for their glorious battles on the field. The footballers answers have fueled such a stir that even the one eyed Óðinn is forced to raise his monocle to read the answers.

It appears footballers' salaries have not been this high since the association started keeping track of the warriors' spoils. Around 30% of players earn up to US\$4,000 monthly, while up to 15% are paid around US\$8,000 per month. The controversial numbers, though are that five players claim they pocket US\$10,000 per month and three said that they take home a cool US\$29,000 monthly. This is significantly higher than in 2016 when the players answered the last survey.

The league's union argued that the survey results were incorrect and criticised the association for publishing them at all. They said that if these figures were correct, the top paid footballers would have a yearly salary of US\$500,000 — a figure no football club in Iceland could afford. In short, the union is claiming that their warriors either lied in the survey, or badly misunderstood the question. Either way, may the gods smite you all. VG ☞



FOOTBALL



#IcelandSmites: Let the battle (re) commence

Icelandic footballers poised to dominate the 2019-20 season all across Europe

Words: Greig Robertson
Illustration: Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir

And then there were two. The Premier League is one Viking general light after Aron Gunnarsson's departure to Qatar, leaving Everton's Gylfi Sigurðsson and Burnley's Jóhann Berg Guðmundsson bearing the burden of English omni-obliteration in 2019/20. Needless to say, they are hungrier and more bloodthirsty than ever in their pursuit of a global Norse theocracy to rule the lands, skies and seas. Here's what the deadly duo got up to in phase one of this

year's battle ... plus a spiritual intervention on behalf of one of their fallen comrades.

Jói degrades unsaintly Southampton in 3-0 smashing

Jóhann Berg Guðmundsson provided plenty of sauce for the chip on his manager's shoulder as his Burnley team swept aside a sorry Southampton at Turf Moor. The scores were level until Ashley

Barnes' 63rd minute opener sparked a rare flurry of goals for the home side. The Austria u20 international doubled The Clarets' lead just seven minutes later before "The Berginator" capped off the victory with a merciless finish past Saints keeper Angus Gunn. After finding opportunities limited at the back end of last term, the wing wizard took no prisoners when staking his claim for a regular starting berth in the new season. Let's all raise a glass of mead to the pillaging to come.

Gylfi banks energy for the great war

Infamous Iceland smitee Roy Hodgson took some steps towards repairing his eviscerated reputation by thwarting "Viking Virtuoso" Gylfi Sigurðsson at Selhurst Park in a 0-0

"They are hungrier and more bloodthirsty than ever in their pursuit of a global Norse theocracy to rule the lands, skies and seas."

bore draw. Though our boys' main man spurned a glaring opportunity early on with an uncharacteristic scuff wide from a Lucas Digne cross, he is, of course, saving his best for the business end of the season, with Everton expected to challenge the top six status of Chelsea and Manchester United. In a worldwide exclusive, the Norse Gods told the Grapevine to expect a 30-yard Gylfi rocket in the weeks to come. Make of that what you will.

Óðinn smites Villa after "Horror Hooves" hatchet job

Tottenham channeled the fury of Óðinn to smite Premier League newcomers Aston Villa 3-1 on their return to the big time, just days after their sadistic release of Birkir Bjarnason. The Villa faithful were hopeful of taking at least a share of the spoils back to Birmingham, having taken the lead on nine minutes through John McGinn. But a Tanguy Ndombele thunderbolt and a late Harry Kane brace ensured that Birkir was avenged in the most brutal and bloody fashion. The Iceland midfielder is now free to find himself a new club, with former club Pescara reportedly interested.

Follow our live-tweets on Euro qualification matchdays on Twitter at @rvkgrapevine. Iceland's march to the Euro 2020 trophy will continue throughout 2019.

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"We have failed to take care of these victims properly."

Iceland's current system to combat trafficking, or lack thereof.

Local human trafficking is rarely discussed publicly in Iceland, largely due to misconceptions of what the crime actually looks like in our communities. Public awareness is one of many components that should be organised under a National Action Plan To Combat Trafficking in Persons. This plan would set strategic prioritisations to combat trafficking nationally, and include who will take care of what, how, and with what funding. There is currently no such plan after the last (generally criticised) plan expired in 2016.

"The worst thing about trafficking in Iceland—the reason there is no real progress—is because no one has been made responsible for taking specific measures in the fight against trafficking," explains Drífa Snædal. As the president of the Icelandic Confederation of Labour, and former director of the Women's Shelter, she has encountered numerous cases of trafficking throughout her career. It is this regular exposure to the problem that has made Drífa a passionate advocate for an action plan to assign such responsibilities.

A Failing Structure

The current lack of an action plan to combat trafficking is not only a violation of international law; it is also costing current victims their freedom.

"Trafficking cases we have identified are being lost," says Drífa. "We have failed to take care of these victims properly." Even when someone is identified as a victim of trafficking, Drífa explains that a variety of different parties must organise to allocate food, lodging, legal aid, and medical and psychological services. Collaborating across organisations and ministries while simultaneously working to build

a solid legal case has proven unsuccessful.

"Good work is being done," Drífa assures, "but it has been taking far too long to actually help victims." Victims often leave Iceland before any real justice can be achieved, and risk re-victimization when lacking proper rehabilitative intervention.

"Trafficking is like drugs," Drífa explains, "You get the statistics out of the issue based on the resources you put in."

Currently, those statistics leave us with only one successful human trafficking conviction, which was made in 2010.

Progression Towards Real Change

Drífa is optimistic about the committee's meeting this month to develop an implementable action plan. "I feel there has been a change in the political attitude," she said, noting that the committee was a commitment from a "Government's Focus of Action" policy released in March.

Left-Green Party MP Andrés Ingi Jónsson also said he is optimistic, but cautiously so. "Not having an Action Plan for so long gave the impression that combating trafficking wasn't a very high priority," he explains. "Hopefully the new plan will be followed by concrete action and maybe—most importantly—the allocation of necessary resources"

Drífa's first recommendation, as a committee member, will be to assign a national coordinator to optimize victim assistance and provide much needed oversight. The results of the committee meetings will determine the national capabilities to combat trafficking and, ultimately, victims' chances for escape. ☘

Hope For Victims Escaping Trafficking in Iceland

The new human trafficking committee will start meetings this month

Words: Logan Sigurðsson
Photo: Art Bicnick
 For years, Iceland has been under international and domestic pressure to take government action to address what experts have persistently pointed to as abundant symptoms of human trafficking. Now, rescuing victims may soon be more practical, as the Ministry of Justice will head meetings this month to organise national efforts against the control and exploitation of individuals.

In Iceland?
 The United States' Trafficking in Persons Report revealed in June that domestic and foreign victims are being exploited in Iceland, specifically via labour trafficking, sex trafficking, and forced begging. This data was derived from local sources who continually see cases matching human trafficking criteria, but are unable to make any headway towards convictions due to



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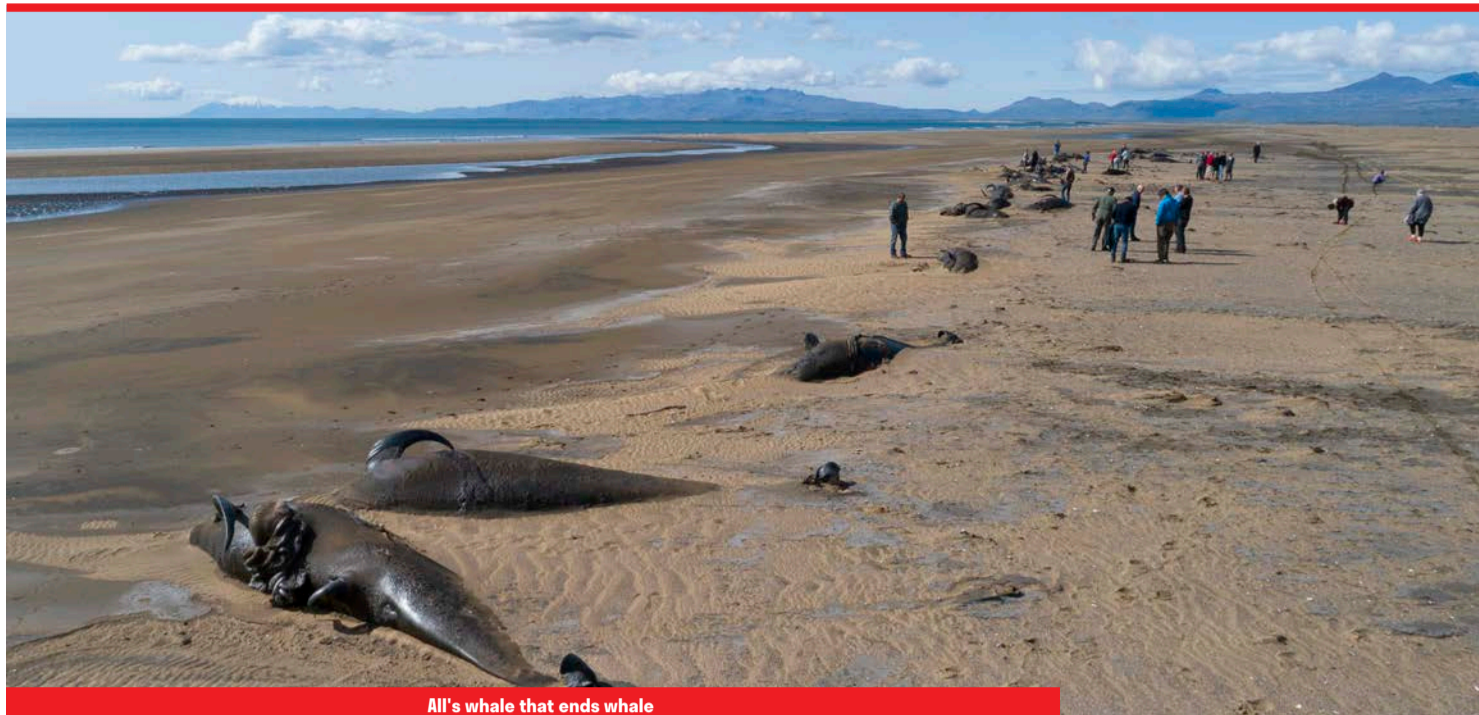
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All's whale that ends whale

A Whale Of A Conflict

Are whale watching ships responsible for the recent strandings?

Words:
Sam O'Donnell

Photo:
Art Bicnick

A biologist at the Marine Research Institute (MRI) created a stir this week after declaring that whale watching boats could be to blame for the recent pilot whale strandings along the Snæfellsnes and Reykjanes peninsulas.

On August 6th, Sverrir Daniel Halldórsson suggested to state broadcaster RÚV that noise from whale watching ships could cause the whales to become confused and move toward shore.

"I heard of a group [of whales] in Faxaflói Bay, which was probably this

group [that eventually stranded], and there were six whale watching boats around them," he said. "Therefore, I think it's not unlikely that it may have distracted them. That is, noise from the boats."

The Board of Whale Watching in Iceland promptly requested that Sverrir retract his statement, saying that, while their ships were watching the pelagic whales, they were nowhere near them, and that it is more likely that private boats are to blame.

"In recent years, whale watching companies, the University of Iceland, and foreign parties have been researching the possible effects of whale watching on animal behaviour, such as food production, and have shown that the effects are small or nonexistent in the long run," read a statement from the Board. It further asserted that it was irresponsible of MRI to make such a public statement without scientific data or research to back it up.

The voice of reason

"It's highly unlikely that the whale watching boats are causing this," Edda Elisabet Magnúsdóttir, PhD marine biologist at the University of Iceland,

said of the quarrel. "If it would have been the boats disturbing the whales, it would have led to stranding very quickly." She went on to say that Sverrir was referring to a whale watching tour that happened around the 16th of July, while the first stranding occurred two weeks later.

In the midst of the drama, the two parties came together for a meeting on the afternoon of August 7th, which proved to be a harbinger of peace. Gísli Víkingsson, head of whale research at MRI, defended his employee, saying that the comments were taken out of context. "[Sverrir] did not state that this incident was a likely reason for the stranding event last weekend," he explained. "Although, he said that such behaviour of whale watching operators could negatively affect the behaviour of whales."

Gísli also iterated that the way this situation has been handled in the media has caused people to draw a direct connection between the two incidents, which was not the intention of MRI.

Moving forward

"I think we all agree that while there is no way to determine the cause of this

particular event, and that there is a need for more research on interactions between cetaceans and the whale watching industry, as well as other vessel traffic, and also more generally on the causes of mass strandings of

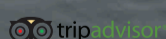
cetaceans," Gísli said, insisting Sverrir's original comments were in the spirit of whale conservation.

Ensuring the welfare of whales is certainly something we can all agree on.

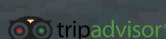
"It's highly unlikely that the whale watching boats are causing strandings."



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Hrafn, potentially pointing at his "depressed Jesus"

Adventures In Wander-Land

Journeying through the mind and mystery of Hrafn Gunnlaugsson

Director Hrafn Gunnlaugsson's house sits on the edge of the city, dividing the land, sea and opinions. Somewhere between sprawling junk heap and decaying spaceship, it's hard to believe the structure was built rather than formed through weird forces of magnetism and magic.

Hrafn is a controversial figure—he's a childhood friend of Davíð Oddsson, the former prime minister of Iceland and co-called architect of last decade's economic collapse; he even directed movies scripted by Davíð while he was still in office. Over the years, Hrafn's political links, strong opinions, and personal life have gained him a level

of notoriety throughout the country, perhaps even more so than his art.

'When The Raven Flies,' Hrafn's most well-known film, is currently being screened as part of a summer series of classic Icelandic films at Bíó Paradís. Created in 1984, it is considered an Icelandic masterpiece. Ostensibly, this is what we are here to talk about.

Art house living

But conversations with Hrafn are rarely so linear. Within a few sentences of being asked about the film, he has somehow covered Germanic languages,

drag culture, and symbolism. Midway through discussing religion and individualism, he leaps up, his energetic air belaying the presence of the cane he uses to support himself. "Let me show you my art department," he grins.

He gestures towards a wall a few steps away covered in pictures, paintings and figurines. In all honesty, the 'art department' isn't much different than any other wall there—all possible surfaces of the house, including the ceilings, are thoroughly covered with knick-knacks. Pointing at various items, Hrafn passionately talks us through children's paintings, love notes, and even an image of a "depressed Jesus."

It's hard to imagine what the house looked like before Hrafn's sprawling and heterogeneous collection took over. "I've been the owner for about 40 years," he tells me, "but for the first 10 it was only used for making decorations. Slowly I moved into the set. It grew like a coral reef; one thing came after another."

"I feel very strange to the man who made that film. I don't know him anymore."

Cycle of change

Items from the accumulated detritus constantly catch Hrafn's attention as we pass them, perpetually sending him wheeling off in different directions.

"There is a strange interest in this film," he muses upon taking notice of a poster for 'When the Raven Flies.' "This rock and roll group wrote new music and had screenings in 2014." The group in question, the not-insignificant Sólstafir, has performed their new soundtrack

multiple times. I ask Hrafn about this reworking and he glows with positivity: "It was fantastic because it adds something to the film. They saw something I hadn't noticed." He continues, "Young people see something different and in a way I'm very happy with that because for me it means that the film still has some message." He laughs, shaking off his pensive tone: "Anyway, it's not dead! It didn't die before me!"

But making the film was not an easy-process for the artist. "It was an enormous pain. It was made with no money and I had to do everything. I was the decorator, the script writer, the director, the producer—I was completely alone. I don't know how I could make it. Some kind of madness comes into your life and you have to survive and live with the madness for a while."

With accolades continuing to roll in, the longevity of the work is undeniable. But, 30 years later, how does Hrafn feel about the film? What legacy does it hold for him?

"I feel very strange [in contrast to] the man who made that film. The changes you have in life, you change so much. You are a child; you are a teenager; you are at university. One day you are working and one day you get old. I don't know the man who made these films anymore. I'm not even sure I would say hello to him if I met him on the street," Hrafn walks ahead, out an open door. "This cycle of changing is so fantastic."

A walk on the wild side

There's a distinct sense of being on a different planet, or in another time as we exit the house and look out over the jagged coastline. The garden is a feral knot of wild plants and rusted structures. Most notable are the numerous specimens of Giant Hogweed towering over everything. "I love these plants," Hrafn says, passionately. "They have this power, they grow out of the earth in a few weeks. In two or three months they become four metres high. Imagine

that! Four metres in one summer." He shakes his head in wondrous disbelief.

Giant Hogweed is an invasive species in Iceland. It contains sap that is horribly phototoxic if touched, causing blisters and permanent scar-

ring. Often, the victims of the plant's advanced defense system are playful children, enchanted by the flora's elephantine proportions. But Hrafn is completely undeterred by this danger. "I don't believe that you get hurt by them," he declares fiercely. "I think it's a fantasy. It's like saying you get hurt by roses—of course you can hurt yourself with roses. You can hurt yourself with anything."

"I want to disappear"

By this point in the conversation we have circumnavigated the whole house, the wild and meandering path providing a symbolic backdrop to the surreal metaphysical journey Hrafn has taken us on. Hrafn is still talking in his stream-of-consciousness way, and has found his way to the subject of religion.

"In all these religions," he ponders, "we are taught about eternal life." Stopping to think, silhouetted against the backdrop of the Giant Hogweed, a beatific smile spreads across his face. "The greatest punishment I can imagine myself is eternal life. I want to disappear. Your life should finish like a good movie." ☘

Words:
Josie Gaitens

Photos:
Art Bicnick



Hrafn and his beloved poisonous plants

Farmers Market

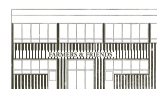
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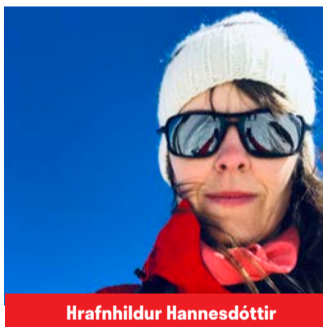


Vatnajökull's new status as a UNESCO site will encourage scientific exploration

UNESCO Embraces Vatnajökull

Iceland's National Park now a UNESCO World Heritage Site

This summer, Vatnajökull National Park was deemed a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In order to determine the suitability of the Vatnajökull property, UNESCO appointed the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to perform a technical evaluation of the world heritage nomination, resulting in their approval of the site in July. In addition to the protection afforded a national park, Vatnajökull will now receive periodic international monitoring.



Hrafnhildur Hannesdóttir

Iceland now holds three UNESCO World Heritage demarcations. The first to receive this designation was the cultural property Pingvellir National Park, which was awarded the notation in 2004. The island of Surtsey, which emerged during submarine volcanic eruptions from 1963 to 1967, received UNESCO World Heritage status as a natural property in 2008.

Unusual size

According to the Environment Agency of Iceland, approximately 22% of the country is under environmental protection. Vatnajökull National Park covers 14% of Iceland, rendering it the largest protected site in the country. The park was estab-

lished in 2008, and its borders have expanded over the past decade to include new sites of glaciovolcanic activity.

Those familiar with UNESCO sites worldwide will note that it is unusual for such a large part of a country to be deemed a UNESCO site. As outlined in the committee's full nomination file, the nominated property includes Vatnajökull National Park as well as the adjacent protected areas of Herðubreiðarlindir and Lónsöræfi.

Natural laboratory

"The heart of Iceland really lies in Vatnajökull," says Hrafnhildur Hannesdóttir, one of four signatories to the UNESCO nomination, and a glaciologist whose PhD research studied the correlation between climate change and the Vatnajökull ice cap. Hrafnhildur's assertion implies the geologic formation of the island via volcanic activity affiliated with the mantle plume, the physical location of the site which comprises a considerable amount of Iceland's highlands, and the nation's cultural relationship with the glacier.

The UNESCO nomination was initiated in 2016 by former Vatnajökull National Park manager Snorri Baldursson. He brought Hrafnhildur on board for her work with Icelandic glaciers. "There are

few places on earth where you have this interplay between volcanoes and glaciers," comments Hrafnhildur. "It is a natural laboratory for studying glacier changes in a warming climate. Lots of research has been carried out on this ice cap; we don't have many glaciers of this size in the world that have such a long history of research."

Glacial change

For her PhD research, Hrafnhildur studied ten outlet glaciers, correlating data on how the ice cap's southern side has advanced and retreated in past centuries. This research was funnelled into modelling work to see how glaciers may respond to a warming climate.

According to Hrafnhildur, her research showed that "the ten glaciers all show signs of retreat, and had their maximum sizes by the end of the 19th century. Depending on the ratio between the accumulation area (above the snowline) and the ablation area (below), their elevation, and if there is a glacial lake, this influences how they respond. It's not enough to take one glacier and tell the story; you need to look at a selection to get the whole picture."

Range of support

The designation of the national park as a World Heritage Site gives Hrafnhildur hope for the continued protection of Vatnajökull. "I hope that getting this site on the UNESCO list means we receive more support to build up the infrastructure of the park. In many areas, the park needs more financial support for hiking trails and visitor centres."

Hrafnhildur knows this from experience, as she worked as a ranger at Askja, Herðubreiðarlindir, and Kverkfjöll in the mid-2000s. At that time, Hrafnhildur

participated in her first expeditions onto the Vatnajökull ice cap.

"The Glaciological Society has a weeklong expedition each spring to Grimsvötn," she explains. "Since 2004, I have joined them irregularly. This was my first real connection to the ice cap, and this led me to study glaciology."

Ice met

Hrafnhildur works at the Icelandic Meteorological Office (IMO), where she conducts data-gathering of outlet glaciers' fluctuation by involving voluntary citizen scientists through the Icelandic Glaciological Society. They visit approximately forty glaciers annually to measure them and share the measurements with an international database on glacial changes.

Additionally, there is a dataset in progress to outline Icelandic glaciers from the 1890s until now, in order to map an aerial view of the glacier masses over the years. Hrafnhildur hopes this will be included in the next Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report.

Flowing channels

Due to glacial melt and volcanic eruptions, the UNESCO property will no doubt undergo significant transformation in the coming decades. Hrafnhildur notes that "it's a very dynamic area with floods and eruptions, so of course that will influence the landscape."

"The boundary of the park on the southern side is in most places based on the outline of the glaciers in 1998. Even though the glaciers are retreating, the boundary will remain stationary in some sense."

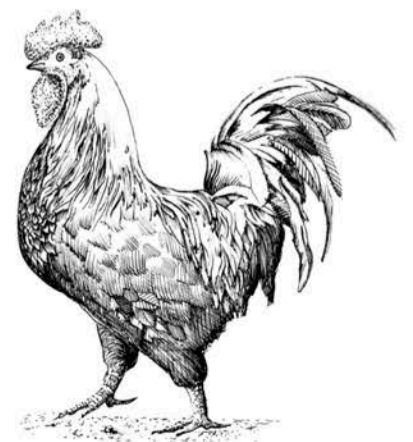
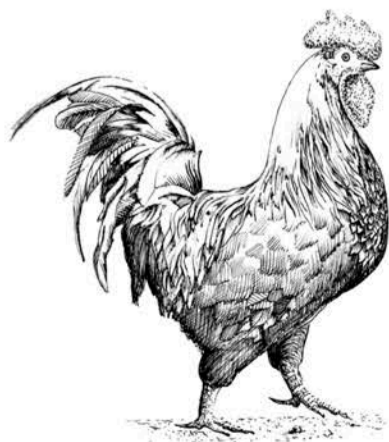
The only foreseeable change to the World Heritage property could come via inclusion of additional protected sites. The IUCN advisory committee noted that there are tentative UNESCO World Heritage Sites proposed from Iceland, including Mývatn and Laxá near Dettifoss, as well as the Torfajökull Volcanic System near the Laki craters. They note these could be considered in the future as an extension of the current Vatnajökull property.

As for the UNESCO World Heritage nomination, Hrafnhildur says, "I think my work is done, but we continue with more outreach projects. People working in the tourist industry are really keen on being able to educate their visitors. They're contacting the IMO and the Institute of Earth Sciences at the University of Iceland asking us to help them with educational signs along the glaciers. I will continue to work both with Vatnajökull National Park and with local tour operators to keep the channels flowing with scientific findings." ❖

"The heart of Iceland really lies in Vatnajökull."

Words: a rawlings

Photo: Adobe stock & Hrafnhildur Hannesdóttir



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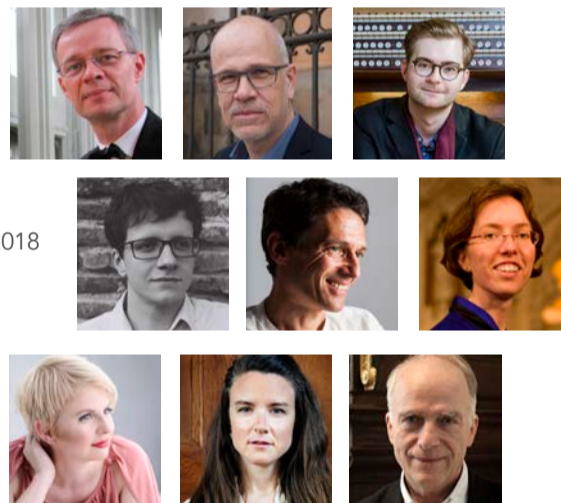


THE INTERNATIONAL ORGAN SUMMER IN HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA

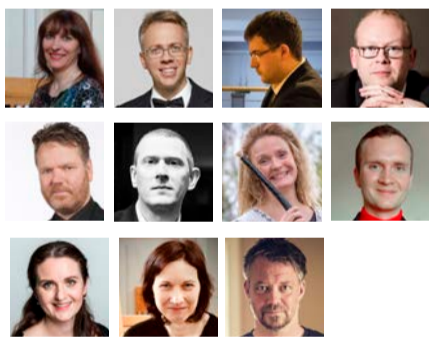
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WEEKEND CONCERTS WITH INTERNATIONAL CONCERT ORGANISTS SATURDAYS AT 12 NOON AND SUNDAYS AT 5 PM

- 22nd/ 23rd June **Björn Steinar Sólbergsson** organist at Hallgrímskirkja, Reykjavík
- 29th/ 30th June **Mattias Wager**, organist at Stockholm Cathedral, Sweden
- 6th/7th July **Johannes Skoog**, concert organist, Sweden
- 13th/ 14th July **Johannes Zeinler, Austria**, 1st prize winner at the Chartres International Organ Competition 2018
- 20th/ 21st July **Yves Rechtsteiner**, concert organist, France
- 27th/ 28th July **Isabelle Demers**, Canadian concert organist and organ professor, USA
- 3rd/ 4th August **Lára Bryndís Eggertsdóttir**, organist at Hjallakirkja Kópavogur, Iceland
- 10th/ 11th August **Susannah Carlsson**, organist at Lund Cathedral, Sweden
- 17th/ 18th August **Johannes Geffert**, concert organist from Bonn, Germany
- 25th August **Mattias Wager**, organist at Stockholm Cathedral, Sweden



LUNCHTIME CONCERTS WITH ICELANDIC ORGANISTS - THURSDAYS AT 12 NOON



- 27th June **Tuuli Rähni**, organist at Ísafjörður Church
- 4th July **Guðmundur Sigurðsson** organist at Hafnarfjörður Church
- 11th July **Eyþór Franzson Wechner** organist at Blönduós Church
- 18th July **Jón Bjarnason**, organist at Skálholt Cathedral with **Vilhjálmur Ingi Sigurðsson** and **Jóhann Ingvi Stefánsson** trumpets.
- 25th July **Ágúst Ingi Ágústsson** organist Reykjavík with **Lene Langballe**, zink/ cornetto and recorder, Denmark
- 1st August **Steinar Logi Helgason** organist Reykjavík, with 3 baritone singers: **Fjölur Ólafsson**, **Örn Ýmir Arason** and **Hafsteinn Thorólfsson**
- 8th August **Guðný Einarsdóttir** organist at Háteigskirkja, Reykjavík
- 15th August **Kitty Kovacs** organist at Landakirkja, Westman Islands
- 22nd August **Eyþór Ingi Jónsson** organist at Akureyri Church

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON WITH SCHOLA CANTORUM PRIZE WINNING CHAMBER CHOIR OF HALLGRÍMSKIRKJA

Schola Cantorum chamber choir of Hallgrímskirkja is celebrating its 11th season of the popular Wednesdays Lunchtime Summer Concert this summer. The choir sings various beautiful music from their repertoire, both Icelandic choral pearls as well as famous choral works by Byrd, Bruchner, Handel, Mendelssohn and more, occasionally accompanied by the great Klais organ. Conductor is Hörður Áskelsson, Music Director of Hallgrímskirkja. Coffee and tea served after the concert.



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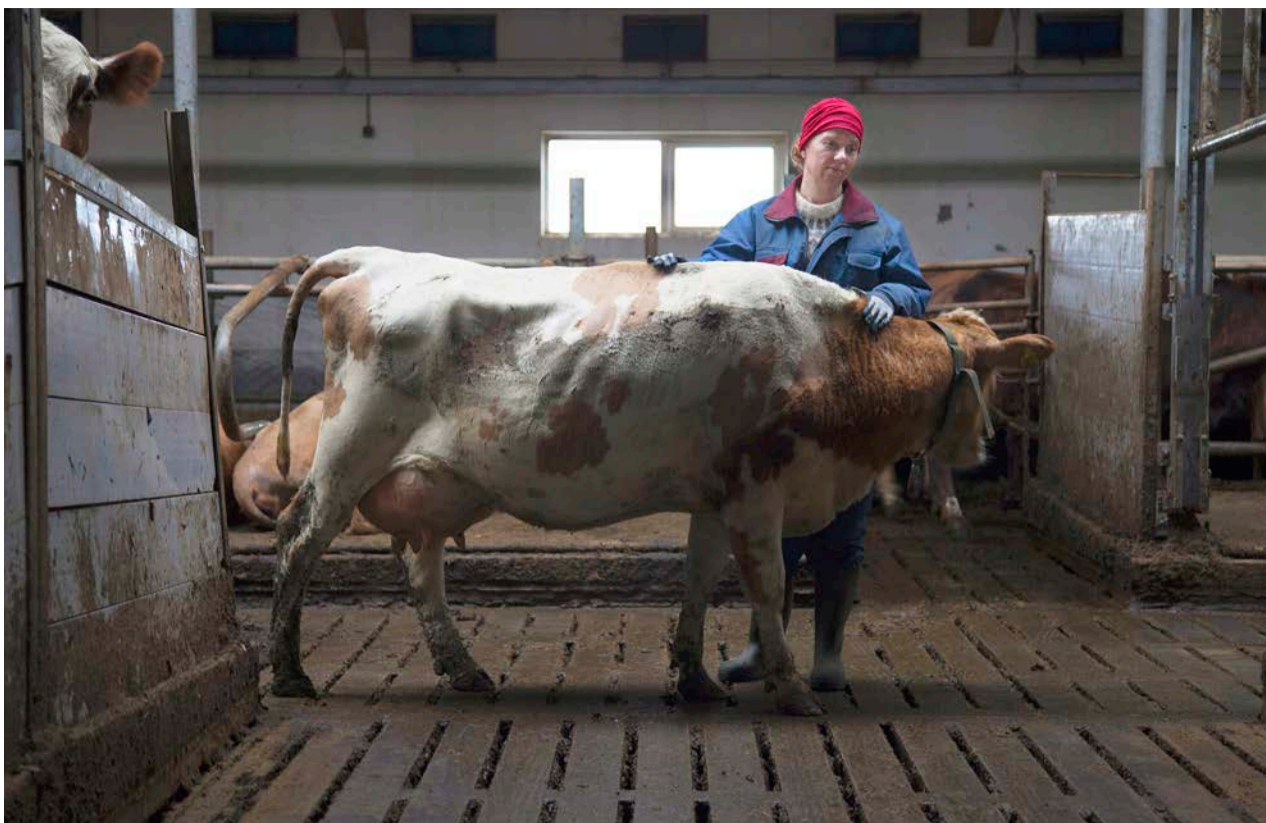
Farm-Fresh Film

Getting real with
award-winning
filmmaker Grimur
Hákonarson

Words:
a rawlings

Main Photos:
Ari Magg

Additional Photos:
Brynjar Snær (black and white set photos)
Margrét Seema Takyar (color set photos)



Farmers are protagonists. Sets are sheep sheds and weather-worn farmhouses. Tractors steal the scene. Someone flings mud and sheep shit out of anger.

Grímur Hákonarson is on the verge of premiering 'Héraðið / The County', the much-anticipated follow-up to his wildly successful 'Rams' from 2015. He writes and directs social realist films based in the Icelandic countryside; his focus on rural communities and down-to-earth people makes for uncommon cinematic fodder. The portrayal of bleak situations is at times dramatic or comedic, and always heart-stirring—a refreshing vision on the big screen.

Zoom in on 'The County'

Grímur's eye contact is unwavering. His countenance is serene and serious. Conversation rolls smoothly. His demeanor indicates no underlying nervousness; surprising given the significance of this moment in his career.

"I started to write 'The County' shortly after 'Rams' came out in 2015," Grímur explains. "When I made 'Rams', my future was undecided. When you're making your first movies, you're not sure if you can keep on. 'Rams' was my second film; my first one didn't do so well. I didn't have any plans after I made 'Rams.'"

The Icelandic and international film industries, however, had other plans for Grímur's film career. 'Rams' won the coveted Cannes Film Festival's Prix Un Certain Regard, and was selected as Iceland's entry to the Academy Awards' Foreign Language Film category in the same year.

"After I made 'Rams', a lot of doors opened for me everywhere, in Iceland and abroad," Grímur recalls. "The idea for 'The County' came up and so I decided to follow up on 'Rams' by making another Icelandic movie."

Freeze frame on revolution

On the poster for 'The County', protagonist Inga stares directly at you. Her portrait looms over mountains, farmland, and a sole road. Like Grímur, Inga's eye contact is unwavering. She means business.

"Inga, the main character, is a dairy farmer running the farm with her husband," Grímur explains. "She decides to revolt against a cooperative establishment."

A transplant from the city, Inga operates her farm in the vicinity of the last remaining cooperative in Iceland. Her steely demeanour sets a tone of stolid challenge. The rural revolution will be televised, after all. Inga's lopa-peysa fades into the sky as she towers over a road that heads into the heart of northern farmland.

Pan shot of the cooperative

"In 'The County,' the community is suppressed by this one company, the cooperative," says Grímur. "Iceland's farming cooperatives used to be part of the cooperative movement from the 19th century. It's very old, but the cooperative movement collapsed in the 1990s."

In real life, only one cooperative exists now in Iceland, located in the northern region of Skagafjörður. 'The County' is based on the fictional corruption of the last cooperative to endure in contemporary society.

"Cooperatives were originally for the farmers to get higher prices for their products and lower prices for accessories," details Grímur. "But today, this company operates in almost every business in the area—in the fishing industry, in transportation, supermarkets, everything except hotels and restaurants. The farmers produce for the coop and buy everything from it. It's owned by a few thousand people and it's not meant to be profit-based. In its essence, it's a nice ideal that is meant to be society-friendly. But here we have the good old story; a few people take control and become corrupt."

'The County' was filmed on northern Iceland's Búðardalur and Hvammstangi farmlands, though place names were fictionalised. Grímur explains why fictionalising the community was important for the film: "Because it is a political movie, we didn't want to get shooed from anyone. The community in the film is much smaller than the community in Skagafjörður. We made it smaller for practical reasons."

Close-up on feminist film

Enter Inga, who has suffered a personal loss that pushes her into the revolt. "She is a woman who is not from the area; she's not home-grown and has a different perspective of the society," Grímur smiles. "You could say it is a feminist film."

The idea for her character emerged

*"I have this fetish to use **real people for small roles.** We had professional actors for the main roles, but a lot of characters are played by real farmers."*

through Grímur's friendship with women working as farmers in northern Iceland. "I've experienced myself that women are getting into the farming community, taking more control. It wasn't like that when I was young. It was more male-oriented. Inga's character is based on a few women I know from the countryside, driving tractors and doing everything by themselves. It used to be more divided."

His own experiences with Icelandic farmland give him a life-long understanding for the subjects he engages. "I



“I made a short film called ‘Wrestling’ about two homosexual wrestlers living in rural Iceland.”

have a background in the countryside,” Grímur relates. “Both my parents grew up on farms. When I was young, I spent a lot of time in the countryside with my grandfather. I have a personal connection.”

Interior shot of rural roots

The complexities of contemporary rural relations play well on the big screen. In a time of growing global population counterpointed by the rapid depopulation of rural areas such as can be seen around Iceland, Grímur’s tales provide refreshing takes on communities that receive far too little consideration from urban dwellers.

“I made a short film a long time ago called ‘Wrestling’ about two homosexual wrestlers living in rural Iceland,”

Grímur reflects. “That was my first attempt to make a film in the countryside. The outcome was pretty good. I felt like I had some kind of instinct for the lives of the people there; a good sense for this kind of life and the characters. Most Icelandic filmmakers are living in the city and don’t have the same sense for this kind of life.”

Moving shot of a pure heart

Another early project, Grímur’s documentary ‘Hreint Hjarta / A Pure Heart’ (2012) follows small-town priest Kristinn Ágúst through daily life. The film opens with Kristinn’s admission that being a priest is considered more a lifestyle than a career, as “you give up a part of your private life and assume a certain role.”

The documentary’s tension between private life and assumed professional roles proves a solid forebear for Grímur’s future films ‘Rams’ and ‘The County.’ Though these subsequent films are fiction, they are drawn from true stories.

Montage of dichotomies

‘Rams’ posits a public sheep-farming calamity amidst the intimacy of life-

long brotherly struggle, inviting the viewer into a tender and complex reality.

“These brothers in the true story, they died in the 1990s,” Grímur recalls. “It’s a pretty recent story. My father told me that story, and I based ‘Rams’ on it. There were two elements: the story of the brothers and the conflict of the sheep’s scrapie disease.”

Grímur elaborates on his penchant for embedding true-story struggles in his filmic fictions. “In most of my movies, there are conflicts between these kinds of old farming societies and the newer urban society. It’s in most of my films—the conflict between traditional Icelandic values and modern society’s capitalism. With ‘Rams’, it’s the romantic sheep farmer—the traditional Icelandic sheep farmer fighting against the educated veterinarians who want to kill the sheep. The veterinarians come from the city with all their regulations from the European Union and enter this farming community. It’s about that conflict.”

P.O.V. is political

‘The County’ is also based on true stories collected by Grímur. The film bases its conflict in subsuming patriarchy and corrupt business practices, Grímur explains. “In ‘The County,’ the elements I’m mixing are a modern farming woman who steps up from the male-oriented community, and then this society where one company has the destiny of all the people in their pockets and everyone is dependent on that.”

His interest in true-to-life drama informs the ethical explorations embedded in his film fictions. “There is always some kind of political angle in my films. ‘Rams’ is maybe not my most political film, as it’s much more about the relationship between the brothers. But ‘The County’ is much more focused on politics in society.”

Grímur pauses, his eye contact honest and steady. “I wouldn’t like to make a film about a story that doesn’t have any kind of societal or political point of view,” he admits. “I would never do such a film. It’s not that I’m preaching; I’m just interested in subjects. In ‘The County,’ there are these two perspectives and I try to give both perspectives a depth.”

Exterior shot: back to life, back to reality

Following true stories led Grímur to seek out film locations on actual working farms in the Icelandic countryside. ‘Rams’ was filmed in Bárðardalur, a long valley between Akureyri and Mývatn. ‘The County’ was filmed at farms around Búðardalur and Hvammstangi, with special focus on the ice-cream dairy farm Erpsstaðir.

“We had a very pleasant experience both in Bárðardalur and Búðardalur,” Grímur notes. “To shoot in Búðardalur, it’s possible to drive back home. In Bárðardalur, if it was a weekend, you couldn’t get back home to Reykjavík.”

The cast and crew involved in filming ‘The County’ on location created a makeshift community. “It’s really nice to film in rural areas,” Grímur recounts. “People want to help us. This family in Erpsstaðir, they were really kind to us.”

The farming community provided not only sets and sites, but also actors. A distinct aspect of Grímur’s directorial style is that he has, as he confesses, “this kind of fetish to use real people for small roles. We had professional actors for the main roles, but there are a lot of characters played by real farmers. It was a real experience, this sense that people in the area weren’t thinking about money; they were more interested in helping us and being a part of something, not to profit from it.”

The location and casting weren’t the only convenient aspects of the filming process. “With ‘The County,’” explains Grímur, “we had a higher budget. ‘Rams’ was mainly made from Icelandic money; it wasn’t really a high budget and it was more difficult to do that film. With ‘The County,’ we had more grants from abroad. We had more time to film and do some reshoots. Everyone got paid the wages they should get. That was convenient.”

Long shot of Toronto and beyond

Anticipation for public reception mounts as Grímur prepares to premiere ‘The County’ in Iceland. “It’s nice to start with the Icelandic premiere, and then take the film abroad. We actually already got into some festivals, and the film has been sold to 30 countries already.”

‘The County’ is slated for its international premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in September. Grímur brought ‘Rams’ to TIFF in 2015. “Returning to TIFF is an honour; it’s an A-Festival, especially good for marketing the film. It’s really important for the US market. We don’t have a North American distributor, so this is a good festival to get US and Canadian distributors. It’s not a festival with a competition, but it’s really important.”

Off-screen: birth of the new

Grímur shifts his eye contact to gaze out a window. “I’ve been doing ‘The County’ and another film simultaneously. The script is ready and we’re working on casting. It could possibly be shot next year. I’m trying to do both, keep on doing Icelandic movies but also make this.”

It turns out the other project is his first English-language film, which is set in the United States. “I’ve always made Icelandic-language films, so it’s going to be my first in English. But it’s a risky business in this English-language world. You are never sure if things are going to work out or not. It’s a project that might or might not happen.”

Grímur has always written his own films, but for the English-language project he collaborated with an Australian screenwriter. In addition to co-writing and bilingual expansion, the introduction of a new family member will necessarily shift his relationship to writing. “I just became a father three months ago. I have a baby girl, so now I’m looking for a writer to work with me on the next film since I won’t have the same time to write.”

With new parenthood, the premiere of ‘The County’ and seeds for collaborations sown, Grímur’s future portends a bountiful harvest. 🍷



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Bianca Del Rio: It's Jester Joke!

August 19th - 20:30 - Harpa - 5,500-23,500 ISK

"Beauty fades, but dumb is forever." So said the queen of crass, Miss Bianca Del Rio, who will finally make her long-awaited appearance at Harpa this Pride. So don your best clown makeup and leave your sunnies at home, for there will be shade as far as the eye can see. No one is safe...especially not Valentina. **HJC**



We Love Alcohol

Menningarnótt 2019

August 24th - Reykjavik

Menningarnótt, the only day getting drunk and passing out in the streets of Reykjavik is not only acceptable, but encouraged, will grace us with its potent presence on August 24th. The party will kick off with the Reykjavik Marathon in the wee hours and end with whatever drunk food you decide to scarf down at 5:00 AM. Also, many museums will be free, so even you 'intellectuals' can have fun. **HJC**



Spice Up Your Rhymes

GRL PWR / JóiPé x Króli / Úlfur Úlfur

August 17th - 21:00 - Gamla Bíó - 2,900 ISK

For those obsessed with both Icelandic rap and the Spice Girls, God has really blessed you this week. Taking the stage at this ridiculously fun concert will be veteran hip-hoppers Úlfur Úlfur, the undisputed kings of Icelandic rap JóiPé & Króli, and the Spice Girl cover band GRL PWR. Only in Iceland would they tell you want you want, what you really really want over some sick beats. **HJC**

CULTURE NEWS

Festival

August 18th at 17:00 at the Reykjavik Tool Library, which is at Eyjaflóð 3.



The show is BYOT: Bring your own tool.

Bring Your Own Drill

Toolraiser 2019 is the DIY fest you've been waiting fore

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen

Photo: Dominika Milek

The DIY, or rather DIT, scene in Reykjavik is booming, and one of its pillars is the Reykjavik Tool Library. On August 18th, the collective space will hold its annual fundraiser-cum-festival, Toolraiser, which will feature six local bands rocking out for drills, donations, and a whole lotta fun.

A bit of a whim

"I started the Tool Library last year on a bit of a whim," founder Anna Carolina Worthington de Matos says with a laugh. A warm, friendly, and outgoing Brazil transplant, Anna's love for the scene is infectious. "I basically got very sick and didn't have anything to do, so I started the Tool Library and when I left the hospital I actually had the money for it, so I had to do it."

She's being modest—in reality, the

amount of work Anna has put into the DIY space is immeasurable. From her hospital bed, she ran a wildly successful crowdfunding campaign to launch the library, raising almost €9,500.

"The concept is a circular economy," explains Anna. "That means by sharing things, most people can afford tools without having to pay a lot of money for one or another. What's the point of buying a 25,000 ISK drill when you only need it for five minutes?"

She smiles, clearly full of pride in what she's accomplished. The Library has been active for almost a year, with Toolraiser taking place on its birthday.

"The point is to create a community, and what better way than to have a bit of a party?"

A bit of a party

But the point of Toolraiser goes far beyond helping the Library financially. "The point is to create a community, and what better way than to have a bit of a party?" Anna says with a grin. "So we have a gig and the entrance fee is a tool per person." Attendees can also give donations, a portion of which will be given to the all-ages music venue R6013.

Currently the Toolraiser lineup features Drungi, Dead Bird Lady, Sinah, MSEA, Nornagal, and Soffin. "It's really nice to get a lot of support from the bands," says Anna. "We are in a community and we support each other. If we can support local people, that's the point of it all."

The fundraiser will also feature a food share table, where you can bring a dish and share your noms with others. If that's not enough, they'll also be screenprinting Toolraiser t-shirts onsite.

A bit of an expanse

The money raised by Toolraiser will aid the Tool Library's upcoming expansion. "At the moment, we are expanding to a sharing depot, so you'll be able to borrow tents and extra beds, tables,

chairs, GoPros, and more," explains Anna. The Tool Library also plans on adding a DIY centre, so you'll be able to borrow tools and have the space to do your own projects.

"We are also going to be offering a lot of workshops," she adds.

"Most of them are upcycling or community driven." She grins. "Generally speaking, we keep our costs low, as long as we are paying rent, we don't care much." **✪**

ELECTRIC DREAMS

Music

Follow Dynkur's Soundcloud at soundcloud.com/dynkur for live mixes and mixtapes. Follow him on Facebook at facebook.com/dynkurmusic/ for news and upcoming gigs. Purchase his debut 12" EP 'Tschüssi' on Bandcamp at [falkworld.bandcamp.com/album/tsch-ssi](https://bandcamp.com/album/tsch-ssi).

Words: Alexander Le Sage de Fontenay

Photo: Art Bicnick



From Bedroom To Berghain

Meet Dynkur, a skilled beat-maker offering intricate blends of sounds and textures that challenge the eardrums

Dynkur is a powerful and majestic waterfall in South-Iceland. In English, "dynkur" means an impact, a thump or a bang—making it a great name for the techno project of one Þórður Arnarson. For the past two decades he has lived and worked in Reykjavik, London and Berlin as a

musician, DJ, sound-engineer and instrument-creator. Dynkur's debut EP 'Tschüssi' was released by FALK in April.

Not long ago, Þórður was the type of bedroom-producer who mainly tinkered with music, rather than releasing it. "Three or four years ago

I decided to challenge myself and start playing live shows and releasing stuff," he explains. "I believe that everyone needs to have a creative outlet in their lives. It is not about getting famous or earning money; it's about creating and sharing with the world."

Þórður's first formative musical experiences were listening to records and creating mixtapes. "I was fascinated with the sounds and baffled with how they were made," he says. "As a teenager, I started DJing and saw people dance to the music I selected, which gave me immense pleasure."

Berlin's techno-scene is a big influence on the Dynkur sound. "I was about to move back to Iceland with my family and wanted 'Tschüssi' to encapsulate my influences and moods," he explains. "Being at Berghain last Easter and hearing my track played was a pivotal moment for me, as Berghain has been a huge influence on my sound."

Keep your eyes and ears peeled for Dynkur in the near-future as he is set to perform at September's Extreme Chill Festival and more. "I'm working on the next Dynkur EP and a series of ambient/yoga tapes coming out on my label, Dynjandi," he says. "Remixes I made for Rex Pistols will also be out soon and I have other collaborations and remixes in the pipes as well!" **✪**

Art Venue

Flæði is located at Grettisgata 3. Find their open call and upcoming events at facebook.com/flaediartvenue



Name a more iconic trio

Flowing Freely

Flæði art venue seeks artists on the fringe

Words: **Rex Beckett**

Photos: **Art Bicnick**

It looked like a small town summer art festival. Dozens of interestingly dressed, mostly young people loitering in the middle of the street, passing bottles of rosé back and forth, laughing and chain smoking. From an open door nearby, the loud sound of high-energy indie-electronica filled the air, making even the passing children dance in the street. Cars carefully cruise past the revelers, avoiding honking as to not disturb the party at hand. But this was no festival—it was the grand opening of Flæði, a brand new arts venue run by three intrepid young women.

Terrible for capitalism, perfect for art

Flæði, which translates to 'Flow,' is run by photographer Brynja Kristins, ceramicist Antonía Berg, and multimedia artist Sunna Axels, who became fast friends in the last few months after

meeting through mutual acquaintances. The three had their first joint foray into curation at the beginning of July, throwing together a group exhibition in twenty-four hours at a vacant shop space at Laugavegur 74. By the third and final day of this exhibition, Brynja had secured their new space—for free.

It's a modest sized storefront space on Grettisgata, in a location well-known for doomed commerce, with several businesses opening in the space and promptly shuttering over the past few years. The space was donated thanks to an anonymous benefactor. "Through a big group exhibition I put on, a guy came

and he loved it and he got me in contact with the guy who owns this place," says Brynja, "He was just like, 'Dude, give this girl your space. She needs it and you don't need it.'"

"This space is supposed to be a platform for the smaller groups in society, because usually the main galleries are a bit sterile."

Serendipitously, the owner's sister happened to be an art historian, which gave an extra incentive for them to hand over the keys. They got the space at the beginning of July but then Antonía and Sunna trekked off to the LungA art festival in the East. Upon their return later in the month they immediately got to work cleaning, painting and setting up the space. On August 1st, after barely a week of preparation, Flæði officially opened its doors.

Subverting the elite

The main goal of Flæði is to be an open social space with a diverse range of events and an emphasis on more marginalized artists. "We want to have a nice strong female energy," says Sunna. "That's why it's called Flæði, because it's an art venue where there can be exhibitions, performances, concerts or pop-up shops or workshops. We're going to have a balance so it's not only art exhibitions or only concerts."

Their aim is to create a space that counters the bourgeois elite gallery culture that tends to favour well-known Icelandic artists, primarily men. "This space is just supposed to be a platform for the smaller groups in society, because usually galleries here are a bit sterile," says Antonía. "Not all, of course, but the main galleries in town, it's a lot of older established artists. This is basically a space for anyone who wants to showcase anything, really."

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Presenting the fringe

The group has now put out an open-call for submissions through their Facebook page, which they hope will reach beyond their friend group to people who have never exhibited before, queer and trans folk, refugees, people of foreign origin, and generally anyone on the fringe.

“As a white Icelandic female, I have more possibilities of showing my work than a refugee,” says Antonía. “In Iceland, I feel, if you are talented in art people praise you, but if you’re on the fringe, it’s almost taboo to show in a gallery or do something official. So I would love to see more diversity in art galleries.”

“I would really love to see more diversity,” echoes Sunna. “Not just to be like PC or whatever. It’s just genuinely an interest.” However the three do feel like they currently lack direct contact to the groups with whom they hope to collaborate.

“We don’t have a lot of contact in marginalized or smaller groups, but I really hope we can start working with someone who does, who is interested in art and wants to reach out,” says Antonía. “I want to get the information. I want to get more people involved who have interesting ideas. Flæði is very much an artist collaboration space.”

Fertilising ground

Their hope is that people who are otherwise shy about their work and do not feel like they have a place to shine will take the leap to apply, as they feel it could be a good stepping-stone and help artists break through the initial anxiety of their first exhibition. The anxiety factor will also be greatly reduced by the fact that they plan



Good tunes, good art, good vibes

to make every opening a very social event, including music, drinks, and a lively atmosphere. They will hold their openings on Thursday nights, to avoid turning into all-nighters that would disturb their neighbours. Luckily, they are smack dab between two main bar streets that should pick up the spill-over.

At this early stage, the three are very grateful for the overwhelmingly good reception they’re getting. “There’s been

so much excitement for this space to open and there have been many people reaching out offering help and to loan us equipment,” says Sunna. “There’s obviously excitement for this kind of concept, which is really good. Also, people just walking by have been excited. It’s just so nice that the community is taking interest.”

Hopefully, they will reach far beyond and the community will grow and flow. ♡

“It would be such a pity if it would just be our friends showcasing. I love my friends, but that’s not why we’re doing it.”

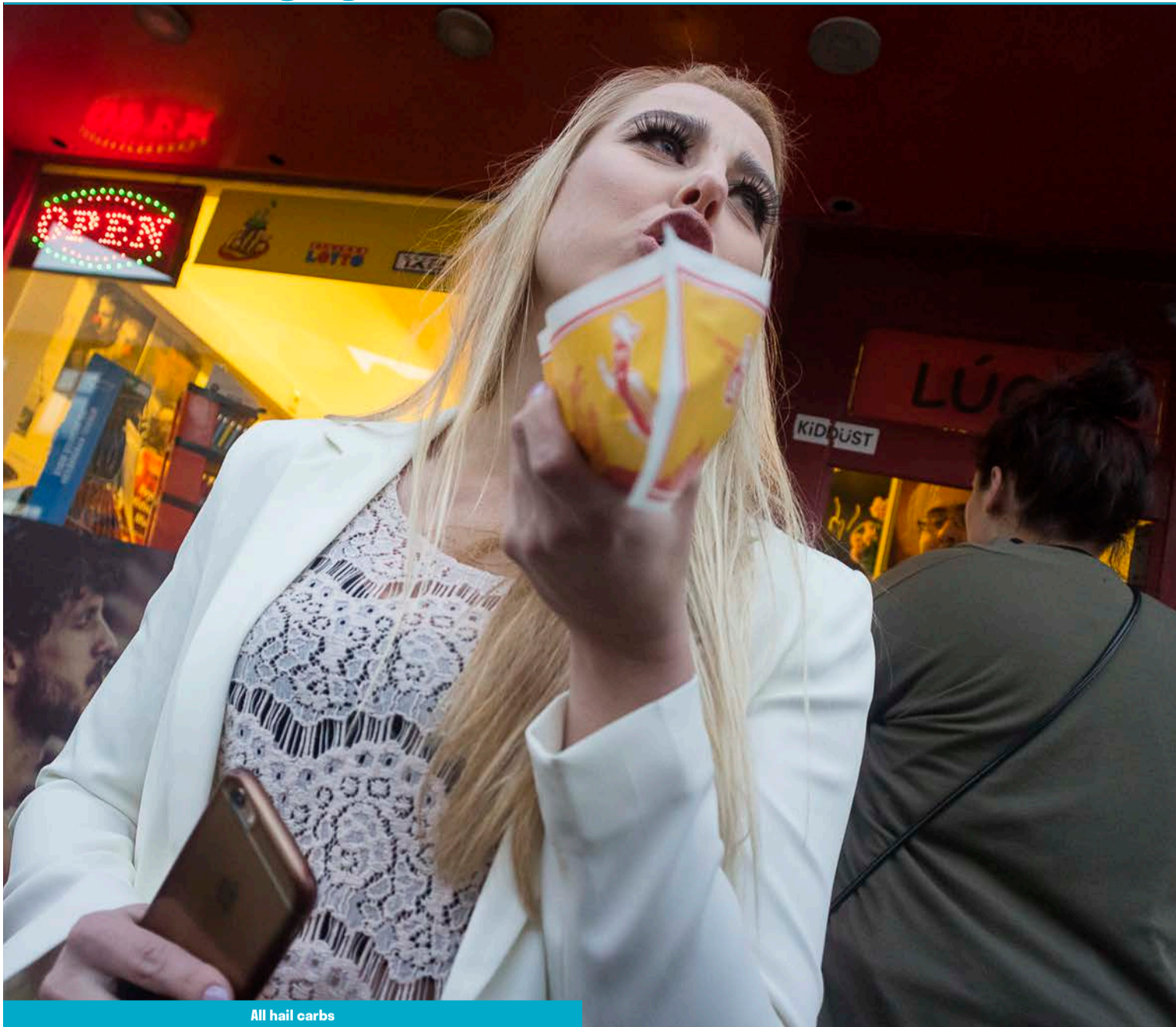
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All hail carbs



BEST OF REYKJAVÍK

Best Of Queer Bars

Winner:

Gaukurinn
Tryggvagata 22

Known as one of the most steadfast bars in downtown, Gaukurinn has gone through a few transformations and reinventions – much like Madonna or Cher – and is currently the place for edgy, cruelty-free queers and allies. They host the majority of the drag shows in town, book a wide array of underground artists of all genders, and hold a staunch “No Xenophobia” warning on entry. It’s a place where one can truly be anyone they are or want to be.



Runners up:

Kiki Queer Bar
Laugavegur 22

This go-to gay dance club is the rainbow splashed spot to slam shots, scream for fun and go wild to Katy Perry remixes. Weekends here are crazy and fun parties for the pop minded dancing queens, and the crowd is quite diverse. It is rather tame by most gay club standards and you won’t find glory holes or a den of iniquity, but you might just find your new crush and make out on the dancefloor.



Loft Hostel

Bankastræti 7

While not exactly a dedicated queer space of its own, this cool downtown hostel and bar is definitely a fun LGBTQ+ friendly place with all kinds of great events. Located right on the main drag, it’s an ideal accommodation for the party-minded traveller. One can often start their day with a clothing swap, a speed dating or friending session, or watercolour workshop, then heat up their evening with one of the funnest karaoke parties in town or screenings of RuPaul’s Drag Race hosted by Iceland’s reigning mother queen, Gógó Starr. Go have a ball!”

The Gospel Of Drunk Food

Alcohol doth giveth, and alcohol doth taketh away

Words: **The Grapevine Drunks**
Photo: **Johanna Eriksson**

In the beginning was the word and the word was alcohol. All things were made by alcohol; and without alcohol was not anything made that was made. In alcohol was life; and the life was the light of (wo)men. But if too much alcohol was consumeth, carb-heavy food was needeth. And drunk food was made, and dwelt among us, and we beheld its glory.



Chuck Norris

Laugavegur 30

There is an age old philosophical question: What food is better with beer, wings or burgers? At Chuck Norris, the answer is “brethren, let us come together in humble unity and speak as one resounding voice: both.” Here, you can order beer, wings and a burger all at once and decide for yourself what your personal preference is, but for us at the Grapevine, it’s a tough call. They definitely have some

of the best burgers in town, but the wings are also spectacularly juicy, and the flavour of the buffalo sauce is some of the best we have had in Iceland. For now, we are going with “all of the above”.



Bærjarins Beztu

Tryggvagata 1

The Americans at the Grapevine thought they had already had the best hot dogs in the world before coming to Iceland, but then they had Bærjarins Beztu, and repented for their initial sin of pride. The joint may seem like a mere hot dog stand, but to the initiated, it is a mecca of late night sustenance. All you have to do to join the club is approach the counter and say “Ein með öllu”, or “one with everything.” You could even ask in English, or just ask for ketchup, or mustard, or onions, or cronions, or remoulade, or

whatever you want. The important thing is to get one of these hot dogs.



Mandi

Veltusund 3b

Were there an official food of drunk people, it would be the shawarma, and in Reykjavík, that word is synonymous with Mandi. Located conveniently in Ingólfstorg square, the dive is the cheapest, quickest, and juiciest option to soak up all those Opal shots. The lamb and chicken shawarma are particular standouts, but their vegan falafel is also pretty delicious. For extra pizzazz, get a side of their addictive, spicy-sauce-splattered fries. Yum.



Hlöllabátar

Ingólfstorg Square

If you can’t decide between chicken, beef, shrimp, teriyaki or veggies for your drunk munch, stop by Hlöllabátar, where they serve

up literally anything you can imagine on a hero sub. While most famous for their sauce—which is, admittedly, fantastic—wait in line at their window at 4:30 AM and you might meet a crying drunk girl, or see a one-night-stand happen in front of your very eyes. Grapevine’s rec? Pick up the Sýslumannsbátur with extra cucumber. If you intend to gorge on your Hlöllli in the comfort of your bed before falling asleep on a sauce-covered pillow, carry that beautiful sub like a newborn child in your arms. That way you are sure not to run the sauce down to one end, at the same time as you shelter it from winds and weather.



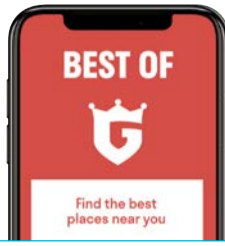
Devitos Pizza

Laugavegur 126

Who hasn’t been at that weird point where you’ve had like 16 shots too many and ended up speaking Icelandic with an Italian accent and thinking: Bonasera... Bonasera...What have I ever done to make you treat me so disrespectfully? Well, when it happens, you’re not possessed, you need to feed that Paulie inside you. Devitos Pizza by Hlemmur is the answer. There you can get pretty decent and strictly Italian pizza all night. Just remember, we don’t discuss business at the table. 🍷

August 16th—August 29th

In Your Pocket



Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

Perfect Day

A face of the downtown scene tells us how to spend a perfect day in Reykjavík



Words: **Josie Gaitens**
Photo: **Art Bicnick**

Steinunn Eldflaug

Steinunn Eldflaug is the legendary DJ flugvél og geimskip. Here's her wacky day in the city.

Morning

The day starts really early, before 6 AM, because a perfect day should last a long time. The night's sleep was extremely good. Really magical! I drink too much coffee while sitting outside watching the world wake up. When everyone is asleep, it feels like I'm the only one in the whole world.

Mid-morning

It starts raining—now I can go inside and make music and fractals on my computer without any guilt about not taking advantage of the sunshine. Siggí from Skelkur í Bringu and our friend Ótti (Rattofer musician) arrive and they both add something new to the song I'm making. Curver comes with his tape echo and he is also a really fun guy, so it is good to have

him there.

Afternoon

We all pile into the car and pick up Pétur, the drummer from Skelkur í Bringu. We listen to Singapore Sling and drive to Krýsuvík. We drive really fast! When the CD finishes we turn on the radio. Plútó is playing and we are all so happy! Suddenly, there is no road anymore. We walk outside to find a boat going to Eldey, the island my daughter is named after! We catch lots of hlýri and steinbitur and grill the fish on board—the perfect meal!

Evening


We hang glide back to Reykjavík and go to R6013, where Gróa, Sideproject, Dada Pogrom and dj. musician are playing. We find a secret door under the drumset, with steps down into a cave filled with diamonds and gemstones. We hear nice beats coming from deeper inside. Yess! It's Hausar dub night! Agzilla, Sunn O)), Óli Ofur, and Carpe

Noctem are playing! Alan Moore is also there teaching magic. Then we find Pink Street Boys sniffing glue before going on stage along with Guitarwolf.

After this, we go to Pétursbúð and get my favourite candy, the red, sour kind that has some strange, peppery liquorice taste in the middle. We eat a lot of this whilst walking through Hljóm-skálagarður, stopping to feed the ducks on our way. We take fireworks and light them all! The birds are scared and fly away, but when they are in the sky they can see that it's only fireworks and none are hurt.


We go to Elliðaárdalur to find it's full of animals that didn't live in Iceland before, but because of global warming they are here! The world is surely coming to an end but at least we have some good animals. Wild Pomeranian dogs, mantis shrimps, lemurs and chameleons. We listen to the birds and animals while we swim in the waters of Elliðaár in the bright night. This is perfect! 🐸





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Venue Finder

Venues	Museums & Galleries
The numbers on the right (i.e. E4) tell you position on the map on the next page	
Austur Austurstræti 7 D3	ART67 Laugavegur 67 F7 Open daily 9-21
American Bar Austurstræti 8 D3	ASÍ Art Gallery Freyjúgata 41 G6 Open Tue-Sun 13-17
Andrými Bergþórugata 20 G6	Aurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2 B1 Open 09-21
B5 Bankastræti 5 E4	Asgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74 G4 July 8-Sep 1, Mon-Fri
Bar Ananas Klappargistigur 28 E5	Berg Contemporary Klappargistigur 16 E5 Tu-F 11-17, Sat 13-17
Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54 E5	The Culture House Hverfisgata 15 E5 Open daily 10-17
Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20 E4	The Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksgata G5 Open Tue-Sun 10-17
Bravó Laugavegur 22 E5	Ekkisens Bergstaðast. 25b F4
Boston Laugavegur 28b E5	Galleri List Skipholt 50A H10 M-F 11-18, Sat 11-16
Dillon Laugavegur 30 E5	Hafnarborg Strandgata 34, 220 D3 Open Wed-Mon 12-17
Dubliner Naustin 1-3 D3	Hitt Húsið Pósthússtræti 3-5 D4
English Pub Tryggvagata 12 D3	Hverfisgalleri Hverfisgata 4 D4 Tu-Fri 13-17, Sat 14-17
Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22 D3	i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16 D3 Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17
Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a D3	The Icelandic Phallogical Museum Laugavegur 116 F8 Open daily 10-18
Hressó Austurstræti 20 D3	Kirsuberjatræð Vesturgata 4 D3 M-F 10-18, Sat-Sun 10-17
Húrra Naustin D3	Kling & Bang Grandagarður 20 A4 W-Sun 14-18, Th 12-21
	Listastofan Hringbraut 119 A4 Open Wed-Sat 13-17
	Living Art Museum Grandagarður 20 A4 Tu-Sun 12-18, Th 12-21
	Mokka Kaffi Skólavörðustíg. 3A E5 Open daily 9-18:30
	The National Gallery of Iceland Frikirkjuvegur 7 F3 Open daily 10-17
	The National Museum Sudurgata 41 G2 Open daily 10-17
	The Nordic House Sturluggata 5 H2 Thu-Fri 11-17, W 11-20
	Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17 D3 Open 10-17, Thu 10-22
	Kjarvalsstaðir Flókagata 24 H8 Open daily 10-17
	Ásmundarsafn Sigtún D3 Open daily 10-17
	Reykjavík City Library Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Fri 10-19, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-17
	Árbæjarsafn Kistuhyllur 4 D3 Open daily 9-18
	The Settlement Exhibition Aðalstræti 16 D3 Open daily 9-18
	Reykjavík Museum of Photography Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Fri 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-18
	Saga Museum Grandagarður 2 B2 Open Mon-Fri 10-16
	Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum Laugarnestangi 70 D3 Open Tu-Sun 14-17
	SÍM Hafnarstræti 16 D3 Open Mon-Fri 10-16
	Tveir Hrafnar Baldursgata 12 G4 Open Fri-Sat 13-16
	Wind & Weather Window Gallery Hverfisgata 37 E5

Vital Info



Useful Numbers

Emergency: 112
On-call doctors: 1770
Dental emergency: 575 0505
Taxi: Hreyfill: 588 5522 - BSR: 561 0000

Post Office

The downtown post office has moved to Hagatorgi 1, open Mon-Fri, 09:00–17:00.

Pharmacies

Lyf og heilsa, Egilsgata 3, tel: 563 1020
Lyfja, Laugavegur 16, tel: 552 4045
and Lágmúli 5, tel: 533 2300

Opening Hours - Bars & Clubs

Bars can stay open until 01:00 on weekdays and 04:30 on weekends.

Opening Hours - Shops & Banks

Most shops: Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat 10-16, Sun closed. Banks: Mon-Fri 09-16

Swimming Pools

Sundhöllin, the downtown pool at Barónsstígur, is an indoor swimming pool with hot tubs and a diving board. More pools: gpv.is/swim
Open: Mon-Thu from 06:30-22. Fri from 06:30-20. Sat from 08-16. Sun from 10-18.

Public Toilets

Public toilets in the centre can be found inside the green-poster covered towers located at Hlemmur, Ingólfstorg, by Hallgrímskirkja, by Reykjavík Art Museum, Lækjargata and by Eymundsson on Skólavörðustígur. Toilets can also be found inside the Reykjavík City Hall and the Reykjavík Library.

Public Transport

Most buses run every 20-30 minutes
Fare: 460 ISK adults, 220 ISK children.
Buses run from 07-24:00, and 10-04:30 on weekends. More info: www.bus.is.

A




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The Map

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

Dining

1. Fjallkonan

Hafnarstræti 1-3

Named after the female personification of Iceland, Fjallkonan is located smack-bang in the middle of downtown, and caters to locals and tourists alike. For the Icelandic-cuisine-curious, there is a platter of whale, lamb and puffin, all presented beautifully. For those who are just looking for a great selection of fresh meat, fish and vegetarian options, Fjallkonan does these to perfection as well.

2. Block Burger

Skólavörðustígur 8

Block Burger is an office favourite. You can see their white paper to-go bags stacked on writers' desks. Modelled heavily on the American chain Shake Shack in presentation, Block is reasonably priced (for Reykjavík) and has quick service. It's a lunchtime spot worth checking out.

3. Matur og Drykkur

Grandagarður 2

In how many ways can we say, "eat here"? Is it the whole cod head you should get, or perhaps the double-smoked dried lamb, or the creamy halibut soup? Whatever you get, rest assured it'll have roots in Icelandic culinary history, elevated to fine dining standards. And do not leave without trying the fried-to-order kleinur.

4. Sandholt

Laugavegur 36

Well-known for its sourdough bread, Sandholt has consistently delivered great baked goods since its inception. The laminated pastries are hands down the best in Iceland; try the buttery croissants or seasonal Danish pastries, locally known as "vinarbrauð" with rhubarb and raspberries, or the classic, vanilla custard.

5. Le Kock 2.0

Tryggvagata 14

In the ground floor of a new hotel, it's a large space with three components: the Le Kock diner serving burgers, fish and chips, and comfort food favourites; a cocktail bar called Tail; and a second branch of Deig, Le Kock's sister bakery. The music policy can be shaky—unless you like Status Quo—but the all-day happy hour has 1,500 ISK cocktails and 800 ISK beers.

6. Ramen Momo

Tryggvagata 16

Iceland's first Ramen bar has upped their broth game with a silky slick Tonkotsu. They have a choice of noodles and broths catering to food intolerances and fads, and a popular 'Ramen of the Month'. We suggest getting the Ramen Tonkotsu with their perfectly cooked soy cured eggs.

7. Public House Gastropub

Laugavegur 28

What happens when Icelandic ingredients are tended to with Japanese flair? Public House Gastropub only gives out-of-the-ordinary, satisfying answers. The duck thigh in a pancake served with ginger sauce and the crispy shrimp dumplings with sriracha mayo are to die for. Come early and enjoy happy hour while you can: you'll never want to leave.

8. Messinn

Lækjargata 6b

Messinn may be modelled on the well-known Westfjords restaurant Tjoruhúsið, but it's now no doubt a Reykjavík restaurant of choice. What keeps us coming back is how the food keeps getting better every time we dine there. Our favourites include their savoury plokkfiskur, velvety graflax, and a perfectly seared trout with honey and almonds.

9. Sea Baron

Geirsgata 4a

Some say the langoustine soup recipe has changed a little since the eponymous "Sea Baron" himself passed away, but this harbour-side diner is as popular as ever anyway. Get a warming cup of soup, and a melt-in-the-mouth fresh fish kebab, still smoky from the coals.

10. Pylsuhúsið

Ingólfstorg

One of the many post-jam options in town for those looking to put a tasty end to a fun night out, the Hot Dog House is a solid place for a quick snack. If you feel too inebriated by life to experiment, a classic one "with everything" will do the trick.

Drinking

11. Curious

Hafnarstræti 4

Watch out, henny—there's a new

queer bar on the scene, and it's decked out in tropical apparel. Serving up cocktails, coffee and—starting in August—a vegan café, Curious is a one-stop-shop for whatever scene you belong to. Werk.

12. Bravó

Laugavegur 22

Oh, bravo, Bravó, for having the best happy hour in this fair city. With its colourful fairy lights and a plethora of comfortable pillows, Bravó feels like a children's bedroom tent for adults. If you get lucky and grab a table, or even just a single seat, then it's the happiest place on earth.

13. Loft Hostel

Bankastræti 7a

Loft stands many heads and shoulders above most of the alfresco drinking spots in Reykjavík, not least because it's on the roof of the Loft Hostel and has a balcony that looks over downtown. Before the evening-time entertainment begins, it's the perfect place to catch some late-afternoon sun.

14. Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

With a saloon-like atmosphere in the daytime, when dogs and kids run around amongst the diehard local crowd and groups of confused tourists, Kaffibarinn turns into an all-out party during the small hours of the weekend. Whether you're holiday day-drinking or getting messy, it never fails to amuse.

15. Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

If you prefer your music grungy, raw and weird, then Gaukurinn is your place. With dim lights, leather sofas and a gender neutral bathroom, it's become the perfect hangout for the unorthodox Reykjavíkingar, so if you're looking for like-minded peeps to drink with, here you go.

16. Session Bar

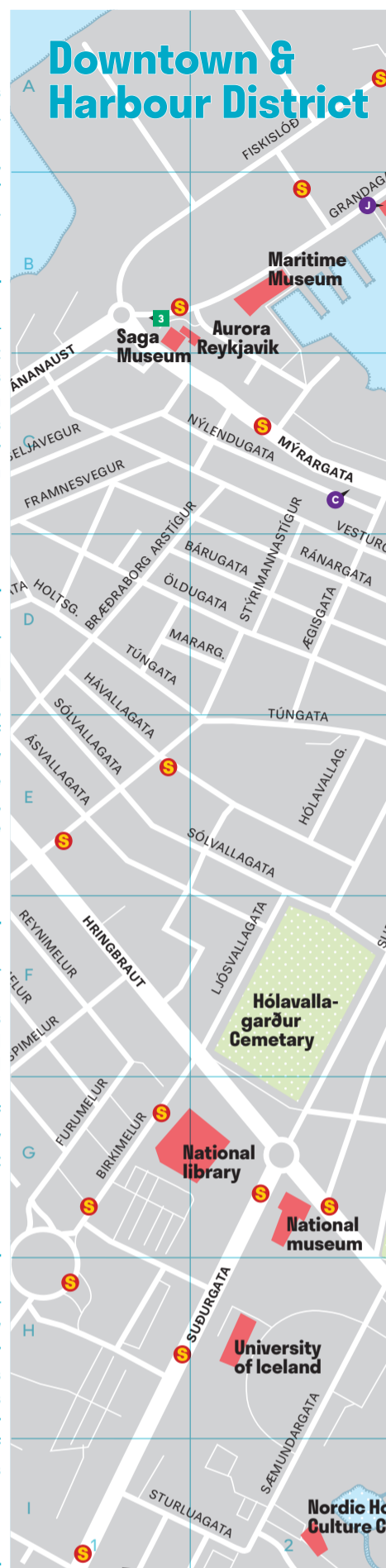
Fógetagarður

Session Bar is a minimalist craft-beer-focused drinking den housed in a former hair salon in the heart of downtown. There are sixteen beers on tap, both Icelandic and international, and they have a focus on keeping the prices affordable, in contrast to Reykjavík's generally pricey craft bar.

17. Papaku Reykjavík

Klappastígur 38

Formerly Bar Ananas, Papaku Reykjavík is Reykjavík's only beach bar, and it is truly a breath of fresh air for the otherwise dreary downtown scene. No sir, this is no dive bar, but a club, with a pool table, piano, darts board, a spacious bar, a tiny dance floor, and a solid line of DJs that all aim to make you bust a move.



18. American Bar

Austurstræti 8

Football fans will rejoice in seeing the row of screens perennially tuned on sports channel above the bar, while troubadours aficionados will find in American Bar a great spot to listen to classic country music. Grab a rib from the adjacent Dirty Burgers & Ribs and be happy.

Shopping

19. Kvartýra №49

Laugavegur 49

This minimalistic, Bauhaus-esque spot took the Icelandic fashion

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I



scene by storm upon opening in 2018, with its eclectic streetwear selection. They have designers that no one else has.

20. Fischer

Fischersund

More art installation than regular store, the "Sigur Rós shop" is an aesthetic environment with a soothing soundtrack, sweet scents floating in the air, and a natural, earthy colour palette. They sell a range of amazing things, from hand-picked tea, to artworks and records.

21. IÐA Zimsen

Vesturgata 2a

This peaceful spot is equal parts

café and bookstore, so you can get a coffee and a snack while you leaf through your purchases. Everything there is interesting. If the magazines fail, people-watching never does.

22. 12 Tónar

Skólavörðustígur 15

This city-centre record store is something of an institution, offering the unique experience of having the store staff ask about your music taste then sit you down with a coffee, some headphones, and a pile of Icelandic records.

23. Farmers And Friends

Hólmaslóð 2 & Laugavegur 37

If you want to pick up an Icelandic

sweater, peruse the Farmers Market outlet. Their wares combine Nordic style with a fresh aesthetic, providing you with a modern take on traditional pieces.

24. CNTMP

Laugavegur 12b

This sleek and minimal streetwear boutique occupies an enviable spot on the main Laugavegur strip. An acronym for "contemporary," the shop's name describes its concept—the store will sell limited garments by streetwear brands.

25. Spúútnik

Laugavegur 28b

This well-curated clothing emporium

is more like a secondhand clothing boutique than a charity shop. It's expensive but it's all imported stuff you won't find anywhere else. They're also very particular with their selection: after sorting through maybe six shirts, they'll determine that just one is truly good enough.

26. Rauðhetta & Úlfurinn

Skólavörðustígur 8

In a sense Rauðhetta & Úlfurinn is a Reykjavik classic. It's been around for over a decade, and the service is congenial without being overbearing. People are loyal to their favourite hairdresser, meaning some of them have long waiting lists, but pop in and try your luck.

New In Town



'Murica
Mæðragarður

Mac'n cheese. Apple pie. (Vegan) Burgers with ketchup and mustard. Until now, finding any of this good stars and stripes food in Reykjavik was impossible. But not anymore! 'Murica, a new meme-covered food truck, has arrived to inject a touch of freedom into Iceland. Stop by for warm apple pie, twinkies, hot dogs, and maybe even a bald eagle. See you at rodeo, cowboy. HJC

F

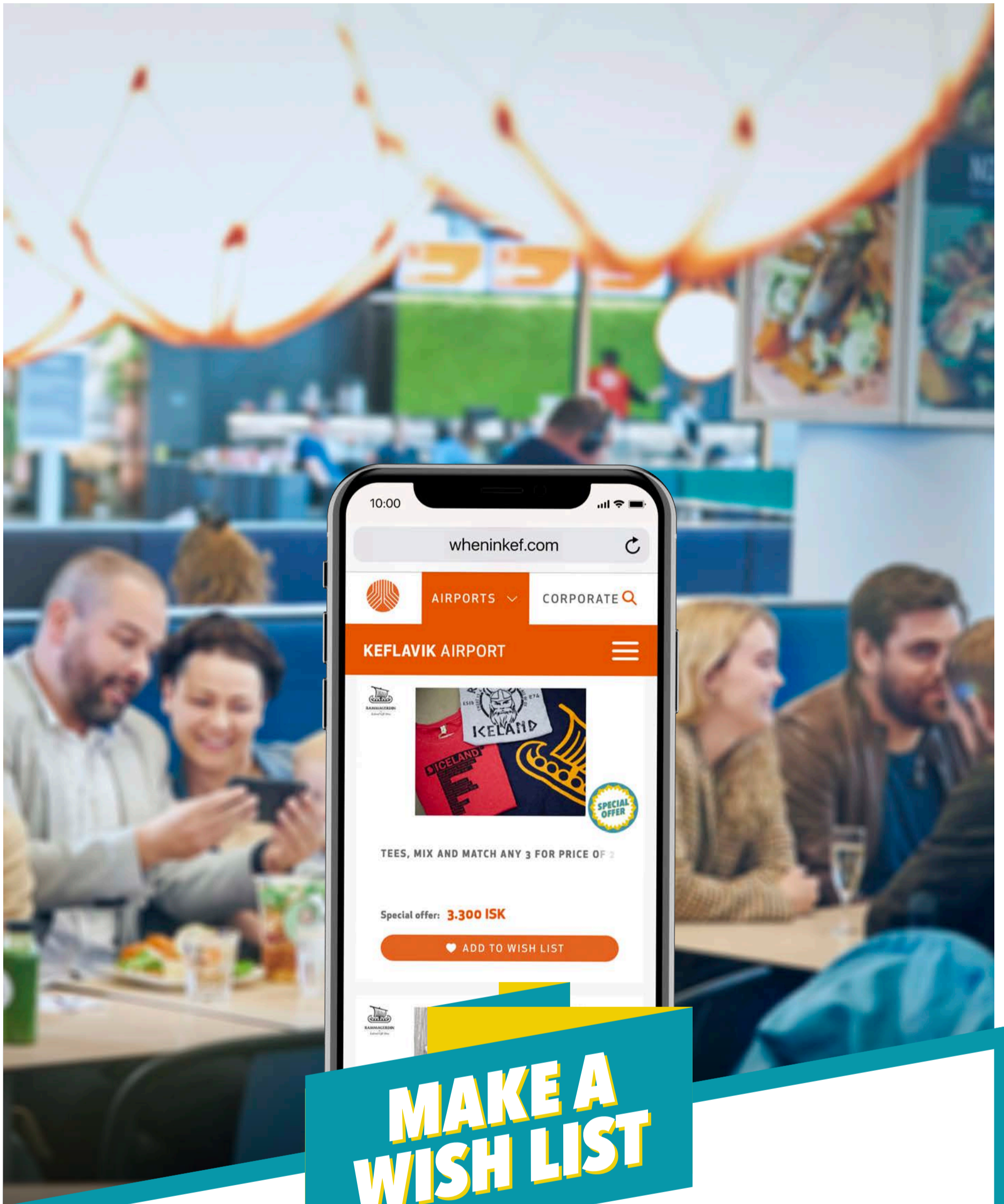
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“ I sincerely wish for somebody to make an ultra power techno remix so I can put my hands up in the air and ‘scream-sing’ (öskursyngja) along with the chorus.”

ARTIST PLAYLIST

Get Ready For A Dance Party

Melkorka Sigríður Magnúsdóttir's favorite Icelandic tunes

Words: Melkorka Sigríður Magnúsdóttir & Hannah Jane Cohen Photo: Art Bicnick

In Artist Playlist, we ask noted musicians around Reykjavik to reflect on their most formative Icelandic tracks. Today's subject is Melkorka Sigríður Magnúsdóttir, best known as the dancing, whirling, grinning frontwoman from the electro-pop party band Milkywhale. Melkorka defies every label and genre you could try to pin to her, pushing outside the box of traditional art forms with every new project she produces. A celebrated choreographer, she debuted her pop opera Vákum last year to great acclaim. Here are her favourite Icelandic tracks:

Snorri Helgason - Við stendur Mæjorka

Such a beautiful song from Snorri. He made it for one of my favourite theatre performances last year. If you haven't, definitely go see him perform live in Club Romantica in the city theater this autumn.

Teitur - Háflóð

It's difficult to only choose one of

Teitur's songs, but I absolutely love this Bubbi Morthens cover. It just gives you this mellow and good feeling in your heart.

Prins Póló - Er of seint að fá sér kaffi núna

Probably one of the most important questions of everyday life: is it too late for a coffee? Do I know the answer? I can never really be sure. Is this answer definite? I don't know. Will I ask myself this question again tomorrow and the day after? Absolutely.

Between Mountains - Into the Dark

The girls of Between Mountains are so sweet and their music is totally mesmerising, I love that their lyrics are simple but there is so much work put into the whole composition. They come from a tiny town in the Westfjords and the music video has almost the entire population of the town taking part.

GDRN - Hvað ef

I really like that GDRN's voice is so hypnotising and calm. It's so inviting for me as a listener. I also like that this song is both mainstream and experimental—the best combination.

Pú og ég - Í Reykjavíkurborg

This is such a legendary, amazing, danceable song. I sincerely wish for somebody to make an ultra power techno remix and then invite me to the premiere party so I can put my hands up in the air and "scream-sing" (öskursyngja) along with the chorus.

Hildur - Would You Change?

"Would you change" is definitely my favourite song from Hildur. The beat instantly gets you into a dance mode. I recommend putting it on repeat and trying out your coolest dance moves; this song deserves it!

gpv.is/music

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Grandagarður 7, 101 Reykjavík

Music



Hugar, serving face

Mentally Sound

Hugar is back with their long-awaited second album

Words: **Josie Gaitens** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

Album

Hugar's album 'Varða' will be released on August 28th.

Bergur Þórisson and Pétur Jónsson, the multi-instrumentalists responsible for the rich and dreamy sounds of Hugar, are sitting down to talk prior to the release of their long-awaited second album, 'Varða,' which comes out on August 28th. It's been five years in the making—"Not because we were lazy," emphasises Bergur. "But because we were trying to do everything."

The small studio they occupy is cramped with innumerable instruments, and Bergur admits that this perhaps opened up, "too many possibilities." But the duo are finally satisfied and happy to release their work into the world. "It's got everything, but that's part of what makes it what it is," Pétur tells me. "We've learned a lot on the journey," adds Bergur.

Kick start

'Varða' follows the slow-burning success of Hugar's self-titled 2014 debut. Almost accidentally, the childhood friends realised they'd created an album's worth of songs from casual music-making sessions and decided to make them available for free download online. The story could have more or less ended there, as it does for so many small, experimental bands. But Hugar had been working with friend and collaborator Ólafur Arnalds, and asked him to play drums on the album.

"It's a lesser known fact that he used to be a drummer in a lot of death metal bands," Bergur explains. "We needed a drummer and so, as kind of a joke, we asked him to play. He was like, 'why not!?' When we released the album, he posted it on his Facebook, so obviously that picked up quite some attention from the beginning."

New ways to play

From there, interest grew slowly but surely. Three years after the album was released, Hugar started to tour internationally. Bergur and Pétur are aware that this is quite different from the normal release and promotion process but feel like their approach is part of a new movement within the music industry. "There's so much out there," muses Bergur. "You don't really release an album with massive PR so everybody has to run out and buy it from the really expensive top shelf in the record store. That's not the point anymore." In addition to the album, Hugar have been working on different kinds of projects and recently completed a score for a new film that will be released in October. The movie, 'The Vasulka Effect,' tells the story of the lives and work of Icelandic artist Steina and her partner Woody Vasulka, who were pioneers of video art in the 1960s. After its premiere at Nordisk Film Festival in Sweden, it will tour international festivals, with Hugar performing some of the soundtrack live in conjunction with its release.

Broad horizons

Film score gigs are just part of Hugar's busy schedule these days. In addition to a run of European shows in the coming months, Hugar will perform at Iceland Airwaves in November for the third year running. The duo have found the transition from playing small gigs to developing an international fanbase a strange but rewarding experience. "It's always surprising and when you meet someone and they're like, 'oh I saw you at Airwaves in Iceland three years ago,'" Berger tells me. "But we're really happy that they come back to the concert when we show up in their hometown. That's a really good sign." 🐦



Have you got your tickets yet?

MUSIC NEWS

The Iceland Airwaves music festival has announced a new addition to their programming entitled **Airwaves Pro**. A music industry conference, Airwaves Pro will be held in collaboration with Iceland Music, STEF, Reykjavik Music City, Firestarter, and MIT Bootcamps. The goal of the conference is to connect creative professionals from all over the world and will feature panels, seminars, keynotes, and networking sessions. In tandem with the announcement, Airwaves revealed four of the speakers taking part in the event: Alison Donald, Stephen O'Reilly, Tina Tallon, and Nelly Ben Hayoun. The conference will run on Thursday, November 7th, and Friday, November 8th. Iceland Airwaves will be held November 6th to 9th in Reykjavik. Tickets are currently 17,900 ISK and can be bought at icelandairwaves.is **HJC**

(O) FESTIVAL

Konfekt, Gróa, ¹⁸⁺
GDRN, Cell7, ¹
Auður, Vök, ^{31. August}
Hjaltalín, 101Boys,
²⁰¹⁹ Birnir & Flóni,
Yamaha ^{19.00-03.00}
Origo höllinni

The coolest kids in Reykjavik

Útvarp 101, Iceland's youth-led radio station, just announced the debut of 101 Festival, a new music festival led by the radio station on August 31st. Formed by Unnsteinn Manuel Stefánsson, his brother Logi Pedro Stefánsson, Aron Már Ólafsson, Saga Garðarsdóttir, and Svanhildur Gréta Kristjánsdóttir, Útvarp 101 seeks to give exposure to young Icelandic artists that aren't getting regular radio play. Currently booked for the festival are **Hjaltalín, 101 BOYS, Vök, Flóni & Birnir, Cell7, Auður, Konfekt, Yamaha, Gróa** and **GDRN**. The festival has limited space and an age limit of 18+. Tickets are 3,990 ISK and can be bought at tix.is/ **HJC**



Better than ASMR

Sigur Rós dropped a new mixtape, 'Liminal Sleep,' on August 9th. The ambient effort, part of their liminal sound bath series, is a collection of diverse releases spanning the last 20 years. Of the release, the band gave this statement: "we like the fact that sleep remains defiantly mysterious; something we all do—all need to do—but can't ever get fully inside. This playlist is a modest attempt to mirror the journey of a sleep cycle, with its curves, steady states and natural transitions." The mixtape is available on all streaming platforms. **HJC** 🐦

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EVERY
TUESDAY

- 16/8 SHEMANIC TRANCE - BY DEFF
DRAG & QUEER PERFORMANCE ART SHOW
- 17/8 PRIDE PARTY OF GAUKURINN
WITH DJ VILLILJÓSS
- 21/8 RETRO CUP #5
RETRO COMPUTER GAME TOURNAMENT
- 24/8 HORRIBLE YOUTH, ÓVÆRA & MORE
- 25/8 SINGER/SONGWRITER NIGHT
- 29/8 ALCHEMIA, VOLCANOVA, ZOM (US)
- 30/8 BEARS ON ICE PARTY
- 31/8 BURLESQUE SHOW
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VÍKING
Létíól

Our Picks



★ FM Belfast

August 17th - 21:00 - HAVARÍ - 4,000 ISK

Former President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson often spoke of the special nature of Icelandic people. In his mind, their most treasured commodity was their “Viking” spirit—their enthusiasm for conquering new ground and reaping the benefits of their adventurous nature.

This has absolutely nothing to do with FM Belfast. FM Belfast just want to be your friend. Because FM Belfast are not Vikings. They do not pillage and plunder. Instead, they give, and they care. With simple, delicately crafted melodies, unpredictable beats and humorous lyrics, FM Belfast bring smiles to their audience’s faces, and life to their every extremity—whether it be in the car, in the kitchen or on the dancefloor. We stan. **HJC**



★ Hip Hop Menningarnótt

August 24th - 23:00 - Hard Rock Café - 2,500 ISK

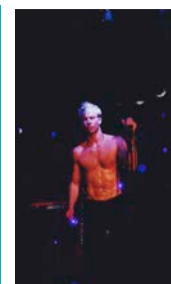
Aron Can takes the stage for this Menningarnótt party. **HJC**



★ Can't think just feel #8

August 23rd - 20:30 - Loft - Free!

At this iteration of MSEA's legendary series, Teenage Lightning, AAIIEENN, and Futuregrapher take the stage for an ethereal night of beats, melodies and noises. Bring that music journalist friend you're always trying to impress. **HJC**



★ Auður

August 28th & 29th - 21:00 - Café Flóran - 3,000 ISK

Smooth singing heartthrob Auður will rile you up before cooling you down. **HJC**



★ Alchemia, Volcanova & ZOM

August 29th - 22:00 - Gaukurinn - 1,000 ISK

Fresh off their second place win at this year's Ioeland Wacken Metal Battle, Alchemia are here to rock your socks off with their catchy take on traditional metal. Seriously, “Psycho Killer” is a banger. **HJC**

August 16th—August 29th

Concerts & Nightlife

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

Friday August 16th

Reykjavik Classics: Virtuoso Violin Duos
12:30 Harpa
DJ SURA
22:00 Prikid
DJ Óli Dóri
22:00 Bravó
DJ Andrés Nielsen x DJ Katla
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Junglitz & RK
23:00 Boston
Pétur Eggerts & Lilja María Ásmundsóttir
17:00 Mengi
Pink Iceland Queer Pop-Up: DJ Yamaha
17:30 Exeter Hotel



DU SURA, pictured yesterday

Saturday August 17th

Reykjavik Pride Party 2019: Páll Óskar
23:00 Austurbær
★ **GRL PWR / JóiPé & Króli / Úlfur Úlfur**
21:00 Gamla Bíó
Sprite Zero Klan
22:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
★ **FM Belfast**
21:00 HAVARÍ
DJ Margeir
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Reykjavik Classics: Virtuoso Violin Duos
12:30 Harpa
101 Savage

22:00 Prikid
We Will Rock You: Queen Tribute Concert
20:00 Háskólalabíó
Pride Party: DJ Villiljós
22:00 Gaukurinn
Crush
22:00 Bravó
Ninotchka, DJ Far, Mr. Mysterian & DJ HA
23:00 Boston
Techno Night
21:00 Mengi
Giegen Galaxy #4: Geigen & DJ Dominatrix
21:00 Tjarnarbíó
Haldur Guðmundsson Jazz Quartet
20:00 Hannesarholt
International Organ Summer: Johannes Geffert
12:00 Hallgrímskirkja

Sunday August 18th

Toolraiser 2019: Drungi, Dead Bird Lady, Sinah, MSEA, Nornagal & Skoffin
17:00 Reykjavik Tool Library
Sunday Jazz: Syntagma Rembetiko
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
Reykjavik Classics: Virtuoso Violin Duos
12:30 Harpa
DJ Silja Glommi
22:00 Kaffibarinn
International Organ Summer: Johannes Geffert
17:00 Hallgrímskirkja
Magga Stína
16:00 Gljúfrasteinn

Monday August 19th

Monday Night Jazz
21:00 Bíó Paradís
Reykjavik Classics: Schubert Arpeggione
12:30 Harpa
DJ John BRNLV
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Skelkur í bringu, Korter í flog, Gróa & Hjalti Kaftu
18:00 R6013

Tuesday August 20th

Karaoke Party!

21:00 Gaukurinn
Jazz Night
20:30 Kex Hostel
Reykjavik Classics: Schubert Arpeggione
12:30 Harpa
DJ Sonur Sæll
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Sólveig Sigurðardóttir & Hrönn Práinsdóttir
20:30 Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

DJ Karítas
22:00 Prikid
Reykjavik Classics: Schubert Arpeggione
12:30 Harpa
DJ Either
22:00 Bravó
DJ sexy Lazer
22:00 Kaffibarinn
We Will Rock You: Queen Tribute Concert
20:00 Háskólalabíó

Copenhagen Young Voices
19:30 Háteigskirkja
Sunday Jazz: Gúmbó & Steini
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
DJ Terrordisco
22:00 Kaffibarinn
International Organ Summer: Mattias Wager
17:00 Hallgrímskirkja
Singer/Songwriter Night
21:00 Gaukurinn

Monday August 26th

DJ Pabbi
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Tuesday August 27th

Karaoke Party!
22:00 Gaukurinn
Jazz Night
20:30 Kex Hostel
DJ Davíð Roach
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Wednesday August 28th

★ **Auður**
21:00 Café Flóran
DJ Fonetik Simbol
22:00 Prikid
Don Lockwood Band
21:00 Slippbarinn
Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét
21:00 Sæta Svinið
Schola Cantorum Choir
12:00 Hallgrímskirkja
DJ Intr0beatz
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Thursday August 29th

★ **Auður**
21:00 Café Flóran
DJ KrBear
22:00 Bravó
Prikid All-Stars Vol. 2
22:00 Prikid
Lolli Hjö x Sonue Sæll
22:00 Kaffibarinn
★ **Alchemia, Volcanova & ZOM**
22:00 Gaukurinn
Flavor Fox & Mojodontgo
20:00 Vínyl Bistro



DJ Dominatrix, shredding

Wednesday August 21st

Don Lockwood Band
21:00 Slippbarinn
Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét
21:00 Sæta Svinið
Schola Cantorum Choir
12:00 Hallgrímskirkja
Reykjavik Classics: Schubert Arpeggione
12:30 Harpa
DJ KrBear
22:00 Prikid
DJ Einar Sonic
22:00 Bravó
DJ Ómar E
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Thursday August 22nd

DJ Molly
22:00 Prikid
Reykjavik Classics: Schubert Arpeggione
12:30 Harpa
DJ Karítas
22:00 Bravó
DJ Árni Vector
22:00 Kaffibarinn
International Organ Summer: Eypór Ingi Jónsson
12:00 Hallgrímskirkja

Friday August 23rd

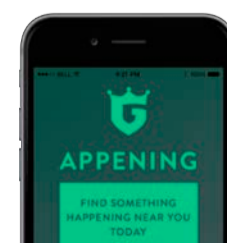
★ **Can't think just feel #8 // Teenage Lightning, AAIIEENN & Futuregrapher**
20:30 Loft

KGB Soundsystem
23:00 Boston
Bowie
19:00 Petersen svítan

Saturday August 24th

★ **Hip Hop Menningarnótt: Aron Can, Ezekiel Carl, Venjulegir Gaurar & DJ 2Fullir**
23:00 Hard Rock Café
Karnival on Klapparstígur: DJ Margeir
15:00 Klapparstígur
Exos & LaFontaine
22:00 Bravó
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Maximus Musicus On Culture Night
15:00 Harpa
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Marathon Concert On Culture Night
17:00 Harpa
Menningarnótt Party
22:00 Prikid
Hjálmar
21:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
Ulta Mega Technobandið Stefán
22:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
Helgi Björns & SSSól
23:00 Gamla Bíó
Omotrack, Geir Ólafsson & More
15:00 Petersen svítan
International Organ Summer: Mattias Wager
12:00 Hallgrímskirkja
Horrible Youth, Óværa & More
22:00 Gaukurinn

Sunday August 25th



★ **For music listings from August 30th on, check out happening.grapevine.is or our app Appening, available on iOS and Android**



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Real punks drink hot chocolate

Punk In Practice

Korter í Flog on seizing the music and keeping it fun

Words: Freya Dinesen Photo: Art Bicnick

Band

Learn more about Korter í Flog at [Post-Dreifing's website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#) to stay up to date.

Trying to describe Korter í Flog is somewhat of a futile effort. Their music and their objectives are both rather ineffable, and though they sometimes describe themselves as “a garage punk band with krautrock influence,” it is really only part of the nutshell.

For band members Kristófer Darri Baldursson, Már Jóhannsson, Sigurhjörtur Pálmason, Vilhjálmur Yngvi Hjálmarsson, Örlygur Steinar Arnalds and Björn Heimir Ónundarson, a DIY ethos has been the crux of their creative process and ideology. This is a lifeblood Korter í Flog also shares with the Post-Dreifing art collective, with whom they have had key involvement in establishing.

Despite building a strong reputation inside and out of the

DIY community, Korter í Flog maintain a genuinely enigmatic profile—albeit unintentionally. “We haven’t really done any interviews and we don’t have a clear bio,” Kristófer acknowledges. “We don’t even know how to describe ourselves!”

Punkin’ instigators

The group first came to fruition when then classmates Vilhjálmur, Kristófer and Örlygur unearthed similar interests in music and aspired to make something together—their distinct lack of musical training was an added motivation, rather than a hindrance.

“The initial concept was just playing,” Örlygur explains. “We didn’t know how to play any instruments, so it was also about trying to have a band without knowing your instrument.”

“A year after we started the band. When Már and Sigurhjörtur became involved, we started doing it for real,” Kristófer continues. “Well,” he laughs, “we started practicing and actually started writing coherent songs.”

It’s all in the improv

Korter í Flog amalgamate sounds from a wide array of genres, with influences spanning from krautrock to doom

metal, no wave to post-punk and likely everything in-between.

“The most efficient way [for us] to write music

is to improvise, and we’ve gotten better at that,” Kristófer explains. “We just meet up and improv. If we’re playing a new song, it’s al-

ways just improv and then we pick out the good parts and restructure it out of that.”

“We are trying to make the same energy we feel when we listen to a certain song,” adds Már.

When it comes to their live shows, their gigs are fundamentally built on embracing clumsiness and “not being too serious,” as the band tries to incorporate music every time. Crowd participation also plays a vital role, and the audience encouraged to join in on the chaotic free-for-all.

“Most of the time, we want to play on the same ground as the audience,” says Kristófer. “We don’t want to play [up] on the stage, if possible.”

Vilhjálmur continues: “We don’t want to be placed above the audience. They are as much of a vital part of the concert itself as we are.”

Common misconceptions

While obtrusive angst and anarchy may have brought the ‘punk’ into the limelight during the 1970s, it can be a false generalisation for punk music and subculture. “Anger can be a really toxic part of punk,” Már reflects. “We are not an angry punk band, we just keep it fun and friendly.”

“A lot of people still think of punk in this way,” Örlygur concurs. “It’s an old image of punk and it’s more consumer-driven ‘plastic punk’ than actual punk. There is also the misbelief that punk died after the popular punk movement, when really the true concepts are always there as an evolving response. Punk never dies, it’s just a philosophy by which you make your art.”

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Hitchhiking or rocking?

Coming Out Of The Woodworks

Krassasig emerges with a fresh music and new objectives

Words: Freya Dinesen Photo: Art Bicnick

Album

You can stay updated with Krassasig's future releases and upcoming gigs via his Facebook page. Krassasig will be playing at Iceland Airwaves 2019. Tickets are on sale now.

Krassasig is a brand-spankin' new solo project from Kristinn Arnar Sigurðsson, who released his debut single, 'Brjóta heilann', earlier in the summer.

Renown for his vibrant multimedia works with art/music duo Munstur, Kristinn is now turning his focus to different musical aspirations, developing his production and songwriting virtuosity, through working alone, as well with other musicians and producers.

Making an entrance

'Brjóta heilann' was unveiled via a quirkily choreographed live performance video as part of the Iceland Airwaves x Landsbankinn series—a pretty remarkable platform for an introduction.

"This [video] was the absolute debut of this project," he says. "I was starting this new project, so

I showed them some of the songs we'd been making and they were really keen."

Seeing great potential in Krassasig's preliminary repertoire, Iceland Airwaves were eager to put him on this year's lineup. As to how soon we may hear these other tracks, only time will tell.

"It was exciting for me to just throw out one song from the things I have been making, but since then, I don't have anything else immediate", he mentions, with a slight tone of dismay. "I have a lot of stuff that I'm working on, but it would have been nice to have followed it more immediately. It's going to come later, around the beginning of the fall."

Behind the music

With Krassasig's first offering, the sonically delightful blend of organic instrumentation and velvety production came as a collaborative effort between Kristinn, pop darling Auður and jazz boss Magnús Jóhann.

"Auður is good at constructing things to be really polished, while I'm good at doing things really imperfectly—more raw and natural," says Kristinn. "Magnús Jóhann is also a big part of this project as well," he adds. "He does a lot with synths, drum loops and modifying the arrangements."

Translating these songs for live performances will likely see an extension in the project's collaborative team. "I want to do something special with the live shows," Kristinn says, ardently.

"My goal is to get an imperfect, natural performance that comes in a pop, polished form, so you feel it is very well organised and constructed, but still has an organic foundation."

Behind the name

In addition to serving as an acronym for Kristinn's full name, there is wit behind the moniker that works on multiple levels.

"It's quite hard to explain in English," he says, trying to translate.

"It rhymes with a phrase in Icelandic, 'passasig,' which means 'be careful.' It also rhymes with another phrase, 'massasig,' meaning to just 'go full-on.' I often joke that the

meaning [behind the name] is a new word that I made up and the meaning behind that is a mixture of those two words: be careful, but go full-on."

"'Krass' also has a double meaning," he continues. "[It's] like a cymbal crash and also a rough sketch. I work with both in visual art and music, and it's a word that has meaning in both of those things."

gpv.is/music

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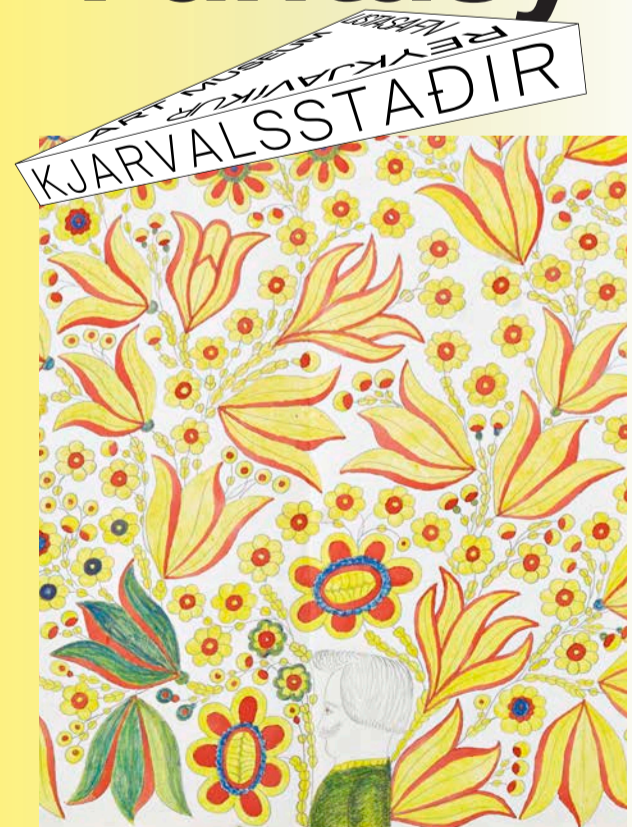
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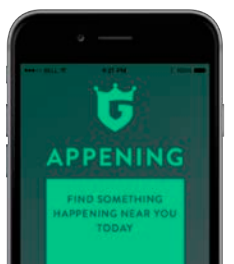
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22 August - 12 October 2019

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What's new Buenos Aires?

Buenos Días, Buenos Aires

Pavilion Nordico bridges the gap between
Argentina and the north

Words: **Berglind Jóna Hlynisdóttir**

Photos: **Philipp Poppek @graysc, Javier Agustin Rojas, dagurke**

Exhibition

Pavilion Nordico is based in Buenos Aires, Argentina. You can follow them on their website and Instagram. Catch their talk Thursday 15.07.19 at 17:00 in Hafnarhús, Reykjavík Art Museum.

Pavilion Nordico is an art and design platform based in Buenos Aires, Argentina, that runs an exhibition program and residency with a Nordic focus and a specific connection to Iceland. Located in a beautiful historical villa in the center of the city, with high ceilings, tinted glass and elaborate wooden details, it is the kind of getaway most northern creators dream of in the dead of winter.

The birth of a connoisseur

The platform was created by Icelandic-Danish artist Sara Løve Daðadóttir and Finnish culturalist Jali Wahlsten, along with Josefín Askfelt, Emil Willumsen and Nele Ruckelshausen. Sara, who was born in Iceland, says she became accustomed to being surrounded by artists and art at an early age in her childhood house in Hveragerði.

"In a house that my great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents had built, they ran something similar to a residency. Every summer, they would host artists from Iceland, Germany and Scandinavia. Mid-century artist like Kjarval stayed there," she explains. "This

had been going on since the 40s and often the artist would leave artwork. One even built a bridge over the river."

A new residency

While Sara's love of art was born during these formative years, it coalesced when she visited Jali in Buenos Aires and discovered the beautiful building that would eventually become Pavilion Nordico.

Since its inception, Pavilion Nordico's primary focus has been on collaboration and individual attention. "We really care about collaboration with the community, but also putting focus on the resident. We try to connect them with the local scene," she explains. "Our first open call was really an open call, as we feel like a lot of good projects get lost because of criteria obsession."

Sara emphasises that her interests span far beyond traditional art and design. "I am interested in the field between education, art, and social political change," she says. "Somewhere on that cross border is where I find it interesting to create from."

Iceland... colonised?

Earlier this year, Pavilion Nordico hosted an exhibition and perfor-

mance program entitled 'Reacción A Islandia,' which included 10 Icelandic artists and was curated by Guðný Guðmundsdóttir, who co-founded the Cycle Music and Art festival in 2015. An innovation and experimental addition to the Icelandic art scene, Cycle has been hosted yearly by the Kópavogur Art Museum, Gerðarsafn. The festival immediately grabbed Pavilion Nordico's eye.

Pavilion Nordico was interested in Cycle's focus on Nordic colonialism. "Cycle has been working a lot with colonialism in the Nordic region and artists from the Faroe Islands and Greenland who are often overlooked in Nordic cultural collaborations. It's important for us to include all the facets and ethnicities in the Nordic region," emphasises Sara. "When we did tours around the show, most people said, 'Wait, you have colonies in the Nordic region? White people can be colonised? Iceland has been colonised?'"

The bridge

While that exhibition has ended, Pavilion Nordico will soon launch their next open call. This one will have a design focus built on the experience of former resident Bettina Nelson's collaboration with

local crafts people, designers and architects. There will also be a more general open call later this year.

For those looking for up-and-coming artists, or just a beautiful melange between two widely different cultures, there's nowhere better than Pavilion Nordico. Hopefully, this will be an institution that thrives and builds a lasting network between Buenos Aires and the Nordic art and design scene. It will be exciting to watch as more planks are added to the bridge Pavilion Nordico is building. ♡

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Our Picks



★ William Morris: Let Beauty Rule!

Runs until October 6th - Kjarvalsstaðir

Kjarvalsstaðir is currently festooned with eye-pleasing patterns, hand painted originals, woven fabrics, print plates,

books, furniture, stained glass and tiles by legendary British artist, activist, poet and craftsman William Morris. 'Let Beauty Rule' also displays items Morris bought in Iceland during his travels in 1871 and 1873, and sagas he translated from Icelandic with Cambridge scholar Erik Magnússon. Morris's writing and translations inspired many fiction and fantasy writers like C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, some of whose Middle Earth languages are believed to have been inspired by Morris's Icelandic-sounding English. The exquisite works of Morris will interest anyone keen on beauty. **BJH**



★ í kring 03

August 23rd-October 9th - Reykjavik Roasters

A collection of short stories. A mishmash of pictures. A zine.

Journey to all three Reykjavik Roasters locations and you'll experience all of this in Kári Björn's three-part exhibition. **HJC**



★ Seeing Alba

August 22nd-September 1st - Listastofan

In this exhibition, meet Alba, the only albino orangutan known to man. Her tragic

story inspired artist Halla Gunnarsdóttir to ask one question: Do we have more right to exist on this planet than other animals? **HJC**



★ D39 Emma Heiðarsdóttir: Margin

Until September 22nd - Hafnarhús

In her first solo exhibition, Emma Heiðarsdóttir questions when and where the art experience

begins and ends. Her works deal with site-specific interventions, three-dimensional objects, and visuals. **HJC**

August 16th—August 29th

Art Listings

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

Send your listings to: listings@grapevine.is

Opening

LIVING ART MUSEUM

Resonances Of A Dynamic Absence

Karl Ómarsson's new exhibit takes familiar shapes, materials, lines, words, and colours and turns them into unexpected fascinations.

- Opens on August 16th, 2019
- Runs until September 22nd, 2019

KLING & BANG

Mother & Child

A Kassen—the Copenhagen-based collective comprised of Christian Bretton-Meyer, Morten Steen Hebsgaard, Soren Petersen, and Tommy Petersen—plays with traditional notions of authorship, appropriation, and appraisal in this exhibit.

- Opens on August 16th, 2019
- Runs until September 29th, 2019

Ongoing

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

Treasures Of A Nation

A selection of over 80 works chosen from the national gallery's collection displays the evolution of art since the 19th century.

- Runs until December 31st, 2019

EINAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM

Permanent Exhibition

The museum contains close to 300 artworks including a beautiful garden with 26 bronze casts of the artist's sculptures.

ÁRBÆR OPEN AIR MUSEM

Daily Guided Tours

Tours are from 13:00 to 14:00 through its open-air exhibits.

REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM

Settlement Sagas

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

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - ÁSMUNDARSAFN

Ásmundur Sveinsson: Under the Same Sky - Art In Public Space

Ásmundarsafn is named after sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson. This new permanent exhibition presents the artist in a new light. What dialogue does his works provoke?

- Runs until December 31st, 2019

Jóhann Eyfells: Palpable Forces

Early in the 1950's, Jóhann Eyfells started creating abstract sculptures which were based on experiments in physics and chemistry. Come see them here.

- Runs until August 25th, 2019

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

I Remember the Mountain

Weather conditions, seasons, lightning, natural forces, and human experiences coalesce into an exhibition of photographs cum paintings. Analog images reworked reveal the universal vastness and ever-changing qualities of nature.

- Runs until August 21st, 2019

Icelandic Meat Soup

Iceland in the 70s and 80s—long hair and printed button-ups included—is brought back to life by photographer Kristján Haraldsson, who uses the photos to articulate the practise of photography.

- Runs until September 8th, 2019

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

Myth Of A Woman

Agnieszka Sosnowska immigrated to Iceland 13 years. With her photographs, she documents herself, her students, new family members, and friends. Her inspiration is the strength of the female spirit.

- Runs until September 1st, 2019

Life, as it is lived, before the transformation

In stark black and white, Yrsa Roca Fannberg captured life in Árneshreppur, the smallest parish in Iceland. Crisp and unrelenting, the photos capture the symbiotic relationship between man, animal and dirt.

- Runs until September 1st, 2019

REYKJAVÍK MARITIME MUSEUM

Fish & Folk

Name a better duo than fish and Iceland. You can't. So come learn about the history of Icelandic fisheries from rowing boats to monstrous motor boats.

Melckmeyt 1659

Melckmeyt was a Dutch merchant ship that crashed near Flatey Island in 1659. Explore the wreck here.

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS

Erró: Mao's World Tour

Between 1972 and 1980, Erró

Painted over 130 paintings, with two images of different origins against each other: Chinese propaganda posters of Mao Zedong and Western tourist pictures from famous sites.

- Runs until January 5th, 2020

Human Condition Draft Of Contemporary Art History In Iceland [III]

What does it mean to be human? What are the psychological and corporeal characteristics of it? Here, selected artists take on these fundamental questions.

- Runs until September 15th, 2019

Finnbogi Pétursson - Hz

In a semi-dark dungeon, two mighty subwoofers positioned over a vast tank of black water fill the air with an almost unbearably low hum, generating a slight ripple over the tank and making you feel like your brain is slowly dribbling out of your ears in the process.

- Runs until September 15th, 2019

SIGURJÓN ÓLAFSSON MUSEUM

Connections

To celebrate the 13th anniversary of the museum, this exhibition presents 13 artists in dialogue with Sigurjón and his art.

- Runs until October 6th, 2019

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

URBAN SHAPE

Architect Paolo Gianfrancesco used data from Open Street Map to celebrate cities. The constant interplay of people and their environment will be revealed before your very eyes.

- Runs until September 8th, 2019

MORRA

Fashion designer Signý Þórhallsdóttir takes over the lobby to work with Icelandic flora on silk and paper for her MORRA collection.

- Runs until September 25th, 2019

Behind The Scenes: Archiving A Ceramic Collection

In 1979, Anna Eyjólfssdóttir began to collect ceramic pieces by Icelandic artists. In 2017, the Museum of acquired her collection. Currently, the museum is cataloguing the collection in front of your eyes.

- Runs until September 25th, 2019

NORDIC HOUSE

Porcelain Souls

Photographer Inuteq Storch went through his parents' archives and found photos and letters from their lives in Greenland and Denmark in the '60s and '80s. Explore them here.

- Runs until September 26th, 2019

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

Jóhannes S. Kjarval: Can't Draw a Harebell

Here, explore the floral works of Jóhannes S. Kjarval, after whom the

museum is named. Be it ornamental plants, potted plants, or wildflowers, you'll find it all.

- Runs until December 31st, 2019

William Morris: Let Beauty Rule!

English artist William Morris was a true Icelandophile, and even translated the Sagas. Here, see original drawings of Morris's patterns, wallpapers and work processes, paintings, drawings, and more.

- Runs until October 6th, 2019

HAFNARBORG

In Transition

Eight photographers present their take on the town of Hafnarfjörður. The town is currently in a state of transition, and this exhibition documents its progress into that of a true urban centre.

- Runs until August 25th, 2019

GERÐARSAFN KÓPAVOGUR ART MUSEUM

Outline

The exhibition 'Outline' shows works from the collection of Gerðarsafn from 1950 until this day. In the exhibition, the outline becomes the connection between works in different mediums, the thread that ties them together.

- Runs until September 8th, 2019

Culture Hunt

This Culture Hunt will lead you in-between the Kópavogur Culture Houses, where in each location guests will be asked to solve a puzzle or answer a question on nature, art or music. It is available in English, Icelandic and Polish and is free of charge

- Ending date TBA

ÁRBÆR OPEN AIR MUSEUM

HEIMAT: Two Worlds

To mark the 70th anniversary of

the arrival in 1949 of a group of Germans to who travelled to Iceland aboard the Esja ship, this exhibition presents photographs of their journey made by Marzena Skubatz.

- Runs until October 31st, 2019

REYKJAVÍK ROASTERS

Í Kring 02: Sigurður Ámundason

Sigurður's drawings display classic battles between good and evil that dive into the deepest pits of his subconscious. Ooh, spooky stuff.

- Runs until August 21st, 2019

WIND AND WEATHER WINDOW GALLERY

Nonverbal Dialogues

This site specific installation observes and explores how different found objects relate to each other. The objects create a new meaning, a nonverbal dialogue in the space between them.

- Runs until August 28th, 2019

ÍSLENSK GRAFÍK

Alternating Currents

A 35 square metre red curtain printed Iceland's imaginary weather patterns in cobalt blue takes over Íslensk Grafík

- Runs until July 26th, 2019

RÝMD GALLERY

Pastelería Ideal

Here, sculpture and video installations perfectly replicate a Mexico City bakery... but in Iceland. The exhibit will only be open on August 2nd from 16:00 to 20:00.

- Runs until September 1st, 2019

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

HÖNNUNARSAFN ÍSLANDS

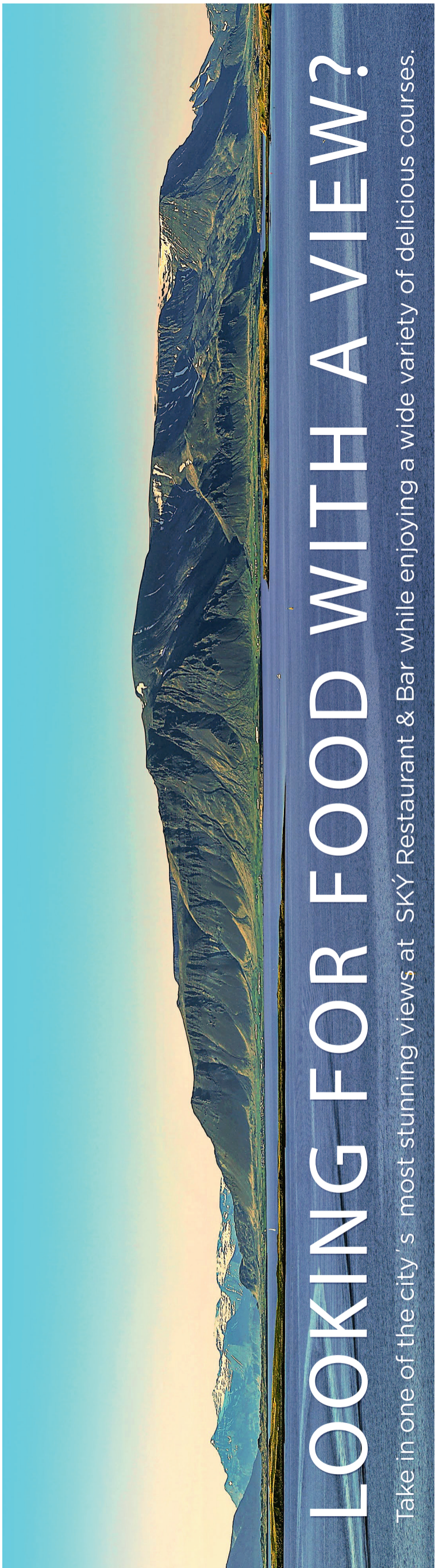
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Exhibitions:

Urban Shape
Paolo Gianfrancesco

Behind the Scenes
Archiving a ceramic collection

Morra
Signý Þórhallsdóttir
Designer in residence



LOOKING FOR FOOD WITH A VIEW?

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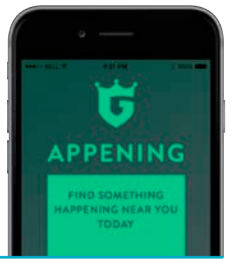
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Flat earthers beware

Finding Earth On The Moon

'A New Documentary Examines The Human Side Of One Of Mankind's Greatest Endeavours

Words: Felix Robertson Photos: Still from movie

Documentary

The documentary is shown at the Exploration Museum in Húsavík.

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the moon landings, a new documentary entitled 'Cosmic Birth,' produced by Rafnar Orri Gunnarsson and Örlygur (Örly) Hnefill Örlygsson, considers the spiritual, human side of this extraordinary achievement, as well as the role Iceland played in the story.

Down to Earth

The documentary is a charmingly eccentric work. Animation is interwoven with poetry and an original soundtrack; in one scene memorably depicted by a fully suited astronaut playing the squeezebox. In contrast to the often technical telling of the moon landings, 'Cosmic Birth' provides a more spiritual account, considering the religious and cultural significance of the moon, most strikingly by opening with a passage from a children's book. It's an unusual approach, and renders the documentary a little incohesive, but it's still a welcome change from the historical narrative that often dominates accounts of the moon landings.

This looser, more reflective approach is displayed most vividly in the brilliant segments

with NASA moonwalkers such as Bill Anders and Charles Duke. In a wonderfully varied series of conversations, the astronauts discuss how they first heard about NASA recruiting, expound on the beauty of the 'Earth Rising' photo, and discuss their families.

"What surprised me about meeting these men was how down to earth they were," says Örly. It was also clear even from the relatively short interview segments that they were still filled with stories and recollections. "We had over twenty four hours of collective interviews. The biggest challenge was choosing which stories to include."

A deeply human story

Perhaps the most touching and intriguing moment, however, comes when the documentary turns to Iceland's small but significant role in the lead-up to the moon landing. In 1965 and 1967, NASA sent several groups of astronauts to Iceland for geological field trips, frequently based around Husavik, due to a suspected similarity between the basalt based Icelandic landscape and the lunar surface, a similar-

ity that would be confirmed in the eventual 1969 moon-landing. Örly credits his discovery of this research as a key aspect in his fascination with the Apollo missions.

But the most striking aspect of this section of the film was, in stark contrast to the scientific purpose of the trip, a deeply human story. Mark Armstrong, son of Neil Armstrong, describes how he was able to spend a few weeks in Iceland on a fishing trip with his father, a time he still treasures greatly. "Neil Armstrong was trained for ten years to go to the moon, and for all the possible scenarios," explains Örly. "But what he wasn't trained for was the fame that came with it. People were always approaching him asking

"In Iceland, Neil Armstrong could be himself. I'm glad we could give him that."

for photos or autographs, but here in Iceland he could be himself. I'm glad Iceland could give him that."

Ultimately, however, it's the film's ecological message that shines through.

The slogan of the film, itself a quote from astronaut Bill Anders, reads, 'We went to the moon, but we discovered the earth.' Similar sentiments are repeated throughout the documentary.

"We asked all the astronauts about this experience of viewing the earth," says Örly. "And this was a common theme for all of them, it was more powerful, for them, to view the earth from the moon, than the fact that they were standing on the moon itself. That tells us something about the value of our world."

gpu.is/film
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Various Events



Deff Starr is back and ready to put you in a Shamanic Trance

Friday August 16th

Shamanic Trance Drag Show
21:00 Gaukurinn

Friday Party!: 'Hair' Sing-A-Long Screening
20:00 Bió Paradís

Queer Lunch Beat
12:00 Geiri Smart

Queer Nightlight Stories Walking Tour
15:30 From Hlemmur

The Icelandic Lesbian
17:00 Tjarnarbió

Queer Cruise
20:00 Elding, Ægisgarði

Feminist Swearing Night
20:00 Loft

How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa

Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits
19:30 Harpa

Saturday August 17th

Reykjavik Pride Parade!
12:00 Downtown Reykjavik

Pride Zumba Parry
11:30 World Class Laugar

Bubbly Brunch
12:00 Geiri Smart

Queers Without Borders: Action Meeting
19:00 Andrymi

How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa

Sunday August 18th

Guided Tour In English
11:00 National Museum Of Iceland

Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
21:00 Sæta Svinið

How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa

Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits
19:30 Harpa

Free Yoga Class
12:00 Loft

Monday August 19th

★ **Bianca Del Rio: It's Jester Joke!**
20:30 Harpa

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy Night
21:00 Gaukurinn

Tuesday August 20th

Funniest Four: Comedy Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits
19:30 Harpa

Wednesday August 21st

Guided Tour Of Gerður Helgadóttir's Stained Glass Windows
12:15 Gerðarsafn

Open Mic Stand-Up Comedy
21:00 The Secret Cellar

How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa

Bollywood Dance Night
12:00 Loft

Independent Party People
20:00 Tjarnarbió

Thursday August 22nd

My Voices Have Tourettes
21:00 The Secret Celler

How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa

Friday August 23rd

Friday Party!: 'Sleepless In Seattle' Screening
20:00 Bió Paradís

How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa

Painting Space: NASA's Art Program
12:00 Hafnarhús

Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits
19:30 Harpa

Saturday August 24th

★ **Menningarnótt 2019**
All Day, Everywhere

Family Workshop: Drawings, Laughter & Tunes
15:00 Gerðarsafn

The Mindful Library
15:00 Reykjavik City Library

Collection Of Exhibitions & Talks
13:00 Galleri Fold

Sunday August 25th

How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa

Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits
19:30 Harpa

Free Yoga Class
12:00 Loft

Monday August 26th

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy Night
21:00 Gaukurinn

Guided Tour (In English!)
12:30 Hafnarhús

Tuesday August 27th

Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits
19:30 Harpa

Funniest Four: Comedy Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Wednesday August 28th

Open Mic Stand-Up Comedy
21:00 The Secret Cellar

How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa

Thursday August 29th

How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa

My Voices Have Tourettes
21:00 The Secret Cellar



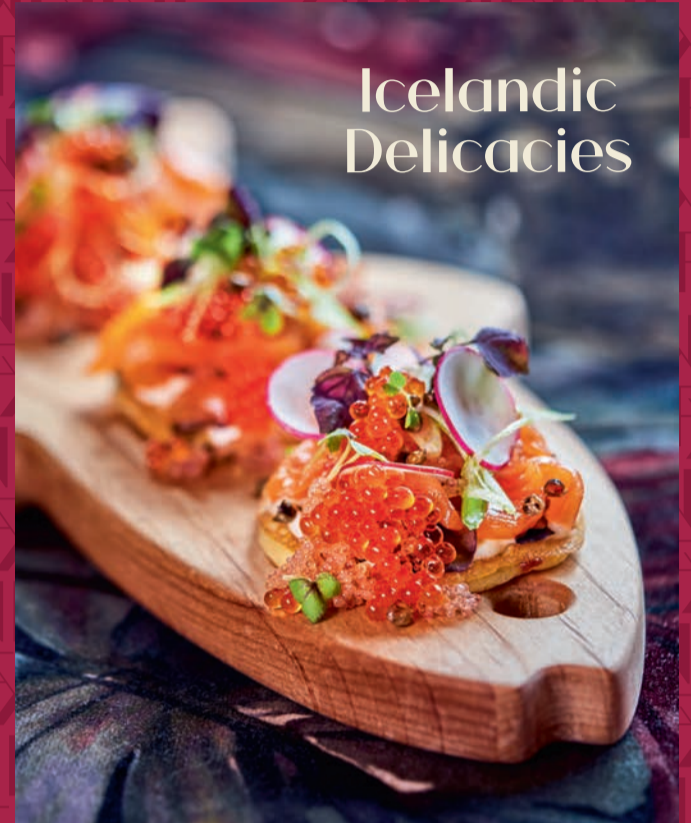
★ For event listings from August 30th on, check out happening.grapevine.is or our app Appening, available on iOS and Android

FJALLKONAN

KRÁ & KRÆSINGAR

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

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



Icelandic Delicacies



Must try dishes

LAMB & FLATBREAD

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

ARCTIC CHARR & BLINI

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

ICELANDIC PLATTER

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

THE LAMB BURGER

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

SKYR ETON MESS CHEESECAKE

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FJALLKONAN WELCOMES YOU!



We're in love with the shape of you, Eddie

LIVE REVIEW

The Black Belt Troubadour

That time 15% of Iceland went to see Ed Sheeran

Words: Valur Grettisson Photo: Visir/Vilhelm



Laugavegur 28

537 99 00

sumac@sumac.is

www.sumac.is

When the news broke that Ed Sheeran was going to play at Laugardalsvöllur in August, Icelanders broke a national record, buying over 30,000 tickets within minutes. Keep in mind that 30,000 is 10% of the nation. Sena Live, the organisers, promptly added an extra concert that sold around 20,000 more tickets over the next few months. Overall, 15% of the Icelandic population went to back-to-back Ed Sheeran concerts during the second weekend of August. I know, it sounds like something you would read in *The Onion*, but trust me, this really happened.

Red hair and loads of talent

Ed Sheeran has an obvious and unprecedented star attraction among foreign performers in Iceland. He is one of the biggest pop artists in the world, with a different kind of flair than the rest of them. He goes onstage in a jumper, without a band or dancers behind him, armed with just his red hair and loads of talent. It's incredibly simple.

Sheeran established himself as an Icelandic sweetheart when he posted a picture of himself sporting the Icelandic national football shirt back when Iceland was facing its nemesis, Croatia, at the 2018 World Cup. (Iceland still lost.)

The line

I, Valur Grettisson, decided to go to the concert with my 11-year-old son, Ólafur Grettir. Both of us like some of Ed's songs, but we also loathe others. My favourite is "Bloodstream," while Óli likes the sugary pop stuff—not all of it, though. In true 11-year-old fashion, he made that crystal clear beforehand.

So both of us weren't really sure what we were walking into, but as soon as we did walk in, we were greeted by the longest queue we

had ever seen in our lives. It started at Laugardalsvöllur and ended somewhere in another district of Reykjavik. The queue actually made headlines in the media, with guests questioning the management of Sena Live. That said, Sena quickly fixed it, and took the criticism to heart afterwards.

Impressive setup

The field of Laugardalsvöllur, which we use most often for football, was unrecognisable—now a full blown rock and roll stadium. It was an impressive setup.

The first opening band we saw—unfortunately, like most of the guests in line, we missed Zara Larsson—was James Bay. His most famous song is the dreamie folk pop, "Hold Back The River." James had a full band to back him up and presented a pretty decent poppy/folky concert. It could have been more energetic, sure, but it was a nice warm up for the flamehaired wonder.

Punctual rock star

You know that times are changing when the star of the night does not only show up exactly at the advertised start-time for the show, but actually comes on-stage one minute ahead of schedule. Yes, just a minute before start time, the audience could see Sheeran walking towards the stage on the huge screen. It was a magical moment, and revealed that punctuality is also one of many Sheeran's great talents.

Then, Ed started off with a bang. The crowd cheered. He was completely alone on stage, yet easily captivated the 30,000-strong crowd like it was an intimate bar setting. And how exactly does one man captivate the attention of

such a massive crowd for two whole hours with but an acoustic guitar in hand? Well, with some kind of a pedal, apparently, that he used to record the beats and back up voices, which he sang himself, and then play back as he went along. This man has a black belt in troubadourism. And then some.

Sheeran started off slowly and connected well with the crowd. The slow setup was hard for some audience members, though, as the temperatures dropped as the sun went down. But boy, things picked up in the second half. He blasted us with his sugary pop songs, which were surprisingly tolerable when played live. Within minutes, the whole crowd was jumping and cheering.

Not the best, but we're getting there

The concert itself didn't really enter the hall of fame of live entertainment in Iceland, but it was exactly how Sheeran appears to be: honest, fun and relaxed. One could even think that this guy was, in some ways, an interesting reflection of this small nation, who always believe that a small amount of people can accomplish incredible things. Sheeran even pushed that point, singing his biggest hits dressed in his famed Icelandic national football shirt.

Overall, the concert was a smash hit. The audience loved it, and Sena Live's preparation was exemplary, despite the hiccup with the line. It

"Overall, darling, he looked perfect that night."

also proved that Iceland is more than ready for any huge artist to visit us in the future.

If the Grapevine would give out stars—which we don't—I would give the concert three and a half stars out of four. There is still room to do better, but overall, darling, he looked perfect that night. ♥

**A GUIDE THAT
FUCKS YOU UP**

A selection from
**Every
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Hour**
in 101 Reykjavík

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AMERICAN BAR
Every day from
16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

APÓTEK
Every day from
15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 695 ISK,
Wine 745 ISK.

BEER GARDEN
Every day from
15:00 to 19:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

BIÓ PARADÍS
Every day from
17:00 to 19:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

BRAVÓ
Every day from
11:00 to 20:00.
Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

**BRYGGJAN
BRUGGHÚS**
Every day from
15:00 to 19:00.
Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 1,050 ISK.

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

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

FORRÉTTABARINN
Every day from
16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

GAUKURINN
Every day from
14:00 to 21:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK,
Shots 750 ISK.

GEIRI SMART
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 500 ISK,
Wine 600 ISK,
Cocktails 1,200 ISK.

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

Wine 700 ISK.
ÍÐA ZIMSEN
Every day from
19:00 to 22:00.
Beer 495 ISK.

ÍSAFOLD
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

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

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

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

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

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

LOFTIÐ
Wed- Sun from
16:00 to 21:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500 ISK.

MARBAR
Every day from
16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 650 ISK.

MIAMI
Every day from
15:00 to 20:00.
Beer 500 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK,
Cocktails 1,000 ISK.

PABLO DISCOBAR
Every day from
17:00 to 18:00.
Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500 ISK.

**PAPAKU
REYKJAVÍK**
Every day from
16:00 to 22:00.
Beer 690 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

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

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

PETERSEN SVÍTAN
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16:00 to 20:00,
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Wine 1,000 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500 ISK.

SÆTA SVÍNIÐ
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Beer 645 ISK,
Wine 745 ISK.

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BAR**
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Wine 900 ISK.

SKÚLI CRAFT BAR
Every day from
12:00 to 19:00.
Beer 900 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

SLIPPBARINN
Every day from
15:00 to 18:00.

Beer 500 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK,
Cocktails 1,200 ISK

SPÁNSKI BARINN
Every day from
14:00 to 20:00.
Beer 650 ISK,
Wine 850 ISK.

STOFAN CAFÉ
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 950 ISK.

SOLO
Everyday from
15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

SUSHI SOCIAL
Every day from
17:00 to 18:00.
Beer 645 ISK,
Wine 745 ISK,
Half-priced
cocktails.

TAPAS BARINN
Every day from
17:00 to 18:00.
Beer 645 ISK,
Wine 745 ISK.

VEÐUR
Every day from
12:00 to 19:35.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

ÖLSTOFAN
Every day from
15:00 to 20:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.



Featured Happy Hour

★ **LOFT**
BANKASTRÆTI 7

Loft Hostel is a big bright place with a lot of floorspace and a very mixed crowd of young, seemingly hip Icelanders and

tourists. During happy hour, draft beer and wine both go for 750 ISK and up. PS: If it's a sunny day, check out their balcony. It might get crowded but it's worth the wait.

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11:00 - 14:30
Soup of the day - 990 ISK

Dominos
Tuesdays-All day
Medium Sized pizza with 3 toppings -1,000 ISK-Vegan option

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

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

KEX Hostel
Every day
15:00 - 19:00
Chicken wings - 650 ISK
Baked almonds - 500 ISK

Sushi Social
Every day
17:00 - 18:00
Truffle potatoes 1,000 ISK

Avocado fries - 690 ISK
Lobster sushi, ribs & more - 890 ISK

1,500 ISK And Under

Hamborgara-búlla Tómasar
Tuesdays-All day
Burger, french fries & soda - 1,390 ISK

Gló
Every day-All day
Bowl of the month - 1,290 ISK
Vegan option

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

Sæta svíníð
Every day 15-18
Chicken wings - 1,190 ISK
"Dirty" fries - 1,390 ISK

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

Lemon
Every day
16:00 - 21:00
2f1 Juice + sandwich 1,095 ISK
Vegan option

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

2,000 ISK And Under

Essensia
Every day-All day
Lunch-catch of the day - 1,980 ISK

Bryggjan Brugghús
Monday - Friday
11:30 - 15:00
Dish of the day soup & bread - 1,690 ISK

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

Matarkjallarinn
Monday - Friday
11:30 - 15:00
Fisherman's fish soup -1,990 ISK

5,000 ISK And Under

Apótek
Every day
11:30 - 16:00
Two-course lunch -3,390 ISK
Three course lunch - 4,390 ISK

Kids Eat Free

All Icelandair Hotel restaurants

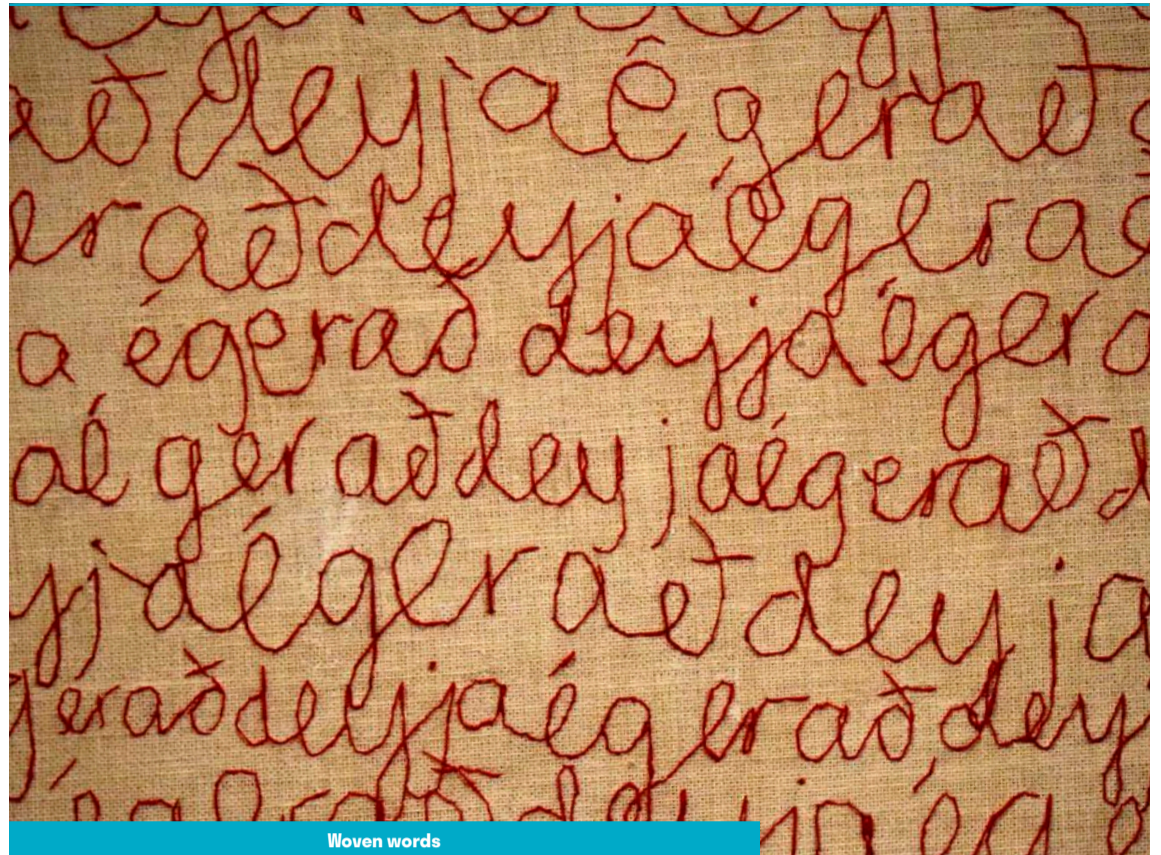
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if you order two adult meals

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Threads That Bind

Sláturhúsið's summer exhibition interweaves storytelling with visual poetry

Words: **a rawlings** Photo: **John Rogers**

Text-based Art Exhibition

'Sunnifa' and 'ég er að deyja' are on display at Sláturhúsið in Egilsstaðir until September 15th

"I wanted to tell this story because I think it's highly relevant," says Kristín Amalía Atladóttir, "not only as a reaction to the Me Too revolution. It's also a kind of reaction to the very uncomfortable things that are developing in America and Poland, where women's reproductive rights are being limited."

Kristín Amalía is the director of Egilsstaðir's cultural centre, Sláturhúsið. She is also the originator of this summer's multimedia storytelling exhibition 'Sunnifa.' While literature is not the usual focus of Sláturhúsið's programme, this exhibition runs simultaneously with Kristín Gunnlaugsdóttir's exhibition of embroidered text.

The story of Sunnifa

Kristín Amalía elaborates on her exhibition's raison d'être: "This is a 300-year-old story about Sunnifa, who became a victim of strict laws regarding incest, unwanted pregnancies, and killing babies. It's an incredible story that took place over twenty years. Very little is known apart from official documentation."

To prepare Sunnifa's story in an exhibition space, Kristín collaborated with a designer and an illustrator. "We only had the story itself, no visuals. So the challenge was to make an exhibition that would sustain interest although it was mostly text-based."

Historical whodunit

Kristín Amalía's research into Sunnifa's life revealed that the legal case was the primary source indicating her existence, as there were otherwise no birth or death records. "She's nowhere on record.

We're trying to bring her to life, to give her a face and a presence. All the men are silhouettes; she and the children are the only ones with faces in the exhibition."

The exhibition includes a book written by Kristín Amalía, with all of the facts that are known about Sunnifa and her legal case. "When there's a bit of bias, I put a footnote. There is a whodunit in the end. You don't want to influence people. They can collect all the facts that are known and make up their own minds."

Text meets textile

For her exhibition 'ég er að deyja', visual artist Kristín Gunnlaugsdóttir embroiders common phrases on large wall canvases. According to Sláturhúsið's director, "these sentences come from the mouths of kids and teenagers, but have a broader relevance."

"Kristín Gunnlaugsdóttir picked up sentences and gave them a different context, like 'I wish she was dead.' Teenagers do say that but, like I said, it has a different context in relation to the Sunnifa exhibition."

Each canvas focuses on a word or phrase, embroidered in red thread on a burlap-coloured background. One canvas centers 'mamma mín' (Icelandic for 'my mother'), while another displays a phrase that translates as 'just as good I am not beautiful'. The sentences are terse, complex with meaning despite their succinctness. Red thread resonates as life-blood, anger, love, or an editor's red pen.

Ég er að deyja

On one canvas, Kristín repeatedly embroidered the phrase 'ég er að deyja' ('I am dying', in English). The capacity to write the sentence is slowed down dramatically by using needle and thread to embed it on the canvas. The slower engagement with letters and words moves

towards exhaustion through the repetition of this phrase.

"As it progresses," Kristín Amalía explains, "you're moving closer to the meaning of the sentence. 'Ég er að deyja.' We're dying from heat, we're dying from whatever. I think this is the only true statement we can make."

Kristín Amalía stresses the interconnections between her Sunnifa exhibition and Kristín's work. "'Ég er að deyja' is in direct relation to the Sunnifa exhibition, which is all about death—death is hanging over her head for the twenty years of the story."

Ekki, an echo

Yet another canvas bears the sole word 'ekki', which means 'not' in Icelandic. "When you're crying," says Kristín Amalía, "the gasping sound, this is 'ekki'. Possibly it relates to 'echo'."

Kristín Amalía sources an intertextual connection between the prominence of 'ekki' in the exhibition and its relationship with sorrow. "There was a book of poetry published last Christmas called 'Requiem' by Gerður Kristný. It's about sexual violence, an incestuous incident that happened twenty years ago when Gerður was a journalist. In the book, Gerður writes about church and benches, which rhymes in Icelandic. 'In the church of doom and sorrow, there are benches made out of sorrow.' I don't know if Kristín was aware of Gerður's lines when she was playing with this word, but it resonates."

After the flood

"I'm working on two other projects related to the 'Sunnifa' exhibition," Kristín Amalía shares. "There was a woman named Halldóra born in Seyðisfjörður who was drowned in the valley. She was innocent. I'm working to get her a posthumous pardon. This is difficult because there's no such law in Iceland. I'm waiting for a phone call to see what's best with the government, whether to create new laws or a new category of pardoning posthumously. Hopefully, I'll get this through parliament and we'll be able to put up a big memorial, using her as a representative of all of these women who were victims of sexual abuse."

Ekki. It makes one feel emotional. 🍷

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FANCIES is where we talk to Reykjavik's most fashion-forward figures about style

Birna María Yngri

Birna María Yngri (28) is the artist YNGRÍI

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen Photo: Art Bicnick



Birna María is wearing:

- ▶ All clothing is secondhand
- ▶ Necklace & bracelet made by Ester Auðunsdóttir

Describe your style in five words:

Colourful (not today.) Naive. Sustainable. A bit dark sometimes. Elegant.

Favourite stores in Reykjavik:

I try to avoid shopping at stores and buy only secondhand or something that is environmentally friendly. If anything, I could mention Wasteland. They repair and sell secondhand clothing. I have a super nice vest made from an old dress.

Favourite piece:

A vest that I bought at a secondhand shop in Berlin some years ago. I wear it almost every other day. It's even been stolen from me, but I got it back. It's so unique I knew who took it. It's black and white and textured. I like it over turtlenecks and everything else.

Something I would never wear:

Labels. You'll never see a logo on me. It reminds me too much of capitalism.

Lusting after:

I don't want anything. I just want to be as sustainable as possible with my clothing. We don't need anything. ♡

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Food

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Don't worry, they don't serve monkey

Wild Monkey Tapas

Makake injects some Japanese-Spanish flavour into Grandi

Words: Ragnar Egilsson Photo: Art Bicnick

Makake

Visit Makake at Grandagarður 101, 101 Reykjavík

The Icelandic restaurant landscape is always shifting. These days, Reykjavík seems to be experiencing an injection of international cuisine. The last couple of months have seen the opening of Syrian café Aleppo, the Moroccan restaurant Kasbah, and the Afghan restaurant Afghan Style, to name just a few. One of the most exciting restaurants to form out of this multicultural big bang is the brand-new Japanese-Spanish tapas house Makake.

Wild people

Helmed by Erna Pétursdóttir, who is also one of the brains behind the beloved Ramen Momo, the restaurant was joined by chef Mayela Armas, who shares Erna's Spanish roots and her passion for Japanese cuisine.

Erna dons a bright headband and the playful grin of someone eager to surprise the meat-and-potato-loving Icelanders. "Makake [or macaque, in English] is a Japanese wild monkey that are also known as snow monkeys," she says. "They

live in matriarchal societies that are all about sharing and caring. They even love bathing in hot springs and rolling snowballs like Icelanders. We thought it was a great fit since tapas are made for sharing and, at Makake, we want people to share, be playful and have fun."

With Ramen Momo, Erna carved out a niche, but Makake takes her for a deeper plunge, infusing the Barcelona vibes of Erna's youth with the herbal aromas of mochi ice cream and the sweet smell of grilled pork belly.

A special cultural blend

The walls of Makake are emblazoned with manga-like images of macaques at play. Red paper lanterns frame a recreation of Japanese street dining; tables are made of beer crates and lights from old Bundaberg ginger beer bottles.

The fusion between the culinary traditions of Barcelona and Tokyo is not as strange as it may seem at first glance. The Japanese Izakaya restaurants are bustling after-work bistros with casual small plate dining built around sharing much like Spain's tapas tradition. And those shared Iberian roots run even deeper, as many Japanese dishes were influenced by traditions brought

over by Portuguese travellers in the 16th century. One of the best known among those being the tempura.

"When I was a kid, I'd love to visit the Chinese-Venezuelan social center to see their markets and restaurants," chef Mayela chimes in. "I ended up in charge of Barcelona's only Asian cooking school and Erna and I originally met there during an intensive Ramen course. Shortly after, she invited me over to help develop the menu at Ramen Momo and now Makake. It's funny how these things can happen."

The ever evolving Grandi

"Makake is a dream we've had for five years," says Erna. "As much as we love what we have created with our tiny ramen lunch place. We've been dreaming of opening up something bigger."

Makake is located in the black, white and blue building that used to house the Kumiko café, over in the Grandi area which has seen a massive explosion of new restaurants and food businesses during the last five years.

"The food scene in Grandi, has changed a lot since the beautiful people from Cocoo's Nest started to rework the energy of the area. Now Grandi reminds me of an area in Barcelona called Poblenou; both are industrial areas that have been reshaped with interesting projects that would otherwise have a hard time making rent in the current rental market. The corner of Grandi where Makake is based is still developing but the building is beautiful and spacious and it allows us to work freely and express our vision."



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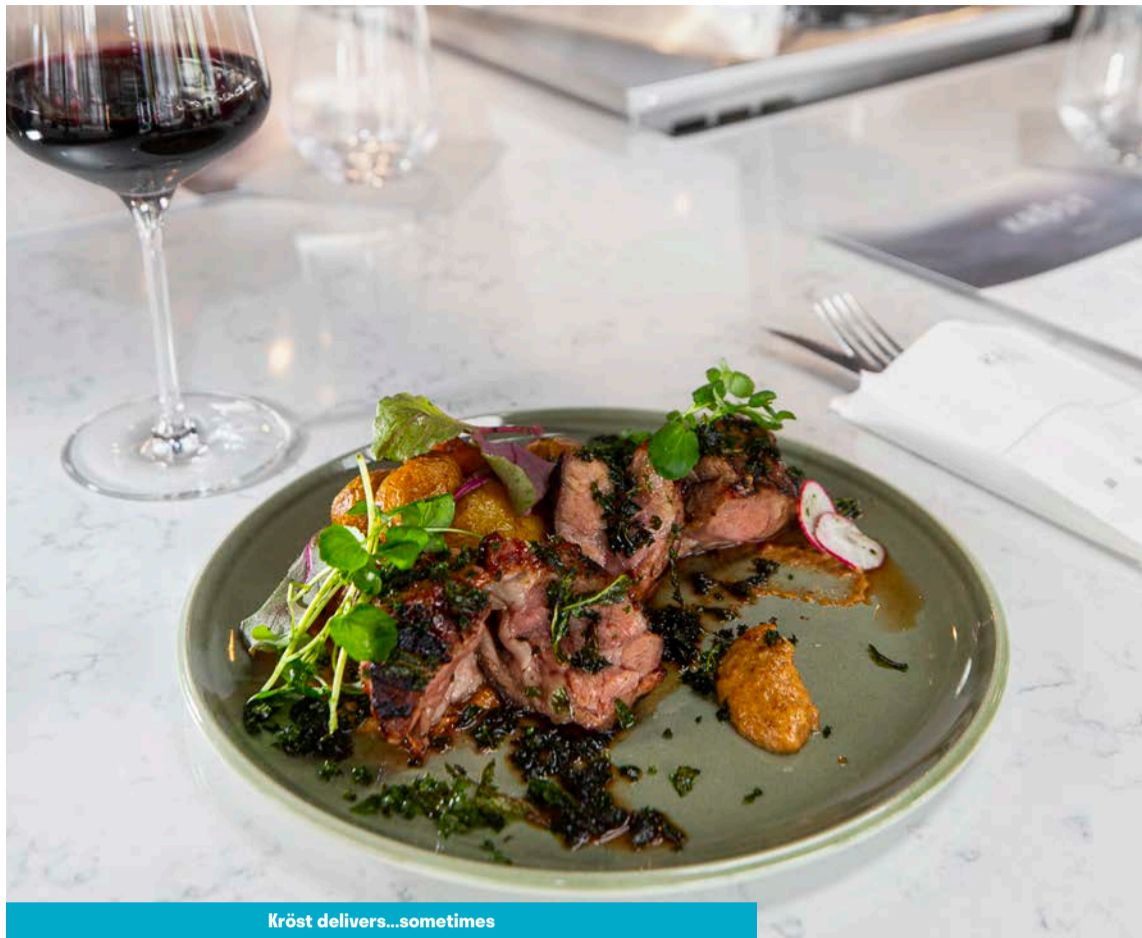
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Kröst delivers...sometimes

Adjusted Expectations

Hits and misses at Kröst

Words: Shruthi Basappa Photos: Art Bicnick

Kröst

Visit the restaurant at the Hlemmur Mathöll, Laugavegur 107, and online at krost.is

Small in size, but delivering on content, there's plenty to choose from at the Hlemmur Mathöll—Neapolitan pizzas, Mexican tacos and even a Michelin Bib gastropub. Kröst, a grill and wine bar, stands in good company.

Bustling and jovial, the atmosphere at the food hall is usually festive. But sometimes, one might seek their own little island amidst the conviviality. It is a thoughtful detail then, that the seating at Kröst is designed for an intimate bar-side experience; the seating is both ergonomic and comfortable. You'll appreciate this detail once you've struggled to get out of the benches flanking the tables throughout the rest of the food hall.

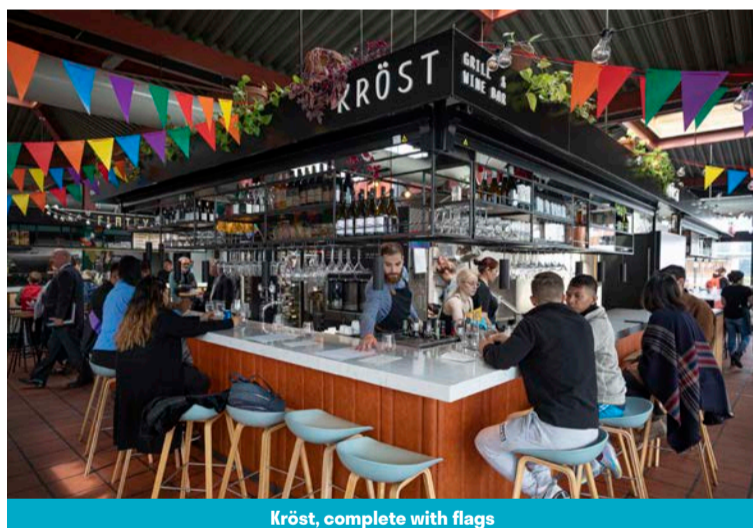
Bubbly bubbles

Kröst's popular bubbly happy hour might be reason enough to quit work early for a daily aperitif. A glass or small bottle of mainstream Drappier and Bollinger, to non-vintage houses like Louis Roederer alongside Proseccos and Rosés are attractively priced between 1,200 ISK and 3,000 ISK.

I particularly like their selection of reds, often bordering on full bodied mature wines. If 'lighter' is how you roll, then the garnet hued, berry rich 2015 Château Bois Pertuis Bordeaux punches above its bracket at just 1790 ISK.

At dinner recently, I discovered a long finished summer white

from Chavy-Chouet (2,190 ISK), a 2017 Bourgogne Les Femelottes—the 100% Chardonnay's buttery smoothness pairs pleasantly with



Kröst, complete with flags

the simply grilled salmon (3,480 ISK). The rich, crisp acidity of the wine plays nicely with the fresh cucumber salsa and together they make for a winning summer dish.

Spare the burger

Kröst has long advertised its penchant for burgers and bubbly. Alliteration and bubbly they nail, burgers, not so much. Popularised as the Krösti (2,490 ISK, add-ons additional), and now offered in three variants—vegan, meat and Keto—they are uniformly off the mark with alarming consistency.

The meat burger is uninspiring, even if the patty was cooked to a nice medium rare. The house ketchup is savoury and has a kick. The potatoes are an ever-changing formula; it could be fry short ends,

or whole baby potatoes or even crisps. Pickles are, sadly, amiss.

The worst offender, though, is the Vegan Krösti, advertised as a patty with caramelised onions and apple salad, both curiously absent from the served dish. The patty itself is lacklustre—cracked, dry lake bed like surface, with the same desolate dusty air about it. Where their patty once held a little grain for bite and black bean for heft, it is now one-note, and textured for a toothless babe.

I'd either revisit the old recipe or take a leaf out of KFC's veggie patty offered overseas—chock full

of assorted veggies held together with potatoes and cooked to a shattering crunch.

Adjusted expectations

Kröst's menu is designed for optimum wine quaffing satisfaction. It's been my experience that the suggested pairings on the menu are sound but the staff recommendations may be a hit or miss depending on the server. The clearly spelled suggestions also take out the guesswork, making an outing at Kröst enjoyable for both the show-off wine aficionado and the greenhorn.

Keep in mind that Kröst will knock your socks off only occasionally. It clearly holds itself to higher standards, evidenced by their full fledged wine selection. And in the present Reykjavík restaurant climate, to quote Jay Rayner, it's more of a recommendation than it may seem. 🍷



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Travel

Unto The Breach

Encountering the humpback whale in Akureyri

Words: Felix Robertson Photos: Art Bicnick



Distance from Reykjavik: 388 km

How to get there: Take route 1 highway north

Accommodation provided by: akureyri-backpackers.is

Tour provided by: elding.is

Car provided by: hertz.is

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We knew that it was getting serious when they brought out the waterproof boiler suits. It was 8:50 PM, and we were standing at the Elding pier in Akureyri, the largest town in Northern Iceland, preparing to join an express whale watching tour. Our goal was to see the majestic humpback whale, and perhaps a dolphin or two, and we would travel on a specially modified RIB boat to do so. Hence, we were kitted out with what felt like enough gear to go to the moon, with goggles, gloves and lifejackets atop waterproof overalls.

Suitably armoured, we stepped into the little motorboat. Though Akureyri sits on the coast, it is nestled deep inside one of Iceland's longest fjords. To get to the whales, we had to travel to the end of the fjord. Before long, we were going nearly full speed, bouncing over the surface of the water while Akureyri rapidly disappeared behind us. The fjord was lit by the evening sun, still high in the sky but just beginning to descend, and the views were phenomenal. For nearly an hour we sped along. The noise of the speedboat made talking effectively impossible, but the beauty of the landscape was so striking that it didn't matter. We were all utterly captivated.

Silvery Streaks

As we approached the end of the fjord, the water became choppier and the wind stronger. I started to regret not grabbing a woollen hat before we departed—it was so chilly it felt like my ears were about to snap off. At that very moment our guide gave a shout and gestured. Up ahead there was motion in the water. And then, almost like an illustration in their perfect form, several dolphins began to leap out of the sea.

As we approached, the water began to fill with silvery streaks as they sped along, comfortably matching the reduced speed of our boat. Our guide explained that, when they leapt out of the sea, they would smack the water with their tails, thus stunning other fish and making them easier prey. But it was clear from watching that there was also a keen sense of play here, especially amongst the younger dolphins in the pod. It was truly infectious, and we could have spent much longer enjoying their company.

Like nothing else

But we had bigger goals yet, so we moved on from the cavorting cetaceans and sped on, out into the open

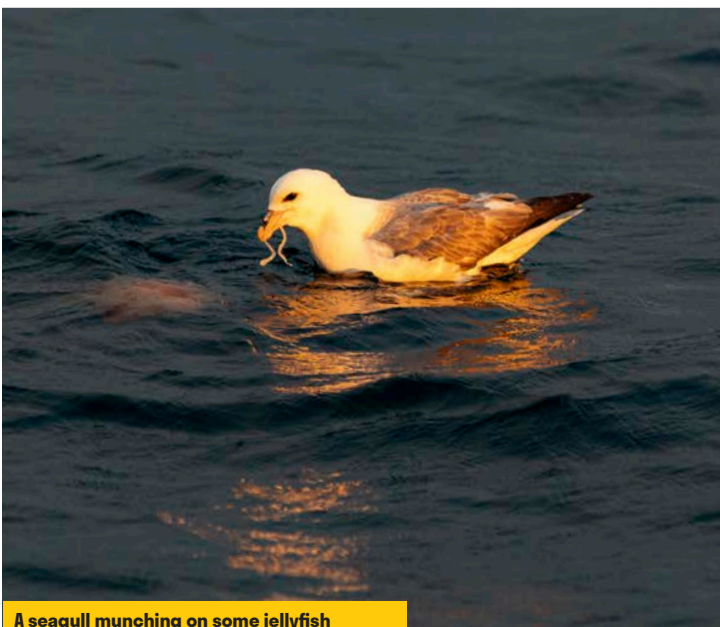
ocean, where the water was rougher still. The boat was gently brought to a halt and as the sound of the engine faded, the roar of the sea rushed in to take its place. I suddenly felt very small. We scanned the seas, looking for signs of whales: either a blast of vapour from their blowholes or, if we were lucky, a whale actually breaching. Now that the engine was off, the boat was being rocked sharply amongst the breaking crests of the waves, I began to wonder whether we would see a whale even if one surfaced. But then there was a great spray of water in the distance, bigger than any of the waves, and, thrillingly, a massive, dark shape leapt clean into the air and came down with a great splash. I needn't have worried about spotting it amongst the waves—a breaching humpback whale is unmistakable. The thrill of the chase set upon us, and we sped in the direction of the spray, bouncing across the choppy waves.

We slowed down as we approached where the whale had breached, desperately scanning the water for another glimpse. Before long, there was another blast of air and suddenly it was there, a deep dark shape briefly skimming the surface of the sea. It dived below the surface and, with a splash, its impossibly large tail was raised

“It was a piece of quintessentially Icelandic magic”

high above the water, beautifully speckled with unique white spots. And then it was gone as the humpback, so our guide explained, potentially as far as sixty metres into the chilly depths.

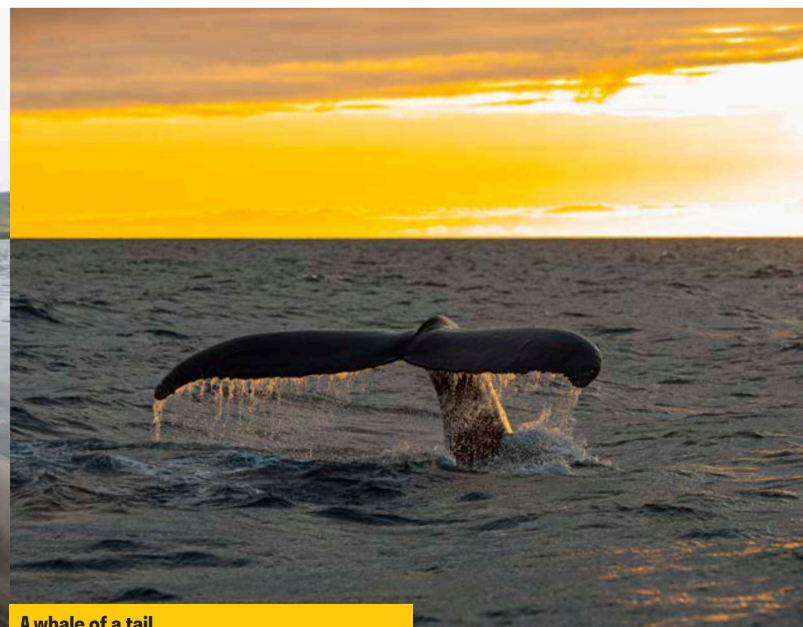
We remained watching for a glorious forty minutes or so. While the humpbacks can stay under for as long as half an hour, they more commonly surface again after ten or fifteen minutes and usually in a similar place to where they dived. But we were lucky that evening because there were as



A seagull munching on some jellyfish



Barbara explains...



A whale of a tail



42°C hot cascade



Making friends on the high seas

many as three humpbacks around. We kept our eyes peeled for spray and then sped in that direction, normally arriving just in time to see those glorious tail fins breach the surface; the setting sun glimmering on their shining surface.

A Warm Welcome

We could have spent hours there. But, as the sun began to set in earnest it was time to turn back. Still one last moment of excitement awaited us. As we approached Akureyri, now gently illuminated at dusk, our boat took a sudden turn straight towards a waterfall pouring into the fjord. At first,

I wondered if it was some cruel prank. But then, as we approached, we felt the heat and realised that the water vapour was actually steam. The cascade was gushing hot water, and as we moved closer we were splashed with warmth. The deluge, our guide explained, wasn't totally natural, but the water itself was geothermally heated and had merely been re-routed by construction work. It was, like the whole of our trip, a piece of quintessentially Icelandic magic. 🇮🇸

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The group, ready for some whale action

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Travel

A Lassie On Laki

Intern Josie takes us on another mountainous adventure.

This time, there's pizza.

Words: Josie Gaitens Photos: Art Bienick

“This effect is credited with instigating the French Revolution and, more weirdly, Robert Burns’ poetic output.”



Distance from Reykjavik:
226 km

How to get there:
Take route 1 south, turn onto route 26 and then routes 208 and 235

Tour provided by:
secreticeland.com

View this QR code in your phone camera to visit our recommended tour booking site



What do the French Revolution, national bard of Scotland Robert Burns, and Iceland all have in common? The answer is Laki—a volcanic fissure in the south of Iceland that was responsible for an eight-month long eruption that began in June 1783 and ultimately, the deaths of thousands of people worldwide. In other words, the perfect location for a lovely countryside jaunt.

Early start (again...)

Laki, which is actually a mountain bisected by the Lakagígar volcanic fissure, is located in the Highlands and is therefore only accessible during the summer and only by 4WD. One of the best, and more relaxing ways, to see the area—if you don't fancy stressful river navigations in your rental car—is to book a super jeep tour. Also, then you can tell all your friends you've been in a super jeep.

Our tour set off from Kirkjubæjarklaustur at 8:45 AM, which unfortunately for us meant leaving Reykjavik at 5 AM. I think my editors are under the impression that I don't require sleep (see also: my article on climbing Hvannadalshnúkur), which I would like to make clear is decidedly not the case. Luckily, the meeting point was the gas station, meaning we could load up on more than enough caffeine and pylsur to satisfy even the hungriest of journalists, and pick up a packed lunch for the long day ahead.

World-changing eruption

The drive from Kirkjubæjarklaustur

to the base of Laki takes just over an hour, during which our knowledgeable driver pointed out local sites and explained the history of what was one of the largest eruptions on record. During the eruption, 14 km³ of basalt lava was produced, which, if you're not great at visualising these things, is a fucking lot. In addition to this, a bunch of very unpleasant gasses were released into the atmosphere, creating a mist known as the 'Laki Haze' which floated over Europe causing widespread disease, crop failure and famine. It is this effect that is credited with instigating the French Revolution and, more weirdly, Robert Burns' poetic output. But some impacts of the disaster were far more obvious. An estimated 25% of Iceland's human population and 75% of animals were wiped out in the aftermath of the eruption.

Driving through the lava fields, it is easy to get a sense of the scale of the catastrophe. It's also easy to see how life returns to an area once devastated by lava flow, as the bumpy plains are covered with soft, pale green moss, lending the landscape Iceland's characteristic other-worldly feel.

Going up

At the base of Laki mountain we were greeted by a friendly ranger. The area in which the fissure is located now forms part of the huge Vatnajökull National Park, so guides are on hand at various points to provide visitors with information and to make sure the rules are adhered to. These are, predominantly, stick to the goddamn

trails. I'm looking at you, Justin Bieber.

The first hike of the day was to the top of Laki. The path was at times steep and slippery but well maintained, with crude stone steps placed along some of the more challenging stretches. Hiking boots are essential, but the trail is suitable for less experienced walkers. The view from the top takes in both Mýrdalsjökull and Vatnajökull glaciers, as well as the 25km long chain of craters that make up the eruption site. The weather in the Highlands can be quite erratic, but although the wind was punishing, the sky was clear and we were blessed with excellent visibility.

Celebrity spots

From Laki we made our way through the Highlands towards the south, stopping at various points for short hikes and photo opportunities. My favourite walk was around the water-filled Tjarnargígur crater. The bright blue lake against the surrounding dark volcanic rock and pale moss looked incredible.

But the final stop of the day was by far the most famous, and that's thanks to a completely different type of natural disaster. The beautiful Fjaðrárgljúfur canyon has become one of the most photographed places in Iceland in recent years, and all because of one particular man-child and his penchant for traipsing through rivers in his underwear. That's right, Justin Bieber, I'm still looking at you. After the Biebs' famous video for 'I'll show you', tourists flocked to the valley to



Splish splash motherfucker



Remember where you can and can't drive!



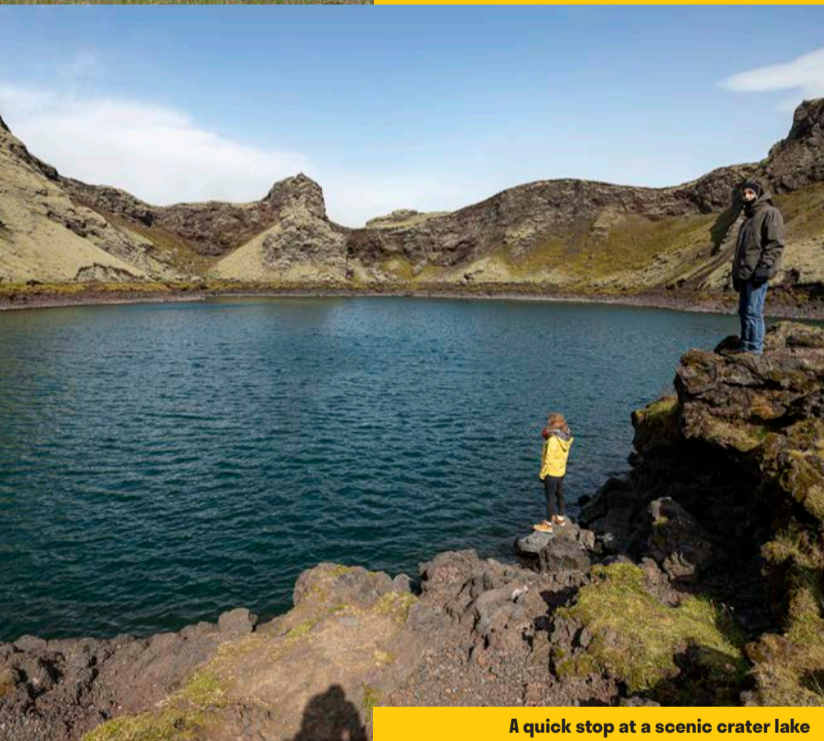
Josie, trying not to trip



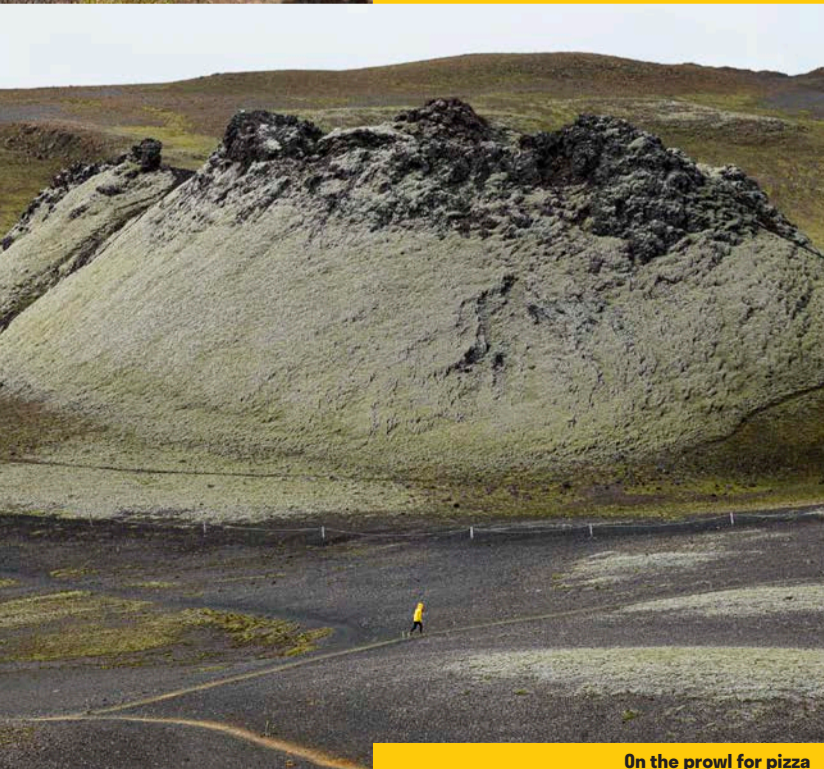
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A quick stop at a scenic crater lake



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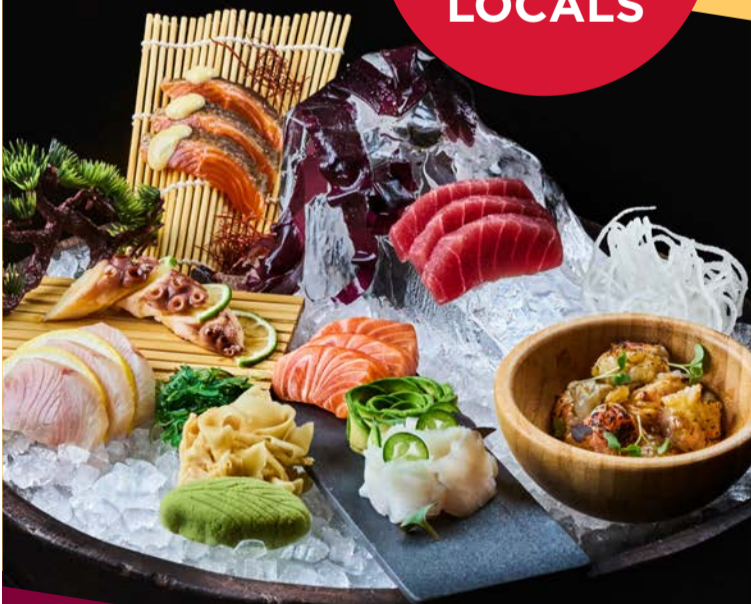
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Car provided by: hertz.is



Akureyri loves you

TOWN GUIDE

Akureyri

Colourful Gardens, Posh Hostels and RIB Boats in the Capital of the North

Words: **Felix Robertson** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

The largest urban area outside of Reykjavík, there's much to appreciate about the so-called 'Capital of the North,' from the stunning views of the northern fjords to a lively arts and cultural scene. Akureyri is also a perfect base to explore the Diamond Circle, northern Iceland's most dramatic sight-seeing route.

Stay: Akureyri Backpackers



Akureyri Backpackers is technically a hostel, but you can banish all images of dubiously stained mattresses and feeble showers. Instead, Backpackers is a thoroughly luxurious experience, with crisp white sheets, comfortable reading nooks and a charming communal area. It's also perfectly situated on Hafnarstræti, Akureyri's main street, granting easy access to a wide range of restaurants and shops.

Café: Bláa Kannan



Situated just next to the hostel, this is a genuinely charming bar and café, with well-priced and delicious lunch options. We had a warming

broccoli soup and tuna pasta, while engaging in keen people watching.

Swim: Sundlaug Akureyrar



Iceland's swimming pools are generally sublime and Akureyri's largest public pool is no exception, featuring two 25 metre outdoor pools, multiple hot tubs, and a sizeable water slide. Most brilliantly however, it features a plastic curtain between the outdoor and indoor pools, saving you from the misery of stepping into the often chilly air to get to the pool. Who needs the Blue Lagoon, eh?

Walk: Akureyri Botanical Garden



One of the most northerly botanical gardens in the world, the Akureyri Botanical Garden is frequently ranked as one of Akureyri's most popular attractions and with good reason. The garden stands starkly in contrast to the usual green and greys of Icelandic flora, exhibiting a dazzling variety of colours and flowers, diligently tended to by a dedicated team of locals. Enjoy a gentle stroll through the winding paths, and then enjoy a

cake and coffee in the strikingly modern café.

Eat: Mulaberg Bistro and Bar



Though a key attraction is the impressively broad happy hour, Mulaberg is also a genuinely good restaurant with a comfortably plush interior and great views over the fjord. We sampled the impressive bistro menu, particularly enjoying the club sandwich and duck salad. They also offer a decently priced catch of the day, bringing a welcome local aspect to an otherwise diverse international menu.

Museum: Akureyri Art Museum/Akureyrarkirkja



Fans of art and craft will find much to enjoy in Akureyri, especially on Listagil, sometimes called Art Street. One stop you cannot miss is the Akureyri Art Museum, which has occupied a central spot in the Akureyri cultural scene for over 25 years. Recently renovated, the museum offers a diverse range of modern and local art, including recent displays by Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir (a.k.a Shoplifter), who recently exhibited at the Venice Biennale. Enjoy a few hours here and then head on up the street to Akureyri's imposing church, designed by Guðjón Samúelsson, who also designed Reykjavík's celebrated Hallgrímskirkja.

What to do: Whale Watching



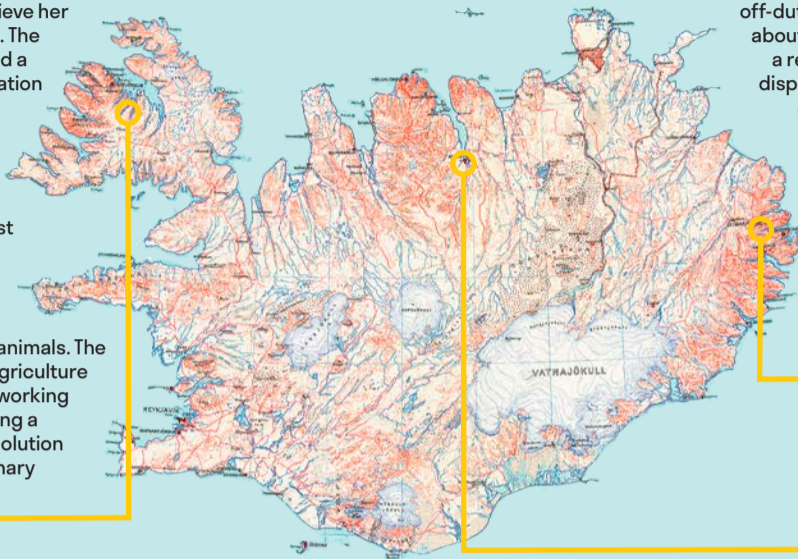
While nearby Húsavík has long been regarded as Iceland's whale watching capital, we can attest from personal experience that Akureyri is also a brilliant place to view these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat. Just remember to wear warm clothes and prepare to have your mind thoroughly blown. 🐳

Island Life

News From The Icelandic Countryside

Words: **Andie Fontaine**

A short-term agreement has been reached with the **local veterinarian in the Westfjords**, after she threatened to quit her job because of an obsolete contract and no one to relieve her of her duties. The vet hasn't had a summer vacation since 2011. For a while, it seemed that the region in the northwest of Iceland would not have anyone to take care of their sick animals. The minister of agriculture in Iceland is working hard on finding a permanent solution to the veterinary shortage.



A golfer saved a woman's life after she fell down rocky hillside in Seyðisfjörður. The man was golfing when he thought he heard a voice from the hills. He told an off-duty police officer about the voices and a rescue team was dispatched, eventually locating the injured woman around 10 PM. Responders said that she would not have survived the night out there alone. Talk about a hole in one.

The traffic lights in Akureyri are being upgraded (finally!). The town's workers are changing all lights, both for traffic and crosswalks. Instead of the old fashioned light bulbs, Akureyri will be outfitted with newfangled **LED bulbs**. What next? Flying cars?

Best Of Iceland

A selection of winners from our Best Of Iceland travel magazine



Reykjanes: Best tour
ATV Adventure,
Grindavík

Yearning to get close to nature? Straddling a roaring ATV and zooming into the wilderness might not be the most tranquil method, but it quickly gets you into the thick of it. You'll reach impressive spots much faster than by hiking, and you'll be able to crawl over black sand beaches and summit towering mountains that road-trippers can only gaze at.



North: Best Road Trip
The Diamond Circle

This powerhouse road trip features the best of the north. Visit Húsavík, famed for its whale-watching tours and Whale Museum. Continue to Ásbyrgi, canyon of the Norse gods. Take in the roaring power of Detifoss, Europe's most voluminous waterfall. Explore the volcanic region of Lake Mývatn, replete with rare-in-the-world volcanic formations (pseudocraters) and critters (marimo a.k.a. moss balls).



North: Best Pool
Hofsós Swimming
Pool, Hofsós

Hands down our panel's favourite, Hofsós Swimming Pool was praised for its spectacular views across the North Atlantic to the island Drangey. "I love the relaxing atmosphere," said the panel. "It's priced like a municipal pool, but this amazing bathing spot is a design classic with an infinity pool that makes you feel like you're swimming into the horizon."



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

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

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EDDA RECAP



goooooood. Get on your wolf, sista, cuz we're going to Valhal-laaaaa!"

Hyndla is like, "Listen up, bitch. You just woke me up and I'm not going anywhere. I can see the past and present, so I obviously know that pig is actually Óttarr." Freyja twirls her hair and says, "You must be confused from your nap! This is totally the pig I always ride and not Óttarr at all. But it's funny you bring him up. Got any dirt on his family?"

Ice for that burn

Hyndla may low-key hate Freyja and already be on to her gag, but she must love the goss because she does not hesitate to spill the tea. She goes on and on, saying Óttarr was related to this hero and that warrior-maiden, this god and that giantess, that one time the god Loki turned into a lady-horse to get fucked by a total stud, also this king and that queen, etc. "Omg wow that's soooo interesting!" Freyja says. "Can you give a memory potion to my pig, who is definitely Óttarr, so he can remember all this juicy dirt?"

"Fuck no, bitch! I'm done. I'm going back to sleep. Get outta my face and back to your corner where you belong, you trumpy, slutty, goatwhore!"

Freyja threatens to set Hyndla on fire, but Hyndla reminds Freyja that she can see the future that they're all gonna be burned to death in the apocalypse anyway. That's one way to win an argument, eh, ladies?

Morals of the story:

1. Keep your friends close and your frenemies close enough to be useful.
2. Don't expect people to be nice to you if you wake them up. 🍷

Hyndluljóð

The Poem of Hyndla

Words: Grayson Del Faro Illustration: Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir

In this series, we illuminate the individual poems of the Edda—that most famous, epic masterpiece of Icelandic literary tradition—with humour, vulgarity and modern realness. If you're still confused, Google 'Saga Recap.'

Miss Piggy

So some guy named Óttarr the Dumbfuck is hoping to inherit some money or something and has to prove he is related to the dead person in question. He asks the goddess Freyja to prove it. So Freyja transforms him into a huge, golden pig and rides him up to the crib of her frenemy, Hyndla. Hyndla is both an all-knowing prophetess (called a völvu in Icelandic) and a giantess. So, you could say she is a giant vulva.

Freyja busts in on Hyndla while she's sleeping and wakes her up like, "Oh, hey giiiiirllllll, it's so nice to seeeee youuuuu! Omg did you get your hair done recently cuz you look sooooo

This poem is actually has two women who talk to each other! Of course they're talking about a dude, so it still doesn't pass the Bechdel test, but when we're talking about Medieval literature you take any woman you can get. Most of the poem is a boring list of ancestors, but it's worth rapping for the sassy exchanges between these shady ladies.



Picture taken by Satan

TV GODDESS

'The Family'

Words: Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir

Jesus H. Christ! It looks like the conspiracy nutters were right all along. There are mad little illuminati men running around the world ruining everything. Netflix (my go-to source in life) has spawned yet another awesome series.

'The Family' is a docuseries based on the books 'The Family' and 'C Street' by Jeff Sharlet. They investigate a powerful secret Christian organization based in the United States, the nuttiest of countries. I usually don't like it when TV shows me reality, but this story is so unbelievably odd that my

eyes were immediately glued to the screen.

Watching the show is like watching a prequel to 'The Handmaid's Tale.' The episodes are a blend of interviews, news footage, and re-enactments. I don't like re-enactment as a concept because they sometimes ruin perfectly good stories by being badly done and that makes me angry. In 'The Family,' they're well done. The actors are especially good at playing weird Christian fraternity boys. Much to my boyfriend's delight, I didn't fall asleep like I usually do

when we watch something serious.

The Family is an organization that uses Jesus and brown nosing to climb up the social ladder, and they have managed to climb pretty high over the past 50 years. I don't understand why people are so hungry for power; it makes me tired just thinking about it. I also don't understand why American Christians can actually be more boring than other types of Christians.

If the series is factual, these boring men in their beige pants are bouncing around the world, spreading their disgusting, human rights crushing agenda. It's fascinating how someone can be so evil and so mundane at the same time. I thought the devil would at least wear a cape, but it seems he's perfectly happy in a badly tailored suit. 🍷

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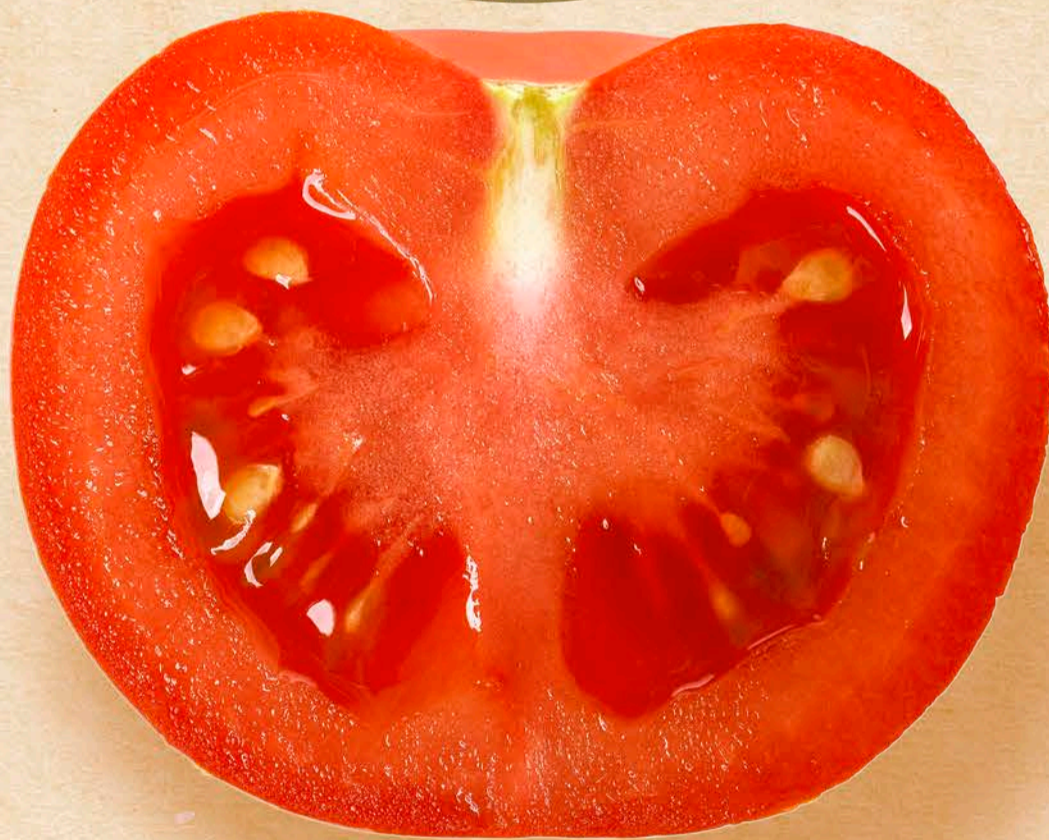
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WELL, YOU ASKED



American Incest

Words: Valur Grettisson
Photo: Art Bicnick

How do you get rid of bad luck from moving a rock on the black beaches? Asking for a friend ;)

Well, first of all, was it an elfstone? If so, buddy, you are fucked. We can't really do anything for your "friend" other than call the funeral home and order the casket. But if it was just a random stone on the beach, no one gives a shit.

Here's my questions please. 1. If I want to live in Iceland should I learn their language? 2. Is it easy to get married to an Icelandic girl and start a new life there? 3. How about jobs? Is it easy to find?! Thank you, and God bless you.

1. Sure, if you want to be part of Icelandic society, learn the language. 2. I don't know. Are you handsome and/or charming and not afraid of strong independent women? Then you have a chance. If you oppose feminism and a woman's right to choose, then evolve, you pathetic cavemen. The answer to the rest is basically: If you're in the EU, it's easy, if not, you're fucked. Thank you, and may Óðinn smite you.

Do Icelandic folks really use an app that identifies potential relatives and protects them from accidental incest? If so, what are the social protocols around asking a new acquaintance to "bump" phones with you?

The answer is no. It's fake news. Hooking up with your relatives is an American thing. The Brits also do this—it's actually legal to marry your first cousin over there. And, of course, America was an English colony for over a hundred years. So that's probably where they picked up that nonsense.

Send your unsolvable (UNTIL NOW) problems to grapevine@grapevine.is or tweet us at [@rvkgrapevine](https://twitter.com/rvkgrapevine).

HORROR-SCOPES

A Star Is Born Again

Luckily for you, we know everything

Words: Josie Gaitens & Hannah Jane Cohen Photo: Art Bicnick

In *HorrorScopes*, Grapevine's dedicated team of amateur astrologists break down your upcoming weeks based on the movement of solar winds and the size of the moon and stuff.

♈ Aries

Nicolas Cage is in a lot of movies, all of which go very well with a bag of Tópas. We recommend picking up 'The Wicker Man,' grabbing an unsuspecting Tinder date, and rocking their world.

♉ Taurus

The Northern Lights might appear to you in a dream this week. Coincidentally, it's magic mushroom season

♊ Gemini

Throw out that "Vote For Pedro" shirt. Seriously.

♋ Cancer

Stop keeping up with the Kardashians and start keeping up with the Commandments.

♌ Leo

This season, Bíó Paradís is showing a series of classic Icelandic films. See them all, or face the wrath of Thor in the form of your pseudo-intellectual "friends."

♍ Virgo

The Reykjavík Grapevine is a free magazine dedicated to news, culture, and travel in Iceland. It's lucky you picked one up, Joan, because this is your intervention. Stop.

♎ Libra

Life is a delicate balancing act, like telling your new boss you like her outfit without going full creep-mode.



Josie and Hannah have the answers you seek. Maybe.

♏ Scorpio

Show up to Toolraiser with your entire life savings. If you don't, you're just a massive tool.

♐ Sagittarius

You've found that special thing, you're flying without wings. For real, back away from Taurus' magic mushrooms before someone gets hurt, Sagittarius.

♑ Capricorn

Seriously, he's just not that into your penchant for plökkfiskur.

♒ Aquarius

Yes, you might THINK you want to go to the Westfjords, but do you really? 'Bachelor In Paradise' is on.

♓ Pisces

Oh Pisces, you unpredictable monsters. Stop wearing your heart on your sleeve and start wearing it on your fist. Punch all those who love/hurt you. Smother them with overwhelming emotion, because, if there's anything Lindsay Lohan taught us, it's that love and hurt are one and the same.

CITY SHOT by Art Bicnick



Warning: Too much screen light could turn you to stone!

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LAST WORDS

Consumed With Guilt

Words: **Ragnar Egilsson**

I miss the good old days when “consumption” meant something interesting—like tuberculosis. Today, the word seems tipped to become the seventh seal of the apocalypse as we eat, drink, binge-watch, and drive our species to extinction. But how did we get here?

I feel like one part of the problem has always been the narrow definition of the word “consume.”

If you have rolled up a page of this magazine and are currently doing rails of coke in the backroom of an ad agency, the very word probably sends lightning bolts through your veins at the prospect of discovering new consumers and getting them to consume something, anything, everything. To you, to consume means to purchase goods and services.

Perhaps you're a climate scientist and you are using this magazine to compose a hastily-written suicide letter as you look for a hefty ceiling beam with which to end the grim visions of the apocalypse that haunt you day and night. To you, to consume means the depletion of earth's resources.


To the rest of us, to consume generally means to eat and drink.

Because we know that we love consuming food and drink. We also know that we get fat if we consume too much of it. In fact, we worry about it ceaselessly. This proves that we are perfectly capable of being conscious of our consumption. But somehow, we've had trouble extending that thinking beyond our gut, into other avenues of life.

We feel immediately guilty after consuming the empty carbs of an entire Domino's pizza, but we're perfectly comfortable numbing ourselves by bingeing seasons' worth of shitty detective shows on Netflix. We lament what was said during last night's drunken binge, but we don't give that two-hour impromptu Amazon shopping spree a second thought (at least, not until our plastic card company says we've been bad).

It shouldn't be hard to extend the idea that if one form of consumption can corrupt our bodies, others may corrupt our minds, erode our social bonds, or give our planet uncontrollable diarrhea (like that Domino's pizza).


If we could make the mental leap that every single one of our tawdry, ill-considered, consumer decisions sends ripples around the globe and into our future...then maybe it could be our saving grace. Life-saving neurosis. That and imprisoning the board of directors of every oil company on the planet. It's for their own good. Before the mob finds them and consumes them whole. 🍷






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