

# REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

## Capital Punishment

**News:** The history of Iceland's executions revealed

## Sequences

**Culture:** The art festival is back and better than ever

## Galactic Deer

**Books:** Comic sheds light on queer Russian youth

## Tröllaskagi

**Travel:** Get some food and take in some views

ICELAND AIRWAYS  
performing at

# JÓPÉ & KRÓLLI vs. NUCLEAR WINTER

Iceland's most popular rappers are about to escape teen stardom. Now what? P:15



Plus!

GIG GUIDE × CITY MAP × TRAVEL IDEAS × FOOD



COVER PHOTO:  
Einar Snorri  
snorribros.com

Wardrobe:  
Warrior, Myrka

Einar Snorri is one  
half or one third of  
Snorri Bros, absolute

legends of photo and  
film. Inventors of the  
Snorricam, directors  
of more worldwide hit  
music videos than we  
can mention, and and  
and... Here Einar goes  
back to his roots in early  
hip-hop culture.



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Pandemic

10: #IcelandSmites  
12: That Time Iceland  
Executed People



20: Sequence Art  
Festival Stuns

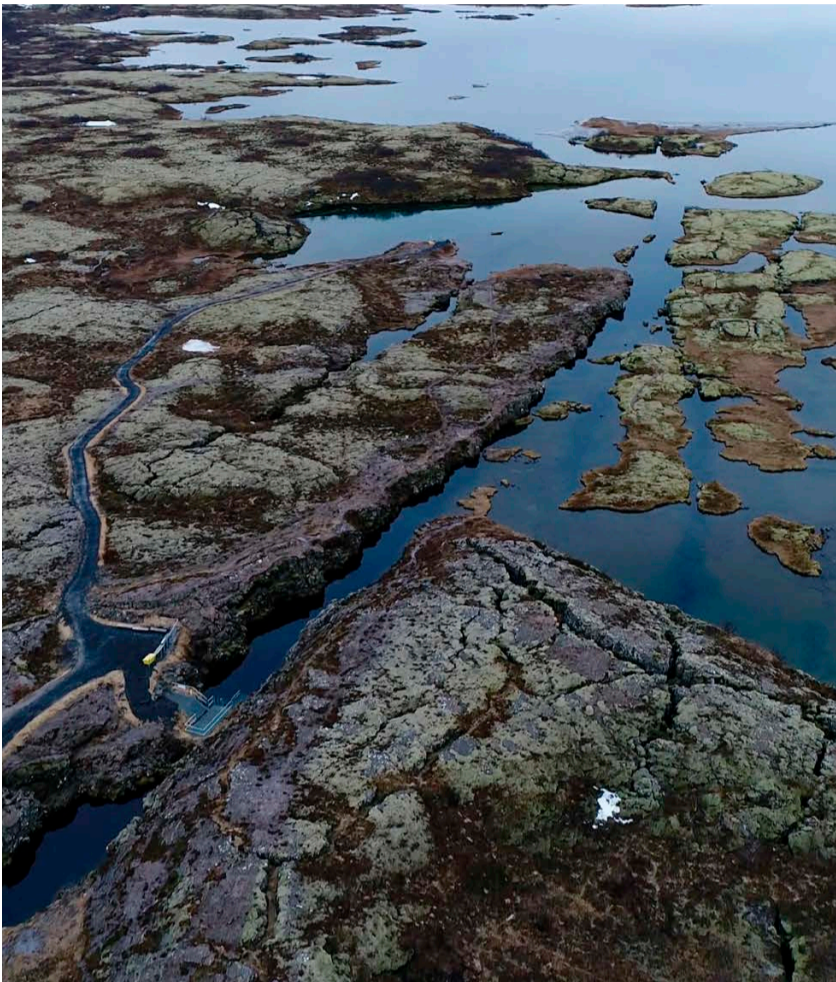
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# First



## EDITORIAL

# Stop Punishing The Weak



When looking at the gruesome history of Icelandic executions, one detail stands out, and it's unfortunately one that is echoed in our modern times: those who were executed were poor people that didn't stand a chance. This is one of the interesting findings of professor Steinunn Kristjánsdóttir and her team at the University of Iceland, as they document all executions in Iceland. Read about their research in detail on [pages 12-13](#).

from the Danish monarchy) who ushered in capital punishment when he took over the right to administer justice from the Catholic Church in 1550. The wave of executions that followed saw 248 people put to death in less than three centuries. Though some of the executed were violent criminals—including Iceland's one and only serial killer—the vast majority were poor, homeless and powerless. Vagrants with nothing but the clothes on their back, and women violating morality laws account for many of the dead.

In a way, we are still punishing the poor, in my opinion, and for what? Being born on worse footing? Having less privilege? There are no millionaires on death row in the American prison system.

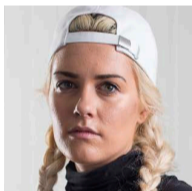
Iceland's history of capital punishment is something we need to learn from. And find ways to improve our society based on our findings. Just as we judge those who carried out Iceland's executions, so too will we be judged by future generations. **VG**

Of course it was the King of Denmark (we only got bad stuff

It doesn't matter in what country you live in: your prison system is probably filled with a similar demographic: poor people.



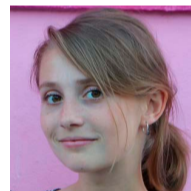
**Elin Elisabet** is an illustrator and cartoonist born and raised in Borgarnes. At the tender age of 15, Elin moved to Reykjavik and hasn't looked back, except for the annual springtime impulse to move someplace quiet and keep chickens. Elin likes folk music, stationery, seal videos, the country of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



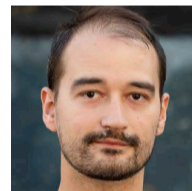
**Hannah Jane Cohen** is based out of Iceland by way of New York. An alumni of Columbia University, Hannah has lived on five continents and speaks three languages fluently. Her visionary work is known for expanding the definitions of emotion, introspection, and above all else, taste.



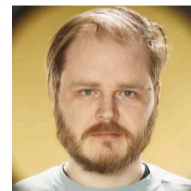
**Alexander Jean** **Edvard Le Sage de Fontenay** is a Reykjavik-born part-time DJ (under the pseudonym Bervit), event-planner and lover of art, creation and aesthetics. Most recent endeavors include co-producing The Grapevine's own Grassroots concerts at Húrra and LungA Art Festival's busy event schedule.



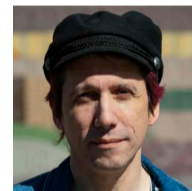
**Lea Müller** first came to Reykjavik in 2016. Three years of long-distance, a bachelor's degree in cultural and business studies, and uncountable visits to Iceland later, she finally decided to move here. Apart from her writing, she's currently learning to let go of her perfectionism by learning Icelandic.



**Samuel O'Donnell** Sam is an English major from The United States. He has his Bachelor's Degree, and keeps telling himself that this is the year he will begin pursuing his Master's. In his spare time, he enjoys playing video games, writing short horror stories, listening to all kinds of metal, and reading.



**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.



**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.



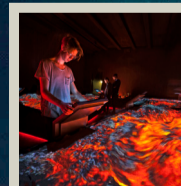
**a rawlings** is Grapevine's literature correspondent, also covering environmental news, travel, and more. An interdisciplinary artist whose work focuses on environmental ethics, dysfluency, and watery bodies, her books include 'Wide slumber for lepidopterists' and 'Sound of Mull.'



**Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir** 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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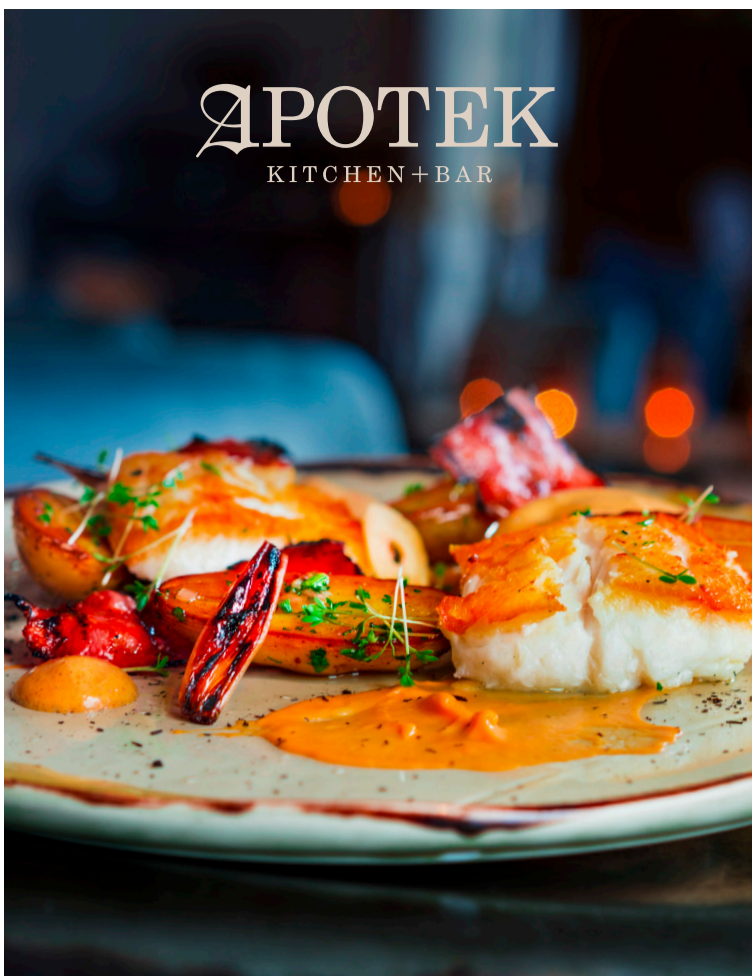


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Eliza Reid, First Lady of Iceland, is done with misogyny in politics

## What Are Icelanders Talking About?

The sound and the fury

NEWS

Words: **Andie Fontaine** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

**Iceland's First Lady Eliza Reid** made international headlines with a New York Times op-ed, "I'm a First Lady, and It's an Incredibly Weird Job", which offered her frank perspectives on what it is like to hold the office. While she has been actively involved in a number of projects, such as the Icelandic Writer's Retreat, while travelling and advocating for issues of international importance, she notes a pervasive misogyny directed at First Ladies in general. As Eliza notes, "no one wants to be judged as her partner's accessory." Too right!

It may seem odd that Parliament would craft legislation to let a foreign company operate in Iceland despite it having expressed no interest in doing so, but that's exactly what's happening. Minister of Transportation Sigurður Ingi Jóhannsson is leading a new bill in Parliament that would **allow ride-share service Uber to begin working in Iceland as early as this winter**. There are a few interesting points about this. For one, the bill would put conditions and restrictions on Uber drivers that are effectively the same as those for taxi drivers. For another, the sheer volume of taxis in Iceland raises questions about the need for the ride-share service. But most peculiar of all, not even the Minister is aware if Uber even wants to operate in Iceland. We look forward to future legislation allowing for the building of a SpaceX launching station for Mars missions.

Speaking of transport options, **electric scooters have taken off in Reykjavik** thanks to telecom

provider Nova, and within days, you could see tourists and locals alike zipping around the city on two wheels. While these dockless scooters are by law restricted to sidewalk use, they can travel up to 25KPH, prompting the Icelandic police to advise caution to pedestrians and scooter-ers alike, while issuing fines of up to 20,000 ISK for those using scooters under the influence.

News stories of the **hacking of Icelandic companies**, sometimes followed by the theft of millions of krónur, seem to pop up on a regular basis. In every instance, the attackers are said to be traced back to foreign operatives looking for any open ports in Icelandic servers. It has now come to light that Icelanders are also involved in these hacks, but the extent of the damage is largely unknown. Most companies tend to not disclose when they have been hacked and robbed, both out of embarrassment and out of the desire not to give the impression that they can be easily cheated. Supervisory authorities are hoping to break this habit in the hopes of creating a more unified security apparatus for Icelandic companies' servers. ❧



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# Iceland: Humanity's Last Hope Or Just Another Island

New research raises important questions about pandemics

**NEWS**

Last week, news of a new research paper, The Prioritization of Island Nations as Refuges from Extreme Pandemics, published in the journal Risk Analysis splashed across Icelandic headlines. **The researchers behind the paper concluded that Iceland, as well as Australia and New Zealand, could be "island refuges" from which the human race could be rescued from extinction in the event of a global pandemic.**

Words: **Andie Fontaine**  
Photo: **Wikimedia Commons**

The assessment focused on island nations in particular because, in the words of the researchers, "[t]

hough carriers of disease can easily circumvent land borders, a closed self-sufficient island could harbour an isolated, technologically-adept population that could repopulate the earth following a disaster." As Iceland produces all of its own electricity and hot water—as well as being geographically distant from more population-dense countries—Iceland would seem to be a strong contender.

**Sorry, the country is closed**

Those of us who actually live in Iceland

have understandably taken these contentions with a grain of salt. Most notably, **epidemiologist Dr. Þórolfur Guðnason told RÚV that the thinks the idea is completely unrealistic.** And he has historical precedent to say so: the Spanish flu of 1918.

Iceland also fell prey to this pandemic, which killed hundreds of Icelanders at the time. In response, Icelandic authorities closed off travel between local communities and shut down ports. While this did help end the outbreak in Iceland at the time, Þórolfur believes it would be "hopeless" to attempt this over a century later, given everything Iceland needs to import in order to sustain itself.

Which is true: not just food but also medicine, clothing and building materials used in Iceland are largely imported. Perhaps in a closed society we'd revert to dirt huts and dried fish, which, while it might be quaint and charming for a time, would probably get old if stretched out over three or four years. ❄️

ASK AN  
**Expert**  
**Q: Why Can Icelanders Still Read Texts Written a Thousand Years Ago?**



Words: **Dr. Arngrímur Vídalín**  
Photo: **Provided by Subject**

*Icelanders are famous for still being able to read their oldest texts. But why is this? We reached out to doctor of Icelandic literature, Dr. Arngrímur Vídalín, for answers.*

There are several reasons why Icelanders can still read their oldest literature. However, it must be said that few are capable of reading medieval manuscripts without training. Second, it cannot be said that the language is the same—sagas are written in Old Norse and Icelandic is different in many significant ways. Due to Iceland's geographic distance from Scandinavia, however, the language did not change in the same way other Nordic languages did. The evolution of Icelandic was slower and less prone to influence from other European languages, such as French.

But Icelandic did change drastically in many respects. When national romanticism gained headway in Iceland in the 19th century, proponents of language purism urged for a more pure Icelandic, harkening back to the language of the sagas. Their efforts along with national propaganda, contrary to what might have been expected, proved effective. Gradually, archaic language was restored, and new words were made out of old vocabulary. The reason why Icelanders can still read sagas as if they were written in modern times is thus not because the language has not changed, but because of heavy propaganda and public pressure that saw the language reset to a certain degree. Icelandic keeps evolving, yet the opinion persists that the language should be preserved in this same formaldehyde state. But we may not be able to stop change forever. Language finds a way. ❄️



**FOOD OF ICELAND**

## Hangikjöt

Hangikjöt, most famous as an Icelandic Christmas delicacy, is a distinctively flavoured smoked meat typically made of lamb, but also occasionally horse. Around 90% of Icelanders indulge in the fare during the holiday season, and around the same number likely eat it thinly sliced on a sandwich year-round.

**Notably, hangikjöt is traditionally smoked in dung. This is another one of those methods that originally came about to preserve the meat longer, but then stayed around because of its flavour.**

Much to the lament of coprophages, birch is most commonly used today in the smoking process.

To prepare hangikjöt, a leg of lamb is hung from the rafters of a smokehouse in which a fire burns constantly for two to three weeks. After it has been smoked, the modern, birch-smoked hangikjöt is packaged, either whole or thinly sliced.

The thinly sliced option is a great breakfast item for a Sunday morning, or even a Tuesday afternoon. Just take a piece of flatkaka (Icelandic flatbread)

and smear it with butter—a lot of butter (make Julia Child cringe)—then, slap a couple of slices of hangikjöt on top and enjoy. Folding is optional, but recommended.

The other way to eat this smokey treat is to slice it straight off the bone, then pair it with potatoes, peas, carrots, and white sauce. That's the way it is traditionally served at Christmas. For an extra bit of holiday spirit, enjoy it with laufabrauð (literally leaf-bread, a.k.a. thin, crispy bread) and a holiday blend of Appelsín and malt. **SPO** ❄️

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All these ghosts and I still can't find a boo

Avoid the clash

It's never a good idea to relocate big rocks if there's any chance you're on elf territory, but ghosts are equally averse to being disturbed. If a ghost finds you messing with their final resting place, they will very likely pay you a visit in your sleep. Take their in-dream advice to heart and immediately stop whatever it was you were doing to piss them off. But let's say you're uncertain whether you're having a legit ghost encounter or your ghost-tale-infused brain is just fucking with you. Firstly, if the ghost in your dream is wearing a hat, be suspicious—they might be hiding their bare skull under it.

Since you'd never be so rude as to remove someone's hat, you'll need to steer the conversation toward religion to determine if you're facing a human being or a poltergeist. If the person is incapable of pronouncing the Icelandic word for god ('guð') or names like that contain it (Guðrún, for example), you'd better run for your life. You are officially facing a ghost.

Appeasing the spirit

If you're unlucky enough to have a ghost take up residence in your home, don't be a brute. What you'll need is a sensitive soul to seek out conversation with the spirit. Like all formerly-living creatures, all ghosts really want is to be understood. Unlike your very much alive flatmate who has failed to buy toilet paper for three straight months, ghosts deserve to be approached with empathy. ♡

ICELANDIC SUPERSTITIONS

The Icelandic Ghost Manual

Don't disturb the dead, or else

Words: Lea Müller

Anyone remotely interested in Icelandic folklore knows how to behave around hidden people, elves and trolls: avoid contact altogether. But there exists

another, lesser-known species, which is just as wicked as the folk living in the barren rocks. Welcome to the world of Icelandic ghosts.

JUST SAYINGS

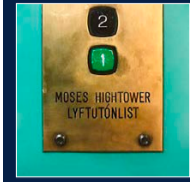
„Rassgat í bala“

Ever been so broke that you didn't even own your own butt in a tub? Introducing the most colourful term of them all to announce that you're penniless: "Rassgat í bala." **The idiom literally means, "asshole in a tub" (and yes, it's referring to the actual hole). Asshole is frequently used in Icelandic, often in a positive way. It's even used to describe something really cute. Like, wow, you're such an asshole!** That's actually a nice thing for an Icelander to say to you. That said, be aware, it also means that you are being friend-zoned. VG ♡

LÓABORATORIUM



GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST



**Moses Hightower - Lyftuónlist**  
The Icelandic kings of soul, Moses Hightower, are back—with a vengeance, but with a piece of elevator-music (that's the literal translation of the title of the song). The title doesn't promise much, but it's actually some quality music with incredibly talented musicians and arguably the best songwriters in the biz. VG

their live sessions are amazing. This new album is an entertaining fusion of those good ole' Icelandic country-party-songs and hip-hop, making them some brilliant version of Sálín Hans Jóns Mins—the party elements, not the music. Or something. Just see them live. VG



**CYBER - hold**  
With the core message, "In fact, life is a long wait for nothing," Cyber promotes 21st century nihilism at it's best. The abundance of bobby pins and barrettes in the video adds a touch of irony, reminiscent of Billie Eilish's necklaces. Cyber has long flown under the radar of Icelandic hip-hop—perhaps this'll be their breakthrough track. LM/HJC



**24/7, Joey Christ, Birnir & Daniil - Brauð**  
I never knew a song about bread could be so aggressive. Well, if you forgot to write a grocery list before going to the supermarket, this Icelandic rap-supergroup track might give you some guidance. Expect this banger to be on rotation every party night at Prikid for the next year. LM/HJC

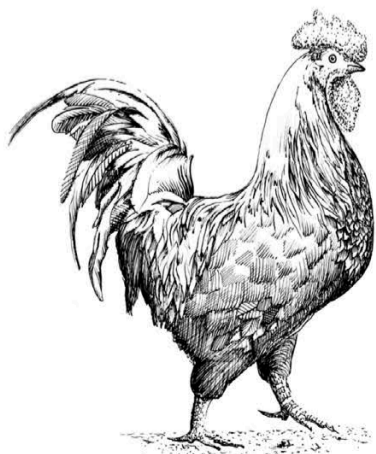
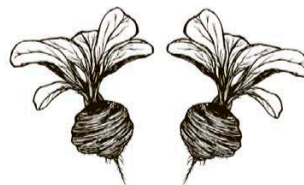


**we are not romantic - Nokia Calling**  
This new song caused a fierce debate in the office. One Grapevine employee thought it was derivative and emblematic of how lame 'randomness' is. That said, our editor-in-chief (the one writing this) thinks it is a genius piece of art, reminiscent of early Alec Empire in Atari Teenage Riot and wants to book them for our next staff party. Listen at your own risk. VG



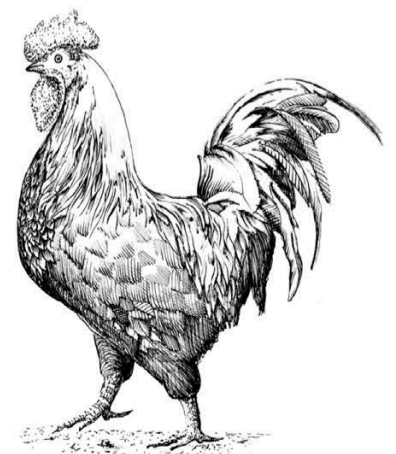
**Kef Lavik - Blautt Heitt Langt Vont Sumar**  
Kef Lavik has morphed into an incredible cultural phenomenon, and it's not clear exactly why. Well,

Listen, watch & hear more tracks: [gpv.is/play](http://gpv.is/play)



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## The Boys Are Back In Town

Arabian invincibles, crunch qualifiers, Mersey madness & more

Words: **Greig Robertson**

Illustration: **Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir**

The horns are sounding. The drums are beating. The boats are mooring. Our boys are back in town for the international break, ready for the fight of their lives. Here's how they've been preparing, with some key smiters in much better shape than others.

### Unstoppable Al Arabi continue title march

Aron Gunnarson is marauding towards his first championship title in six years with new side Al Arabi, who sit second in the Qatar Stars League with a game in hand. The Red Devils' 1-3 drubbing of Al Khor on October 4th, which included 95th and 98th minute goals

from Hamdi Harbaoui and former Leeds United striker Pierre-Michel Lasogga, made it four wins from five this season. Heimir Hallgrímsson's side have already secured an away draw at table toppers Al Duhail courtesy of a vital Aron equaliser, and take on fifth-placed Al-Gharafa at home after the international break.

### No-Deal Brexit galvanises JB's Clarets

Tottenham and Everton are the latest Premier League sides to fall victim to Britain's ongoing identity crisis, but one side is thriving in the eye of the storm. Jóhann Berg Guðmundsson's Burnley, coached by John Smith's lager and Sunday roast fanatic Sean Dyche, are enjoying something of a renaissance after their faltering campaign last year. A 1-0 slaying of Gylfi Sigurðsson's Toffees on October 5th put the Clarets dangerously close to the European spots, although Dyche will have something to say about that if the situation is the same come May. After all, being out of Europe has made Burnley great again.

### Gylfi down in the dumps

A Séamus Coleman red card and a morale-sapping Jeff Hendrick winner could prove to be the final nails in Everton manager Marco Silva's coffin. The Portuguese withdrew star man Gylfi just 59-minutes into the civil war to account for Coleman's absence, but that didn't stop his side from slumping to their fifth loss of the season, leaving them in 18th place. Another summer of heavy investment

from Everton's owners has heightened the spotlight on Silva, who's flattered to deceive for large periods at the helm. And with the vultures circling, Gylfi has already made offerings to the Gods in the hope that they'll steer the club's hierarchy away from rehiring Sam Allardyce.

### Warlords descend for survival fight

Iceland will be looking to Aron and JB to bring the feelgood factor back into the national camp ahead of crunch matches against France (October 11th) and Andorra (October 14th). The shock defeat against Albania left our boys in a precarious position in Group H, three points off the automatic qualification spots. But Erik Hamrén is emboldened by the return of Alfreð Finnbogason, who'll be crucial to Iceland's snatch and grab tactics, particularly against the world champions. Nothing less than two positive home results will do.

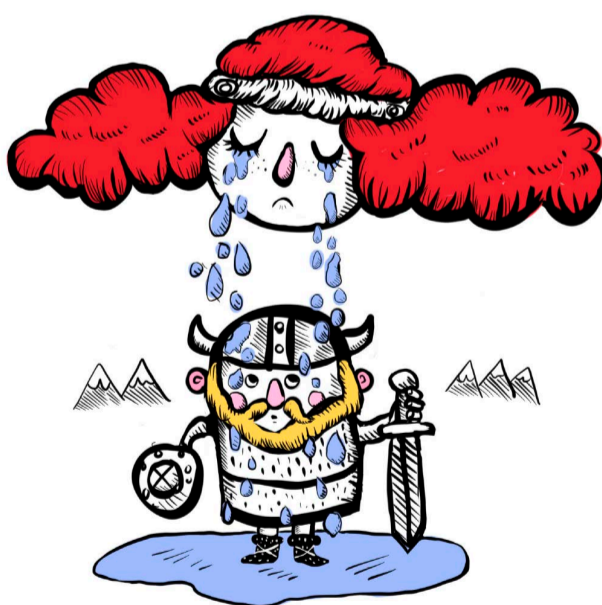
### Hannes back behind the camera

Iceland's multi-talented 'Auteur of Pain', Hannes Þór Halldórsson, dusted off his camera in early November to film a gym-based techno odyssey, starring Game of Thrones' Hafþór Júlíus Björnsson, AKA "The Mountain". The music video, shot for DJ Muscleboy's new single, MUSCLE CLUB, includes an ensemble of scantily clad ravers, dumbbells, glistening physiques and much more. October 11th, when the single is released, will be a quiet night at the library for sure. 🍷

**"Our boys are back in town for the international break, ready for the fight of their lives."**

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

EDDA RECAP



## Helgakviða Hundingsbana

Poems of Helgi, Hundingur's Slayer

Words: **Grayson Del Faro** Illustration: **Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir**

As you probably didn't know, only half of the Poetic Edda is about the Norse gods. The other half is about the legendary heroes of Europe. The three heroic poems are all about a dude

named Helgi. Well, they might actually be two different Helgis but their names and stories are so similar that whether they were one person or two different people is basically irrelevant.

Kinda like the Kardashians. Same story, same face, same stupid alliterative name? Helgi or Kardashian, I can't tell any of them apart!

### Hundingur's humdinger

Okay, so Helgi's dad is a king and he has beef with another king called Hundingur. Hundingur sends some dudes to attack Helgi at his house, so he disguises himself as a maid and pretends to be working. One of the dudes is named – and I shit you not – Blindur (literally "blind") and he's like, "Welp, no Helgi here! But look at that freaky maid busting the shit out that grindstone lol!" Then they leave. Helgi escapes thanks to the timeless art form of drag queenery and kills Hundingur like nbd. This is how he gets the nickname "Hundingur's Slayer," which sounds way better in Icelandic.

Then one day he's just chillin' on the beach with his squad, eating some raw meat when Sigrún flies right up to them. Sigrún is a valkyrie, which were supernatural women who flew around watching battles because they got off on violence. Sigrún's like, "Hey there, mister. I see you're splattered with blood. Is that just from your steak or were you, like, you know, in a sexy battle?"

And Helgi was like, "Aw, yeah. I mean I just like low-key killed King Hundingur." Then Sigrún says, "Lol I know, I actually saw the whole thing—

and I liked it." At this point she probably licks her lips seductively and then flies off.

### Highway to Helgi

So here's the problem. Sigrún is betrothed to some random loser who probably even cooks his meat. So Helgi invades the shit out of that dude's kingdom, killing mostly everybody. Sigrún is just floating around checking out the corpses when she sees her fiancée/loser on his last breath. She's all, "Ew, gross. I'm not gonna marry you because you're literally dying." Then she marries Helgi and they have kids.

Here's the twist! They do not live happily ever after. Some dude borrows a spear from Óðinn and shanks Helgi. Sigrún is all sad and stuff until one day Helgi comes back from the after-life, freezing cold and soaking wet. She asks why he's so nasty and he says that every tear she's cried has fallen onto him. Okay, that's actually pretty fucking cute. They spend one night together and then he leaves. Then Sigrún is sad forever and dies.

### Morals of the story:

1. The Kardashians are all the same person..
2. Love is cruel. 🍷

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.'

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Sigrún Hannesdóttir, a student working on the research

# Cleaning Up The Countryside By Killing Vagrants

New research reveals the horrific legacy of Icelandic capital punishment

Words:  
**Magnús Sveinn  
Helgason**

Photo:  
**Art Bicnick**

In 1550, when the King of Denmark took over the right to administer justice from the Catholic Church and added capital punishment to the Icelandic legal code, a wave of executions swept over the country. By 1830, when the last execution took place in Iceland, local authorities had sentenced 248 people to death for various offenses.

## The price of vagrancy

Some were executed for serious crimes like murder. The best known is Axlar-Björn, the only serial killer in Icelandic history, who was executed in 1596. Axlar-Björn is believed to have murdered at least 18 people on Snæfellsnes peninsula, primarily unsuspecting travellers.

Others were burned at the stake for witchcraft, but the vast majority of the victims appear to have been homeless people who lived a life of vagrancy, poor farm hands, and women who had violated morality laws and thus defied

research project, 'Cairns of the Dead,' is led by Steinunn Kristjánsdóttir, a professor of archaeology, who heads a team of students who have been combing through sources and mapping the executions. The full findings will not be made public for at least a year, as the research is ongoing.

## Filling a gap

The most important contribution of Steinunn's research is that it has deepened our understanding of the role of executions in how the old Icelandic agrarian society maintained social control.

Historians have oft focused primarily on select categories of executions. "People burned by the stake for witchcraft and women who were drowned for infanticide," Sigrún Hannesdóttir, one of the students working with Steinunn, explains. That said, others have been swept to the side. "Famous and tragic individual cases have also received scholarly attention. Meanwhile, other types of executions, including the largest group of executions—vagrants who were executed for theft—have been largely ignored," she says.

## Executions as social control

"There was clearly an element of social control involved," Sigrún

emphasises. "The people who were executed were nearly always from the bottom rungs of society—poor and powerless people who either stood outside the agrarian class system or were from its very lowest classes. We can find only one person [executed]

from the upper layers of society, a communal overseer who was burned for witchcraft. The rest were vagrants, farmhands who owned nothing but the clothes on their backs, and poor working-class women, who appear to have been seen as nearly worthless to the powers in society."

These poor and powerless victims of royal authority wielded by the Icelandic landowners, were executed for violations of the moral codes, infanticide, hiding the birth of a child, having sexual relations with someone too closely related, theft and vagrancy.

Iceland was a poor agrarian society at that time where a cold summer or a hard winter could easily result in famine and death. Subsequently, the right to marry and form a family was tied to land ownership, ensuring that poor people would not have children that they could not support. The authorities acted aggressively when enforcing these laws, and therefore, poor people who nonetheless had children and resorted to infanticide to cover up their crime were made examples of.

## Pingvellir's gruesome past

In the Öxará river in Pingvellir National Park lies Drekkingarhylur ("Drowning cove"), where women were drowned and several other places whose names point to executions, including, Brennugjá, ("Burning gorge"), a lava gorge to the north of the famous Silfra.

"The executions at parliament in Pingvellir were public spectacles," Sigrún says. "The bodies were hung for display from the cliffs of the Almannagjá gorge, with heads left on pikes in the case of beheadings. The remains were then buried in unmarked graves in the lava fields. We know of 65 executions at Pingvellir, a quarter of the total number of people executed in Iceland."

## The homeless "solution"

The single largest type of executions

were hangings of homeless people. Out of the 248 known executions, 76 were vagrants who were hanged for theft. The rulings often make comments about the character of these people. Men—who were forced to live as vagrants in the harsh Icelandic landscape, exposed to the brutal elements, usually due to poverty—were viewed as a threat by a society.

"They are described as lazy or thriftless," Sigrún notes. "The assumption was clearly that their life of vagrancy was a choice of convenience or that they lacked the moral fibre to do honest work. Vagrants who killed sheep for food or stole butter from farms were executed without mercy and as a warning to others, including people who might be inclined to assist them." The local population was required to witness executions and farmers were conscripted to participate as guards.

## The great social cleansing

There was a spike in executions for theft between 1697 and 1704, which seems to be connected to the first official census taken in Iceland in 1703. "This wave is striking and can only be described as social cleansing," Sigrún explains. "There had been a number of bad years in the second half of the 17th century, and we find frequent complaints in correspondence and court rulings about vagrants and beggars roaming the countryside. At this time, the King sent letters to his officials in Iceland, requesting vagrants be rounded up and sent to Copenhagen, where they would be conscripted to the Navy, but when it came time for the census of 1703, local sheriffs and communal overseers around the country seem to have taken a harder line on vagrancy."

Royal officials who showed toughness on vagrancy were praised, but this application of royal power was not just cruel, it was also capricious, Sigrún points out. "Looking at the rulings, it appears that the application of the law was very haphazard. The scholars Árni Magnússon and Páll Vídalín, who were at this time rescuing the Icelandic Sagas by collecting manuscripts from farmers while compiling the first comprehensive land registry of Iceland undertaken in conjunction with the census, complained that royal sheriffs didn't know the laws they were applying and failed to offer legal rationale for verdicts."

## A past forgotten no more

Over the years, the dark history of the class component of public executions in Iceland was largely forgotten and ignored by historians; the stories of executions and the people killed in them retreated into myths and folktales.

But now, this is changing. The story of the last execution in Iceland, which took place in 1830, is currently being made into a movie called 'Burial Rites,' starring Jennifer Lawrence. The research team at the University of Iceland also expects to continue to add to our knowledge of this dark past.

"There is a lot of work yet to be done," Sigrún says. In the course of their research the team has combed through the rulings of Alþingi and the court at Pingvellir, as well as the annals identifying nearly a dozen previously unknown executions. She suspects that with increased research, more will be added.

Sigrún also points out that, according to current research, very few executions took place in the Eastfjords. This seems fishy. "We suspect there are some previously unknown cases hiding in the records of local magistrates in East Iceland," she explains. 🍷



"Looking at the rulings, it appears that the application of the law was very haphazard."

the strict social system.

The full scale and nature of these executions is only now coming into light as archaeologists at the University of Iceland are systematically piecing together this grim and brutal chapter of Icelandic history. The

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# The Edge of Winter

Jóipé & Króli survived their prolific rise, now they'll tackle nuclear winter

Words:  
Hannah Jane  
Cohen

It's Jóipé's 19th birthday. Or at least, it will be in 24 hours, the young artist—real name Jóhannes Damian Patreks-son—explains quietly as he sits back in the corner of Te & Kaffi. It's 9:30 AM, early October, and above his head, the last lights of summer glimmer in the window through the morning fog. Abruptly, the rapper stops and yawns. He's got an English exam directly after the interview, he confesses. It's one of

his last—he'll graduate at the end of the month.

Next to him, restlessly shaking his leg, sits his musical partner Króli—real name Kristinn Óli Haraldsson. The normally talkative artist is equally as exhausted, having been up the whole night preparing for his debate club. Exactly a month after Jóipé's birthday, Kristinn will turn 20.

## No egos

"But I don't like birthdays," Kristinn interjects, shaking his head. "I've never actually held a birthday party. It seems weird. It's egocentric." Jóipé nods in agreement. "It's stressful," he adds in his trademark baritone, his gaze averted.

Photos:  
Einar  
Snorri

It's a surprising statement from the two young men, who are, unequivocally, Iceland's biggest pop culture icons of the past two years. From their star-making hit "B.O.B.A." to their album, 'Afsakið Hlé,' which was Iceland's biggest selling album of 2018, the duo of JóiPé & Króli have become synonymous with Icelandic hip-hop and pop, and in doing so, have captured the heart of the country, becoming the rare type of star that both teenagers and grandmothers would recognise. Now, the two are preparing to drop their third album 'Í miðjum kjarnorkuvetri' ('In The Middle Of A Nuclear Winter') on an undisclosed date in October.

Two years in the blinding spotlight have, it seems, taken a toll on both artists. "When you play on stage a lot, and that's basically your job, the line blurs for egocentrism," Kristinn explains. "Then you appreciate time with the friends that you really love."

For Jói, his birthday celebration will thus consist of a simple family dinner and, if he's up to it, maybe a handball game. "If I'm capable with my knee," he adds simply, gesturing down. "He hyperextended it," Kristinn explains.

## The rise of legends

The first time that the Grapevine covered JóiPé and Króli was as part of the 2017 young hip-hop issue. At that time, the two were probably the least known of any artist featured, and undoubtedly the youngest. In the brief interview at that time, the duo joked about the time Herra Hnetusmjör dissed them on Twitter, their love of pretending to be rich in their old-school style raps, and Kristinn's short-lived Facebook relationship with infamous Icelandic pop singer Leoncie. They were newcomers to the scene, and jovial ones at that, anxious to create, play, collaborate, and—in all honesty—adorably excited to be included in the same ranks as the other artists featured.

Two months later, the teenagers dropped their single "B.O.B.A." and album 'GerviGlingur' ('Plastic Jewelry') and everything changed. In a matter of weeks, the duo's popularity surpassed that of the other young artists with whom they shared the pages of the Grapevine and, to be frank, many of the elders in the scene.

Perhaps it was the honesty and wholesomeness of their content—the two would alternate between discussing relationship troubles, depression and anxiety, to then making fun of rap tropes and throwing around party rhymes. Or maybe it was just the beats. Whatever it was, JóiPé and Króli had tapped into something that stuck with people, and it only grew from there.

"It feels like ages ago," Kristinn muses, when asked about that period. "It brought us a lot of good things and opportunities that we are really grateful for." It might sound like a platitude—and maybe it is—but there's a softness in his voice that seems genuine. Jói nods. "It was something we didn't expect at all. We never could have," he adds.

## Being honest

A year later, they followed up GerviGlingur with their sophomore effort 'Afsakið Hlé' ('Excuse The Commercial Break'), which saw the duo explore a more melodic and sophisticated style of songwriting.

"We were trying out new types of music [on 'Afsakið Hlé']. Less rap and

more singing," Jói explains. "It was more expressive and honest."

"Yeah, it was way more honest," Kristinn adds, strongly emphasising the word "honest." "The album was made in half a year, so it was just how we were feeling then, and it was a really weird time," he explains. "Two teenagers all of a sudden playing everywhere and being everywhere, so 'Afsakið Hlé' was kind of a diary of that time. It told a story really naturally. We didn't have to draw it up at all."

## Till drop dead

That's it. That's all they have to say about that, and the two clam up. In fact, it's quite difficult to get them to say anything about their past efforts at all—both seem to have little interest in discussing it. Perhaps they've already talked each album to death with journalists over the past two years, or perhaps they are just exhausted. But maybe it's that each of their sights are so focused on the present that both have no time or desire to look backwards.

Granted, Kristinn's days are currently filled to the max. "The line of today is really blurred because I woke up at 12:00 yesterday morning," he explains, smiling. Yesterday morning he drove to Menntaskólinn í Reykjavík to draft some speeches and answers for his debate team, worked with the team on how to perform them, then went home and worked on writing until he came here for the interview. "After this, I'll just go to sleep for a few hours and then start it all over again until I drop dead, until I can't stand," he says.

But Kristinn's activities run a far wider gamut. Not only is he putting the final touches on his new album with Jói, but he's also performing in the Queen tribute show, 'We Will Rock You,' at Háskólabíó, and premiering a movie next week—'Agnes Joy,' which you can read about on page 37.

"It was really fun. I am really charmed by acting. I actually kind of just want to do that next," he explains, shrugging. "Go and test it out to see if I could have a career in it. It was an honour to share the screen with such talented actors and actresses [in 'Agnes Joy.']. Just magnificent."

Kristinn's days are busy, yes, but he revels in the difficulties of keeping up with such a demanding schedule. "I wouldn't be doing these things if they weren't fun and I wasn't interested in them," he says. "It's not anyone's fault that I'm tired, just mine. I put myself in this situation and I'm going to finish the projects that I take on."

## Journey to America

In two days, the two will head to New York to play at a wedding for an American couple. They're jazzed by the opportunity to travel abroad with their music. "I've never been to New York," Kristinn says, smiling. Jói raises his eyebrows. "I've never even been to America."

It's here that Kristinn gains an unexpected burst of inspiration. "I'm really excited to go in the middle of the impeachment inquiry," he says, his eyes shining. It seems he's finally found something he wants to talk about.

"I'm doing this debate, and I realised that the only Western country that doesn't have a nation-owned broadcasting company like RÚV is America. You have the five national news

empires—NBC, CBS, ABC, Fox, and the CW—and they are all either conservative or liberal," he explains. "To not have a news service working for the people, of the people, by the people, is scary. People don't trust anything because it's basically just falsifying things so you can get some clicks. It's fucking awful."

"Especially when your President is the epitome of a populist, you can't trust anything," he continues. "The only things he listens to is Fox News—Fox & Friends. It's crazy. When I want to know stuff fast, I watch John Oliver, Trevor Noah, Seth Myers, or Stephen Colbert, but then I'm only getting one side of the spectrum so I'm not much better. They are coloured by the fact that they hate the White House and want everything, the president included, out." He pauses. "It's not

**"Trump is saying, I've done the high crimes but I haven't pissed on the side of a building so you can't impeach me, which is fucking ridiculous."**

possible to just get news, there's always something behind it. It's fucking horrible and I hate it. It's propaganda."

*"In the midst of it's easy to think"*





“I think it’s best—not just for an album, but for anything in life—to expect nothing. Then you’re never disappointed, and if it’s good you are surprised in a good way.”

## Pissing on a building

Kristinn then dives into his thoughts on the impeachment inquiry. He’s quite passionate about the subject—surprising, especially for an Icelander who is, quite frankly, known primarily for being a rapper. “It’s funny. The three reasons you can impeach a president are high crimes and misdemeanours, treason, and using his office to enrich himself. Trump has basically done two but his meaning—fuck his meaning, by the way—is that he hasn’t done ‘and misdemeanours.’ He thinks you have to do both,” he says, incredulously.

“He’s saying, I’ve done the high

crimes but I haven’t pissed on the side of a building so you can’t impeach me, which is fucking ridiculous,” Kristinn jokes, shaking his head.

Considering his interest in the subject, it’s natural to wonder if Kristinn would ever want to enter politics himself. The answer, though, is a hard no. “It destroys people,” he explains. “Especially in a country as small as Iceland. It’s always about the man and not about the point. People just want to destroy other people.” He pauses. “But that’s just how it works. The most effective way of gaining something is dragging something else down. Not just in politics, but in life itself.”

## The clouds on your head

It’s a bleak worldview, and it’s easy to wonder if the hopelessness Kristinn describes will reveal itself on their next album. With a title like ‘í miðjum kjarnorkuvetri’ (‘In The Middle Of A Nuclear Winter’), which seems impossible to disentangle from our modern political climate, it’s difficult not to ask. At least, the effort seems a far cry from ‘GerviGlingur.’

That said, both musicians emphasize that the battle with this release is an internal one. “It’s been a tough album,” Jói says, while Kristinn is a bit more poetic with his take. “In the midst of a nuclear winter, it’s easy to think about nothing,” he states simply.

He pauses, giving the statement the gravity it deserves. It’s certainly a dark ideology, but, as Kristinn acknowledges, the album contains darkness. “Your own nuclear winter is only the biggest nuclear winter you’re ever going to go through because you don’t see the clouds over anyone else’s head, just the clouds over your own,” he says. “Aren’t we all going through something? Some hide it better than others, cope with it or work through it, but we’re all just trying to do our best, even when we feel like we have to contribute to society and still be on social media 24/7. Even when we’re having mental issues or going through a rough patch.”

For Kristinn, all listeners can do is to tune in. “It’s going to be interesting,” he says. “I think it’s best—not just for an album, but for anything in life—to expect nothing. Then you’re never disappointed, and if it’s good you are surprised in a good way. I really like the album. I really care for it. We’ve put a lot of time and hard work in it and I think that will hopefully translate.”

## The flute prodigy

The album doesn’t have an official release date, but will drop whenever they feel like the time is right. In the meantime, Jói is fully focused on finishing school. “I’m studying fine art, finishing in the end of October. I paint,” he explains.

Kristinn, still energised by his political sermon, happily interjects, “He also plays the pan-flute. He’s quite amazing.” Jói’s face remains deadpan—a harsh contrast to the big grin on Kristinn’s face.

“No, I don’t,” Jói states softly.

## “The offer”

It’s at moments like this that the bond between the two musicians shines.

Króli, talkative, animated, and enthusiastic, next to the quieter, sarcastic, and deadpan JóiPé. They’re total opposites—the hip-hop Odd Couple—but something about them just works.

With their dynamic at the fore, it’s funny to think back to their origin story, which began when Kristinn messaged Jói on Facebook out of the blue, asking to make music together. When asked why Kristinn chose Jói, in particular, to message, he leans back, smirking. “He was good, they said. Out of all the rappers I could message, I just saw a possibility that he could maybe answer me. I mean, I could have gone for a lower tier rapper.” Jói smiles. “Thank you,” he says simply.

“Life is odd. You just send a Facebook message one evening in December,” Kristinn continues, trailing off. “It worked though. He told me he had just bought a car so that was part of the offer.” Jói says. Króli laughs. “Yeah, the offer wasn’t good, but he accepted it. I’m grateful for that.”

## Always handball

Now, years later, on the eve of their album release, the two are just happy for the opportunity to make and share their music. “It’s nice to be at a point in my life where I can make art I like with my friends and be comfortable expressing myself,” Kristinn says. “A year ago, I wasn’t as comfortable.”

What’s on the horizon, though, is unclear, and neither musician will give a definitive answer as to what their plans are post-album release. “Keep playing handball, I guess?” Jói says sheepishly, when asked.

Kristinn, though, has some grander ideas for the two. “When he’s out of school and the album we’ve been making for a year and a half is out, we’re kind of in a free-falling mood. It’s like letting a baby go,” he says. “So maybe, we’ll do some old people stuff once our baby is grown up. We’ll play golf for three weeks straight. Read.” He pauses. “Or maybe just go on a motorcycle trip from Florida to Alaska.”

## Two years longer

He smiles, it might seem like a joke, but there’s an edge to his voice that betrays some sincerity, and it’s hard not to get the sense that the two of them really are at a crossroads. Straddling the cusp of adulthood, both artists are talented and famous. Now it’s up to them to consider what they’ll do next, together and separately. Is it acting? Debate? Handball? Can the two boys sustain the demanding schedule they’ve got now, even with the weekly overnights and constant fatigue?

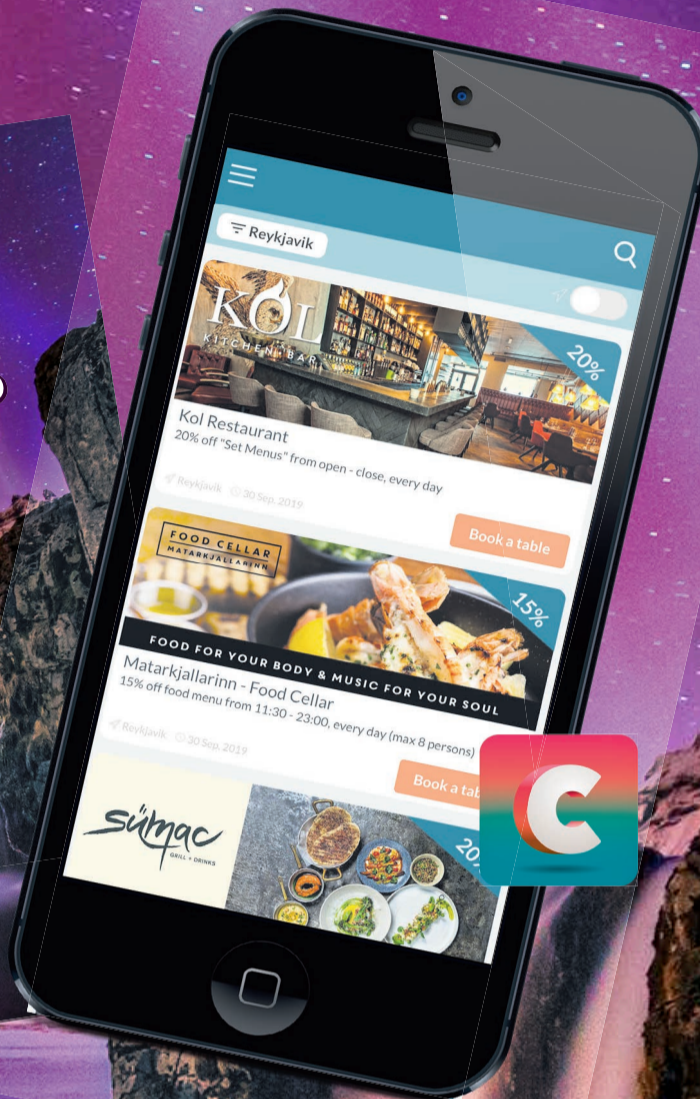
Maybe. Maybe not. In that moment, as our conversation draws to a close, it’s hard not to travel back to the young hip-hop article two years ago, when the two sat down excitedly at a table at Prikið, Króli bouncing up and down in his seat, antsy to talk about his favourite rappers and dreams of being one of the big guns in the scene. Comparing those kids to the two reserved almost-men who sit here now, they’re almost unrecognisable. Can two years bring such maturity? With such a contrast in such a short period of time, what will these two men be like in another two years?

Whatever the future holds for the two—birthdays, inquiries, movies, fame, and album releases included—hopefully it won’t involve another nuclear winter. ♡

a nuclear winter,  
about nothing.”



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You can sense the excitement in the air

**Art Festival**

Sequences Art Festival will take place from October 11th to 20th around Reykjavik. Check sequences.is for more information.

# Defining Real Time

Sequences Art Festival is back and as progressive as ever

**Words:**  
Sam O'Donnell

**Photos:**  
Patrik Ontkovic

Compared to other countries, visual art in Iceland is a relatively new thing. As an island, isolated from the rest of the world, contemporary advances and movements were historically slow to reach our shores. The 1970s, though, saw the birth of a flourishing art scene to rival those of larger European nations. Decades of creativity and artistic development culminated in a decision from artist-run spaces in Iceland that there needed to be a platform to showcase domestic and international

time-based art. Enter the Sequences real-time art festival.

The festival seeks to produce and present time-based art. Co-curators Hildigunnur Birgisdóttir and Ingólfur Arnarsson, and four of the artists who will be exhibiting at this year's festival—Þórunna Björnsdóttir, Þorbjörg Jónsdóttir, Ívar Glói, and honorary artist Kristinn G. Harðarson—spoke candidly with the Grapevine about the festival and the Icelandic art scene at large.

when international artists would visit, they would often stay in the homes of local artists, which is much less common today.

And of course, there was no internet forty years ago, let alone an online social network. As a result, the artistic community felt more like a grassroots movement. "There were no professional galleries and fewer artists. Everybody knew each other. It's still small, but it's bigger now," Kristinn explains.

In spite of constant change, or perhaps because of it, Sequences has the potential to become something even more established than it is now. Kristinn believes, somewhat bleakly, that artist-run initiatives and grassroots movements either do that or fade away. "These things, I think, tend to either die or become more institutionalised," Kristinn explains. "They often have their time, and then they fade away."

"Sequences has been a nourishing

festival within the artist's community," Hildigunnur says. Because it is an artist-run event, she emphasises, "there are things that are allowed there that might be a little more of a hassle in institutions." The focus is on the art, she says, and subsequently what artists want to do.

### Exploring reality and time

Sequences presents time-based art, or real-time media. This year, though, the curators decided to separate the two concepts, asking: What is reality? What is time? The curators specifically invited artists who they thought posed those questions through their work.

"It's easy to see how every piece can be a real-time event," Hildigunnur says. "Every piece exists in time, so every piece, every object, really is an event."

"Sequences has been a nourishing festival within the artist community."

### How things change

Kristinn has been in the scene for over forty years, and has watched it change enormously over that time. "Although it's still an island," he says, "Iceland was completely isolated when Ingólfur and I were starting. You didn't have all these flights back and forth." The scene was so homely, Kristinn explains, that

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ELVAR MÁR KJARTANSSON & LITTEN NYSTRØM : IT'S NOT TRUE

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The artists in repose

### What they do

Sequences begins on October 11th and runs until the 20th at numerous locations around Reykjavik. This year, the festival will explicitly aim to explore the deconstruction of real-time, and the exploration of reality and time.

Póranna will explore this directly. Having collected sound bytes from people's childhoods, she created a sound piece that hopes to explore the origins of memories and how sound triggers innate emotions. "So that creates a whole world. That is real time. It's been real in their life, even though it's a memory now. Of course, I can never recreate the memories, but it's a fun experiment," she says. Her Open-

ing Work will show at The Marshall House on October 12th at 17:00.

Þorbjörg, meanwhile, will present a film about an Indigenous Colombian shaman who works with ayahuasca, a strong hallucinogenic drug which allows the user to enter the spirit world. "It's like a way to talk about another reality, and another time," she says. The film is called 'A Tree Is Like A Man' and will show at Bíó Paradís on October 19th at 21:00.

Ívar Glói is presenting an exhibit using vintage-style LED light bulbs to give his space a warm nostalgic glow with a better energy efficiency for a new generation. It's called 'In A Sentimental Mood' and opens at Reykjavik

Art Museum Hafnarhús on October 12 at 16:00.

Kristinn will present his solo exhibition at Ásmundarsalur on October 11th at 17:00. His work encompasses both the real and the surreal. An artist book introduced at the same time will serve as its own independent exhibition space. His works will also be included in Exhibition A) at Kling & Bang, Exhibition B) at the Living Art Museum and at La Primavera, the Marshall House.

Numerous other artists will present films, paintings, photography, mixed media, and more. The curators are eager to showcase the artists they selected. Ingólfur hopes that people

will walk away with their own ideas about what reality and time respectively are. "That's our longing. That together this will make a package in the minds of the spectators somehow."

**"Every piece exists in time, so every piece, every object, really is an event."**

SEQUENCES IX - REALLY

11.10.19 - 20.10.19

PROGRAM

SEQUENCES.IS

# sequences ix really

11.10.19 - 20.10.19

Roger Ackling  
Anna Þorvaldsdóttir  
Arna Ýr Jónsdóttir  
James Castle  
Dávið Örn Halldórsson  
Miruna Dragan  
Emma Heiðarsdóttir  
Ceal Floyer  
Douglas Gordon  
Guðbjörg R. Jóhannesdóttir  
Guðný Guðmundsdóttir  
Jason de Haan  
Hildigunnur Birgisdóttir  
Hildur Bjarnadóttir  
Ingólfur Arnarsson  
Ívar Glói Gunnarsson Breiðfjörð  
Philip Jeck  
Karlotta Blöndal  
Kristinn Guðbrandur Harðarson  
Kristján Guðmundsson  
Kristján Leósson  
Mark Lewis  
Margrét Bjarnadóttir  
Margrét H. Blöndal  
Margrét Helga Sesseljudóttir  
Agnes Martin  
Ólöf Helga Helgadóttir  
Pétur Már Gunnarsson  
Amanda Riffo  
Karin Sander  
Sæmundur Þór Helgason  
Þorbjörg Jónsdóttir  
Póranna Dögg Björnsdóttir

FRIDAY 11.10

17:00  
Honorary Artist,  
Kristinn Guðbrandur  
Harðarson  
Solo Exhibition /  
Book Release  
Opening  
@Ásmundarsalur,  
Freyjugata 41

18:00  
Ólöf Helga Helgadóttir  
The Line  
Solo Exhibition  
Opening  
@Harbinger, Freyjugata 1

SATURDAY 12.10

16:00  
Ívar Glói Gunnarsson  
Breiðfjörð  
In a sentimental mood  
Solo Exhibition  
Opening  
@Reykjavík Art Museum,  
Hafnarhús, Tryggvagata 17

17:00 - 20:00  
Marshall House,  
Grandagarður 20

Póranna Dögg Björnsdóttir  
Opening Work

Exhibition a)  
Mark Lewis  
James Castle  
Emma Heiðarsdóttir  
Jason de Haan  
Karin Sander  
Ceal Floyer  
Kristján Guðmundsson  
Sæmundur Þór Helgason  
Kristinn Guðbrandur  
Harðarson  
Roger Ackling  
Hildur Bjarnadóttir  
Opening  
@Kling & Bang

Exhibition b)  
Guðný Guðmundsdóttir  
Kristinn G. Harðarson  
Arna Ýr Jónsdóttir  
Karlotta Böndal  
Amanda Riffo  
Margrét Helga  
Sesseljudóttir  
Miruna Dragan  
Dávið Örn Halldórsson  
Anna Þorvaldsdóttir  
Opening  
@The Living Art Museum

Kristinn Guðbrandur  
Harðarson  
Drawings  
Opening  
@La Primavera

19:00 - 22:00  
Sequences Opening  
Dinner  
Light dinner for  
a good price  
@Coocoo's Nest &  
Lúna Flórens,  
Grandagarður 23 - 25

21:00  
Pétur Már Gunnarsson  
Binocular  
Solo Exhibition  
Opening  
@OPEN,  
Grandagarður 27

Opening Festivities  
@Slipparinn, Icelandair  
Hotel Reykjavík Marina,  
Mýrargata 2  
Open until 01:00

SUNDAY 13.10

Exhibitions are open

MONDAY 14.10

Exhibitions are closed

TUESDAY 15.10

Exhibitions are open  
Except OPEN

WEDNESDAY 16.10

18:00  
Afternoon Artist Talk  
@Lounge, Icelandair Hotel  
Reykjavík Marina,  
Mýrargata 2

20:00  
Douglas Gordon  
I had nowhere to go  
Film Screening  
@Bíó Paradís,  
Hverfisgata 52  
Tickets on tix.is

THURSDAY 17.10

20:30  
Really - The Five Forewords  
of Sequences IX  
Reading Society of  
the Living Art Museum  
@The Living Art Museum,  
Grandagarður 20

FRIDAY 18.10

13:00  
Guðný Guðmundsdóttir  
Open Lecture  
@Iceland University  
of the Arts,  
Laugarnesvegur 91

20:00  
Philip Jeck  
Concert  
@Fríkirkjan,  
Fríkirkjuvegur 5  
Tickets on tix.is

SATURDAY 19.10

21:00  
Amanda Riffo  
Aphantasia  
Þorbjörg Jónsdóttir  
A tree is like a man  
Film Screenings  
@Bíó Paradís,  
Hverfisgata 52  
Tickets on tix.is

22:30 - 02:00  
Final Party  
Sequences ix  
Really  
@Bíó Paradís,  
Hverfisgata 52

SUNDAY 20.10

14:00  
Guided Tour  
@Marshall House,  
Grandagarður 20

15:00  
Curator's Talk  
@Marshall House,  
Grandagarður 20

18:00  
Agnes Martin  
Gabriel  
Film Screening  
@Bíó Paradís,  
Hverfisgata 52  
Tickets on tix.is

**Kling & Bang**

Nýlistasafnið The  
Living Art Museum



SEQUENCES IX - REALLY

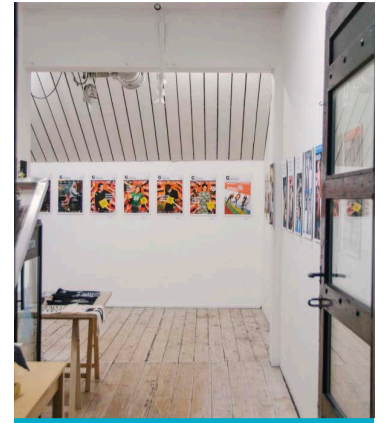
11.10.19 - 20.10.19

PROGRAM

SEQUENCES.IS



Shocking: It's free to be outside



## BEST OF REYKJAVÍK

### Best Artist-Run Space

Winner:  
**Gallery Port**  
Laugavegur 23

This humble gallery and workshop is hidden in plain sight on Reykjavík's largest shopping street, Laugavegur. Along with Harbinger, Gallery Port has done a lot for the emerging art scene, with a fast-moving and diverse exhibition program. "It has this 'happening vibe,'" says one of the panellists. "It is very international and based on more than money-making." This is your perfect anti-art-snob gallery and promises to surprise you again and again with every visit.



Runners up:

### Wind and Weather Window Gallery

Hverfisgata 37

Being both unique and impressively casual, this gallery is accessible for everyone. "I've walked by a million times before I noticed it was a gallery," said one of the panellist. It is truly a hidden gem of the city, while being mockingly obvious. It's like window shopping but with art.



### IÐNÓ

Vonarstræti 3

This old and absolutely beautiful building has become a space for all kinds of performances and events. The sheer diversity and passion behind the schedule is an ode to Reykjavík's art and culture life. Whether it is concerts, workshops, ambient nights, or film screenings, Iðnó has it all.

# Save That Cash, Get Some Culture

How to enjoy art for free in Reykjavík

Words & Photos: **Lea Müller**

*Culturally immersing yourself in Iceland can be an expensive undertaking. But it doesn't have to be. You can discover artistic masterpieces and cultural curios free of charge while wandering the streets of Reykjavík. So if you're an art-enthusiast on a budget, let us take you on a two-hour stroll through town.*

## Al fresco art



Start at the Einar Jónsson Museum, which is located in the heart of Reykjavík, right next to Hallgrímskirkja and presents a great place to learn about Icelandic art history. While there's an entrance fee for the museum, the serene sculpture garden around back is free to visit. It includes 26 statues placed there by Einar Jónsson and his wife, who used to live on the top floor of the museum. Pro-tip: Don't miss out on the mysterious "King of Atlantic" sculpture, as well as the figurative representation of spring.

## Tiny spaces of inspiration



After leaving the sculpture garden head over to Skólavörðustígur to check out some of gallery shops lining the street. If you're interested in photography swing by at Fótógrafi, a tiny space crammed with a camera collection and cool black and white prints on the walls. You can buy some artwork for yourself but if you want to make it a no-spending day, just skim.

## Mural, mural on the wall



As you venture on, you will soon notice that Reykjavík also offers a great deal of contemporary street art, so take a jaunt up to the corner of Laugavegur and Klapparstígur to discover a building entirely covered in a mind-boggling mural. The work was commissioned for Icelandic Airwaves 2015 and is called 'Ode to Mother,' inspired by the Ylfa song 'Óður til Móður' (other murals from that Airwaves series can be seen by along Laugavegur, by Hlemmur, on the backside of Gamla Bíó, and in the old harbour). Keep your eyes open for smaller murals and graffiti, which change the face of the city as you continue your stroll.

## A walk around Tjörninn



Next, head downhill to the shores of Tjörninn to marvel at statues by various artists. One of the most popular is Halla Gunnarsdóttir's likeness of Tómas Guðmundsson

perched on a city bench, an Icelandic poet famous for praising the city's beauty. So sit down on the bench next to him and enjoy the view over the pond while reflecting on his poem 'Hotel Earth' from 1933: "It's a curious journey this human life we lead, we are the guests and our hotel is the earth. While some check out, others arrive instead."

Behind Tómas is Einar Jónsson's imposing The Spell Broken, and further down the pond-side path is the Women's Sculpture Garden, featuring the works of several female artists.

## The Nordic House

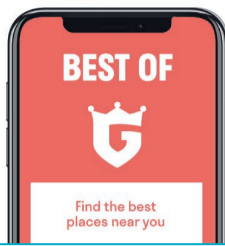


On your final stop, enter the university district where you can kill two birds with one stone by visiting the Nordic House. Firstly, the building is a masterpiece designed by the Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. Inside though, you can enjoy more art for free. The venue is notorious for providing a platform for Nordic artists, hosting several exhibitions each year ranging from design awards to Greenlandic photographers.

So there you go! Are you feeling more cultured? Now, take that money you just saved on your artistic afternoon, and buy yourself an ice cream. You deserve it.

October 11th—October 24th

# 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: Ágúst Bent Jenson  
Photo: Matthew Eisman

### Ágúst Bent Jenson

Ágúst Bent Jenson is the singer of rock band Horrible Youth, which just released its first album, 'Wounds Bleed.' Here is his perfect day.

#### First things first!

First off, I'm rudely awoken by my kids. After begging and pleading for a few more minutes of sleep, I get up, kiss my wife, and feed my children. It's beans on toast for my young diva and Cocoa Puffs for the prince of the house. I opt for scrambled eggs with some avocado and a sprinkle of hot sauce. Topics of discussion range from life after death and where angels live, to which is better: chocolate or ice cream.

#### Mid-morning

Assuming the weather is not apocalyptic, I'd go for a nice walk with my family in Elliðaárdalur. We

check out the bunnies and get recharged by this awesome nature in the middle of Reykjavík. We wind up at the playground with the kids.

#### Lunch

I take my wife out to a champagne brunch at a place of her choosing—no kids though! She orders something healthy and shames me whilst I order something sleazy and blame her. We talk about how difficult our children are and then we talk about how perfect our children are.

#### Afternoon

Happy-hour with the pals. Period. There, discussions about horrible things. Very dark stuff. If anyone with power would hear us, they would have us banished from society. I drink slowly and talk fast because I'm late for a soundcheck. The Melvins are in town and they specifically requested Horrible Youth as the sup-

port band. Best day ever, right?

#### Dinner

I go for a burger at **Sæta Svinið** with a tasting menu of the beers they got on tap. I'm a session IPA man myself. I'm not one for desserts, but I'd enjoy watching my wife devour some cake whilst sipping on an 18-year-old single malt, preferably from Islay.

#### In the heat of the night

I go where the heat is on! Actually, no. I'm old and tired and my kids exhaust me. I'd start by supporting the Melvins at a packed medium capacity place in Reykjavík. Then I'd enjoy some time backstage with my bandmates to talk about how awesome we are. Afterward, we go to **Kaffibarrinn** and dance to some house music and mellow out before going home. Sleep, eat, repeat? Nah... 🐇



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Venues	Museums & Galleries
<b>The numbers on the right (i.e. E4) tell you position on the map on the next page</b>	
<b>Austur</b> Austurstræti 7 <b>D3</b>	<b>ART67</b> Laugavegur 67 <b>F7</b> Open daily 9-21
<b>American Bar</b> Austurstræti 8 <b>D3</b>	<b>ASÍ Art Gallery</b> Freyjúgata 41 <b>G6</b> Open Tue-Sun 13-17
<b>Andrými</b> Bergþorugata 20 <b>G6</b>	<b>Aurora Reykjavík</b> Grandagarður 2 <b>B1</b> Open 09-21
<b>B5</b> Bankastræti 5 <b>E4</b>	<b>Asgrímur Jónsson Museum</b> Bergstaðastr. 74 <b>G4</b> July 8-Sep 1, Mon-Fri
<b>Bar Ananas</b> Klappargstígur 28 <b>E5</b>	<b>Berg Contemporary</b> Klappargstígur 16 <b>E5</b> Tu-F 11-17, Sat 13-17
<b>Bió Paradís</b> Hverfisgata 54 <b>E5</b>	<b>The Culture House</b> Hverfisgata 15 <b>E5</b> Open daily 10-17
<b>Bjarni Fel</b> Austurstræti 20 <b>E4</b>	<b>The Einar Jónsson Museum</b> Eiríksgata <b>G5</b> Open Tue-Sun 10-17
<b>Bravó</b> Laugavegur 22 <b>E5</b>	<b>Ekkisens</b> Bergstaðast. 25b <b>F4</b>
<b>Boston</b> Laugavegur 28b <b>E5</b>	<b>Galleri List</b> Skipholt 50A <b>H10</b> M-F 11-18, Sat 11-16
<b>Dillon</b> Laugavegur 30 <b>E5</b>	<b>Hafnarborg</b> Strandgata 34, 220 <b>D3</b> Open Wed-Mon 12-17
<b>Dubliner</b> Naustín 1-3 <b>D3</b>	<b>Hitt Húsið</b> Pósthússtræti 3-5 <b>D4</b>
<b>English Pub</b> Tryggvagata 12 <b>D3</b>	<b>Hverfisgalleri</b> Hverfisgata 4 <b>D4</b> Tu-Fri 13-17, Sat 14-17
<b>Gaukurinn</b> Tryggvagata 22 <b>D3</b>	<b>i8 Gallery</b> Tryggvagata 16 <b>D3</b> Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17
<b>Hard Rock Café</b> Lækjargata 2a <b>D3</b>	
<b>Hressó</b> Austurstræti 20 <b>D3</b>	
<b>Húrra</b> Naustín <b>D3</b>	
<b>lónó</b> Vonarstræti 3 <b>E3</b>	<b>The Penis Museum</b> Laugavegur 116 <b>F8</b> Open daily 10-17
<b>Kex Hostel</b> Skúlagata 28 <b>E7</b>	<b>Kirsuberjatræð</b> Vesturgata 4 <b>D3</b> M-F 10-18, Sat-Sun 10-17
<b>Kaffibarrinn</b> Bergstaðastræti 1 <b>E4</b>	<b>Kling &amp; Bang</b> Grandagarður 20 <b>A4</b> W-Sun 14-18, Th 12-21
<b>Kaffi Vinyl</b> Hverfisgatur 76 <b>E6</b>	<b>Listastofan</b> Hringbraut 119 <b>A4</b> Open Wed-Sat 13-17
<b>Kiki Queer Bar</b> Laugavegur 22 <b>E5</b>	<b>Living Art Museum</b> Grandagarður 20 <b>A4</b> Tu-Sun 12-18, Th 12-21
<b>Loft</b> Bankastræti 7 <b>E4</b>	<b>Mokka Kaffi</b> Skólavörðustíg. 3A <b>E5</b> Open daily 9-18:30
<b>Mengi</b> Öðinsgata 2 <b>F5</b>	<b>Museum of Design and Applied Art</b> Garðatorg 1 <b>E5</b> Open Tu-Sun 12-17
<b>Nordic House</b> Sturlagata 5 <b>H2</b>	<b>The National Gallery of Iceland</b> Frikirkjuvegur 7 <b>F3</b> Open daily 10-17
<b>Paloma</b> Naustín <b>D3</b>	<b>The National Museum</b> Sudurgata 41 <b>G2</b> Open daily 10-17
<b>Prikió</b> Bankastræti 12 <b>E4</b>	<b>The Nordic House</b> Sturluggata 5 <b>H2</b> Thu-Fri 11-17, W 11-20
<b>R6013</b> Ingólfsstræti 20 <b>E4</b>	<b>Hafnarhús</b> Tryggvagata 17 <b>D3</b> Open 10-17, Thu 10-22
<b>Reykjavík Roasters</b> Kárastræti 1 <b>F5</b>	<b>Kjarvalsstaðir</b> Flókagata 24 <b>H8</b> Open daily 10-17
<b>Stofan Café</b> Vesturgata 3 <b>D3</b>	
<b>Ölsmíðjan</b> Lækjargata 10 <b>E3</b>	
<b>Tívoli bar</b> Hafnarstræti 4 <b>D3</b>	
<b>Tjarnarbió</b> Tjarnargata 12 <b>E3</b>	
	<b>Ásmundarsafn</b> Sigtún <b>D3</b> Open daily 10-17
	<b>Reykjavík City Library</b> Tryggvagata 15 <b>D3</b> Mon-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-17
	<b>Árbæjarsafn</b> Kistuhylur 4 <b>D3</b> Open daily 9-18
	<b>The Settlement Exhibition</b> Aðalstræti 16 <b>D3</b> Open daily 9-18
	<b>Reykjavík Museum of Photography</b> Tryggvagata 15 <b>D3</b> Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-18
	<b>Saga Museum</b> Grandagarður 2 <b>B2</b> Open Mon-Fri 10-18
	<b>Sigrún Ólafsson Museum</b> Laugarnestangi 70 <b>D3</b> Open Tu-Sun 14-17
	<b>SÍM</b> Hafnarstræti 16 <b>D3</b> Open Mon-Fri 10-16
	<b>Tveir Hrafnar</b> Baldursgata 12 <b>G4</b> Open Fri-Sat 13-16
	<b>Wind &amp; Weather Window Gallery</b> Hverfisgata 37 <b>E5</b>

## 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](http://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](http://www.bus.is).

**A**



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**D**



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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 plockfiskur, 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 al fresco 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

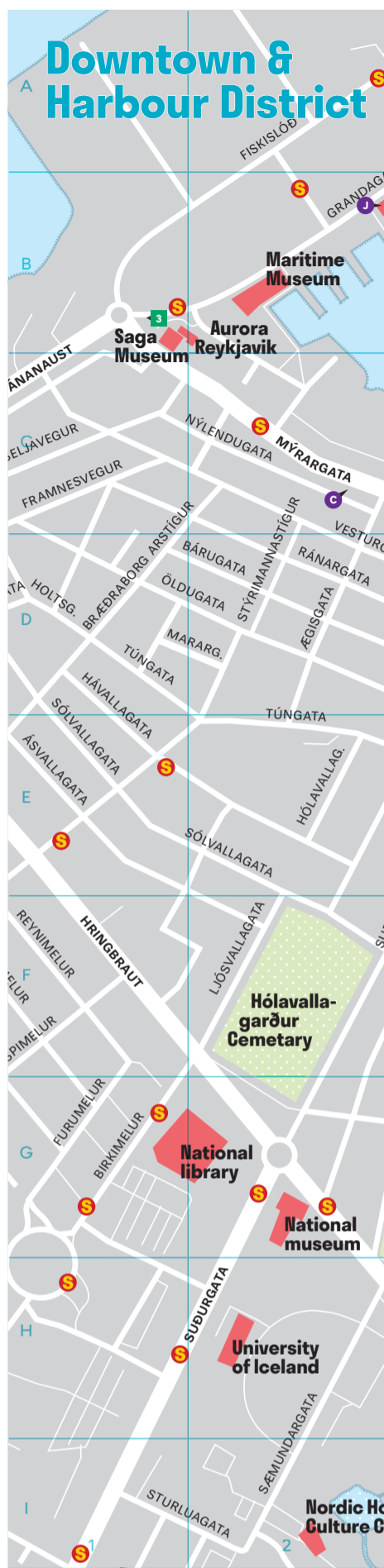
Fógetagarður

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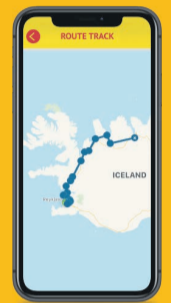
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scene by storm upon opening in 2018, with its eclectic streetwear selection. They have designers that no one else has.

## 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



Gummi Ben  
Tryggvagata 22

From the velvet curtains that hang at the entrance to the cool-coloured lights illuminating the bar to the dozens of beers on tap, the new Gummi Ben sports bar was custom created for watching the big game. In addition to a cosy atmosphere they have a total of 20 TVs and projectors, so you can watch whatever match you want. Just ask the bartender. SPO



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“There’s no guarantee that you’ll cry, but if you do, that’s great.”

TRACK BY TRACK

# ‘Songs 4 Crying’ By Karitas

Get your tissues ready

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen & Karitas Óðinsdóttir** Photo: **Matthew Eisman**

**Info:**

Stream ‘Songs 4 Crying’ by Karitas on Spotify.

A newbie on the scene, Karitas brings a delicate mix of harmonic pop and trap. Backed by producer Dadykeul, she’s here with her first EP ‘Songs 4 Crying.’ We sat down with her to talk about the release, track by track.

If I had to describe ‘Songs 4 Crying’ in a few words, I’d say it is dark, vulnerable, melancholic, romantic and sad. The original release date was meant to be in late-August, but I decided to postpone it until we were slowly heading into winter when seasonal affective disorder starts kicking in. I don’t have a solid explanation for why I decided to name the EP ‘Songs 4 Crying’—it’s just a fun title that fit. There’s no guarantee that you’ll cry, but if you do, that’s great.

**Intro**

The intro was made by Daði, my producer. He took a few random takes off the EP and put it together

to make a melancholic dark intro. It has a “Stranger Things” vibe to it, which is pretty cool.

**Wear Somebody Else**

“Wear Somebody Else” is a vulnerable take on how sometimes a person would just like to be someone other than themselves if they aren’t loved for who they are. It’s a raw and primal feeling because of course people should never change themselves for somebody else’s approval or love. But sometimes feelings don’t really make any sense.

**She Can’t Love You**

This is a cover of the 1982 disco hit “She Can’t Love You” by Chemise. I wasn’t much into the disco/soul/funk genre until last year, when I started to listen to this song and I noticed how upbeat the song was in comparison to the sad lyrics. So I decided to cover the song and Daði really put his magic on it by making chords of only my vocals in the beginning. We were also super lucky to get Einar Stef from Vök

and Hatari for the drums. I know it’s a bit of a risk to cover an old school much beloved anthem, but I did my best to do this song justice!

**Burn**

‘Burn’ is the first song Daði and I made together. I’d say that it was written about a typical shitty relationship—a post break-up song about trying to let go of someone who isn’t doing you any good. Yeah, that’s about it.

**Snake Skin**

‘Snake Skin’ was the final step for me in a long healing process and a perfect way to end this EP. I got a little emotional when I heard the final mix of the song; it really hits a nerve with me since it’s written for a very special person who isn’t here anymore. It’s my favourite song on the album, so it made perfect sense for it to be the last track. ♡

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# Music



Crystals not included

## What Is My Energy?

una schram brings her pop r&b to Airwaves

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photo: **Magnús Andersen**

### Single and Concert

Check out 'energy' by una schram on Spotify. You can catch her live at Iceland Airwaves from November 6th to 9th.

Energy is something I think about a lot," chanteuse una schram—low-ercase, please—says delicately over the phone. She's currently in Bristol, starting a B.A. in music, and won't be back in the country until just before her Airwaves debut this November. "Thinking about what type of energy someone has, what kind of energy someone is giving me, so it made sense to call the EP 'energy.'"

And luckily for the young artist, it turned out to be a fitting title. Because if there's anything una's debut release has created, it's energy—and perhaps a distaste for capital letters.

### iceland's ariana

una grew up in downtown Reykjavik and started writing songs when she was but 10 years old. That said, she only began working seriously on her own material earlier this year, which culminated in the release of the EP in mid-May.

In the sea of Reykjavik rap and indie, una brought something new to the table: pop R&B. Her works pin powerful, rife-with-riffs vocals in the vein of Ariana Grande over lush, smooth, contemporary beats, ultimately creating a delicious melange of old and new. Her tunes are the type of tracks it's almost impossible not to sway to.

"My music is happy, even though I'm sometimes talking about sad things," una says. "It's not dark, it's light. It's easy-going." 'energy' isn't a concept album in the tradi-

tional sense but there is a thematic thread, that of, "love, sass, and difficulties in life," as una explains. "In most of the songs, I'm obviously singing about a love interest."

### bring your a-game

una's excited to play her first Airwaves gig, but admits she sometimes finds the whole festival thing a bit stressful. "Weirdly enough, I'm not a huge festival fan," she says. "I love playing them but it's a bit overwhelming. There's so much to see, so many people to meet, a lot of drinking. It gets a bit too much for me."

Still, she's majorly excited to see Mac DeMarco at this year's iteration. "I love him and I have for a long time," she laughs. "He's very classic."

Other than that, it's the Icelandic artists una will be front and centre for. "Airwaves is where Icelandic artists bring their A-game," she says, naming Matthildur as a particular favourite.

### 2020 energy

"I admit, I've been a bit of a bitch about Icelandic music," she concedes. "I didn't give it a chance, you know?"

"When I became an Icelandic artist, I realised so many people in the industry are doing amazing things. I was just too cool for school and didn't open my eyes to it." Thankfully she did, and hopes to collaborate with more artists in the future.

una will drop a new single on October 19th and then another just two weeks later—the perfect buildup for Airwaves. She also hopes to have her debut album ready in early 2020. Until then, bump her EP on Spotify for a boost of 'energy'—the five songs will get you higher than Nocco, we promise. ♡



### MUSIC NEWS

Iceland Airwaves has officially announced this year's venues. For this iteration, there will be three possible viewing experiences: Official Venues, On-Venues, and Off-Venues. The Official Venues are programmed by Airwaves and require a wristband. From the holy and reverent **Frikirkjan** to the den of hedonism and downright fun that is **Gaukurinn**, the Official Venues are looking good. **Kex Hostel** is a notable new addition. Meanwhile, the On-Venues are programmed by the venues themselves, but also require a wristband. This year, a trio of sweet ones—**Dillon**, **Miami Bar**, and **Kornhlaðan**—have been confirmed, with more to be announced soon. Off-Venues, meanwhile, do not require a wristband. A full list of these will be announced at a later date. Iceland Airwaves will be from November 6th to 9th. Tickets are currently 19,900 ISK and can be bought at [airwaves.is](http://airwaves.is). **SPO**



It's official: **Sigur Rós** has won their tax evasion case. The judge dismissed the lawsuit on the grounds that the case was already investigated by officials. Basically—you can't try someone for their alleged crimes twice. Sigur Rós was accused of avoiding **150 million ISK** in taxes and subsequently, the Icelandic authority froze the bands assets for up to 800 million ISK. The band said in a statement earlier this year that their accountant made mistakes in the paperwork, and that they had already corrected that mistake. The ironic thing, though, is that the Icelandic government will have to pay for all legal costs, so in the end, it's the Icelandic taxpayers who will suffer. The prosecutor has already announced that the decision will be appealed. So open your wallets, taxpayers. **VG**



**Ascension MMXX** is here, so get your battle jackets ready, rockers. Last week, the festival unexpectedly announced their second iteration, which will take place this year from May 21st to May 23rd at Hlégarður. The line-up consists of a variety of dark acts, both domestic and foreign, including **Sinmara**, **Mgla**, **Grave Pleasures**, **Auðn**, **Almyrkvi**, **Andavald**, **Hexvessel**, and **Trepaneringsritualen**. Phase one of the early bird tickets went on sale on October 6th and immediately sold out. New tickets will be available soon—check out their Facebook page for more information. **HJC**

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20/10 SINGER/SONGWRITER NIGHT

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## Our Picks



Joshua Bell & Alessio Bax

October 20th - 19:30 - Harpa - 3,500-8,900 ISK ★

Joshua Bell is one of the most famous violinists in the world, and he's here (in Iceland!) to perform a unique recital along with the equally acclaimed Italian pianist Alessio Bax. Plebeians might know Bell from that viral video of a world-class violinist playing

in the subway—on a 3.5 million dollar Stradivarius, no less—to an audience of blasé passersby. Here's hoping this concert will be more lively. The program starts with Schubert's "Rondo Brillante in B minor" and a Sonata by César Franck. After an intermission they will continue with Bach's "Violin Sonata No. 4 in C minor" and end the evening with two compositions by Eugène Ysaÿe. **LM/HJC**



Frank, you should study this

October 17th - 20:00 - IDNÓ ★

Duo Harpverk will combine a Japanese banjo with a harp in this special premiere. **LM**



Moses Hightower

October 11th - 21:00 - Háskólabíó - 5,900 ISK ★

Two years after their release concert for 'Fjallaloft,' Moses Hightower will hit the stage at Háskólabíó. In this iteration, they'll present an assortment of new songs accompanied by a trumpet band. Come for soulful revelation. **LM**



Auður DJ Set

October 12th - 22:00 - Prikíð ★

Smooth heart-throb Auður is here with a special DJ set. We stan. **HJC**



Elli Grill

October 19th - 21:00 - Gaukurinn - 1,000 ISK ★

Gaukurinn hosts Elli Grill's release party for his new album 'Rassabassi Vol. 3' and the first 80 guests get free beer. Be early if you've dreamed about what Donald Duck would sound like if he chugged moonshine and started a rap career. **HJC**

## October 11th—October 24th

# 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](http://grapevine.is/happening). Send your listings to: [listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is).

### Friday October 11th

- ★ **Moses Hightower**  
21:00 Háskólabíó
- DJ Simon fknhdsm x Hermigervill**  
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- Ra:TiO DJ Set**  
22:00 Prikíð
- Formaðurinn & Rulefinn**  
22:00 Bravó
- DJ Thugfucker x Jamie Clarke x Bensol**  
24:00 Gaukurinn

### Saturday October 12th

- ★ **Auður DJ Set**  
22:00 Prikíð
- Krummi**  
21:00 Djúpið
- Iceland Opera: The Marriage Of Figaro**  
19:30 Þjóðleikhúsið
- Kul, Zak And The Krakens & Flavor Fox**  
22:00 Gaukurinn
- Hjalti Nordal**  
21:00 Mengi
- DJ Rulefinn**  
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- Plútó**  
22:00 Bravó
- Ellen Kristjáns**  
20:00 Háskólabíó



Deep Jimi & The Zep Creams  
21:00 Hard Rock Café

### Sunday October 13th

Piano Inauguration: Davið Þór

### Jónsson & Gaukur Daviðsson

- 21:00 Mengi
- DJ Silja Glommi**  
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- Finn, Fjör & Françaix**  
12:15 Hannesarholt
- Hljóðön: Ingólfur Vilhjálmsson & Lluís Espigolé**  
20:00 Hafnarborg
- The Wonders Of The Double Bass: Sigmar Þór Matthíasarson**  
13:00 Árbær Culture House

### Monday October 14th

- Reggae Fever**  
22:00 Bravó
- DJ Sveinni Solo**  
22:00 Kaffibarinn

### Tuesday October 15th

- DJ Bob Cluiness**  
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- Karaoke Party!**  
21:00 Gaukurinn
- Jazz Night**  
20:30 Kex Hostel
- Gwilyn Simcock**  
20:00 Salurinn

### Wednesday October 16th

- ★ **Duo Harpverk:**  
**Frank, you should study this**  
20:00 IDNÓ
- Matthildur: 'My OWN EP' Release Party**  
21:00 Kex Hostel
- Múlinn Jazz Club:**  
**Roy Hargrove Tribute**  
21:00 Harpa
- DJ Silja Glommi**  
22:00 Prikíð
- DJ Pilsner**  
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- Don Lockwood Band**  
21:00 Slippbarinn
- Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét**  
21:00 Sæta Svinið
- Vestjysk Big Band**  
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
- DJ Petersen**  
22:00 Bravó
- Melophobia**  
21:00 Gaukurinn
- Forget-Me-Not: Scandinavian Music**

### Vocal Concert

12:15 Kjarvalsstaðir

### Thursday October 17th

- Halldór Eldjárn Release Concert**  
21:00 IDNÓ
- Brött Brekka / IDK IDA / Flaaryr / Data Grawlix & Bucking Fastards**  
18:00 R6013
- Míll**  
21:00 Kex Hostel
- DJ Fro\$T x Fonetik**  
22:00 Prikíð
- Kalmarsambandið**  
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- Skaði Special**



Plútó DJ Collective

- 22:00 Bravó
- Eyjólfur "Eyfi" Kristjánsson**  
20:00 Petersen svítan
- Prieykið**  
20:00 Hannesarholt
- Valdimar, Hildur Vala & Skafararnir**  
20:30 Salurinn

### Friday October 18th

- ★ **Duo Harpverk**  
19:30 Hljómahöll
- Herra Hnetusmjör**  
21:00 Gamla Bíó
- Can't think just feel #10 // Godchilla, Skoffin & Man Kind**  
20:30 Loft
- Ingibjörg Turchi**  
21:00 Mengi
- Árstíðir: 10th Anniversary Concert**  
21:00 Hard Rock Café
- Iceland Symphony String Ensemble: Baroque Concert**  
12:00 Harpa
- DJ KGB**  
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- DJ Styrmir Hansson**  
22:00 Bravó
- DJ Gervisykur**  
22:00 Prikíð
- Sequences IX: Philip Jeck**  
20:00 Frikirkjan

### Saturday October 19th

- ★ **Elli Grill & Captain Syrup**  
21:00 Gaukurinn

### Jóipé & Króli

- 14:00 Harpa
- Jóhann Helgason 70: Life & Love**  
20:00 Harpa
- Iceland Opera: The Marriage Of Figaro**  
19:30 Þjóðleikhúsið
- DJ Jónbjörn**  
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- DJ Karítas**  
22:00 Prikíð
- DJ KGB**  
22:00 Bravó
- Baroque Concert**  
17:00 Hallgrímskirkja
- Follow Your Zenith: Kyōku & Essex**  
21:00 Kex Hostel
- GÓSS**

### 22:00 Kaffibarinn

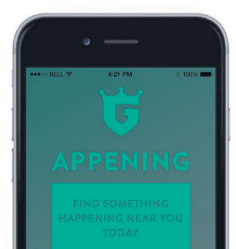
- Karaoke Party!**  
21:00 Gaukurinn
- Jazz Night**  
20:30 Kex Hostel

### Wednesday October 23rd

- Múlinn Jazz Club: Stína Ágústsdóttir & Henrik Linder Trio**  
21:00 Harpa
- Don Lockwood Band**  
21:00 Slippbarinn
- Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét**  
21:00 Sæta Svinið
- DJ Passa**  
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- DJ Lamp Vader**  
22:00 Prikíð
- DJ Formaðurinn**  
22:00 Bravó
- Forget-Me-Not: Nature & Nature**  
**Vocal Concert**  
12:15 Kjarvalsstaðir

### Thursday October 24th

- Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Bach, Handel & Haydn**  
19:30 Harpa
- Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Open Rehearsal**  
9:30 Harpa
- Elin Ey & Eypór Gunnarsson**  
21:00 Mengi
- DJ Þorsteinn Eyfjörð**  
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- DJ KrBear**  
22:00 Bravó
- Ís í Brauðformi**  
22:00 Prikíð
- Brynhildur & Dagný Halla**  
20:00 Petersen svítan
- Halloween Jazz (5-9 Year Olds)**  
14:00 Árbær Culture House
- Skauti**  
22:00 Hard Rock Café
- Grimur**  
20:00 Hannesarholt
- Helgi Björnsson**  
20:30 Salurinn



★ For music listings from Oct. 25th on, check out [happening.grapevine.is](http://happening.grapevine.is) or our app Appening, available on iOS and Android

- 16:00 Vinabæ
- Gissur Páll & Árni Heiðar**  
20:00 Salurinn

### Sunday October 20th

- ★ **Joshua Bell & Alessio Bax**  
19:30 Harpa
- Sunday Jazz**  
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
- DJ Sonur Sæll**  
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- The Chamber Music Society #2: Mozart & Schumann**  
16:00 Harpa
- Ambient Sunday #7: Diego Manatrizio & Ingibjörg Elsa Turchi**  
20:00 Nordic House
- Singer/Songwriter Night**  
21:00 Gaukurinn
- Sing Together With Svavar Knútur**  
14:00 Hannesarholt
- Hipsumhaps**  
20:00 Bæjarbíó

### Monday October 21st

- Monday Night Jazz**  
21:00 Bíó Paradís
- Devil's Karaoke**  
21:00 Bravó
- DJ Fusion Groove**  
22:00 Kaffibarinn

### Tuesday October 22nd

DJ Krystal Carma

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That's a lot of keyboards

## 30 Years Of Tech Noire

Dada Pogrom celebrates three decades  
of crushing music

Words: **Phil Uwe Widiger** Photo: **Patrick Ontkovic**

### Album

Purchase Dada Pogrom's music  
through [dadapogrom.com](http://dadapogrom.com) or at  
Lucky Records.

A text-version of "Star Wars" plays on a 70s computer as Kenneth Vladas Balys, who grew up in Iceland and Canada, walks around his art studio in Grandi, introducing some new bass synthesizers he's been making by himself. The studio is a dreamland of synths, old electronics, artwork, and a recording studio. Presenting them, Kenneth speaks openly, in a sophisticated manner, never swaying off track. Better known as K, he's the co-founder and only permanent member of the Dada Pogrom. This year, he's celebrating the 30th year of the tech noire project.

### Stabbing a dictionary

Travel back to November 8th, 1989, the night of the fall of the Berlin Wall. K and three of his friends are just about to launch their new music project. Inspired by the likes of Vomito Negro, Beastie Boys and Intercity, they were striving for a more aggressive industrial sound, using electronic

equipment that had been discarded when disco music had died out.

"My friend and I threw an English-French dictionary in the air and stabbed it with a fork two times," K chuckles. The two words they penetrated were "dada" and "pogrom." And thus, the band was born.

### The message

"Dada" was an anti-war movement started by French and German veterans in response to the irrationality and hopelessness of WWI. The art movement was characterised by a senseless randomness and critiques of capitalist society.

"Pogrom," meanwhile, originated from Russian. It's a term similar to genocide. The mix—that of pacifism and violence—found its way easily into K's music.

"The Dadaists showed that enemies have been able to get together and not only forgive each other, but work together in getting away from the hate," K explains. "I think I've just decided to adopt that philosophy. I like the sound of crushing music, however."

The result is what the artist describes as a "murky, minor-chorded horror dance sound with a

strong anti-war message going on in it"—the genre of Tech Noire.

### The old & the new

Three decades of creation has naturally changed the project. Not only has technology evolved, but so too has the music. When asked about the most important changes that the project has seen, K mainly cites the improvement of the skills he needs to fulfil his vision.

"My craft has gotten better. There is a time in a career when you're grabbing the new tools and learning them but at a certain point you have to stop and start staying with the tools you've learned and get better at your craft instead," he says. "I've hit that stage now. I like this idea that I am gonna stay with the old tools in the back and modern tools in the front."

Indeed, his music studio is a curious assembly of synths, drum machines, sampling machines, and analogue tape recorders, fronted by a big screen and Pro-Tools II—a beautiful mix of old and new.

### Four thousand monitors

In their 30th year, Dada Pogrom will release two new cassettes. The first is "Fosfori Ambra," which features, as K explains, "1989 early Dada Pogrom with lots of 12-bit sampled stabs, hits and horror movie samples." It will be released on Dada Pogrom's 30th anniversary through átámátán. The other is a re-release of the sold-out "The Synth Wreck of Vasa" through Kernkrach Schallplatten.

"I am shooting music videos for that project right now," K finishes. "I am building a wall of green Italian monitors," he says, smiling. "I only have four so far but I hope one day I will have four thousand." 🍷

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The parents, pictured yesterday

# SYKUR Gives Birth

...to nine spunky teens

Words: Tara Njála Ingvarsdóttir Photo: Saga Sig

## Album/Concert

SYKUR releases 'JÁTAKK' on October 25th, eight years since their last album 'Mesópótamía' came out. Catch them at their 12th Airwaves appearance in November.

Sugar is the name for sweet tasting simple carbohydrates used for making food sweeter. SYKUR is the name for Iceland's favorite electro-fab-party-techno-pop group. Now, the band's fiery frontwoman Agnes Björt Andradóttir, and guitarist Kristján Eldjárn are ready to chat about the long-awaited release of SYKUR's newest album 'JÁTAKK'.

## yesplease

At the time of the interview, it's early October and Christmas cookies have already hit the shelves. Unable to resist buying some, Kristján munches on some gingerbread while musing on the upcoming release.

"This is our second attempt to make a third album. We started making LP3 a few years ago but we ended up scrapping it and going straight to making our fourth album," he says, smiling. "The third album only exists in the ether." For reference, their second album 'Mesópótamía' was released in 2011. Eight years later, and they're finally back with more, to which one can only say 'JÁTAKK' (which translates to 'yes please').

The album's name, Agnes

shares, is a private joke. "We have this inside joke between us where we try to say things in as few words as possible like 'yesplease,'" she explains. "We say 'björivas' (beer in a pocket) really fast. It's stupid, but it's funny, like when you're having a 'hotdoginNorway'."

## The long pregnancy

With the album release just around the corner, there is some nostalgia in the air. "It feels like we have been pregnant for so long and we can't carry it any longer so we're pushing," Agnes says. "We're holding hands like 'we have to get it out'. We're on the final push."

Kristján nods. "The funny thing is that nobody is really waiting for it," he explains. "I think they stopped waiting in 2013." Immediately, Agnes interjects, "Except for us".

Laughing Kristján adds, "It's an internal pressure—it's been a tough pregnancy."

Half of the songs on the new album have never been heard, but the oldest song on the album was first played on stage first in 2012. "I feel like a mom and it's time for the kids to leave home now," she says, smiling. "Imagine: Some of the songs we have already performed a thousand times so it's similar to giving birth to full grown teenagers."

## Getting to know the kids

"The song 'fucked up' is our rebel teen," Agnes continues. "The punk. She doesn't smoke pot, she smokes Icelandic herbs." Kristján adds, "Like njóli." They chuckle and agree.

There's also the 'lost song,' Agnes explains. "It's like an 18-year-old young man who just recognised that it's better to let your feelings out. Instead of being depressed with yourself, you can be depressed with others."

Of course, there's also a 'jock,' Kristján proposes the song 'sumeret' (working title) but Agnes disagrees, "When I listen to 'sumeret' I just think of elves. 'strange loop' is definitely the jock."

## Kver-ger-cavalier

Their favourite phrases on the album are in 'kók í dós' ("Coke in a can"). "Mine is 'lúin hvarmaljós kók í dós,'" Kristján says. "It's high brow Icelandic, juxtaposed with a can of Coke, which is so mundane."

**"It's high brow Icelandic, juxtaposed with a can of Coke, which is so mundane."**

"I would say my favorite phrase on the album is 'kverkur kavalier,'" Agnes adds. Pronounced "kver-ger-cavalier"—try saying that out loud—it's definitely a mouthful. Kristján laughs, "I don't even know what that means." Agnes smiles. "Me neither," she says, then adds with gusto, "but it grabs hold of the spirit of the song".

"Lyrics sound so weird when you speak them," Kristján concludes. "Can we attach an mp3 to the paper?"

Currently, we are working on that invention at the Grapevine, but for now you'll have to wait until the release of the album to hear these lyrics out loud. ♡

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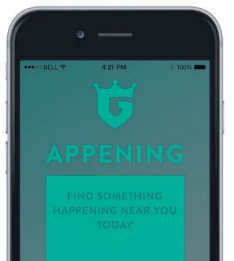
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Slay, Brynhildur

## Serving Valkyrie Realness

Queen dream-team premiere  
'Memoirs of a Valkyrie'

Words: **a rawlings** Photo: **Dominika Milek**

### Memoirs of a Valkyrie

There will be three performances on October 10th, 13th, and 19th at 20:30 in Tjarnarbió. The performance will be in English.

"Of course there will be opera," Agatha P., the drag queen alter-ego of dancer Ásgeir Helgi Magnússon, declares. "We are using all the different forms of telling a story—ballet, contemporary dance, a musical within the show, and fierce drag dance."

As the newly minted collective Institute of Recycled Expectations, dream-team Agatha P., Faye Knús (Cameron Corbett), Gógó Starr (Sigurður H. Starr Guðjónsson), and Sigga Eyrún (Sigríður Eyrún Friðriksdóttir) are set to premiere 'Memoirs of a Valkyrie' this month at Tjarnarbió. 800 years after she first graced the literary pages of Icelandic sagas, the Institute will reanimate Brynhildr's tale as a stage show to cast light on her untold stories.

A shieldmaiden and the rumoured daughter of Óðinn, Brynhildr was a heroine and a villain, who was jilted in love and eventually took her own life. She was first documented around 1220 in Snorri Sturluson's

'Prose Edda.' "We noticed that all these sagas were predominantly written by men," Agatha P. comments. "We decided that Brynhildr needed to write her own memoirs, or we would do it for her."

### Fuck the patriarchy away

The collective came up with the idea for 'Memoirs of a Valkyrie' last year, and have been working on the stage production for the past two months. "We were searching for a big, strong female hero or character," shares Agatha P. "Brynhildr is widely known in tales throughout northern Europe. There was an actual Brunhilde as the queen of Australasia. We decided to look into her different stories. Our focus point is her memoirs; she is setting the record straight. She's going to write her own story now."

"All these sagas were predominantly written by men. We decided that Brynhildr needed to write her own memoirs."

Agatha P. reflects on the necessity of bringing Brynhildr's story to life through decadence, drag, and dance. "Especially now, we have more enlightenment in terms of gender equality and sexuality. We are questioning things now, so why not look way back at the sagas and at how this cultural heritage was written?

Brynhildr is one of the heroes or villains of the story, but she drops out for 60 pages. Even in her story, the focus is on the men around her."

And no memoir would be complete without some spilled tea. On Queen B's fuck-the-patriarchy naptivism, Agatha P. shares, "There's even a hint that Brynhildr was the original Sleeping Beauty, who slept for 20 years after Óðinn punished her for disobeying his orders."

### Goddess gush

Agatha P. gushes over her co-stars in 'Memoirs of a Valkyrie.' "Gógó Starr is becoming a household name in Iceland; she's been the fjallkona (the Lady of the Mountain), representing virtue and finesse. Faye Knús on the other hand—she's the one with the dirty mouth, one of the wittiest people I know. Sigga Eyrún is an art goddess who is well-known in musical theatre as an actress; she will get a drag name in the performance."

As for herself, Agatha P. says her fellow queens would describe her as, "a little too hypersexual in a Marilyn Monroe way, and incredibly ADHD—a little butterfly."

### Squeeze and release

This is the Institute of Recycled Expectations' first stage piece. They intend to produce more stage work as well as venture into other artistic disciplines. But for their first show, they've chosen to shine the light on the serious matters of cultural heritage.

"Even though we're taking something serious or classical like the sagas," says Agatha P., "we still hold onto the possibility through artistic freedom of releasing ourselves from expectations. As Faye Knús put it, 'Free ourselves from the burden of intelligence.'"

"You don't have to be smart all the time," Agatha P. concludes. "But it's good to know where you're coming from and where you're going." 🍷





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## REGULAR EVENTS

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105 REYKJAVÍK

FRIDAYS | 19.00-22.00  
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LAUGAVEGUR 95-99  
101 REYKJAVÍK

SATURDAYS | 20.00-23.00  
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The face of "I'm not angry, I'm just disappointed"

## The Versions Of Ourselves

Silja Hauksdóttir on 'Agnes Joy' and the joy of flaws

Words: Andie Fontaine Photo: Screenshots from the film

### Agnes Joy

'Agnes Joy' will premiere in Iceland  
on October 17th.

Silja Hauksdóttir likes to keep herself busy. Originally a student of philosophy, she would be involved in television production for years before co-writing the novel "Dís" with her friends Birna Anna Björnsdóttir and Oddný Sturludóttir. The book would later become Silja's directorial debut.

She has continued working hard since then, and her latest effort—the film 'Agnes Joy,' which she wrote and produced—has been generating quite a buzz.

### Who bears responsibility?

"This is a story about a personal journey of a woman who is stuck and stagnated in all aspects of her life," Silja tells us from South Korea, where the film was screened

for an audience for the first time. "At the beginning of the film, at this point in her life, this personal ice age of hers is mirrored in all her relationships, in her marriage, her job, her relationship with her mother and, most importantly, with her daughter. When she gets an exciting wake up call, she becomes more able to see how she herself bears responsibility for how she lives, breathes and behaves. So this is a story about control and the lack of it, and raises questions of what and how we bear responsibility."

Like many artists, Silja drew inspiration for 'Agnes Joy' from the stories of those around her, while exploring these larger questions about turning points in one's life.

"Even though the events of the story are not drawn from personal experience or memories, they're nevertheless inspired by real experiences of ourselves as writers, from us, our friends, the people around us," she says. "For the last 2-3 years, almost all women have gone through truthful real-

isations about their experiences, memories and relationships, and this was very close to the creative process of the film; this notion that only truth can set us free."

### The flaws are the features

The common thread through much of Silja's work concerns telling stories of lives as they are lived, rather than presenting a filtered version of the human experience. It is precisely those imperfections that make our lives real—an ideology Silja hopes audiences connect with.

"I am very interested in how we deal with our flaws, obstacles and the versions of ourselves that we least want to show to the outside world," Silja tells the Grapevine. "This is what I connect with most myself and, storywise, this is where I get excited. It's also probably a big reason for why I'm visually drawn to realism, and the beauty of reality when it's a bit ugly or at least dark."

### The journey begins

At the time of this writing, the film was just screened at the Busan International Film Festival, and, by Silja's account, the response was very encouraging. Still, she has her eye on the future.

"We just screened it in front of an audience for the first time here in South Korea and it was an incredible experience to feel how people related with a story that I thought was very local," Silja explains. "We were grateful and relieved at the same time. But this journey is just starting and I can't wait to experience the reception from an Icelandic audience next week." 🍷

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## What's happening at Hard Rock?

Skúraleiðingar concert - 10. Oct.

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Ebba Sig stand up - 17. Oct.

Árstíðir 10th anniversary concert - 18. Oct.

Skauti concert - 24. Oct.

Ljótu hálfvitarnir concert - 25. Oct.

Ljótu hálfvitarnir concert - 26. Oct.

3 ára afmæli Hard Rock Cafe - 30. Oct.

Halloween dance party - 31. Oct.

Búdrýgindi concert - 1. Nov.

Konur í rokki - 2. Nov.



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Would Halldór pass the Turing test?

### MAKING OF AN ARTIST

# A.I. And Brian Eno

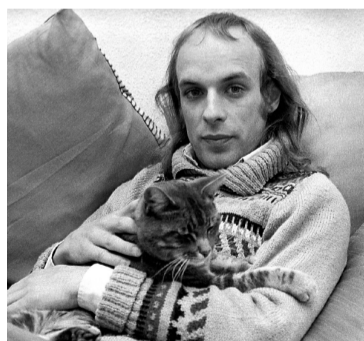
The generating process of Halldór Eldjárn

Words: Halldór Eldjárn Photo: Sigga Ella

Musician Halldór Eldjárn has been drawing a lot of attention recently for his A.I.-approach to composing, as well as his homemade percussion-playing robots. Here's what has made him the artist he is today.

parts based on data from photos taken by astronauts on the moon. I'm actually about to release my debut album, which is based on this music piece.

### Generative music



The concept of generating music has always fascinated me. My uncle, Kjartan Ólafsson, has worked in this field for decades, creating an AI-driven music composition software called Calmus. He definitely made me realise it was possible to make a computer write music. I was then introduced to Brian Eno's works—he coined the term "generative music" for music that is ever-different and changing, created by a system. As a programmer, it was very easy for me to start experimenting with creating my own generative music, and the first released piece was "Poco Apollo," which was composed in 14,000

### My brothers & family



My oldest brother, Kristján Eldjárn, was a virtuoso guitarist or a "guitar-man" as he regarded himself, but sadly he passed away due to illness when I was 11-years old. He gave me my first piece of music production gear, the Yamaha QY-70, which was at the time a state of the art device. My other musician brother, Úlfur, has wildly influenced me from an early age, giving me records to listen to with artists like Serge Gainsbourg, Stereolab, Aphex Twin, Squarepusher, and Boards of Canada. He taught me how to play the synthesizer and we used to have synthesizer jams at our home and record them on cassette tape when I was 6 and he was

21. My brother Ari does not work as a musician, but nevertheless he is a talented instrumentalist. Ari taught me to play drums when I was little, which I then made my main instrument and went to study percussion for eight years.

### Matthías Hemstock

Matti was my teacher in music school. He is a really gifted musician and a great friend. Not only does he have a very deep understanding of music and its secrets, but he also becomes his students' spiritual leader. We still meet and have coffee regularly. We once sat for five hours straight and philosophised about music in his kitchen while drinking so many cups of ristretto that I almost got caffeine poisoning and had to lie in bed for a day!

### Jean-Claude Vannier

I've listened a lot to Serge Gainsbourg, and his album 'Histoire de Melody Nelson' has been my go-to reference for string arrangements. Jean-Claude Vannier did the orchestrations on the album and they are legendary, rich and beautiful. I have not heard a great deal of his other works though.

### Evelyn Glennie

Soon after I studied percussion, I got a CD with Evelyn Glennie. She is a virtuoso percussion player, mainly for playing mallet instruments like marimba and xylophone. I listened a lot to her and I admire her for her skills. The fact that she is almost deaf also emphasises the fact that music is so much more than the displacement of air, or sound waves. She has said in interviews that she has instead taught herself to hear with her body. Picking up high frequency vibrations through her skin, and through her feet. In fact, she will often play barefoot to feel the sound vibrations from the floor better. ♪

**A GUIDE THAT  
FUCKS YOU UP**

A selection from

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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**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 20:00,  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 1,000 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,500 ISK.

**SÆTA SVÍNIÐ**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 645 ISK,  
Wine 745 ISK.

**SESSION CRAFT  
BAR**  
Every day from  
12:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 790 ISK,  
Wine 900 ISK.

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

**SLIPBARINN**  
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**

★ **FREDERIKSEN  
HAFNARSTRÆTI 5**  
Frederiksen is an airy, wood-panelled downtown bar room with large windows, basic furniture, a spacious feel,

and a robust selection of ales and beer on tap. Their Happy Hour is a 2 for 1 deal where you can snatch up two beers and wines from 1,200 ISK to 1,400 ISK. 🍷

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The Icelandic Museum of Rock 'n' Roll  
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Open daily

# Cheap Food

Here are some deals that'll keep your wallet feeling happy and full.

**1,000 ISK And Under**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Hard Rock Café</b><br>Every day 15-18<br>Nachos, wings & onion rings - 990 ISK                | <b>Sólon</b><br>Monday - Friday<br>11:00 - 14:30<br>Soup of the day - 990 ISK                     |
| <b>Dominos</b><br>Tuesdays-All day<br>Medium Sized pizza with 3 toppings -1,000 ISK-Vegan option | <b>Tapas Barinn</b><br>Every day<br>17:00 - 18:00<br>Half off of selected tapas<br>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**

**At Prikið**  
if you order two adult meals

**At Haust**  
the buffet is free for kids



# 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 Westfords, carrot purée, pickled red onions, horseradish sauce

### ARCTIC CHARR & BLINI

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

### ICELANDIC PLATTER

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

### THE LAMB BURGER

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

### SKYR ETON MESS CHEESECAKE

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

**Happy Hour 15-17 every day**

Draft beer, house wine by glass and cocktails – **halfprice!**

FJALLKONAN WELCOMES YOU!



Shoot for the stars, Galactic

## Enter Galactic

Artist Galactic Deer sheds light on the reality of queer Russian youth

Words: **Andie Fontaine** Photo: **Patrick Ontkovic**

### Comic Novel

Galactic Deer will be posting new pages to this comic as they go. You can follow the unfolding series on Instagram at @galacticdeer.

Galactic Deer, a nonbinary artist originally from Russia who now lives in Iceland, is on a mission. Their new autobiographical comics series is, at first glance, cute and charmingly drawn. But the issues it explores run deep, drawing attention to the reality of queer youth in Russia, for the sake of other Russians, Icelanders, and the rest of the world alike.

"I want it to be very close to people," they say. "Like 'Here we go, this is just a normal child and its life' and you start to feel what this person is going through, even though you're not a part of it and you never experienced it."

### Why 'Galactic Deer'?

The name Galactic Deer is drawn directly from their life, and their struggles over their gender identity.

"I'm not just a boy," they say. "It was a struggle, these questions about who I was, and I wasn't sure. I thought I had to choose if I'm a girl or a boy. With time, I realised I'm both or neither, and that's how Galactic Deer came to be. When people ask me, 'So who are you?', I say, 'I don't know; I'm galactic.' I'm nonbinary, but I went through a lot of things to get to where I am now. So in this book there will be a lot of questions as I grow up."

Galactic Deer is entirely self-taught, having taken up art while studying international relations, something they describe as "four years of tears and pain".

"And that's how it started: learning things on the internet, trying, making mistakes and trying again and again," they say. "I can't say that I have a big experience, but I learn really fast. It's my superpower, you could say."

### Hope for Russian youth

There are many intended audiences for these comics, to serve different purposes; for example, queer Russian youth, they aspire, may find hope in these comics, given the dire state of things for these kids.

"For Russian people, I want them to actually understand what LGBT kids and teenagers go through, because this November, the Russian internet will be closed off from the rest of the world," they say, pointing out how Russian authorities have shut down websites and help lines that have always been the last hope for queer youth in the country. "So I want this book to tell Russia: this is the story of a real person, this is what I went through. I want it to give hope to children and teenagers in Russia, and I want adults to understand their kids and the younger generation as a whole."

### Bursting Icelanders' bubble

At the same time, they hope Icelanders might become aware of

what's happening in Russia, and take part in a larger movement to exert change.

"As I understand it, Icelanders live in a bubble, and they don't really know what's happening out there," they say. "They fight for equal rights inside the country, even though it's already awesome here."

### Anyone can make a difference

If there were any doubt that bringing attention to what is happening in as formidable a country as Russia can actually make a difference, Galactic Deer points to one notable example: three sisters who killed their own father after years of sexual abuse. These sisters were freed in part due to international pressure.

"I saw this, and I thought, 'Oh my god, if it's out there on the internet and it's popular enough for many people to follow, to react then we can actually change

something, even in countries that are very closed like Russia," they recount.

As it stands now, Galactic Deer is sharing pages from the comic series through their social media platforms. The question of where and how to publish has not been decided yet, though they are being mentored by Atla Hrafney, an acclaimed comics editor and comics writer.

"She's been helping me with ideas and helping me make things, because she's a comics editor," they say. "Basically, I'm the art part, but all the other stuff is her department. All the adult things aren't my thing."

Galactic Deer will be posting progress on new pages to this comic as they go. You can follow the unfolding series on Facebook and Instagram. 🍷

**"I want the comics to give hope to children and teenagers in Russia, and I want adults to understand their kids and the younger generation as a whole."**

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

# Melkorka Porkelsdóttir

**Melkorka** (22) is DJ Motherfunker and also one half of DJ Dominatricks.

**Words:** Melkorka Porkelsdóttir **Photo:** Art Bicnick



**Melkorka is wearing:**

- Hello Kitty barrettes from Shinjuku, Tokyo
- Fluff choker made by me
- Necklace from a Palestinian jewellery market in London
- Thrifted mesh top
- Black fluff top from Dolls Kill
- Corset from Rokk og Rómantik
- Red PVC pants from Dolls Kill
- UNIF heels
- Iridescent PVC bag from Hiroshima
- Red Hello Kitty wallet from Shinjuku, Tokyo

**Describe your style in five words:**

Bubbly, gothique, adorably stupid glitterclown.

**Favourite stores in Reykjavik:**

Wasteland has some cute picks. It's like Nammiland made out of pigmented denim and suede. Some-

times I cruise Húrra Reykjavik to window shop luscious shoes, mainly to feel my inferiority complex kick in at the sight of the perfectly stylish modelesque kids working there. Melli the masochist, that's me!

**Favourite piece:**

It's a tie between my La Goony Chonga "dominatrix chonga" t-shirt and a boudoir mesh robe that I found in the Moulin Rouge sex shop district in Paris.

**Lusting after:**

Plump, red "Kinky Boots" boots. Jackie Burkhardt's roller disco outfit from That 70s Show. Both Billy Porter's and Ragga Gísla's personal wardrobes—and there just happen to be some pieces by Iris van Herpen and Christian Cowan inside as well. And I'm a huge lamb so I daydream of Mimi's pink racetrack suit she wore in the "Loverboy" video—stunning. ♡

**Sæta svínin**  
ICELANDIC GASTROPUB

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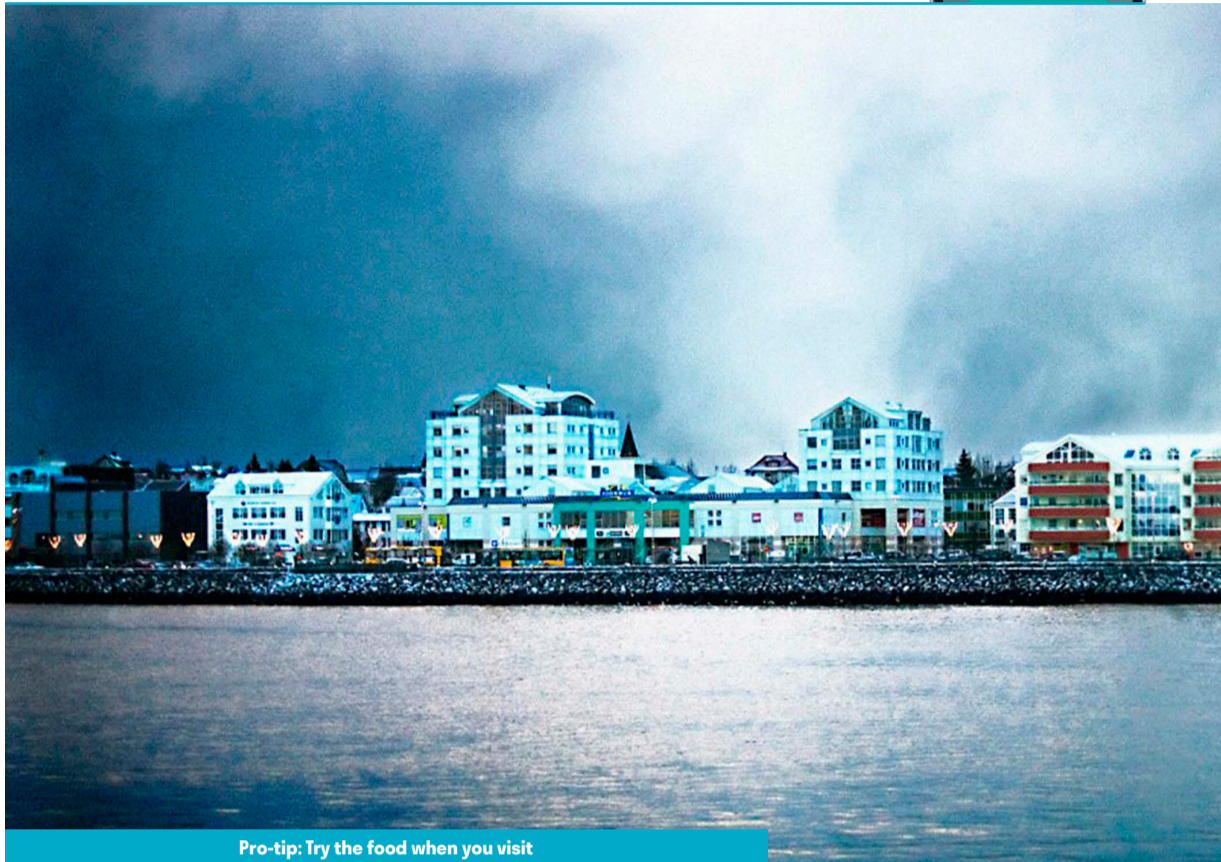
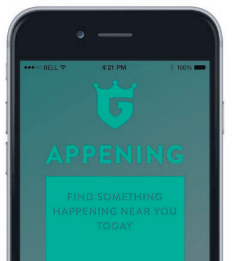
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# Food

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Pro-tip: Try the food when you visit

## The Bulletproof Guide To Eating Out In Hafnarfjörður

A Reykjavik foodie tours the eateries of Iceland's third-biggest town

Words: Ragnar Egilsson Photos: Gúndi, Art Bicnick & Airbnb

Located just 15 km from downtown Reykjavik, Hafnarfjörður has been a thriving independent entity for a long time, thanks in no small part to the fierce loyalty its inhabitants, "Hafnfirðingar", show to local businesses and institutions. And they'll welcome you with open arms as long as you don't do anything crazy like call them a Reykjavik suburb or speak ill of either of their handball teams.

The elephant in the room (if elephants wore tusks on their heads) is that Icelanders generally aren't

shy to flaunt their Viking heritage, but Hafnarfjörður took it to another level with its annual Viking Festival and a permanent miniature

Viking settlement called The Viking Village—both of which sprang from the loins of a small group of private Viking enthusiasts in the 90s.

The village is essentially a hotel and gift store built around the Viking theme restaurant Fjörukráin. As far as theme restaurants go, Fjörukráin is quite ambitious—far more elaborate than the Finnish Viking restau-

rant chain Harald, but less so than Medieval Times (unless you count the annual staged Viking brawl). It exhibits a pleasant lack of anachronistic building materials and an abundance of elaborate woodwork, which has only gotten better with age—for the weathering of time is kind to Viking theme restaurants in ways that space age theme restaurants can only dream of.

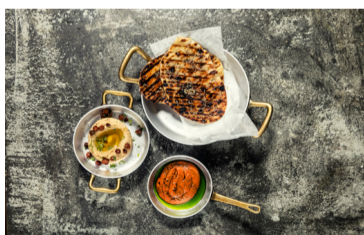
The food itself, well, it's about what you'd expect from a theme restaurant, but there's something for all tastes, everything from classic Icelandic lamb stew to a "Viking banana split."

### Food Wars: A New Hope

Located on Strandgata, just up

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# ban thai



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Top Ten of Best restaurants in Iceland (DV, 17.06.11)  
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recommend two good restaurants

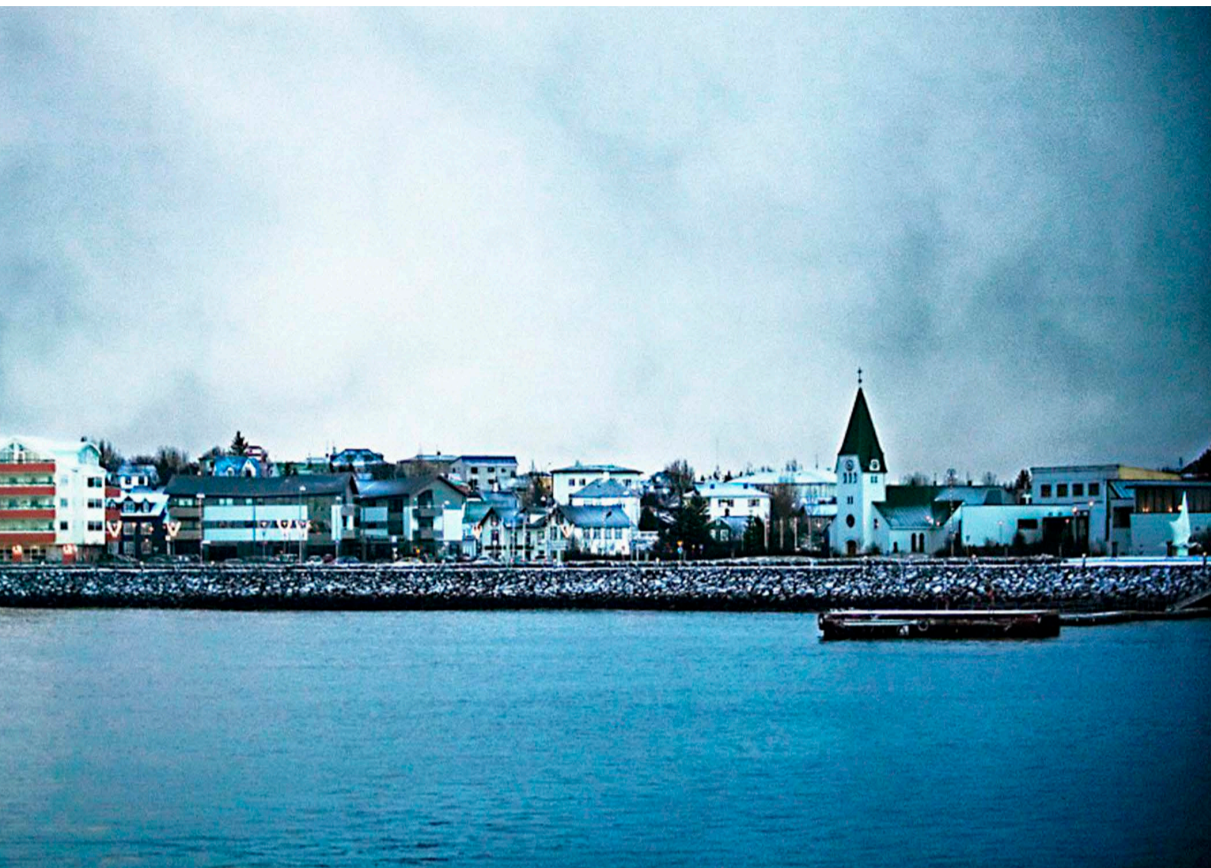
MIXED thai restaurant, hverfisgata 125, tel : 588 -1818

YummiYummi thai restaurant, hverfisgata 123, tel : 588 -2121

www.ban thai.is tel : 55 -22-444, 692-0564 banthai@banthai.is







the road from Fjörukráin, Von has quickly secured its spot as the best Hafnarfjörður has to offer in fine dining. The name means “Hope” and it is well-earned as the town wasn’t brimming with fine dining options before their arrival four years ago.

Fortunately, Von more than holds its own against the best in Reykjavik and does so without breaking the bank. Go there for fresher-than-fresh fish plucked from the harbour just across the road—the firm-but-delicate wolf fish with tarragon mayo and polenta and the incomparable ling ceviche are two standouts. And don’t miss the rotating cocktails on tap and 650 ISK beers for a happy hour which, at least on the night of our visit, extended well into the night.

### Coffee and cakes

Next door to Von is the town’s finest coffee house, the vegetarian- and generally-friendly Pallett. It may also very well be the coziest coffee house in the greater Reykjavik area. This is the place to grab a random book from the shelves and plomp down in a pillowy nook with a classic scone, a hand pie and a cup of hot chocolate or full-flavoured coffee.

Further along Strandgata is the oldest part of downtown Hafnarfjörður. As in parts of downtown Reykjavik, the building styles are charmingly discordant, and void of frivolity like city planning. This will eventually lead you to coffeehouse Súfistinn, which led a step forward in Iceland’s artisan coffee scene in the 90s and has felt at ease in that decade ever since—a place to enjoy creamy cakes and cheesy lasagnas to the sounds of smooth jazz.

Where Strandgata ends, the controversial Norðurbakki apartment blocks of Norðurbakki take over, housing book café Norðurbakki and popular soup-and-sourdough bakery Brikk.

### Hot dog burgers

No Icelandic town is complete without its signature burger and Hafnarfjörður is no exception.

In that category there is no competing with the madness at Pylsubarinn (“the hot dog bar”). Sure, you could go there and order a normal hot dog or an average burger but who has time for that!? This is home to a deep-fried hot dog with a slice of melted cheese and french fry seasoning served over french fries, baked beans or literally anything they have laying around in their burger hut, because we live in

a democracy, dammit!

But to really go “full Hafnarfjörður” you will want their Fjarðarborgari (“fjord burger”) served with hot dog mustard, ketchup, fried onions and pickled red cabbage. It is basically an Icelandic hot dog with a floppy 90g burger instead of a weiner, making it the most Icelandic burger in existence. 🍔



Fjörukráin gives us a Viking fantasy



It's only smiles at Von



Pylsubarinn—a great place for a date



# SNAPS

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## FISH OF THE DAY

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# Travel

## Taste The Tröll

A culinary day trip around the Tröllaskagi peninsula

Words: a rawlings Photos: John Rogers



Distance from  
Reykjavík:  
450 km

How to get there:  
Route 1 to Route  
82

Accommodation  
provided by:  
[keahotels.is](http://keahotels.is)

Travel  
provided by:  
[kukucampers.is](http://kukucampers.is)

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



Pink oyster mushrooms peek over the edge of a basket at the entrance of Vellir. The mushrooms have been grown as an experiment on the organic farm. Their unusual appearance at the outset of our day trip around north Iceland's Tröllaskagi peninsula lures us into the store's embrace.

### Bursting berries & herbs

Southwest of Dalvík in the valley of Svarfaðardalur, Vellir attracts locals and tourists alike. It is an organic farm bursting with berries, veggies, and herbs, with a rustic country store featuring gourmet foods prepared on-site, including smoked Icelandic cheeses and fermented foods. Open throughout the summer months, they've turned selling produce directly from the farmer to the customer into an artform.

Along with Vellir's owner, Bjarni Óskarsson, we walk through greenhouses stuffed with strawberry and raspberry plants. He then leads us to the jewel of the farm: an old cow shed reclaimed as a banquet hall. A long table forms the centerpiece of the hall, with natural light streaming in through a floor-to-ceiling window along the eastern wall. The hall holds antique farm and cooking equipment of all kinds, a veritable museum of ways now past in Icelandic history.

We return to the store and buy all the oyster mushrooms. Locals crowd

every corner of the shop as its purveyors prepare ice cream and cheese tasting boards at lightning speed. The talk of the shop is the annual Great Fish Day festival, so we head to its host town Dalvík next.

### Great Fish Day

Vellir's mushrooms have sparked an unanticipated culinary focus on our day trip. Tröllaskagi, itself, is a mountainous region named for the trolls rumoured to live there. But it is the local emphasis on farming, fishing, and drinking that makes our journey one to remember.

In Dalvík, the café and bar Gislí, Eiríkur, Helgi is a must-stop. And this day, it feels as though every resident of the town agrees. Like Vellir's country store, the café is full to bursting with hungry, happy people. To accommodate the volume of visitors, the café's lunch buffet offers fish and vegetable soups with fresh-baked bread. We tuck into a window seat to watch locals amass on the village for Great Fish Day.

The three-day festival is the cultural event of Dalvíkurbyggð's summer season. Held every second Saturday of August, fish soup is offered free at the harbour as a means for the community to meet the local fisherpeople. Its draw far surpasses locals, though, as in past years it has seen upwards of 200,000 attendees. Our destiny is not fishy for this trip, however, so we continue

north to Tröllaskagi's northernmost town of Siglufjörður.

### Pure beercraft

Baldvin Júlíusson greets us at Segull 67, the family-owned craft brewery of Siglufjörður. The brewery has opened for a private tour of the facility, and we are fortunate to sample the many craft beers on offer. Segull's brewery features a spacious bar, with seating for visitors in a glassed-in room overlooking the brewing facility.

"Segull" is the Icelandic word for compass. "The compass needle points north," Baldvin explains, "right to this brewery."

Segull 67 produces several beers, ranging from its Sigló IPA to the pineapple-conjuring Sólstingur. Baldvin pours us tastes of Segull 67's selection. We are charmed by his care with both beer and driving advice, and leave Siglufjörður in high spirits.

### Hoofin' it

Baldvin's words ring in our ears as we set out for the drive around the rest of Tröllaskagi. "Be careful. Even locals take great care when driving this area," he said.

Barren and rainy, the rural road provides vistas galore. We take care as we drive, though the largest threat to our journey is the sudden appearance of horses on the road. Residents around

Hofsós are preparing for the autumn réttir, the annual event when sheep are rounded up from their summer grazing, and lambs born in the spring are slaughtered for winter meat.

Before the sheep can be herded, the horses used for round-up are gathered and moved between fields. During an hour's drive, we spot several different groups herding their horses in full gallop near the roadside. It's a Saturday, but farming work doesn't pause for weekends.

### The view from here

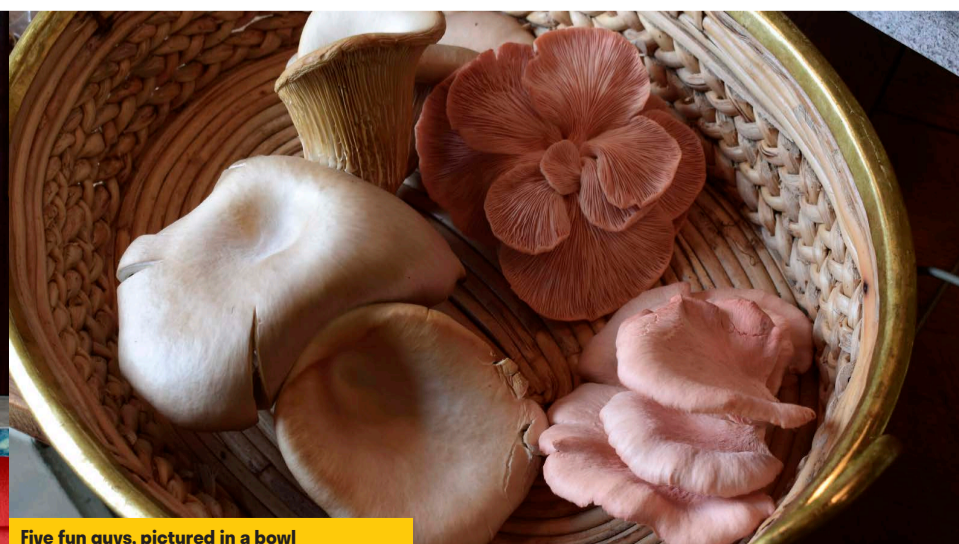
Our journey concludes at Hofsós, the westernmost village of Tröllaskagi. Hofsós is a fishing village of just 200 inhabitants, providing supplies to area farmers. It is home to one of Iceland's favourite swimming spots, where visitors soak in geothermal water while overlooking the North Atlantic.

Ocean views from Hofsós' newest eatery are equally as spectacular. Berg Bistro is a renovated post office, and they have converted the old vault into the bathroom. Their coffee proves an optimal way for us to digest all of the experiences we have accrued and new friends we have made throughout the day.

We take in the views over the North Atlantic as evening creeps close. A rainbow frames the horse round-up to the east. The unexpected reigns supreme. 🍷



Give me the usual, barkeep



Five fun guys, pictured in a bowl

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Snæfellsnesvegur  
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Is that a mountain or the landing pad for a UFO?

### DESTINATION

# Good Weather Not Needed

Exploring the Snæfellsnes  
peninsula in autumn

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

Autumn. An elusive season in Iceland, it briefly makes an appearance as the endless summer days draw to a close, and before it's necessary to don full polar survival gear to leave the house. While the American name is less relevant—there aren't many trees for leaves to 'fall' from—those who dismiss travelling at this time of year are missing out on one of the most beautiful iterations of Icelandic scenery. Sure, the weather might not be as reliable as during the summer months, but seek out the right spots and you will be rewarded with a countryside alive with colour—at least, that's what I found on my recent autumnal jaunt to Snæfellsnes.

### A hidden gem

Off of the main 'Ring Road,' Snæfellsnes is sometimes overlooked by visitors. And yet, it showcases many of the elements that Iceland is famed for—hot springs, black sand beaches, dramatic sea

cliffs, waterfalls, majestic mountains, and more.

Our first stop was the natural hot spring Landbrotalau. Set in the most idyllic location, with the Eldborg volcanic crater as a backdrop, you'd be hard-pressed to find a more beautiful spot to take a dip. The original hot pot is very small, with only room for a couple of people, but at the other side of the small lake are a few pools fed by piped spring water. There are no changing facilities and a lot of mud, but somehow the rustic feel makes the whole experience better. Lying in the hot water, with the hills around us ablaze in colour, we rejoiced at the gentle rain misting our faces.

### Kanye West?

Slightly damp, and significantly soothed, we headed along the southern edge of the peninsula, briefly stopping at the photogenic black church Búðakirkja, before continuing further along the road,

where a window in the weather allowed us to take a walk up Rauðfeldsgjá gorge. This dramatic crack in the world is thought to be the place that inspired Jules Verne when writing 'Journey To The Centre Of The Earth.' The famous novel begins on Snæfellsjökull, the glacier that perches high on the western tip of the peninsula. On a clear day, it's visible from Reykjavík, but we only caught half glimpses of it through the heavy cloud cover, despite it being right above us.

The appeal of Snæfellsnes is not limited to its natural beauty, however. A thriving arts scene also exists here, and no place is this more accessible than Hellissandur. Once a busy fishing town, Hellissandur has experienced a significant decline in fortunes over the years, but area local and owner of the Freezer Hostel in nearby Rif, Kári Viðarsson, had a vision about how to revamp the town's image. Over the last couple of years, in connection with organisation Artrvl, visiting international artists have adorned the walls of the abandoned fish factory and other buildings with colourful murals depicting local stories, Icelandic folklore, native wildlife, and, surprisingly, Kanye West.

We made the most of the rapidly dimming light to take in a couple more spots before heading home. Djúpalónssandur beach—normally rammed with tourists in the summertime—was deserted, bleak and beautiful. We watched the seabirds wheeling in the wind and cheered the waves as they crashed into the black basalt cliffs. Weather dependent? Weather independent, more like. 🍷

# Island Life

News From The Icelandic Countryside

Words: **Andie Fontaine**

There was a brief **E. coli scare** in the Borgarnes, Bifröst and Varmaland area, as residents were advised to boil their drinking water. The advisory was called off some days later, as it was determined the water was safe after all. Whew!

After a Keflavik-bound flight was grounded in Egilsstaðir due to bad weather, **Wizz Air** offered three options to stranded passengers: a flight back to Poland, a bus to Keflavik, or to leave the plane and fend for themselves. The catch was that anyone choosing option 3 would **not be entitled to payment for restitution**. Passengers were understandably not happy.

Are you a Lutheran minister looking for work? The grace of the Lord has smiled upon you; **Hveragerði is looking for a new parish priest**. It's a five-year post, and the deadline for applications is October 16th, so godspeed.

# Best Of Iceland

Best Meal In The Westfjords from our Best Of Iceland travel magazine



### Tjörúhúsið

Neðstakaupstað, 400 Ísafjörður

This was an easy one for the panel. "It's the best fish restaurant in Iceland," said one panellist. "What else can you say?" With communal tables, low wooden ceilings, warm lighting and a seemingly endless buffet, Tjörúhúsið offers an informal take on fine-dining in an 18th century fishing building. The fish comes straight from the harbour, so dishes change daily.



### Restaurant Galdur

Höfðagata 8, 510 Hólmavík

Don't let the exterior fool you. Attached to the Icelandic Museum of Sorcery and Witchcraft, the modest Restaurant Galdur is a true hidden gem, full of authentic Icelandic grub. The panel recommend the locally-harvested blue mussels—but if they're not in stock, the fish soup is positively divine.



### Malarhorn

Grundargata 17, 520 Drangsnæs

A low-key restaurant, Malarhorn offers a down-to-earth selection of Iceland's finest. "There's something about looking out towards Grímsey on Steingrímsfjörður and eating the tasty fish caught by local fisherman earlier that day," said the panel, fondly. The catfish with pepper sauce comes recommended.

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

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WELL, YOU ASKED



# What Is The Best Age To Hit Rock Bottom?

Words: **Lea Müller**  
Photo: **Art Bicnick**

I'm glad you asked! Frankly though, is there ever a good time to hit rock bottom? With "best" being the superlative form of "good," you're grammatically implying that in your opinion, there exist several stages in life that are suitable for a serious crisis. Now, what does that say about you?

But then the term rock bottom is also a misnomer. It implies that there is an ultimate state from which you can't get any lower, when we all know that you always can. Grammar aside, I can't tell you what the best age to hit rock bottom is, but we may discuss at which age it's least bad. Indeed there is a very short time frame in which to reach rock bottom and still have the wherewithal to rebound and move on without serious damage.

You'll want to be over 20 for sure—a rock bottom moment in your teenage years would result in permanent trauma. However, you certainly don't want to be 27, as we all know that's a very dangerous time to be at your lowest. And anything older than that also seems scary. Nobody wants to be 50 and realize they spent half of their lives chasing the wrong things or being with the wrong person.

In conclusion, please hit rock bottom when you see fit—ideally in your early- to mid-twenties—and also, maybe, consider not taking advice from a cynical 23-year-old. 🍷

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

HORROR-SCOPES

# And The Word Was Capricorn

Harambe died for our sins, what have you done?

Words: **The Reykjavík Grapevine Spiritual Dep.** Image: **Kosmonatka**

In *HorrorScopes*, Grapevine's dedicated team of amateur astrologists breaks down your upcoming weeks based on shit like asteroid locations.

**Aries**  
Hey I just met you, and this is crazy, but vaping kills, so pick up smoking. Seriously, stop being such a loser and start campaigning for the re-legalisation of cloves.

**Taurus**  
Don't invite that Tinder date to see "The Joker"—unless she's got an incel fetish, of course. That said, we're pretty sure she doesn't. Use the money to get some therapy, and maybe some body wash, too.

**Gemini**  
Snæfellsnes is an ominous place for you in the next few weeks. Stick to Reykjanes, or else.

**Cancer**  
B.O.B.A.—is that a bomb in your purse? We're calling Airport security.

**Leo**  
The more una schram you listen to, the more popular you'll be in the upcoming months. Say hello to glitz, glamour, and lots of free drugs. Is this paradise?

**Virgo**  
After confusing M&Ms with Eminem you question your mental health. But it's okay, you've just never been one of the cool kids, and that's just the way you are.

**Libra**  
Remember Harambe? Oh wait—you forgot about him? That ape did not die for our sins just for you to start freelancing for Vice for exposure. Get some self-esteem and start working on your "screenplay."



Why'd you have to go and make everything so complicated?

**Scorpio**  
Believe it or not, Avril Lavigne, Paul McCartney, and Henry Kissinger are still alive, please move on. Your mum called the Grapevine editors, she's worried.

**Sagittarius**  
As hard as it may be to believe, simply staring at your crush's old Facebook pics is not going to telepathically let them know that you're interested. Shoot your shot, you useless saphic!

**Capricorn**  
Boston, a beloved Reykjavík institution, just went out of business. So too did your

confidence. Don't worry, there's always Mónakó.

**Aquarius**  
Oh my god we get it; you're "diplomatic" and "accommodating" and think arguments over whether Lana Del Ray or Carly Rae Jepsen is a better singer are "pointless" and "nothing to end a friendship over." Some people like drama, Karen, mind your damn business.

**Pisces**  
Dear Pisces, you really ought to take up Bollywood Dancing. The stars say you would be good at it. The world needs your talents. Bring them to the forefront of your life, and blow everyone's minds. 🍷



CITY SHOT by Patrik Ontkovic

Hot take: Scooter people are ruining the world

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**LAST WORDS**

## Disabled People's Transport Is A Bad Joke

Words: **Andie Fontaine**

I'm the parent of a child in Reykjavík who relies on Disabled People's Transport Services (Akstursþjónusta Fatlaðs Fólks) to take her to school, to her after-school centre, and back home. Unfortunately, this service is woefully unreliable, lacking accountability, and plagued with chronic problems that hit low-income families the hardest. Some of their mistakes are so egregious that it feels like only a matter of time before a tragedy strikes.

I would be a very rich girl if I had 100 ISK for every time my daughter's driving service cancelled one of her rides, dropped her off at mine or her mom's home when we weren't home, or brought her to school late. Neither of us can afford a car, and calling for taxis when these mishaps happen is expensive—as it is for all low-income families who rely on the transport service.

But we haven't even had the worst of it. Recently, RÚV reported about how this same service left a six-year-old autistic boy locked alone in a service van for over three hours. And this isn't even the first time it's happened; disabled people have been "forgotten" and left sitting in these cars for hours last year, as well as in 2015—and those are only the situations that we know about through the media.

Worst of all is the lack of an accountability process for either individual drivers or for the service as a whole. And parents and guardians can only take the City of Reykjavík's word as they make repeated assurances that they are handling this matter. We have no means of filing grievances about the service or working through a process where someone is held responsible and makes amends.

All that we as parents of disabled children can do is hope, every single time our kids are picked up for school, that the one service available to us won't make a mistake today. The system needs to change—yesterday!—before another family makes headlines because this service failed them. 🇮🇸



# DAY TOURS

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