

REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

Losing Faith

News: Icelanders are leaving the National Church in droves

Drone Music

Art: Yoga mats and gongs in the north

Alyona Alyona

Music: Hard beats from the Ukraine arrive in Iceland

Buggy Tours

Travel: Mudding across the country, lunar style

Andri Snær Magnason:

- » Runner-up in the last Icelandic presidential elections
- » Author and poet whose books transformed the country
- » New book coming out in over a dozen languages simultaneously

ANDRI SNÆR MAGNASON AND THE

CHILDREN OF OIL

An author who has spent his career trying to simplify complex environmental changes into language that resonated with the entire country. His mission is far from over, and his message is as urgent as ever.

Plus!

GIG GUIDE × CITY MAP × TRAVEL IDEAS × FOOD



COVER PHOTO:
Anna Maggy
Anna Maggy
instagram.com/
notannamaggy

ART DIRECTION:
Anna Maggy,
Sveinbjörn Pálsson

The ever-amazing Anna Maggy approached the subject of Andri Snær with her ever-artful style, jumping on the metaphor of water to create a somber image of the artist who sees our bleak future better than most

First



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EDITORIAL

Fading Away



There is not much more to be said about global warming. The climate crisis, It's a fight that has spanned decades, becoming a household term in the 90s and earning a global mainstream platform through the release of former US vice president Al Gore's popular documentary 'An Inconvenient Truth' in the early 00s. Of course, most of us didn't really grasp the gravity of the issue at the time.

It's OK. We were too busy thinking about our daily lives. The incomprehensible and the incredibly long-winded war on terror. Which we are still fighting and participating in in some way or another. But we really don't think about that much these days. We are still trying to get our heads

around the fifth dimension of social media, without really understanding the vastness of the fourth dimension—time. We are thinking about deciding what to do next summer. What to eat tonight. What good movies to stream on Netflix (the selection is poor, if anyone is really wondering).

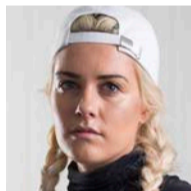
Perhaps it's poetic that mankind is fading away like the future of mankind. The Earth reflects our lack of interest in the future. We are not debating anymore where we are heading, but the the alt-right is more offended that a Swedish child is trying to knock us out of this state of unconsciousness, than they are interested in listening to the actual words she's saying. That will never change. There will always

be people attacking the messenger.

But one thing always gets our attention. And one thing always moves us from within and affect us in such a dramatic way that we open our eyes, if only for a few seconds. And that is art. This is why the role of Andri Snær Magnason, one of Iceland's best writers, and our cover feature for the issue, is so important in this very timely battle. Because he realises that we connect through time and space with stories. We always have. Always will. No matter how few glaciers will be left in the world. So read these stories, or write them. Let them connect you in these confusing times. Because, as another climate champion penned, it's better to burn out than to fade away. **VG** ♡



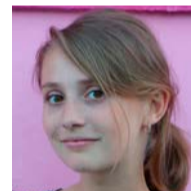
Elin Elisabet is an illustrator and cartoonist born and raised in Borgarnes. At the tender age of 15, Elin moved to Reykjavik and hasn't looked back, except for the annual springtime impulse to move someplace quiet and keep chickens. Elin likes folk music, stationery, seal videos, the country of Ireland,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



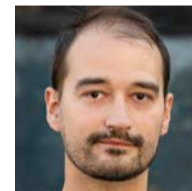
Hannah Jane Cohen is based out of Iceland by way of New York. An alumni of Columbia University, Hannah has lived on five continents and speaks three languages fluently. Her visionary work is known for expanding the definitions of emotion, introspection, and above all else, taste.



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.



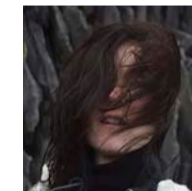
Samuel O'Donnell Sam is an English major from The United States. He has his Bachelor's Degree, and keeps telling himself that this is the year he will begin pursuing his Master's. In his spare time, he enjoys playing video games, writing short horror stories, listening to all kinds of metal, and reading.



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.'

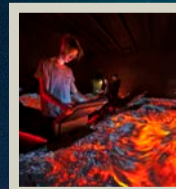


Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir is a national treasure. One of Iceland's leading illustrators, when she's not drawing in her unique style, she's the front-woman of Icelandic electro-pop supergroup FM Belfast. Her comic strip Lóaboratorium appears every issue on page 8, and is also available as a daily dose on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



Volcano & Earthquake Exhibition

Photo: Eyjafjallajökull Eruption 2010



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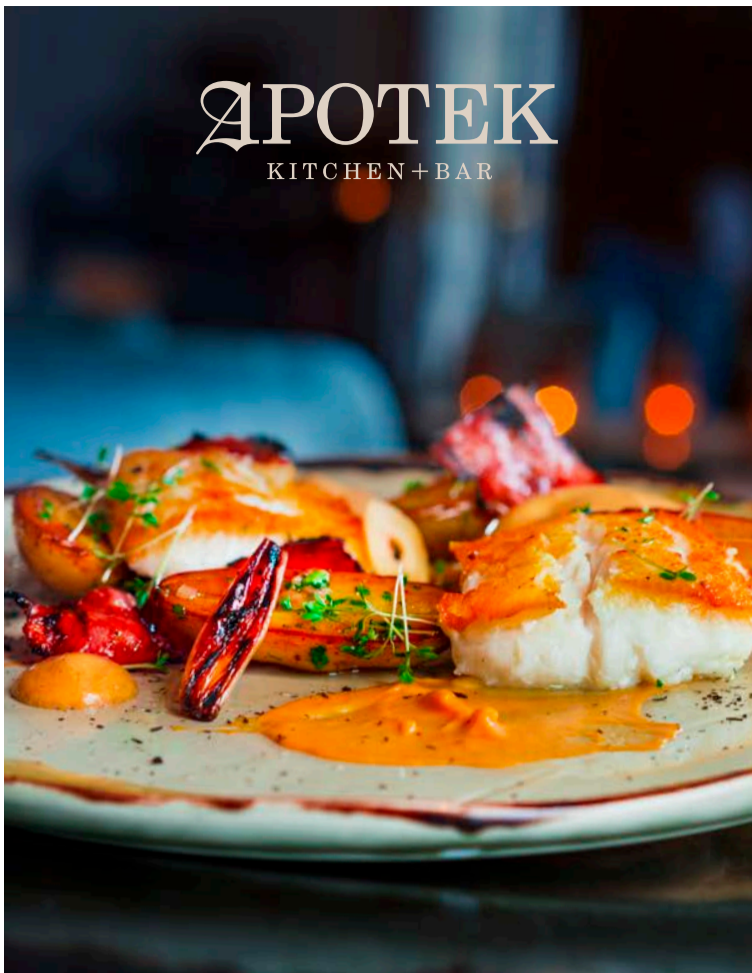


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Bishop of Iceland Agnes M. Sigurðardóttir (left) and a burning goat



What Are Icelanders Talking About?

The headlines exploding the comments sections

Words: **Andie Fontaine** Photo: **biskup.is**

NEWS The ongoing RÚV television series, *Svona fólk* (People like this), which focuses on Iceland's queer history, reminded people of just how adamantly **the National Church fought against legalising same-sex marriage** in this country. As such, Bishop Agnes M. Sigurðardóttir was asked in a recent interview if the church was willing to apologise for this treatment. To her credit, Agnes offered an unambiguous response, saying, "I can totally apologise on behalf of the Church for having come out and hurting people this way. I'm happy to apologise for that."

Speaking of same-sex marriage (bear with us here), former First Lady of Iceland **Dorrit Moussaieff cloned her beloved dog Sámur**, a very expensive dream of hers since the original Sámur passed away. In a brief interview, she compared the controversy around cloning to same-sex marriage, in that they are both things that people are suspicious of due to a lack of understanding. Makes sense!

Neo-transhumanist anti-capitalist synth kink rockers **Hatari** made headlines twice this news cycle, for two different but very good reasons. First, **they dropped a new single, Filthy Boy**, which is every bit the scintillating romp you would expect from a song of this name by a band like Hatari. Second, they donated ten tickets to their release concert to the legal fund of whistleblower **Bára Halldórsdóttir**, who blew the lid of the Klausturgate scandal. They're just the sweetest, ain't they?

McDonald's might have left

Iceland in 2009, but its legacy remains in the form of a preserved burger and fries at the Snotra House in Hella, South Iceland. Recently, **Iceland's last McDonald's** value meal turned 10, and looks pretty much the same as it did back then. Naturally, an Australian couple came forward with the claim that they have a McDonald's burger that's actually 20 years old, but come on.

Who are you going to trust: Iceland, or a country that hasn't produced any decent music since Men At Work?

Lastly, **IKEA's Christmas Goat** is facing a new threat. Not high winds, nor faulty wiring nor a lone arsonist—all things that have previously felled the goat. Rather, a Facebook event called "Burn the goat, they can't stop all of us" has already garnered some 4,000 Icelanders interested or going to the location on December 1. The event is ostensibly a protest against aggressively marketing Christmas earlier each year, and management is worried—worried enough to issue a statement reminding people that the goat is under heavy security. Challenge accepted? We'll just have to find out.



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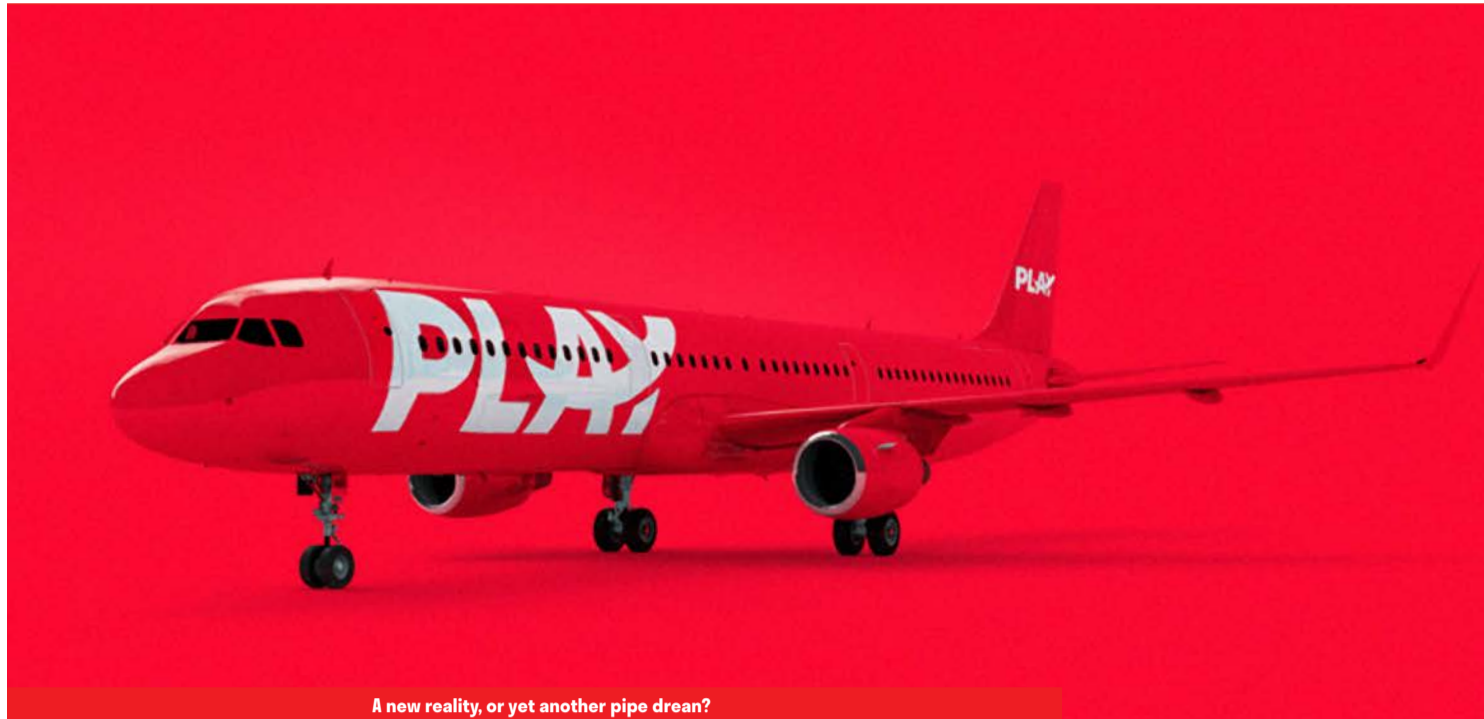
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A new reality, or yet another pipe dream?

Play It Again, Arnar

What exactly is going on with airlines in Iceland?

NEWS

A new budget airline was formally announced earlier this week. Called simply “Play”, it hopes to fill the gap left behind by the collapse of WOW Air last March, with plans to fly to Europe and North America as early as next spring. To kick things off, they intend to have a 1,000-ticket giveaway this month and announced that they are now hiring.

Words: **Andie Fontaine**

Photo: **Provided by Play**

tor of flights for WOW Air. At a press conference held at Perlan last Tuesday, he revealed that Play is more or less the final form of WAB Air. And that WAB is an acronym, for “we are back”.

Arnar also took pains to emphasise that the financing for Play absolutely is not coming from Simon Whittley-Ryan, the son-in-law of one of the founders of Ryan Air. Rather, a large part of the financing is coming from a British investment fund, without going into further details. In fact, 80% of Play’s funding is from abroad.

Wait, what happened to WAB Air?

The director of Play is Arnar Már Magnússon, who used to be the direc-

Hang on, wasn't WOW Air coming back?

Michele Ballarin, the president and CEO of private military company Select Armor Inc. and who also operates Cambridge Wealth Management Ltd., had designs on resurrecting WOW Air by mid-October. That did not come to pass, for a variety of logistical reasons, we are told.

However, in late October it was announced that WOW Air would be up and running again in just a few weeks, but with a twist: the airline will be strictly for transport; not commercial passengers.

If you're confused, don't worry. You have every right to be. We're confused by this, too, but also inured to it. After all, you can only hear so many grandiose announcements of returning success before you adopt an “I'll believe it when I see it” stance to manage your expectations. 🍷

TV GODDESS

Seinfeld Revisited



Words: **Lóa Hjálmtýsdóttir**

Where's the remote? Ah, nevermind here it is. Bleugh, why do I feel like I've seen everything worth watching on Netflix. Seen it, seen it, boring, too depressing, too stupid. I'll just find something else to do... what the hell? Amazon Prime? Hey Árni, since when do we have an Amazon Prime subscription? Thank you, wonderful supplier of TV.

Ooh, they have Seinfeld! I haven't seen this in years. Hellooo, tra la la. Oh, yes, Jerry's hair. Still awful. His “women are from Venus, Men are from Mars” stand-up routine is even less funny than it was in the '90s but I can't completely hate it because I love him like he's my uncle.

There's Kramer, I hope he's had some therapy since his career passed away in a violent manner.

Whatever happened to Jason Alexander? I better google him. Hmm, I'm taller than he is. Haha, I'm never taller than anyone. I've also never heard of any of these movies he's been in since he stopped being George. That's a shame.

Elaine! I still want to be you. Look at all that hair. She's the funniest. Or maybe George...

Newman! I had forgotten about you, you little rascal. This is still the best sitcom ever made.

Nothing will be better than Seinfeld. Perhaps I would have been a better person if I hadn't watched it but I don't have any regrets. I'm probably older than all of them now. That's an awful feeling. Why does everything have to remind me about death? 🍷

FOOD OF ICELAND



Landi

Is vodka not doing it for you anymore? Feel like your blackouts should be at least ten hours longer?

Well, Icelanders found the solution. “Landi,” or “The fellow countrymen,” as is its direct translation, is the roughest moonshine you'll

find in Northern Europe.

Landi is transparent, smells like turpentine, and varies in strength from 31% to 55%. The liquor is home-made and is most famous for being incredibly popular with kids from 12 to 19 years old in the 90s when it was

hard to get alcohol legally. The best thing about that time was that the bottles of hooch were delivered to the customer by some shady dude in a pimped-out old car. Talk about service.

There are countless horror stories about Landi. The most famous one being that kids would go blind from drinking it. While this was somewhat of an urban myth, if you give the drink a taste, it's not that implausible. It really tastes like something that should not be consumed.

So, what are the effects? Glad that you asked. It's pretty much a given that you

will throw up. If you don't, consider joining a circus to show off that iron stomach.

When you're through half of the bottle, one or all of the following will definitely happen: You will get into a fight. You won't remember it. You will throw up. The police will arrest you, and you will get into a fistfight with them, too. Then you'll go blind. You will wake up two days later feeling miserable, and your hangover will have a hangover.

So contact your local drug dealer, they probably have Landi. Enjoy. 🍷

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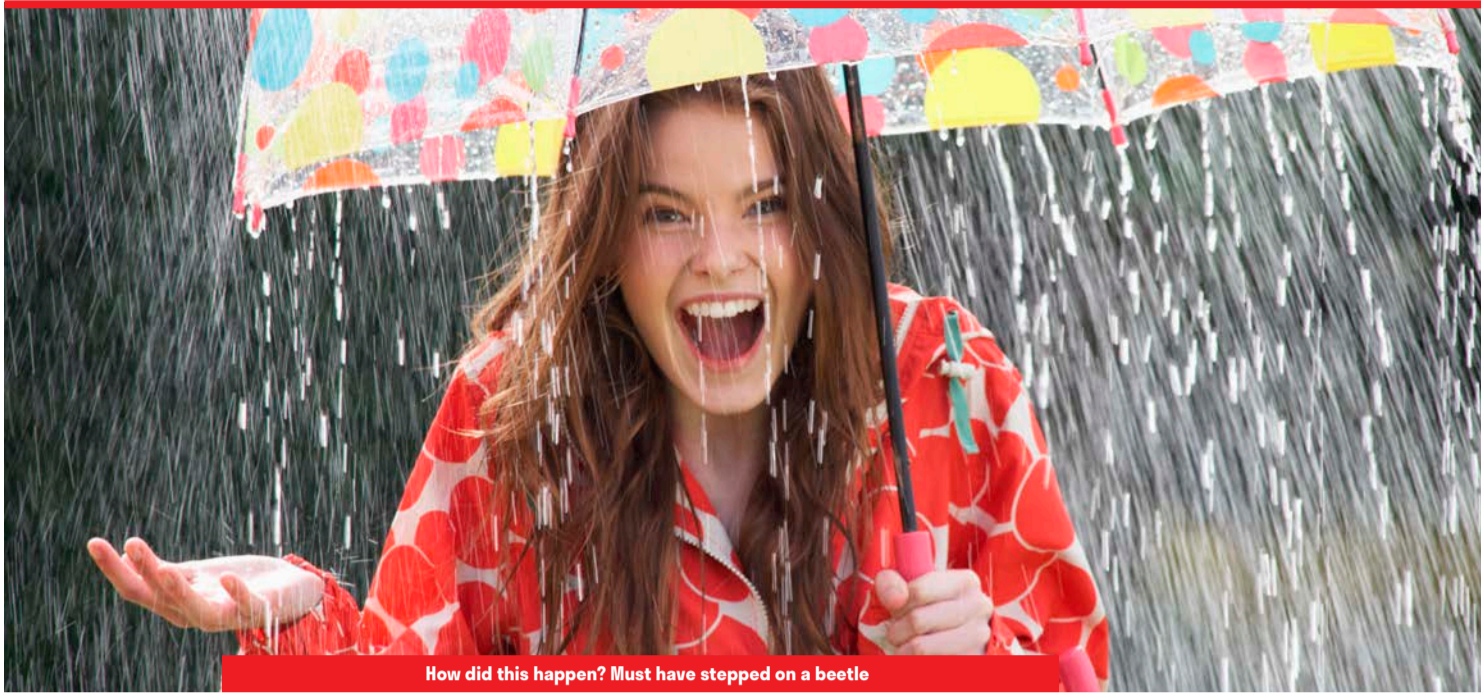


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How did this happen? Must have stepped on a beetle

Making It Rain

Avoid a storm with these helpful tips

ICELANDIC SUPERSTITIONS

Words: Sam O'Donnell

Photo: Adobe Stock

Now that October is behind us, and the rainy season is supposed to be over, it's finally time to take care of the leaves in your backyard. As mundane as this domestic activity seems, beware: there are superstitions lurking in the grass.

Watch the bugs

As you rake, you can't help but notice little black beetles on the ground. Called

blacksmith beetles, they're ugly, but be careful not to step on them or you might cause a rainstorm. At least, that's how the old wives tale goes. When you've finished, be sure to put the rake away with the tines facing the ground—if the tines face the sky, you're inviting more rain.

If you make the mistake of treading on the beetles or putting the rake away incorrectly, don't be too hard on

yourself. We all make mistakes. That said, once the rain comes, make sure you don't use an umbrella. That means even more rain, and the wind will take it from you anyway.

Thanks, Grandma

Take heed of your dreams as you sleep that night. If your dead relatives appear to you, that means a storm is a'brewing. Yes, even if you've taken care to watch out for the beetles, delicately put your rake away, and even thrown away your umbrella, your dead relatives can still cause a downpour. Worst reunion ever. ☹️

JUST SAYINGS

„Að Slá Einhverjum Gullhamra“



“Að slá einhverjum gullhamra” literally means to hit someone with a golden hammer. In Icelandic though, this means that you just gave someone a compliment. The saying can also mean that you're hitting on someone—as in, you're repeatedly hitting them with a golden hammer, i.e. you're saying things like, “You're perfect. You're beautiful. You look like Linda Evangelista.” So hit away, but not with a real hammer. That'll probably have the opposite effect. Unless they're into BDSM or something. Get consent. VG/HJC ☹️

LÓABORATORIUM



GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST



Young Karin - Flood (feat. Sturla Atlas)
In her new song, Hera asks the important questions. Just how does a lie taste? Well, apparently sugary as hell, if this slick folk-pop ditty is to be believed. If you're a traditional pop fan, Hera will hit all your buttons. She knows the genre and does it well. VG

it's not 'Ass-gear'), good luck. VG



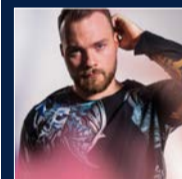
Sin Fang - Constellations
Sin Fang's newest song, "Constellations," is soothing indie at its best. Consider this: If the Beatles were reborn as Millennials, this would be the music they would be making. With "Constellations," combined with his last release "Hollow," Sindri Már Sigfússon has really raised the bar of expectations for his next album. It can't be any less than a masterpiece. No pressure, though. VG



una schram - bum boy (feat. Orla Engström)
The gentle, near-trip-hop beat and una's distinct voice—equal parts sweet, coy and delightfully petulant—puts this song over any ASMR track you could possibly listen to. The lyrics play a sharp contrast to this, as she firmly sets boundaries and clearly states her expectations to a guy who wants something different from her than what she has in mind. Expect to hear this track pumping from a passing car downtown soon. AF



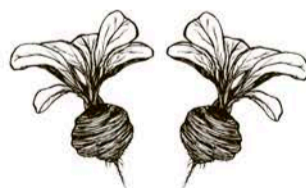
Between Mountains - Between Mountains
Keep in mind that the members of Between Mountains are all around 17-years old—or at least they were last time we checked. Impressive stuff. Their first full album is a combination of soothing folk music with interesting depth, both vocally as well as in the songwriting. They aren't treading in uncharted waters here, but it's well done and interesting enough. VG



Ásgeir - Bernskan
Ásgeir, formerly known as Ásgeir Trausti, hits us with this tune, the title of which translates to "childhood." Of course, the production is impeccable, the song solid, and the lyrics are actually quite nice. It could best be described as a hybrid between Bon Iver and Of Monsters and Men. Of course, it's in Icelandic, so if you can't even pronounce the artist's name (hint:

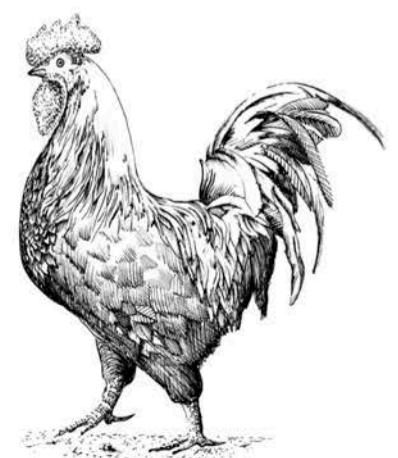


Countess Malaise - Hysteria
Countess Malaise has always radiated powerful, foreboding, sexual energy, and this album is probably the best example of exactly that. Beats that crawl like a strange nocturnal beast in the shadows. AF



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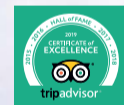
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The Decline Of The Icelandic Church

Scandals and controversy lead to mass exodus

Words:
Sam O'Donnell

Photo:
Art Bicnick

The number of Icelanders who trust the National Church has decreased by half since the turn of the century. Only one third of the nation now trusts the Church, according to a Gallup poll published on October 28. In a nation without a separation of Church and State, it's hard to read those numbers as anything but a crisis for the National Church.

There are many reasons for the decline in trust in the institution. The simplest is that immigrants to Iceland are largely from countries with strong Catholic beliefs. People born in Iceland are registered with the church automatically, so long as their parents are also in the church. However, immigrants have to go through the process of registering themselves if they want to join the National Church. Since the largest percentage of immigrants to Iceland are Polish, the majority of them choose to register instead with the Catholic Church. The Icelandic National Church is Lutheran.

Betrayal of human rights

Additionally, Icelanders are leaving the National Church in droves because of the church's notoriously tone-deaf approach to social issues. For example, in 2006, Guðrún Ögmundsdóttir submitted a bill to Parliament on various legal benefits for homosexuals, which, among other things, allowed them to get married and adopt chil-

dren. Former Bishop Karl Sigurbjörnsson of the National Church objected strongly to the proposal.

And he wasn't alone. Political scientist Baldur Thorhallsson says that the bishop and ministers lobbied hard against the proposed change. "They were calling Parliament and meeting with them to prevent us from obtaining the same legal rights as heterosexual citizens," he told RÚV. "Dealing with the clergy of the small denominations, that's one thing. But having to deal with the bishop of Iceland and the renowned clerics who stood with him in this matter, it hurt a man, it was difficult. But that didn't mean we were going to give up and take this blow."

The bill eventually passed, but it would take four years. In the meantime, church officials lambasted the bill, and worked against it. "Everywhere in every church this is disputed," the former bishop said on New Years' Day 2006. "The truth is that the church has, for a long time, been based on a certain definition in this matter. Now that definition is being changed. But I just want to say this: I think the sanctity of marriage depends on us, that we don't throw it on the dump without thinking."

While the world progressed onwards, the National Church defended their antiquated opinions. "This is naturally the main reason why groups of people, thousands of people, have begun to withdraw from the

National Church at this time," Baldur said.

Trying to stay relevant

The current bishop, Agnes M. Sigurðardóttir, has tried to keep the National Church relevant by apologising to Iceland's LGBTQ community on RÚV's news programme Kastljós for her predecessor's stance. Programme host Einar Þorsteinsson asked Bishop Agnes if the LGBTQ community should be entitled to an apology from the church, spurring the bishop to respond: "I can totally apologise on behalf of the Church for having come out and hurting people this way. I'm happy to apologise for that."

She partially attributes the lack of trust in the Church to the anomie she believes occurred when the nation's elementary schools stopped teaching Christianity. "It has become a morass, I think. People do not realise where the things that we would like to live and work for come from. It goes without saying that if the children do not study the Bible at home, for example, or at school, the future will be such that they do not

know it exists," she told RÚV. It would seem that lack of trust in the church could be attributed more to controversial opinions that are held dearly by its members. Furthermore, sex crimes that top clergy members get away with, both locally and internationally, do not help the church's image.

Egregious mishandling of a delicate situation

Possibly the most notable and most appalling scandal in the National Church involved former Bishop Ólafur Skúlason. While he was bishop, he sexually assaulted multiple women, who reported his behaviour to church officials. Nothing came of it until after his death in 2008 when his daughter, Guðrún Ebba Ólafsdóttir, came forward and disclosed that Ólafur had sexually abused her for many years.

She wrote a letter to Bishop Karl, calling for the church to take additional measures to combat sexual abuse between clergy and the congregation. She urged the church to "come clean" and to confront instances of sexual abuse that their priests and clergy members have committed within the walls of the church. Several other women came forward after the letter, saying that they were also molested by Ólafur, and that they reported this to church officials, but they were told to stay quiet. The church never reported the matter to the police.

In response to the criticism, Bishop Karl sent a letter to the media stating that one of the women who accused Ólafur had gone to the state prosecutor, who told her that there wasn't enough evidence to press charges. However, in reality, it was Ólafur himself who wanted to press charges against his accusers, and the state prosecutor had advised him not to pursue the case. After public outcry when these facts came to light, the bishop apologised for this inaccuracy, calling it "a slip of the pen."

Later, it came to light that Bishop Karl knew about Ólafur's sexual assault, but did nothing. Gunnar Rúnar Matthiasson, head of a special committee within the church that oversees incidences of sexual abuse within the congregation, told the press that the church is fully aware of instances of sexual abuse, and has for a long time fought against it. He would not, however, disclose just how many instances of sexual abuse between clergy and members of the congregation have been reported, saying only that there has been more than one.

That raised the question of whether the sanctity of confession takes precedence over the legal obligation to report sex crimes. Reykholt priest Geir Waage told reporters that the church's vow of silence with regards to confessions takes precedence over the law,

"They were calling Parliament and meeting with them to prevent us from obtaining the same legal rights as heterosexual citizens."

even when it comes to matters of sexual abuse. He argued that the sanctity of the confessional must be unyielding.

"That which a priest hears in the confessional must never, under any circumstances, go any further," he said. "The vow of silence is either all or nothing. The credibility of a priest is gone if people cannot rely on what they say to a priest staying with him."

While church officials hemmed and hawed about the philosophical and ethical implications of this question, hundreds of citizens unregistered themselves. ❧

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We Are A Fire Cult: ANDRÍ SNÆR MAGNASON talks rivers of oil, humans as volcanoes, and pancake sci-fi

Words:
a rawlings

Photo:
Anna Maggý

“At first, people think I am messing around. But it’s all about the journey around the black hole,” laughs Andri Snær Magnason, discussing his new book ‘Um Tímann og Vatnið’ (‘About Time and Water’).

The writer, performer, and activist is one of Iceland’s most prodigious cultural icons. His 2006 creative non-fiction book ‘Dreamland: A Self-Help Manual for a Frightened Nation’ anticipated the financial collapse while taking on Iceland’s dependence on the aluminum industry and its greed for energy production at the cost of ecosystem wellness. He has held public conversations with countless major international figures, including Indian eco-feminist scholar Vandana Shiva and the Dalai Lama. And, in 2016, Andri Snær took his activism to the next level when he ran for Iceland’s presidency.

We sit around the kitchen table as we chat. Andri’s voice is slightly worn from a confluence of activities this autumn. After penning an article for The Guardian in August, he commemorated Okjökull by writing the memorial text for the first glacier funeral in Iceland. At that time, he had also just completed ‘Um Tímann og Vatnið’.

“The book is about time and how science has shown us that all elements of water on the planet are fundamentally changing,” Andri Snær explains. “The glaciers are going down. The sea levels are going up. The acidification of the oceans is reaching a level not seen for 50 million years. Weather patterns are changing dramatically everywhere.”

BLACK HOLE SUM

It’s here that the author’s journey around the black hole begins.

“In a way, talking about climate change is like talking about a black hole,” he suggests. “You can’t look straight into it because it draws in all light. There is nothing there. You get no signal, no bounceback. The only way to talk about a black hole is by not talking about a black hole. The only way to talk about a black hole is to look at the periphery.”

The periphery in ‘Um Tímann og Vatnið’ contains interviews, myths, and stories from Andri Snær’s family and life experiences. Through these, he approaches the black hole of climate change. “I have interviews with my grandfather about [J. Robert] Oppenheimer. I have talked to the Dalai Lama. My grandfather’s sister tells me about when she was [J.R.R.] Tolkien’s nanny in 1930,” he says, outlining the book’s contents. “I use these as side stories.”

LOADED LANGUAGE

Andri Snær holds steady eye contact as he talks, his glacier-blue irises encircling each black-hole pupil. “This issue is so large that language collapses. Meaning collapses. Metaphors collapse,” he explains. “One of the ways to talk about that is by not talking about it, by diverting the story

to the periphery and using that to resonate at the scale of what is actually in the centre.”

“[The climate crisis] is bigger than language,” Andri Snær emphasises. “It is bigger than any words I can use. I can’t say it is enormous in the 12th degree or incredible. I can’t scale up my language like I can with numbers. The way we scale up language is with mythology—with archetypes and stories.”

He highlights the decreasing pH of the oceans as an example. “The words ‘ocean acidification’ were first mentioned in Icelandic media in 2006,” he recalls. “These are the biggest words in the world; it’s the biggest fundamental change of the ocean’s chemistry for 15 million years. How can I communicate that with a term first mentioned here in 2006? A concept like ocean acidification is not connected to anything cultural. It’s not connected to The Beatles. It’s not connected to Hitler or Stalin or the French Revolution or Martin Luther King. It’s not connected to baby seals, even though it is about baby seals.”

This disconnection segues to another point. “What does a nuclear bomb mean before or after it has exploded?” he asks. “After it has exploded, it is loaded with meaning. Before it’s exploded, it is just a concept; it’s a big metal thing with some imaginary outcome. We can’t really wait for ‘ocean acidification’ to get its load because then we will be done. The shit will have hit the fan.”

It’s here that Andri Snær zeroes in on the crux of ‘Um Tímann og Vatnið’. “I am exploring how words have no meaning until they are fully loaded with meaning. It is important that we understand the full size of the words used to talk about climate change. Most of the book, I don’t mention climate change. When people ask me what am I writing about—if I say ‘climate change’, they would just roll their eyes. But when I change the answer and I say I am writing about time of water and all elements of what is changing in the next 100 years, people reply, ‘Okay, interesting!’ I can see their ear flaps open. I can see their brains illuminating.”

NEO-SAGA

The kitchen table between us is lit by afternoon sun. We pour tea as we talk, dividing water between two glasses.

“A year ago, people were asking me, ‘are you sure it’s one story? Aren’t these five stories? One interview with the Dalai Lama, one book about glaciers in Iceland, one about your grandmother...’ But I said no,” he recalls. “I want everything to weave together like a tapestry.”

Andri Snær admits that this unusual structure was perhaps influenced by the Icelandic sagas. “In Njáls Saga, there is a man named Mörður, but now we’re going to another place. They introduce somebody and then go elsewhere. We don’t really know how the threads come together until the very end,” he offers. “In my book, I also introduce characters in the beginning,



but their meaning comes at the end of the book.”

He cites additional literary influences in the works of Rebecca Solnit, Sven Lindqvist, and W.G. Sebald. “They write this kind of literature of tapestries, where lots of threads are woven and come together at some point, and where a story starts in the distance but eventually makes it to the core.”

FAMILY STORIES

In lieu of abstract concepts like climate change or ocean acidification, Andri Snær offers tangible, felt access to the same issues by interweaving stories of water and family.

“I try to think about the concepts and there’s nothing there,” he says. “If I

think about my grandchildren, okay—but they don’t exist either. There is no load, no person in that idea. Instead of thinking about my grandchildren, I think about my grandparents because those are people who are at in the same distance, just in the other direction. And they are fully loaded; they have lived their full lives. Instead of going forwards, I go backwards.”

PANCAKE SCI-FI

Two teacups, a kettle, audio-recording equipment, and a computer populate the space of the kitchen table. Andri Snær gestures to the instruments.

“When you start talking about the gadgets of the future, you stop focusing on the human,” he explains. “If I

was writing a story now, I wouldn't write 'and she took a Zoom recorder with the two microphones looking like a whiskey bottle.' I wouldn't write 'her laptop was half-open and in that was a buzzing microchip.' I would just say 'they sat together and they were talking about grandmothers.'"

"It is sentimental," he continues. "I'm using pancake sci-fi. It's not about them sitting in a kitchen with a screen in front of them, some device developed in 2070. It's about interactions as humans. We sit in kitchens and eat pancakes our grandmothers make for us. Then you become a grandfather and make pancakes for your grandchild. That's the kind of meaning of life I am using. Pancake sci-fi."

DAMNING DREAMS

The kitchen table lacks pancakes, but we continue our discussion anyway.

Andri Snær considers the new book to have a more general appeal than 'Dreamland.' "That book was about a dam in the east," he explains. "I was playing with the lingo of start-up creativity and what Iceland could do to foster ideas. I used that versus the grand-scale governmental 5-year masterplan to aluminise Iceland. With 'Um Tímann og Vatnið', the scope is much larger. I ask deeper questions of what is holy and what is not holy, what is rational and what is not rational. What is pushing us off the rails?"

The dam in the east to which Andri Snær refers is the Kárahnjúkar; its development a controversial environmental issue in Iceland. "People said, 'We don't want to hear about dams.' 'Dreamland' was about the future of Iceland, our rivers and Highlands. In that book, I don't mention the dams until page 200. People think the book is about dams, but they've been reading for 200 pages and are like, wait, where are the dams?"

The Kárahnjúkar dam's construction continues to provoke upset and debate in Iceland, even more than ten years after its completion. "I had to explain why the pyramids in Egypt are there before I could talk about about the dam. Finally when I came to it, the goal was not to have built the dam. The goal was to be building dams. That is a fundamental difference. To be building dams means you will gobble up the Highlands and, in 20 years, you'll be finished. You'll scratch your head and ask, 'why did I do it?'"

EXTREME NATURE

'Dreamland' focused on the creation of Hálslón, a large reservoir in the East Highlands that resulted from the construction of the Kárahnjúkar dam in the 2000s.

"I have one chapter in 'Um Tímann og Vatnið' where I write about the same area as I did in 'Dreamland,'" Andri Snær recalls. "I found an old travel book from 1939 by Helgi Valtýsson, who was born in 1877. He spoke about nature as a poet and researcher of reindeer. I look at how he describes the land he is faced with versus how our generation does. I am wondering if it's progress or not."

For Andri Snær, Icelandic nature was primarily viewed in economic terms, and more specifically, "the brand value that nature would give Iceland," he states. "But in 1939, Helgi goes up to this area and he explodes emotionally! He evaporates into the space-dimension of God. It's the most extreme nature text I have ever seen."

HOLY COW OF NORDIC MYTHOLOGY

Andri Snær connects Helgi's writing with his own volley into storytelling. "Helgi was drenched in Romanticism, but still trying to build up the nation of Iceland. I am also exploring those ideas but I go more into mythology."

Glaciers are a particular focus. "In Nordic mythology, the world starts with a frozen cow and from this cow came the four major rivers that nourish the world. I find that the holy cow of Nordic mythology is a concrete place that I can analyse. A myth that has always been very bizarre as a source of life makes perfect sense as a metaphor for a glacier. The glaciers in the Himalayas are considered a life source, milking cows of the region."

CHILDREN OF OIL

From Nordic mythology, Andri Snær swerves into his own story of creation. "We are children of oil," he contends. "We smuggled ourselves into the world by tapping into the Triassic sunlight, a million years of dinosaur summers. The Earth would never have given birth to us."

He swiftly links this to his own nation's ancestral tales. "In Icelandic folklore, they always had this dream of bypassing the human toil," he explains. "Sometimes they could make a deal with the devil and the devil would finish harvesting the field in a minute instead of toiling the whole summer. But later, the devil comes to claim your child because that was part of the deal. Suddenly, you're in a big dilemma."

"That's our dilemma now," he continues. "We're in this existential crisis where we are not children of nature. Nature cannot provide for us in the traditional way. These superpowers of technology—oil especially—we have to reduce. We have to have this super-fast-track to other energy sources—sun and wind—to keep some of these superpowers."

RIVER OF OIL

The difficult work of presenting this existential crisis involved translating statistics into relatable ideas. Take oil production. "What would 100 million barrels of oil a day be if it was a river? It would be like Dettifoss," he explains.

Global carbon emissions is another example. "When Eyjafjallajökull erupted in 2010, the carbon emissions were 150,000 tonnes per day. It closed down airspace from planes that contributed 300,000 tonnes per day. So it was the first ecologically sound and socially responsible volcanic eruption in human history," he says. "Human carbon emissions are equal to 650 Eyjafjallajökull eruptions—not only for 2 weeks like the one in Iceland, but every day. Always. Open, full-blast eruptions."

FIRE CULT

"Anybody who thinks that humans don't have an impact, that's like denying that volcanoes have an impact. Volcanoes have impact and humans are the volcano. But these human-volcanoes have CEOs. If it were just a normal volcano with no CEOs or lobbying groups, then everybody would agree that this was a problem. But volcanoes with CEOs can make it appear as though they're not doing anything. It's complicated."

Andri Snær picks pieces of wax from a candle on the kitchen table as we talk.

It is then he declares, "We are a fire cult. We are run by fire. The gods were right when they punished Prometheus for stealing fire. We have now ignited so much fire that it is bigger than the biggest volcanic eruptions in geological history. The current fires have been cleverly hidden; the fire in our car, we don't see it. It's not like we have a campfire coming from the hood. We see no difference between an electric

car or another car. We have fire in airplanes. We have fire in the harvesting machines. We have fire in the ships."

SPIN THE BLACK CIRCLE

In August, Andri Snær participated in the glacier Okjökull's funeral by penning the memorial plaque. To accompany this, he wrote an article for 'The Guardian.' This coincided with an op-ed piece written by Iceland's prime minister, Katrín Jakobsdóttir, for 'The New York Times' regarding Iceland's melting glaciers and the current government's plan to reach carbon neutrality.

"That was an amazing week," Andri Snær recalls. Everything was aligned. Greta Thunberg was in the middle of the North Atlantic while we were putting up the memorial plaque for Ok. And all the Nordic Ministers were in Iceland with Angela Merkel."

He laments a missed opportunity during that week, though, especially given the confluence of Nordic Ministers and the German chancellor being in Iceland. On the slow pace of governmental responses to the climate crisis, Andri Snær asserts, "We're not acting like it's an emergency. In this situation, it does mean disruption. When you have a strike, it disrupts something. It stops your everyday life. I'm not sure that we can take an issue that is so big and that involves so much change and innovation and do that seamlessly without any disruption to our daily routine."

"The Ministers believe you can keep 120 beats per minute," he continues, "and seamlessly phase the next song in—DJ into the next record and keep dancing. I think we will have to notice a new song started, though."

FIRESTARTER

"When I talk to young people. I tell them that we are in a paradigm shift," he says. "My generation was told to follow your dreams, climb that ladder, race with the others, don't be a loser. But there was no deeper meaning. It was all about this MBA language. It didn't have anything about God or nature or not even the nation. I think this nationalism that is coming up now is because people have been starved of a higher ideal, and so it goes into national populism. People tend to want to have a higher meaning in their lives."

Andri Snær understands that the younger generation now will have their work life focused on carbon emission reduction and issues related to the climate crisis. "The UN has told us that we have to get emissions down to zero in the next 30 years. Every industry, every working life, every ideal—everything is about this for those who are 15 today until they are 45."

FULL CIRCLE

The conversation then comes full-circle, as Andri Snær reflects on the higher meanings of his grandparents' generation.

"My grandfather was born into extreme poverty," he shares. "When he was 11, he quit school and started working for the family. Those conditions that used to be here are in India now. My grandfather took responsibility at a very young age. He was a social entrepreneur, founding the Glacial Research Society and the Flight Rescue Squad. I'm looking at how I can use my grandparents' life stories, how they volunteered for three weeks a year for glacial research. They did things that needed to be done."

ON RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

This can-do attitude is something Andri Snær has carried forward into his own life, ultimately leading him to run in the 2016 presidential election.

"It was easier than writing the book," he laughs. "My idea was to use that strange position of what the president is to connect people on all stages of society and start making things happen quicker. But during the election, the climate change issue was hardly mentioned. I was too dizzy to make known the gravity that I thought was needed. So it was all about nonsense actually. Then, I had all this stuff that is now in the book in my mind... Scattered fragments of the book."

He urges, though, that the book is not a political pamphlet. "It is literature," he asserts. "Of course it is the same person who wrote the book that ran for president. My ambition at that time was to let science move politics, because scientists have been very modest. Scientists put it out and then they wait for politicians to take it or leave it."

"Scientists haven't essentially been activists. As soon as they become activists, they are thrown into a marginal left party. That's considered to be left, to measure CO2. That's what socialists do. Right-wing people don't see it; they produce the CO2," he laughs again.

WATERY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

In addition to publishing the book, Andri Snær is currently headlining a sold-out performance, also titled 'Um Tímann og Vatnið', at Borgarleikhúsið. Working with musician Högni, a thirty-member children's choir, video, and photography, Andri Snær takes the structure of the book and lifts it to the stage.

"I'm getting very strong and good responses to telling the story. People are not bored; they're not sleeping and I get a standing ovation," he laughs. "It's very good."

Two shows remain, being staged on November 12th and 26th. While this run is in Icelandic, Andri Snær is considering adapting the show to English. "I could easily do an English version with a few minor twists. I have had lectures in Harvard, Columbia, and Keele University. There I was talking to scientists. That gave me confidence that I was on the right track because I was speaking to people who are specialists in their fields."

HERE WE ARE NOW, ENTERTAIN US

On the appeal and necessity of dystopian tales, Andri Snær paints a grim picture.

"The story is also about entertainment. You could write a story about the Second World War or Stalingrad, but you're always writing a story. As horrible or grave as it is, the biggest crime is to write a boring story. It is this strange paradox. A story is about the most serious things that we are facing, and people finish it like a thriller and say it was fun to read," he laughs. "Well, 'fun' is not the right word, but still..."

He takes one more sip of tea. "You could say it's also a spoonful of sugar to make the medicine go down," he concludes. "My book is the Forrest Gump of climate change, using Mary Poppins to become the Forrest Gump of climate change." ❖

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Serving Saga Realness

Memoirs Of A Valkyrie

November 8th & 16th - 20:30 - Tjarnarbíó - 4,400 ISK

Serve up some Valkyrie realness with drag queens Agatha P., Faye Knús, Gógó Starr, and Sigga Eyrún in this romp through the multiple tales of the beloved shieldmaiden Brynhildr—who you might know from stories like Wagner's Die Walküre, Sleeping Beauty, and more. Through the mediums of beauty pageants, opera, rap, and a hysterical take on contemporary dance, the four divas will show you history like you've never seen it. **HJC**



Tutus Optional

Swan Lake

November 21st, 22nd & 23rd - 19:30 & 14:00 - Harpa - 19:30

Seeing a live performance of Swan Lake is on most people's '100 Things To Do Before I Die' list. Okay, maybe that's an exaggeration, but experiencing Tchaikovsky's classic certainly won't be something you'll regret. Harpa now offers you the chance to catch the most popular ballet—danced by the St. Petersburg Festival Ballet, no less. So enter the tragic story of princess Odette and tick the must-see off your list. **LM**



Corpse Paint Mandatory

Reykjavík Goth Night: Mortiis, Almyrkvi & NYIP

November 16th - 21:00 - Gaukurinn - 2,000 ISK

Mortiis, Almyrkvi, and NYIP will be in the same room, performing one after each other, and at the intimate grunge-y dive of Gaukurinn—wow. Let's start with Mortiis, the industrial/black metal/ambient/dungeon synth melange are black metal icons, and definitely usually play bigger stages than this. Next up, the cosmic darkness of Grapevine-favourite Almyrkvi will be a surefire aphrodisiac and add to that one of those weird candle/skulls NYIP rituals. Sign us up. **HJC**

CULTURE NEWS

Festival

The Japanese Stories of Love festival takes place at Bió Paradís from November 8th to 11th. Tickets are 800 ISK per film.



"Love is a universal topic."

The Love Connection

The Japanese Stories Of Love festival uses filmmaking to create a thematic bridge

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen

Photo: Provided by Festival

Iceland and Japan—two volcanic islands whose similarities might appear to end there. Japan, known for its honour-bound culture, values a communal sense of self; family over the individual. Iceland, meanwhile, is wilder, louder, non-conformist. But Bió Paradís, in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan, seeks to create a bridge between the two lands with an upcoming film festival, Japanese Stories of Love, which will run from November 8th to 11th.

The universal topic

"Love is a universal topic," Ása Baldursdóttir, the program director at Bió Paradís, explains. "It's something that we have in common as humans to connect through the medium of film."

For Ása, the young Icelandic film scene has yet to present a love story like those coming from Japan, which is why it's important to expose Icelandic audiences to these films. "Storytellers from Japan are so tangible with their storytelling. It's subtle and poetic—at times like reading a good novel," she says. "Icelandic filmmaking is more into social realism or comical versions of love."

Reiko Tatematsu, the head of cultural division at the Embassy of Japan, also sees these cultural differences, but more in relation to familiar love. "The form of 'family' in Japan and Iceland seem quite different," she says. In Iceland, she explains, non-married couples often have children together and non-biologically family cohabitate.

This is not common in Japan. "In Japan, family is in a more formal structures, so it will be interesting to see how Icelandic audiences perceive the family relations depicted in these films."

Selfless love

The festival features four films, opening with Ryota Nakano's 'Her Love Boils Bathwater'. It's a favourite of Reiko.

"The film shows a dying woman's determination to bring her family together," Reiko summarises. "Japanese women are normally seen as reserved and conservative, but this film might change the audience's perspective on that."

Ása is equally excited to present the film. "It's a story of selfless love," she says. "What does that mean? Is love ever selfless? What is the opposite, un-selfless love? Is that motherly love, or what kind of love are they talking about?"

Relatable themes

If you're unable to catch this festival, Japanese film days will be held from December 4th to 8th. The celebration will showcase new Japanese action films, animation, and classical favourites.

"The access to Japanese films has been very low in Iceland," Ása laments. This is particularly true of modern films, which is why all the pictures screened at the Japanese Stories of Love festival were created quite recently.

"There are always enthusiastic Kurosawa fans out there. However, this time we wanted to introduce modern Japanese films so that you can also learn about current Japanese society and what ordinary people's lives are," Reiko says. "Some of these films deal with themes like LGBT rights, school bullying, loneliness in society, and other various social challenges Japanese society is currently facing. I believe these themes are something Iceland is also coping with." 🗨️

ELECTRIC DREAMS

Music

Cop Elli Grill's latest album 'Rassa Bassi Vol. 2' online at elligrillehf.bandcamp.com and stream his entire catalogue on Spotify. Follow up on Elli's devious behaviour at [instagram.com/elligrillehf](https://www.instagram.com/elligrillehf)



Evil Suburban Kids

Getting spiritual with Elli Grill whose heart of gold beats to techno

Words: Alexander Le Sage de Fontenay

Photo: Matthew Eisman

Over the past few years, Elli Grill has become an easily-recognized figure within the Icelandic music scene. From his early-days performing near-exclusively with hip hop collective Shades of Reykjavík, to participating in Iceland's national selection-competition for this year's Eurovision Song Contest and releasing dance-oriented

songs that fuse rap with techno.

Style-wise, Elli Grill could be seen as a mongrel of sorts. "I'm all over the place, just like my brain," he explains. "I mix styles, old and new, but I like to stick to a theme for every project. I've come to realize Elli Grill is a genre of his own."

Elli's inspiration can be found near

and far. "Sometimes it's an Icelandic rave in a cave, sometimes my insanity, sometimes my heart-of-gold, sometimes Europe, sometimes [Tennessee hip hop collective] The Southern Demon Herd, but most-of-all it's skating," he explains.

The artist says he writes most of his lyrics in the tub. "I like to take long baths. Techno-producer LaFontaine is usually around to keep the temperature just right," he says. "Then we visit my producer and sound-engineer Balatron to make some music! Or, we might all fight about how Jeff Mills' tracks just aren't spacey enough."

A couple of weeks ago, Elli celebrated the release of 'Rassa Bassi Vol. 2' at Gaukurinn. "It was a truly spiritual-experience with lots of strobe-lights," he says. "'Rassa Bassi Vol. 2' is a follow-up to my last album 'Pottþétt Elli Grill.' It goes further down the rabbit hole of true techno madness."

Elli Grill will be performing at Prikíð with cross-disciplinary artist Skaði on November 14th. "Then, we'll be launching record-label Evil Suburban Kids, our first label-night being at Bravó on November 16th with some serious local talent," he explains. "Then, in December I will release this year's most popular Christmas song and have a huge party. A spiritual Christmas-experience from Elli Grill to you." 🗨️

Dozing In The Haze Of The Drone

The Arctic Drone Festival creates 24-hours of otherness

The default position of the weekend

Flight:
eagleair.is

Accommodation:
fosshotel.is

Sailing:
northsailing.is

Baths:
geosea.is

Festival

Arctic Drone will be back in 2020, if all goes well.

Arguably, drone is the root form of music; the first tonal noise, repeated. What that means is that, in essence, there are no key changes, just an ongoing jam on top of a nice root key.

Drone was celebrated, in all its perpetual glory, for the first time in Húsavík in mid-October at the inaugural Arctic Drone Festival, organised by Barði Jóhannsson of Bang Gang fame. The line-up featured a mixture of Icelandic and international artists, headlined by Julianna Barwick, Nathan Larson, Atli Örvarsson and Melissa Auf der Maur.

Each act in the admittedly eccentric lineup had their own take on the genre. Most are not primarily known as drone musicians, coming from backgrounds as varied as stadium rock, indie, movie soundtracks and trip-hop. In fact, those I spoke to at the festival didn't even have a lot to say about the drone

genre. To be honest, the consensus was that calling it a genre proved difficult. It's more of an ingredient than a recipe.

24 hours of otherness

The goal of the inaugural edition of the festival was clear: 24 hours non-stop of drone music accompanied by yoga sessions.

The space was, for lack of a better term, unique. It was composed of a large hall in a pretty nice hotel, with a stage that was really just an island of musical equipment floating throughout the room, surrounded by yoga mats with pillows.

The question of the festival became, "Did you sleep in the room yet?" It was clear that as a stage dive is to a normal rock concert, the peak experience of Arctic Drone was dozing off on the mats in front of the stage.

The day was like a spiritual retreat, yoga, or meditation of some sort, but more free-flowing. No one adhered to a program and experiences varied widely. Some called it meditative and soothing; others described the whole thing as psychedelic. People ate when they felt like it, had a couple of beers at the bar when they desired, but it was anything but a party. The vibe was casual, but weird, and that strangeness grew as the event progressed. It was 24-hours of otherness—that's what made it so special.

No host, no applause

The festival began with a collaboration between Nathan, Melissa and Barði, followed by a darkly jazzy drone outing by bassist and composer Borgar Magnason.

Every other hour, from 12:00 go 21:00, there was a yoga session. The first one accompanied by the music of Dísá Jakobs, who melded electronic playback and gong in her set. The gongs dominated the room, huge and imposing, set up in a circle

The yoga was free-flowing. As the event had no host, no intermissions, and no applause, a piece of paper on the wall told you when each set and event was happening, but seemingly everything actually started and stopped randomly.

Following Dísá was a mesmerising set by Kjartan Hólm. Those gathered also saw performances by Ólöf Arnalds and Skúli Sverrisson. Ólöf and Skúli's sets were up to their usual high standards, a bit like their otherworldly collaborations on 'Seria' but even more serene in this setting.

It was Íam Helgi that was the curveball of the festival. One-half of rap duo Úlfur Úlfur, Helgi is one of Iceland's

foremost hip-hop producers, known for his party music. Here, he went off on a modular synth jam, delivering a different but interesting take on the sound of the day.

Crouching tiger, hidden film composer

Composer Atli Örvarsson's set was a highlight. The Akureyri-born and -based film composer started out in countryside party bands in the 80s, then decamped for LA where he built a formidable career in movie and TV music. On his return to Iceland a couple

of years ago, many were surprised to hear of his career, as he hadn't been sending out press releases.

Ten hours into the festival, Barði's set harked back to his roots in rockabilly-tinged shoe-gaze music, only this time more

"As a stage dive is to a normal rock concert, the peak experience of Arctic Drone was dozing off on the mats in front of the stage."

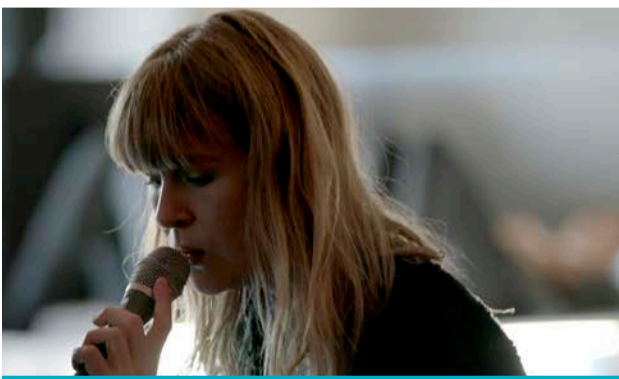
droney.

My favourite set of the night though was that of Melissa and Nathan—a bass and guitar jam on top of a menacing drum machine; an unchanging soundtrack for robot cowboys.

Juliana digitally made choral-sounding works were probably the night's most natural fit. Sindri Már

Words:
Sveinbjörn Pálsson

Photos:
Arctic Drone Festival



Dísá Jakobs' amazing performance

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Ingibjörg Stefánsdóttir and cohorts singing into the gong for reverb

Sigfússon, Iceland's indie stalwart who's bands Seabear and Sin Fang are both releasing albums this fall, followed. His set was on the ambient side, computer based, flowing, beautiful, trippy.

Jófríður's, (a.k.a. JFDR) set was the last one I caught before decamping to bed. Starting at midnight, the polymath wunderkind of Icelandic music and chronic bandstarter whose output belies her age, took to the stage with her boyfriend providing accompaniment. She served a chilled, more acoustic take on some of her most placid music.

Finally a doze

I woke up just before 6:00. Ólöf was finishing her third set; her voice had taken on Billie Holiday-esque qualities. Next up was an impromptu set by Dísá. I took a

yoga mat and a pillow, placed myself directly in front of the biggest of the gongs that she was playing, and dozed off again.

I came to in the midst of the morning yoga session—a musical collaboration between Ingibjörg Stefánsdóttir, the organizer of the yoga portion of the festivities, and Barði. Ingibjörg was a dance-pop singer in the 90s before she founded a yoga studio. Her vocal performance was an entrancing spiritual chant of some sort. I must say I've woken up in worse places.

Drone-created dimensions

It then came time to journey out of our drone-cave, onto a sailing trip around the bay courtesy of North Sailing. The wind and the waves offered a contrast to the womb-like qualities of the festi-

val. The weekend was capped at the spectacular Geosea Baths in Húsavík. There, warm and hot seawater infinity pools lie on the edge of a small cliff, with a lighthouse on one side and surrounded by mountains. I floated around in a dizzy state, trying my best to converse with my fellow travellers, but mostly residing in the drone-created adjacent dimension I had departed only hours ago.

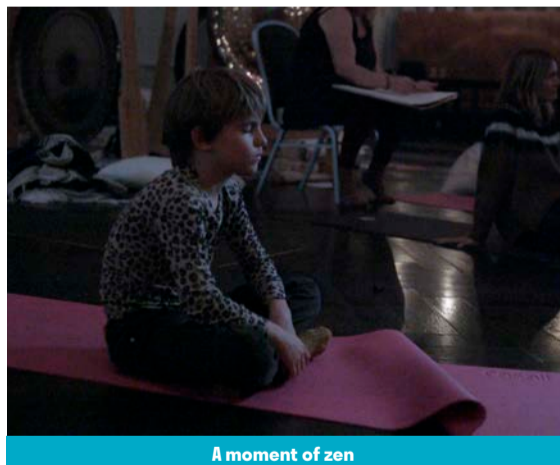
While the festival often felt like a dry-run of sorts, it was a successful one and a welcome addition to the North's (and Iceland's) annual calendar. The genre of drone might be difficult to define, but the Arctic Drone festival managed to distill it into 24-hours—not through words, or course, but through differing varieties of no-rules, no-bounds, no-parameters ongoing tones. ☺



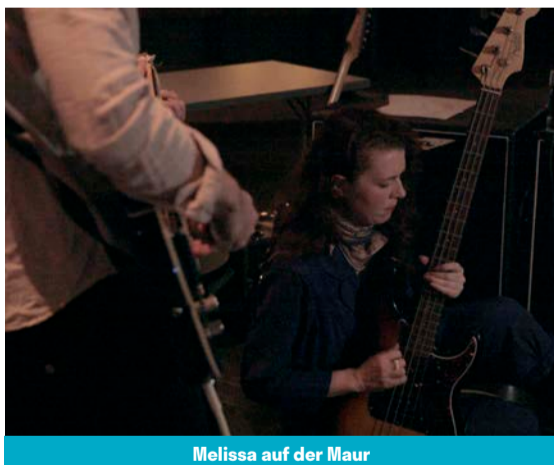
The drone gang, photographed by a drone



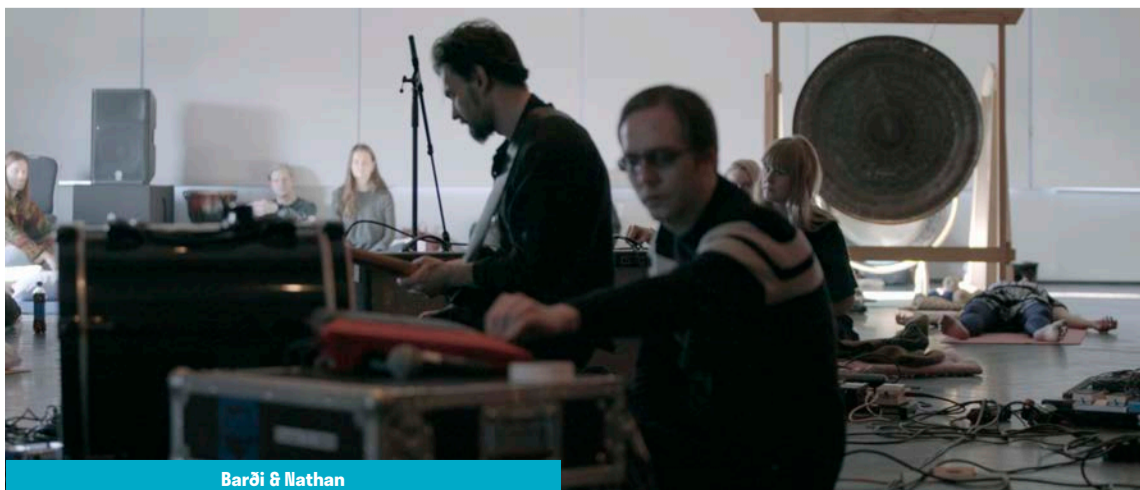
JFDR



A moment of zen



Melissa auf der Maur



Barði & Nathan

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Greta's breakfast

Greta's Dream Day In Reykjavík

Your guide to staying green in the city

Words: Lea Müller Photos: Art Bicnick

Unless you've chosen to deem the life's work of thousands of scientific experts to be "fake news," you're likely a bit terrified about the climate emergency. And that's okay. While watching Greta Thunberg sail around the world might give you comfort, you shouldn't be all, "You go girl!" and then carry on living without reflecting on your individual day-to-day consumption choices. The "someone-else-will-fix-this-attitude" simply doesn't work. In fact, there are many simple things everyone can do to work towards the world that Greta envisions. To make these decisions easier for you, we created this list with the best environmentally-friendly options Reykjavík has to offer.



Plastic's not fantastic

Life on an island brings with it two inherent problems. Many things have to be imported and thus don't only come with an inflated carbon footprint but also come wrapped in plastic. There are, though, some options for green grocery shopping.

Frú Lauga on Laugalækur offers a variety of both local and unpackaged products, and in **Heilsuhúsið** in Kringlan, you may refill your brought-from-home containers at the bulk-booth. For you caffeine-heads, pick up some coffee in aesthetically-pleasing paper bags at **Reykjavík Roasters**.

While not everyone can afford splashing the extra cash on green choices, we can all refuse plastic bags when shopping. It won't hurt your fruit or veg to be bare on the counter. It's all about baby steps. For instance, if you're a regular nammiland visitor on Saturdays, keep your candy bag and reuse it. You should also bring containers for take-away goodies. This has already become an established habit in other countries—let's be part of that change.



New Old is always better

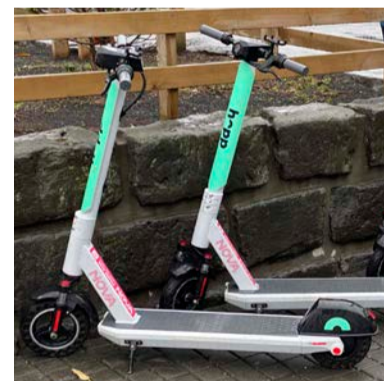
We all know that the prices of goods in retail stores do not represent their true cost. Most products come with externalised costs that are neither paid directly by customers nor by producers, but in the long-run, manifest in pollution and the exploitation of unskilled labourers.

If you want to get off the capitalist treadmill, Reykjavík offers a variety of second-hand stores that will not only resolve your crisis of conscience but also save you some cash. **Extraloppán** in Smáralind satisfies every fashionista's heart and the multiple **Red Cross** stores even donate their profits to a good cause. For pre-loved furniture, head to **Góði Hirðirinn** in Sævarhöfði or browse the Facebook page **Gefins, allt Gefins**.



Vegan is the new meat

It's now widely acknowledged that veganism is the most sustainable diet. Vegan dishes require way less water than a beef-burger, and don't result in cow farts full of potent methane, which accelerates global warming. **Gló** on Laugavegur, **Veganæs** in Gaukurinn, and **Burro** on Veltusund are only some of the best vegan-friendly restaurants in town.



I am a passenger

Admittedly, making green-choices in transport can be a toughie. That said, the recently introduced scooter rental **Hopp** is a viable alternative to cars and buses when getting around the city. Environmentally friendly long-distance travel is hindered by the fact that Iceland lacks a railway system, but you can still reduce your emissions by finding someone headed your destination on car-sharing platforms like **Samferða**. Who knows, if you're very lucky you might even hitch a ride in a Tesla.



BEST OF REYKJAVÍK

Best Place For Aurora-Spotting

Winner:

Ægissíða to Gróttá Vesturbær to Seltjarnarnes

Ægissíða is literally the west coast of Reykjavík. Running along the sea, this walk is sheltered from traffic and light pollution and thus perfect for a peaceful and romantic walk of any duration. In winter, it becomes even more magical with some of the best chances to see northern lights in Reykjavík. If you walk long enough, you'll end up at Gróttá at the tip of the Seltjarnarnes peninsula with its iconic lighthouse. "It's one of my favourite places to be in general," said one of the panelists. "Plus it has the best bonfires in town."



Runners up:

Fossvogur and Öskjuhlíð City Centre Area

This walk leads you along the creek that divides Reykjavík and Kópavogur. "It's right by the ocean," says the panel. "Nobody ever goes there, it's so peaceful." Additional perks include a mystical graveyard and, if you walk a little further, Reykjavík's only "city forest" up on the Perlan-topped hill of Öskjuhlíð.



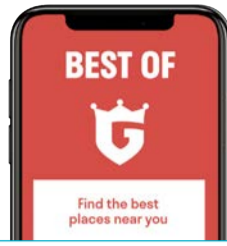
Sculpture & Shore Walk

Laugardalur-Reykjavík 101

With its view on the ocean and mountains, it's recommended for a long, contemplative walk. Leading from Laugardalur to Reykjavík's famous concert hall "Harpa," it is a nice and long walk right next to the ocean — and you will get to experience some of the diverse city landscape that Reykjavík has to offer.

November 8th—December 5th

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



“I crawl into bed around 1:00 with someone special. I’m talking about my dog.”

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen & Gunnar Ingi Jones**
Photo: **Art Bicnick**

Gunnar Ingi Jones

Gunnar Ingi Jones is the guitarist of metal band *Une Misère*, who just dropped their newest album ‘*Sermon*’ on November 1st. Here, he gives us a peek into his perfect day in the city.

Morning

I wake up around 8:00 having slept exactly eight hours. I’m feeling rested as fuck. I head to the gym—I go to World Class—and only do bicep curls and maybe a little shoulders to get my daily dose of swoleness. Right after the gym, I go to Sundlaug Seltjarnarness for a little splash of the hot tub and then the cold pot. Because this is my perfect day, a lot of random people compliment me on how good I look as I walk to the pool.

Mid-morning

I do brunch at **Prikið** and they make me custom-made protein pancakes that only I get to eat. No one else. The dish is called “The Jones Delight.” Hint hint, Prikið.

Afternoon

I take my dog to the dog park because I love him and this is also his perfect day. He runs around and makes friends with three puppies. I get to pet them. Next it’s soundcheck for our album release show, which will be on December 14th at **IGNÓ**. I’m so stoked for this show—we are taking it to the next level and obviously, it would be happening on my perfect day. It’s also snacktime.

Dinner

I go home, chill for a bit, and get

dressed for the night. Of course, I put on some nice cologne. It’s very important to smell nice. But let’s talk dinner options. I don’t eat meat so it has to be vegetarian-friendly. The burgers are **Prikið** are something else so that would be a hot spot but I’m feeling adventurous so we are taking it to the next level. I’m talking a five-course meal made by Gordon Ramsay himself. He cooks for me and a selected few at my house.

Evening

It’s SHOWTIME, BABY. I pump the guns right before hitting the stage because I’m that guy. Anyway, we have a killer show and at the end, people throw roses at me. The night ends with everyone having a good time at the venue. I crawl into bed around 1:00 with someone special. I’m talking about my dog. 🐕



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Venue Finder

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

Vital Info



Useful Numbers

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

Post Office

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

Pharmacies

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

Opening Hours - Bars & Clubs

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

Opening Hours - Shops & Banks

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

Swimming Pools

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

Public Toilets

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

Public Transport

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

A



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The Map

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

Dining

1. Fjallkonan

Hafnarstræti 1-3

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

2. Block Burger

Skólavörðustígur 8

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

3. Matur og Drykkur

Grandagarður 2

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

4. Sandholt

Laugavegur 36

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

5. Le Kock 2.0

Tryggvagata 14

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

6. Ramen Momo

Tryggvagata 16

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

7. Public House Gastropub

Laugavegur 28

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

8. Messinn

Lækjargata 6b

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

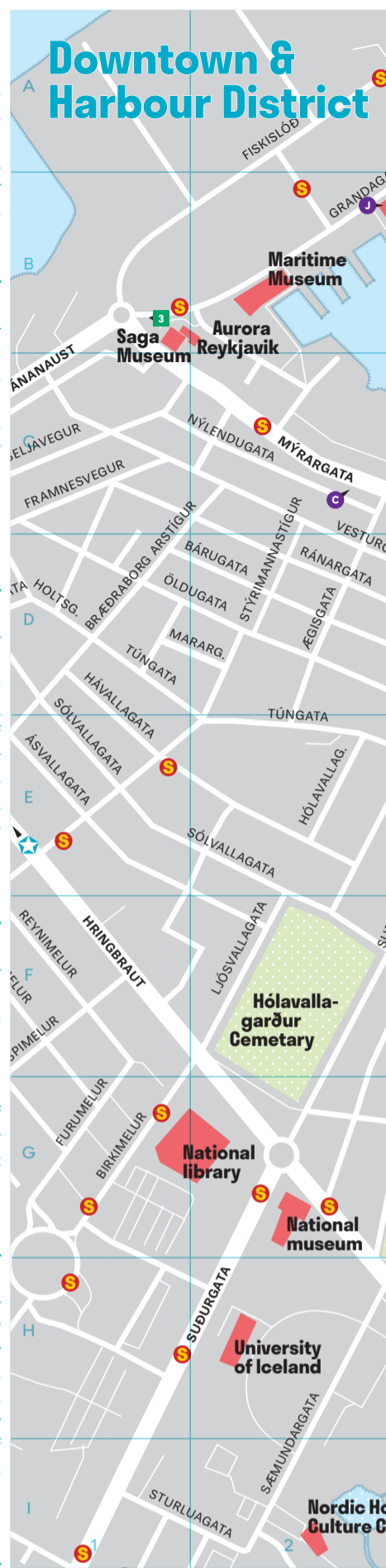
Fógetagarður

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

E

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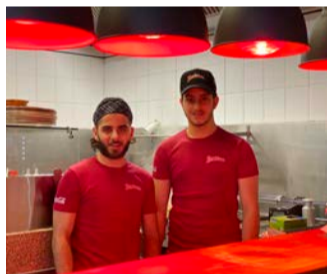
THE SMART WAY

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Strætó
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New In Town



Zorbian
Hringbraut 119

Do your friends worry about your obsession with shawarma? Have some of your friends stopped eating with you, because you always suggest eating at Mandi? If you answered 'yes' to either of these questions, don't worry, it's perfectly normal for people living in Iceland. Also, a new Syrian place called Zorbian has opened in the JL Húsið (where XO used to be). They serve wraps, hummus, and shawarma, but hamburgers and pizza are also on the menu. Bring the kids! SPO

HÚRRA REYKJAVÍK

- ADIDAS ORIGINALS AÍMÉ LEON DORE CARHARTT WIP
- COMMON PROJECTS DROLE DE MONSIEUR EYTTY
- FILLING PIECES HAN KJOBENHAVN HERON PRESTON
- NIKE SPORTSWEAR NORSE PROJECTS PALM ANGELS
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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.

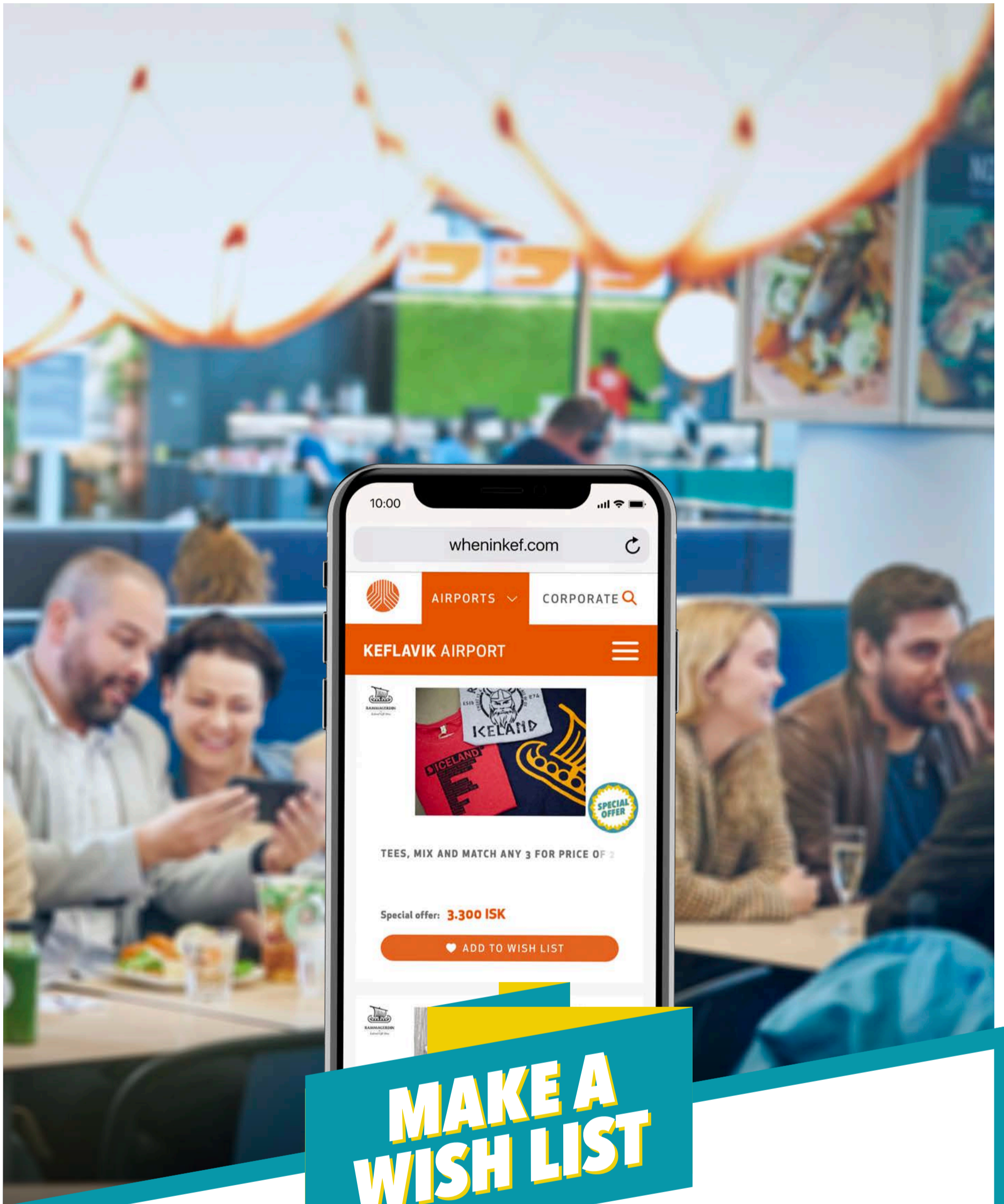


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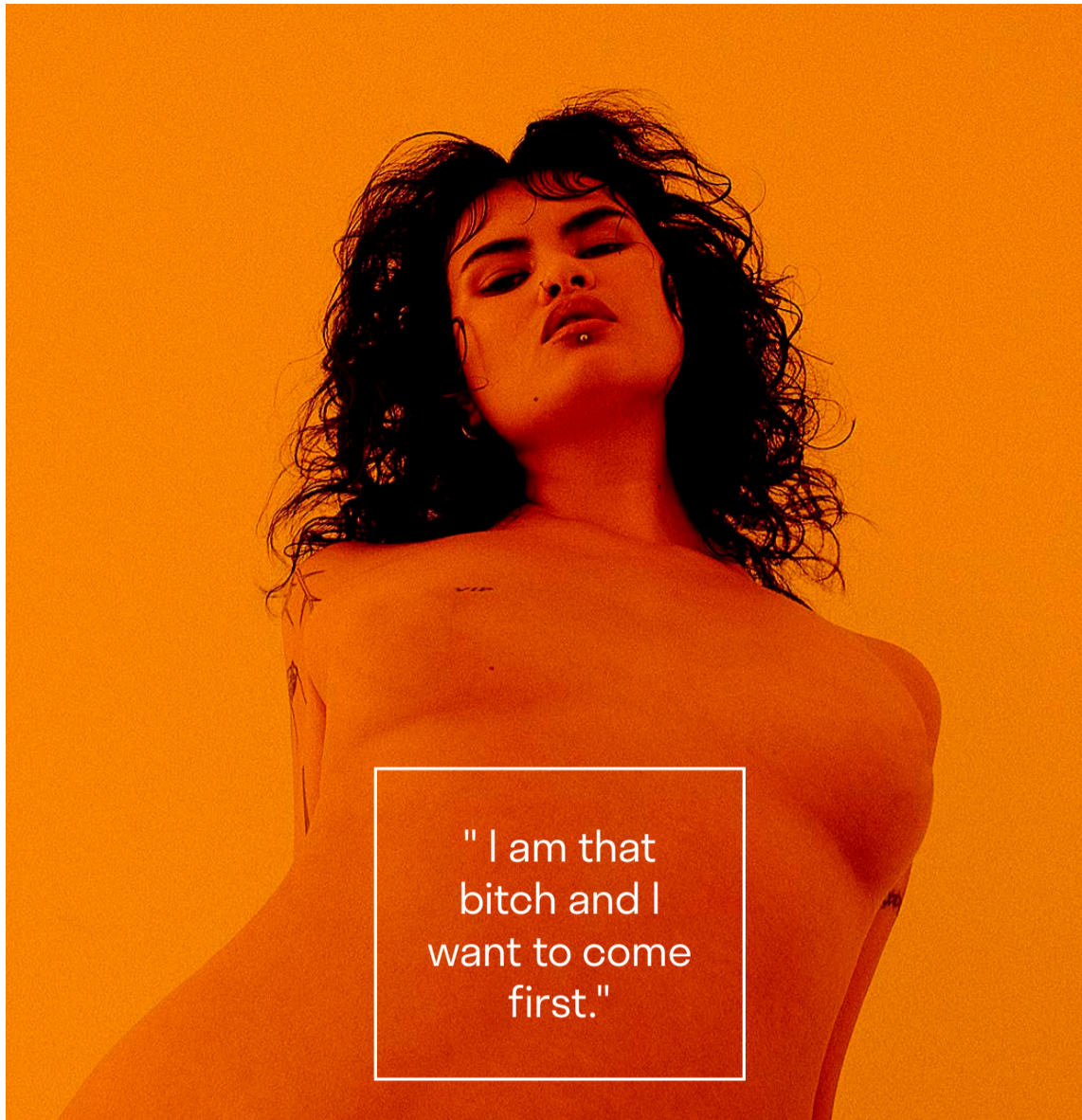
Oh, and all shops and restaurants are **tax and duty free**.



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KEFLAVIK
AIRPORT



"I am that bitch and I want to come first."

TRACK BY TRACK

'HYSTERÍA' By Countess Malaise

Get freaky, get paid, get vulnerable

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photo: **Nicola Lamburov**

Artist

[Stream 'HYSTERÍA' on Spotify.](#)

Bow down, for the Countess of Malaise has arrived with her long-awaited debut album 'HYSTERÍA.'

Coming First

It's self-explanatory. As a woman, you learn that you're not supposed to cum or say what you like in bed. I just wanted to make things clear from the get-go: I am that bitch and I want to come first.

Slide Me A Brick

I'm taking space and saying I deserve respect and to get paid for my shit. Brick can mean a brick of cocaine, but I'm talking about a stack of cash.

Mixing Up Some Potions

This one is just about having fun. Slim Poppins is featured on it and she's amazing. Such a good rapper. We decided to do something together and that was around when she started blowing up. Rihanna used her song "Vamanos" in her Fenty campaign. We really clicked.

Anticipating

"Anticipating" is special because I

am singing and I haven't done that before. Basically Lord Pusswhip made this beat and I tried to record on it freestyle. I am not known for freestyling and I've always been scared of doing it. The song is about Lord Pusswhip. It's really vulnerable and definitely the scariest song to put on the album. In the end though, it's my thing to be honest and vulnerable so I dropped it in.

Pulse

There's a big contrast between "Anticipating" and "Pulse." "Anticipating" is really romantic and soft and then you fall into the hole of "Pulse." I wrote it in Amsterdam when I was hella suicidal and hella fucked up. It was a hard time. But I was really sick and I had this beat on my computer and I just felt like I wanted to die, so I wrote this song and recorded it super sick in my room. It was the first song I wrote for this EP.

Taking Out The Trash

This beat reminds me of those fast-paced animes like 'Wicked City,' where there's a lot of freaky shit. The movie is about these women that you have sex with but then you die, but the sex is like the best sex of your life, so a lot of men are like, "Fuck it." That's the vibe I'm going for.

On top of that, I've been losing a lot of fake friends and removing toxic people from my life and that's why it's called "Taking Out The Trash." At some point in your life, you realise that not everyone around you is worth keeping around. You gotta remove those energy suckers. They are hindering your growth and happiness.

Tired Of This Shit

This is a song of rage, like when the last drop fills up your cup and you just go fucking ham. It's unapologetic, saying fuck this shit.

Alpha Female

Arna Beth, who does my visuals, calls herself an Alpha Female. That is the best combination because it's the same as bad bitch but way more elevated. The song is an empowering song for everyone who just doesn't give a fuck. They go to the club and dance as slutty as they fucking want and don't care what people are thinking. I know I love to get freaky and nasty on the dance floor, so I wanted to do something that people could shake their ass to as the finale of the album. End it on a positive, empowering, and sexy note. ♡

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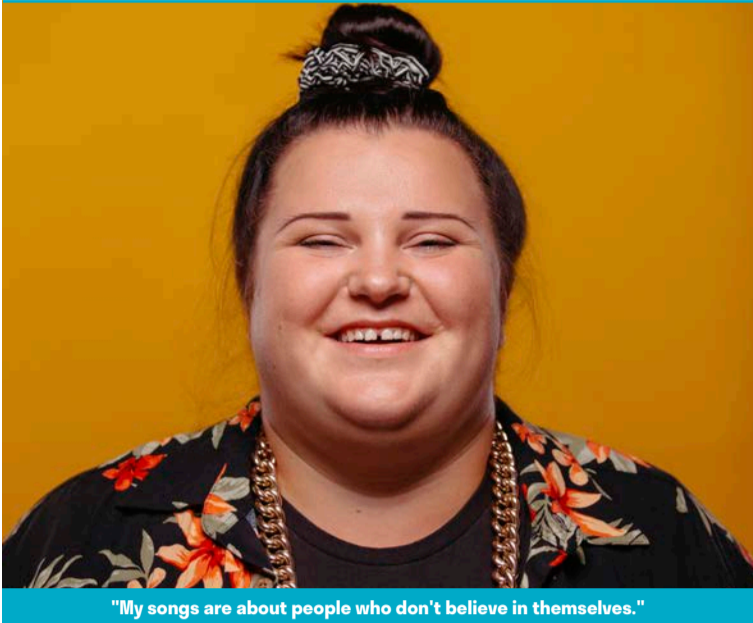
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Music



"My songs are about people who don't believe in themselves."

Presenting: How To Find Your Power

Alyona Alyona is at Airwaves to put on a show

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photo: **Provided by Alyona Alyona**

Concert

Alyona Alyona will play on Friday at 22:00 at the Hard Rock Café.

A smiling, female, plus-size Ukrainian rapper grooves around the stage of a big European festival. She's performing a song in Ukrainian. The crowd sways and jumps as the artist's black and purple braids swirl around her. Now she's in bumper cars, signing chests, on an airplane, and in a bathtub.

No, this isn't a pipe dream. It's the video for the track "Tomorrow" by Ukrainian rapper Alyona Alyona, who will make her Iceland Airwaves debut this year.

The vibe

"When I was 12 years old, I heard rap for the first time," Alyona Savranenko says. She's on video-chat, standing in an alleyway in Kiev, relaxing during a short break from a shoot. "I don't know how to explain why I liked it, maybe because people can speak about so many things in one song. It has some vibe."

She shrugs and bursts into loud, boisterous laughter, shaking the phone. Though we've only been talking for a few minutes, I already low-key love her. Smiley, positive, infectiously enthusiastic, Alyona's the type of person you just want to be friends with. She talks about everything with passion, so much so that I can't help but think that if she ever wants to give up music, motivational speaking might be a good fit.

Women can rap!

Alyona took up rapping in 2009 and put out her first single that same year. "It was in Ukrainian and about women kicking stereotypes," Alyona explains. "I talked about how all the boys would say that women can't rap, but I'm a woman who can rap. I said that women can rap and they can rap good." She grins, her cockiness shining through. But hey—she came into a boys club and ended up

becoming the most famous rapper in the country. She's earned that right.

From there, Alyona started grinding, making music and occasionally playing live. It took a while, but last year, her vibe started to catch on. Her lyrics, empowering bad-bitch anthems, resonated with people, while her flow, beats, and general aura caught the attention of those who didn't understand a lick of Ukrainian. After having a few viral hits, she started touring the festival circuit of Europe. 2019 saw her release her anticipated album 'PUSHKA' and pick up the ANCHOR award from the Reeperbahn Festival International Music Awards. Now, she'll take on Iceland.

Finding your power

"My songs are about people who don't believe in themselves, but have to believe in themselves," Alyona says, turning uncharacteristically serious for a moment. "Girls with different faces, bodies, piercings, tattoos. The new generation. I talk about my roots, my native village and my childhood." She smiles. "I talk about myself, who I am, why I am rapping, why I am a fat girl and what I think about myself."

Once again, the laughter. I don't exactly know what she's laughing at but I can't help but join in.

"All those people have something special inside them, in their soul, and that is their power. They don't have to listen to or look to other people, because other people might say bad things. They don't like your body or your face, but that's ok," she says. "You don't have to listen to them. You don't have to look like them."

Velkomin til Íslands!

After her Airwaves show, Alyona plans to spend 5 days in Iceland. Her excitement about this is adorably palpable. "Iceland is so beautiful!" she yells. "I don't mind that we will see it in November, it's ok!" A big grin takes hold of her face. "Iceland is cool in every season." 🇮🇸



MUSIC NEWS

Maus, the semi-punkish Icelandic answer to Pavement, has re-released

their second album, 'Í þessi sekúndubrot sem ég flýtt' ('In This Fraction of a Second I Am Floating') for its 20th anniversary. The album has achieved cult status in Iceland, no doubt due to its interesting line-up. The backup vocals are by GusGus singer Daniel Ágúst, and the cello by none other than Hildur Guðnadóttir, the Emmy-award winning composer for 'Chernobyl' and 'Joker.' For the curious, the album is available both on vinyl and Spotify. **VG**



Tim Pogo and the podcast. Sounds like a band, doesn't it? Well, it isn't, it's literally a podcast helmed by Grapevine's best friend, **Tim Pogo**. Entitled Airwaves: Tune In, it's a daily coverage of Iceland Airwaves that features artist interviews, concert reviews, and more. You can find the shows at grapevine.is and numerous fun podcast platforms. #WeHaveNoShameInSelfPromotionSorryNotSorry. **VG**



Prepare yourself. Eurovision is coming. Well, in a few months. But don't worry—there's still some controversy. Pálmi Ragnar Ásgeirsson, from the production team **Stop Wait Go**, has criticised RÚV for lousy agreements with the artist chosen to participate in the competition. He says RÚV keeps half of the rights of the winning songs forever. A spokesperson for RÚV didn't deny this, but claimed that the winner does get somewhere from 900,000 up to 1.5 million ISK for winning the competition. That said, being onstage in a weird European country singing slightly off-tune for 70 million people is priceless. **VG**

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6/11 - 9/11:

ICELAND AIRWAVES 2019

10/11 "POSTWAVES": SONGWRITER SPECIAL

13/11 ECSTATIC VISION (US), PINK STREET BOYS, GODCHILLA

15/11 DRAG-SÚGUR QUEER VARIETY SHOW 4TH ANNIVERSARY EXTRAVAGANZA AFTERWARDS: TRIPLE POODLE DJ NIGHT WITH CASANOVA, BENSOL, JAMIE CLARK

16/11 REYKJAVÍK GOTH NIGHT: MORTIIS, ALMYRKVI, NYIP + DJS AFTER

17/11 SONGWRITER NIGHT

21/11 VELVET VILLAIN

22/11-23/11:

DOOMCEMBER 2019 - ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE MOST HEAVY, SLOW AND GROOVY BANDS OF ICELAND

28/11 DRAG-SÚGUR: BÁRA FUNDRAISER DRAG SHOW IN SUPPORT OF WHISTLE-BLOWER BÁRA HALLDÓRSDÓTTIR

29/11 GUNNED DOWN HORSES, DR. SPOCK, TUÐ

6/12 GG BLÚS

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HAPPY HOUR
14-21

VÍKING
BRUGGHÚS

Our Picks



Hipsúmhaps: Album Release Concert

November 22nd - 22:00 - Bæjarbíó - 3,990 ISK ★

Hipsúmhaps—the duo of Jökull Breki Arnarson and Fannar Ingi Friðþjófsón—burst onto the scene only months ago with a slew

of popular singles, including “Lifið sem mig langar í” and “Honný,” which preceded the release of their first album, ‘Best Gleymdu

Leyndarmálin’ (‘Best Forgotten Secrets’) in late September. Their mix of dreamy, lo-fi indie laced guitar-driven pop is irresistibly catchy. In our opinion, ‘Best Gleymdu Leyndarmálin’ is the perfect album to play whether you’re at a chill party or driving down Sæbraut at 21:00 in the evening in an intense downpour. Catch them at their album release concert in Bæjarbíó. Warning: Their last concert was sold out, so we’d recommend buying tickets online ASAP. **SR/HJC**



Skaði & Elli Grill

Nov. 14th - 21:00 - Prikíð ★

Potentially the most unlikely Icelandic Eurovision duo re-unites for one night. **HJC**



Doomcember 2019

November 22nd & 23rd - 20:00 - Gaukurinn - 4,990 ISK ★

Doomcember is here to save you from depression and fill the uncomfortable void between Iceland Airwaves and Christmas preparations. Celebrate the heaviest, grooviest and slowest local and international bands at Gaukurinn as the hours of daylight dissipate. **LM**



DJ Páll Óskar

Nov. 9th - 23:00 - Club Solon ★

The flamboyant king of pop takes the stage for a special DJ set. Wear sequins. **HJC**



Carmina Burana

November 23rd, 24th & 25th - 17:00 - Langholtiškirkja - 4,000 ISK ★

Fucking “O Fortuna.” Yup, Carl Orff’s cantata has arrived in Iceland, and if you’re in any way interested in intense choral works, this is a must-see. While Fortuna is the most famous work from the cycle, our favourite is the under-rated solo “In Trutina.” What a tearjerker. **HJC**

November 8th—December 5th

Concerts & Nightlife

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

Friday November 8th

★ **Iceland Airwaves 2019**
Various Times, Various Venues
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Vikingur & Daniel
19:30 Harpa
Formaðurinn & Karítas
21:00 Prikíð
Bjarni Sveinbjörnsson & Band
21:00 Harpa
Airwhales Minifest
16:00 Hlemmur Square
DJ Katla
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Rebecca Goldberg
22:00 Bravó

Saturday November 9th

★ **Iceland Airwaves 2019**
Various Times, Various Venues
★ **DJ Páll Óskar**
23:00 Club Solon
FJ Belfast DJ Set
1:00 Hressó
Airwhales Minifest
16:00 Hlemmur Square
DJ Thaison
22:00 Prikíð
DJ Ewok & Terrordisco
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Mostly Minimal: KrBear & GeoVol
22:30 Bravó

Sunday November 10th

PostWaves: Songwriter Special
21:00 Gaukurinn
Sunday Jazz
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
Sólveig Thoroddsen: Harp In Harpa
16:00 Harpa
lowercase night
21:00 Prikíð
DJ Símon fknhdsm
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Monday November 11th

Monday Night Jazz
21:00 Hressó
DJ Silja Glommi
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Tuesday November 12th

Karaoke Party!

21:00 Gaukurinn
Jazz Night
20:30 Kex Hostel
Tank Police
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Wednesday November 13th

Ecstatic Vision, Pink Street Boys & Godchilla
22:00 Gaukurinn
Múlinn Jazz Club: Rebekka Blöndal Quintet Plays Billie Holiday
21:00 Harpa
Don Lockwood Band
21:00 Slippbarinn
Forget-Me-Not: IUA's Lunch Concert
12:15 Kjarvalsstaðir
Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét
21:00 Sæta Svinið
Aggalá Special
22:00 Prikíð
DJ Kári
22:00 Kaffibarinn
DJ Bob Cluness
22:00 Bravó

Thursday November 14th

The Woman In The Mirror
20:00 Harpa
★ **Skaði & Elli Grill**
22:00 Prikíð
Hermigervill
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Sváfnir Sig Trio
21:00 Petersen svítan

Friday November 15th

Evita
19:30 Harpa
Ra:Ío DJ Set & Snorri Ástráðs
21:00 Prikíð
DJ Dóra Júlía
23:00 Club Solon
Öldulaugin: isect, Máni & DJXWIFE
22:00 Bravó

Saturday November 16th

Reykjavik Goth Night: Mortiiis, Almyrkvi & NYIP
21:00 Gaukurinn
Evita

15:00, 19:30 Harpa
DJ Young Nazareth
22:00 Prikíð
DJ Dóra Júlía
23:00 Club Solon
Evil Suburban Kids Vol. 1: Cocopelli, DJ Lustknabe, LaFontaine & RumDrum
22:00 Bravó

Sunday November 17th

The Chamber Music Society #3
16:00 Harpa
Sunday Jazz
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
DJ Pálmi
21:00 Prikíð
DJ Sonur Sæll
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Walking Bass: Tómas R. Einarsson
17:00 Harpa
Singer/Songwriter Night
21:00 Gaukurinn

Monday November 18th

Monday Night Jazz
21:00 Hressó
DJ Pabbi
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Tuesday November 19th

Karaoke Party!
21:00 Gaukurinn
Jazz Night
20:30 Kex Hostel
DJ Árni Sveinsson
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Wednesday November 20th

Don Lockwood Band
21:00 Slippbarinn
Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét
21:00 Sæta Svinið
DJ Gunni Ewok
22:00 Prikíð
Beatmakin Troopa
22:00 Bravó

Thursday November 21st

Helga Möllur
21:00 Petersen svítan
Velvet Villain
21:00 Gaukurinn
B-Ruff Presents: Tetriz Night
22:00 Prikíð
DJ Passa
22:00 Kaffibarinn
DJ Óli Dóri
22:00 Bravó

Friday November 22nd

★ **Hipsúmhaps: Album Release Concert**
20:00 Bæjarbíó
★ **Doomcember 2019**
20:00 Gaukurinn

Múlinn Jazz Club: Thoroddsen / Weiss / van Endert Project
21:00 Harpa
DJ KGB & Big Baby
21:00 Prikíð
DJ Bensol
22:00 Kaffibarinn
DJ Melerito De Jeré
22:00 Bravó

Saturday November 23rd

★ **Doomcember 2019**
20:00 Gaukurinn
★ **Carmina Burana**
17:00 Langholtiškirkja
Skoffin Houseparty
20:30 Hlemmur Square
DJ Egill Spegill
22:00 Prikíð
Jamie Clarke & CasaNova
22:00 Kaffibarinn
DJ Yamaha
22:00 Bravó

Sunday November 24th

★ **Carmina Burana**
17:00 Langholtiškirkja
Sunday Jazz
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
DJ Z
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Sonata Masterworks: Cello & Piano
16:00 Harpa

Monday November 25th

Carmina Burana
20:00 Langholtiškirkja
Monday Night Jazz
21:00 Hressó
DJ Krystal Carma
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Tuesday November 26th

Karaoke Party!
21:00 Gaukurinn
Jazz Night
20:30 Kex Hostel
DJ Alfons X
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Wednesday November 27th

Múlinn Jazz Club: Eiríkur Orri / Daniel Friðrik / Matthías Hemstock
21:00 Harpa
Don Lockwood Band
21:00 Slippbarinn
Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét
21:00 Sæta Svinið
DJ KrBear
22:00 Prikíð
DJ Óli Dóri
22:00 Kaffibarinn
DJ Einar Sonic
22:00 Bravó

Thursday November 28th

Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Dimitri Þór & Sibelius
19:30 Harpa
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Open Rehearsal
9:30 Harpa
Leon Kemp
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Friday November 29th

Gunned Down Horses, Dr. Spock & Tuð
20:30 Gaukurinn
DJ Vala & Æpisgendið
22:00 Prikíð
DJ Intra0beat
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Saturday November 30th

DJ Thaison
22:00 Prikíð
DJ Símon fknhdsm
22:00 Kaffibarinn
RVK Live
22:00 Bravó

Sunday December 1st

The Reykjavik Big Band: Christmas!
17:00 Harpa
Sunday Jazz
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús

Monday December 2nd

Monday Night Jazz
21:00 Hressó

Tuesday December 3rd

Lunchtime Concert: Silja Elisabet & Helga Bryndís
12:15 Harpa
Karaoke Party!
21:00 Gaukurinn
Jazz Night
20:30 Kex Hostel

Wednesday December 4th

Einar Scheving Afro/Cuban Quartet
21:00 Harpa
Don Lockwood Band
21:00 Slippbarinn
Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét
21:00 Sæta Svinið

Thursday December 5th

Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Masters Of The Baroque
9:30 Harpa
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Open Rehearsal
9:30 Harpa
Hófi & Gunnar: Christmas Concert
21:00 Petersen svítan

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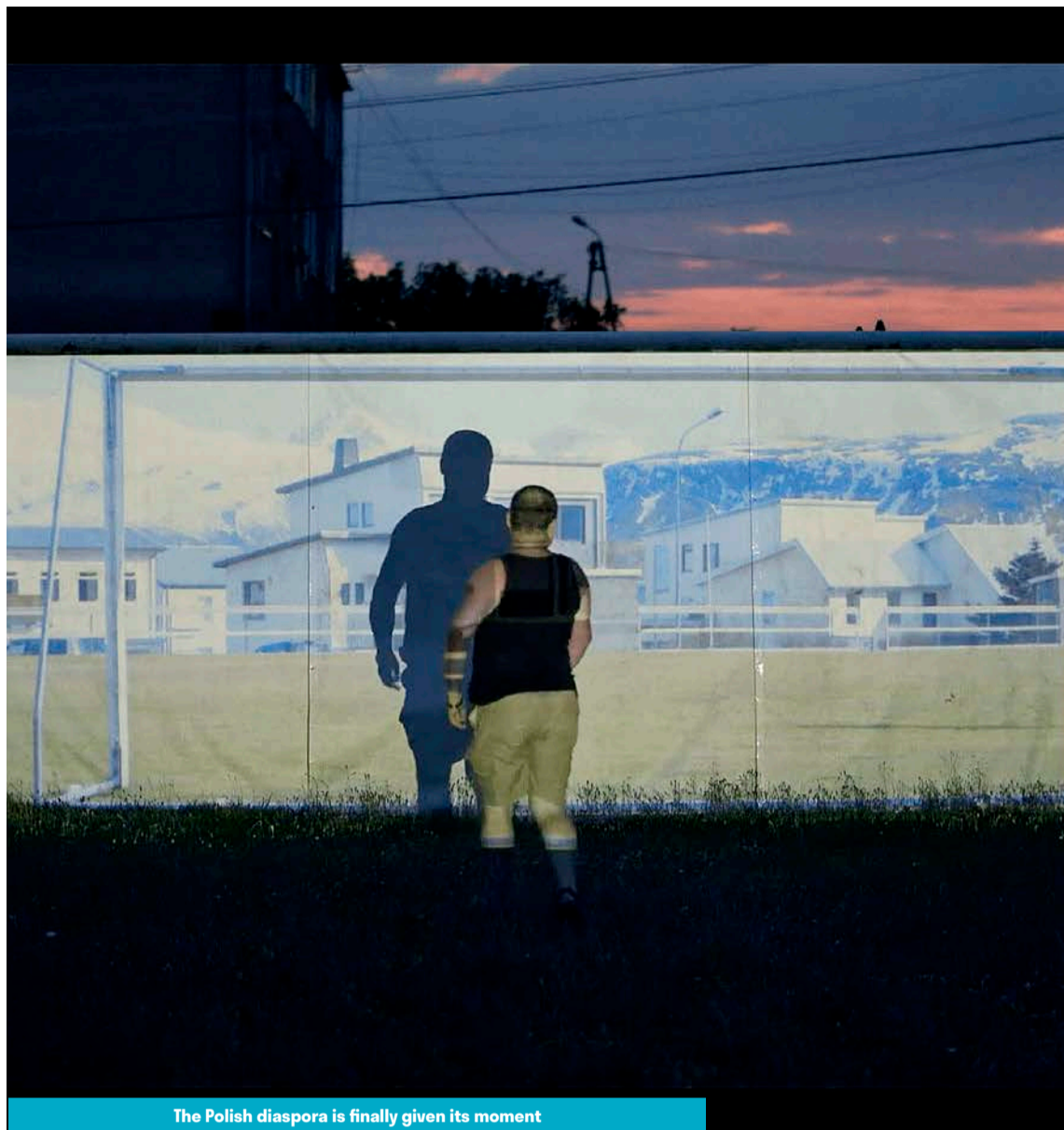
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Art

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The Polish diaspora is finally given its moment

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Polish-Icelandic: A Society Emerges

Iceland's Polish community is finally making
their presence felt

Words: **Valur Gunnarsson** Photo: **In Touch**

Film

In Touch is showing in *Bíó Paradís* in
Polish with English subtitles.

Poles are by far the largest immigrant group in Iceland, and it was high time someone made a movie about them. So Pawel Ziemilski did. The result is an hour-long documentary, not just about Iceland's Polish diaspora, but also about those who stayed behind, and distance in the virtual age, when keeping in touch is easy, but loved ones can still be agonisingly far away.

From Poland via Skype

Equally as interesting is the story behind Iceland Pole's, related by the director after the premiere, fittingly from Poland via Skype. Just as Iceland has its own origin myth, that of Ingólfur and his columns, and Icelandic-Canadians have theirs, about drifting over Lake Winnipeg to found Gimli, so the Poles here have the makings of their own origin story.

Sometime in the late-70s, an Icelandic sailor by the name of Valdi found himself in Poland. This was the era of Prince Polo, when

Iceland traded a lot with the Eastern Bloc, leading not only to the advent of the beloved chocolate in Iceland but also to more personal connections between Iceland and that region. On his trip, Valdi met a Polish woman and stayed in touch with her, but after exchanging three letters she suddenly broke off.

Finding love

Undeterred, Valdi returned to Warsaw and took a taxi to Stare Juchy, which he assumed to be a suburb of the capital, but is actually a small village some 300 kilometres away. There, he found that his love interest was already married, but her sister, Jasia, was not. A courtship ensued between Valdi and Jasia and eventually the pair married and moved to Iceland. Geopolitics mingled with microhistory, and ten years later the Iron Curtain came down and the communist government in Poland collapsed.

This was a mixed blessing for the inhabitants of Stare Juchy, an industrial town whose communist-era factory was soon closed.

Faced with mass unemployment, Jasia's relatives eventually moved to Iceland, followed by other villagers. Eventually, around 400 people, or a third of the village's inhabitants, moved to Iceland and none of them have returned to Poland. While this may be a small share of the roughly 20,000 Poles living in Iceland today, it is proportionately high for one small village. As you may know, Icelanders are fond of thinking in terms of 'per capita.'

Polish style sausage

In Touch showcases some of the descendants of Jasia and Valdi, one of whom is an Icelandic policewoman. Iceland's Polish community is finally making their presence felt culturally, with regular screenings of Polish films in *Bíó Paradís* and shops selling Polish foodstuffs exclusively. There is even Polish-style Icelandic sausage.

"To call Pawel the Polish-Icelandic Ari Fróði might be a stretch, but he is in some ways serving the same function."

As Polish-Icelanders will continue to hand down their traditions from one generation to the next, it will become increasingly important to document where it all came from, as the saga writers of old knew. To call Pawel the Polish-Icelandic Ari Fróði might be a stretch, but he is in some ways serving the same function in the internet age. And that is to be applauded. 🍻

Our Picks



★ Reykjavík Dance Festival

Nov. 20th-23rd - Various Times/Venues

The annual Reykjavík Dance Festival is back, and oh boy, it's gonna be good. The festival spans three

days filled with Ravemachines, anarchist children, a feminist takeover, living landscapes made out of women (!!!) and the ridiculously absurd declaration of love, 'The Brogan Davison show'. Confused? Us too. But that's what dance is—the confusing expansion of imagination and physical boundaries. So let it surprise you. The Reykjavík Dance Festival has proven itself with every iteration to be one of the most important and interesting cultural institutions in Iceland, and year after year, they exceed viewers' expectations. Like Kanye West, it never ceases to amaze. **VG**



★ Yui Yaegashi

Until Dec. 7th - i8

Japanese artist Yui Yaegashi's small, unassuming works display a quiet simplicity, and layers of detail. Stop by to explore delicate, deliberate

brushstrokes that create precise moments of beauty. We stan. **VG/HJC**



★ Exxistenz

Nov. 9th-Dec. 1st - Museum of Perceptive Art

The newly opened Museum of Perceptive Art will be inaugurated with their first exhibition 'Exxistenz,' di-

rected by Freyja Eilíf of Ekkisens, which will tackle the question of future existence. There will be a special opening event on November 9th at 17:00. **VG**



★ Páll Haukur

Nov. 9th-Dec. 21st - BERG Contemporary

BERG Contemporary's latest exhibition presents new works by Páll Haukur. Full of fragmented and

distorted colour, this exhibit seeks to break the fundamental rules of art by not relying on the meaning or importance of things. We love a rebel. **HJC**

November 8th—December 5th

Art Listings

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

Send your listings to: listings@grapevine.is

Opening

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - ÁSMUNDARSAFN

Ólöf Nordal: úngl-úngl

Ólöf Nordal (b. 1961) often references Icelandic folktales, national heritage and cultural motifs which she places in a modern context. She is also preoccupied with nature and our connection to the land. In her work she attempts to explore and examine the structural material of mythical tales, she looks for things that fall outside the traditional framework.

- Opens on November 9th, 2019
- Runs until February 2nd, 2020

Ongoing

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

Treasures Of A Nation

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

- Runs until December 31st, 2019

Violin Power 1

In this autonomous work, observe Steina's development as an artist, from playing the violin in her youth and dancing in later years, to singing along to the Beatles' "Let it Be" as a stoical, mature artist.

- Runs until December 31st, 2019

EINAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM

Permanent Exhibition

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

REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM

Settlement Sagas

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

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - ÁSMUNDARSAFN

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

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

- Runs until December 31st, 2019

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Encounters - Nordic Photography Beyond Borders

This exhibit is characterised by social and political overtones. In the works, ways are explored of visualising "encounters" between subjects, thus drawing attention to major issues like immigration, changes to land- and cityscapes, or the local impacts of globalisation.

- Runs until January 12th, 2020



REYKJAVÍK MARITIME MUSEUM

Fish & Folk

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

Melckmeyt 1659

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



REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS

Erró: Mao's World Tour

Between 1972 and 1980, Erró painted over 130 paintings, with two images of different origins against

each other: Chinese propaganda posters of Mao Zedong and Western tourist pictures from famous sites.

- Runs until January 5th, 2020

SOMETHING FROM NOTHING: The Visual Realm Of Magnús Pálsson

Artist Magnús Pálsson is known for the breadth of his mediums. Here, selected pieces from the early 60s until today reflect Magnús's pop/conceptual philosophies in sculptures, bookworks and two-dimensional works.

- Runs until January 12th, 2020

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

Pike Ward

Around 1900, Englishman Pike Ward was a well-known figure in Iceland. The fisherman was an amateur photographer, focusing on everyday life. Here, see over 1,500 photos and 300 artifacts the eccentric collected from his travels around the country.

- Runs until January 12th, 2020



MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

Anna María Pitt Workshop

Silversmith Anna María Pitt has taken over the studio of the Museum of Design and Applied Art. Come watch her make her nature-inspired jewelry live, then buy some in the store.

- Runs until January 26th, 2020

Sveinn Kjarval

This exhibition focuses on the pioneering work of Sveinn Kjarval, one of the most pioneering furniture makers and interior designers in the country. While many pieces have been lost in time, there will be photographs showing never-before-seen designs.

- Runs until August 30th, 2020

NORDIC HOUSE

You never know what you have until you lose it

In his artwork, Ólafur Sveinsson wants to bring awareness to the fragility of Icelandic nature and the threats posed to it by mankind. The multimedia exhibition in the Nordic House shows areas in Iceland that

have already been lost to industrial development, including before and after pictures of the area around the infamous Kárahnjúkar power plant.

- Runs until November 17th, 2019

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

Jóhannes S. Kjarval: Can't Draw a Harebell

Here, explore the floral works of Jóhannes S. Kjarval, after whom the museum is named. Be it ornamental plants, potted plants, or wildflowers, you'll find it all.

- Runs until December 31st, 2019

Ólöf Nordal: Úngl

In this mid-career retrospective, Ólöf Nordal dissects the structural material of mythical tales—taking old events and folktales and putting them into a modern context. Enter her preoccupation with nature and connect yourself to the land.

- Runs until January 5th, 2020

GERDARSÁFN KÓPAVOGUR ART MUSEUM

Lots Of Tiny People

The exhibition project 'Lots Of Tiny People' explores the spiritual, the unknown, esoterism, and anthropology. The title is derived from a blackboard drawing by Austrian anthroposophist Rudolf Steiner, who used to draw images to support his spoken words. In addition to the artworks on display, there will also be lectures, courses, and discussions on the topic of art, man, and spirit.

- Runs until January 5th, 2020

HVERFISGALLERÍ

Djúpalogn

Harpa Árnadóttir embarks on a journey through her inner landscape, where the fjord, the creativity and writing react to each other. The

exhibition has autobiographic atmosphere, shaped by speculations on the childhood.

- Runs until November 23rd, 2019



KLING & BANG

Í ALVÖRU - REALLY

Kling & Bang's current exhibition was part of the 2019 Sequences Art Festival. It features works by Mark Lewis, James Castle, Emma Heiðarsdóttir, Jason de Haan, Karin Sander, Ceal Floyer, Kristján Guðmundsson, Sæmundur Þór Helgason, Kristinn Guðbrandur Harðarson, Roger Ackling and Hildur Bjarnadóttir.

- Runs until November 17th, 2019

18

Yui Yaegashi

While at a distance Yaegashi's small, unassuming works display a quiet simplicity, close attention reveals complex patterning and layers of detail. Their handling of paint creates vibrant tensions between control and chance, precision and unexpected beauty, compelling us to look again, more closely.

- Runs until December 7th, 2019

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Filing of a ceramic collection

Sveinn Kjarval
Furniture and interior designer
Opening 2nd November

Anna María Pitt
Silversmith
Designer in residence
Opening 25th October

Magnús
Pálsson

28.09.2019–
12.01.2020

SOMETHING from NOTHING



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FILM



"We just wanted to deliver a sense of their legacy."

The Importance Of Having Fun

'The Vasulka Effect' reintroduces legendary video artists Steina and Woody to the world

Words: **Lea Müller** Photo: **Art Bicknik**

Film

'The Vasulka Effect' is currently playing at **Bíó Paradís**.

'The Vasulka Effect' is a heart-warming documentary about the lives of the legendary video artists Steina and Woody Vasulka, who are often referred to as the grandparents of the "YouTube generation." The film, mainly narrated by Steina, begins in the late 50s in Prague, where the Icelandic violinist met film student Woody Vasulka, who promptly asked her to marry him.

The documentary alternates between their retirement home in Santa Fe, revisiting the places that shaped their lives, and snippets from their private collection of over 1,000 hours of video footage. From their time of founding 'The Kitchen' in New York, they even provided previously unseen footage of Andy Warhol, Jimi Hendrix, Miles Davis, Jethro Tull, Jackie Curtis, Candy Darling, Patti Smith and others for the film.

The forgotten artists

The creation of 'The Vasulka Effect' was very dear to director Hrafnhildur Gunnarsdóttir. "I got to know the Vasulkas in the 80s when I was living in the United States and we kept in touch ever since," she explains.

When she visited them in Santa Fe in 2013, she realised that the couple was in deep financial trouble. "Steina said the phone had stopped ringing and they were facing old age on social security in the United States. I thought it was so interesting because I know that they are very important artists."

With the film, Hrafnhildur wanted to reintroduce the almost forgotten pioneers of video art to the general public. "I thought 'The Vasulka Effect' would end up being much more artistic but it became a combination of their life story and the video art that they created. It was important for us to try and explain them to the world. We just wanted to deliver a sense of what their legacy is, in a way that everyone could relate to." The outcome is a powerful portrait of the Vasulkas' genius that simultaneously reveals their genuine humour.

"Steina later said: 'I don't know how you managed to make this into a soap.' I think she meant it as a compliment," Hrafnhildur says, smiling at the memory.

A matter of trust

"As they were ageing, we kind of became emotionally involved. We just got the tail end of Woody being

able to express himself fully. Yet, hanging with the Vasulkas emphasized how important it is to have fun," Hrafnhildur explains. This trusting bond between director and subjects helped to deliver an intimate account of the couple's wild time in New York in the 60s and 70s. "I can relate to Steina quite a bit. First, when I was trying to ask her questions she laughed and just said: "You know all this already." She was very open and trusting and didn't feel any shame—she's just who she is. That was very refreshing."

Pandora's box

Steina also trusted Hrafnhildur with over 1,000 hours of their private video footage. "It was a huge amount of material. I called it 'The Pandora's Box.' Steina had told us about Andy Warhol and Salvador Dali and I didn't know if we would find the footage, but we did. Steina is now going to put all these drives into the film archives of Kvikmyndasafn Íslands, because she wants the footage to live in her home country," Hrafnhildur explains.

After four years of filming, 'The Vasulka Effect' hit the screens and received an overwhelming amount of support. Whether it is Steina playing the violin in the bathroom or Woody pointing at a screen trying to recall what orgy that was, "the audience always laughs in the right places," Hrafnhildur concludes.

This humorous and touching documentary by Margrét Jónasdóttir and director Hrafnhildur Gunnarsdóttir is currently playing at **Bíó Paradís**. 🍿

"I don't know how you managed to make this into a soap."

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Various Events

Friday November 8th

'Twilight' Friday Party!
20:00 Bió Paradís
Not So Secret Friday Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Saturday November 9th

Margaret Atwood: The Testament
17:30 Bió Paradís
Saturday Night Showcase
21:00 The Secret Cellar
How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa

Sunday November 10th

Black Sundays: 'The Long Goodbye'
20:00 Bió Paradís
Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
21:00 Sæta Svinið
Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits
19:30 Harpa

Monday November 11th

Japan Stories Of Love Festival
19:30 Bió Paradís
Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy
21:00 Gaukurinn

Tuesday November 12th

Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!
21:00 Fjallkonan
Funniest Four: Comedy Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Wednesday November 13th

Shakira 'El Dorado' Tour Screening
20:00 Bió Paradís
Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Thursday November 14th

My Voices Have Tourettes
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Friday November 15th

Drag-Súgur 4th Anniversary Show
21:00 Gaukurinn
'Die Hard' Christmas Screening
20:00 Bió Paradís
Not So Secret Friday Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Saturday November 16th

'Home Alone' Christmas Screening
15:00, 20:00 Bió Paradís
Saturday Night Showcase
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Sunday November 17th

Black Sundays: 'Bring Me The Head Of Alfredo Garcia'
20:00 Bió Paradís
Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
21:00 Sæta Svinið

Monday November 18th

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy
21:00 Gaukurinn
The Magic Viking
21:00 Secret Cellar

Tuesday November 19th

Funniest Four: Comedy Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar
Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!
21:00 Fjallkonan

Wednesday November 20th

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

Thursday November 21st

Depeche Mode: Documentary
20:00 Bió Paradís

My Voices Have Tourettes
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Friday November 22nd

Friday Party!: 'Love Actually'
20:00 Bió Paradís
Not So Secret Friday Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Saturday November 23rd

Saturday Night Showcase
21:00 The Secret Cellar
'Home Alone 2: Lost In New York' Screening
15:00 Bió Paradís

Sunday November 24th

Black Sundays: '12 Angry Men'
20:00 Bió Paradís
Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
21:00 Sæta Svinið
Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits
19:30 Harpa

Monday November 25th

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy
21:00 Gaukurinn

Tuesday November 26th

Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!
21:00 Fjallkonan
Funniest Four: Comedy Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Wednesday November 27th

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

Thursday November 28th

Drag-Súgur: Bára Fundraiser Show
21:00 Gaukurinn
My Voices Have Tourettes
21:00 The Secret Cellar



Friday November 29th

'Gremlins' Christmas Screening
20:00 Bió Paradís
Not So Secret Friday Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Saturday November 30th

'Harry Potter & The Philosopher's Stone' Christmas Screening
15:00 Bió Paradís
Saturday Night Showcase
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Sunday December 1st

Black Sundays: 'Alphaville'
20:00 Bió Paradís
Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
21:00 Sæta Svinið

Monday December 2nd

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy
21:00 Gaukurinn
The Magic Viking
21:00 Secret Cellar

Tuesday December 3rd

Funniest Four: Comedy Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar
Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!
21:00 Fjallkonan

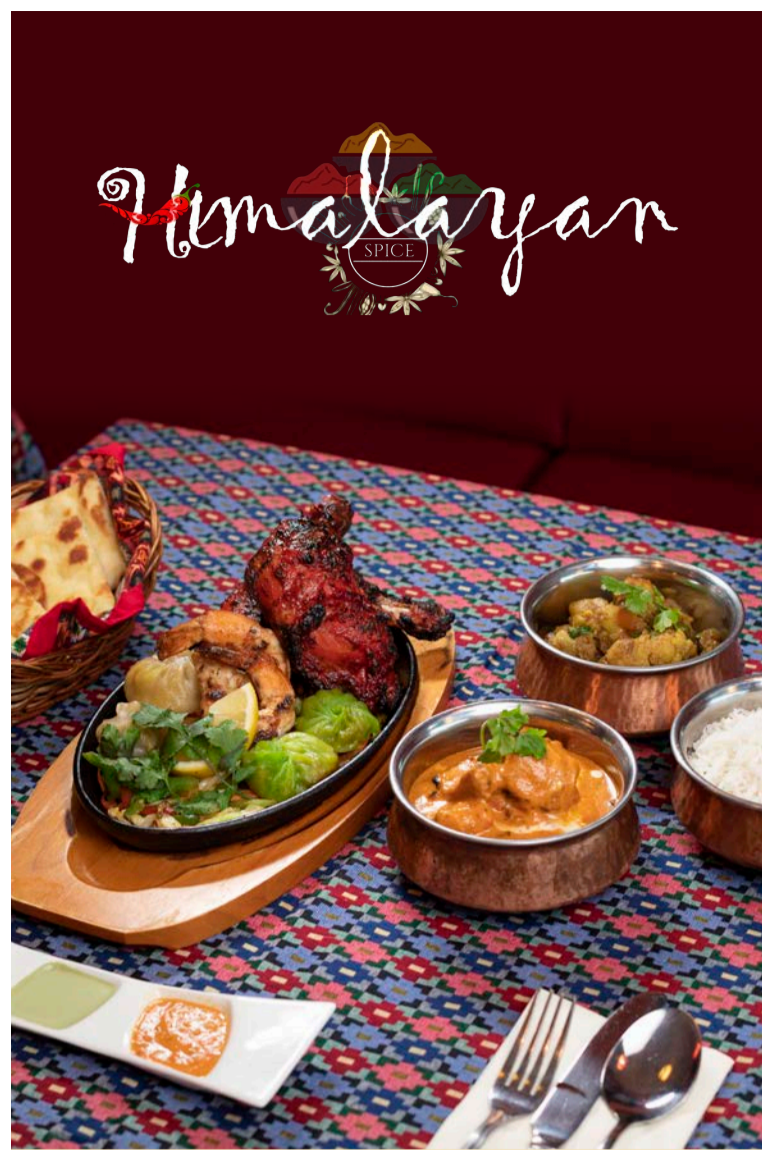
Wednesday December 4th

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



Thursday December 5th

Japanese Film Days: 'Perfect Blue'
20:00 Bió Paradís
My Voices Have Tourettes
21:00 The Secret Cellar



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Senior citizen musical concert 14. Nov.

GG blues concert 16. Nov.

Ebba Sig stand-up 21. Nov.

Árni Vill concert 28. Nov.

Senior citizen musical concert 5. Dec.

Styrktartónleikar Elvars Geirs 6. Dec.

Tom Waits concert 7. Dec.



Ingibjörg H. Bjarnason, the first woman elected to Iceland's Parliament

Giving The Women Of Icelandic History A Voice

The Reykjavik Feminist Walking Tour tells the unheard stories of Icelandic women

Words: **Lea Müller** Photo: **Lea Müller**

On a chilly Wednesday evening, I stand at the foot of Ingibjörg H. Bjarnason's statue in front of Alþingi, shivering in unison with six strangers as the wind picks up. We cast knowing smiles at each other, fumbling with our hats in anticipation of the upcoming tour. It's then that Tinna Eik Rakelardóttir begins to speak, and we soon forget about the chill. The young woman designed and now hosts the Reykjavik Feminist Walking Tour, in which we are eager participants. Tinna's academic background is in anthropology and business, but her passion for feminism runs much deeper than what she learned throughout her studies.

The president next door

"I grew up with a single mum—a family constellation that is rather common in Iceland," Tinna explains. Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, the world's first female president, lived next door, and was an early role model for the academic. At this, the small crowd nods, visibly impressed.

"In fact," Tinna continues, a smile forming on her lips. "After Vigdís' tenure was over and men were running to become her successor, I was quite confused." Be-

ing just a kid, she couldn't help but inquire: "Why are men applying for this? I thought it is a woman's job?"

Blood feuds

The tour is permeated with such anecdotes, which crack up the audience and subsequently lighten the mood. They are much needed in light of the heavy topics Tinna touches on as we meander towards Hotel Borg, where many sexual assaults took place by American soldiers, who were stationed there during the Second World War. The stories of the girls who became subject to this abuse were largely swept under the rug and never revisited.

Unfortunately, as Tinna emphasises, the lack of documentation of female concerns was the rule throughout Icelandic history, rather than the exception. "We don't have many records of the women who came here with the first group of settlers, other than their names," Tinna sighs. "We know so much about Ingólfur Arnarson but nothing about his wife. Wouldn't it be great to hear her ac-

count on the emigration?"

She gives the group a moment to ponder on what Hallveig Fróðadóttir might have thought about having to leave her home in Norway, which she was forced to do just because her dumbass husband got involved in a blood feud.

Moving forward

As the sun begins to set and our cold feet require us to move, Tinna walks us past the town hall and circles Tjörninn, stopping sporadically with more interesting stories. We then approach Kvennaskólinn—our final stop—Tinna begins to contemplate the contemporary problems concerning feminism in Iceland today.

"Internationally, we might be at the forefront of equal rights, but we're certainly not in a position to rest. There are many pressing issues that we'll have to address as a country that wants to be an advocate for celebrating diversity in all its facets," she explains.

And Tinna is right; 21st-century feminism should not just support white upper-class people who were born female. It should have a much more inclusive approach that equally addresses the concerns of immigrant women, trans women, and those that live on a very low income.

When the tour concludes, I'm truly sad to leave. Tinna's insights and stories have opened my eyes to the unheard tales of Icelandic women, most of which, are, unfortunately, lost forever. In the future, it seems all we can do is listen to each other and write our own narratives. Potentially, then our stories will never go ignored again. ♡

"We know so much about Ingólfur Arnarson but almost nothing about his wife."

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FUCKS YOU UP**

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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.

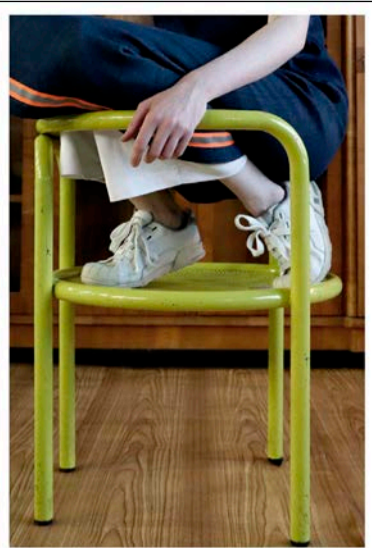
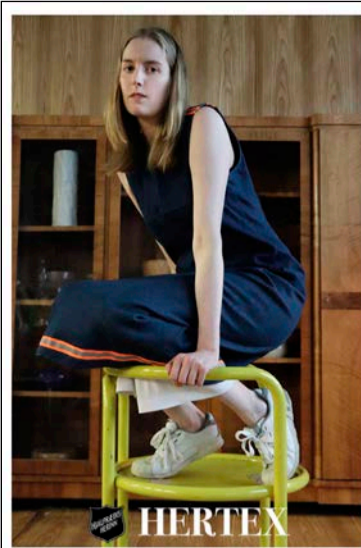
SOLOM
Everyday from
15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

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
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Wine 800 ISK.



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Medium Sized pizza with 3 toppings -1,000 ISK-Vegan option

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

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

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

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

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

1,500 ISK And Under

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Tuesdays-All day
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Gló
Every day-All day
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Vegan option

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

Sæta svínið
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"Dirty" fries - 1,390 ISK

Solom
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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

Solom
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

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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

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Books

The Reykjavík Grapevine 32
Issue 20—2019



Chantal Ringuet and Kristín Viðarsdóttir

Ringling In The Residency

Québec author Chantal Ringuet takes up residence in Gröndalshús

Words: **a rawlings** Photo: **Lára Aðalsteinsdóttir**

UNESCO City of Literature Writer-in-Residence

Inaugural Reykjavík residency hosts Chantal Ringuet

"What if the trees were looking at us instead of as human beings in the Anthropocene looking at the environment?" asks Chantal Ringuet. She is the first Reykjavík UNESCO City of Literature writer-in-residence and spent the month of October in Gröndalshús.

Chantal's question situates her well for a stay in the vaunted historical home of Benedikt Gröndals, whose own literature about the Icelandic environment positioned him as a canonical writer. Benedikt lived in Gröndalshús from 1888 to 1907. It was opened as a writer's museum in 2017 after extensive renovations, including an apartment for short-stay residencies.

The Reykjavík UNESCO City of Literature Residency is an annual, fully funded opportunity for an international writer to produce work in Iceland. Reykjavík UNESCO City of Literature advertised their residency call to other Cities of Literature, intending to attract applicants with strong ties to those cities. Chantal, who was born and raised in Québec City, Canada, was selected out of 60 applicants.

erature project manager Kristín Viðarsdóttir explains, "We had a lot of great applications so it was a tough decision for the panel. Chantal is working on a project on what she calls 'treelessness.' We found what she is working on very current in today's environmental discussions."

"Chantal has also been a translator from Yiddish to English and French," Kristín continues, "which is a literary landscape that we haven't seen here in Iceland. She is an expert on Leonard Cohen. There were many angles that made her application stand out."

Poetic odysseys

During Chantal's residency, she developed the third part of a poetic odyssey. Her first book, 'Le sang des ruines' ('Blood of the ruins'), focused on Holocaust survivors and landscapes in ruins after the Second World War.

Her second poetry book, 'Under the skin of war', was inspired by the photography of photojournalist Don McCullin. "I thought that's so interesting to give voice to civilians trapped in war zones who cannot speak for themselves," Chantal comments. "There is a kind of ethical dimension in Don's work that I found striking and important."

Chantal with time to develop the next stage of the odyssey. She explains, "The narrative raises important questions about hospitality, the sense of exile, and belonging in our 21st century world. We have arrived to another kind of disaster caused by climate changes. My idea is to rewrite some founding narratives about treeless landscapes."

Chantal's approach considers the non-human perspective as central to the next book's development. "It raises important questions about ecological issues, about giving a voice to the trees and forests and lakes who are also the victims of disasters that we created as humans."

She, tree, story

"Chantal has been very interested in getting to know Icelandic literature," Kristín says. "She has now had contact with several Icelandic writers. Hopefully this sparks something in this odyssey she is on."

"Gröndalshús is a very interesting environment," Chantal concurs. "There is a community of poets and singers. Some people started telling me their tree stories. Now I have a few and I thought it might be interesting to include a few tree stories from people living here."

Chantal has been particularly interested in gathering tree stories from women. "There is a very strong presence of women everywhere here in Iceland, so I want to have the presence of women poets in the book."

Upcoming residencies

In October 2020, the residency will be in connection with the International Children's Literary Festival in Reykjavík. In April 2021, it will connect with the biannual Reykjavík International Literary Festival.

Beyond the Reykjavík UNESCO City of Literature residency, the apartment in Gröndalshús is also available to rent for a fee. It has been an attractive location for self-directed writer and artist residencies since it opened. 🍷

The write stuff

Reykjavík UNESCO City of Lit

Treelessness

The writer's residency provided

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

JFDR

Jófríður Ákadóttir (25) is a musician best known for her solo project **JFDR** as well as her work with Samaris, Pascal Pinon and more.



Jófríður is wearing:

- White top from Zara
- Blue dress that I found in my house
- Beige shirt from Berlin
- Black pants—I don't remember where I got them

Describe your style in five words:

Star Wars. Japanese. 70s. Subtle. Annie Hall.

Favourite stores in Reykjavík: I like second-hand shops like Hertex, Spútnik, Wasteland, and the Red Cross shops—all of them. I try to buy only second-hand. I also love Hildur Yeoman. She always has amazing thing.

Favourite piece: I own a dress from Ellery that I wore on my album cover, but you can't see it because the cover is just my face. That's one of my favourites. I also own a lot of stuff

from Hildur Yeoman that I love. I'm a bit of a minimalist when it comes to fashion, so I don't wear a lot of patterns. But when I wear the Hildur stuff, I'm in a different mood. When I wear a pattern, I really wear a pattern, so I usually do pattern-on-pattern-on-pattern.

Something you would never wear: A crop top, even though I have a fabulous stomach. I kind of have the perfect shape for it but I hate the way it looks and how it makes your body look. Maybe I wore one when I was four or five in the Spice Girls era. I also get very cold on the stomach, so it's for practical reasons.

Lusting after: This doesn't exist, but I want a very nice, very warm jacket. I don't want to wear fur and I don't want to wear a puffer jacket. I can't find it! I can't find a fabulous úlpa. Maybe in purple or black or white or beige? That'd be very fashion-y but kind of old lady as well. That's what I want. I'm on the hunt.

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Food

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The third time's the charm!

Culinary Renaissance at Dill 3.0

Chef Gunnar Karl is looking to shake up fine dining norms

Words: Shruthi Basappa Photos: Art Bienick

Dill

Visit the restaurant at Laugavegur 59. For reservations, go to www.dillrestaurant.is

“Drama, drama, drama.” Gunnar Karl chuckles as the photographer and I set up shop for his portrait in the ascetic foyer at Dill’s newest location. It’s hard to imagine that Laugavegur is right outside these very walls. In here, it is a womb — dark, calm, and a little surreal. Hand stained black wood panels run the length of the double volume space, “I stained those myself,” Gunnar confides. Furthering the stylised country vibes, dried angelica flower heads brush against a faux window. “There will be dried fish and smoked lamb here, suspended,” Gunnar continues enthusiastically as we walk up the winding staircase to the restaurant, “sort of like those fish drying houses out West.”

Within three months of the abrupt closure of Dill hitting the

news, like a phoenix from the ashes, Dill 3.0 has taken flight, and would’ve already served its first guests by the time you read this.

New Dill isn’t shy of colour — the rusts and deep greens are a whiff of the outdoors. “For a while now, I’ve been walking around with this idea in my head,” Gunnar pauses. “I even thought about opening up a space in Brooklyn and a couple of investors were involved too. I guess I could’ve pushed for this small fine dining space, but we’d been in New York for four years, and we weren’t quite ready to put down roots. So I bought the brand Dill from my former colleagues at Hverfisgata to relocate it here,” he says, gesturing to the dining room.

Testing the tested

“We’re trying to tweak our menu to the point where it is”, Gunnar pauses, searching for the right word,

“There will be no wine-pairing,”

“as nature-friendly as possible. I don’t know if you can use the word ‘sustainable,’ but think more about nature, think more about utilising everything that we get in-house. Using the scraps, ensuring nothing goes to the bin.”

Unlike a Japanese omakase where the diner is treated to what the chef finds best on that day and season, Western tasting menus have long been a way of showcasing the chef’s greatest hits. Dill has been no stranger to this, but with their emphasis on vegetables, they haven’t quite played to the gallery either.

“We’ve always been vegetable-focussed, I guess we might become more vegetable focussed,” he nods. “The old tasting menu is getting bigger as well.”

After their customary snacks and a few vegetable plates, the chef has a bold new direction for the mains and will serve multiple courses of the same meat or fish, “we’ll do just cod, cod, cod,” he smiles, “or just goose, like on our winter menu,” in line with their focus on using every ingredient thoroughly.

Stripped off frivolities

Gunnar wants to exorcise the staid ghosts of fine dining by, “making it more fun, making it interactive.”

The wine pairing format is being redefined too. “There will be no wine-pairing,” Gunnar declares. “There will still be wines, but more in a ‘here is a red wine which will go with the three courses of goose you are about to have.’” It allows us to be more extreme with the wines, and it opens up the conversation with the guests about what they felt went best with the goose or vegetables for instance.”

I once described dining at Dill as a careful narrative that gets you from the start. Dill pioneered the use of local ingredients and traditions in fine-dining, today a high-street mainstay. Gunnar’s ability to evoke memories through food made it possible for an askur and harðfiskur to grace Michelin-worthy tables. Stripped off frivolities in his drive for the next chapter, I can only imagine the fireworks that await us when the doors open. ♡

BEST THAI FOOD 2019

ban thai

RESTAURANT



JimClaudia2016

Reviewed 1 week ago

Authentic Thai Food

I am surprised at the poor reviews because during our visit in August the service and food were both great. Maybe because we just arrived just before they opened at 6?

Actually, in hindsight, I am glad we did not read the reviews because we were so pleased with our meal and we were able to have lengthy conversations with both the owner and staff.

Show less

Date of visit: August 2019

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

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



Just like in the good ol' days

A Little Cove of Cornucopia

Downtown gains a neighbourhood fresh fish and veggie store

Words: Shruthi Basappa Photos: Art Bicnick

Gnægtahornið

Visit the store at Bergstaðastraße 14, 101 Reykjavík and on [facebook.com/Gnaegtahorn](https://www.facebook.com/Gnaegtahorn)



There was a collective sigh of despair when Kjöt og Fiskur downed shutters on Bergstaðastraße. In a short span of time, the neighbourhood had seen Frú Lauga, Kjöt og Fiskur and Matarbúr Kaja open and close; each opening met with cheers and each subsequent closure with disappointment that yet another downtown business favoured by the locals was done for.

Hoping to break the curse, is Gnægtahornið. “We are not only a fish store,” store owner Gunnar Guttormur Kjeld emphasises. Even though it’s only a few weeks old, the opening has been met with wide enthusiasm, especially by the local residents. In a quickly changing urban landscape, where commercial needs of tourism are often at loggerheads with residents, it is understandable why the opening of a neighbourhood store garners this attention.

The basement store is simply furnished — there are rows of locally brewed Kombucha, preserves, and spreads from Vellir Svarfadarðal, various fish products and a smattering of organic vegetables. Further ahead, there is cod in an olive tapenade marinade, Arctic char with capers, fresh cod and a full basket of oysters at just 350 ISK per piece sits invitingly. Vegans and vegetarians are considered and a handful of salads and patties are on offer. Behind the store, is a work room where fresh catch of the day is processed to be sent off to restau-

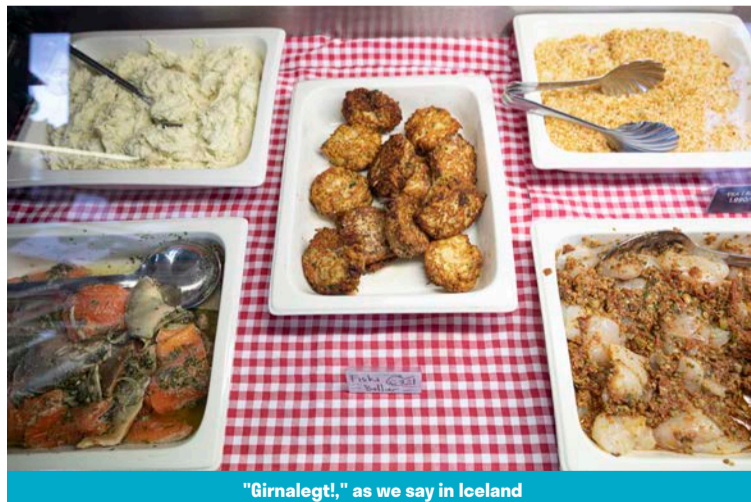
rants and to sell instore.

Community ecosystem

Gutti, as Gunnar is known, has long felt the need for more variety of produce. With his background in wholesale seafood supply, he has been behind the scenes in the supply chain industry. But why retail? “Honestly, I wanted to diversify,” Gutti laughs, going on to add, “Supermarket choices are all the same, you know,” he explains. “What one sells, the others do, too. The fish in the same marinades, the same vegetables, seasonal or not.”

“Take the oysters for instance,” he continues, “I’m in the position of offering them to people, in small quantities at a reasonable price. It is a unique thing given their short shelf life and removes the hassle of buying oysters if you weren’t a restaurant.” Having tried them myself, I have to concur that the fanciful

“I want to create this community ecosystem, a food exchange,”



“Girnalegt!,” as we say in Iceland

feeling of eating oysters in your pajamas at home is vastly underrated.

Gutti has ambitious plans. “I want to create this community ecosystem, a food exchange,” he says passionately. “Where the lemons we supply to a restaurant, comes back to Gnægtahornið as say, fermented lemons, a full circle. We’ve been

working with Lækjarbrekka, and I am keen on bringing on board more industry professionals to lend their expertise. Chef Eva has been the anchor in this operation and has brought in variety for vegans and vegetarians.”

Fresh, local, abundant

Gnægtahornið refers to the horn of plenty in Icelandic. In an effort to offer more than what the supermarkets currently do, Gutti is working closely with Seyðisfjörður initiative, Austurlands Food Coop, to bring hitherto unavailable fresh produce to Reykjavík residents.

To minimise food waste, in-house soup for lunch is also on the cards. The no-food waste principle extends to the seafood as well. The traditional ýsa í raspi is made with leftover sourdough bread crumbs. The fiskibollur too, gets an update with the addition of vegetables.

“Being creative can be challenging and not falling back on the established norms is very challenging because it is so tempting to fall back on what’s been done before.” It is early days yet, but Gnægtahornið might just be the corner of plenty 101 has been waiting for. 🍷



SNAPS

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Travel



Spaceman On A Buggy

In space, no one can hear you complain about how cold it is

Words: Sam O' Donnell Photos: Art Bicnick



Distance from Reykjavik:
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How to get there:
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Tour provided by:
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The frozen terrain of Iceland is a hot-spot for science fiction movies. From the cinematic Svínafellsjökull glacier featuring in 'Interstellar' to the eerie Dettifoss dominating the opening of 'Prometheus,' the country is chock full of peculiarities that don't resemble anything Earthly.

Especially as a foreigner, it's easy to imagine yourself as an astronaut when walking through the countryside—to feel like an explorer visiting from another planet. To let myself revel in that sci-fi spaceman experience, I booked a buggy tour with Safari for a day of riding through the land. I mean, driving a buggy is probably as close to the Mars rover as I'll ever get.

Arrival

At 9:30 on a crisp Monday morning, I arrived at a greenhouse six kilometres outside of Mossfellsbær—Safari's headquarters. The place is decked out with ping-pong, a foosball table, and, thankfully, coffee. As far as Mondays go, this one was off to a good start.

Our guide Patrick greeted us, ushering us past the ping-pong table, to brief us on what we'd be doing that day: driving some buggies through the desolate Icelandic wilderness.

Immediately, it was time to get dressed for the adventure and Patrick handed each of us the gear we'd be don-

ning, or as it was in my imagination, my spacesuit: a pair of water-resistant coveralls, gloves, a tight-fitting balaclava and a helmet.

Over 100 of these suits hung in the space between the coffee machine and foosball table. They're insulated, made for cold weather, so when winter comes, the buggy adventures don't quit; they just adapt. In fact, Patrick insists that driving in the winter is the most fun.

The semi-final frontier

After signing some boring paperwork promising that I wouldn't act like an idiot out on the track, we suited up and climbed into our buggies. Within minutes, we were covering vast and varied terrain—the norm for Iceland. Over ragged rocks, under geothermal pipelines, around muddy bends, and through shallow river fjords, we drove on, reaching speeds up to 60 km/ph, all against the backdrop of blue skies, yellowing grass, and a low hanging sun that disappeared behind the clouds from time to time.

It was then time for a quick stop, and we chose a scenic one: the crest of a hill overlooking a gorge. Far in the distance, the Hellisheiði geothermal power plant pumped steam up in a column to the sky. Patrick explained that the plant produces power for the whole

region.

The architecture of the plant is spider-like, with series of pipelines travelling from one dome-like structure to another. Large, industrial-style buildings tower over these domes, with spire-like drills looming over them on the cliffs above. It looks like a space station, or a colony on Mars—the perfect landmark for the otherworldly landscape it's surrounded by.

We forge on in our buggies, ignoring the wind nipping the parts of our faces that weren't covered. Before long, we reached the power plant that had previously seemed so far away from us. We drove around it, and up a ridge to a solitary dome, where we stopped again to rest. My fingers and toes were frozen, despite the gloves and thick socks I was wearing. That said, the cold didn't diminish the smile on my face.

No man's sky

The sun bathed the valley below in a warm glow with blue skies occasionally peeking out from behind the heavy clouds. Beneath the gaze of craggy, ig-

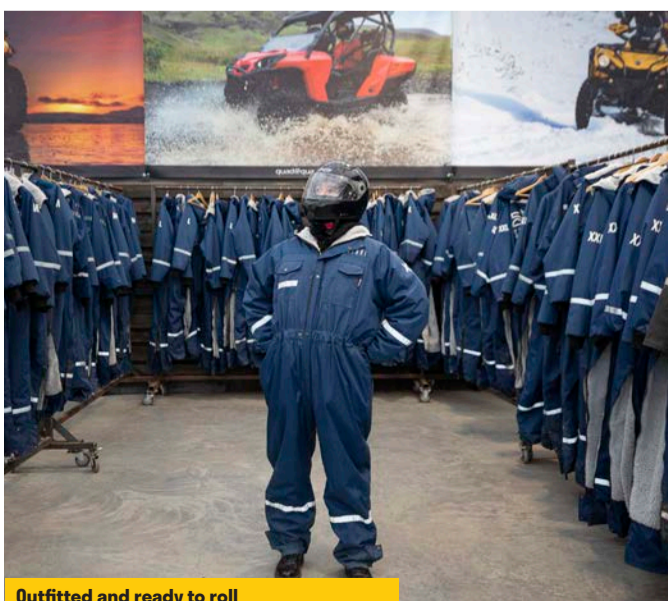
neous cliffs, several rivers flowed beneath, surrounded by looming mountains. It was beautiful, and I felt small, humbled.

After soaking in the view, and jumping up and down to get the blood flowing through our hands and feet again, we set out again to drive through the rivers below us. It took one massive splash in my face for me to remember that there was a face shield on my helmet. I was immediately thankful my spacesuit was water-resistant. No word on how it'd fare in the upper-atmospheres, though.

With fingers and toes now numb, we made the fun and bumpy drive back to the greenhouse. Iceland may seem like a different planet at times—most of the time, actually—unlike anywhere else on Earth. Yet, here it is, a testament to the eccentric geological oddities our beautiful planet offers.

As we took off the suits and left the Safari HQ, I felt myself coming down to Earth. But, I'm still going to pretend to be an astronaut whenever possible and I encourage everyone else to do the same. It makes the cold a little easier to deal with. 🍷

“It looks like a space station, or a colony on Mars—the perfect landmark for the otherworldly landscape it's surrounded by.”



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WELL, YOU ASKED



God & Some Whining

Words: Valur Gréttisson
Photo: Art Bicnick

I'm having a quarter-life crisis, help me?

Hm, okay. Does that mean you're like 25 years old? Jesus, relax. My first advice would be don't panic. Everyone will be dead in five years because of global warming, anyway, so don't bother running the rat race that you feel like you're losing already. Second advice? Grow up. Have a kid. Taking care of something other than your own fragile ego really takes the spotlight off yourself. After just a few minutes as a parent, you'll embrace the end of the world.

The National Church...why?

Well, because the world is ending, and we like to give money to silly institutions rather than directly to people that actually need it. See, in Iceland, we enjoy paying people money to keep us scared of some fictional thing that is constantly threatening to send us to eternal flames. Who else would do it? And why is anything? Why is this a question? Go to hell, atheist.

How bad will the newest Star Wars movie be?

I'm glad that you asked! Let's put it like this: Imagine yourself sullen and deformed after 10 years of nuclear winter. You have eaten all your friends (and their spouses), and you're not sure if the radioactivity is the source of the constant screams in your head, or if it's just the syphilis slowing eating through your kuru-infected brain, resulting in your brutal tremors and objectively hilarious loss of coordination. As you lose all control of your bowels, lying in your own filth and pus, you have one last lucid thought: Well, at least this isn't as bad as 'Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker.'

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

HORROR-SCOPES

PISCES IS KING

Kanye West... just stop

Words: The Reykjavík Grapevine Spiritual Dep.
Illustration: Kosmonatka

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

Aries
How do crickets know if they've told a good joke? Just some food for thought for your next bathroom session.

Taurus
Things to journal about: "The quiet pain of being unloved."

Gemini
You'll find yourself contemplating why it's called a toothbrush, when ideally you have several teeth in your mouth. Don't spend too much time on it, this is going nowhere.

Cancer
If you don't read at least three of Andi Snær's books before the new year, ominous things approach. If you do, you're guaranteed to impress

some hottie at Kaffibarinn in loose black clothing. Win-win.

Leo
A band at Airwaves impresses you. You follow them on Instagram. They don't follow you back, but what were you expecting? You don't even FaceTune your selfies, you ugly punk.

Virgo
The month ahead will be much like the last season of 'Lost': controversial, divisive, and strangely religious. Friends might doubt that you ever knew what you were doing, and ask you questions like: Why wasn't Michael in the church?? It'll all end up OK, but stay away from lottery tickets.

Libra
Countess Malaise's new album will provide the soundtrack for an important moment in your near future. A birth? A death? A religious awakening? Only time—and vinyl pants—can tell.



Love is in the air for Cancers, if they read Andi Snær

Scorpio
It's your birthday month! Celebrate with the tasting menu at Dill—oh wait, you spent all your money on that new iPhone, which will definitely not be outdated in a year. Why have one camera when you could have three?

Sagittarius
'Game of Thrones' creators David Benioff and Dan Weiss were hired in February 2018 to create the next Star Wars trilogy. They allegedly subsequently sped up the end of their hit show so they could start working on it. That said, they recently "left" the project. Is this the result of the last two seasons of GoT being so shoddy that Disney could no longer trust them to do anything well? We believe so. Karma's a bitch, so put in effort, Sag.

Capricorn
Nobel Peace Prize winner Barack Hussein Obama recently came out against callout culture. Hmm, pretty fishy from a man who released a fake birth certificate.

Aquarius
If you know what's good for you, you'll stay away from Pingvellir. The old gods are out for blood, and they will take it from any wayward traveller born under Aquarius. You have been warned.

Pisces
Oh Pisces, stop pretending you like the new Kanye West album. No one does.



Queueing up for fun

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

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

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LAST WORDS

101 Doom And Gloom

Words: **Catharine Fulton**
Photo: **Art Bicnick**

"Would you rather it be like a decade ago when half the storefronts were empty and run-down?"

Over the course of my decade living in 101, I've heard or read some iteration of that rebuttal to any complaint made about the lack of variety of shops and services on Reykjavik's main drag, Laugavegur, countless times. The argument equates to saying residents of 101 should be happy with long stretches of shop windows filled with stuffed puffins, factory-knit-in-China "lopapeysa," and 3-for-2 T-shirts, because the only alternative is a return to post-collapse doom and gloom.

I was here then. It looked grim. Laugavegur wasn't lined with recently renovated and re-built-to-still-look-historic buildings. But, the less visually-appealing buildings of 2008 and 2009 housed craft stores, corner shops, fish mongers, and more. Places for the residents of 101 to purchase goods and services without leaving the city centre.

Stroll down Laugavegur today and roughly a third of the storefronts are vacant (they're just more aesthetically pleasing, with windows shrouded by crisp brown paper rather than surplus Grapevines). The street LOOKS great, sure. But landlords are so consumed with greed that the only businesses that can afford rent are those selling cheap imported goods at a massive mark-up to tourists, and restaurateurs charging exorbitant prices for basic meals because they care more about bleeding the most out of tourists than building repeat patronage of locals.

I'd like to see landlords who leave their properties vacant rather than renting at more sustainable prices heavily fined for every week of vacancy. If nobody can afford your rent, maybe you're the problem.

The Miðbær Residents' Association is so concerned about the state of the city centre that they're hosting a town hall discussion this month with local business owners, landlords and residents to address the issue of vacant storefronts and dearth of amenities for downtown dwellers.

Laugavegur may not have been pretty a decade ago, but if it means being able to purchase goods and services locally, then yes, I'd rather a return to doom and gloom. It's pretty damn gloomy for residents now anyhow. 🇮🇸

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