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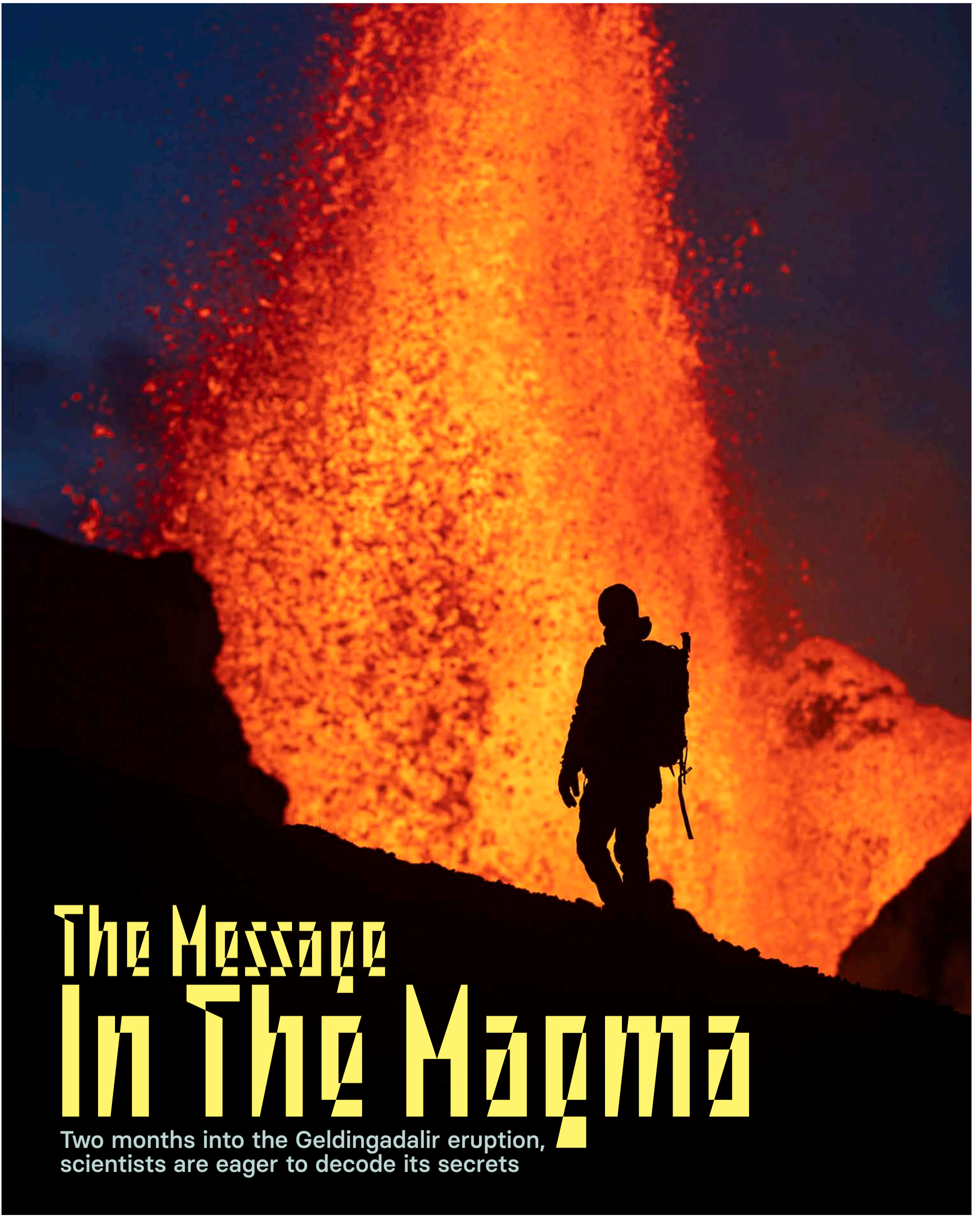
Issue 06

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REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE #METOO MOVEMENT • NON-BINARY PEOPLE IN THE VACCINE LOTTERY • STUDY THE BLADE WITH HEMA! • KRISTÍN ÞORKELSDÓTTIR, THE WOMAN WHO DESIGNED ICELAND • POSSIMISTE, OUR FAVOURITE ALIEN SONG-
STRESS • DOWN TO EARTH AT THE SKY LAGOON • RAGNAR KJARTANSSON TALKS 'DEATH IS ELSEWHERE' • BUY AMC!



The Message In The Magma

Two months into the Geldingadalir eruption, scientists are eager to decode its secrets



COVER ART:
Photographer:
Art Bicnick

The photo was taken at Fagradalsfjall, Iceland's newest volcano, just weeks after it began erupting.

First



10: Believe #MeToo

06: Moderna Odds Be Ever In Your Favour

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EDITORIAL

The Ever Changing Volcano



When the Grapevine's photo editor Art Bicnick and I first visited the Geldingadalir volcano on March 20th we were speechless. On

an Icelandic scale, the volcanic activity was small and it was incredible how close we could safely get to the eruption. We realised instantly that this was a historic event. There hadn't been an eruption on the Reykjanes peninsula for around 800 years and not a single volcano had erupted so close to the capital area in modern times. To add to the dramatics, history tells us we can expect over 20 volcanoes to erupt on the peninsula in the next two to four centuries.

Our biggest surprise has been how diverse and ever changing the eruption has been. At first there was a small fissure that became quite big. Then we had three different fissures at the same time. They grew to eight fissures that finally turned into a graceful, beautiful fire geyser with a lava fountain shooting up to 300 metres, reminding Icelanders of our famous Geysir.

How can one not be in awe witnessing such raw power? For me and Art, it has been an adventure every time we visit the volcano, just to see something

completely new. Everything from a lava tornado in the lava stream, to the dramatic weather transforming the area into something that even the best CGI in Hollywood could never recreate.

But the volcano also has some answers to provide and secrets to unlock. In our feature about the scientists researching the volcano on **page 10**, it's evident that we have a scientific goldmine on our hands, making this eruption even more spectacular. If it's true, as scientists have considered, that the eruption is a shield volcano, it's an event that hasn't happened in Iceland for thousands of years. What's more, that would mean it could go on erupting for years to come, although scientists are not convinced that will be the case. Nonetheless, this is an interesting re-beginning of volcanic activity on the Reykjanes peninsula. Maybe it will even turn the economy around after the shock of COVID-19, proving once again the power of Icelandic nature. ♡

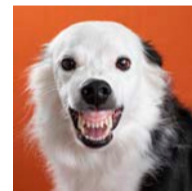
Valur Grettilsson
Editor-in-chief



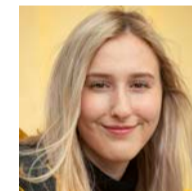
John Pearson is a Reykjavik resident who combines writing with professional backgrounds in music, broadcasting, scuba diving, engineering and underwater photography. He loves puns, alliteration and lists that have three things in them.



Hannah Jane Cohen is based out of Iceland by way of New York. She's known for her love of Willa Ford, David Foster Wallace, and other such "intellectuals." Her visionary work is known for expanding the definitions of emotion, introspection, and above all else, taste. Hannah is also the current Drag King of Iceland, HANS.



Polly is a hard-working journalist by day and an enthusiastic ball-catcher by night. A four-year-old dachshund mix with an IQ of a five-year-old human, Polly has been the official Chief Of Morale at the Grapevine for eight months and is a regular contributor to the Grapevine Newscast on YouTube. Woof.



Alina Maurer is a media studies intern at the Grapevine. She studied all things Icelandic at HÍ and can finally distinguish Marvel's Thor from the real Þór. After a year's break in Germany she came back to Iceland due to missing the ocean and Icelandic ice cream. She loves pretzels, clay art and boiling in hot tubs.



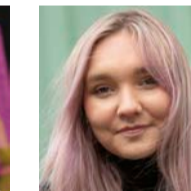
Catharine Fulton is a writer and editor who has been involved with the Grapevine for many years, from being our online news editor to staff journalist. She is now our beloved copywriter. Outside of dealing with our writers turning in work late, she also has two extremely cute kids.



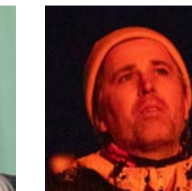
Art Bicnick is an international man of mystery. He moves like a shadow through the subcultures and soirees of Reykjavik, never still, often ghosting the scene in a puff of blue smoke—the exhaust fumes of the elusive, well-travelled Bicnick Mini.



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



Brittnee Kiner is an American political science student-turned temporary resident of Iceland, seeking asylum from the quagmire of US politics. Riding her horse-drawn wagon from the Oklahoma prairies, she found refuge on an Atlantic island. A rock climber from the plains, she's got a serious soft spot for ice cream.



Valur Grettilsson is an award-winning journalist, author and playwright. He has been writing for Icelandic media since 2005. He was also a theatre critic and one of the hosts of the cultural program, 'Djöflaeyjan' on RÚV. Valur is not to be confused with the dreadful football club that bears the same name.

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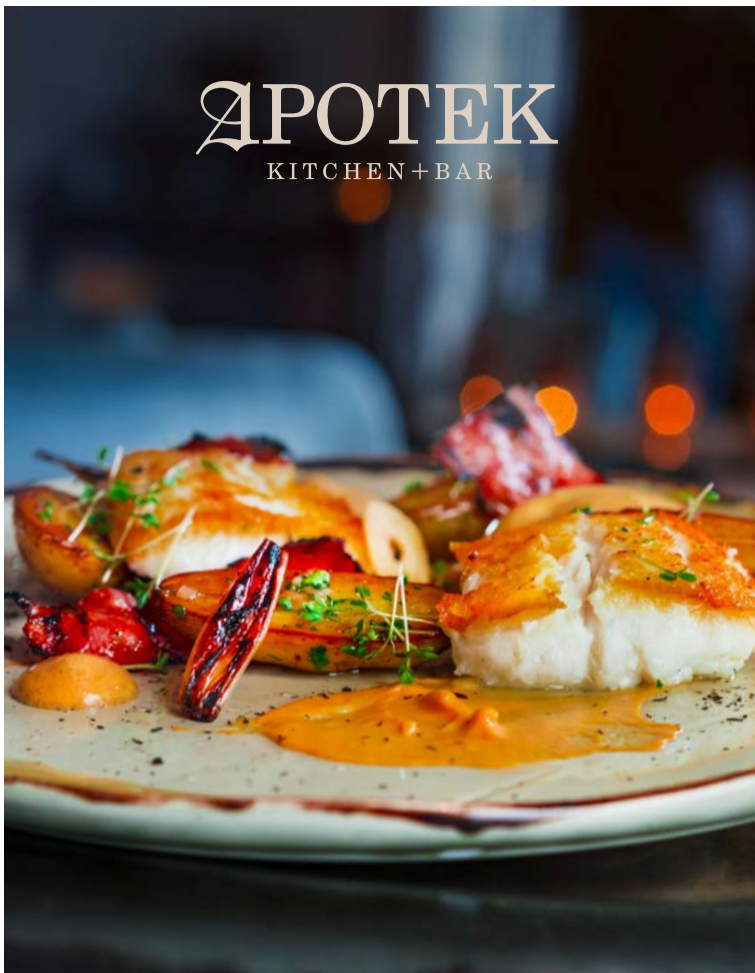


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Say cheese!

What Are Icelanders Talking About?

Whole lotta banning goin' on

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photos: **Art Bicnick & AdobeStock**

NEWS Infection rates for the **coronavirus** have been low and a recent easing of restrictions has allowed Icelanders to **forgo wearing a mask** in a great many situations, including visiting grocery stores, restaurants and cafés. This has prompted a very obvious divide in the public discourse, between people who are thrilled to visit Bónus bare-faced and those who are still concerned about unintentionally spreading the virus to vulnerable and as-yet-unvaccinated compatriots and will continue to mask up for the foreseeable future. We certainly would not take a position one way or the other and wouldn't dream of questioning the wisdom of our health authorities, but it should go without saying that continuing to wear a mask, at the very least, certainly isn't going to hurt anyone. Let no one mask-shame you.

Speaking of the pandemic, **quarantine hotels are now a thing of the past**. No more will new or returning arrivals to Iceland have to sequester themselves at a hotel, barring special circumstances. Readers may recall the very public legal battle that arose around these hotels, replete with lawyers making grand statements that compared the scheme to North Korea, culminating in a court battle that forced Parliament to review the legisla-

tion. All that is moot now—just in time for the start of Iceland's traditional tourist high season.

Any time the **Directorate of Immigration (ÚTL)** makes the news, you can bet that it's not going to be good. Such has been the case for the past couple weeks now, after it came to light that **ÚTL was evicting refugees from shelters** for not taking a pre-deportation PCR test. 14 refugees, most of them from Palestine, are currently homeless, cut off from food stipends (asylum seekers are not legally permitted to work) and denied health care. The legality of this has been questioned by the Icelandic Red Cross, amongst

others, as has the legality of deporting anyone to Greece. ÚTL has been on the defensive over these actions, so it remains to be seen if sustained public criticism and protests will have any effect on their policies.

In brighter news, **tourism is back!** Relaxed pandemic restrictions and the massive vaccination rollout in the US and other countries—not to mention here at home—has tourism operators very optimistic. It is predicted that some 700,000 tourists will visit Iceland this year. A far cry from the 2 million who would visit the country each year at the peak of the tourism boom, but as a country with an economy so heavily reliant on tourism, it's certainly better than nothing. 🍷



It's ain't mask but it's honest work



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Pfizer gang!

Drawn From A Hat

Vaccinations, Hunger Games style

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine**

Photo: **Adobe Stock**

While daily infection rates for the coronavirus have been quite low lately, the big question on people's minds is vaccinations. On February 15th, Minister of Health Svandís Svavarsdóttir told reporters the government expected to have 190,000 people fully vaccinated by the end of June, calling it "numbers we can stand by".

As of June 1st, there are just under 92,000 people fully vaccinated. Bear-

ing in mind that "fully vaccinated" means that a period of time—usually two weeks—have passed since a person has received both shots, we still have our work cut out for us to reach that number.

Bingo!

However, one of the vaccination strategies that have raised the biggest

questions is that of random selection, which begins this week.

In case you were wondering whether this random selection was going to be done using some high-tech AI, or even an online random number generator, Ragnheiður Ósk Erlendsdóttir, director of nursing at the Capital Area Health Care, told reporters that "we are going to put all the remaining cohorts in a certain hat or mug and then draw either men or women from the relevant cohort."

What if you're not a man or woman?

Ragnheiður explained that this method is simpler than some 21st century method of random selection and also that "there were so many tasks with our programmers" that they couldn't get just one of them to code something on the fly.

That said, since the National Registry allows people to register their gender as non-binary (i.e. neither a woman nor a man) and there are an unknown number of people who are currently registered as such, it was unclear how any of these people were to be random selected.

At long last, health authorities issued a clarifying statement: everyone, regardless of gender, would be eligible for random selection, and the solitary concern was regarding AstraZeneca and its possible effects on those with high estrogen levels. Feels like they could have said that from the beginning and avoided any confusion, rather than insist on this weirdly gendered selection system. 🍷

ASK A

Hiker

Q: How hard is it to hike to the volcano?



Valur Grettisson, the editor-in-chief at the Reykjavik Grapevine, has hiked to the volcano over 20 times and reported about the ever changing area over the past months. Here, he gives you the honest answer on exactly how hard it is to hike to the volcano.

"How hard is it to hike to the volcano? The short answer is, not that hard. The long answer... well, it's complicated.

The hike to the volcano in Geldingadalir is, at the time I'm writing this, around 7 kilometres, meaning it is categorized as a medium hard hike. The town of Grindavik and the search and rescue teams have been laying proper paths to the volcano. But, there is a mountain to hike up to, namely Fagradalsfjall. You will have to ascend over 200 metres which is the hardest part of the hike. Fortunately you don't have to hike the whole 200 metres in one go, but in two separate stretches. Right now, these paths are pretty good, but they can be steep for those that are not in good physical shape — our only advice is to walk slowly up these hills. Trust me, it will make it considerably easier.

Now, that is only half of it. Icelandic weather is notoriously unstable, meaning that checking the forecast before the hike is vital. Keep in mind that the weather in the city could be very different from the weather at the eruption site. The easiest way to find out the forecast, is to visit safetravel.is before heading out. Another thing that cannot be stressed enough is the importance of proper footwear. Many have twisted ankles or fallen and hurt themselves. The best way to avoid this is to wear a good pair of hiking boots. If you want to hike in the evening, bring a head lamp — it will start getting dark again at the end of July. That's it. Enjoy the hike. It can be trying, but the reward is unbelievable." 🍷

LOST IN GOOGLE TRANSLATION

Iceland Saves All Animals, Real or Not

According to Fréttablaðið, a wooden parrot was courageously rescued by the Icelandic fire brigade on May 17th. At first, the Grapevine was less than impressed. It wasn't exactly the brazen, eye-catching rescue we all crave, in a country where reporters dash to the first sign of a runover sheep, falling victim to the ring-road enthralled tourists. Saving a wooden parrot? Not exactly heroic, until we realized this was exactly everything

we had wished for—an audacious rescue of an actual, living parrot. While it might not be as wild as those in South America, a domestic parrot still requires a focused and methodical rescue mission of the nation's best, albeit only, fire brigade. The parrot was found perched in a tree, naively assuming that he belonged out in Icelandic nature—how wrong he was. This is no place for a parrot, heck, it's no place for

humans most of the time. Unfortunately, this was no locally-made, hand-crafted, artisanal parrot carved from the birch trees of Iceland's wilderness—though, it's definitely organic. The headline reads, "Slökkviliðið bjargaði páfagauki úr tré," but Google translates the title to "The fire brigade rescued a wooden parrot." "Slökkviliðið bjargaði" accurately becomes "The fire brigade rescued" but unfortunately, the composition of the

parrot transformed when the verb "úr" was introduced. This is supposed to mean "out of" but when combined with "tré," or tree, the meaning evolves. Google sucks the life out of the parrot and creates an illusion that Iceland's fire brigade is hopelessly devoted to all animals, whether they're locally-bred or locally-made, we don't discriminate—all animals will be saved here. BK 🍷



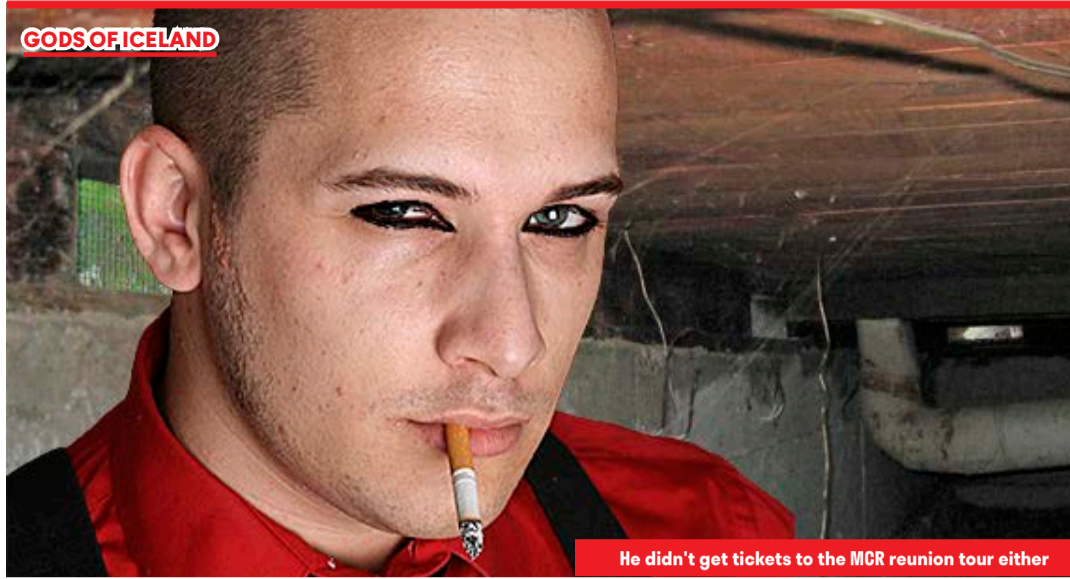
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Höður, The Forgotten Emo Kid

Always in the wrong place at the wrong time

Words: **Alina Maurer**

Who the Hel is Höður?

Photo: **Adobe Stock & Wikimedia Commons**

Well, let's not discriminate. Höður is the blind and forgotten son of Óðinn and Frigg. He's also Þór's brother—though you don't see him in any flashy Hollywood blockbusters. In the sagas, Þór is busy roaming all over Yggdrasil with his sexy ginger beard flowing in the wind and his best hammer-companion Mjöllnir in hand. Höður is not. But he has another brother, his twin Baldur, the darling of Ásgarður, who some might think arrogant but was actually, in fact, pure of heart, brave, moral and, most importantly, hot as Hel.

ment. (Spoiler: He was preparing for his big moment!) But along with being ignored, forgotten and depressed, our dark Höður is also extraordinarily unlucky. Who could see that coming?

In fact, Höður is so unlucky he is basically only mentioned in the Sagas once for the time he killed his own womb-mate. But what sounds like a family drama is rather a good ol' prank by our master of trickery Loki.

The tale of dark Höður

After needy Baldur had some frightening nightmares of being killed, Frigg—the super mom—took an oath from every creature in the nine worlds to not harm her favourite son. This made Baldur practically unkillable—practically. See, the only problem was that Frigg found it too unimportant to take an oath from the Mistletoe, which she

apparently deemed not a threat. Tell that to the brokenhearted holiday lovebirds among us, eh?

Then, one day, as Höður took a step out of his dark gaming den to yell, "It's not a phase, Mom!" his mischievous uncle Loki had the hilarious idea to ask him to shoot a mistletoe dart at his twin brother. Blind Höður, who had definitely had enough of his stuck-up beloved brother always claiming to be the first-born twin, went for it, using his matured gaming skills and tip-top hand-eye coordination to lance the mistletoe at Baldur. (In Höður's defense, according to the Sagas, shooting stuff at the 'unkillable' Baldur was one of the Gods' favourite hobbies, whenever they were not on a Jötunn-killing-spree, of course.)

So Frigg messed up, the mistletoe slayed Baldur and Höður's goal of being the favourite son was finally within reach, as he was now an only child. That said, poor Höður had not intended to kill his brother and could not in his wildest dreams see what consequences awaited him. Pun intended.

Life sucks

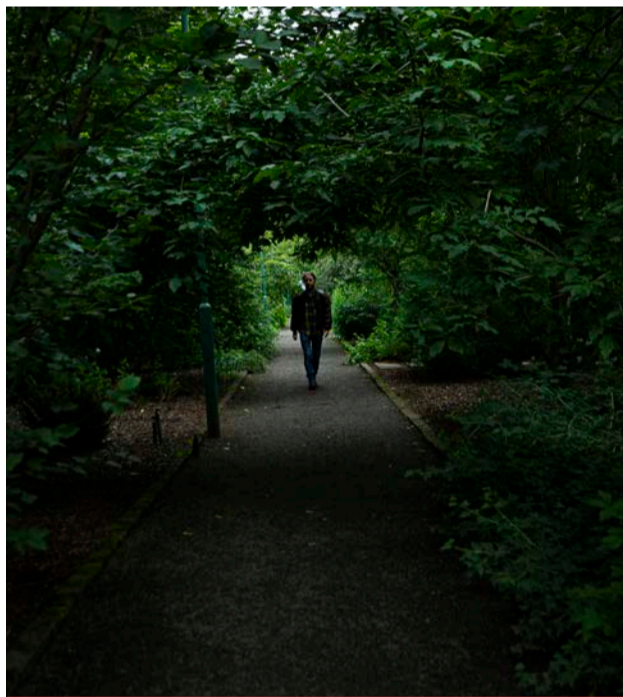
Instead of grounding him back to his smelly basement as a punishment for his fratricide, super dad Óðinn schemed something of a darker nature. Presumably out of rage, Óðinn quickly procreated with a Giantess, birthing Höður's new baby brother Váli, who then grew to adulthood within a day. So poor Frigg—not only did she lose her favourite son but her husband Óðinn also cheated on her. Rough day.

Óðinn's new favourite son promptly slayed our favourite forgotten emo hero, Höður. So while Höður tried hard and got so far, in the end, his whole scheme to be loved by his parents didn't even matter. ♡

Superpowers: Being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Weaknesses: Blind, naive, gullible and, again, naive.

Modern Analogy: That forgotten emo kid in the basement, always in the wrong place at the wrong time.



A famous garden!

JUST SAYINGS

„Að gera garðinn frægan“

Do you want to be famous? Of course you do. But here's the real question: Have you made your garden famous? Wait—you don't have a garden? No worries. It's not required.

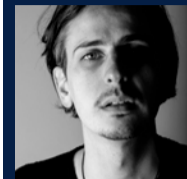
The Icelandic saying “Að gera garðinn frægan” literally means “to make a garden famous”. Colloquially this means, more or less, that you've already made it.

The phrase is widely used in the Icelandic language when mentioning Icelanders who have found success abroad, like Björk. One could say, “Wow! Björk has really made her garden in England!” While others might think that the ethereal songstress has perhaps taken up the very honourable and tradi-

tional practices of arranging English gardens, in reality, this has nothing to do with rolling lawns, charming trees or gothic castles. No, it just means that she sold a lot of albums there.

The phrase only becomes complicated when talking about people who are actually involved with gardens. As such, there's been historical confusion when discussing Samwise Gamgee's success in destroying the ring in Mordor. Many a hobbit thought that Sam had merely grown some lovely tulips around Barad-dûr when they heard that the good ole' gardener had made his garden on the plateau of Gorgoroth, when in reality he had destroyed evil forever. But, you know, fame is overrated. **VG ♡**

GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST



Gudfinner - Light

You have two choices when it comes to recording a song that is acoustic guitar and voice: layers of tracks with complex, interwoven harmonies, or intimate simplicity, accentuated by light synth and piano. This track achieves the latter, with a melody so sparse it almost serves just as accents to the truly heart-rending vocals. Naked as a cloudy day, it's the kind of song that might make you nostalgic for a place you've never been to. The perfect complement to a day at home sipping tea. **ASF**

runs uncertainty, though there are modulated moments, of course, when more confidence shines through. Written in the early days of the pandemic, it speaks of a quiet trepidation, with a sweeping 2/4 beat that brings the listener on a visceral, methodical meander into the unknown. That said, it's at all times beautiful—just maybe don't play it for the first dance at your wedding. **HJC**



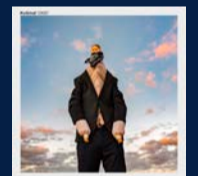
Ásta - Kaffi hjá Salóme

This is a pleasant two-and-a-half-minute in which Ásta shares kaffi og köku and vocal duties with fellow songstress Salóme Katrín. The song's spacious arrangement and fluid vibe are reminiscent of Kings Of Convenience—or even Harry Nilsson's “Everybody's Talkin’” at times—while the predominance of strings shows Ásta playing to her strengths. This is a polished track that is polite enough not to outstay its welcome, so it can drop in for coffee any time. **JP**



Kaktus Einarsson - Kick The Ladder

With a clear taste for the experimental, Kaktus is best known for his involvement with the likes of Ghostigital and Fufanu. On “Kick the Ladder,” an eerie opening drone picks up with subtle consistent strums of a guitar, developing a gentle, spacey beat that you can really sink into. While the track picks up the pace with the addition of soft vocals and a mellow drum beat, Kaktus manages to maintain a subtle background as the foreground evolves ominously but invigoratingly. **BK**



Kvíkindi - Ókei

“The psychologist says I'm okay. My therapist says I'm okay. My sponsor says I'm okay. My friends say I'm okay.” Fucking hell. Brynhildur, it's 11:00 AM on a Friday right now. I can't feel this much. Yes, “Ókei” is an intense, stark, so-personal-it's-heartbreaking look at Brynhildur's mental health. Send this to any non-Icelandic speaking music critic abroad and they'd definitely think this was some sort of post-krútt dance love song. Trust us, it's not. **HJC**



Hjörtur Ingvi Jóhannsson - Aries

Based in A minor, “Aries” is a relatively restrained, almost fearful track. Throughout every delicate arpeggio

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WORLDWIDE DELIVERY



Murmurs From The Mantle



The Geldingadalir eruption site is growing—but where did it come from?

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen Photos: Art Bicnick

On March 19th, 2021, the world's gaze turned to Iceland as fissures opened in the Geldingadalir valley—the first eruption on the Reykjanes peninsula in over 800 years.

Initially, scientists predicted the volcano would erupt for a matter of days or weeks. This was quickly proven wrong as its flow grew stronger and stronger, starting as a light trickle of lava and morphing into the pulsating geysir-like monolith it is today. Now it's expanding—daily and rapidly. In fact, by the time you are reading this, it's very likely the lava might have taken over the nearby road.

At the same time it has wreaked seismic havoc on southern Iceland, the volcano has given scientists an unparalleled opportunity for research. An accessible erupting volcano on the doorstep of a capital city is like winning the geological lottery and, in

the months since the initial eruption, Geldingadalir has become a pilgrimage site for international scientists angling for a first hand reading on a new volcano.

While it's clear big revelations surrounding the new eruption site are on the horizon, the first news to emerge concerned the unusual source of the magma in the volcano, so it's here where we will begin our exploration into the source of Geldingadalir—with the geochemistry team that was first on the scene at the eruption.

The uniform

"It's unique in many ways," geochemist Sæmundur Ari Halldórsson explains. He sits in his office at Háskóli Íslands, where

the geochemistry department has all but dropped everything in order to study the new volcano. "In comparison to many other Icelandic units, lava flows and things that I've studied, it's pretty remarkable," he smiles.

Sæmundur pulls up a few graphs looking at various chemical tracers and element ratios in their samples from Geldingadalir in comparison with other famous volcanic units, such as the 2014-2015 Holuhraun eruption. For our purposes, the actual things they are measuring aren't particularly important. It's rather the comparison of other eruptions to Geldingadalir that is eye-catching. In fact, the differences between the trajectories of the Geldingadalir samples from the others are so stark that they actually prompt an audible "Wow!" from me.

"The 2014-2015 Holuhraun composition is very uniform throughout," Sæmundur says, pointing at the relatively consistent

line of dots marking the Holuhraun samples in the various graphs. "Bear in mind that when Holuhraun formed, a landmass the size of Manhattan was generated. So in

six months, a new Manhattan was formed in central Iceland. It's remarkable. But essentially you could go from one place to another—the Lower East Side to the Upper East Side—and pick up any basement rock and they'd be the same," he explains.

"Same with the 1783 Laki eruption. We often talk about Laki-size eruptions, meaning enormous, some say even flood basalt events, but it's the same. The rocks are consistent. But our new fellow here does this," Sæmundur says, gesturing towards the Geldingadalir data points, which are anything but an ordinary line.

A remarkable shift

While the geochemical data points within the parameters Sæmundur is studying from the other eruptions are remarkably uniform,

the data points from Geldingadalir almost look like a logarithmic scale. Not that the word 'logarithmic' is applicable here—it's just to help you visualise the sharply curved trajectory of Geldingadalir's data points in comparison to the consistency of the other volcanoes. So unlike those of Holuhraun or Laki, the geochemical makeup of the rocks at Iceland's newest volcano has changed as the eruption has powered on—which is what shocked Sæmundur and his team.

"But what's remarkable is not only the degree of variance, it's also systematics," he continues, pulling up more graphs on the composition and timescale of the eruption. "The onset of the eruption is the 19th or 20th of March and you move through March and not much happens. Then April kicks in and you see the shift in compositions."

But what does a shift in composition actually mean? Well, it varies by element. Take something like magnesium, one of the major elements in a rock, typically making up around 5-10% of it, and these particular changes aren't so meaningful. But when you look at more trace elements, especially highly incompatible ones, more conclusive information can be extrapolated. There's hardly any of these elements in the rocks and they are extremely sensitive to the arrival of new melts, so if the melt is consistent and from the same source, the ratio of these shouldn't change. Therefore a notable change in the ratio of these elements, such as what scientists are observing at Geldingadalir, means something significant.

Looking at the ratio of radiogenic lead isotopes, which have extremely long half-lives, is even more damning. "Nothing should change this," Sæmundur says, of the jump in these data points in the graph. "In order to change this ratio, you first need a long time, we're talking about hundreds and millions of years, and secondary, you're talking about large scale chemical fractionation events."

“So to go from here to here over a few weeks in one eruption indicates [this] is driven by mantle processes,” he concludes. “And that’s the main message. For us, this is remarkable.”

Mantle processes?

The mantle makes up 84% of the Earth’s total volume. While it appears solid to us, within the geological time scale, the mantle moves as a viscous fluid, with the rocks bringing heat from the Earth’s core to its surface via convection. A mantle plume is an anomalously hot selection of material that rises from the core-mantle boundary to the surface, which forms hotspot volcanic regions—places like Hawaii and Iceland. Iceland, though, is unique, in that it’s also located on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a divergent plate boundary, which adds another layer to its complex volcanism.

So taking this all into account, just how unique is it to find a volcano that pulls up such deep magma in Iceland? Is Geldingadalir an anomaly?

“We’ve surely seen this before. There are a few localities outside of the Reykjanes peninsula where we have magmas

in the years preceding the Holuhraun eruption,” Sæmundur relays. “But again, even though it was fed from a fairly deep crustal reservoir at about ten kilometres or so, it’s still crustally located. It’s within the crust.” He pauses. “You see the precursor. The magma comes together, it mixes, it homogenises and ultimately there is the eruption of one liquid that has uniform composition.”

But Geldingadalir’s composition is anything but uniform, which indicates that it’s not from a stored homogenous crustal reservoir. “Here it’s different in every way,” he smiles.

the arrival or pulling of melts which are extracted deeper,” Sæmundur explains. So does that mean more than one source branching off?

“A heterogeneous source clearly plays a role. Essentially a mantle underneath that is undergoing melting is not a single source. It’s a source that’s highly variable, that has lots of history,” he later continues. “You’re pulling up melts. You’re extracting melts. You’ve depleted one residue and so forth. It has a complex history that reflects millions of years. So one of the things we are playing with is how do you bring this together?”

And this is what the team is now working on, Sæmundur explains, though any results are far from ready.

the name. Despite shield volcanoes being typical for divergent plate boundaries and hotspot locations, the majority of Iceland’s volcanoes are not of the shield variety—in fact, it’s been thousands of years since Iceland experienced one.

It’s still those volcanoes we could look to for more information on Geldingadalir’s future. “So if we want to find a unit in the area close to the eruption site that best resembles it, it’d be the large shield volcanoes. So then you can speculate, what does this imply for the duration of the eruption?” Sæmundur questions.

A golden goose

Regardless of how long the volcano erupts, or whether it takes over the road or not, the eruption at Geldingadalir is still a golden goose for scientists. Seemingly safe and easily accessible from the city, it’s the new Mecca for those who study the earth or those that just want to get closer to the mantle than ever imagined. Already, scores of researchers from Iceland—like Sæmundur and his team—and from across the globe have arrived at Geldingadalir, eager to get closer and closer to the history of our planet. It’s unfathomable just what a wonder the information provided by Geldingadalir will be for science—both worldwide and on this little volcanic island.

“Despite decades of studies looking at the eruptions on the Reykjanes peninsula, we still know so little, so this is really an eye-opener,” Sæmundur smiles. “And jeez! It’s just here in our backyard.”

this primitive, very likely being extracted from Moho-located reservoirs,” he explains. ‘Moho’ refers to the boundary between the crust and the mantle. “But again, regardless of from what angle you approach the problem—if it’s from a geophysical, geochemical, or volcanological perspective—it’s the deeply derived character that’s really remarkable and unique here.”

Sæmundur chooses the Krafla volcano as a point of comparison. “From 1975 to 1984, there were repeated eruptions over a period of nine years at Krafla, but they were largely derived from a fairly shallow crustal magma reservoir,” he says. “Essentially you had magma coming in from below—obviously, it’s all formed by partial melting of the mantle—but they accumulated and were stored in a crustal reservoir. For how long? We don’t know but probably for a fairly short time and then were transported most likely laterally in the crust before erupting.”

The same occurred during the Holuhraun eruption. “There was clear evidence for storing of magma for considerable time

The realm of speculation

So what does this mean? Did one magma source dry up only to be replaced by an even deeper magmatic source in the mantle? What exactly can we derive from the available information?

Well, it’s only been a few months of collection and analysis, so it’s here that we enter the realm of speculation. The data is coming in as fast as Sæmundur and the rest of the geochemistry team at Háskóli Íslands can handle it, but it’s too early to make concrete statements.

“Well, a first order interpretation of a ratio change like this is consistent with

Hey! I’m back!

In terms of predicting the next steps of the eruption, Sæmundur can’t give any concrete answers, but he does point out that the Reykjanes peninsula does have rifting episodes, and looking at the historical patterns, we are due for a new one.

He’s referring to the age of settlement, from 800 to 1,100 years ago, when Iceland was a rather busy place, geologically speaking. In fact, there were around 20 eruptive events similar to this one during that time frame. “And we know from the geological record that the Reykjanes peninsula repeats itself. It repeats events of this magnitude,” he explains. “So the geological record really is screaming at us, ‘Hey! I’m back.’”

But it’s still hard to place Geldingadalir within the historical context of the Reykjanes peninsula’s eruptions. It acts differently from the surrounding systems, which is something Sæmundur and his team noticed the moment they began studying the eruption.

“We realised very early on that this was unique, that it stood out in comparison to other recent eruptions. It resembles the big shield volcanoes,” he explains. Shield volcanoes are known for their fluid lavas, which aren’t particularly viscous, leading to large volcanoes that resemble shields—hence

“The geological record really is screaming at us, ‘Hey! I’m back.’”



“I think we, as a society in general, need to have these conversations with each other; not just the teachers”



Iris explores the historical context

things from a historical perspective,” she says. “From that perspective, you can see throughout history people trying to regulate sexuality. To make some sort of laws or rules around sexuality. The people lowest in the hierarchy tend to suffer the most from these laws, while people higher up in the hierarchy tend to be able to use their social position or the capital that they have to avoid sentencing or otherwise get out of the situation easily. With everything that has been going on ... it brought these historical facts back to me.”

Change starts at home

For Íris, if we are to seek any kind of broad social changes we cannot rely on the police and the courts.

“I think we, as a society in general, need to have these conversations with each other; not just the teachers,” she says. “To be able to recognise the power structures that are dominant in these conversations. So much depends on the power position of the people involved, if the people who have been trespassed upon are to get any justice. Sex education needs to take power structures into account as well.”

Iceland’s #MeToo Movement: Breaking The Cycle

How can we move from reaction to education?

Words:
**Andie Sophia
Fontaine**

Photos:
**Art Bicnick
and
Andrea Ludovice**

Last month, the greater Icelandic public was reminded that the MeToo movement never really went away.

This was kicked off when two women came forward on May 5th saying that the well-known podcaster and media personality Sölvi Tryggvason had sexually assaulted them. Sölvi used his platform to make a tearful denial of what he termed slander aimed at ruining his reputation. Another media personality, Sigmar Vilhjálmsson, in turn posted a video of himself watching the video of Sölvi crying and exhorted the general public to consider how Sölvi must be feeling. This prompted untold many Icelanders, most of them women but including some men and nonbinary people, to take to social media and employ the #MeToo hashtag to talk about their own experiences with sexual assault. There has also been an upswing in people reporting to the Stígamót crisis centre. Many of these testimonials urged men to talk to other men about consent and boundaries. Some men seconded this sentiment, encouraging other men to examine their own behaviour.

Considering that this is a cycle we re-visit, with or without hashtags, on a fairly regular basis, the main question that arises is: how do we end for good? At the risk of being utopian, can we as a society ever have a healthy understanding of and relationship with consent?

Different this time around

For Þórdís Elva Þorvaldsdóttir, an author, playwright and gender equality activist, it’s something she’s thought about—and spoken very frankly about—for years. She recently penned a column for Stundin, ‘An open letter to the good guys’, and told the Grapevine that she also noticed the familiar cycle.

“I would say that consent isn’t being taught enough in schools,” she

says. “I do not have 100% insight into the curricula, but I have children who are preschool and elementary school age, and my gut feeling is that we’re not doing enough to teach healthy approaches to bodily integrity. I also think that we go about it a bit wrong.”

Whose responsibility is it?

That said, there is also the question of upon whom the onus of consent lies. For Þórdís, this distinction is crucial.

“We still haven’t shifted the emphasis enough, so that we free the child from that burden of having to be the gatekeeper of their own bodies,” she says. “That relates back to this victim-blaming culture, that if you are not the one who is stating those boundaries entirely clearly, so that it is in accordance with the law, then basically you have no rights and a crime against you is not a crime, according to these sets of rules. That is, of course, why it was great that our authorities passed a new rape legislation three years ago. That sent a clear message that we need consent for something to be considered sex and not abuse.”

Porn and more

Another contributing factor to the poor understanding of consent among far too many, Þórdís believes, is the proliferation of porn and the effect this has on young minds who have not yet developed a healthy relationship with sex and boundaries.

“Given that we have such enormous access to porn, in so many cases it erases the distinction between what is sex and what is abuse,” she tells us. “With such material so readily available to children, I feel that we’re definitely not doing enough to counter those blurred lines and undo the harm that such material risks doing to children

that have no comparison, as they have no sexual experience of their own. We risk setting them off in a direction where consent isn’t as stated and as involved as it should be.”

Where that is concerned, it was striking that the first public reaction that the Icelandic police had to the latest resurgence of the MeToo movement was to announce that they intended to go after content creators on OnlyFans, which was most likely due to the fact that one of Sölvi’s accusers met him through the platform.

Íris Ellenberger, a historian and assistant professor at the University of Iceland School of Education, cites the history of such legal approaches to sex and porn and who is hit hardest by them.

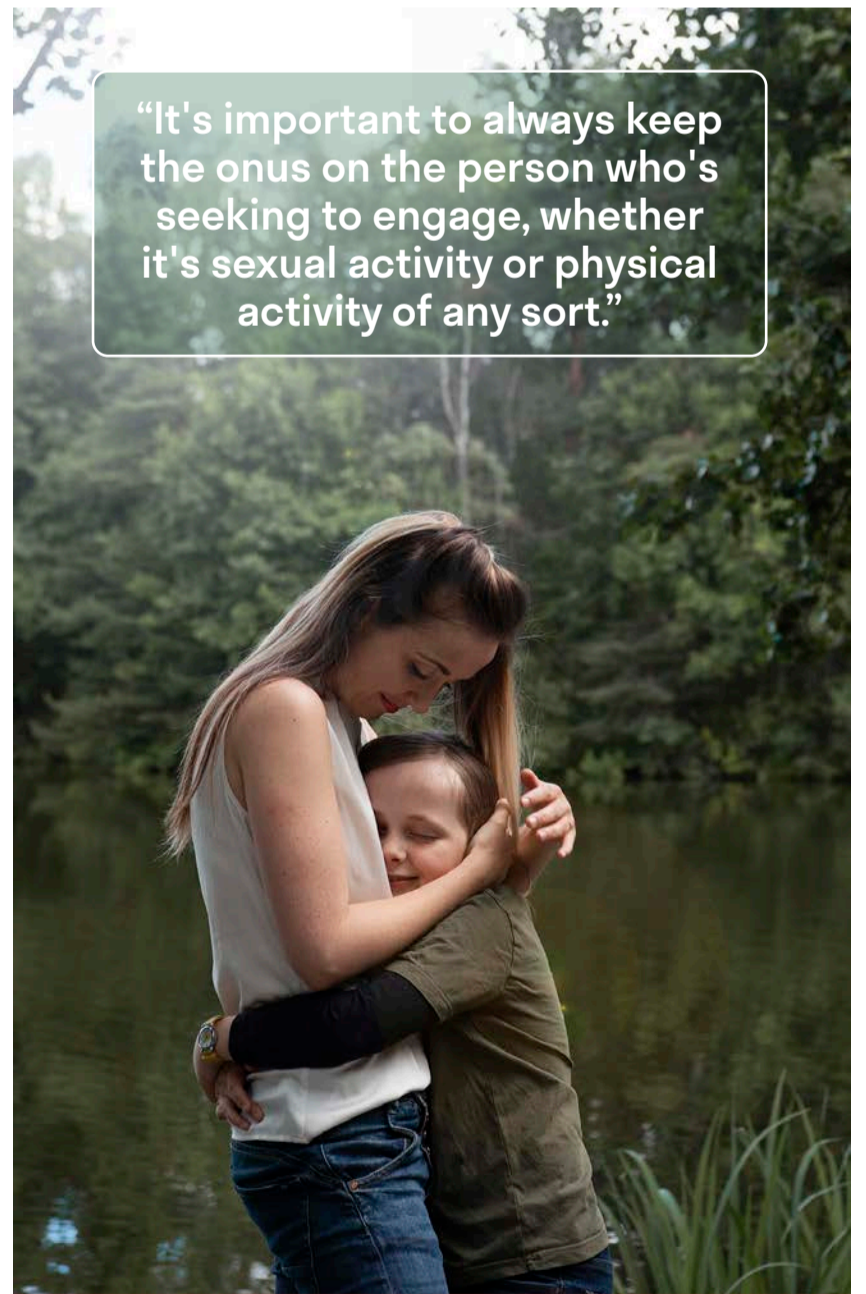
“I’m a historian, so I come to these

The education of each other

Þórdís sees education as crucial, believing that it should extend beyond the walls of the school. This notion touches on so many aspects of parenting, including teaching that even something like tickling needs to be consent-based. Teaching these lessons to the next generation of Icelanders would, by Þórdís’ estimation, have a great positive impact.

“It’s such an intimate relationship when you’re raising kids,” she says. “It’s important to always keep the onus on the person who’s seeking to engage, whether it’s sexual activity or physical activity of any sort. If we have that, if we just have that one thing down, it would make a tremendous difference.”

“It’s important to always keep the onus on the person who’s seeking to engage, whether it’s sexual activity or physical activity of any sort.”



Þórdís Elva and child

Happening

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Pretentious French Fiancé

Jono Duffy: Nothing To Lose

June 22nd - 18:30 - online at jonoduffy.com - 5€

Jono Duffy—western Europe's best Australian comedian who lived in Iceland—is not about to let something as trivial as a global pandemic stand in the way of delivering laughs. Sign in to watch and enjoy all the dick/French fiancé/Icelandic language jokes your little heart desires. And, at only 5€, you can't beat the price. Note: Jono is a TikTok star—follow him at [@thejonoduffy](https://www.tiktok.com/@thejonoduffy) for TikToks about learning French and subsequently hating the French. **HJC**



The Monotonous Struggle

Landscape With Human

Until June 29th - Pula

Sigurður Ámundason is all about looking at the small moments of life and presenting them in an epic and magnificent way. You might have seen him in our recent issue featuring the next generation of Icelandic fine artists, but if not you can now see his works live and in person at Pula, a gallery that seems to just get better and better. So if you want to come revel in the monotonous struggles of mankind, Siggí is ya boi. **HJC**



SORRY VÖK KV. US

Vök

June 18th - 20:00 - Gamla Bíó - 3,900-4,900 ISK

Note: Last issue, the Grapevine made a grave error when they claimed that Vök had been former Grapevine cover stars. Apparently, despite being Vök superfans and having a shrine at our office completely made of singer Margrét Rán's discarded masks, Vök has never graced the cover of this magazine. To rectify this, we'd like you, dear reader, to attend their show on the 18th, take a picture, write "THE REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE" on the top and email it to us at sorryvok@grapevine.is **HJC**

CULTURE NEWS



Careful, you're going to put someone's eye out with that

Swords & Friendship

An unorthodox way to stay fit and make friends gains popularity in Reykjavík

Words: **Sam O'Donnell** Photos: **John Pearson**

Historical European Martial Arts, or HEMA, is more than just learning to fight with ancient weaponry. It is a community devoted to becoming better through discipline and friendship. It's also a great excuse to hit people in the face with steel swords.

"HEMA is the study of historical European weapons, wrestling, all the way down to bare knuckle boxing," Rúnar Páll Benediktsson, the president of Reykjavík HEMA Club, explains. "It's essentially different weapons systems," treasurer Atli Freyr Guðmundsson adds. There are different rules depending on the club or tournament one is participating in, but there are two consistent tenets you'll find in every HEMA organization: Hit your opponent and don't get hit in return.

Humble beginnings

At first, the two were in a HEMA club called Væringar. In the beginning, it was less formal training and more friends playing with swords. Some members wanted to turn it into a bigger, more formal thing, studying manuscripts and learning proper fencing styles. Rúnar and Atli agreed. While they didn't intend to become the de-facto leaders of the group, it just sort of all happened and they took their new roles seriously. But that group was not destined to last.

Falling out and forming anew

In September 2019, Atli received a link to a news story. "I checked the link and it said that the president of our club Væringar, was the president of another club here in Iceland," he says. That other club was the Icelandic chapter of the Nordic Resistance Movement, a neo-Nazi group that has been described by many as a terrorist organisation.

"I woke up after a night shift, checked my phone and was just like 'Oh, no.' We immediately called an emergency meeting of the core group," Rúnar says. Of course, they did not invite their racist leader. The group saw two options ahead of them. They could either kick him out of the group, or leave and form their own group. "The easiest choice was just to leave."

"Even if we took over the club, it would still have that toxic aura about it," Atli continues. "People would remember and they would say

'wasn't he a part of this group?'" So the five core members, who are active to this day, left to form Reykjavík HEMA Club.

But their work was far from finished. There was damage to control, so the group publicly denounced the actions of their former president on social media and in news outlets. "We did everything to make sure that the only HEMA club in Reykjavík is not these guys." As bad as the situation was, they fought to turn the misfortune into something good.

The future of HEMA

HEMA's current practise space is under KSÍ's stadium. The group trains with German long-swords on Tuesdays and Thursdays and experiments with different styles and weapons on Saturdays. A typical practice lasts two hours, with the first hour devoted to training and learning practical moves and the second hour spent sparring. Matches last three minutes and the goal is ultimately to best one's opponent using everything one has learned thus far.

There are plans to expand their circuit and stage competitions with the HEMA group in Akureyri. They've even found humanitarian goals for the fights. "The Akureyri tournament is a charity event," Atli says. "It's in honour of Szczepan Łakomy, who used to train with us." Szczepan passed away in the downtown fire that claimed several lives last year. The proceeds will go towards measures to prevent such a tragedy from occurring again.

The group also has a new youth program, which started as a three-month summer camp in 2020, but due to its success, morphed into a long-term membership program.

Striving for the next level

Despite appearing on the surface to be all about fighting, the core of HEMA is community, friendship and self-improvement. "You can never be too good," Atli says. "There is always a next level to strive for."

Rúnar adds that there is an element of intimacy to it. "You truly get to know someone when you're fighting." Friends are made fast in this sport.

Anyone who is interested in HEMA is encouraged to come and try it out—it's free for the first three practices. If you don't live in Iceland, you can always go to hemaalliance.com and find a club in your area. "No matter where you are, if you study HEMA, you are welcome at almost any club." **HJC**



These Mouseketeers are ready for a skirmish

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You've got a bit on your jacket, Ragnar

“These few hours of an Icelandic summer night are a bit like what it's like to be dead.”

Ragnar Kjartansson On A Summer's Night

The artist's latest video work is striking in its simplicity

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photos: **Art Bicnick & Ragnar Kjartansson**

Exhibit

'Death is Elsewhere' by Ragnar Kjartansson will play at Listasafn Íslands until September 19th.

Ragnar Kjartansson is a man of surprises, seeming to delight in surprising himself as much, or even more, than surprising others. 'Death Is Elsewhere' (called 'Sumarnótt' in Icelandic, which translates to 'summer night'), a video installation of his that has been getting praise and accolades across the art world and currently showing at the National Gallery of Iceland until September 19th, is exemplary of this.

The concept is deceptively simple. The viewer is invited to stand in the middle of a ring of seven screens. Projected onto them, a couple is singing a lilting tune and playing guitar while walking in a circle around you. The setting takes place in the middle of one of Iceland's famed summer nights, when the sun doesn't set, at Eldhraun in south Iceland, the current site of a lush meadow but in 1783, the site of the devastating Laki eruption that killed roughly 25% of Iceland's population.

Knowing the history of the setting, the contrast between what appears to be two lovers singing a sweet song at the site of one of Iceland's most destructive natural disasters is striking. But even not knowing this context, the longer you stand in the midst of this piece, the weirder it gets. You begin to notice that the "couple" in question changes costumes as they circle you. Sometimes, the guitarist is playing the harmony, other times, the melody. Is this really just one couple? Or are you actually seeing two couples who look very much alike?

The old twin trick

The answer, it turns out, is the latter: the "lovers" in question are two sets of twins, Gyða and Kristín Valtýsdóttir and Bryson and Aaron Dessner.

"I've remembered for a long time this kind of 'magic twin trick,'" Ragnar tells us. "The idea was that it would be great to do a performance where this was a stage and a couple always crossing the stage, leaving the stage, and then like two seconds later they come back, leaving the audi-

ence to ask 'how can they run so fast around the stage?' It's a very simple trick. For this performative happening, we had to write some songs, which was the four of them. The joke became 'it's like ABBA, but with twins'. You know, 'We're gonna make a million dollars! ABBA with twins!'"

Sampling literature

The impetus and the process for the piece is an adventure in itself.

"With this work, like with many other works, many things come together and suddenly you wanna do it. This collaboration between me and Gyða and Kristín and Bryson and Aaron started because I had worked with them separately on other projects. But then Aaron and Justin Vernon [of Bon Iver] were doing this festival in Au Claire, Wisconsin. It was a fantastic festival, where he asked if I could do a performance for it and he said I could use any of the musicians or anyone involved. And I was just like 'OK!' The people who were involved were just open for anything, which was a fantastic invitation."

"We wrote the music just across the pond," Ragnar continues, gesturing to Tjörnin, right across the street from the National Gallery of Iceland. "At my home. All the lyrics are sampled from my bookshelves at home." This included random selections of poetry, translations of ancient Greek and other texts. "It was a fun way to write music, because we knew how the performance was going to be, we just had to write music for a couple walking across the stage, some kind of love songs. A few years later it came to me that I really wanted to do this



A still from 'Death Is Elsewhere'

piece in the south of Iceland near where Eldhraun is, where we had this mega, gorgeous, panoramic nature, but also this violent nature. The frolicking, cliched lovers in this kind of landscape."

You don't have to get it

Since the piece's launch, many critics have had different takes on 'Death Is Elsewhere.' It's honestly not a piece that invites interpretation so much as just experience. It's something to be felt; not understood. Fortunately so, as Ragnar admits that not even he knows what it means.

"I really like pieces that I don't understand myself," he says. "It was something that I wanted to do, in this nature, with these people and this material and it just all came together. When I watch this I'm still like 'What is this?' I really like it when pieces are like that. When you're like 'what the hell is this piece?' When you can explain to yourself, as an artist, 'this is this,'

then it's almost like, why bother making it?"

Painting is hard

Ragnar happily shares photos from the shooting of Death Is Elsewhere, showing how the cameras were set up, comparing it to a "techno Stonehenge"—a ring of cameras, each equipped with three mics, their lenses facing outward.

"I really like the painterly quality of video," he says. "Video is like a painting and I really like painting." This naturally raised the question: why not just paint? Ragnar responds immediately: "It's really hard to paint," and then laughs at length. "Also, I really like something that's performative and narrative in its essence, turning it into something that's just like a painting. Where there's no beginning and no ending—it's just there."

Those summer nights

As far as the difference between

the English and Icelandic titles go, Ragnar says that he felt a direct translation didn't work and was too "oppressive," so he took the suggestion of his wife Ingibjörg to just call it "sumarnótt". He is, however, considering changing the title to Sumarnótt/Death Is Elsewhere because, he explains, "summer night' on its own is a little too 'Grease.'"

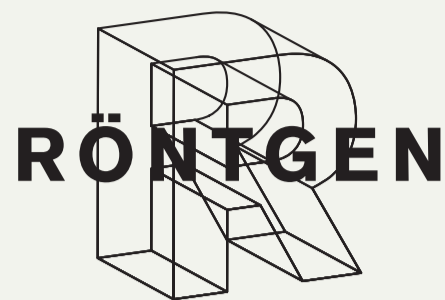
"These few hours of an Icelandic summer night are a bit like what it's like to be dead," he says. "These few hours when the birds are asleep. My dad used to take me for a night walk around summer solstice up in Heiðmörk, to watch this thing when the birds stop singing and then start singing again."

You can hear this in the piece as well, as the birds go silent, but then later begin to sing again—perhaps underlining the idea that death may always be with us, but for the moment, in a gorgeous Icelandic meadow where death once sprang forth, it is indeed elsewhere. ☺



"The joke became 'it's like ABBA, but with twins'."

The twin takes it all...



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“What sounds like a call for battle is an urban chic, Vietnamese and plant-based restaurant.”

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La Poblana

Laugavegur 2

Taking up the former residence of Sushibarinn, La Poblana is the brainchild of Carlos Guaernos and has quickly garnered a reputation 'round town as the place for world-class tacos. There's long been a dearth of Mexican food in this city, but finally you can stuff yourself with all the carnitas you desire. We thank you, 2021. Our waistlines and wallets do not. **HJC**



Vegan World Peace

Aðalstræti 2

What sounds like a call for eco justice is actually an urban chic plant-based Vietnamese restaurant. Creative, unusual and exotic dishes convince even the ardent meat lover. Everything, including the peking duck and crispy prawns, is vegan. Not only impressive to one's taste buds but also candy for the eyes. **AM**



Chickpea

Hallveigarstígur 1

Craving falafel that transports you to a place

of simultaneous warmth and freshness? Check out Chickpea, a street-style restaurant that can satisfy all taste buds, introducing an unparalleled twist on the otherwise ordinary falafel. Their vibrant pitas, wraps and bowls are layered with various greens and flavorful aiolis, paying homage to nature and all that it deserves. **BK**



Mutt Gallery

Laugavegur 48

Mutt Gallery goes hard. Their first three exhibitions featured a powerhouse lineup of Úlfur Karlsson, Shu Yi and Grapevine favourite Almar Atlason and, if that's anything to go by, we really can't wait to see what they do next. That said, we are also waiting with bated breath to see what they do with their urinals. **HJC**



Chikin

Ingólfsstræti 2

This ain't your mama's KFC. No, Chikin—Reykjavík's first dedicated hot chicken and bao joint—manages to be at once both totally sophisticated foodie cuisine and also food that'll definitely fill the hole in your soul you usually quench with a spicy Twister (and then hate yourself for). So grab some chicken with pickled daikon, shiitake mushrooms, miso mayo and lots of other delicacies. And then love yourself. **HJC**

Post-Pandemic Relevance

Sourdough and 'Tiger King' are still cool, right?

Words: Alina Maurer, Brittnee Kiner & Hannah Jane Cohen Photos: Art Bicnick

COVID-19 might have killed our desire for handshakes, video chats and bats, but that doesn't mean the optimists at the Grapevine won't find a silver lining in it. Yes, while the pandemic did hit our local economy hard, there were still many exciting arrivals to the city over the past year. Here, our writers Alina, Brittnee and Hannah Jane—the official Grapevine welcome wagon—pick their favourites.

good news! Sæta húsið opened up shop in the heart of Reykjavík in May and is ready to serve deliciously fresh rolled ice cream, mixed with all sorts of candy and fruit. Our souls are ready for more treats – especially if it's ice cream! **AM**



Maika'i

Hafnartorg, Kolagata 1

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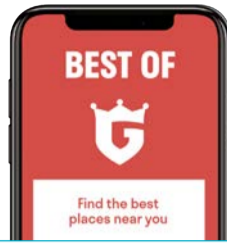
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June 4th—July 1st

In Your Pocket



Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

Perfect Day

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“Getting a hot dog with everything is traditional Iceland and just the way to go.”

Words: **Elisabet Hulda**
Photo: **Emilía Karen Ægisdóttir**

Elisabet Hulda Snorradóttir

Elisabet Hulda Snorradóttir is the reigning Miss Universe Iceland 2020 as well as a Chinese Studies student at the University of Iceland. Along with being a pageant queen, she speaks Japanese, Korean and Chinese fluently. Here's her perfect day in the capital.

Kick start the day!

The moment I wake up, I always start every morning by drinking a ton of water and making breakfast at home. Now in Iceland, life can sometimes seem a bit boring, so you have to find ways to make it interesting. For me, I like to kick start everything with an outdoor run. I'm a really active person! I live in Mosfellsbær, so I usually run there, but otherwise I love going to **Elliðaárdalur** and **the harbour** in downtown Reykjavík. The path is long, it's a nice view and there's very few hills to get in the way of running far.

Soak the afternoon away

After that, I'd head downtown to meet

some of my friends for brunch or a late lunch. Right now, the places I frequent the most are **Fjallkonan**, **Apótek** and **Duck & Rose**. But anywhere you can sit outside and enjoy the weather is good.

We usually stay for quite a while, but afterwards what I love to do is head to a swimming pool, probably **Laugardalslaug**. If you visit Iceland, you have to go to a swimming pool—that's just a necessity. Depending on whether I feel like it or not, I'll swim some laps but usually the hot tubs are so nice I will just soak there. If the weather is really good, you'll see everyone decked out on the edge of the pool trying to get a tan, but those are quite rare in Iceland!

Iceland's #1 combo

Traditionally, after swimming you need to get an ice cream or hot dog. There's the **Pylsuvagninn Laugardal** right next to the pool, but I also love the classic **Bæjarins Beztu**. I actually used to work there for four years and you're missing out if you don't get the one with everything. Honestly, I used

to hate it but after working there, I really love it and getting a hot dog with everything is traditional Iceland and just the way to go.

For ice cream, almost all the parlours are amazing. There's **Brynjuis** in Kópavogur, **Valdis** by the harbour and **Ísbúð Vesturbæjar** in Vesturbær. People usually get a bragðarefur and if I get one, I opt for fresh (not frozen!) strawberries, Daim and a white lion bar. It's an amazing combo.

Treat yourself

Then it's dinner! My favourite places right now are **Sushi Social**, **Fjallkonan** (ok, if I went there for brunch I'm not going there for dinner) and **Reykjavík Meat**. The steaks at Reykjavík Meat are really great. If you want to treat yourself, that's where you should go.

Now, usually, if I did not have an ice cream before dinner, then it's time to go for an ice cream when we've finished eating. But if not, I like driving down to **Gróttá**, the lighthouse, and just sitting there with my friends and chatting away. 🍷



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Venue Finder

| Venues | Museums & Galleries |
|--|---|
| ART67 Laugavegur 67 F7 Open daily 9-21 | The Penis Museum Laugavegur 116 F8 Open daily 10-18 |
| Austur Austurstræti 7 D3 | Ásmundarsalur Freyjugata 4 G6 Open Tue-Sun 8-17 |
| American Bar Austurstræti 8 D3 | Áurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2 B1 Open 09-21 |
| B5 Bankastræti 5 E4 | Ásgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74 G4 July 8-Sep 1, Mon-Fri |
| Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54 E5 | Berg Contemporary Klappartígur 16 E5 Tu-F 11-17, Sat 13-17 |
| Bravó Laugavegur 22 E5 | The Culture House Hverfisgata 15 E5 Open daily 10-17 |
| Dillon Laugavegur 30 E5 | The Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksgrata 05 Open Tue-Sun 10-17 |
| Dubliner Naustin 1-3 D3 | Exxistenz Bergstaðast. 25b F4 |
| English Pub Ingólfsstræti 12 D3 | Galleri List Skipholt 50A H10 M-F 11-18, Sat 11-16 |
| Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22 D3 | Hafnarborg Strandgata 34, 220 Open Wed-Mon 12-17 |
| Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a D3 | Hverfisgalleri Hverfisgata 4 D4 Tu-Fri 13-17, Sat 14-17 |
| Hressó Austurstræti 20 D3 | i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16 D3 Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17 |
| Iðnó Vonarstræti 3 E3 | Kjarvalsstaðir Fókagata 24 H8 Open daily 10-17 |
| Kex Hostel Skúlagata 28 E7 | Ásmundarsafn Sigtún Open daily 10-17 |
| Kaffibarinn Bergstaðastræti 1E4 | Reykjavík City Library Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-17 |
| | 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 Open Tu-Sat 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 23:00 on weekdays and weekends until further notice.

Opening Hours - Shops & Banks

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

Swimming Pools

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

Public Toilets

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

Public Transport

Most buses run every 20–30 minutes
Fare: 480 ISK adults, 240 ISK children.
Buses run from 07–24:00, and 10–04:30 on weekends. More info: www.bus.is.

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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. Mandi Pizza

Hafnarstræti 9

Mandi Pizza is the answer to the question: what can I eat if I've had Mandi shawarma six days in a row, and I want something different? Try the kebab pizza, and make sure to cover it in sauce. And don't worry—they also got their famous hummus on stock so you can pick some up to quench your post-pizza health kick.

2. Eriksson Brasserie

Laugavegur 77

It's hard to categorise Eriksson with its Italian-French leaning menu. The interiors and menu whisper nouveau riche indulgence, the 'fancy' ingredients are a giveaway. But all these reservations aside, they dish out a mean veal, good steaks and a smattering of pasta and pizzas.

3. Hornið

Hafnarstræti 15

Appropriately named "The Corner" from its position on the street, this Reykjavík institution is one of the oldest dining establishments in the city. Opened in 1979, the family business has been serving fantastic Italian fare in a remarkably unique atmosphere. It is truly a stand-alone restaurant in town and hands down one of the best.

4. ÞÁ 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 in there is interesting, and if the magazines fail, people-watching never does.

5. 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.

6. Sumac Grill + Drinks

Laugavegur 28

Sumac's vibrancy seeps into everything—the food, ambience,

service and its mix of diners across age groups. By focusing on flavour profiles unique to the cuisines, it is a successful transplant from Beirut to Reykjavík. For an indulgent spread, we recommend getting all the dips and a few flatbreads.

7. Borg29

Borgartún 29

Wait—a NEW food hall? Hurray! Yup, Borgartún now has its own haunt, and you can bet that we've already tried it all. Our favourites so far include Pronto Pasta. We've been saying for years that Reykjavík needed a good ole' quick pasta stop and now we're there. We're also obsessed with Hipstur, which serves up that kind of healthy food that feels so unhealthy, which is very much the vibe at the Grapevine.

8. Makake

Grandagarður 101

Named after the hot tub loving meditative monkeys, Makake throws down the gauntlet for casual Asian dining. They've got dimsum brunches, pop-ups with guest chefs, and vegan tasting menus in addition to their staple fare of a selection of dumplings, small plates like the braised pork belly, an interesting assortment of vegetable-forward plates and desserts like mochi and anko.

9. Chickpea

Hallveigarstigur 1

Tucked in next to downtown's Kronan supermarket lies Chickpea, a new bijoux vegetarian eatery. The restaurant is based around falafel, which is delicious, bringing to mind the fresh bites you'd find on the carts of the Middle East—and the salad is equally as visceral. Many of the ingredients are locally sourced and seriously—try the kim chi. It's a family secret and positively to die for.

10. Búllan

Geirsgata 1

An oldie but a goodie, Búllan slings a solid burger that seals Iceland's reputation as a worthy burger destination. It was the winner of our Best Of Reykjavík 2020 Best Burger award and man, does it deserve that. Go for a nice greasy hangover meal or go on a date—either will be, as Chandler would say, perfection.

11. Þrír Frakkar

Baldursgata 14

To get a sense of Icelandic food culture from a time before it was fashionably New Nordic, pay a visit

to Þrír Frakkar. This restaurant has not let anything sway them from tradition—you'll spot everything from foal, to black bird, to cod throats and plökkfiskur that are sure to remain long in your memory. A visit to this place underlines that good old-fashioned Icelandic cooking can be all kinds of memorable.

Drinking

12. KEX Hostel

Skúlagata 28

KEX is stronger than ever right now. Out of the pandemic haze, they've come out guns a'blazing with a series of fantastic concerts and events that shows they are one to compete with for the cool artistic crowd in Reykjavík. So if you're one of those people who enjoys Joyce as well as Cardi B, this is probably the place you'll meet your like-minded peeps. (JK, no one has really read Joyce.)

13. Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

While many Reykjavík bars come and go and redecorate and rename and put on bells and whistles, Kaffibarinn has stayed the course for almost three decades—because it's just a really good, reliable place. It plays host to Reykjavík's artistic intellectuals, creative talents, and, well, downtown characters and consistently puts on a show. Basically, you'll never have a boring night at KB. It's no ordinary watering hole.

14. Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

With dim lights, leather sofas, and gender-neutral bathrooms, Gaukurinn is the preferred hangout for the unorthodox Reykvikingar, so if you're looking for like-minded peeps, here you go. The venue hosts everything from metal to drag extravaganzas, so you never really know what you're gonna get on any given night. That said, you know it'll be something you can only get at Gaukurinn.

15. Skúli Craft Bar

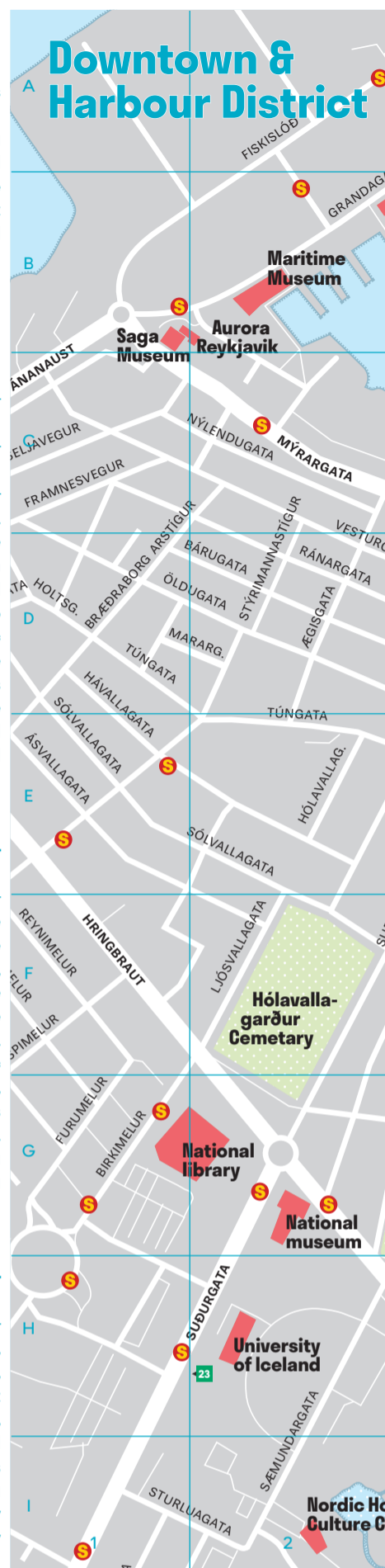
Aðalstræti 9

For a quiet drink, the real beer nerds hole up in Skúli. The cosy drinking hole offers a great selection of local and guest craft brews, with the option of a flight of beers for the indecisive or curious. Make sure to stop by in the summer, they've also got some great outdoor tables.

16. The Irishman

Klapparstigur 27

If your idea of fun involves pints of Guinness and Kilkenny, have we got a place for you! With a spacious wrap-around bar and a great downtown



location, this one has a better vibe than most; while it is undeniably cheesy, like a tiny, cartoonish Dublin-themed Disney World located on Klapparstigur. Most importantly—they have KARAOKE ROOMS to rent! So when you need to get drunk and sing Aqua to your crush, there you go.

17. Mál og Menning

Laugavegur 18b

Wait, a new bar/music venue? Yup! And you thought the pandemic had destroyed all culture in this town. But never fear—Bókabúðir Máls og Menningar is here. There's live music most nights, from DJs to jazz, and during the day, the legendary Bókin is operating from the basement. Seriously—we anticipate this place will be a game-changer in the local

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New In Town ☆



Space Odyssey

Laugavegur 2

Reducing our consumption of new clothing is one of the biggest ways any individual can do their part to heal our planet and it's this cosmic belief that powers the stars behind Reykjavik's newest secondhand store Space Odyssey. Along with selling underused Earth-made garments, the store also allows you to swap your own atmospheric attire. And if that's not enough, the celestial haven also doubles as a concert venue, having already hosted sets by galaxy-renowned artists like Hermigervill, Kraftgalli and more. (Word in the meteor belt is that Odysseus is on his way.) **AM**

cultural scene. Takk fyrir.

18. Kaffibrennslan

Laugavegur 21

Located right smack in the centre of town so you can easily pop in for a quick one on your way, or stay and drink the evening away, it's just a cool, casual, calm place with friendly staff, good beers and tasty snacks. Their happy hour is one of the biggest secrets—you can't get much cheaper for a beer, and you probably can't find a better atmosphere to drink it in.

19. English Pub

Austurstræti 12

If it's football you're hankering for, go to those that know it best: the

English. This pub serves up a dark wooden Anglo-kitsch interior, a long bar with plenty of staff, and loads of comfortable seating, and, best of all, a plethora of screens. Make sure to yell loudly and berate Gylfi Sigurðsson when he misses his penalty—you wanted an authentic pub experience, right?

Shopping

20. Memoria Collective

Hverfisgata 52

A tattoo parlour that does most styles and does them f\$%&-ing well. That said, Balli's got some particularly stellar neotraditional and we must also shout out the

black and grey work of Emii Dun (who has tattooed the author of this map many times.) No favouritism here, folks.

21. Aurum

Bankastræti 4

Aurum is a wild and woody brand that still seems chic and modern. The store, which occupies one of the best spots on Laugavegur, serves up finely-crafted pieces firmly based in Icelandic nature. We're longtime fans of the store, and were we to win the lotter, we'd go there more.

22. Nordic Wasabi

Skólavörðustígur 40

You thought just because we're in

Iceland that doesn't mean we don't have fresh, locally-grown wasabi? Wow—how wrong you are! Nordic Wasabi is used all over the world and luckily, they've got a shop downtown where you can check the whole operation out.

23. Bóksala Stúdenta

Sæmundargata 4

Located within the main building of Háskóli Íslands, the university bookstore runs the gamut from speciality academic texts to classics, new fiction, notebooks and much more. Another plus? The on-site coffee shop serves up what are potentially the fairest priced coffees in town, as does the Háskóli Íslands cafeteria next door.

24. Geisladiskabúð Valda

Laugavegur 64

Valda is by far the most obscure shop in the city. You'll find things in this store that you won't find anywhere else in the world, from black metal cassettes to Japanese bootlegs. It's a true gem.

25. Húrra Reykjavík

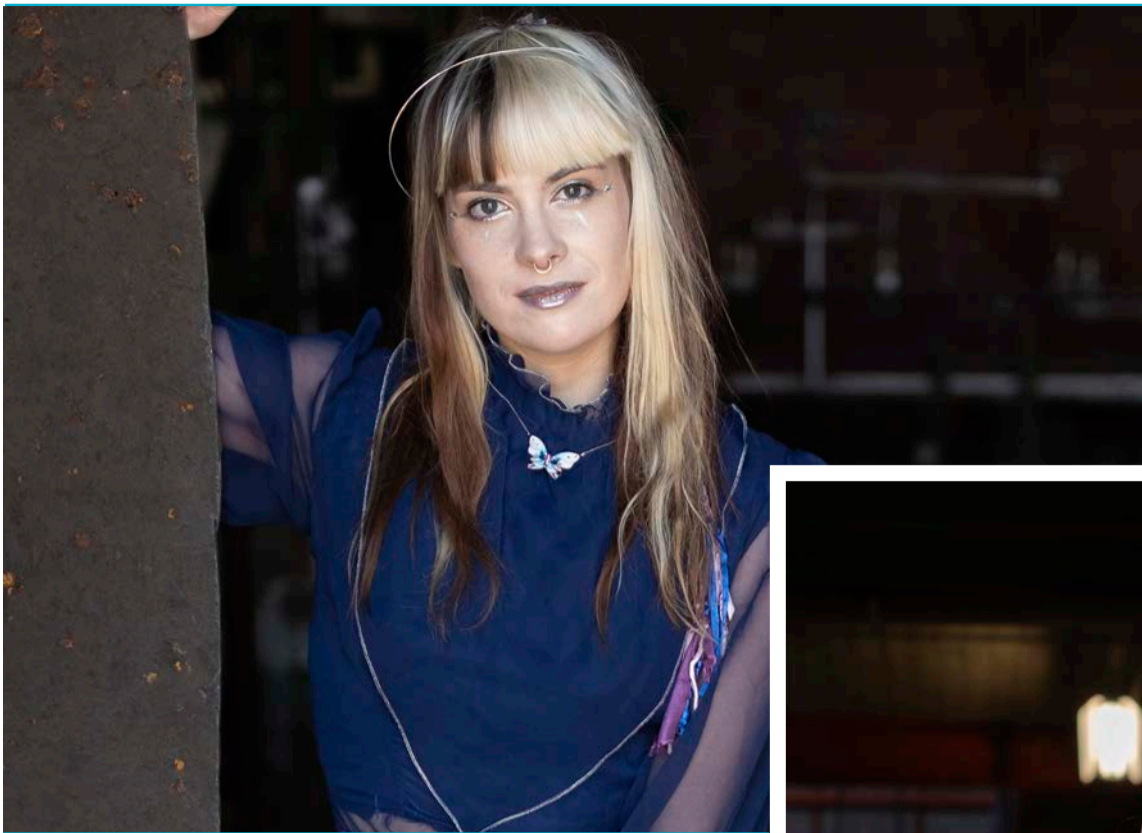
Hverfisgata 18A

This minimalist streetwear/athleisure store serves up a mixed selection of classic items and trendy cuts. They were massively hyped when they opened years ago and have stayed hyped because they know what they are doing and are damn good at it.



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Beam me up, Possie!

The Possessed Flowerchild

Possimiste shares her ethereal space creations with our earthly world

Words: **Alina Maurer** Photos: **John Pearson**

Album

Check out 'Youniverse' online at possimiste.com/youniverse. It'll be available on all streaming platforms at June 25th.

"I have always felt that it was my destiny to channel music to this world from the ethereal space around us that words cannot yet explain," Possimiste — also known under her terrestrial name Leeni Laasfeld — explains in a velvety voice. The 28-year old artist, originally from Estonia, is on the cusp of releasing her debut album 'Youniverse' on June 25th, following a slew of galactic electro-pop singles over the last few years.

While other artists simply write their songs, Possimiste channels her creations from another space outside of our imaginable world. Her title is, therefore, fitting. The word Possimiste comes from being possessed by some kind of magical spirit, which then accesses an extraterrestrial space where her music originates—one that, as she details, is out of this world.

Seriously, she's from Sirius

Possimiste finds her inspiration in visions and dreams, and 'Youniverse' is a compilation of her most meaningful ones. "I feel all the time that I'm not from [this Earth]; I never feel 100% home," she elucidates. In fact, she contends that her alter-ego Possimiste is actually from the bright star system

Sirius, which is also the name of the first—and the artist's personal favourite—song on the album. "Sirius is the home that everybody wants to reach."

"[I hear] melodies, even some of the lyrics, [in my dreams]," she smiles; her eyes twinkling. "Sometimes it's some kind of gibberish and then you start decoding. If I hear a flute, I really need to put a freaking flute there! I cannot change it."

The song "Freefall" exemplifies the fusion of Possimiste's unusual sounds. The song begins with a wave of slow melancholic 80s synths underlined by bird calls. It all feels very mysterious—like a foggy valley waiting for Possimiste to wander through. By the middle, it coalesces into an explosion of upbeat drums fitting of a joyous carnival. It's a sharp contrast that leads to her chanting the words "Freefall" over and over like a mantra at the end—and you can tell she's just ecstatic to be in the midst of it.

At all points, 'Youniverse' has an ethereal tone, with the tracks varying from blissful to dark and gloomy. A certain otherworldly, powerful mood prevails, making Possimiste's creations unique and electrifying. It's easy to let yourself be carried away to Sirius with her.

Decoding dreams & unlocking magic

The album will come out alongside an online experience available on Possimiste's website. Every "dream"—as she refers to her

songs—will be observable, with visuals and written prose describing the origin of the track.

Possimiste calls her listeners "secondary dreamers" and believes this more interactive experience will allow them to decode her messages, or dreams, more easily. She hopes that her album will be a conversation starter about what music means to people. "It makes us feel shivers, it makes us cry, it just has so much power," she says. "It's the closest thing to magic that humans can ever experience."

Foreign from the whole world

Being a foreigner in Iceland has also coloured her experience as an artist. "I think Iceland is such a great place for artists. There is a cultural scene, there is funding and there is support," she explains. "I feel like music is such an international thing, but more like an intergalactic thing. So, let's not classify!" That said, while she calls Iceland her home, it's more a temporary one—or rather, a temporal one. "I'm not connected to being foreign here," she smiles. "But rather [foreign] from the whole world."

Even though Possimiste might be, as she explains it, a foreigner to the world, she hopes to change it for the better. 'Youniverse', she emphasises, should inspire kindness. "Visualize the songs and get lost," Possimiste concludes. "[...] Then I want the audience to do something good."

Alongside wanting to bring good to the world, Possimiste also hopes that with her dreams, she can inspire listeners to be more childlike. To be astonished by the wonders of life again—just like when they were young.

"You need to take care of the inner kid," Possimiste beams. 🍀



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Event Picks



MSEA x Holdgervarl ★

June 10th - 20:30 - Mengi - 2,000 ISK

Name a better duo. First Watch' award at the 2021 Grapevine Music Awards. The cyber beings, or as

they call themselves, "xenobots, ready made organisms, with human roots," play the kind of music they'd play in the seediest goth nights in the far reaches of the galaxy. Seriously—it's 80s Berlin sci-fi mixed with Giallo all wrapped up in a mannequin like mask. The aliens are joined by the earthling MSEA, another Grapevine favourite, who is known for her delicate, gentle vocals and striking, dissonant tones. The end result will be an ethereal, everlasting experience that'll be as good as a vaccine. **HJC**



KARÍTAS Album Release Show ★

June 10th - 20:00 - Kex Hostel - Free!

When I think KARÍTAS, I think of crying really beautifully over a lost love until my mascara has forever ruined my pillow. Seriously—the girl knows how to perfect a slow burn. Luckily, I now have an excuse to cry in public. Thx for the concert, K. **HJC**



Úlfúð ★

June 5th - 20:00 - Gaukurinn - Free!

Fed up with happy summer vibes and feeling up for an intense Saturday night? Úlfúð, an extreme metal band from Reykjavik, is ready to serve. With their dark and deathly sound, they are a guarantee for a haunting night. **HJC**

Photo by Eva Alexandra photography.



MUSIC NEWS Sigur Rós won its controversial court case against the Icelandic Tax Office in the

juridical court at the end of May. The band members were accused of evading 151 million ISK in taxes between 2011-2014 and have been fighting off lawsuits since 2018. It's been a brutal story. In fact, at one point, the tax office even froze the band members' assets for a total of a little under one billion ISK. The band has always maintained that they trusted that their accountants office was handling their taxes, but it turns out that they did not. When the missing tax reports came to light, each member instantly paid the amounts owed. It turned out that was the key detail in the court case—the boys had already paid the fine and can't be tried twice for the same offense. It was therefore thrown out of the court, as it should have. The tax office has been criticized harshly for how heavily they sought the court case. Some have said as a joke that perhaps the tax office will try to hunt down Amnesty International next. **VG**

Our events and music listings will resume the moment the entire Grapevine staff is vaccinated.



Who wants to live forever? Viktor Orri

Man In The Age Of Immortality

Viktor Orri Árnason composes a future with eternal life

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photo: **John Pearson**

Album

'Eilífur' by Viktor Orri Árnason will be released on June 18th, 2021

The Epic of Gilgamesh, written around 2100 BCE and one of the earliest examples of human literature, tells the tale of a thwarted search for immortality. In it, the raucous King Gilgamesh travels to the end of the world in order to solve the only problem he in his kingliness is powerless against—death. There, he meets a brewess named Siduri, who urges Gilgamesh to be happy with what he has, telling the desperate man:

"When the gods created mankind, Death they dispensed to mankind, Life they kept for themselves."

Thousands of years later, in 23 BC, Horace pens 'Odes', whose 11th poem in the first book ends with the infamous phrase: "carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero" or "Seize the day, put very little trust in tomorrow." At the same time, Epicureanism has its revival in Rome, whose inhabitants find wisdom and guidance in the Greek's philosopher's primal tenet of a fearless embrace of death and celebration

of life's simple pleasures.

Fast forward almost 2000 years and Oscar Wilde pens 'The Picture of Dorian Grey'. Add another hundred years and physicist Max Tegmark introduces the thought experiment of Quantum Immortality. Flash to 2005, when noted futurist Ray Kurzweil, the Director of Engineering at Google, gives a concrete date for the Singularity: 2045.

Now, just 24 years before Kurzweil's predictions come to pass, neo-classical composer Viktor Orri Árnason throws his own hat into the ring with 'Eilífur'—his debut album, which continues the thousands of years of exploration of mankind's inevitable future sans death.

What is our purpose?

"The idea really grabbed me that it is possible—that not too far in the future we will have such technical advances that we may be able to regenerate ourselves and choose to live as long as we want," Viktor explains. "My thoughts then became: What does that mean for us as human beings? What is the purpose of life? How can we even enjoy it?"

In Viktor's view, it was man's own knowledge of their mortality

that drove so much of their happiness. "Today, people imagine themselves living 60-90 years and this gives you a timeline to engage with life with the knowledge that you will die," he says. "If that is gone suddenly, it's going to be difficult to stay optimistic and easier to just be bored and depressed."

Manipulating time

To showcase this progression, Viktor's nine-track album bases itself around three songs, entitled "Var", "Er" and "Var-Er".

"Var-Er"—the last song on the album and finale of Viktor's adventure into the future—begins with a smooth horn progression peppered with spurts of twinkling trills. It's

a bit "Rites of Spring"—albeit more relaxed—until a droning men's choir appears, pulling the listener into the depths of meditation. Slow and intense on the surface, the song is underscored at all times by a visceral sense of restlessness, of searching, or unease. Apparently living forever doesn't sound particularly upbeat.

"The goal was to create a space where you would feel lost," Viktor explains. "To create a sense that you could lose yourself in time."

And to do this, Viktor actually did lose himself in time. When composing each track, Viktor used tape-based time manipulation to warp discordant sounds together.

"[This] was very important to me in the process of making this music," he continues. "These are tools that allow me to mix together things that were originally recorded in different tempos or keys, to slow them down or speed them up to get them to play together. The whole album is a display of a distorted reality, of time being irrelevant."

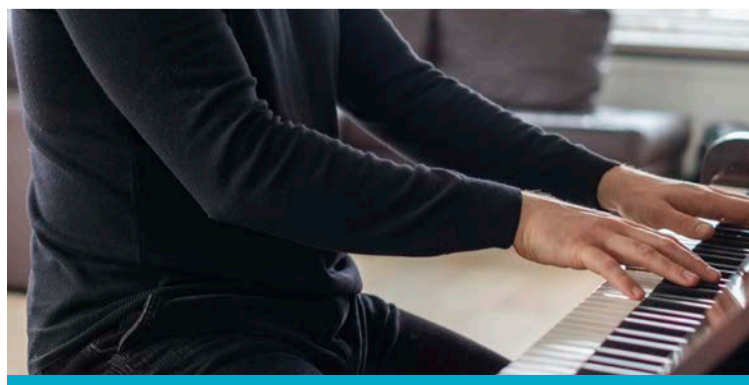
Would you do it?

But the question remains, were these medical advances available, would Viktor embrace them? Will he be uploading his brain in 2045?

"I would do it, but I'd want to stay optimistic," he laughs. "Everyone I've talked to, though, are frightened by this. So yes, I would definitely do it, but it saddens me to know that many of my friends and family would not want to."

As a whole though, Viktor's album urges us to seize the day, regardless of immortality.

"My question was, in the end, what do we need to do to enjoy life? And it became about the simple things in life," Viktor concludes. "We need to learn to appreciate the moment. Allow yourself to be a child and look up at the sky and enjoy how wonderful it is. Enjoy every breath you take." 🍷



"Allow yourself to be a child and look up to the sky and enjoy how wonderful it is."



Icelandic sweetheart **Árný Fjólga Sigmundsdóttir**—member of **Gagnamagnið** and pregnant wife of **Daði Freyr**—was diagnosed with COVID-19 the day after **Daði and Gagnamagnið ended up snatching the fourth place at the 2021 Eurovision Song Contest**. Daði & co. were the only group that could not perform onstage at the finals, as another member of the band tested positive for the virus only days before. All in all, three members of the band ended up contracting the coronavirus at the hotel they stayed at, and it's suspected that this was due to the Polish group—who also tested positive—who was staying at the same hotel. Luckily, everyone in Iceland's Eurovision delegation had already been vaccinated, so no one got seriously ill. **VG**



Teen band **Ólafur Kram** took **first prize at Músiktilraunir 2021**. The infamous competition has catapulted many huge Icelandic bands into the spotlight (and even world fame) including **Of Monsters & Man**, **Vök**, **Agent Fresco** and **Mammút**. If you want to know why we're so obsessed with our new winners, Ólafur Kram, then read this article backwards. **hsams kluH. VG**

i8

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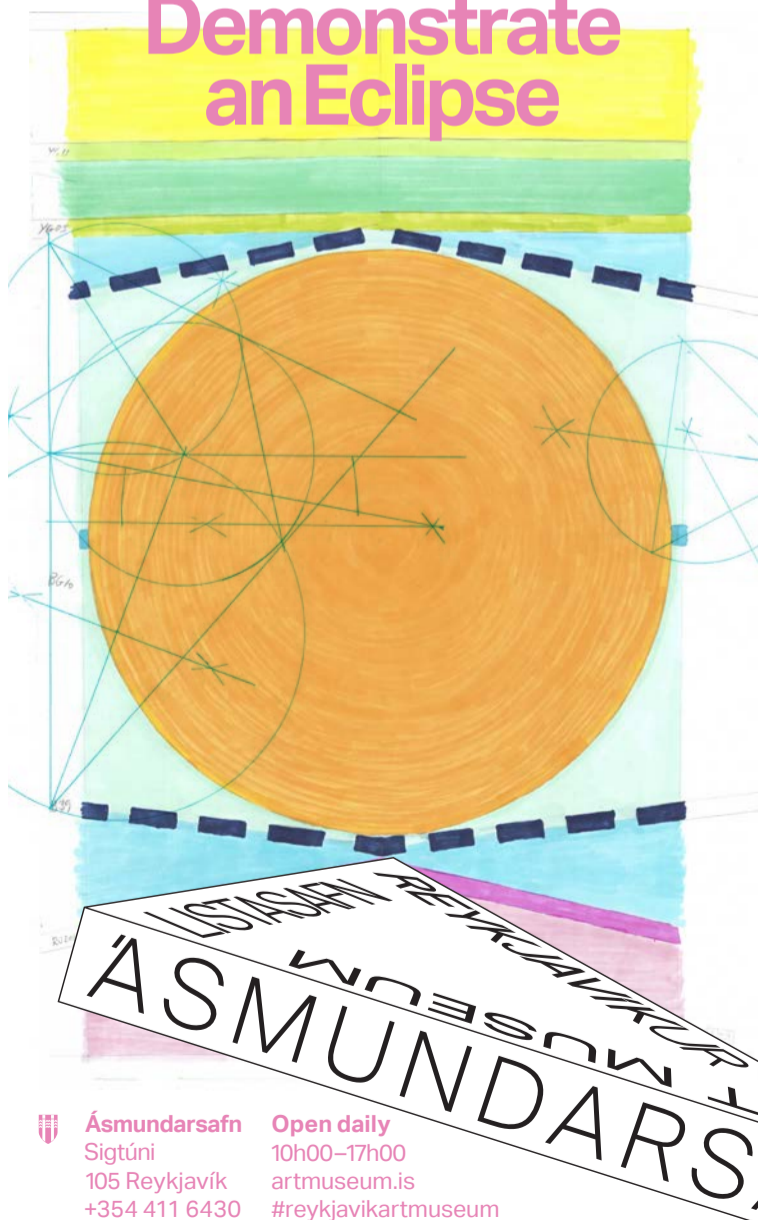
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Art



Kristín Porkelsdóttir showcasing the progression of the Icelandic banknote

To Know Is To Design

Kristín Porkelsdóttir on a lifetime of designing Iceland

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photos: **Ólöf Breiðfjörð**

Exhibit

Kristín Porkelsdóttir's exhibition runs until January 30th, 2022 at the Museum of Design and Applied Art.

"You could say this is my lifetime work," says product designer Kristín Porkelsdóttir, gesturing to the large, airy exhibition hall of the Museum of Design and Applied Art. She's standing in front of what appears to be a corner of logos, with the Icelandic Nature Conservation Council, the town of Mosfellsbær and even BYKO's symbol on display. Yes, all around Kristín are the icons of Iceland—her life's work.

Even if you've never heard the name Kristín Porkelsdóttir, if you've spent more than a minute in Iceland, you're no doubt familiar with her work. From Icelandic butter to the Icelandic banknotes, the history of this country is written with Kristín's product designs. And now, it's all gathered in one room as part of the Museum of Design and Applied Art's special retrospective on her work.

Found treasure

"If you're working on something, you have to know it," Kristín explains, when asked about her approach to product design. "When I was designing a book jacket, I never did it without reading the book first, and then my subconscious would work on it without me knowing. You have to find the core of what you're working on."

And it's clear that Kristín has found many cores, as the room is filled to the brim with works of all forms. There's floral packages of Nýmjólk, which, as Kristín explains, were inspired by the works of Eggert Pétursson. And across from that is a special glass case featuring the progression of Kristín's book jackets for Rachel Carson's game-changing environ-

mentalist work 'Silent Spring'.

But it's Mosfellsbær's logo that Kristín is quick to point out as a favourite. "Egill Skallagrímsson was a painter for the King of Denmark and the story goes that he got a silver treasure for his great defeats. He supposedly buried it in Mosfellsbær," Kristín explains. So when given the challenge of designing the town's coat of arms, Kristín contacted then-president Kristján Eldjárn, who was the guardian of the relics, to see the treasure. He showed her the coins Egill got from the king and voilá—the core was found.

Hidden gems

The króna get their own corner of the exhibition. Of course, the banknotes are present but along side them are sketches from the design process that Kristín has kept over her lifetime and other gems—such as the reference photos Kristín used to draw those of which she had few visual references.

"There were no pictures of Brynjólfur Sveinsson," Kristín

explains, gesturing to the 1,000 ISK bill featuring the bishop. "So I asked a friend of mine. He is a photographer, but I took his place and he posed for me." Kristín then took the photo of her friend and altered it slightly for the finalised sketch. "I changed his face a little. I used the mouth of my oldest son," she laughs.

The most curious note in the collection though is one that many newcomers to Iceland might not even know exists—the 2,000 ISK bill, which features famed painter Jóhannes Kjarval. "The 2,000 ISK bill was never programmed into the ATMs, so not a lot of people use it. You have to specifically ask in the bank to get it," Kristín explains. "I'm actually quite sad it didn't get a lot of attention — I think it's the most beautiful one."

That's a secret

While the current banknotes are here to stay, there has been talk once again about removing two zeros off the króna to reorganise and stabilise the currency. If so, does Kristín have any ideas of who she'd choose to feature from the modern era?

"My husband and I were talking about it yesterday evening, and we have some ideas, but we will never say," she says cheekily. "But I think there might not be more banknotes. I think the world is using cards." She pulls out her card, laughing. "That's a secret!"



Butter!

Our Picks



★ The incredible reality of you

Until June 12th - Gallery Port

Ymir Grönvold has been busy. The pandemic didn't dampen his stride and the young artist has now returned with a selection of drawings and paintings made over the past year. While the works are diverse in content and subject matter, his pieces are always characterised by an overwhelming sense of playfulness. Full of natural elements like leaves and flowers and bulging with colours, patterns and soul, his paintings bring comfort—much like a toasty fire on a foggy day. The title of the exhibition refers to a book about consciousness—something Ymir is extremely interested in—and it's this pervasive fascination with life and being present that has captured many towards Ymir's art. **HJC**



★ Object of Desire

Until August 26th - Gerðarsafn

A collaboration between Singapore and Iceland, 'Object of Desire' will travel between both countries with an exploration of "things"

(i.e. the desire, distribution, and reproduction of "things"). Anti-consumerists rejoice. Gathering "things" will never make you happy—unless they are free newspapers. **HJC**



★ Dreamfields

Until July 4th - Kling og Bang

This collaborative exhibition aims to take viewers through an "otherworldly vista" by playing with textural experiments against

landscapes that are both miniature and monumental in scale. The artwork inspires a feeling of desolation through the scenery, blending each artist's unique palette. **HJC**



★ Pillow Talk - Reload

June 10th-24th - Reykjavik City Library: Grófin

Sonja Kovačević's newest immersive installation dives deep into the lives of asylum seekers and refugees in Iceland. In it,

emergency beds are hooked up to speakers that broadcast stories told directly from those trying to find a new, safer life in Iceland. Lie down, listen, and learn. **HJC**

June 4th-July 1st

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 - HAFNARHÚS Iðavöllur: Icelandic Art in the 21st Century

In 2021, Reykjavik Art Museum focuses on the microenvironment, with an aim of displaying the growth of the Icelandic art scene. The whole Hafnarhús becomes the setting for a powerful exhibition of new works by young artists who may be considered to be in the lead for their generation, and assumptions can also be made about the larger context of Icelandic and international contemporary art.

- Opens on June 10th, 2021
- Runs until October 17th, 2021

18

Ragna Róbertsdóttir

No information is currently available on this particular exhibition, but if it's anything like Ragna's previous work, you can bet it'll be full of strong forms and made of natural materials found freely in the Icelandic landscape. If it's not... well... we tried.

- Opens on June 10th, 2021
- Runs until July 31st, 2021

MUTT GALLERY

21 Artists

It's 2021, baby, which means 21 artists are showcasing works at Mutt to open the summer season. Many Grapevine favourites including Freyja Eilíf and Almar Atlason will be present.

- Opens on June 6th, 2021
- Runs until August 8th, 2021

HVERFISGALLERÍ

Abys

Hildur Bjarnadóttir presents her third solo show at Hverfisgallerí. Exact information hasn't yet been released, but Hildur is known for works that investigate issues of belonging, ecology, place and co-habitation with animals and plants in the south of Iceland.

- Opens on June 19th, 2021
- Runs until August 21st, 2021

Ongoing

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

Of The North

'Of the North' (2001) is created from Steina Vasulka's archive of video

recordings, mostly of Icelandic nature—either the surface of the earth, or microscopic views: microbes, as well as crashing waves and melting ice, landslips and an array of natural phenomena relating to the formation and destruction of our planet.

- Runs until January 9th, 2022

HELLO UNIVERSE

It's 2021 and we're over Earth. Enter Finnur Jónsson. The avant-garde art of Finnur—the first Icelandic artist to address outer space in his works, in the first half of the 20th century—presents the artist's unfettered interpretation of the marvels of the celestial bodies, which are the theme of this exhibition. Always remember: We are but matter experiencing itself on a pale blue dot.

- Runs until January 9th, 2022

Death Is Elsewhere

Ragnar Kjartansson's opus "Death Is Elsewhere" made its debut in 2019 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Now, it's back in the artists hometown for a summer long residency at the National Gallery. Featuring ya fav musician twins GYÐA, Kristín Anna, and (randomly) those two brothers from the National, the seven-channel video installation sees a single song played without end in a continuous loop. Filmed around the summer solstice in southern Iceland, "Death Is Elsewhere" is a referential work that turns romantic clichés on their head with irony, nihilism and absurdity to spare

- Runs until September 19th, 2021

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 Exhibition

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

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The Silent But Noble Art

Sigurhans Vignir (1894-1975) left the museum an archive of around 40,000 photographs. Many of these

document everyday Icelandic society just after the creation of the Republic of Iceland in 1944—a christening, labourers at work, people skating, the occupation of Iceland during World War II by British troops, a beauty pageant, a birthday party, a wigmaker... and so on.

- Runs until September 19th, 2021



The Border Between Nature And The Scene

"In my art, I explore the limits of photography by fragmentarily excluding the concept of time for scenes that testify to the human encounter with life. The photographic scenes are set in scenographies where I have worked to show perspectives that make visible the fictional environment and illusion within the scenographic image." – Peter Stridsberg

- Runs until August 8th, 2021

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 row boats to monstrous trawlers.

Melckmeyt 1659

Melckmeyt was a Dutch merchant ship that crashed near Flatey Island in 1659. Explore the wreck here, with two images of different origins against each other.

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

Kristín Þorkelsdóttir

You've probably seen Kristín Þorkelsdóttir's work before though you might not know it. She's designed the packaging of countless foods as well as the banknotes in Iceland, among other famous items. Come see her progression as an artist.

- Runs until January 30th, 2022

Behind the Scenes — Natural Dyes: A Modern Perspective

Where do textile colours come from? Nowadays many are chemical, but this project shows the wide range of colours one can produce naturally in the Iceland.

- Runs until September 12th, 2021

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

Eternal Recurrence

Jóhannes S. Kjarval—after whom the museum is named—is put in dialogue with a number of prominent contemporary Iceland artists including Ólafur Eliasson, Ragnar Kjartansson, Steina and Eggert Pétursson. Now that's a lineup.

- Runs until September 19th, 2021

HAFNARBORG

Discotheque

Arnfinnur Amazeen's exhibition presents new works that draw inspiration from the ambiguous imagery of Icelandic night club culture in the seventies and eighties. While the title is a reference to revelry, what we have here is nonetheless a rather dreary discotheque. There is no glitz and glamour to be found here, only the subtle indication of something that has already happened.

- Runs until August 15th, 2021

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - ÁSMUNDARSÁFN

Sirra Sigrún Sigurðardóttir & Ásmundur Sveinsson: As If To Demonstrate An Eclipse

Sirra's work is cosmic in nature, often connected to speculation about our position within the inner workings of nature, physics and the forces that drive the world. Her works often display our position as individuals, our significance and insignificance. As an existentialist paper, who ruminated on our own obscurity, we can't agree more.

- Runs until October 17th, 2021

Design for sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson

Five product designers take over the museum shop at Ásmundarsafn with objects inspired by Ásmundur

Sveinsson's world and heritage.

- Runs until October 17th, 2021

HÍÐ ÍSLENSKA BÓKMENNTAFÉLAG

Abstract Reality

The ground floor of the Hotel Saga will play host to a series of abstract art works by Valtyr Pétursson. He used abstraction to express sudden cultural, social and political shifts in Iceland, so his pieces are the perfect thing to stare at and reflect on our own relatively abstract times. But don't worry: it's an uplifting and colourful exhibition, so no need to bring the tissues.

- Runs until August 31st, 2021

NORDIC HOUSE

Nature in Transition: Shifting Identities

The North is changing. Man-made climate change is pushing our climates into new territory and things are moving more rapidly than we could have ever imagined. This special exhibition dissects the nature of that instability in the light of the four Nordic countries and their history and future. It's an important topic—and one that we cannot afford to ignore.

- Runs until August 1st, 2021

Rockscramblers

Rockscramblers is inspired by the illustrated poetry of poet Mats Söderlund and illustrator Kathrina Skarðsá. On view are the illustrations and poetry in their original forms and one can also interact with a mysterious recording of Söderlund himself, a cave where young visitors can have a cozy time and (!!!) a new climbing wall.

- Runs until September 5th, 2021

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

GARDATORG 1
210 GARDABÆR

EXHIBITIONS

KRISTÍN ÞORKELSDÓTTIR

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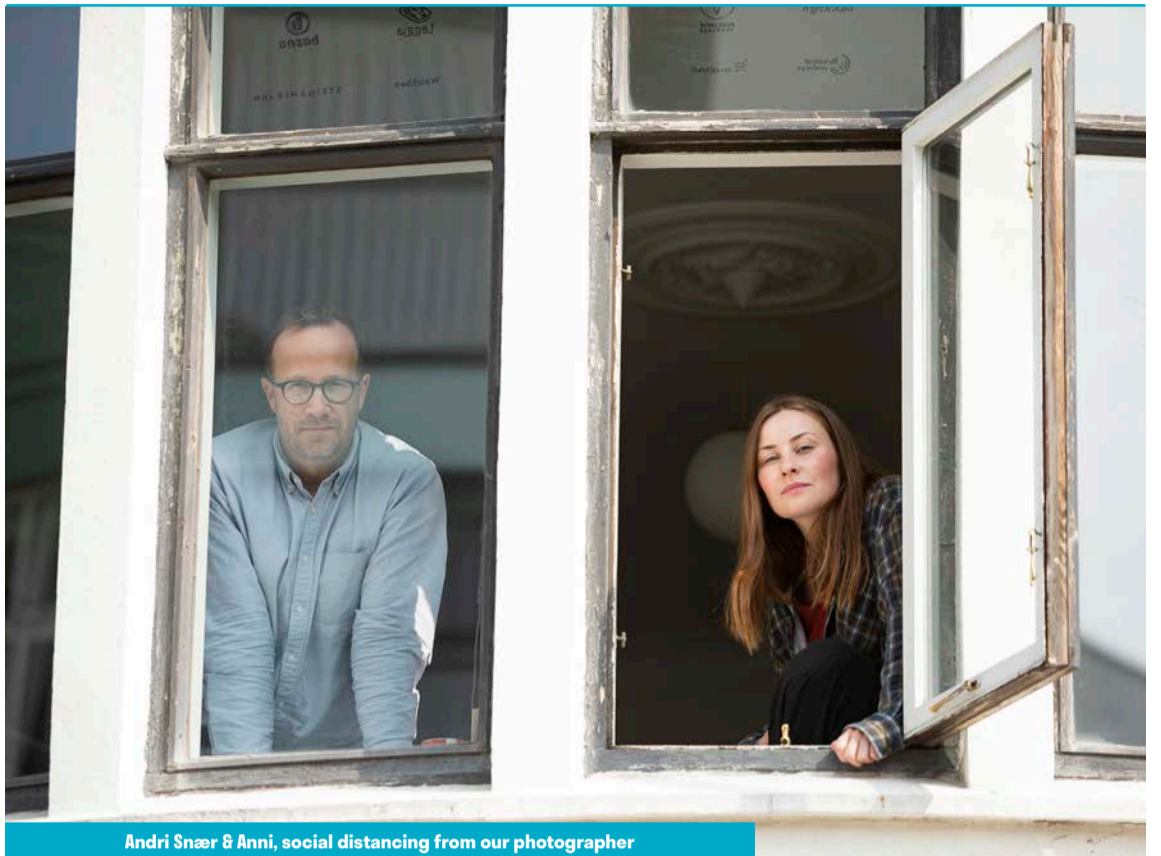
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Film



Andri Snær & Anni, social distancing from our photographer

Reflecting On A Moment

'Apausalypse' captures philosophers, musicians, and dancers at a standstill

Words: **Brittnee Kiner** Photos: **Art Bicnick & 'Apausalypse'**

Our contemporary idea of the word 'Apocalypse' describes an inescapable end; for example, for many, COVID-19 brought an end to humanity as we understood it—a societal apocalypse. However, such a designation is narrow in its perspective and 'Apausalypse', the new documentary by directors Andri Snær Magnason and Anni Ólafsdóttir reveals the true origins of this word, as it explores the great pause that enveloped the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This unfolding of society over 2020 led Andri Snær and Anni to the name for the film. Visual artist Haraldur Jónsson, who is featured in the film, told the two that the Greek word 'Apocalypse' originally meant to uncover something. So contrary to last year symbolizing an ending—a modern apocalypse—the film instead suggests that it could signify the unveiling of a world that had long been buried by the strains of humankind. As society struggled to find its footing, earth was able to find its breath again.

Capturing the pause

While all opportunities seemed to have faded amid the global lockdown from COVID-19, Andri Snær and Anni allowed art to persevere. They hoped to capture this moment in time through the nation's best storytellers, such as photographer Ragnar Axelsson, poet Elísabet Jökulsdóttir and professor of philosophy Sigríður Þorgeirsdóttir, gaining a philosophical and theoretical deep-dive before any of these creative thinkers had time to process the unfolding of the world around them.

"Our intentions were to make a work of art when almost everything was impossible," Andri Snær asserted, speaking to the limitations they faced. When asked about the status of restrictions, Anni explained that "Everything was closed" but nonetheless, the pair travelled around Iceland. They engaged in conversations from a distance—through living room windows or metres away in cars. The two set out with no idea where the conversations would lead them—

they talked indiscriminately with subjects, developing the narrative of the 'Apausalypse' as they went. When asked about how they chose which individuals to interview, Andri Snær admitted "We didn't know if they would be the ones" but that regardless of what came of the words exchanged, they would maintain historical significance.

Occasionally overlooked victims of the pandemic include kids—withdrawn from social situations and experiences that shape their character. In one scene of the film, a couple's eight year old son had not been in school for several weeks, and it did not take long for him to express the suppressed emotions of confusion and isolation felt by children across the world. The boy took a seat at the bench of the piano, stabbing at the keys as he sang with rage against the virus.

Return, release & reflect

In the film's closing, images of an empty airport and a car-less Reykjavík flash across the screen. Hints of desolation and sorrow pervade, carried by the gentle notes of musician Ásta Fanney Sigurðardóttir, while a poem is read aloud describing the resurgence of nature that was seen around the world. With the suspension of societal consequences, it explains, came notions of peace and tranquility unfounded in a century of haste. While the film does not explicitly highlight the revival of nature, Andri explains that "It is about global warming but in more subtle ways." Wishfully, he asks "If we can stop for a virus and protect the elderly, can we protect the future?"

The global community has been trapped in a perpetual cycle of healing, yearning for a day of relief and release. "Immediately, we will not learn anything but, in the long run, we will look at this as a really significant milestone in how we understand the economy, ecology, [and] society," Andri adds. And thus, a piece such as 'Apausalypse' serves as a sobering reminder of the places that we have been and the places we are to go if we cannot fully reflect on the pause that allowed the earth to experience a degree of recovery. As Anni concludes, "We so easily forget."



A still from 'Apausalypse'

The Guardians of The Geldingadalir

Words & Photos: John Pearson



Iceland's civil defence relies heavily on local search and rescue (SAR) teams, highly-trained volunteers who undertake a huge range of tasks from searching for missing people to mountain rescue and disaster response.

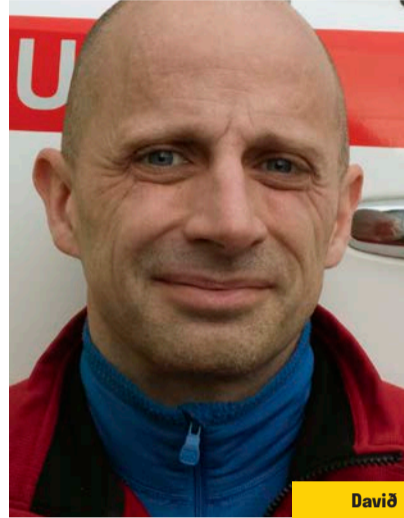
They've been particularly busy these past few months, helping visitors at the ever-shifting and potentially dangerous volcano site in Reykjanes. The Grapevine joined a team from Kópavogur for an evening patrol, just before the closure of the site.



Arnar



Maria



Davið



Metta



The hike to site



SAR chat with visitors and offer advice



SAR are here to help, not to enforce



Visitors are always happy to see SAR on site



The patrol leaves the site at 2300, but visitors are welcome to stay



The Kópavogur team and a fiery cone



An end-of-shift BBQ has become a team tradition

sushi
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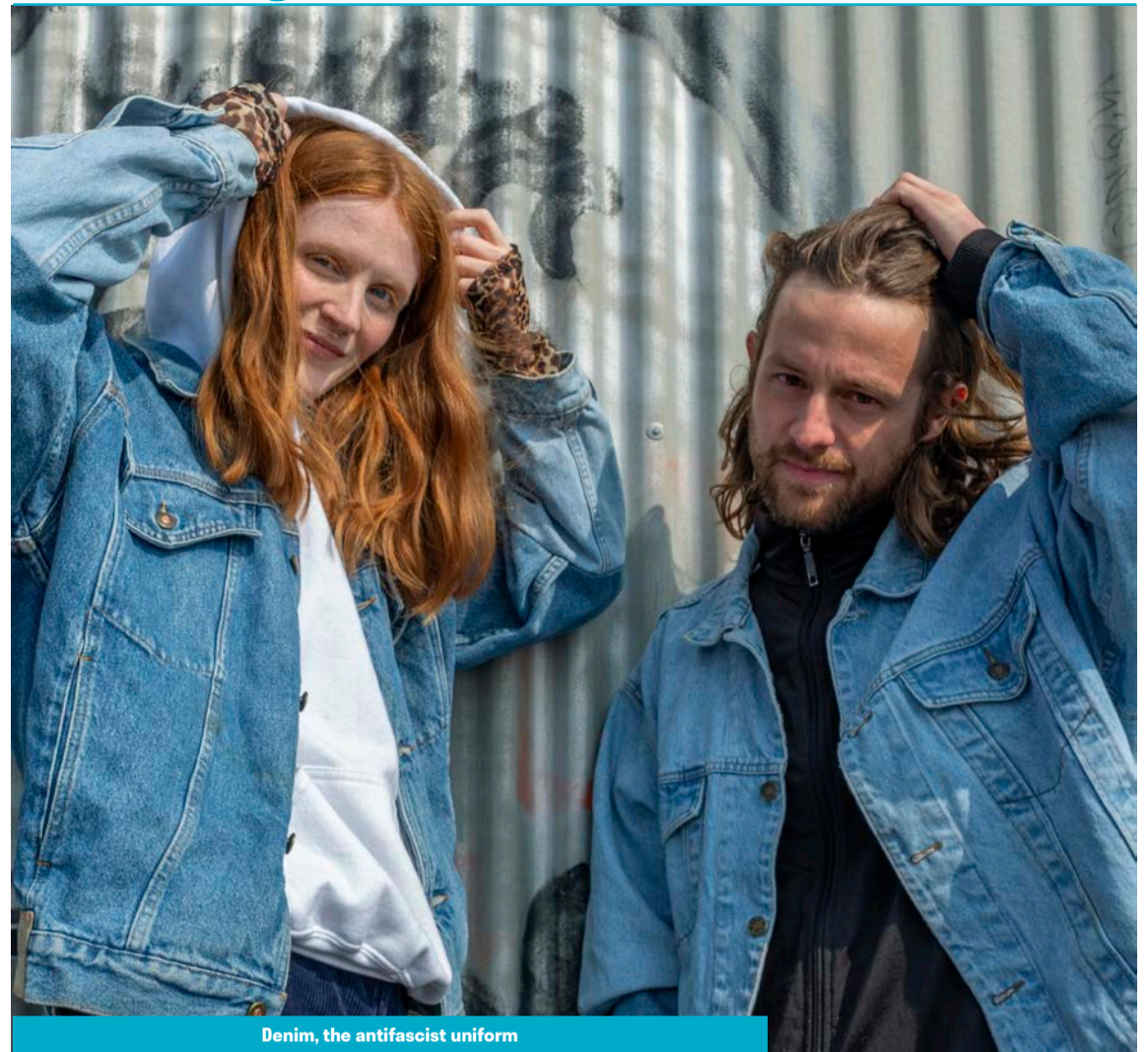
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Denim, the antifascist uniform

‘Sometimes depressed... but always antifascist’ By BSI

All rise for some sweet songs against bad things

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photo: **John Pearson**

Track By Track

Check out BSI on all streaming platforms.

BSÍ—one of the more un-Googleable bands in Iceland—are back with ‘Sometimes depressed... but always antifascist’. To learn more, Sigurlaug ‘Silla’ Thorarensen and Julius Rothlaender—the duo behind BSI—sat down with us to talk about the release track by track.



first half:
‘Sometimes depressed’

My Lovely

Julius: In this song, you’ll hear the secret ingredient of BSI—an old Casio keyboard, found in a flea market in Berlin a century ago. Mysteriously it found its way to Reykjavík and we gave it the name ‘Casillus’. It’s preferably played by Silla’s hands or my toes.

TAL 11

Julius: We stole the idea for this song from ourselves as we sifted through old demos from our very first rehearsals at R6013 a couple of years ago. The last bits and pieces for the lyrics we wrote together

in a bar in Berlin, while drinking champagne and banana juice the night before recording the song.

Old Moon

Silla: This is the first and only song we composed with a guitar. Usually we make a song by improvising on bass and drums. We are always switching around who plays what instrument, so Julius made the guitar melody and I made the bass melody, but I ended up playing the guitar and Julius the bass! Confusion is key!

Uncouple

Silla: Trúnótime—I think this song was actually the most cathartic one for me because of a heartbreak I was going through at the time. In the outro, I say goodbye to a future that didn’t come. But I like that it is a pretty upbeat song though, which is a big contrast to the lyrics.

25Lue

Julius: I was born in a town called Lübeck in Northern Germany and went to revisit that place two years ago. Silla came to visit me and that really meant a lot to me. The song is not about medieval cathedrals and the title is just the name of the demo file – that’s as much BSI as it gets.

second half:
‘...but always antifascist’

Vesturbæjar Beach

Julius: Our friend Snæfríður, who created the music video together with Arína Vala, said all there is to say about the song: “dsjúmm...,

dsjúmm..., dsjúmm, dsjúmm, dsjúmm, dsjúmm!”



Feela það

Silla: You only need to know this: ‘We’re all sluts—you’re a slut, all these dudes behind you’s a slut, your mama’s a slut, your grandma’s a slut, everybody!’

My Knee Against Kyriarchy

Julius: More sweet songs against bad things! Silla taught me the term ‘kyriarchy’, which is an intersectional extension of the idea of patriarchy beyond gender, encompassing more forms of dominating and oppressive hierarchies, such as sexism, racism, ableism, antisemitism, homophobia, transphobia.

Dónakallalagið

Silla: This song is an angry anthem aimed at all the ‘dónakallar’—all the pervy rude dudes out there and a big F*** you to the social systems that allow them to easily get away with all kinds of shit.

Alltaf Alltaf Stundum Alltaf

Silla: The working title for this one was “Gróulagið”—a reference to the great band GRÓA. We still call it that when rehearsing and I don’t think we’ll get used to the new title any time soon. Friða Björg, Hrafnhildur and Karó from GRÓA with Bjarni Daníel from Supersport! sing backing vocals in the outro that lift the song to a higher level!

**A GUIDE THAT
FUCKS YOU UP**

A selection from

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in 101 Reykjavík

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Beer 500 ISK,
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Every day from
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Beer 700 ISK,
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Every day from
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Beer 690 ISK,
Wine 795 ISK.

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Every day from
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Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 850 ISK.

FJALLKONAN
Every day from
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Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK.

FORRÉTTABARINN
Every day from
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Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

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

ÍÐA ZIMSEN
Every day from
8:00 to 10:00.
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Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

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Every day from
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Beer 750 ISK,
Wine (On Wed.)
800 ISK.

KAFFIBRENNSLAN
Every day from
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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.

LAUNDROMAT
Every day from
20:00 to 22:00.
Beer 650 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK.

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

MIAMI
Every day from
15:00 to 19:00.
Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK,
Cocktails 1,200
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.

PUNK
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

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

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

RÖNTGEN
Every day from

15:00 to 20:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK.

SÆTA SVÍNÍÐ
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
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.

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

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

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Wine 745 ISK.

VEÐUR
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Wine 800 ISK.

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Wine 800 ISK.



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have a beer on
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almost entirely
in direct sunlight
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to 19:00, which
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hours for not
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also after-work
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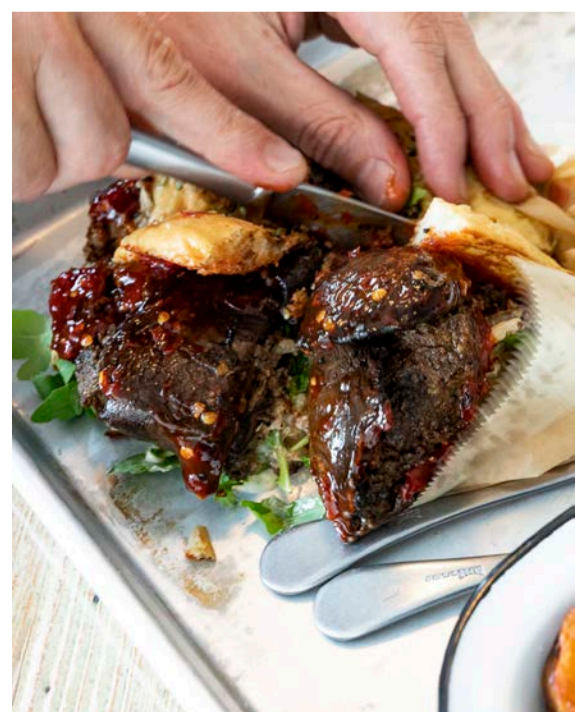
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Grayson Del Faro doing his viking yoga routine

Books To Read Before The Endless Summer Days Rob You Of Your Sanity

Valur's top summer reads for the "warm" Icelandic "beach" weather

Words: [Valur Grettisson](#) Photo: [Art Bicnick](#)

It's that time of the year again—the time of maddening light and endless days that mess up your sense of time completely. Yes, you guessed it, it's summer! And what else is there to do during these overwhelming hours than to read something utterly stupid, or better yet, incredibly brilliant?

It's true that Icelanders, like most Scandinavians, aren't very

fond of writing about summer. Most Icelandic authors seem to prefer something gloomier—usually a desolate farm that's fallen to despair, with a storm on the horizon and rogue sheep. However, you need not despair, for here's a selection of jolly and bright Icelandic novels to take you through the summer months.

'Summer Light, and Then Comes the Night' by Jón Kalmann

This is the book that made Jón Kalmann an overnight superstar. In fact, right now he's probably the most beloved fiction writer in Iceland—one of those guys that you'd like to send a friend request to on Facebook and ask him over

for a coffee. (Not that I'd do that, but Jón, if you're reading this...)

Yes, I'm a fan boy and will proudly admit it.

'Sumarljósið, svo kom nóttin' ('Summer Light, and Then Comes the Night') is a beautiful poetic effort that is both incredibly wise and insanely funny. The book is compiled as a series of short stories over one summer in a small Icelandic fishing town, with each story connected by a strong thread. The protagonists include an odd astronomer, boys in a haunted warehouse and a police man who can't seem to man his son up before he commits suicide. Notably, nobody dies in this odd village. In fact, the town doesn't even have a cemetery. In my view, the book is a masterpiece, and what's important here, it happens over the summer, so it's totally relatable to you, who we're sure are also odd astronomers in small, eerie fishing villages.

'Here We Are' by Kjartan Ragnarsson

From a master to a newby. 'Here We Are' is the debut poetry book from Kjartan Ragnarsson and it's quite promising. Not only is it beautifully written, but it was also originally written in English—targeting an international crowd—which is a remarkably unique feat in the Icelandic literary world. It's also, I must add, a refreshing one.

Each poem in the book is part of a larger story of a city and Kjartan's poems allow the reader to dive into each character's thoughts, revealing their inner connections. Of course, I must admit that the effort does bear some of the unavoidable characteristics of a new writer, but it's ultimately a surprising, worthwhile read.

'The Sagas and Shit' by Grayson Del Faro

I can't go on without mentioning one of the funniest books in the Northern Hemisphere and it's definitely not one I have any personal connection to. No way.

Grayson Del Faro's epic 'The Sagas and Shit' began as a regular

Grapevine column. It was quickly discovered, though, that it was something special. Grayson, who is a scholar of the Icelandic sagas, has a deep understanding of these complex stories and his summaries were not only enlightening, but also extremely funny. See, Grayson doesn't approach these cultural holy grails with the same dusty attitudes as most scholars. No, he draws out the core meaning and messages and puts a modern twist on them. Think intrigue, drama and sex jokes you really don't want your grandma to see.

Warning: This is one of those books that will make you accidentally piss yourself while screaming and laughing at the silliness of these insane vikings, who, like you, went completely mad in Iceland's endless summer nights.

'666 Jokes' by Huggleikur Dagsson

We've now reached the infamously dark and twisted humour of comic artist Huggleikur Dagsson. Where to start? First off, it really is insane that this humorous genius hasn't been cancelled by an angry mob yet. Truly mind-boggling. But I think the answer is simple—the man is so talented that even though his humour is as depraved and dark as it gets, he still manages to entertain, shock and showcase his brilliantly sarcastic messages to the world. It's a delicate line, but he treads it.

In '666 Jokes', Huggleikur showcases the best and worst of Icelandic humour. These are thoughts you might not even say in a tight group of friends while drunk by the campfire and everyone's cell phones are out of battery. Huggleikur makes fun of everything—and I mean everything. Only the bravest of the brave should read this book, for Huggleikur is like a lovely Icelandic summer festival—filled with unruly madness, riot, burning tents and crappy folk music. ☘

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

Regn Sólmundur Evu

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen
Photo: Art Bicnick



Regn Sólmundur Evu (24) is an art student and comedian.

Wearing:

- Thrifted shirt, jacket & stockings
- Lindex skirt
- Handmade harness & earrings
- Nike shoes
- Kiko lipstick

Describe your style in 5 words:

Chaotic. Fun. Moody. Wild. 80s. It's all over the place!

Favourite stores in Reykjavík:

I love the Red Cross, Fatamarkaðurinn and Wasteland. I used to go there all the time but now I just have too many clothes! But I still check in every now and again to see if I can find some gems.

Favourite piece:

Actually, this top that I have on is my favourite piece ever. I found it 5-6 years ago at Fatamarkaðurinn and I thought it was so ugly that I bought it. It has grown on me so much. It's so 80s—it looks like a carpet—so I'm like an arcade. I also have some pieces by a company called Trash Queen that make beautiful clothes that are all handsewn and from a queer person, so that's pretty cool.

Something I would never wear:

I'd give everything a chance, but maybe not low-rise skinny jeans.

Lusting after:

First off, I'd like Iceland to stop deporting people. But clothes-wise, I'm on the lookout for some good cowboy boots.

Also a good corset, but I haven't found corsets in my size yet. Just being a plus size non-binary person is tough sometimes because it feels like there's so many rules about what to wear and what not to wear so I'm just on the lookout for things that go outside the box that I am put in. Non-binary people are supposed to be androgynous and fat people are supposed to wear loose clothing so I don't do any of that!

Regn's official non-binary style tips:

Gender and gender expression is not the same thing, so basically—you can do whatever the fuck you want with clothes! Clothes are just drag and gender expression is just drag, so you're basically just doing everyday drag when you get dressed each morning. Having fun is the most important thing. Don't be afraid of colour and don't be afraid of going outside the box of what people expect of you. 🍀

FJALLKONAN

KRÁ & KRÆSINGAR

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

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ICELANDIC PLATTER

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- > Minke whale, malt glaze
- > Lamb tartar, chive mayo

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Food



The only team we play for is Team Taco

Talk about Tacos

La Poblana has its sights set on expanding Mexican cuisine

Words: [Shruthi Basappa](#) Photos: [Art Bicnick](#)

When La Poblana showed up on the roster at Hlemmur Mathöll in 2017, the tiny restaurant was filling the gaping void of Mexican cuisine in Iceland. It came on the backs of Taqueria in Ármúli, a brief but delicious love affair; an attempt at Cali tacos at Taco fyrir mig, the once-a-week event at The Cocoo's Nest; and the continued popularity of Tex-Mex by way of Icelandic fixture Culiacan.

But far removed from global interpretations of Mexican cuisine outside of his home country, Carlos Guarneros, encouraged by

the support of his then partner, opened La Poblana to honour the culinary memories of his mother and grandmother. "It is a project to make Mexican food the way I grew up with it," says Carlos. "My mom is from Puebla, and this is for her," he smiles shyly, explaining that 'Poblana' is someone from Puebla.

But after only a year of operations, a divorce and subsequent sale, La Poblana downed their shutters at the food hall. "It was kind of OK for me," Carlos admits. "I felt I wasn't ready to run a place. I wasn't happy, to be honest," he confesses.

"To close Poblana for the first time was necessary."

We are sitting in the high-ceilinged taqueria, with large windows perfect for people watching and walls awash with a striking mural from one of the Aztec codices by the artist 'Otho'. The two gods are Mictlantecuhtli (god of the underworld) and Quetzalcóatl (the god of war). Together, they symbolize life and death. The mural has the gods holding ears of corn in place of the traditional canes—a reminder of the importance of the simple grain. It's all fitting for Carlos' taqueria.

Talk About Tacos

The current menu is concise, with just four tacos on offer. It's a throwback to Mexican taquerias where pride is taken in doing a few things and doing them well.

"I chose the tacos that reminded me of something," Carlos shares. "For example, the carnitas were my late night tacos with friends, after a long night of drinking and you want something greasy. The campechano is the taco that reminds me of Mexico City; it's the taco you eat before you take the bus, before work, on the way back home. The chicken tinga is what my mother makes often. So I chose the ones that I can put a little bit of myself into."

Carlos' earnesty translates into his food. The carnitas are fatty chunks of slow braised pork, cooked with oranges and aromatic spices. There is plenty of lime to squeeze, the acidity vital to cutting through the richness of the



"Take a picture, it'll last long than these tacos!"

meat. The campechano, a personal favourite of mine, is a grilled beef leg, with homemade chorizo and melted cheese, singing with the warm depth of guajillos, anchos and smoked paprika. If the taqueria isn't packed, one can see Carlos busy at the grill, stirring in the melty cheese, chop-chop-chopping with his wide spatula and flipping one tortilla after another.

The pollo de tinga is a sublime contrast to the darkness of the red meats and is perfumed with the heady aromas of oregano. His mother's recipe, this is a lighter version compared to the tomatoey, smoke kissed versions one may have encountered.

An Honest Tortilla

A tortilla is more than a piece of bread, more than its components of flour, fat and water. A freshly made tortilla, be it made with corn or flour, is a simple joy to behold. Warm corn tortilla with its milky mustiness is as important as the meats and vegetables it holds. At the taqueria, Carlos dishes both yellow and blue corn tortillas. They even arrive with a smear of the chorizo fat as is wont in Mexico. This little detail, amiss in the pop-up, food truck, claim-to-be-Mexican-but-aren't menus and restaurant offerings is one to applaud.

Tacos belie the labour and complexities involved in its 1-2-3 bite of dance of textures, temperatures, the contrast and balance of heat, acidity and freshness, lent by the crunch of white onions, the citrusy spring of fresh coriander all brought together by carefully chosen salsas. The overall balance comes down to the size of tortilla and just the right amount of filling, enough to fold them over in one hand and be eaten in no more than a few bites, juices running down satisfyingly.

Carlos serves the carnitas with a housemade salsa macha that is nutty, vibrant and packs a pleasant punch. The pineapple habanero is a fruity number and the salsa verde sans the tomatillos is a Mexican classic rendered in Iceland. "It is very challenging to find the right ingredients," laments Carlos.

This isn't cheap food. It's slow food, with time as an integral ingredient. If there ever was an oxymoron for fast food, it'd be the taco.

Clichés and Stereotypes

For a culture that gave the world everything from chocolate and chillies to chewing gum, Mexi-



The taco master

can food outside of its home is a strange concoction far removed from its origins. Its popularity here has translated to the birthday party and fermingarveisla fixture of 'Mexikósk súpa', not to be confused with sopa de tortilla, or the equally baffling Mexican cheese, again, not to be mistaken for cotija or queso fresco. Supermarket aisles are dedicated to canned refried beans (shockingly amiss from restaurant menus), sliced jalapenos and various salsas of the mild, hot and spicy variants, with tactfully placed blazing flames indicating heat and the danger they bring, alongside tortillas and unfortunately labelled jars of 'street food sauces'.

"Contrary to what people think, we are not eating raw chillies all the time," Carlos says bemused. "I can't quite explain it..." Carlos pauses, searching for words, "it's just, ouch, you know? I wonder why?" he says. Even as traditions are important, Carlos insists nothing remains static. "I still believe that everything changes. And maybe this is part of the transformation. But we have to be careful where we are borrowing traditions from."

Future plans

The small taqueria has already proven too small and Carlos is running a hurried expansion at Kofinn. "I'd like to have a dynamic menu. I'm thinking of summer tacos with fish, braised lamb in the winter. Use all the parts of the animal—like the tongue, head [and] offal, which is traditional in Mexico," he says excitedly.

"I am also working on pop-up menus without any tacos. Maybe moles? And not the chocolate one that people know but the rich variety [with] nuts, greens, seasonal ingredients. Pair them with top shelf Mezcal, Tequila and maybe even Mexican wines," he says.

For all his excitement Carlos is mystified, "I'm kind of surprised how much people like the food," Carlos says. "For me, it is normal. I am following the recipes from my mom — this is natural. I'm not doing anything extraordinary," he says. The

Well Carlos, if this is your take on the ordinary, we'd like more of it. ♡



"It is a project to make Mexican food the way I grew up with it."

A trio of tacos, our favourite kind

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Travel

This Is A Story About A Girl Named Lucky (And A Pool)

...or the time I completed The Ritual at the Sky Lagoon

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photos: **Art Bicnick**



Travel distance from Reykjavik:
6.6 km

Experience provided by:
skylagoon.com

I am the luckiest girl in the world.

It was those eight words that came into my head the moment I first submerged myself into the waters of Sky Lagoon, Reykjavik's newest luxury pool. The spa revolves around what they call "The Ritual"—a seven step relaxation process that begins with a soak in the lagoon, followed by a cold plunge, sauna, cool mist, exfoliating scrub, steam bath and a gentle shower. It may seem like a lot of steps toward relaxation, but it's delightful.

I was lucky enough to visit the Lagoon pre-opening, which meant that I—the aforementioned luckiest girl in the world—got the entire pool to myself. This, I daresay, will only ever occur again in my wildest dreams, so I made sure to savour every moment. Because, let's be fair, if you're going to enjoy a spa in absolute, total, meditative solitude, there's none better than this locale, hidden in the depths of Kópavogur, far removed from the hustle and noise of the city.

Rewind... let's enter the lagoon!

The interior of the Sky Lagoon is cosy. Bathed in soft mood lighting, you're treated to individual pods in the dressing room, which allow you to change and shower in seclusion. When you're used to other Icelandic pools, which often involve many people showering in the same area, this feels extremely luxurious. Immediately, I loved this place—who doesn't want to feel this special?

Exiting the dressing rooms, you stroll into a small outside enclave with stairs that lead down into the azure waters of the lagoon. The whole experience so far was so meticulously designed that I already felt like I had left my normal life as my toes touched down into the water. Usually, I'm more of a calm mosey-about swimmer, but the swirling toasty waves of the lagoon were so inviting that I immediately relaxed and dunked my head beneath the surface.

The pool is massive, I came to find. There's a little waterfall, ample seating areas, a bar, lots of open water and, of course, its infamous view over the ocean, which, due to smart design, descends smoothly from the Lagoon's waters straight into the horizon, so you really do feel like you're swimming down into the Atlantic—despite being toasty warm.

I spent my time luxuriating in all the little nooks and grottos of the Lagoon. The weather was perfect; the sun shined bright and there was almost no wind. In between my floats around, I took two dunks into the cold plunge (step two of The Ritual), causing any remaining tension in my body to completely evaporate. I did decide at one point that—were I to pull a 'Where The Heart Is' heist and live in secret somewhere for the rest of my life—it'd be the Sky Lagoon.

Welcome to the Turf

On the far end of the pool is a large turf house, which is where the other Ritual's actions are performed. The first (or third step of The Ritual) is

the sauna, which has a view that, to be frank, rivals that of the pool.

Built into the side of the house, the large sauna looks right out over the sea. Basically, imagine the sky cells from 'Game Of Thrones' except hot, gorgeous and calming instead of cold, windy and terrifying. The view stopped me in my tracks and I took my time inside, staring out at the waves and cloudy sky as the dry heat cleaned out my skin of any stress and worry. Being alone meant I could really be present and I took advantage of the silence to just breathe and be mindful.

Step four is a cold mist, which takes the form of a rectangular room with high ceilings from which descend cold droplets that swirl down and around you like a tropical rainforest. I had never experienced anything like it before and, while it wasn't my favourite step in the process, I enjoyed it all the same.

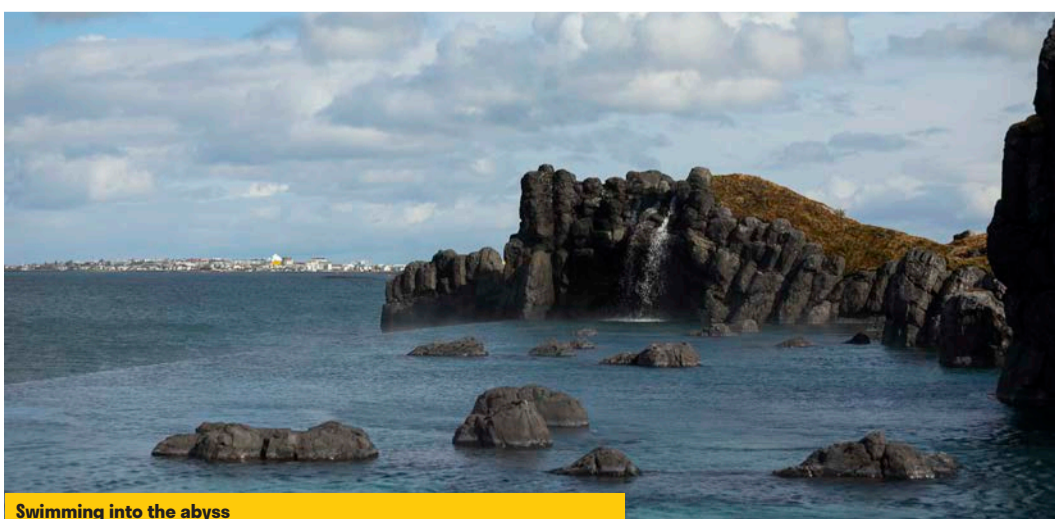
After that, I was given the Sky Lagoon's special scrub (step five), which one rubs all over themselves before

entering the steam room (step six). I've been in many steam rooms before, but this was truly a full-on experience. Seriously—you can barely see the hands in front of your face when you sit in the misty box—I could feel my body softening as the scrub combined with the steam. Next, you rinse off the rest of the scrub (and any remaining worries) with a gentle shower in the turf house, after which you're allowed to journey back into the Lagoon.

I took advantage of this and spent my time meandering around the oasis until it was time to return to real life. And it was only as I was journeying back to the dressing rooms that the first patrons of the day began to enter the pool, looking just as excited and hopeful as I had an hour previously.

Of course, I had already completed The Ritual but was still anxiously waiting for when I could return. Whatever religion created The Ritual, I'd be lucky—no, ecstatic—to convert. 🍷

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Swimming into the abyss



They say Tampere is the Sauna Capital of the World... not anymore

HORROR-SCOPES

Out, Damned Pot!

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen, astrologer and brewess**

The wand'ring sheep did call the Grapevine Astrology Guild together, who hast not kindled their flames together since delivering Sophia herself back to the Heav'ens. Ho! Let us joine now with those that condense thousands of years of words and slang into one spiritual reading.

Aries 

Arise, ye Aries! And fear not that the end of this mask-mandate means those ne'er-do-wells will once again judge yer shit lipstick skills. Nei, dear cleric, the facepaint ye don is apothecic. Let the Gods watch!


Taurus 

Naked ye was borne and naked ye will exit ye pandemic, ya harlot! Back to the shadows with yer floozy ways b'fore the wrath does rain from above, we decree. And by wrath, we mean an ill-fated romance with a Scorpio. Fetch the leeches! Illness approaches!

Gemini 

The bards did sing of yer conquests, Gemini, when they did look at the stars. I prithee, my

peerless paramour, that ye do follow yer loins this coming month. The stars guide ye. As do yer loins. What ho!

Cancer 

"Whence comest thou?" the gent said. But ye did not come. Ye never did come with him...

Leo 


Out, damned pot! The time of 420 is over! Nei, this here June, grab a mead and head out of yer isolation to an alehouse! Down in Canaan, the seers say the rivers flow red with wine. Methinks, a good start for a pilgrimage and a romp in the holy hay.

Virgo 

The abbey is nei place for a maiden such as yerself, Virgo. While Mans first Disobedience brought the Fruit of that Forbidden Tree and Death into the World, the death of yer new espresso machine need not Joynd with that Eternal Servant to create Hideous Ruine and Bottomless Perdition. So Break your Chains and Extinguish

the Penal Fire, for there is no Shame in a cup of Filtered Coffee.


As He sings:
"Better reign in watery swill than to serve in caffeine-induced suppression."

Libra 

Half-sick of shadows? Say not, fair Libra, for already the Romans approachest to sadden a Goth such as yerself. We cannot have ye so down, so leave the dark, leave the loom, make three paces through the room and blast yer best Type O Negative. Ye are not in Shalott; ye is in Reykjavik and the only curse that is upon ye is yer damned low self-confidence.

Scorpio 


Look here, Scorpio: If ye want a new friend, don't speak to them in an unknown tongue. For we wish none but a new plague upon thee who speak pretentiously! Besthrew those who utter "Well, actually...!" They vassals, we say!

Sagittarius 

Listen closely to yer arrow-smith. Yer half-way there.

Capricorn 

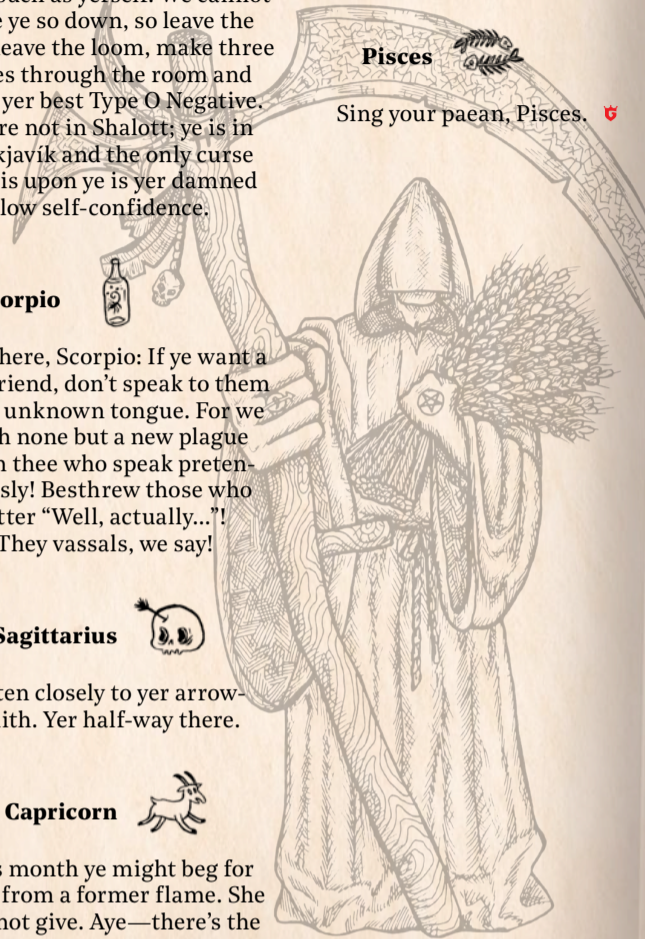
This month ye might beg for alms from a former flame. She will not give. Aye—there's the rub.

Aquarius 

Lo! The folk-kings and princes did display their prowess-in-battle, but none compares to the beloved bairn of the Aquariuses. Yes, yer children will inherit all that the Earth has to give, but ye will not be so lucky. Take yer coin out of the Bit lest misfortune hit. AMC to the heavens.

Pisces 

Sing your paeon, Pisces. ♀



WELL, YOU ASKED



Iceland's New Mecca

Words: **Brittnee Kiner**

Answering questions with as much honesty as money can buy—because well, you asked and we're generous.

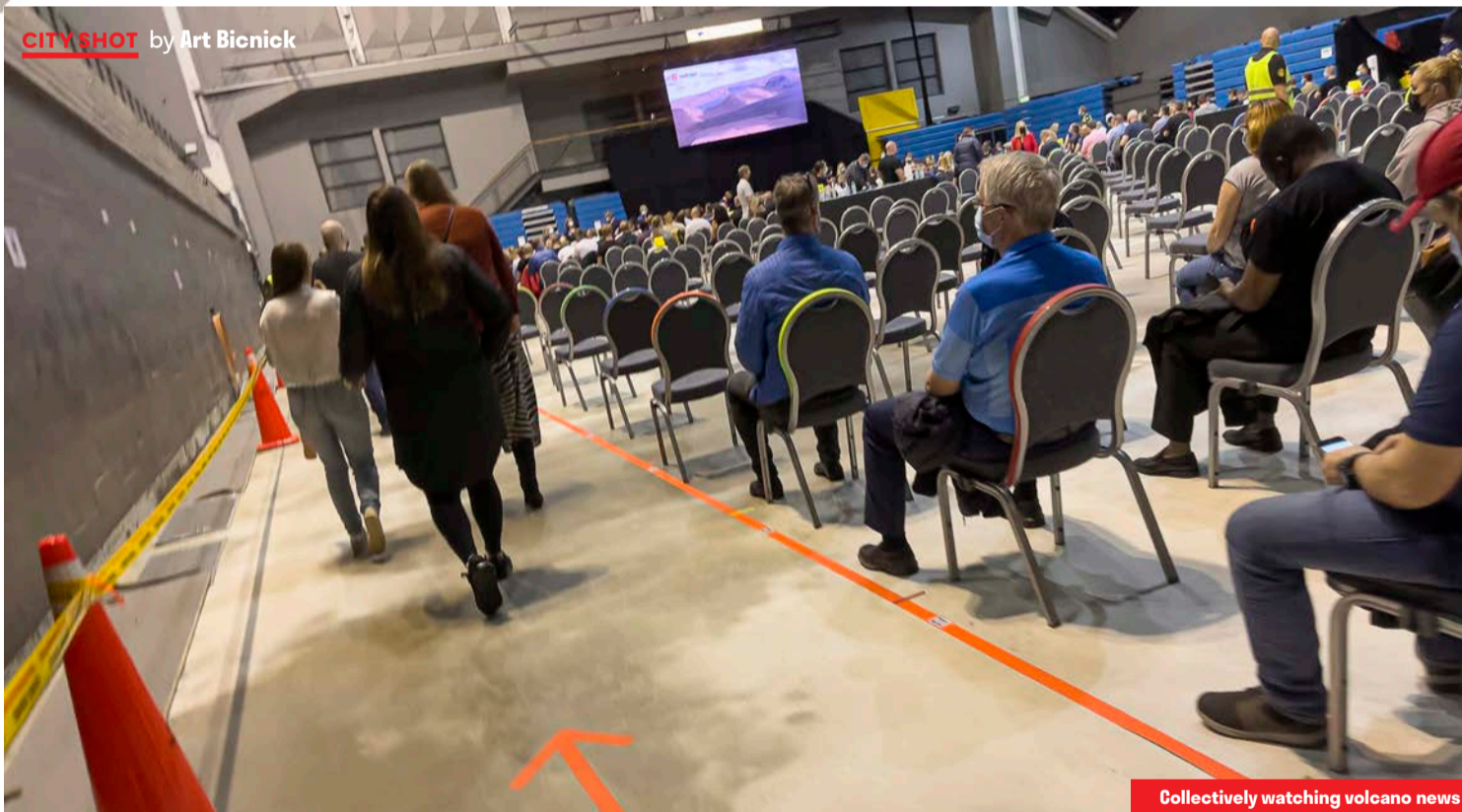
Feeling a little anxious that COVID is ending. If we're being honest, I almost don't want it to end. What do I do?

Hey, we get it – gone are the days where you could run errands around this tiny city without having to painfully engage in conversation with one of your many pandemic-era Tinder dates. While the use of masks and social distancing fades away, being a total recluse is more acceptable than it's ever been. After finishing your workday in a public space, you can go home and bake banana bread or binge "Tiger King" to relive all of your lockdown dreams. Just when you've finished binging and baking, dive into some self-care by journaling about the million and one things you could be doing better as a human being—banana bread is only going to get you so far.

I'm a broke, busy guy. If I could only visit one place in Iceland right now, where would I go?

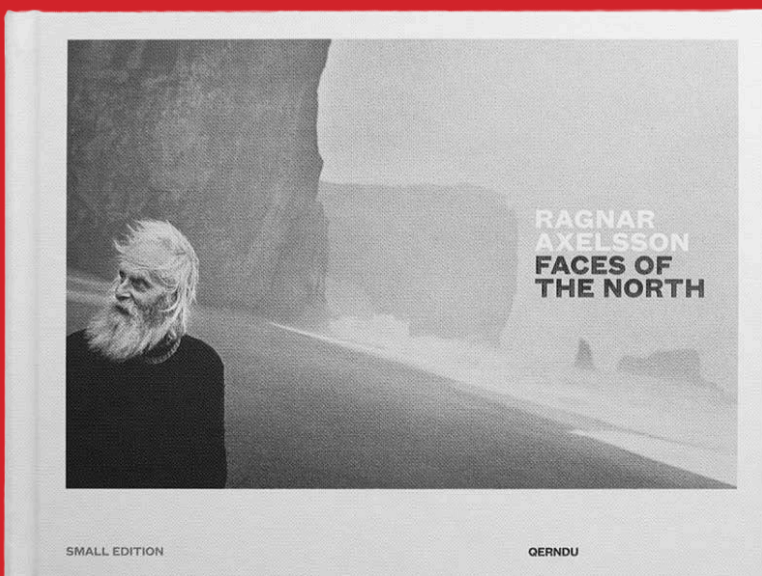
You've probably heard by now, but Iceland has an erupting volcano. If your entire social media feed hasn't managed to be completely annihilated by endless drone footage, consider yourself lucky. You're definitely luckier than most—including the numerous amateur drone pilots that think if they crank the accelerator hard enough on their handheld controllers, it will clear the globs of fire. If you want to tag along on the Icelandic pilgrimage, grab a beer from the bar, snatch a speaker for your back pocket, and drag along your friend with the drone that hates hiking because this is our new mecca – no excuses are permitted here. Aerial views are necessary despite the inevitable consequences, so then you can both hike back bitter and droneless. ♀

CITYSHOT by Art Bicnick



Collectively watching volcano news

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DON'T QUOTE ME ON THAT



"I feel like music is such an international thing, but more like an intergalactic thing. So, let's not classify!"

Possimiste on her galactic travels, new album and the biggest cultural differences between aliens and humans. **P18**



"It's really hard to paint."

Visual arts rockstar **Ragnar Kjartansson** succulently explains why he did a video installation instead of a painting. **P12-13**



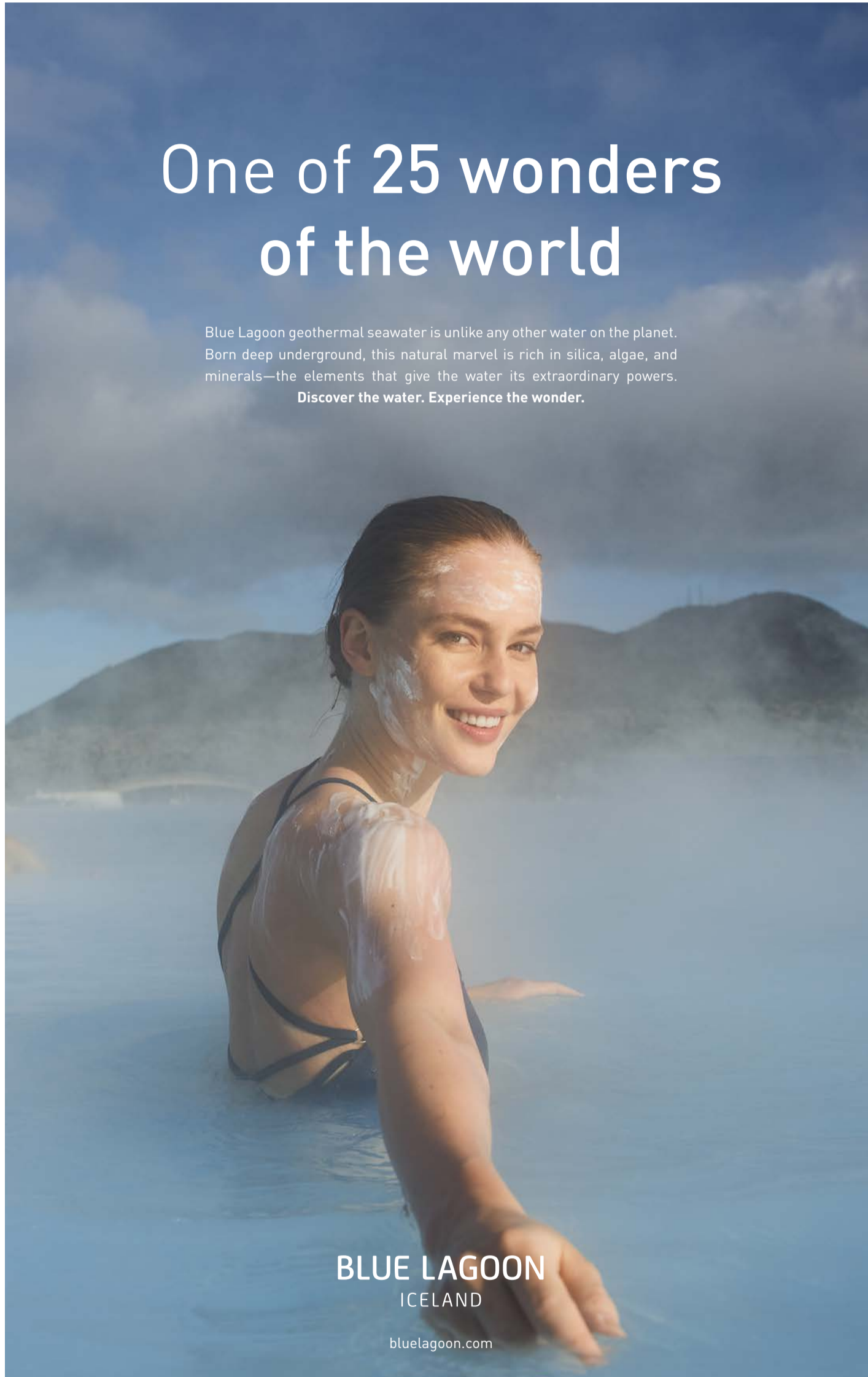
"If we can stop for a virus and protect the elderly, can we protect the future?"

Andri Snær Magnason and co-director **Anni Ólafsdóttir** discuss their new documentary 'Apausalyse', which captures the poetic silence of the COVID-19 pandemic. **P22**

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