



Issue 07  
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# REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

## Pór or Thor?

**First:** There can be only one, and Marvel's ain't it

## Deportations

**News:** Is it even legal to send people to Greece?

## Fringe Festival

**Art:** The lockdown's over, and Reykjavík's best is back

## Petting Belugas

**Travel:** They're really cute, and super friendly!



# BACK INTO THE DEEP END

Fannar Ingi Friðbjósson, now the sole member of indie dream pop outfit Hipsumhaps, comes out of quarantine to face his most challenging year yet



**COVER ART:**  
Photographer:  
**Svavar Pétur Eysteinnsson**  
a.k.a. **Prins Póló**

In cooperation with our cover star, Hipsumhaps, we asked the legendary Prins Póló to do the photoshoot. The reason was simple: Both artists

are known for their brilliant lyrics and unique sense of humour.

The photo was shot at the pool in Álftanes, which let us visit early in the morning to take them. We are forever grateful for their wonderful staff and patient guests!

# First



**08: Illegal Deportations**

**06: It's Always 4:20 Somewhere**  
**08: Thor Vs. Þór**



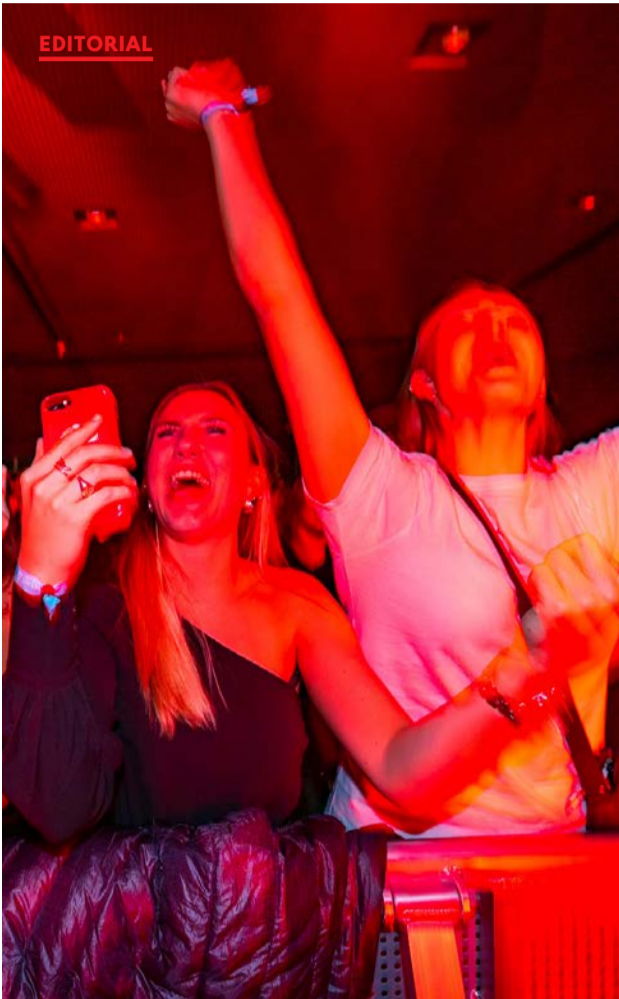
**12-13: FRINGE IT UP!**

**14: Cheer Up, Girl**  
**20: A Gallery In A Gas Station... What?!**



**31: We Met Whales <3**

**18: Amiina & The Love Of Lighthouses**  
**23: Vaccination Nation**



EDITORIAL

## The Pandemic Is Officially Over In Iceland, The Public Won



Iceland has officially declared victory over the COVID-19 pandemic. The Icelandic Government decided to completely relax domestic restrictions at the end of June, although there are some restrictions at the borders. This means that we have no gathering restrictions nor does anyone have to wear a mask.

The reason is fairly simple. As of the time I'm writing this, Iceland has vaccinated around 72% of the nation. Our top epidemiologist Þórólfur Guðnason said it's very unlikely that Iceland will experience a wave similar to those that happened earlier this year, when dozens of people had the virus. But this does not mean that Icelanders are not awake to threats connected with the virus.

Only a portion of the world has been vaccinated and while that remains the case, nobody can really be sure how this will play out. But it should encourage us all to do better when it comes to helping the developing countries in the world to get vaccinated. We should also show the responsibility to have the shot ourselves, no matter how people approach the issue from a political view. It's saving lives, it's restoring normality, Iceland is proof of this. We have had fewer than 10 cases in the two weeks since June 15th. All of the individuals that got the virus were tourists who, luckily, were vaccinated and showed no symptoms. None in Iceland have died from the virus for months.

Icelanders are now looking toward the future. The pandemic has been hard and we need to rebuild. The sooner, the better. Cultural life is slowly restoring itself and unemployment numbers are lowering every day. This will take time, but we will get there.

Icelanders have handled the pandemic well, although there were grave mistakes made on the way. Icelanders biggest lessons in handling the pandemic is that politicians trusted science to handle the threat. That's how they gained the trust of the public. The victory comes down to the public and how we stood united and we did this repeatedly throughout the pandemic with the help of our scientists. This power of cooperation shows once more, that the public can be trusted with complicated issues, like suffocating a deadly virus. We need to remember this when we have to fight for restoring our freedom that was taken away from us throughout the pandemic.

The populist figures of the world have lost the battle, although it has been costly if you count the lives that have been lost because of their impotence. And history will not be kind when looking back to their heritage. We should not forget that, either. ♡

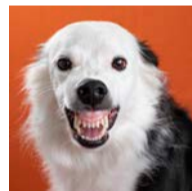
**Valur Grettisson**  
Editor-in-chief



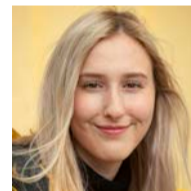
**John Pearson** is a Reykjavik resident who combines writing with professional backgrounds in music, broadcasting, scuba diving, engineering and underwater photography. He loves puns, alliteration and lists that have three things in them.



**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.



**Erik Pomrenke** collects graduate degrees and is currently studying literature and historical linguistics at HÍ. His MA thesis is probably going to be about law and memory, but it changes every week. In his spare time, he likes to memorize inflection paradigms and chill to death industrial and harsh noise.



**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 Grettisson** 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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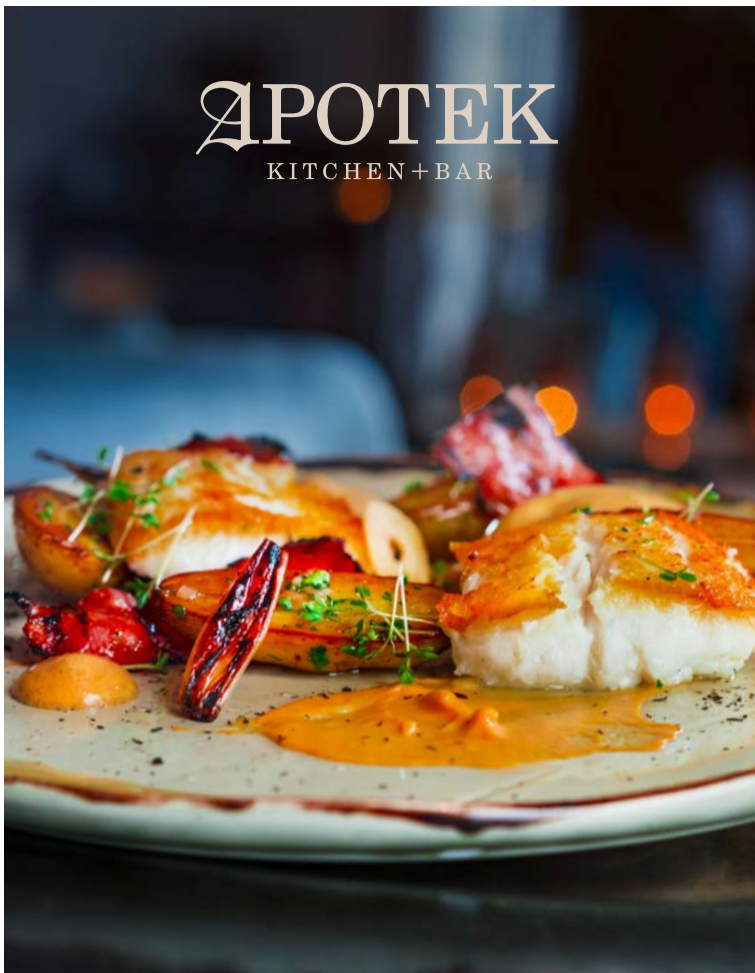
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Coincidentally, this is how Icelanders have always imagined Loki

## What Are Icelanders Talking About?

The headlines that got folks banned

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photos: **Hörður Sveinsson & AdobeStock**

**NEWS** The most talked-about subject in recent days has been **the coronavirus**, but with a positive twist: on June 25th, the Icelandic government announced it was **lifting all domestic pandemic restrictions**, effective midnight that day. As this was the start of the weekend, people naturally took full advantage, with many uploading photos and vids showing scenes from Reykjavík's downtown bacchanalia. And then the following Monday, five new domestic cases of the coronavirus—all from people outside quarantine—were reported. Sure is a good thing vaccinations are moving along as fast as they are.

With so many people excited about the **Disney+ series Loki**, now would be a good time to remind people that Disney aggressively pursues some very broad interpretations of what they consider their intellectual property. Just like their attempts to trademark the ancient Swahili phrase “hakuna matata” in the wake of the Lion King, Disney now appears to be taking aim at pretty much anyone utilizing the name or likeness of the ancient Norse god Loki. One content creator learned this the hard way when their T-shirt, bearing the words “Low Key”, was temporarily taken down by Redbubble due to a copyright claim. Makes you wonder if

Disney will one day add Jesus Christ to the MCU just to sue every church in the world.

The **case against Julian Assange** just had a few major holes blown through it, as the key witness for the FBI, Sigurður Ingi Þórðarson, has **admitted to fabricating a number of statements he made** to authorities about his work and relationship with Assange. Sigurður, better known as “Siggi the hacker,” admitted that, contrary to the testimonial he made to US authorities, Assange never ordered him to hack the phones of Icelandic MPs, but he was given recordings of their conversations by a third party. Entirely unsurprising, as Siggi

is a known fabulist with a shady history. Let's just say you wouldn't want this guy to be your key witness for a notary signing, let alone an espionage case.

Lastly, a bizarre culture war of sorts has erupted over **electric scooters in Reykjavík**. No, this isn't about people who leave them sprawled across the sidewalk. Rather, a recent report said that a great many accidents on scooters can be attributed to people riding them while intoxicated. The solution: ban riding scooters on weekends. This naturally raised the question about cars: after all, drunk driving critically injures and kills people, doing far more damage than scooters ever could, so what about banning them on weekends instead? This exact point was raised by Dóra Björt Guðjónsdóttir, a Pirate Party representative for Reykjavík City Council, who more correctly pointed out that scooter accidents are far more likely to be caused by the sorry state of city sidewalks. So for now, at least, the scooter is safe, all week long. 🍷



Siggi the Hacker... more like Siggi the Snitch



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# NATURALLY PURE

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PHOTOGRAPH BY [unreadable]



The court finds in favour of blazing it

# High Times

Iceland is experiencing a cultural shift about cannabis use

**Words:** As in most European countries, cannabis is a controlled substance in Iceland. **Andie Sophia Fontaine**

**Photo:** Adobe Stock

However, recent attempts in Parliament to decriminalise cannabis use and possession has inadvertently shed light on some of the more antiquated and deeply entrenched attitudes about the plant that exist in Icelandic society.

**Harm reduction**

While calls for decriminalisation (not to be confused with legalisation, which is a whole other thing) probably extend back as far as cannabis' first appearance in Iceland, the Pirate Party was the first parliamentary party to take

the matter seriously and advocate for the idea in the legislature. Things took a more serious turn earlier this year when it was announced that the Ministry of Health was examining the plausibility of decriminalising cannabis for personal consumption.

The reasoning for this is one expressed by the Red Cross and numerous other parties: harm reduction. The idea here is that drug use should be viewed through a lens of health care rather than criminal practice.

This, it turned out, was too much for at least one party to bear: the police

## DANGEROUS! UNTIMELY DEATH!

Despite recent polling showing that some 60% of Icelanders support decriminalising cannabis, the Association of Icelandic Drug Police bought a full-page spread in Morgunblaðið in June wherein they called cannabis “a dangerous addictive substance” that could “cause untimely death” and must not be decriminalised.

The ad included the names of numerous businesses and organisations who purportedly supported this message. However, it later came to light that the Red Cross was named in the ad “by mistake.” Later, it would turn out that several other parties were listed as supporters of the ad without their consent.

Whether or when Iceland will decriminalise cannabis is still an open question. The only thing that is clear is that any attempts at harm reduction are going to continue to face a small but vocal cadre of people who seem to view cannabis as something akin to fentanyl or crack.

## ASK A Scientist

**Q:** How does the summertime midnight sun affect the wildlife of Iceland?



Travellers tend to revel in the majestic midnight sun of Icelandic summer, but for some it's not so magical. When the skies aren't smothered by rain clouds, the incessant sunlight penetrates the blinds of our homes and campervans into the late hours of the night. However, humans aren't the only ones dealing with the relentless rays as the Earth's axis tilts us closer to the sun. We asked biologist **Borgný Katri-nardóttir** from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History how Iceland's wildlife is affected by the midnight sun.

“Studies have shown that many animals take advantage of the continuous daylight hours during the short breeding season at high latitudes, the extent of which can vary between species as well as sex and breeding stage. The bright summer nights can extend the available feeding time as well as time dedicated to attracting mates, both of which can lead to increased reproductive success. In subarctic Iceland, an example of this would be the singing and display flights of male birds of various species of waders and passerines that start in the early hours and can be heard late into the evening during spring and early summer; some species might display continuous activity during this period while for others the circadian rhythm remains, with a short resting period during the ‘night.’ The latter may apply to species that rely on invertebrates, which often are less accessible during nighttime. Higher nest attendance at night can also be observed in birds as unattended eggs cool off faster during the night.”

### LOST IN GOOGLE TRANSLATION

# Alien Reptoids Taking Over The Local Pools

This is one for all the conspiracists among us. According to RÚV, an exchange of skins and showers is going to happen in the next few days. Whatever that means. Is RÚV warning us of a steamy sex party in some public shower? Are we talking about some illegal animal skin

trade in the dripping undergrounds of Reykjavik—possibly some lurid scheme involving dead Danish minks? Or could it even be... Shape-shifting lizard people plotting something dark and steamy after mutating from Bill Gates' (obviously reptilian himself) chip-infused vac-

cine? As we understand it, Reykjavik should prepare itself. So, sharpen your spears and polish your shields—dark times are ahead, as shape-shifting aliens dressed in human skin costumes swarm our beloved local pools for some otherworldly

(steamy) ritual. One better not be in the wrong place at the wrong time when the reptilian humanoids secretly exchange their skins for a new look, hoping to confuse us Earthlings by further cloaking their existence. Make sure to alert the Men in Black if your friends or family members are acting strange in the coming days. You never know with these vile creatures! Think we are bullshitting you? Well, when taking a closer look at the original Icelandic heading, “Skiptast á skin og skúrir næs-

tu daga,” it can be literally translated to “Change from [sun]shine to rain showers in the next few days.” What made this whole thing so intriguing is Google's translation of the Icelandic noun “skin” into the English “skins.” I guess no evil skin-changing ritual is scheduled in the next few days—though one can never be sure aliens aren't behind all the sudden weather changes we're currently experiencing. **AM**



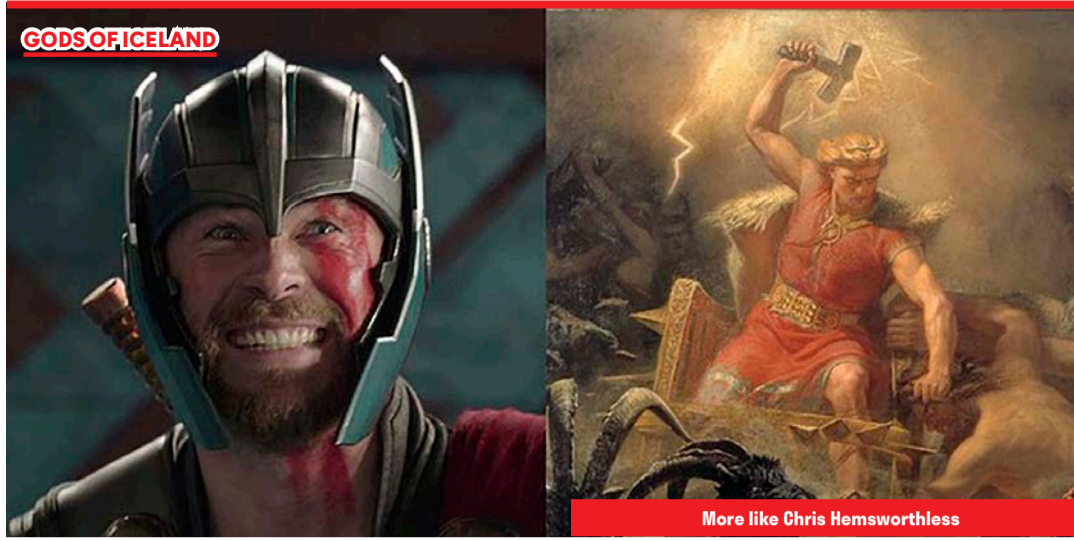
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# Þór, The Unpopular Fraternal Twin Brother of Marvel's Thor

Are Icelanders his OnlyFans?

Words: **Brittnee Kiner**

Photo: **Wikimedia Commons & YouTube Channel FilmZone TV**

Brace yourselves for a controversial statement: the Marvel Cinematic Universe's Thor is a superior version of Norse Mythology's Þór. Now, before the mythology aficionados clench their fists and grasp for their synthetic, 3D printed replica of Mjöllnir, hear me out.

## Born to lose

Both are hammer-wielding Gods of Thunder, whose primary purpose is defending the realms of Ásgarð (home of the Æsir gods) and Miðgarður (world of men). When Þór isn't seeking out every opportunity to face imminent death by battling Jörmungandur—the serpent that encircles Miðgarður—in Ragnarök he's tediously walking the line between cocky or confident. Mostly, what characterizes Þór is his relentless pursuit of killing Jörmungandur. The sea serpent is actually one of Loki's children, who was tossed into the ocean surrounding Miðgarður by Óðinn, becoming Þór's greatest enemy.

**Superpowers:** Speaking Old Norse.

**Weaknesses:** Fishing. Snatch deadlifts.

**Modern Analogy:** The inferior twin brother of MCU's Thor

The Prose Edda details a fishing trip Þór took with the giant Hymir. As any guest would, Þór went to Hymir's barn, chose the biggest ox and casually chopped off its head as his choice of bait. Then, ignoring Hymir's hesitations, Þór continued to row to the deepest part of the ocean where, conveniently, Jörmungandur lurked. The behemoth latched onto Þór's line, only for it to be severed by Hymir, who feared the fated Ragnarök would come too soon. The delay didn't last long, as Ragnarök finally came. They battled it out and Þór was finally getting an ego boost to match his colossal pecs. He reveled in his victory, only to die from the serpent's venom—because I told you, this guy was just not born a winner.

## Genetics of a God

I'll tell you who was born a winner—Chris Hemsworth, a glowing, genetic masterpiece from Australia who found his own 3D replica of Mjöllnir, swung it

around a few times (rodeo-style) and flew straight into the Marvel Cinematic Universe as Thor. If Þór was ever tossed into the modern world, he'd probably mutate into a superior mortal like the cunning Thor. There's no denying that Thor has an enormous ego to match his equally prominent pecs, but there's also some wit and wisdom tossed in there, which Þór is lacking. Þór also drew the short straw when he was blessed with a fiery red beard instead of the chiseled face of Thor, sunkissed by the southern hemisphere. Despite Þór never having a "Come to Jesus" moment, Thor definitely got his—banished to Miðgarður by Óðinn for his arrogance and short-sightedness when picking battles. Óðinn hoped Miðgarður would strip Thor of his egotistical tendencies. Luckily, the world of men has a way of breaking down even the most resistant egos, even an ego with the genetics of a god.

Thor manages to make friends and capture victories through it all, something that not all \*ahem\* Þórs get to experience. Despite Thor's piercing blue eyes, he's a softy with a side of clever and often, unintentional humour. He also has impeccable time management—bouncing between the cosmos and the world of men, desperately trying to maintain order in a chaotic galaxy. On the other hand, Þór can't quite seem to remember that he's supposed to be the one balancing the scale, not tipping it.

## Stealing the thunder

In the 21st century, maybe Þór would actually just be a less popular fraternal twin brother of Thor. Almost like clockwork, Þór has to steal back his thunder when Thor starts deadlifting any willing volunteers. With the behavioural problems and temper of a pre-teen, Þór can't help but storm out when his subpar pecs compared to Thor's. Not to mention, he somehow never acquired the charming Australian accent of Thor and can only speak in Old Norse—it's no wonder Icelanders are his only fans. 🍷



A beloved family photo from our Editor-In-Chief

## JUST SAYINGS

# „Að leika tveimur skjöldum“

It perhaps doesn't sound like a wise decision to go into battle armed only with two shields (unless you're a viking in Assassin's Creed Valhalla), but it can be effective if you're a Danish intelligence agent. The saying "Að leika tveimur skjöldum" literally translates to "to play with two shields." The best way to explain this is perhaps by recapping the classic film 'Primal Fear', where Edward Norton pretends to be mentally ill and

innocent of murder, when he's actually a calculated criminal. This saying is used often in Icelandic conversation and means that the one that is armed with two shields is deceitful and dishonest — like the Danish Defence Intelligence Service spying on their allies for the NSA. **VG 🍷**

## GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST



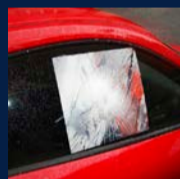
### superserious - let's be grown ups

In the early 2000s, there was a brief flash of light in the indie scene, when bands like Jet, Interpol and The Hives dominated the airwaves with straightforward, simple, yet somehow whimsical rock. If you miss those days, then superserious is the band for you. They capture this sound perfectly, and will have you dusting off your Vans trucker hat and cracking open a PBR with the boys. **ASF**



### Tom Hannay - Dog Days

Damn—this is some sultry shit, Tom. "Dog Days" is a wild ride that alternates between sexy funk music and occasional ridiculousness about only having date night every two weeks. It's one of those songs you would definitely put on a sexy playlist providing the person you were hooking up with didn't speak English. Best lyrics? "I've put on some weight and so have you, but there's still a lot of lovin' that we could get to." **HJC**



### VIII - 1000 NÆTUR (feat. Agnes from Sykur)

COVID-19 is officially done in Iceland, meaning there's no room anymore for gloomy Scandinavian soul-searching pop anthems. No, we want to go wild. And Agnes Björt Andradóttir could be the one to kickstart the COVID-free party of 2021. I mean, what a

voice! "1000 Nætur" is strong electro pop with emphasis on the party element. This is the song that'll have you throwing around glow sticks and spilling beer on the person next to you while dancing out of your mind. To be honest, that's what we want right now. **VG**



### Kælan Mikla - Ósýnileg

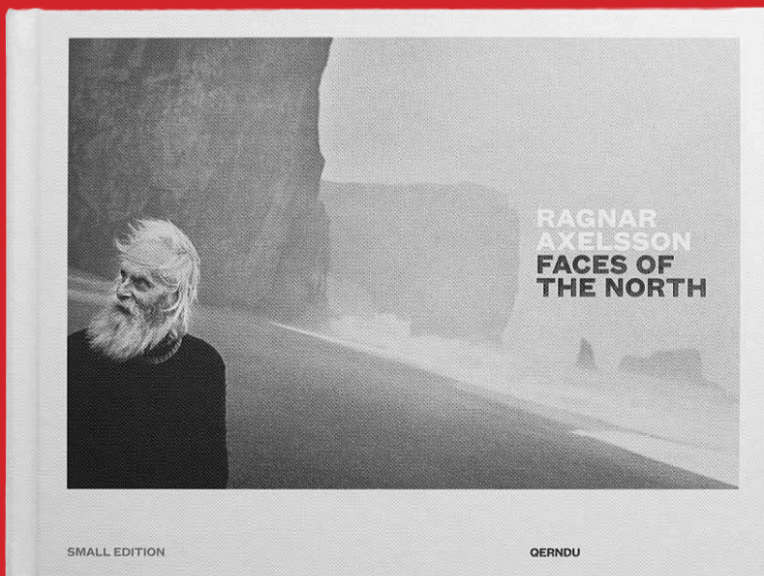
In these solstice-adjacent days, the Grapevine's vibe is all summer. But if 20 hours of daylight isn't your thing, Kælan Mikla are here to beckon you into their cold, dark world. This band has never been shy of wearing their influences on their crushed purple velvet sleeves. The bassline is straight off The Cure's third album, while distinctly early-80s synth pads wash over the soundscape. The reverb-laden vocals draw inspiration from Propaganda, Dead Can Dance and even Clannad. The feelings evoked are what you might expect from a band named after the Moon personification of the dangerous winter. **JP**



### Red Riot - One More Dance

"In this office, we recognise an OG like Cell7, because literally everything she touches turns to gold. Team her up with Hildur and you have a bonafide don't miss duo. This track is a great example of their combined talents, an almost mournful dance tune about trying to hold together a failing relationship. Crisp, clean production, irascible flow and entirely catchy, "One More Dance" is a superb summertime track. **ASF**

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# THE FULL SPECTRUM OF LIFE: A NEW DAY FOR HIPSUMHAPS

Fannar Ingi Friðbjófsson talks bombing at stand-up, struggles with ADHD, and the importance of connection

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine  
Photos: Svavar Pétur Eysteinnsson



Hipsumhaps first made a splash on the Icelandic music scene in 2019 with their first album, 'Best Gleymdu Leyndarmálin' ('Best Forgotten Secrets'), bringing dreamy, guitar-driven indie pop to a scene that had all but forgotten about the genre. At the time, the project was comprised of Fannar Ingi Friðbjófsson and Jökull Breki Arnarson. One pandemic (and several other life-changing events) later, Hipsumhaps is now solely Fannar and the new album, 'Lög síns tíma' ('Songs of the times'), is in limbo as he struggles to be released from his contract with the Record Records label.

In the midst of this, Fannar took the time to reflect on where the project came from, where he hopes to take it and the challenges both personal and professional that have brought Hipsumhaps to this point.

## BIG BROTHER

Fannar readily admits that, as much as he loves making music, the process has always been a bit of an uphill battle for him.

"I lacked a background in music," he tells us. "I had maybe too high hopes for myself, and technically I didn't know anything. And I don't know—still don't know—what I'm doing on the guitar. I don't know which

chords I'm playing or which notes I'm singing. But I had been working in film and as a creative director in advertising. I had a lot of work experience from there, just in how to pitch and produce it, and then publish it. Of course I have a promotional skill set, but I used the same work ethic to do a song as to produce an ad. I just switch out the ingredients. I can go really personal in it, but I can also go outside of it and look at it as an observer."

When I point out that many great musicians past and present also lack the technical and theoretical knowledge of music, Fannar seems almost relieved to hear it.

"The project started with me and a friend, who I met when I was his boss at vinnuskólin in Álftanes in 2013," he says. "We decided to make music together. We'd been friends for many years and I'd been like a role model to him in a certain way. Kind of like a big brother to him."

For Fannar, it was a fortuitous pairing, as he needed someone with extensive production experience to make his music a reality.

"He had been doing hip hop music, and he had also been doing some music in his school, Verzlunarskóli," Fannar says. "So I knew he had production talent. We were on the same page; just trying to slow down our

lives and figure out what we wanted to do. I had been wanting to do music for so many years, writing so much music and lyrics over the years, and then everything just kind of popped in 2018. We started recording and then a year later we released our first album."

## BEST FORGOTTEN SECRETS

Unlike many musicians, Fannar ambitions weren't so much taking over the world as they were just getting the first album completed.

"I was so happy with just finishing the first album," he says. "That was enough for me. I have pretty basic goals. Like that it would be awesome to get on the radio with one song, maybe, and play at Airwaves and play a full show for my friends. It turned out we had five songs on the radio, I played at Airwaves both on- and off-venue to a full house, we had two release concerts, then we got the nominations for the music awards. So I felt really recognised. That exceeded my expectations ... because I really just wanted to do stuff that me and Jökull liked."

The album was indeed a hit with the Icelandic public, who were clearly hungry for their sound. Again, Fannar downplays his obvious talent by emphasising his lack of technical skill.

"I had music and lyrics upfront, so it was pure production mode when we met," he says. "Except for two songs. I have always been kind of shy playing guitar. I'm not really good on click tracks. I can't sing and play guitar at the same time yet. I don't really have the coordination yet. But I like to see myself as a frontman; someone who sings and barely plays an instrument."

## ENTER THE VIRUS

2019 may have been a banner year for Hipsumhaps but, as for so many other creatives, the year that followed changed everything.

"I started feeling after the first shows that I wanted to have more songs to play live," Fannar recalls. "It was like we played nine songs, 36 minutes of music, and then we had to play the first song again. The people wanted more, because the shows were always packed. So in February 2020, we were going to have a show in Gamla Bíó, it was going to be the cap of the first album



## "Do people even go to shows anymore? Are shows relevant?"

and then we were going to go into recording mode, play the summer shows we had [booked], but not really push ourselves into the spotlight; not doing interviews or the regular PR stuff. But then this pandemic happened, then everything kind of [went] bust. I felt like some opportunities were going away that were never going to come back, because that's just the way it is in music. You're [the] flavour of the month and then a year later you're not so relevant anymore."

The lockdown prompted Fannar to look inwards and to devote himself full-time to his art.

"The quarantine just made me crazy," he says. "I've been living inside a 10-track album for almost a year now. I'm focused, but then I'm also obsessed. I've been enjoying myself a lot. I took a decision at the beginning of this year not to work on anything but my music, which didn't make any sense in terms of finance, but I felt that I'm never going to get this opportunity again. I just felt the momentum of having something precious like this album, and not being able to do my best if I were working nine-to-five and then producing the album or a video [in the evening]. I've done that before, with the first album and it just drains you. I've been doing that for half a year, I released the album and now I'm back at my old job with the kids, who I love working with. My tightest and best audience, my top fans. I am a star in Álftanes."

Even so, quarantine has made Fannar a bit anxious, as for him, music is very much about establishing a connection with others.

"We're having a free show this Friday," he says. "It doesn't make any sense for me to have a free show; I need money. But I need to feel that connection again, I need to know: who's listening? Is this relevant? I have no connection with my audience anymore. I feel like some digital item right now. So now I'm anxious about who's going to come to our shows. Do people even go to shows anymore? Are shows relevant?"

### TURN AND FACE THE STRANGE

One of the bigger challenges about making 'Lög síns tíma' was making the decision to go it alone; a decision that, although hard to make, did not damage his friendship with Jökull.

"I told Jökull that I was going to be more of a frontman of the project, because we were in different places in life," he says. "He's seven years younger than me and needed to finish some other stuff, and I kind of felt like our friendship was [taking] second place, but I really wanted our friendship to rule our relationship. The shift from being a role model to being a co-worker in a band with a person, it's two different things. I felt like there was becoming some

intensity between us and I really didn't like it. So I really wanted to clear the room of that intensity. He took it like a champ. He totally understood what I was talking about. Our friendship has survived. We've known each other for such a long time. Everything will be OK."

With that, he became hyper-focused on making the project work.

"I set some expectations for myself for ['Lög síns tíma']," he says. "That's the biggest factor in the whole process—expectations to create something beautiful. I knew how the album was going to begin and how it was going to end. I kind of knew the track list, but didn't have all the lyrics ready. I've never been used to working under pressure with writing lyrics. So I really became obsessed with my own lyrics; I had so many ideas for them."

### BOMBING AT STAND-UP AND ADHD

For a man as soft-spoken as Fannar, performing didn't exactly come naturally, but he received an education on it through an unusual source: stand-up comedy. Though technically a failure, the experience did impart valuable lessons.

"I did stand-up back in 2012 and 2013," he recalls. "The first set went super good, and I became obsessed with jokes and what's funny. Everything felt funny, it became a huge issue for me to know what's a bit and what's not. There was really no stand-up environment in Iceland at the time. Me and my friends hosted a comedy show at [the now defunct] Faktóry in 2012, which went really well. Then we didn't do a show for a year, did another in 2013, at Stúdentagarðurinn—a full house—and I bombed so hard. Like it was the worst feeling ever."

"It probably took me like five years to get over that night. It was the ultimate failure. I blacked out on stage, there were no laughs, I felt like getting off the stage as soon as possible. So [with] going into music and performing music, I was like 'OK I think I've experienced the worst that can really happen as a showperson.'

"So I'm really proud of that experience. It's helped me prepare myself better before shows. But I'm still learning, because my biggest fear is forgetting the lyrics. I'm not good with lyrics, even my own lyrics. I have ADHD; I can just drift away in some cases, even while playing and singing."

Despite the challenges that ADHD may pose, Fannar has come to see it as a gift.

"The great thing about ADHD is it's a strength in most situations in life for me," he says. "When I like doing something, I really, really like doing something. I'm hyper-focused, almost obsessed. I only got the diagnosis last September and I decided

## "The great thing about ADHD is it's a strength in most situations in life for me."

that I didn't want to start medication until I finished the album. But I was so bad with sleep over the winter that I started taking Concerta. I took it for like a month but I had so many headaches, so I quit it, and now I'm not really sure what my stance is in this medication realm. I just try to be active; exercise, play golf, to breathe."

### AN ALBUM IN LIMBO

The first track on 'Lög síns tíma,' "2021", is not an easy listen. It's a grand opener, a perfect jumping off point for the rest of the album, but it contains samples of news broadcasts over the past year that reflect the anxious, uncertain time that 2020 was.

"I wanted to set the scene for today's news," he says. "We've never been so attached to the news as we are today. Our eyes [are] stuck to the news and we know everything that's happening in like five minutes. We got the thumbs up from RÚV to use the samples."

When told that listening to the song nearly induced a panic attack in this reporter, he laughs and seems pleased with this almost certainly intended effect.

"This album has been a huge learning curve," he admits. "I was really happy with the recordings. But with the release, it's not been as smooth, because I just had a really big fight with the producer of the album. It's not that the music wasn't good, but in my gut it felt like a failure, because our connection had gone away and it had to do with money, songwriting credits and all that kind of stuff. So all of the sudden we were just fighting over things. That really took so much energy out of the process. But we're working on getting our relationship back on track and that means more to me than the music being successful."

However, the album itself is in a state of legal limbo. Fannar is trying to be released from his contract with his label, Record Records, but the label is throwing the book at him. They have demanded he buy his way out of the contract for 2 million ISK and have taken the album down from Spotify. It's a fight that hits Fannar hard, but he is determined to see his way to the end.

Haraldur Leví Gunnarsson, the head of Record Records, recently told Vísir that while Hipsúmhaps does own the rights to the recordings and the music, it's the label that has the rights on the album itself, and is therefore fully within its rights to pull the album. While Fannar's lawyer, Jón Gunnar Ásbjörnsson, has argued that Fannar has every right to end his contract with Record Records and still owns the full rights to his music, the matter is not yet settled and has taken an emotional toll on Fannar.

"It's a really sad situation in the history of Icelandic music," Fannar says. "I feel like the system is once again fucking me up. I put one stroke of a pen on a contract and got nothing back. Right now, after getting through COVID and finally finding myself again in life, putting everything I've got into this year—I'm producing and financing all this by myself—I'm trying to walk away from the table peacefully, because I feel like I didn't get good enough service. There was poor communication and no money changed hands. I feel like I don't even want to do music or hold concerts. That's just how it is. But it's a question of attitude and trying to find a silver lining in all this. I have so many mixed feelings about this right now that it's hard to make a definitive statement about all this."

### THE CONNECTION

Fannar has his eyes firmly set on the future, as he looks towards what it will bring Hipsúmhaps and him personally.

"I feel like there's so much left for this album," he says. "Basically, every live performance for this and the last album. I feel like everything is left to be done, because this is live music. That's the way I see it. I just want to bring people together."

## "Bringing people together to celebrate the full spectrum of life, to get the most grand experience out of this music. That's what I'm really excited about."

As such, he's taking his project on the road, eager to reconnect with the masses.

"We're going to tour around Iceland. Every weekend we're going to have two shows. I decided before this album that I was going to do a double-digit tracklist, so I made ten tracks. I wanted to release three music videos; I've produced five. And I want to play a live show at Harpa ... now we have a show at Harpa on November 12th. That's what this album is about for me—bringing people together to celebrate the full spectrum of life, to get the most grand experience out of this music. That's what I'm really excited about—and after that, I'll probably have nothing left."

Whatever may come of the album, it seems like nothing is going to stop Fannar. The music will go on, or at least his desire for connection will remain the driving force in his life.

"I felt a year ago that I wasn't sure if I wanted to do music anymore," he says. "It was just a shock to see that I gave my all in the first album and then everything vanished... I'm turning 30 this year and I felt the pressure of settling down, you know, getting my finances straight. I had this perfect mixture of teaching and doing music, but then both were taken away from me. I felt really low on energy and I wasn't really sure if I had the guts and mind to do another album, to move on with this. What changed my mind was getting my head out of the sand and just moving on." 🍷



Refugees protest against being deported to Greece

# Cleaning House: ÚTL, Evictions and Deportations to Greece

Immigration authorities draw criticism, again

Words:  
**Andie Sophia  
Fontaine**

Photos:  
**Andie Sophia  
Fontaine**  
&  
**Vísir/Vilhelm**

Last spring, the Directorate of Immigration (ÚTL) made an executive decision that would thrust the institution into the spotlight of criticism that extended from the general public and into the halls of Parliament: evicting asylum seekers from their housing, denying them even their meager food stipends (asylum seekers are not, by law, allowed to work) and other services, because the evictees refused to assist in their own deportations to Greece.

While the decision would, by mid-June, be ruled unlawful by the Immigration Appeals Board (KNÚ), the fallout has prompted some to call for sweeping reforms within ÚTL, if not the closure of the office and the resignation of Minister of Justice Áslaug Arna Sigurbjörnsdóttir. There also remains the question of deportations to Greece, a country which numerous international bodies have repeatedly reported is unsafe for asylum seekers—including those granted protection in that country.

## What it's like to have nothing

The Grapevine spoke with two asylum seekers from Gaza who were evicted, Ehsaan and Fahad. They told us that, despite the ruling, they are not allowed to return to the housing where they were staying in Hafnarfjörður and would instead be moved to more remote housing at Ásbrú, near Keflavík. The reason they were given, through a translator at a meeting with other evictees, was that they had lost their services at the Hafnarfjörður housing—the same services that KNÚ had deemed unlawful to deny them in the first place.

"We tried to ask why we couldn't go back to Hafnarfjörður and we were told that services there have been stopped because we got kicked out," Fahad says. "So I said there's a place at Grensás, why can't we go there? They said that's for families, that we need to go to Ásbrú, and they gave us four tickets for Keflavík. It was a translator speaking to us, not a ÚTL employee, who wasn't even

in the room. The translator was going in and out with our questions and kept saying 'We don't have that information' and 'I'm just a translator.' He was just going in and out."

The two spoke very candidly about the catch-22 that asylum seekers face upon arrival in Greece.

"As soon as we landed, we were told 'You have two choices,'" Fahad explains. "You either claim asylum here, or you get sent back to Turkey.' We took the asylum. We didn't know what else to do. We got put in an isolated camp, fenced in and surrounded by armed guards, police or the military. It's exactly like a prison."

Being granted "international protection" in Greece, they say, offers nothing in terms of being able to have a normal life.

"In most European countries, when you get a residence permit, you get a chance to learn the language, integrate with society, learn about the culture—we had none of that," Ehsaan says. "We were secluded all the time. Even after we got the permit, we had no idea what to do or where to go, we got no information."

Fahad agrees, adding: "We both tried to find jobs there, because we were living in tents, but we were subjected to a lot of people taking advantage of us because of our conditions. Sometimes we were paid in food instead of money, that kind of thing, because they know how desperate we are. Sometimes we got nothing. They know we can't do anything because no one's going to help us. That's just how it is in Greece."

## Is this even legal?

The Grapevine spoke with Ragnheiður Kristín Finnbogadóttir, a lawyer who wrote her master's thesis on Iceland's immigration policies, on whether deporting people to Greece is even legal by Icelandic law—Article 42 on the Law on Foreigners specifically states "it is not permitted to send a foreigner or a stateless person to an area where

he has reason to fear persecution" or other inhumane treatment.

"In my opinion, deportations to Greece are unlawful under Icelandic law," she says. "They're not obliged to deport anyone, first of all. Second, you shouldn't, if you know that the circumstances would provide for inhumane treatment. They say 'this is all in accordance [with] the law, nothing to see here', but when you look deeper, it's not. The Dublin Regulation [is] not an obligation. You can always look further into their circumstances."

Sema Erla Serdar, president of the refugee and asylum seeker rights group Solaris, agrees, saying that ÚTL could stop deporting people to Greece at any time.

"I would say that, in my opinion and in my legal understanding, that of course they can stop deportations to Greece," she says. "They can give the people protection in Iceland. When they say that they cannot, they're just not telling the truth. The law gives them the right to [grant them protection] and you can interpret the law in ways that let you stop these deportations. Besides that, the Minister of Justice can always send out a regulation that would stop deportations, just like they stopped deportations of people to Greece who are in the asylum system...So just like that, they can make this decision to stop deportation to Greece [of] people who have protection there already."

## But do we need ÚTL?

As early as 2017, there have been calls to close ÚTL in its current form, with

proposals ranging from changing the existing institution from the ground up to making sweeping reforms. In light of the unlawful evictions and arguably unlawful deportations to Greece, does that argument still hold up?

"We don't need the Directorate of Immigration and, in my opinion, ÚTL should have been closed a long time ago," Sema Erla says. "We need to reconsider the whole system around foreigners in general and refugees and asylum seekers in particular. We should look at it from scratch to see if we even need a special ministry for matters concerning foreigners. We need to reconsider the whole system around it, make new institutions if necessary, but for sure ÚTL needs to be shut down—the sooner the better. And we need a government with a clear policy on refugee matters with the aim of humanity and human rights."

"I think we do need some institution that will handle applications for asylum, citizenship and so on," Ragnheiður says. "What people are criticising is not exactly the law itself. The law is fine, in my opinion, it's the practice that's wrong. They're really extending their interpretations so that it fits their needs, instead of using it for the benefit of the applicant, which is what they should be doing. These are people who are running for their lives, who have nobody to help them."

For their part, all Ehsaan and Fahad want is the chance to live an ordinary life, away from war and homelessness.

"We left Greece to have basic rights and stability, food and shelter, the things you need to have a normal life," Ehsaan says. "But it's not that different from what we're experiencing here. The majority of us are all fully qualified. We have university degrees, some of us have master's degrees, so we're not coming here to just take benefits or expect other people to pay for us. We just want a chance in life so we can start using the skills we have, use the degrees and have a normal life." ❧

**"We don't need the Directorate of Immigration—in my opinion, ÚTL should have been closed a long time ago."**



Sema Erla handing the petition to Minister of Justice Áslaug Arna Sigurbjörnsdóttir

# Happening

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## We Are The Weirdos, Mister

MYRKFÆLNI World Tour

July 17th-18th - Post-húsið - 2,000-4,000 ISK

A two-day world tour? We love to see it from Reykjavík's grittiest underground music magazine and label. Day one features nine acts, DJs, vegan food and the inaugural MYRKFÆLNI world cup olympic games at Post-húsið. The second day will be a worldwide streaming event extravaganza, which basically means each band will be visiting every country in the world over two hours—talk about a world tour. **HJC**



## Westfjords Wistfulness

Salóme Katrín

July 11th - 15:00 - Nordic House - Free!

Singer-songwriter Salóme Katrín is bringing her unique musical vibe—and her piano—all the way from Ísafjörður. Her honest lyricism and quirky musical style—which tip the hat respectfully to the likes of Tori Amos, Kate Bush and even loeland's own Emiliana Torrini—have already garnered the respect of music fans and industry types alike. The studios surrounds of the Nordic House will be the perfect environment for such a thoughtful performer, so this promises to be a lovely lazy Sunday afternoon. **JP**



## Art Weirdness Meetup

LungA

July 14th-18th - Seyðisfjörður

Perhaps our saddest moment of last summer was knowing that there would be no LungA festival, but luckily it's back—albeit in a smaller capacity—for 2021. The arts extravaganza will feature three workshops this year and, of course, its legendary Saturday concert with performances by GusGus, Vök, Inspector Spacetime and more. LungA is basically a weeklong haven for artists of all types, when the town of Seyðisfjörður bursts forth with music, art and spontaneous creativity. **HJC**



CULTURE  
NEWS

Lovísa Tómasdóttir... in Lovísa Tómasdóttir

## Slow Fashion & Sparkles

Fashion designer Lovísa Tómasdóttir shines on the stage and on the streets

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photos: **Art Bicnick, Birta Rán & Anna Margrét**

You've probably already gushed to your friends about the works of fashion designer Lovísa Tómasdóttir, though you might not know it. Even if you've never heard her name, you most certainly saw her pieces beamed onto the TV screens of roughly 183 million viewers during a little production called Eurovision. Heard of it?

When national hero Daði Freyr took the stage with his band Gagnamagnið to perform their hit "10 Years," the group were outfitted in Lovísa's designs. Those iconic green sweaters covered with pixelated versions of themselves, those supremely shiny jumpsuits featured in the accompanying music video—all by Lovísa.

But while the artist might have first received international attention for her contribution to Eurovision, there's so much more to Lovísa Tómasdóttir than a couple sweaters.

### Romance & superheroes

"For the 2020 performance, Daði Freyr had given me some structure of what he wanted, but for 2021, I had total freedom, both for the stage show and the superhero costumes for the video," she says when asked about the iconic designs. "I did a lot of research into Japanese superheroes and anime pictures and things like that for the video and then we ended up with these cosy sweaters onstage, which was totally him."

Lovísa became first known locally for her bespoke outfits for performers around the city, including works for drag queen Gógó Starr and entertainer Sigga Kling. She's since evolved that into her own fully-fledged brand, Lovísa Tomas, which just released its first spring/summer line and is currently working on upcoming winter releases.

The summer collection—in contrast to the extravagant looks of "10 Years"—is full of loose, draped satin dresses and cotton jumpsuits. Though it's ripe with Lovísa's characteristic drama, it's wearable in all situations—not just on stage.

"It's much more romantic than I usually do," Lovísa says of the collection. "I usually use vibrant colours with a punk rock vibe, but it's a different thing for the summer collection. It's all the things I would want to wear. And it's very comfortable—I'm not doing super tight no-stretch fabrics. It's comfortable so anyone can wear them."

### Made-to-order

But even though Lovísa has found a niche she thrives in, she's still trying to evolve her brand, not only stylistically but ideologically.

"I'm still trying to figure out how I want to do this and how I want to represent my brands, because we have so much fast fashion here and, for me, I prefer the concept of slow fashion," Lovísa says.

Slow fashion, Lovísa explains, is a rethinking of our relationship towards buying clothes. While stores like H&M and Zara end up over-

producing pieces and subsequently throwing them out at the end of seasons, slow fashion is guided by sustainability.

So if you order a Lovísa Tómasdóttir piece, you might not get it the same day. Instead, Lovísa will sit down at her machine and make the piece for you, ensuring that she isn't wasting materials.

"You are responsible for your environment and for the things you bring into the world," she says. "Icelanders usually want their stuff right then—preferably yesterday. But with slow fashion it's—as you might expect—slower. I'm trying to do everything made to order so I'm not producing any inventory beyond what I need." ♡

Check out Lovísa at [lovisatomas.is](http://lovisatomas.is) or on Instagram at [@lovisatomasdottir](https://www.instagram.com/lovisatomasdottir) or [@studiolovisutomas](https://www.instagram.com/studiolovisutomas)

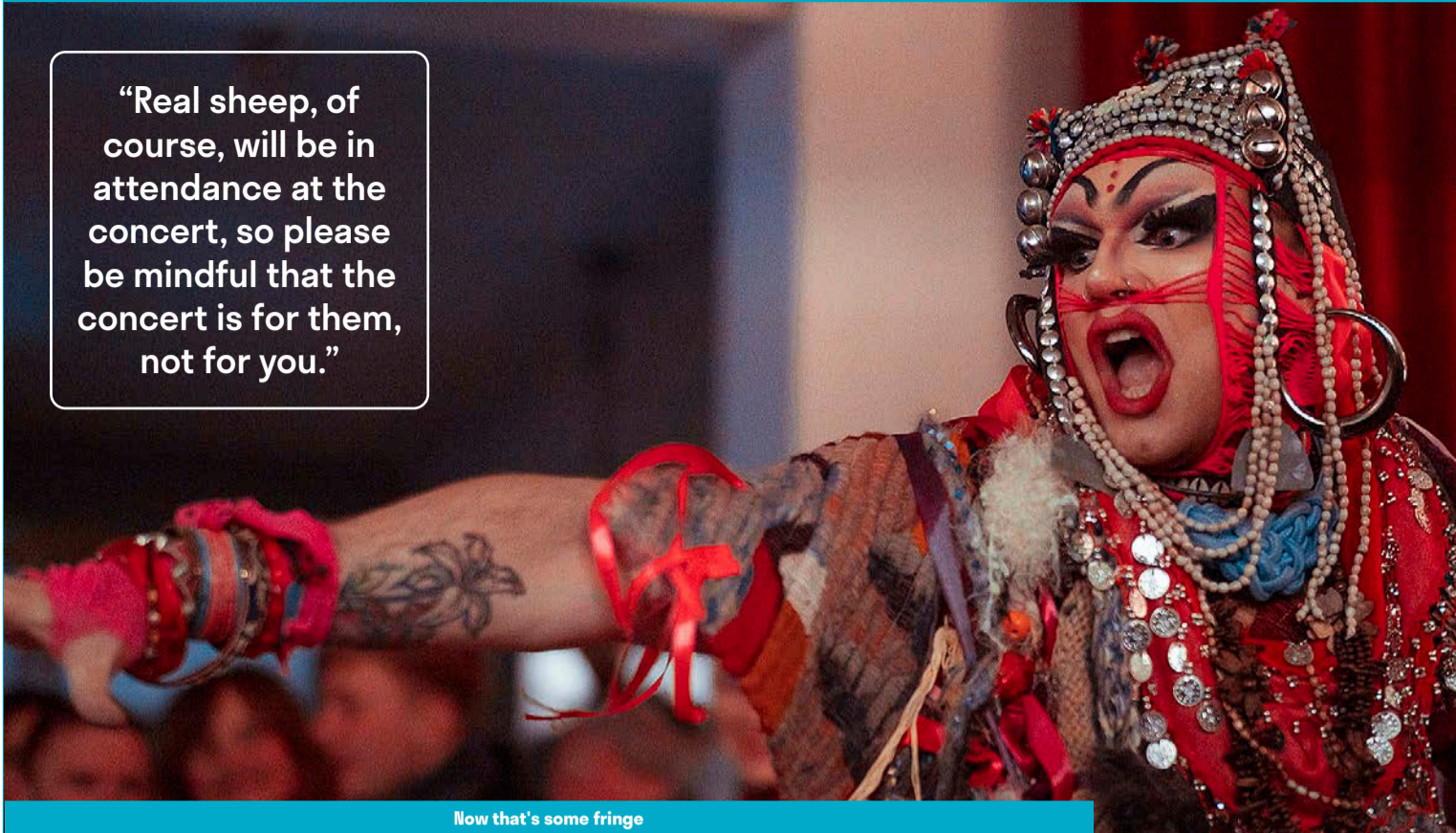


The upcoming Spring/Summer looks



Drag artist Gógó Starr in a casual Lovísa look

“Real sheep, of course, will be in attendance at the concert, so please be mindful that the concert is for them, not for you.”



How that's some fringe

# Grow That Fringe Out

## The Grapevine's picks for this year's Reykjavik Fringe Festival

Words: [Hannah Jane Cohen](#) Photos: [Patrik Ontkovic](#), [Kirsti Urpa](#) & [Provided By Fringe](#)

After a COVID-friendly 2020 edition, Reykjavik Fringe is back with a vaccine-friendly 2021 program. Yup, we're talking in-person shows—a heck of a lot of them! For those not in the know, the Fringe Festival is an experimental theatre festival that allows those making non-traditional performances to get a main slot and shine. This year features a wide plethora of entertainment, from burlesque to cat comedy to aerial extravaganzas and more. While picking shows felt a bit like choosing a favourite child, here are a few of the Grapevine's not-to-miss events. As always, an official Grapevine panel will present our annual Grapevine Award to our favourite act at the close of the festival. Let the games begin!

### Storm: The Clown On The Fifth Floor

July 8-10th at 19:00 - Bar Ananas

Meet Storm Dunder: a non-binary multi-media artist whose works seek to showcase the most glorious, grandiose and grotesque parts of existence. Now, journey with them to The Fifth Floor, a topsy-turvy land residing in the worlds between reality and fiction. “The Clown on the Fifth Floor” tells the story of a creature that just wants to know if they were the hero, the villain,

or just a child,” Storm writes, explaining that the show features a melange of musical arrangements and sharp words.

Along with the performance, they'll be dropping two songs at the festival—“Flowers” and “Look at Me”—both of which will be featured in the show. Each track explores post-traumatic stress disorder and the survival tactics used by The Clown to deal with such a debilitating illness.

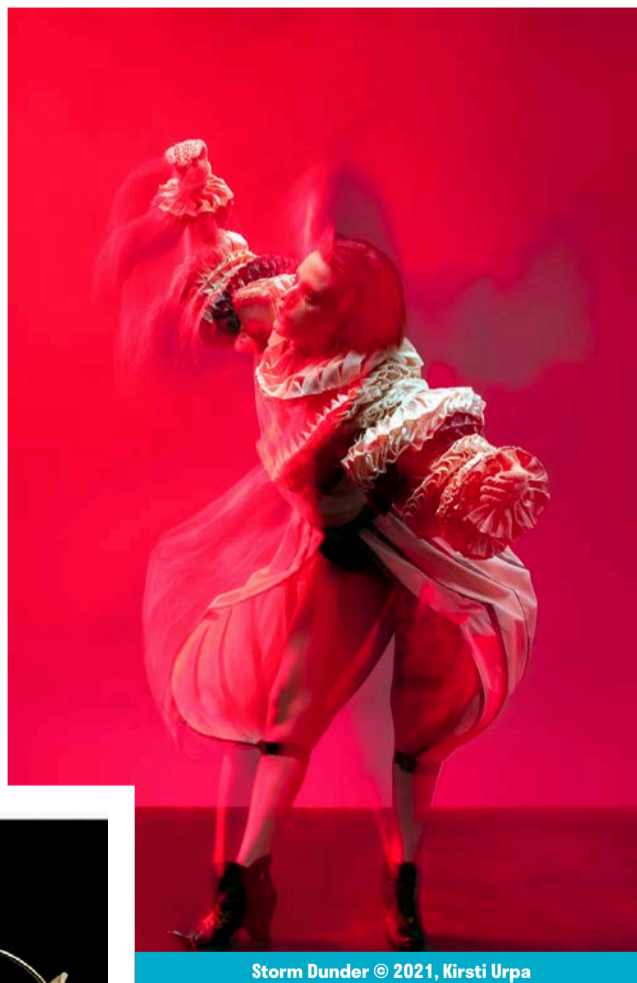
If you're still not convinced by Storm's words, know that the show was awarded the Nordic Fringe Network Award in 2019 and the Grand Prix at last year's Reykjavik Fringe Festival, where it was presented digitally, so it's gotta be good! You can explore the world of Storm Dunder pre-Clown on their Instagram (@stormdunder) or on YouTube, Spotify and more.

### Sheep Music

July 3rd - 17:00 - Árbæjarsafn

The word ‘Kvöldvaka’

is an old one. It refers back to those idyllic agrarian times when Icelanders would spend their nights huddled together in someone's living room, just entertaining each other with whatever they had. Someone would play guitar; others would chime in with their voices as they knitted a sweater. The beer and the good vibes would be flowing. Remember those cold nights?



Storm Dunder © 2021, Kirsti Urpa

The kvöldvaka is still achievable nowadays, but often a bit less personal as there is inevitably some patron posting all of it online to prove to their “haters” that their life is more fun than theirs. Not that we'd do that. No sir.

Now add to that the age-old question, “What kind of music would a sheep enjoy?” and you've got one

of Fringe's most eccentric and exciting shows this year, ‘Sheep Music’ by Hafðis Bjarnadóttir and the Passepartout Duo, which consists of Nicoletta Favari and Christopher Salvito. At the lovely Árbæjar Folk Museum, the group will create their own kvöldvaka as they serenade Iceland's prized animals—sheep



St. Edgar

and humans—with a selection of sheep-approved tunes. They've spent the last months travelling around to different herds, playing music to see what got those sheep hooves grooving, so they're experts in this emerging genre.

Real sheep, of course, will be in attendance at the concert, so please be mindful that the concert is for them, not you. You are invited to join in the festivities, nonetheless. If you miss it at Fringe, the group will be touring across Iceland and the Faroes this summer entertaining our furry friends.

### Mr. Magic: Alexander Smith

July 4th, 6th & 8th at 17:00, July 10th at 15:00 - Fringe Hub

Oh, you thought we didn't have anything for the kids? How silly you must feel! No, we at the Grapevine understand that the tots have to be

entertained while you watch some risqué burlesque.

Mr. Magic—a magician—will be journeying to our fair island to offer special magic classes tailored for kids ages five and up. Each one-hour lesson will teach one special trick and the ins-and-outs of how it's done and also how to perform it. That said, at the end of the lesson, they will have to take Mr. Magic's magic oath: #1 Practice practice practice! #2 Never tell the secret. #3 Always clean your room. See? Not only will your kid learn how to impress their friends, but they will also become better people. Win-win.

Magic is one of the oldest art forms. Back in the old days, troupes would travel from city to city in colourful wagons, entertaining the masses with sleight of hand and hypnotism. Ok, we don't exactly know if that's true, but it happens in movies, so we're going with it. As times changed, Houdini mastered the art of escape and Penn & Teller added a comedic edge. Then, of course, Harry Potter appeared. It's unclear if Mr. Magic will help the kids practice their Patronus, though—we'll have to get back to you.

### The Dreamer by St. Edgar

July 10th - 22:00 - Tjarnarbió

International burlesque/drag superstar St. Edgar is here for a 50-minute one-man fantasy ‘The Dreamer.’ The show—which actually will take place on the Saint's birthday—is about a drag performer who dedicates their life to beauty, glamour and art (cue the song from ‘Party Monster’). Inspiring that quest, though, is a person simply searching for self-worth and acceptance. While you might think of drag shows as places where dolled-up queens shimmy to “Believe,” this one goes beyond anything you might see on a certain TV show. No, it's a reflection on the dark side of the search for beauty and perfection—an emotional rollercoaster about the pitfalls of being a performer.

“The Dreamer is a show that started to melt in my head two years ago. It's a story that lies close to my heart. Some parts of it are inspired by my own life experiences,” St. Edgar told the Grapevine. “The show aspires to spread awareness of mental illness and self love. In today's society we tend to drown our feelings until we can't control them anymore. With that said, prepare for an extremely physical and emotional show.”

We also must stress that this is a 50-minute show—how does a burlesque/drag performer do a solo show for that long? Think of the stamina! 🍷



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## Andie Sophia Fontaine

I feel best when I'm not reminded that I live next to the sea, aka the world's toilet. So to cheer myself up here in Reykjavík, I like to walk up to **Öskjuhlíð**, the forested area that surrounds Perlan, and just kinda wander around. Going off the marked trails and into the denser part of the woods is especially relaxing. Half an hour in this setting and I feel a great deal better. If it happens to be raining out, though, then I like to go to **Borgarbókasafnið**, the library on Tryggvagata. Pick up literally any book, or a stack of manga, then head up to one of the top floors and sit by a window in the "study area" to read in peace. It's quite lovely.



## Valur Grettisson

As a family man and therefore no longer an individual, but some kind of slave of entertainment for my children, the best way to spend the day is to get in the car and head south over **Hellisheiði**. First we would visit the wonderful old school swimming pool in **Hveragerði**. It's beautiful architecture and the view over the town is nothing less than sublime. Afterwards we would drive all the way to the small petting zoo in **Slakki**, not that far from Geysir and Gullfoss. There we would pet some silly little kittens and visit the feisty parrots. This would be followed by a round of minigolf. On our way back, we would head to Selfoss to visit **Mathöll Suðurlands** and grab a bite at one of the many places you can find there. If the kids are not already asleep in the car before you get to Hveragerði, we would take a left turn before we go up to Hellisheiðin, and drive **Kambar** back (the

# Cheer Up, Dear

## Live, Laugh & Love your way to a better day with the Grapevine

Words: **The Grapevine** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

*"It can't rain all the time," Eric Draven famously said. However, in a town with weather like Reykjavík, it can definitely feel like it does. Listen—we all have bad days, so take a page out of the Grapevine's book and fight away those blues at our favourite local places.*



Woohoo!

south road to **Þorlákshöfn**) and pretend that we are on another planet while navigating the narrow pass back to Reykjavík.

to end a day is at **Ísbúð Vesturbæjar**. Mix in your favourite candy and you'll be happy as a clam again.



## Alina Maurer

Whenever I'm feeling down, I remind myself that I'm probably just missing out on Vitamin D, "the happy hormone." The best thing one can then do, is to rush to **Nauthólsvík**. Reykjavík's geothermal golden beach—with just the right amount of imagination, you'll feel you've been transported to the Mediterranean. Never forget sunscreen; sunburns are surprisingly easy to obtain on this cold rock. If the dopamine levels are not high enough yet, I highly recommend going to **Ellíðaárdalur** and watching all the adorable, wild bunnies roaming around, munching on some treats. Speaking of treats: A good way



## Hannah Jane

The best cure for a sad day is some confidence, sun and a little bit of fight-or-flight induced dopamine. I'd start my day at the aptly-named **Adrenalíngarðurinn** with a group of friends for some bonding. The little ropes course an hour away from the city gets the blood pumping with a series of climbs and jumps that can't help but induce smiles. Afterwards, it's a **vegan mukbang at KFC** whose vegan chicken is, like... scarily real. Then, it's a hop over to **Vínstúkan Tíu sopar** for some natural wine, which I've convinced myself is healthy since it has "natural" right in its name. Voilá. (Then I go home and binge-watch "True Blood".)



## Brittnee Kiner

If I ever start feeling down or homesick, a full-on recovery day commences to fight back the blues. There's little that I love more than being outdoors and moving my body, so seeking out a good hike is my ultimate remedy to any hint of sadness; a recent favorite of mine is **Glymur**, followed by its leg numbing river crossing halfway through the roundtrip venture. Anyone with a hint of sanity would grab food afterward—the core of any good hiking trip. Once I'm hangry and hiked-out, I fuel back up with **Dragon Dim Sum** and their heavenly, plump dumplings filled with flavours that will send you straight to Valhalla. If dim sum isn't enough to drag me out of a rut, I love to toss in a climbing session at **Klifurhúsið**—a sure-fire way to pull any active guy or gal from any depths of despair.



## John Pearson

The birdlife around Reykjavík's lakes and ponds offers the world-weary a natural source of therapy, free of charge. At **Tjörninn**—a.k.a. "Honky Pond" due to its noisy avian residents—one can enjoy the company of greylag geese, whooper swans, mallards and sometimes even eider ducks. Take some seeds or sweetcorn niblets to feed them, but not bread as that's not good for them. The experience is sure to ground you and soothe your soul (assuming you have one). Be careful of those goose turds on the surrounding paths, though. They can reach a considerable size—greylag geese can get through one hell of a lot of seeds and sweetcorn niblets—and slipping on one might shatter that new-found peace of yours. 🦆

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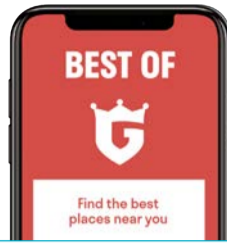
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July 2nd — August 6th

# In Your Pocket



Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

## Perfect Day

Dance, jive & have the time of your life



Words: Hannah Jane Cohen  
Photo: Art Bicnick

### Alda Karen Hjaltalín

Alda Karen is a writer and speaker who you might know for her celebrated *Life Masterclass* series and her best selling book *Lífsbiblían*. Here's her perfect day!

**Note:** It's my Perfect Day, and so I have in my possession a space age teleportation device that allows me to travel to all my favourite places—my hometown Akureyri, New York City, where I live, and Los Angeles, where I will be moving to next year—in but a moment.

### Dopamine systems go

My Perfect Day would definitely start in LA with a workout on the beach with some of my friends. We'd get our blood pumping to get our dopamine systems working for the day and we'd end the workout by running into the ocean.

Then, it's time to pop over to New York City for brunch because no one does brunch like New Yorkers do brunch. My favourite restaurant at the moment is **Ladybird**; we'd get four vegan tapas dishes together. There's something about sharing food while you talk philosophy and contemplate life with your best

friends... Which always happens to include a lot of bottomless mimosas, of course.

### Grandma knows best

After brunch, I'd go do a lecture, where I talk to people about this weird but fun life experience we're having together. Isn't it insane how we are all so concerned about life being short when it's actually the longest thing you will ever do?

Then I'd head to Akureyri to have some coffee with the family at **Barr Kaffihús** in **Hof**. I'd definitely take some time to have a one-on-one with my grandma—that woman's got some kick-ass life advice. I'll give you a taste: Watch out for your thoughts when you're alone and watch out for your behaviour when you're in a group. After giving grandma and my parents a big old family hug, I take my cousins out on the golf course and whoop their ass on the green eagle wise at **Pverá Golf Course**. (Golf peeps will know what I'm talking about.)

It's been a big day already, so then I'd take a little break to read by **the harbour** in Akureyri with my feet in the ocean. Right now I'm reading *Poetics* by Aristotle and I'm loving it. The Greeks really knew what was up

didn't they?

I'm very inspired now so it's off to a soccer practice in Akureyri at **Boginn** with FC Smice—we were once sponsored by Smirnoff and decided to keep the "smice" name but that's a long story, even longer than the story behind "Fearcity" the name of my soccer club in NYC, which involves some ex-cons, but I don't think they'd want me talking about them in an Icelandic paper—my team, where I'm a midfielder.

### Bringing balance to the night

After I'm all fresh after practise, I'd teleport all my friends from LA and Reykjavik over to NYC to **Riis Park Beach** for a beach barbeque. I'd play some more soccer while other friends had a few games of beach volleyball. Then we'd watch the sunset together and talk about the beauty that is life and friendship.

At the end of the night, I'd have a movie night watching all the Star Wars prequels with my surprise guests, Abraham Hicks, Brené Brown, Gloria Steinem, Julia Roberts, Mark Manson and Alan Watts and talk about human behavior and how R2D2 is actually the best thing to ever happen to the universe. 🍷



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## Venue Finder

Venues		Museums & Galleries	
<i>The numbers (i.e. E4) tell you the position on the map on the next page. The letter is the row, the number is the column.</i>			
Austur Austurstræti 7	D3	Mengi Öðinsgata 2	F5
American Bar Austurstræti 8	D3	Nordic House Sturlagata 5	H2
Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54	E5	Ölsmíðjan Lækjargata 10	E3
Bravó Laugavegur 22	E5	Paloma Naustin	D3
Dillon Laugavegur 30	E5	Prikið Bankastræti 12	E4
Dubliner Naustin 1-3	D3	R6013 Ingólfrstræti 20	E4
English Pub Grandagarður 12	D3	Röntgen Hverfisgata 12	E5
Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22	D3	Reykjavík Roasters Kárástigur 1	F5
Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a	D3	Tjarnarbió Tjarnargata 12	E3
Iðnó Vonarstræti 3	E3	Galleri List Skipholt 50A	H10
Kex Hostel Skúlagata 28	E7	M-F 11-18, Sat 11-16	
Kaffibarinn Bergstaðastræti 1E4		Hafnarborg Strandgata 34, 220	
Kiki Queer Bar Laugavegur 22	E5	Open Wed-Mon 12-17	
Loft Bankastræti 7	E4	Hverfisgalleri Hverfisgata 4	D4
		Tu-Fri 13-17, Sat 14-17	
		i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16	D3
		Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17	
		The Penis Museum Kalkofnsvegur 2	D4
		Open daily 10-18	
		Ásmundarsalur Freyjugata 41	G6
		Open Tue-Sun 8-17	
		Aurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2	B1
		Open 09-21	
		Ásgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74	G4
		July 8-Sep 1, Mon-Fri	
		Berg Contemporary Klappartígur 16	E5
		Tu-F 11-17, Sat 13-17	
		The Culture House Hverfisgata 15	E5
		Open daily 10-17	
		The Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksgrata	G5
		Open Tue-Sun 10-17	
		Exxistenz Bergstaðast. 25b	F4
		Galleri List Skipholt 50A	H10
		M-F 11-18, Sat 11-16	
		Hafnarborg Strandgata 34, 220	
		Open Wed-Mon 12-17	
		Hverfisgalleri Hverfisgata 4	D4
		Tu-Fri 13-17, Sat 14-17	
		i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16	D3
		Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17	
		The Penis Museum Kalkofnsvegur 2	D4
		Open daily 10-18	
		Kirsuberjatröð Vesturgata 4	D3
		M-F 10-18, Sat-Sun 10-17	
		Kling & Bang Grandagarður 20	A4
		W-Sun 14-18, Th 12-21	
		Living Art Museum Grandagarður 20	A4
		T-Sun 12-18, Th 12-21	
		Mokka Kaffi Skólavörðustíg. 3A	E5
		Open daily 9-18:30	
		Museum of Design and Applied Art Garðatorg 1	
		Open Tu-Sun 12-17	
		The National Gallery of Iceland Frikirkjuvegur 7	F3
		Open daily 10-17	
		The National Museum Suðurgata 41	G2
		Open daily 10-17	
		The Nordic House Sturlugata 5	H2
		Thu-Tu 11-17, W 11-20	
		Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17	D3
		Open 10-17, Thu 10-22	
		Wind & Weather Window Gallery Hverfisgata 37	E5
		Kjarvalsstaðir Flókagata 24	H8
		Open daily 10-17	
		Ásmundarsafn Sigtún	
		Open daily 10-17	
		Reykjavík City Library Tryggvagata 15	D3
		Mon-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-17	
		Árbæjarsafn Kistuhylur 4	
		Open daily 13-17	
		The Settlement Exhibition Aðalstræti 16	D3
		Open daily 9-18	
		Reykjavík Museum of Photography Tryggvagata 15	D3
		Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-18	
		Saga Museum Grandagarður 2	B2
		Open daily 10-18	
		Sigurjón Ólafsson Laugarnestangi 70	
		Open Tu-Sun 14-17	
		SÍM Hafnarstræti 16	D3
		Open Mon-Fri 10-16	
		Tveir Hrafnar Baldursgata 12	G4
		Open Fri-Sat 13-16	

## 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 Hagatorg 1, open Mon-Fri, 09:00-17:00.

### Pharmacies

Lyf og heilsa, Fiskislóð 1, tel: 561 4600  
Lyfja, Hafnarstræti 19, tel: 552 4045

### Opening Hours - Bars & Clubs

Bars can stay open until 1:00 on week-days and weekends until 4:30.

### 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 outdoor swimming pool with hot tubs and a diving board. More pools: [gpv.is/swim](http://gpv.is/swim)  
Open: Mon-Thu from 06:30-22. 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, Ingólfrstorg, 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: 490 ISK adults, 245 ISK children.  
Buses run from 06-24:00, and 7-04:30 on weekends. More info: [www.bus.is](http://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. 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. So grab some chicken with pickled daikon, shiitake mushrooms, miso mayo and lots of other delicacies.

### 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. Kaffi Laugalækur

Laugarnesvegur 74a

For many a young parent, the cafe stop at the end of a long stroll is the proverbial pot of gold. Kaffi Lækur is especially popular with new parents, with a special kids' corner for crawlers and drawers. The generously topped chicken and pesto 'litla gula hænna' and the 'shawaramabake' are our top lunch picks. Also, if you're keto, don't miss 'em,

### 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. Snaps

Pórgata 1

Year after year, regardless of how many restaurants open and close, Snaps remains a timeless classic. Be it lunch, date-night dinner, lazy weekend brunches or a boisterous Christmas work party, Snaps is the perfect venue for a boatload of memories. Steady standbys include the deeply savoury onion soup (with a union of its own we suspect), the house-made fries with crispy rosemary that begs to be a meal on its own, and a textbook creme brulee topped with an envious snap.

### 7. Hlemmur Mathöll

Hlemmur

Once a bus station and now a bustling food hall—we love a repurposed space. Hlemmur Mathöll is a classic in the Reykjavík dining scene, with everything from Vietnamese street food to delicious gelato to old school Italian pizza present. Yum.

### 8. Dragon Dim Sum

Bergstaðastræti 4

For those of us longing for dim sum in Reykjavík, cravings have often had to be satisfied with daydreams of visits past to dim sum houses of Chinatowns abroad. But then Dragon Dim Sum arrived with their fare, which is the perfect marriage between Icelandic ingredients and labouring of Asian dim sum passion. Don't miss their bao or shao mai, and don't worry, their carrot vegan dumplings are also sublime.

### 9. Lamb Street Food

Grandagarður 7

Pure Icelandic lamb with a middle eastern twist—that's what you'll get at this juicy local eatery where pure kebab is served up with no processed meat. For all you vegans though, never fear, the fresh made salads and hummus are equally wowing. This ain't your regular kebab spot.

### 10. Laundromat

Austurstræti 9

Have you ever wanted to have lunch and do your laundry in a public place? You're in luck. The Laundromat Cafe on Austurstræti is open (again) for business. Whether you want brunch, a sandwich, or a burger, they have a quality selection of food made to order. Their brunch ain't nothing to scoff at either,

### 11. Nauthóll

Nauthólsvegur 106

Just behind the University of Reykjavík overlooking the Nauthólsvík geothermal beach is Nauthóll, the definition of a hidden summertime gem. The restaurant is one of those places that downtown Reykjavík rats might call "too far away," but with the advent of public scooters, you can arrive there in style in but 15 minutes. Without hyperbole, there probably isn't a better outdoor view in the city than this place—and their Scandinavian fare is good too.

## Drinking

### 12. Prikíð

Bankastræti 12

Prikíð is the bar version of the "I'm going to bed early tonight vs. me at 3 a.m." meme. At 22:00 you'll have a bunch of regulars relaxing at the bar sipping brews, but arrive at 3:00 and it's Project X. Their outdoor smoking area should be applauded too. Hang out long enough and you'll be sure to buddy up and find an afterparty.

### 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. Veður

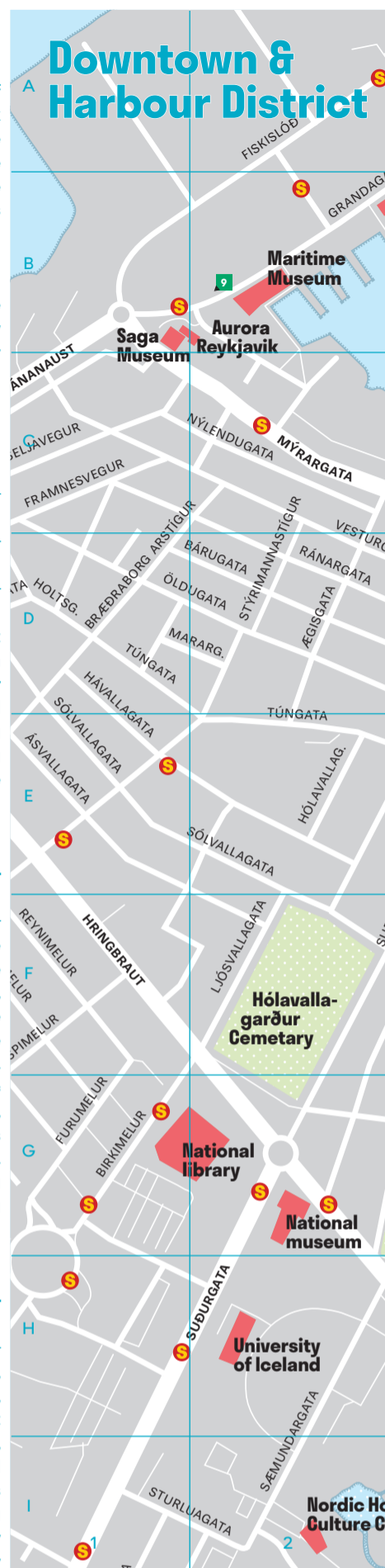
Klapparstígur 33

This charming, low-key, hole-in-the-wall serves up some great cocktails and a dedicated crowd that has grabbed the heart of the Grapevine, even though we are a magazine and not humans. If you feel fine relaxing and chatting, it's still a nice and sophisticated bar, but they've also got an edge. Sometimes they play punk music. \m/

### 16. Íslenski Barinn

Ingólfsstræti 1a

Of the many nation-themed drinking



establishments in Reykjavík, The Icelandic Bar is the only one that is also a restaurant. Go there at night and maybe you'll meet an elf or Björk or something—that's all people know about Iceland anyway.

### 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 cultural scene. Takk fyrir.

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### New In Town ☆



### Einstök Bar

Laugavegur 10

On your way to Valhalla and thirsting for some crafted arctic beer from the north of Iceland? Sipping the brews at Einstök Bar would make one believe they were sourced from the waters of a Viking's private backyard glacier. After the success of their beer lounge in Akureyri, Einstök has finally expanded to the heart of Reykjavik for city-dwellers and passers-through to sip their range of award-winning beers and seasonal brews. Try the Arctic Berry Ale—a refreshing summer witbier, topped with juicy bilberries hand-picked near the Arctic Circle. Head in to their new joint on Laugavegur and skál to the midnight sun! **BK & AM**

### 18. Dillon

Laugavegur 30

A mix between grunge and classy, Dillon Whiskey Bar dominates their little stretch of Laugavegur. Crammed most nights with rockers, metalheads, and tourists looking for a place to mumble AC/DC songs into their beer, Dillon boasts a wide selection of over 100 whiskies and hosts some of Iceland's best hard rock bands on the weekends.

### 19. Petersen svítan

Austurstræti 12

The sun is finally out, which means it's time for your annual pilgrimage to Petersen svítan. Never been? Well, make sure to bring your sunglasses

because this place has one of the best views in Reykjavik and also very fashionable clientele. Look over the city and have a beer in almost entirely direct sunlight (!!!!!!!).

## Shopping

### 20. Íslenska Húðflúrstofan

Ingólfsstræti 3

This classic shop caters to all styles, with a roster of artists that serve up everything from realism to new-school and more, all done beautifully. We'd particularly recommend the hand-poked pieces by Habba (@habbanerotattoo). Not only are they gorgeously ornate in that straight-out-of-800-AD-way,

but they might save you from evil spirits.

### 21. Nielsen Sérverzlun

Bankastræti 4

Way more than your average design store, Nielsen is filled to the brim with knick-knacks from all over, from gorgeous diaries to cosy towels and all the candles you could desire. Stop by, grab something for a gift, and don't forget a little something for yourself.

### 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. Stefánsbúð/p3

Laugavegur 7

Stefánsbúð showcases local designers and second-hand high-fashion finds (hello 1990's Gucci!) as well as accessories from quirky international brands. Fun and zany, you don't know what you're going to find but you know it'll be exciting.

### 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.

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Amiina in front of the band's dream studio

## To The Lighthouse

Amiina's beacon shines bright with their new EP 'Pharology'

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

### Album

Check out 'Pharology' on all platforms and pick up the LP on [amiina.bandcamp.com](http://amiina.bandcamp.com)

*Pharology: the scientific study of lighthouses.*

It's a rather archaic term, for as radar and other navigation tools took over the guidance of ships, those who specialised in the use and up-keep of lighthouses became fewer and fewer. Nowadays, the term 'pharologist' is used mainly by aficionados fascinated by the niche buildings—many of which stand empty or repurposed.

Quartet Amiina can be counted among their ranks. Enamoured of the historical buildings' utilitarian uses and romanticism, the quartet is back with the new EP 'Pharology', an expansive, escapist effort that walks the line between experimental, ambient, subversive neo-classical and prelude to the impossible—an EP that's as varied as the ocean by which it was written.

### Saving souls

'Pharology' is actually Amiina's second lighthouse-inspired effort, following 2013's 'The Lighthouse Project', which saw the band journey across Iceland to perform at various lighthouses and other unusual locales.

"Travelling in Iceland, you see these lighthouses in barren places and that's in a sense very poetic and grabbing as an image. But the purpose of the lighthouse is always to

get light out there even though no one is looking. It might actually be saving someone," founding Amiina member María Huld Markan Sigfúsdóttir explains. "Someone close to us came up with the metaphor that artists are our own kind of lighthouses. We pour out [our art] and just hope that someone is listening."

She smiles. "It's maybe not as dramatic as saving souls."

### Musical aids to navigation

The direct origins of 'Pharology', though, come from a commission Amiina received in 2019 for a sound installation at the Nakkehoved lighthouse in Denmark. Inspired by the pitches created by the rotation of the cone at the top of the lighthouse, the group made a harmonic series that changed over each meandering level of the building. This series eventually coalesced into the new EP.

Along with falling back in love with the remote romanticism of lighthouses, the Danish installation also found the group fascinated with its compatriots in guidance, morse code. In fact, 'Pharology' begins with a beat that is the actual morse code for Nakkehoved.

"Morse codes were a creative spark for us," María Huld continues. Bandmate Guðmundur Vignir Karlsson nods. "We played around and found a morse code that works as a rhythmic ostinato through the song, which is the name of the

**"Artists are our own kind of lighthouses. We pour out [our art] and just hope that someone is listening."**

lighthouse," he explains.

The song in question—"Aton"—opens the album with a rumbling, tribal beat that almost feels made for a modern dance piece. It's a piece that buries deep into the primitive part of your soul—a beautiful illustration of the divinity of fight or flight. "When we got home, we saw that the music was like a journey. 'Aton' is quite aggressive and has a raw feeling of danger," María Huld says.

"It's like a storm. Aton—aid to navigation," Vignir adds.

From there, the journey continues into the world of the stilled sea. "Refraction", which is next, is the bending of the light inside the glass, a serene pause of space. Then 'Beacon', the last song, is the tower and the guidance," María Huld concludes.

### The return to a safe harbour

The album is truly an affecting one. It's not easy listening, filled at all times with a sense of longing and unrelenting solitude. It's the music of a rugged lighthouse keeper—one who has retreated from society in unfaltering service to safety.

And for Amiina, it was both a celebration of the lighthouse as a symbol and also a tribute to the institution as a lost art form and branch of science.

"It was fascinating to go through the [history of the] different signals, how the projecting of the light has changed from being just fire into the single cones of glass. Also, how through time, the rotation and mechanism of the signal has evolved," María Huld explains. "And especially in Iceland, how important these places were and are for navigating."

"The only points of reference to a safe harbour," Vignir concludes. ☘



[gpv.is/music](http://gpv.is/music)

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## Event Picks



### Hatari ★

July 2nd - 21:00 - Gamla Bió - 4,900 ISK

“Hatari is a lament that is screamed into the wind,” asserts lead singer Matthías in their recent film ‘A Song

Called Hate’. “Hatari is a relentless scam,” his bandmate Klemens chimes in. “Mmmf mmmf mmmf” offers drummer

Einar, his contribution somewhat stifled by his studded gimp mask. But there is one thing that Hatari is—beyond any debate—and that’s a stunning live act. Expect searing distorted vocals, harsh industrial techno soundscapes and lashings of BDSM-themed fun. Attendance at Hatari’s dystopian disco is not optional. Disobeyers will be noted by Hatari and in the style of Liam Neeson in the film ‘Taken’ they will look for you—they will find you—and they will spank you. And you really don’t want that. Although, on second thought... **JP**



### Morpholith ★

July 9th - 20:00 - Gaukurinn - Free!

A release show? We’re there. Morpholith—who won Wacken Metal Battle Iceland before the pandemic hit and prevented them from travelling to Germany for the big festival—is finally releasing their long-awaited debut ‘Núll Dimensjóns’. If you like stoner-doom, this is the best concert in the city happening on July 9th. **HJC**



### JóiPé & Króli ★

July 10th - 19:30 - Bæjarbíó - 4,990 ISK

B.O.B.A... And congrats, now you’ve got that song stuck in your head. Get it out of your head by seeing the boys live as they travel to Hafnarfjörður, popularly known as the hometown of our beloved editor Valur Grettisson. Their shows have only been evolving over the years, and we can’t wait to see what they do next. **HJC**



### MUSIC NEWS

Iceland’s most promising theremin musician, **Hekla Magnúsdóttir**, is touring around Iceland with guitar player **Sindri Freyr Steinsson**, playing repertoire of the classical composer **Magnús Blöndal**. Now, this is interesting for a few reasons: Hekla is considered one of Iceland’s most unique composers, creating dark neo classical music on her theremin, but Magnús Blöndal was Iceland’s first avant garde musicians of his time. Sindri and Hekla also used to be in a successful underground band called **Bárújárn** and played surf rock with the odd addition of theremin. The concerts will be all around Iceland, everywhere from **Gallery Kaktus** in Akureyri to **The Freezer Culture Centre** in Rif (Snæfellsnes). They will end in Reykjavik at the newly reopened bookshop/bar, **Bókabúð Mál og Menningar**. **VG**

## July 2nd—August 6th

# Concerts & Nightlife

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

### Friday July 2nd

★ **Hatari**  
21:00 Gamla Bió  
**Devine Defilement & Holdris**  
21:00 Gaukurinn  
**Nico Moreaux**  
21:00 Mengi  
**Nightvision**  
12:00 Harpa  
**Friday Jazz**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar

### Saturday July 3rd

Ásta  
15:00 Nordic House  
**Party Karaoke!**  
20:00 Gaukurinn  
**Fringe Festival Opening Party**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar  
**Tómas Guðni Eggertsson: Organ Show**  
12:00 Hallgrímskirkja

### Sunday July 4th

**Eden Sekulovic & Þóra Kristin Gunnarsdóttir**  
16:00 Harpa  
**Björn Thoroddsen**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar

### Monday July 5th

**Valborg Ólafsdóttir**  
19:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar

### Tuesday July 6th

**Dopamine Machine**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar  
**Cauda Collective**  
21:00 Mengi  
**Karaoke Party!**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

### Wednesday July 7th

**Múlinn Jazzclub: GDRN & Magnús Jóhann**  
20:00 Harpa  
**Sycamore Tree**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar

**Jack & Joey: Rock’n’Roll Acoustic Set**  
20:00 Gaukurinn  
**DJ Retronaut**  
20:00 Kex Hostel

### Thursday July 8th

**Norma & Horrible Youth**  
20:00 Gaukurinn  
**Elin Hall**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar  
**Summer At Kex Concert**  
20:00 Kex Hostel

### Friday July 9th

★ **Morpholith**  
20:00 Gaukurinn  
**Friday Jazz**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar  
**DJ Óli Dóri**  
20:00 Kex Hostel

### Saturday July 10th

★ **JóiPé & Króli**  
19:30 Bæjarbíó  
**Reykjavik Goth Night & Coven Art Market**  
20:00 Gaukurinn  
**Halldór Bjarki Arnarsson: The Goldberg Variations by JS Bach**  
14:00 Harpa  
**Bachward & Forwards: Solo Cello**  
16:00 Harpa  
**DJ FKNHNDMSM**  
20:00 Kex Hostel

### Sunday July 11th

★ **Salóme Katrín**  
15:00 Nordic House  
**Singer/Songwriter Night**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

### Monday July 12th

**Reynir Haukson**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar

### Tuesday July 13th

**Ragnheiður Gröndal**

20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar  
**Karaoke Party!**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

### Wednesday July 14th

★ **LungA Festival**  
Various Times, Seyðisfjörður  
**Unnur Sara**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar  
**Mersier & Laminar Flow**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

### Thursday July 15th

★ **LungA Festival**  
Various Times, Seyðisfjörður  
**Dúplum Dúó**  
21:00 Nordic House  
**Æð, Blóðmör & Hemúllinn**  
20:00 Gaukurinn  
**Þór Freyson**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar  
**Pub Quiz**  
20:00 Kex Hostel

### Friday July 16th

★ **LungA Festival**  
Various Times, Seyðisfjörður  
**Volcanova, Port & Monkey Coup**  
20:00 Gaukurinn  
**Una Stef & The SP74**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar

### Saturday July 17th

★ **MYRKÆLNI World Tour**  
15:00 Post-húsið  
★ **LungA Festival**  
Various Times, Seyðisfjörður  
**KEX Port**  
12:00 Kex Hostel  
**Drag Show!**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

### Sunday July 18th

★ **LungA Festival Concert: GusGus, Vök, Inspector Spacetime, Vill, DJ Yamaho, Sakana & Unnur Birna**  
21:00 Seyðisfjörður  
**Elin Hall**  
15:00 Nordic House  
**Jóna G. Kolbrúnardóttir & Elena Postumi: Schubert, Debussy & Grieg**  
12:00 Harpa  
**Huldumaður & Vibrasjón**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar

### Tuesday July 20th

★ **MYRKÆLNI World Tour Part II**  
20:00 Online!  
**Karaoke Party!**  
20:00 Gaukurinn  
**The Singletons**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar

### Wednesday July 21st

**Cell7**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar  
**Cyber**  
20:00 Kex Hostel  
**Omnipus**  
20:00 Gaukurinn  
**Múlinn Jazzclub: Gaukur & Sölvi Quartet**  
20:00 Harpa

### Thursday July 22nd

**JFDR**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar  
**Guðmundur Pétursson**  
21:00 Nordic House  
**Dopemine Machine**  
20:00 Gaukurinn  
**Friðrik Dór**  
19:30 Bæjarbíó

### Friday July 23rd

**Lenny Kravitz Tribute Show**  
20:00 Gaukurinn  
**Friday Jazz**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar

### Saturday July 24th

**90s DJ Bingo**  
20:00 Gaukurinn

### Sunday July 25th

**Snorri Ásmundsson**  
15:00 Nordic House  
**Matthildur**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar  
**Erna**  
16:00 Harpa

### Monday July 26th

**Steypustöðin**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar

### Tuesday July 27th

**Karaoke Party!**  
20:00 Gaukurinn  
**Raven**  
20:00 Bókabúðir Mál og Menningar

### Wednesday July 28th

**Múlinn Jazzclub: María Magnúsdóttir Quartet**  
20:00 Harpa

### Thursday July 29th

**Sycamore Tree**  
21:00 Nordic House

For listings from July 29th onwards, check out [happening.grapevine.is!](http://happening.grapevine.is!)



Eurovision star, **Daði Freyr**, just might just make it into the history books as the most unlucky fellow out there. Daði sang his way into the world’s hearts with his Eurovision song, **Think About Things**, but ironically, it never got to the stage of Eurovision because of the pandemic. The year after, he re-entered the competition with his disco-fueled **10 Years** only to be stuck in his Rotterdam hotel room on the big night after one of his bandmates tested positive for COVID-19—viewers got a pre-recorded performance instead. Now it turns out the washing machine in Daði’s Berlin apartment went ballistic while he wasn’t playing at Eurovision, leaking down three floors and reinvigorating an old fungus that is now pestering the neighbours. The musician and his wife/bandmate **Árný Fjóra Ásmundsdóttir** are looking for a lawyer to deal with the 35.000 euro bill they’ve received for the damages. So be kind next time you see them around. **VG**



Happy news! The brilliant hip hop artist, **Cell7**, has released a new single from her upcoming album. **Cell7** has not only graced the cover of The Reykjavik Grapevine, she was also nominated to the **Nordic Council Prize** in 2019 for her album, **Is Anybody Listening?** Her newest single, **It’s Complicated**, is—like always—brilliant world-class hip hop fitting for the halls of Versailles and we can only count down the days until the new album will be out. So, all hail the queen of Hip Hop! **VG**

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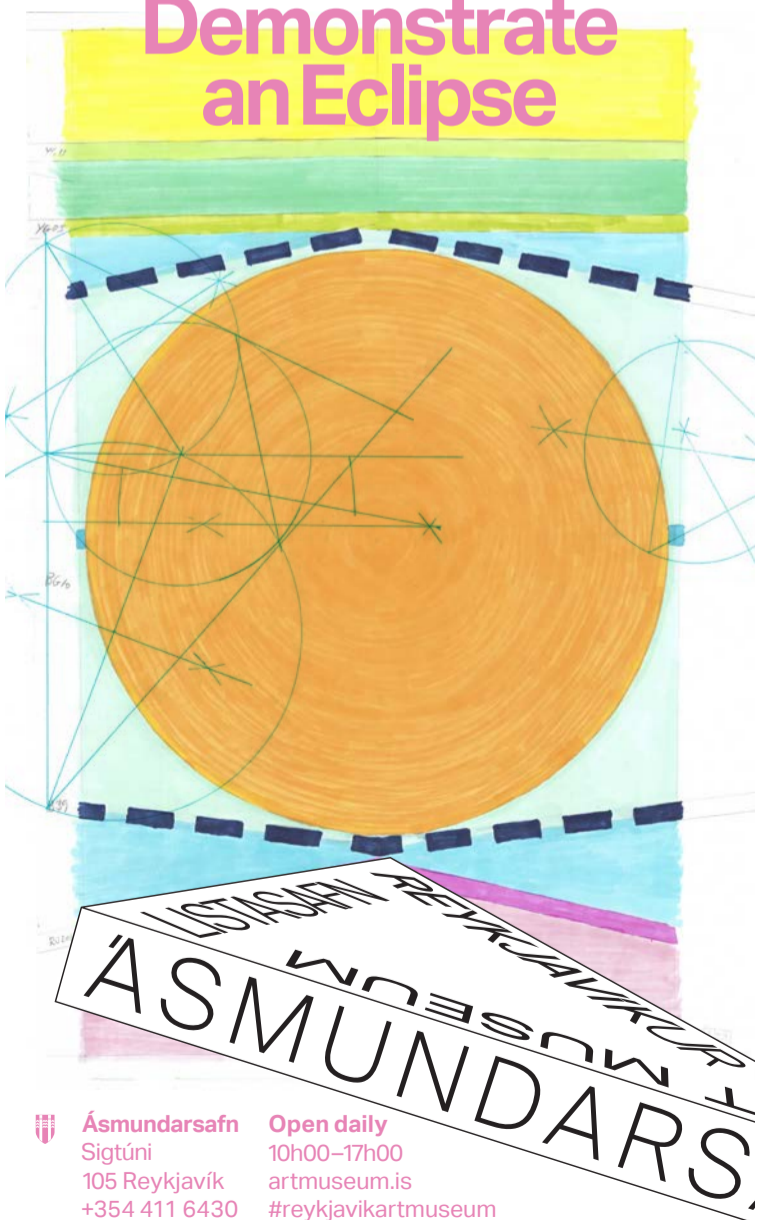
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**Sirra Sigrún Sigurðardóttir**

**Ásmundur Sveinsson**

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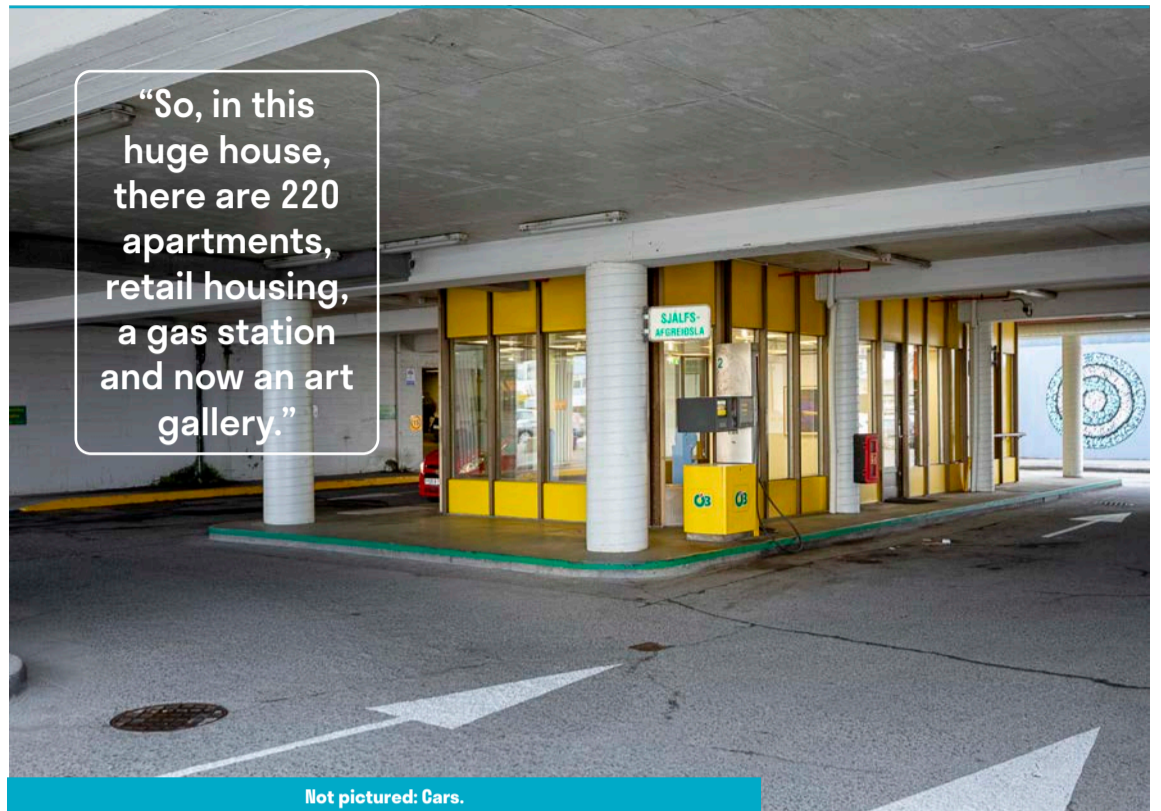


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# Art

“So, in this huge house, there are 220 apartments, retail housing, a gas station and now an art gallery.”



Not pictured: Cars.

## The Crazy Idea Of Opening An Art Gallery In A Gas Station

Meet Y Gallery, the new kid on the Hamraborg block

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photos: **Art Bicnick & Leifur Wilberg**

### Info

Check out Y Gallery at Hamraborg 12 or at [ygallery.is](http://ygallery.is). It's open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 14:00 to 18:00.

An abandoned Olís gas station in a Hamraborg parking garage has found unexpected new life as Y Gallery. Created by collaborators Sigurður Atli Sigurðsson and Olga Lilja Ólafsdóttir, the space seeks to bring art straight to the public—or to their cars.

### Something different

The idea began when Olga and Sigurður were collaborating on a Christmas exhibition at Ásmundarsalur.

“We wanted to do something different—something that would benefit the art scene but also the public,” Sigurður explains. “And also give artists a different way of getting their work out there.”

Olga nods. “At the Christmas exhibition, we felt that the need was definitely there for something like this,” she adds. “People are interested in art but perhaps the availability or accessibility of it has been a problem. People may feel like it's too frightening to go into galleries. It might seem like a closed universe.”

The two then set out to make something more all-encompassing and open. “We weren't interested in starting a conventional gallery. Galleries are great [at] what they do, as are museums, but we thought there was space for something different,” Sigurður contin-

ues. “So we thought, ‘How could we do this?’ And then we came up with this crazy idea of opening a gallery in a gas station.”

### A longtime dream

Sigurður had actually long had his eye on the Hamraborg space, he explains.

“I thought it was such an amazing place and I visited it from time to time just because of the feel of it, when it was a gas station,” he smiles. “I told Olga that I wasn't interested in opening a gallery unless we could get this gas station in Hamraborg. And then we figured out it had just closed after 50 years. It was a complete coincidence.”

They subsequently contacted Olís, who thought the idea was fantastic. But the renovations, both explain, were extreme. “It was an

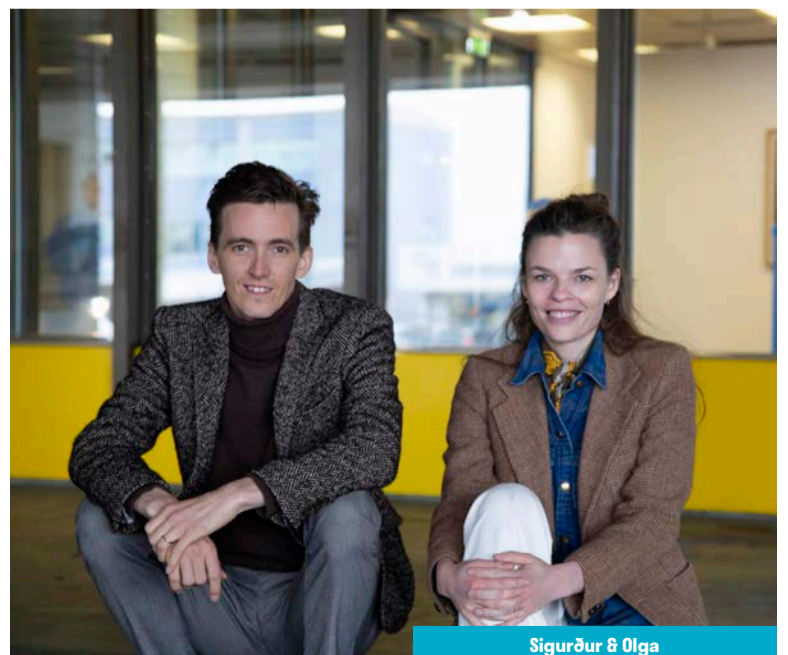
abandoned gas station. When I came in, I have to admit I thought, ‘What have we got ourselves into?’” Olga laughs. That said, the vision came together once they removed the film from the windows, revealing large, clear panes of glass. “Then I had the confidence that this would be really nice,” she concludes.

### An Icelandic cité

The gas station, Sigurður continues, used to be quite a social hub in the area, and now it's once again serving its purpose in a different form.

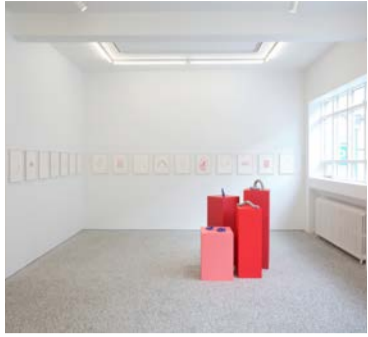
“This space actually always reminded me so much of France and in the process of making the gallery, we figured out that the architect who designed Hamraborg, in fact, studied in France in the 60s. Then he returned to Iceland and made this building in 1972,” Sigurður explains. “At the time, French architects were calling all of their houses ‘cité’, which is city in French, and that's what ‘borg’ means in Icelandic. It's a symbol for merging all the needs of the modern human being into one house. So in this huge house, there are 220 apartments, retail housing, a gas station and now an art gallery.”

He smiles. “And that works really well with our idea of Y Gallery—to bring art to the public,” he says. “And what better way than to have it in your house?”



Sigurður & Olga

Our Picks

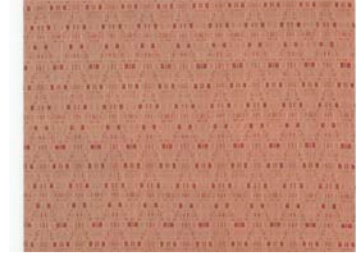


★ **Stance 1 linear narratives**

Until August 7th - Berg Contemporary

This exhibition explores the methodology of line-drawing featuring a veritable supergroup of artists, including Áslaug Íris

Katrín Friðjónsdóttir, Finnboði Pétursson, Hanna Dís Whitehead, Haraldur Jónsson, Páll Haukur and Sirra Sigrún Sigurðardóttir. But why line-drawing? Well, pencils are usually the first tool children are given to create with and they therefore hold a magical space within the hearts of everyone—especially visual artists. As Kristín Ómarsdóttir wrote in the text accompanying the exhibit, with line-drawing, “The child gains a sword that it can hurt with, charge with, defend itself with, talk to, listen to and forsake all context. A hot rod. Cord. Sometimes the drawing is done for God, a friend, nobody, mother, one’s self, needs, power, screams, obsessions, frenzy, that inexplicable search (for nothing maybe).” Don’t miss it. **HJC**



★ **Hildur Bjarnadóttir**

Until August 7th - Hverfisgalleri

Weaver Hildur Bjarnadóttir creates, as she calls them, “woven paintings.” These densely-woven canvases showcase the age-old tradition in a new provocative light, filled with colour and emotion that presents Hildur’s life as a homesteader in Púfugarður. Explore rhythm, mimetic art and the world. **HJC**



★ **HOW A PLACE COMES TO BE**

July 10th-August 1st - Midpunkt

LEMOS + LEHMANN, the artist duo of Pat Lemos and Lukas Lehmann are journeying to Iceland, with an immersive experience of photography and sound. Full of both calmness and tension, it’ll be an exploration of perception and the ever-changing nature of art. **HJC**



★ **Pabbi í veggnum**

Until July 20th - Gletta (Borgarfjörður Eystri)

This is one for your Easterners. The beautiful venue Gletta in Borgarfjörður Eystri will host an exhibition featuring Rúnar Örn Jóhönnu Marinósson, Geirþrúður Einarsdóttir, Auður Ómarsdóttir, Gyfla Freeland Sigurðsson. Plan a road trip and don’t miss it. **HJC**

July 2nd-August 6th

Art Listings

Events are listed by venue. For complete listings and detailed information on venues, visit [grapevine.is/happening](http://grapevine.is/happening). Send your listings to: [listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is)

Opening

FLÆÐI GALLERY

Harry Darkins

A sparsely-populated fishing town perched on the sea and facing the dramatic cliffs of the Westfjords, Skagaströnd faces the full force of Iceland’s ever-changing weather. Here, artist Harry Darkins shares a collection of figurative works inspired by his time in the town.  
• Opens on July 15th, 2021  
• Runs until July 18th, 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 artist 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 Reykjavík’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 - ÁSMUNDARSAFN

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

HIÐ ÍSLENSKA BÓKMENNTAFÉLAG

Abstract Reality

The ground floor of the Hotel Saga will play host to a series of abstract art works by Valtýr 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

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS

Iðavöllur: Icelandic Art in the 21st Century

In 2021, Reykjavík 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 interna-

tional 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.  
• 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.  
• Runs until August 8th, 2021

HVERFISGALLERÍ

Abyss

Hildur Bjarnadóttir presents her third solo show at Hverfisgalleri. 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.  
• Runs until August 21st, 2021

OBJECT OF DESIRE

Abyss

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.  
• Runs until August 26th, 2021

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# Film



GDRN, fresh out of dealing with the catastrophic eruption of Katla

"I don't think the Icelandic film industry has done something like this before."

## Out Of The Ashes

GDRN catches the acting bug on Netflix's 'Katla'

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photo: **John Pearson**

You might have enjoyed "Trapped" as a great addition to Iceland's Nordic noir catalogue, but now the nation is ready to spread into other genres, with Baltasar Kormákur's *Katla* taking the leap into science fiction. We spoke with Guðrún Yr Eyfjörð Jóhannesdóttir—better known by her stage name, GDRN—who stars in the film as Gríma, a young woman living in the ashes of a devastating eruption of the volcano Katla. It turns out this death-defying and inexplicable feat is only the beginning for a sleepy Icelandic village—more thrills await them, like it or not.

### The thrill of a challenge

When Guðrún was approached by Baltasar's casting director and asked if she wanted to audition for the part she embraced the opportunity, precisely because of the challenge it presented.

"It was a surprise, but it was something that I found that I really wanted to do, so I was really stressed," she tells us. "I don't remember much about the audition

because I was so stressed about it. I really love doing things that do not come easy for me. I want to have a little bit of the unknown, this feeling of 'I don't know if I'm going to pull this off'. I love doing things that are challenging."

Another big part of the draw for her was the freshness of *Katla*'s concept in an Icelandic context.

"I don't think the Icelandic film industry has done something like this before," she says. "This is something new. It has a young woman in the leading part, which is unfortunately not that common. But it's also a sci-fi thriller and that's not something I've seen in Icelandic movies, either. So it just felt new and exciting and that was what really made me think this is something that I really want to do."

### Camera as audience

As someone who's performed on stage since she was five-years old, Guðrún felt she was able to apply a lot of her skills to acting as well.

"When I got in front of the cameras, I just realised that when I'm

on stage, my whole point is to get the feelings that I'm experiencing within the song to the audience," she tells us. "And this is exactly what you're doing as an actress. You're just trying to get your emotions through the camera to the audience, so it has kind of the same tone to it. So that was not something new for me and I got it really quickly."

That said, performing for a solitary camera rather than a cheering crowd presented its own challenges.

"That was the difference between a live show and acting on camera," she says. "No live show is the same, because you always have a different audience, setting and mood. It's a conversation between you and the live audience, whereas the camera is not giving anything back. So it's just up to you to keep the conversation going."

### Send her scripts!

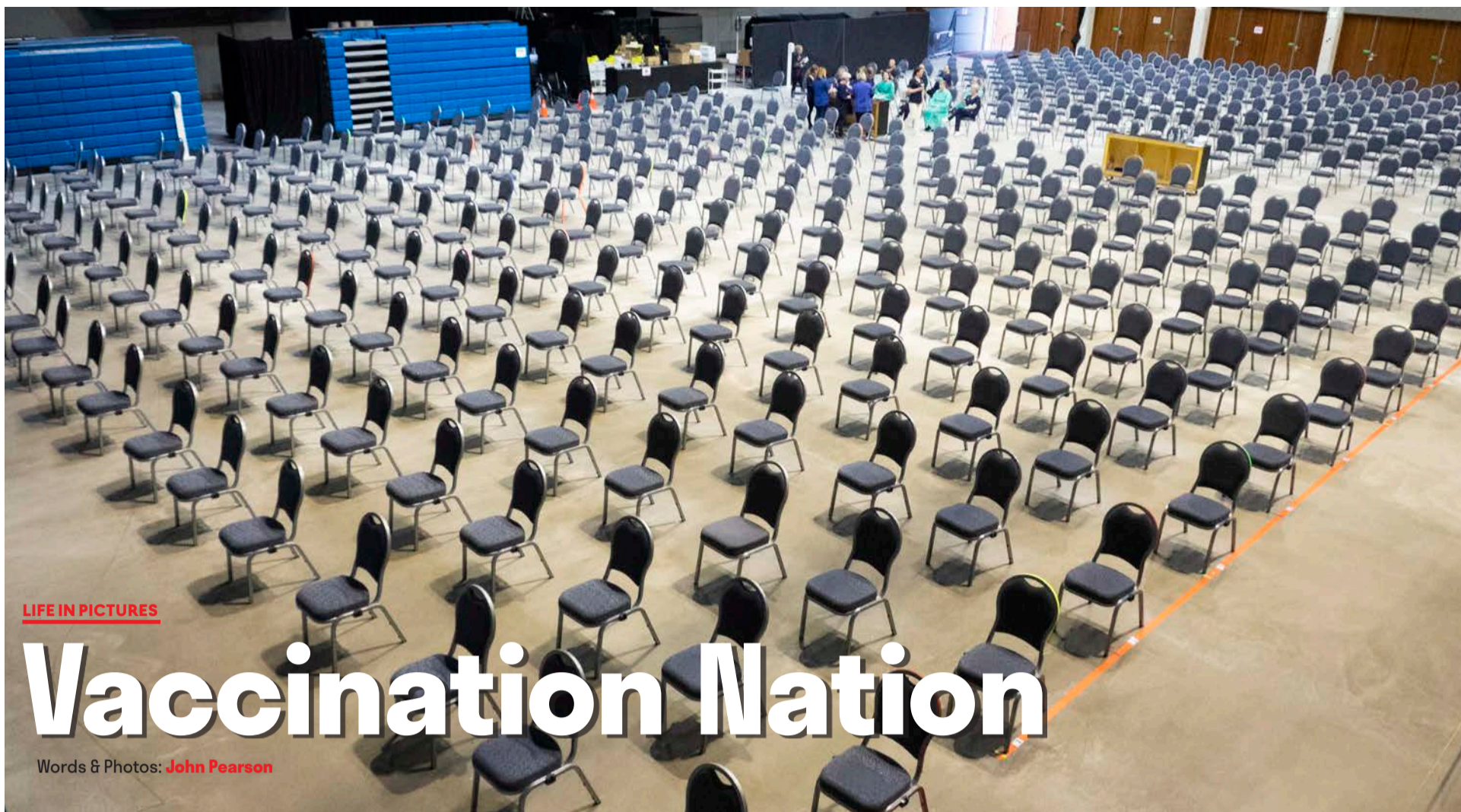
After the experience of *Katla*, Guðrún feels she has caught the acting bug.

"I definitely hope I will do more acting, because this was such a fun experience," she says. "I felt that I got to see a bigger picture of what art can be. It was so rewarding and it gave me so much, I actually felt like it helped me a lot with the music, too. It gave me a bigger perspective of arts in general. So I really hope I'll get to do more acting." 🍷

*Katla* debuted on Netflix on June 16th.



A still from 'Katla'



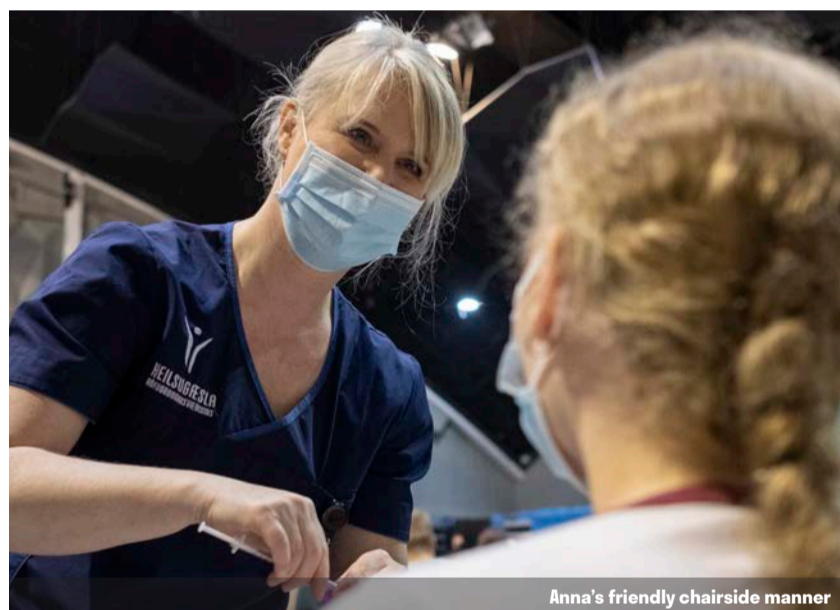
LIFE IN PICTURES

# Vaccination Nation

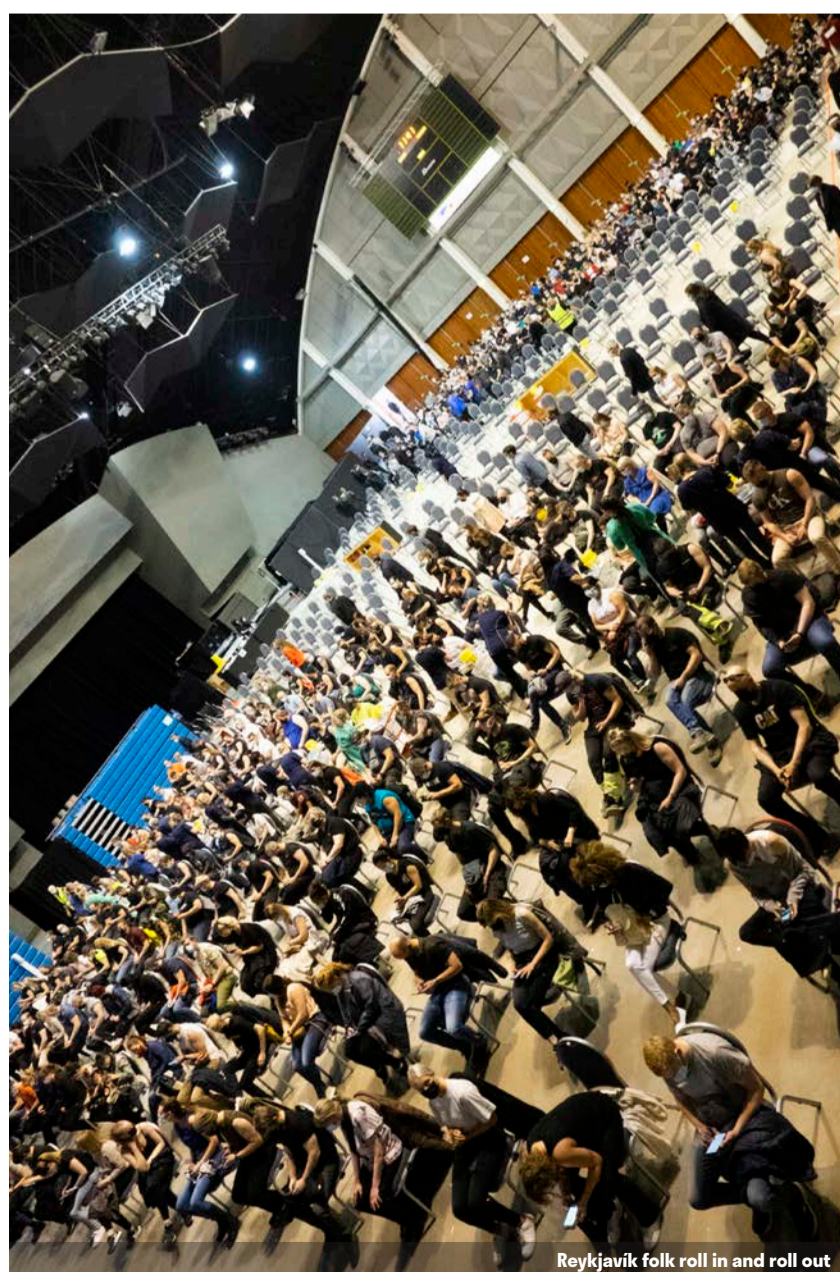
Words & Photos: **John Pearson**

Iceland's COVID-19 inoculation program recently hit top gear and Laugardalshöll—one of Reykjavík's biggest indoor sports halls—has been turned into a mass vaccination centre.

The smooth running of the Laugardalshöll operation is the responsibility of head nurse Anna Ólafsdóttir. We spent time with Anna and her team as they took care of some 10,000 Reykjavík residents over the course of a day.



Anna's friendly chairside manner



Reykjavík folk roll in and roll out



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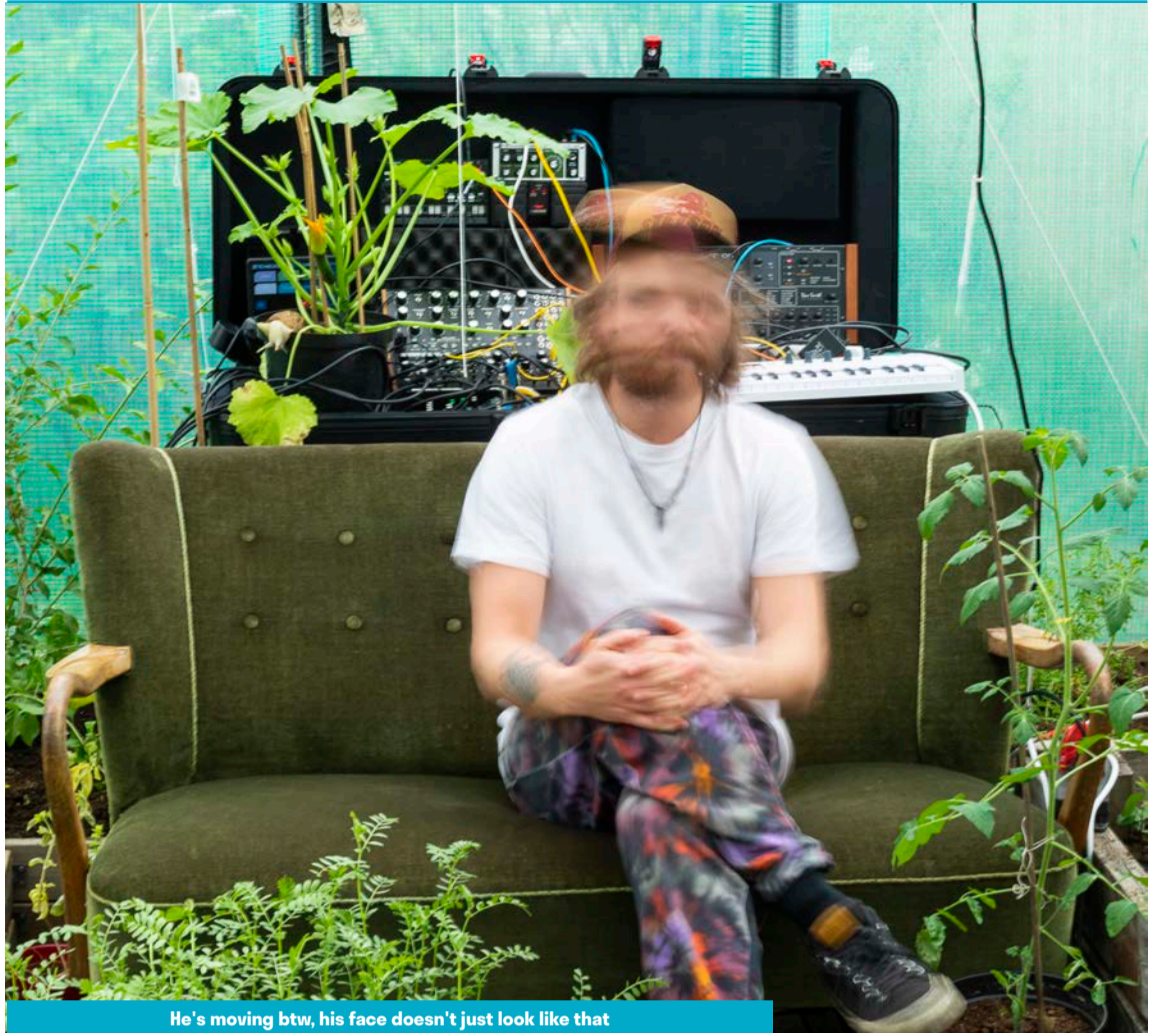
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He's moving btw, his face doesn't just look like that

## The Soulful Gardener

EinarIndra experiments with earthy sounds

Words: **Alina Maurer** Photos: **Art Bienick**

### Album

Stream EinarIndra's new album 'Disintegrate' on Spotify, Soundcloud and all other streaming platforms.

EinarIndra is one who likes to take his time, fearlessly modifying his electronic creations until he is entirely satisfied. After three previous studio- albums, Einar's first full-length offering, 'Disintegrate,' has emerged and is ready to carry the listener away into a mystic, melancholic and soulful world of experimental electronic music, underlined by melodious vocals.

### A perfectionist at heart

'Disintegrate' is a vast composition of Einar's personal field-recordings, deep lyrics and dreamy electronic beats fused with instrumental piano sounds. The name of the album makes complete sense, as everything was initially broken down before Einar merged the loose pieces back together.

Most of Einar's music is intertwined and inspired by his personal experiences. He took a brief pause from music in 2018, after the birth of his youngest daughter, and travelled through Europe, which heavily influenced the start of his album.

"We went to Tenerife, Portugal and spent a month in Lisbon. My mixing and mastering engineer that I've been working with, called me up and said that we should do something. He inspired me to go for it," Einar remembers and adds, "I was actually thinking about naming the record 'While you were sleeping', because all the songs came [together] when my daughter was sleeping."

After three years of creating, he finally finished the album this year. "Some tracks I wasn't com-

fortable with and changed them 30 times over the course of two years," Einar sighs. The constant modifications and development of the tracks explain the final name of the album, "I was changing up a lot of my process, so the title of the album came out of that—like old patterns being disintegrated."

### Using nature's tunes

Einar creates his own sounds, underlining his music in a peculiar and enchanting way. "With a laptop, you have the whole world of sound [at] your fingertips. This record is mainly based on the sounds I have created," he explains, taking a sip of his steaming coffee. "Sometimes I want a sound and it takes me three days to achieve it. I think the more you put into it, the more precious it becomes to you, even if it doesn't sound better to someone else."

On the track "Watching things grow," pebbles can be heard washing up on the shore of his home peninsula Tjörnes, close to Húsavík, lending it some kind of mystic vibe. "It's one of my favourite places. The recording

is from a small harbour, down at the sea. I recorded it on a beautiful summer day, you could hear the stones coming up on the shore. I think that one is my favourite field recording," Einar recalls.

### A man who can do it all

EinarIndra does it all—singer, songwriter and field-recorder. His next project, after the release of 'Disintegrate' in late May, is creating a music video for the song "Watching things grow."

As a hobby-gardener himself, Einar invasions his own inspirations for the track to be compiled in a music video. "I planted soybeans in my greenhouse and I have a camera on them. It has been going for more than a week, like a time lapse. I'm thinking of combining that with videos of my daughter into a music video," he says and smiles. It's clear that out of the ten tracks on the album "Watching things grow" is a special one to Einar. "I love gardening and watching things grow. It was a [fitting] title, both that and watching my daughter grow up. [It's] this aspect of sitting by and watching something grow instead of interfering with it," he explains carefully.

We might not all have the patience to watch soybeans grow, but EinarIndra's beats inspire a sense of presence, infecting us with his ability to slow down. 🌱

**"I think the more you put into it, the more precious it becomes to you, even if it doesn't sound better to someone else."**



EinarIndra and a dear friend



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**BASTARD BREW**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 500 ISK,  
Wine 700 ISK.

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

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

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

**FJALLKONAN**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 17:00.  
Beer 890 ISK,  
Wine 990 ISK.

**FORRÉTTABARINN**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 19:00.  
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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**JUNGLE COCKTAIL  
BAR**  
Every day from  
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Beer 800 ISK,  
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Cocktails 1,500  
ISK.

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

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

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

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

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

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Wine 900 ISK.

**SKÚLI CRAFT BAR**  
Every day from  
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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.

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

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

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

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



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**Sæta Svinið**  
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**Sólon**  
Monday - Friday  
11:00 - 14:30  
Ceasar salad -  
1,490 ISK

**Lemon**  
Every day  
16:00 - 21:00  
2f1 Juice +  
sandwich

1,095 ISK  
Vegan option

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

**2,000 ISK  
And Under**

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

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# The Butterfly Effect In The North

Egill Bjarnason on how Iceland changed the world

Words: Valur Grettisson Photo: Art Bienick

Iceland's not in the bunker anymore

It's not that Icelanders are full on megalomaniacs (we are though, in general), but our history and culture have affected the western world in myriad ways that we could make a strong case that Iceland shaped the world on a deep level. In some ways, Iceland is the butterfly effect of the North.

Now we can even prove this—well, to a point. Egill Bjarnason has made quite a name for himself as a journalist, writing for the likes of *The New York Times*, *Al Jazeera*, *Associated Press* and *Lonely Planet*. He also teaches media and political science part-time at the University of Iceland. But what matters most for us Icelanders—forever burdened by our delusions of grandeur—is that he has written the book called 'How Iceland Changed The World', published by Penguin Random House and released in the US and Europe, in which he navigates the various effects of Icelandic culture on the world at large since the year 1100.

## Iceland's effect on Tolkien

"I wrote up three chapters and sent some cold emails to literary agents in the US," Egill explains when asked how on earth he ended up with the biggest publisher in the world. Of course, when reading the book, it comes as no surprise that it was picked up by the publisher—there was actually an auction for the right to publish it—it's witty, accessible and very enjoyable.

In it, Egill covers everything from an Icelandic (originally Norwegian) Viking, Leifur 'the lucky' Eiriksson, discovering North America and losing it again; and the story about how a young Icelandic woman, Arndís Þorbjarnardóttir, influenced J.R.R Tolkien by telling him about Icelandic folktales (Icelanders see very clearly when reading or watching 'The Lord Of The Rings'); to the invaluable lessons other nations can take from Iceland's gender equality reforms.

## Dull freedom fighters

"In Iceland, there is a lot of em-

phasis on the big Icelandic novel," Egill explains. "I had worked for years in my father's bookstore and I felt like there was something missing in Icelandic literature, something about Icelandic history," he says. He adds quickly that of course there are many excellent books about Icelandic sagas, many are even outstanding, but everyone in Iceland can agree that they are not very accessible. Or fun. Or anything that would catch the interest of non-Icelandic readers.

"Also, people other than Icelanders are not that interested in our old politics, and let's just face it, Jón Sigurðsson (Iceland's independence hero) is probably the dullest freedom fighter you can find," Egill says, making the author of this article laugh out loud. There are not many that are so blunt about our national heroes.

## 1100 years of history in a small book

"But I still wanted to tell the story of Iceland and just kind of slam the first 1100 years of history on the table," he adds. And that's just what he did. In his 255-page book, Egill explains how an Icelandic volcano triggered climate change in the late 18th century that possibly contributed to the French revolution and, therefore, the modern republic. And then of course there is the story of how Iceland played a big role in US space exploration. Egill also reminds Icelanders of the interesting bond between this small island and Israel, which have soured over the past decades. Iceland's ambassador at the UN was the one leading the committee that submitted the bill for a new Israeli state. Icelanders found a deep connection to this old nation of Israel for many reasons. But, this is a history almost forgotten in Iceland today.

## Nationalism, the good type

How did Egill choose his subjects? "Well, a lot ended up not finding its way into the book and I learned a great deal about the pro-

cess of writing," he explains. Egill says that he ended up writing about the subjects that carried the most weight and, although Icelanders are aware of many of these connections that the book explains brilliantly, Egill goes to new depths that will be completely new for many Icelandic readers. For example, the effects of Icelandic nationalism on other former

colonies in the 18th century, when Icelanders reshaped their dignity and their self-image in the fight against overwhelming weight of the Danish crown to the point of Danish even slowly overtaking the Icelandic language.

"In some ways, Icelandic freedom fighting has become a road map for many smaller countries that used to be colonies," Egill

explains. The clearest example is that Icelanders demanded the crown to return Iceland's most important historical cultural values, our old scripts. We have reclaimed many of our important scripts, but not all of them. And there are a lot of cultural values still stored in museums in old empire's around the world, far away from their true owners.

## A lot of discipline

Of course, because Icelanders can be very egocentric, we have to ask: how is the world reacting to the book?

"Surprisingly well, even the publishers are surprised by the interest," Egill answers modestly. He admits he did not expect anyone to be interested in this tiny little island and its big story. What's more, the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* have written about the book and it's currently the best seller in Scandinavian history on Amazon.

Asked if he plans on following up on his success, Egill is reticent. But he admits that he has an idea and, who knows, perhaps someone will like it. Until then, he says that he's going to keep on doing what he enjoys: writing for magazines, news outlets and teaching at the University of Iceland in between.

"We'll see how this goes. It takes a lot of discipline to write," he says, seemingly unaware of his own contribution to Iceland's impact on the world. ♡

**Sæta svínid**  
ICELANDIC GASTROPUB

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

# Skaði Þórðardóttir

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen  
Photo: Art Bicnick

**Skaði Þórðardóttir** (44) is an artist.

**Wearing:**

- Sweater from Aftur
- Legwarmers from Pole Sport
- Shoes from Kjólar & Konfekt
- Unknown tights
- Eyeshadows from NYX

**Describe your style in 5 words:**

Punk. Extravagant. Different. Personal. DIY.

**Favourite stores in Reykjavík:**

I guess I have to say Aftur first because I'm wearing something from them! I also really loved getting stuff at Kvartýra №49 (RIP), but unfortunately they closed. Right now, though, I really love shopping at Pole Sport, where I do aerial gymnastics, pole and hoop. They have all these leg warmers and I really love those because there's such a confidence that comes from wearing leg warmers. You just feel like a sexy dancer! Otherwise, I like checking out Rokk & Rómantik, Kjólar & Konfekt, Kólaportið and the Red Cross.

**Favourite piece:** Definitely my Ashley Williams dress. It's made of pink leopard print velvet and just looks so good on me. I also love tights and catsuits for my stage looks. I have so many that I've bought in a variety of sex shops. You have to have confidence to wear them, which I like. This sweater is also super nostalgic for me because it has a metal vibe to it, full of skull and fantasy imagery. I love it because I used to be a metalhead—or, well, I'm still a metalhead! But this sweater goes well with red and I always love to wear some red eyeshadow and lipstick. Red is one of my favourite colours.

**Something I would never wear:** I don't like wearing brown clothes. It's just not really me, even though I do have some brownish stuff. I've also never been comfortable wearing suits. It's probably something to do with being a trans woman—suits are so connected with the male gender that it always feels wrong to me to wear them. I even once had a designer that wanted to make a tailor-made suit for me to model and I declined. But, you know, I think I would look pretty good in a suit now! I think I definitely need to find one now and wear it just because I said here I never would.

**Lusting after:** I really love to be surprised when I'm shopping. I usually have vague ideas of what I want, but it's always nice when you find something new and unexpected and say "Wow! I look really good in this." 🍷



## 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.

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



### Icelandic Delicacies



## Must try dishes

**LAMB & FLATBREAD**

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

**ARCTIC CHARR & BLINI**

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

**ICELANDIC PLATTER**

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

**THE LAMB BURGER**

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

**SKYR ETON MESS CHEESECAKE**

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Happy Hour 15-17  
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OF ICELAND



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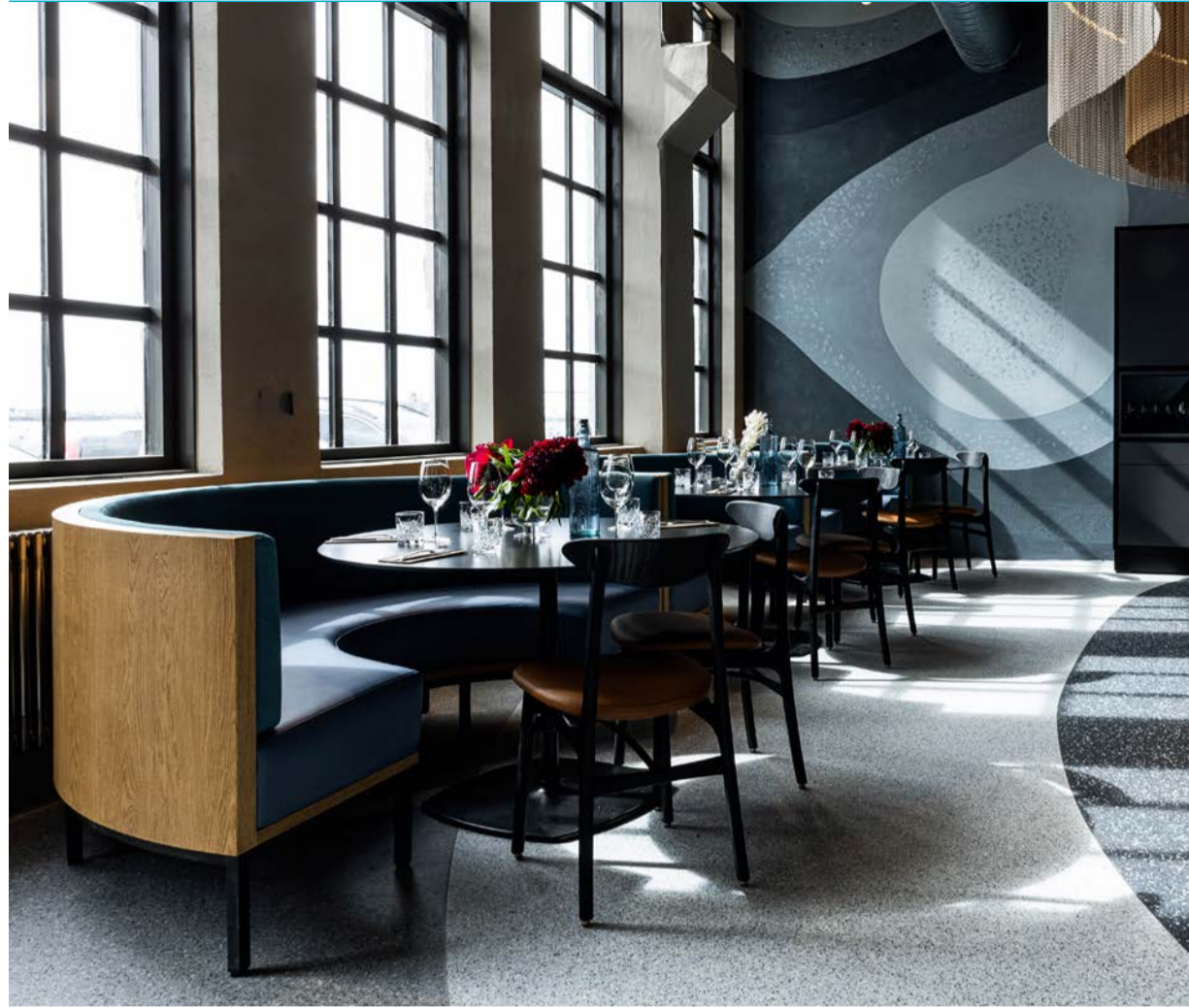


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## Food



## Héðinn And The Lightness Of That Tomato

Reykjavík's latest food tech incubator is build around community

Words: **Shruthi Basappa** Photos: **Hallur Karlsson**



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One might be forgiven for not having expectations beyond the ordinary when passing the non-descript spine connecting downtown Reykjavík and Grandi. But walking into Héðinn Kitchen & Bar, Reykjavík's newest—and likely largest—restaurant instantly transports you to a montage of big city life echoing the industrial past of London or New York

The vestibule allows the right amount of repose to take in the dramatic high ceilings, and chain mesh islands of swank and gloss. Take a moment and scan the landscape for that ideal dining spot—the factory windows spanning three floors, the dusky teal and blue-grey mural or the slinky bar perhaps? There is plenty to choose from, 140 seats to be precise.

### Design, meet history

It turns out Héðinn recalls Vélsmiðjan Héðinn, a homegrown icon among industrial companies that accelerated its fishing

fortunes by investing in its ship building and steel machinery works. This used to be their flagship production facility designed by Ar. Sigurður Pjetursson in 1941. Few structures in Reykjavík remain that preserve memories of its industrial past, let alone embrace and celebrate it. Héðinsreitur has served as everything from office spaces to a gym to being the Loftkastalinn theatre and the final resting place of Páll Óskar's sparkly unicorn float.

Planning efforts in recent times have made room for mixed use development that I expect will serve the restaurant well. Hotel guests are expected to enjoy full breakfast services while local residents (300 apartments are underway in and around the area) can enjoy a lunch menu distinct from its dinner offerings (they're a proofread away from being guest-ready, however). Architects Gláma Kím and interiors by I am Studio, London, have brought factory-cool forward with the chain mesh curtains floating

above the kitchen and bar creating islands of focus.

### Kitchen & Bar

The menu steers away from the set menu format, a welcome respite in a city saturated with the concept. The highlight of the meal is a tomato number (2290 ISK) with tomatoes semi dried and fresh, presented as a wreath and dotted with carefully placed croutons and splotches of stracciatella, all local, finally crowned by a good glug of spicy, cold tomato broth. I thoroughly enjoyed this dish and it certainly captures the spirit of head chef Sigurjón Braga Geirsson's hope for the seasonal and local.

Seafood is likely what the kitchen wants to showcase best as we were treated to a beautifully presented platter of smoked haddock (2990 ISK) with green apples and pickled onions in a moat of white wine velouté. A textbook halibut (4990 ISK) with a last minute finish on the grill was only overshadowed



by the charred broccoli and ribbons of cabbage served alongside. A zesty Carricante from Scalunera made for easy drinking alongside.

Many dishes seem to favour the richness of brown butter, ubiquitous in the menu, a gesture I question, but am confident will find acceptance when showcased as single courses.

Leaning into the history of the space, cocktails are named after Icelandic movies, like *Stella í Orlofi*, and the intriguing *Djöflaeyjan* (Devil's Island). Upon the waiter's recommendation, I tried the *Astrópía* (2690 ISK), but, unlike the movie's role-playing protagonist,

I didn't quite fall in love with the sticky slush sorbet-on-the-side drink making a sweet cocktail achingly sweeter. A refractometer wouldn't be out of place for the bar.

### Ambition and promise

The kitchen practically boasts of the roster of the national chef's team, with Viggó Vigfússon and Elías Guðmundsson steering the ship. Between them they bring the combined experience of having founded and run everything from *Gló*, to *Omnom*, *Skúbb*, *Blackbox* and *Brauð & Co*. It will be interesting to see how the many chefs and



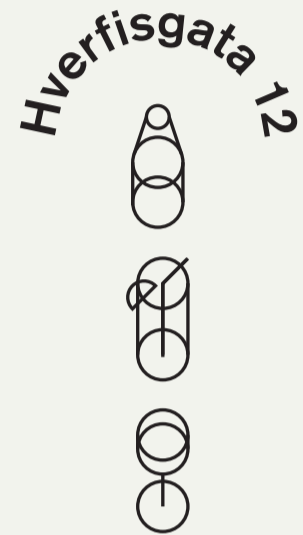
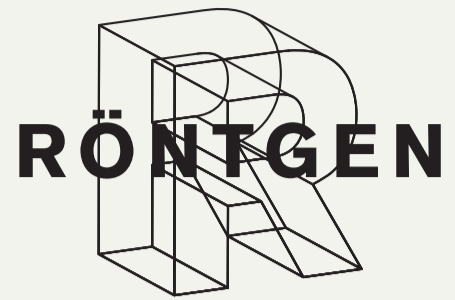
“The kitchen practically boasts of the roster of the national chef's team”



founder experiences inform the menu. I look forward to trying the vegan fare—he grilled king oyster mushrooms beckon for a revisit.

I've been to many restaurants and recognise the skin prickling sensation of new, when everything is awash with promise and excitement. There is a different air about fledgling restaurants; they are practically hope served on a platter. If the bar and kitchen at *Héðinn* can continue to deliver the lightness of that tomato dish combined with their attentive service, Reykjavik can look forward to a welcome addition to the dining experience. 🍷

*Info: Héðinn Kitchen & Bar*  
Visit the kitchen at *Seljavegur 2*.  
For more information visit [hedinnrestaurant.is](http://hedinnrestaurant.is)



Happy hour / 4–7pm  
Beer / Wine / Cocktails



# Travel

## Befriending Beluga Whales And Puffins

Behind the scenes of the Sea Life Trust Sanctuary in Vestmannaeyjar

Words: **Brittnee Kiner & Alina Maurer** Photos: **Christine Wehrmeier**



**Travel distance from Reykjavik:**  
150 km

**Car provided by:**  
[gocarrental.is](http://gocarrental.is)

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Stepping through the door of the sanctuary, we expected to be welcomed with some sort of ceremonial orchestra. Instead, we were greeted by two melon-headed, curious creatures, also known as the “Canaries of the Sea.” Fortunately, we still got our orchestra—chirping, whistling and grunting—the beluga whales excitedly embraced us, snatching their water toys, ready for action. Meeting the gaze of our photographers, they knew their cue. It was showtime.

### The stars of the sea

The female belugas, Little Grey and Little White, were aquatic performers in a past life. They were captured from the Arctic waters of Russia at two or three years old. From Russia, they were sold to an aquarium in Shanghai to provide entertainment for visitors.

Eventually, the aquarium was acquired by another company with less of a taste for keeping whales in captivity and the pair was flown across the globe from Changfeng Ocean World to the SEA LIFE Trust marine sanctuary off the south coast of Iceland, in Vestmannaeyjar. The goal for the 14-year-old whales is to move into an open-water sanctuary at Klettsvík Bay next summer. SEA LIFE Trust, a UK-based marine conservation charity, hopes the project can become a model for the rehoming of almost 3,000 other cetaceans currently in captivity.

However, the whales have yet to fully move into the lagoon after residing in Iceland for two years. Last summer, they were moved into the open-water sanctuary but Little White turned out to be slightly less adventurous than anticipated. While Little Grey echo-located herself around the 32,000 square meter lagoon, Little White showed hesitation. SEA LIFE Trust decided to renovate the sanctuary bay this year. By sectioning off a part of the sanctuary, they’re hoping to develop a middle-ground for Little White until she becomes more comfortable with the new environment.

### Part-time puffin rescuers

Belugas aren’t the only ones finding sanctuary in Iceland. The SEA LIFE Trust team also cares for puffins—some are brought in as pufflings and may become resident puffins; unfortunately, not all can be released back to the wild. Some struggle to fly or aren’t able to produce the oils to waterproof their feathers—one is even afraid of water.

Right away, the team put us to work. Feeling like we were on an episode of “Dirty Jobs,” Jessica, the beluga curator, initiated us into the cleaning process of the puffin’s artificial burrows—handing over a brush and hose, we scrubbed and sprayed away. Wet and sprinkled with Puffin poop, we quickly realized it’s a lot of work caring for these little seabirds! Move over

Mike Rowe, we’re coming for you.

### Plunging with bubble-headed belugas

The strikingly giant mammals clock in at four meters long and 900 kilograms, and consume about 24 kilograms of fish each day. To keep them mentally stimulated, both whales have six daily training sessions to prepare them for their eventual move to Klettsvík and possible medical emergencies; both caretakers emphasize that positive reinforcement is key. Frankly, it almost seemed like training a dog—just in a pool and quadrupled in size!

Our excitement had peaked. We suited up and pulled on waders. Unsure of what was next, the team called us down onto a platform lowered into

the pool. You heard that right—we were IN the water. Settling down next to the belugas, ready to assist with practising blood sampling. Eager for attention, they swam right up to us, wiggling their bulbous melonheads. To be clear, we’re not head-shaming them—full of fatty acids, the melons help the whales echolocate and communicate with various sounds. We couldn’t help but feel starstruck by the size and vibrancy of the whales, making us question if this was all a dream we had yet to wake up from.

Little White and Little Grey are patiently preparing for their move to Klettsvík Bay. We’re eagerly rooting for their success and for SEA LIFE Trust’s approach eventually becoming a model for thousands of others currently in captivity. 🐳

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Hungry hungry interns



Hungry hungry water hippos

# Great Moments... Great Opportunities

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen, amateur synchronised diver**

*You might not know this, but the official Grapevine astrology committee also moonlights as freelance Olympics consultants. Look—the cosmos don't pay much, but do you know what does? Listicles on obscure athletic websites. Just try and doxx us for doping.*

## Aries



An Aries doesn't let anything stop them from achieving their goals, even a lack of talent. Which other sign would exploit a loophole in the system to get to the Olympics only to land 58th out of 58th place with a pitiable 71 metre jump in the 110 metre ski jump event? Yes, Aries, you're our astrological **Eddie the Eagle**. But who can actually name another ski jumper? So who really won in the end?

## Taurus



There's only one sign that could pull a move like that of Australian speed skater **Steven Bradbury**. Picture this: In the 2002 Winter Olympics, Steven, through a series of ridiculous mishaps, found himself in the finals of the short track 1,000 metre event. There, luck struck

again for our underdog. Just 50 metres before the finish, all his competitors crashed and fell and a dumbfounded Steven cruised across the finish line, winning gold. You gotta give the guy props. He had a strategy, played to his strengths and, in an act of god, finished first. The Jimmy Carter of Salt Lake City.

## Gemini



**Ryan Lochte**, after what you pulled in Rio 2016, no one will ever believe you again. But that's a plight of many a Gemini. Get out of the pool and into therapy.

## Cancer



The fastest sign in the world is no doubt the fastest man in the world **Usain Bolt**. Everyone loves you and those who don't just want to be you. Dab, Cancer, dab!

## Leo



Find an obscure, showy, theatrical event. Become the best and then never retire until you've become the oldest gold medal

winner in your field. Greetings, **Evgeniya Kanaeva**. You're the G.O.A.T. of rhythmic gymnasts and exude true Leo energy.

## Virgo



It was the 1996 Women's Artistic Gymnastics Team finals. The US team needed one perfect vault to beat Russia and Romania. It was up to **Kerri Strug**. All she needed was a perfect landing to grab gold, but her first vault ended in tragedy—falling awkward onto her ankle and snapping two ligaments. Nonetheless, Kerri limped back to the starting line, snapped herself together and performed a perfect second vault. Seconds after, face scrunched in pain, she hopped off the mat triumphantly. Seriously, only a Virgo would literally risk their health to avoid conflict with their terrifying coach Béla Károlyi.

## Libra



A Libra would never be satisfied with just one gold. A **Simone Biles** you are. A living legend, we will watch your career with great interest.

## Scorpio



They made a movie about you too, Scorpio, but you're not really the hero. **Tonya Harding**, you Scorpio snake. (Note: Tonya's actually a Scorpio, so always watch Scorpios with an [Eddie the] eagle eye.)

## Sagittarius



Sagittarius love a made-for-TV moment like that of the **US ice hockey team at the 1980 Winter Olympics**, where a ragtag group of freedom-loving college kids beat the unbeatable Soviets in a tense battle for Cold War glory. Who could forget the triumphant skip of captain Mike Eruzione after that iconic fourth goal? Do you believe in miracles?

## Capricorn



Oversleeping after a Netflix binge and a lost coat didn't stop 2018 gold medal slopestyle snowboarder **Red Gerard**, and it sure wouldn't stop you.

## Aquarius



The guy who beat Eddie the Eagle was actually Finnish **Matti Nykänen**. While you may not have the notoriety of others, you continued to wow your home country with a pop music career and also being sent to prison for stabbing someone. No one knows how to follow-up success like an Aquarius.

## Pisces



You're a local legend Pisces a.k.a. the **2008 Icelandic Handball team**. You bring glory to your country every day you live. Also, your members are immortalised at the Icelandic phallogical museum. Legends. ♀

## WELL, YOU ASKED



## Marrying Famous People

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen**

*In real life, no one asks us for advice. Luckily, we work at a hip magazine too.*

### How do I get a famous person to like me?

Girl—I wish I knew. I'm currently in a fruitless battle to get Blind Channel, the best Finnish Eurovision band since Lordi, to acknowledge my existence via a cavalcade of Instagram tags and messages. So far it's not working and my middle finger is rapidly going down. Genuinely, I'm considering leaving the dark side and becoming a Måneskin stan. Dark times, anon.

But for real, obviously, it's best if you're already famous, as famous people (with the notable exception of Matt Damon) tend to only date other famous people. But if you're not famous, the other best option is to be extremely rich. Famous people tend to thrive on yachts, so if you can pick up a few of them, that might get you in line. Failing that, you could get extremely beautiful and then slide into their DMs.

That said—considering you've reached out to a small, poor Icelandic magazine for advice, we'd say you've got as much chance of marrying a famous person as James Newman has of being invited back for Eurovision 2022. Get back in the embers.

### How do I pursue my wild dream of being an artist and living at the same time?

Wait, money and fulfilment? Slow down there, buckaroo. This'll require a lot of luck, but perhaps diving into the colourful world of meme stocks might help. The margin call is inevitable so buy the dip and HOLD for your life.

**Note: This is not financial advice,** we just love AMC stocks. They are actually just our favourite movie theatre stocks and we'd never give financial advice. We just love the stock. ♀



CITY SHOT by Art Bicnick

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