



COVER ART:

Photo by Art Bicnick.

On the cover: Guðrún Ýr Eyfjörð Jóhannesdóttir—better known by her slightly snappier stage name GDRN—brings The Grapevine up to speed.

First



06: Election Mess
07: One-Eyed Óðinn
07: Helm Of Terror



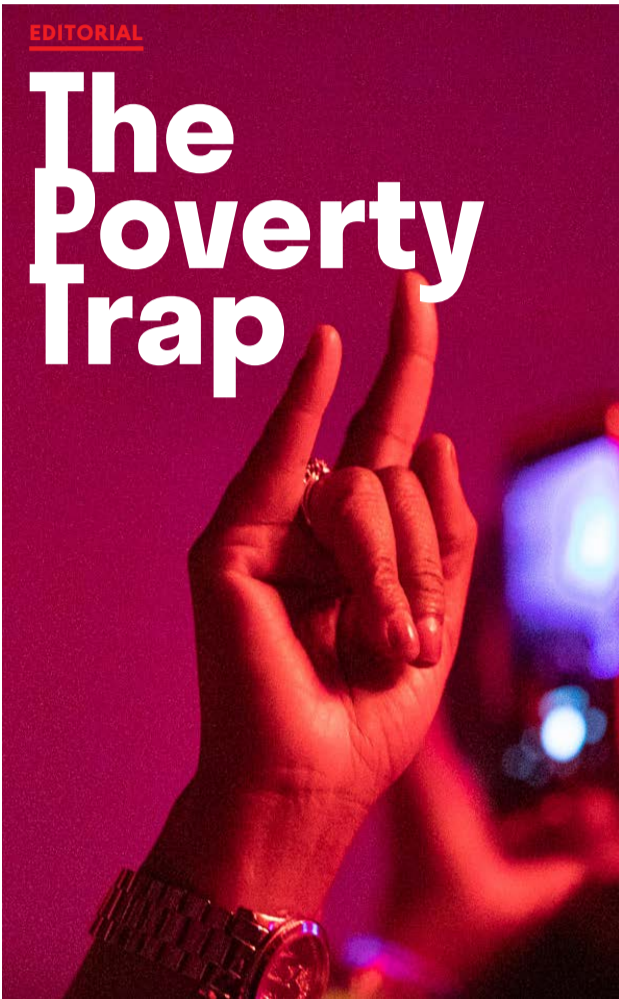
11: Pandemic Festival
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20: Another Cycle Of Sequences



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EDITORIAL

The Poverty Trap



It has to be said. Iceland is a small country. Its population is an approximate 370,000. Its location (although convenient for military strategists) is rugged and remote. It's part of Europe, but not really. The weather is, well, the weather. And it's not good. But Iceland is known worldwide for two things. (Three, if you count the infamous collapse of the entire banking system in 2008.) First, its breathtaking nature. And second, the culture.

Icelanders have an old tradition of literature and this has translated into a small island with an impressive record of producing art. For example, one in ten Icelanders has published a book. The most common Christmas gift in Iceland is not the newest iPhone, but a freshly printed novel. Our music has also managed to impact the global stage. Björk became a superstar in the 90s and Sigur Rós dominated the indie scene in the 00s. Today we boast Of Monsters and Men, Kaleo and Ólafur Arnalds, and when it comes to classical music, we have superstars like Víkingur Heiðar, Anna Þorvaldsdóttir and Daníel Bjarnason. And let's not forget Hildur Guðnadóttir.

It's safe to say that Iceland, although a small country, doesn't really behave like one when it comes to culture. In that essence, we feel like an empire.

The world has noticed Iceland through our art, how it is influenced by our nature. This is an important interplay, that spurs a fascination with the country, encouraging people to visit our island and strengthen the culture further. In a country with a language that so few speak, it would otherwise be borderline impossible to maintain such a high cultural level.

New research conducted by the Icelandic Confederation of University Graduates (BHM) strongly suggests that culture is in serious trouble. In this paper, it's unveiled that cultural industry wages have decreased by 40% since 2008. That year, 7,000 people were working in the industry but that number

has since contracted to around 5,000. In total, the salaries in the culture industry were 55 billion ISK; now, it's closer to 33 billion.

The music industry is shrinking rapidly—a trend for which there are numerous complex explanations. But they are not the only ones. The cliché about the poor artist hasn't been so evident in Iceland for years. The average pay for an artist, through the government stipend system, is around 463,000 ISK. General workers get 613,000 ISK. When we look at university-educated people, average salaries are even higher. And keep in mind most artists have university degrees.

What does this mean? It's a dangerous path. Smart artistic people will probably not be interested in trapping themselves in poverty in the name of their craft, and therefore choose to engage in other sectors in the economy.

Fewer books will be published, fewer bands will be formed. And fewer people around the world will hear about the cultural strength of Iceland. This is an obvious loss for the economy. But it's also a huge loss for Icelanders, who have built their own self-image on this strong cultural foundation.

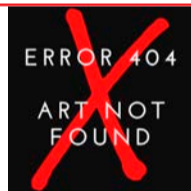
Iceland will never become the centre of the earth when it comes to industry, whether that be our banking system or our fishing sector. But we can feel close to the centre of the world when it comes to our strong culture and heritage.

The new government (once it's formed) has a complicated issue in front of them. If they do nothing, culture, like anything else, will dissipate into a shadow of itself. And politicians will quickly find out that speeches in their cocktail parties will not only be poorly written, but hollow with a lack of interest.

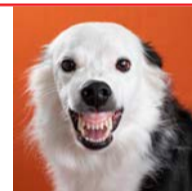
Valur Grettisson
Editor-in-chief



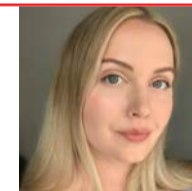
John Pearson is a Reykjavik resident who combines journalism with professional backgrounds in music, broadcasting, scuba diving, engineering and underwater photography. He loves puns, alliteration and lists that have three things in them.



Art Bicnick, the Grapevine's video magician and photographer, is himself unphotographable. This is due to the fact that he consists mainly of stardust; a handy characteristic that enables him to float smoothly across rocky volcanic terrain, and through apparently solid objects.



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.



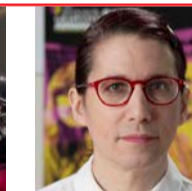
Desirai Thompson is an American graduate who made her second home in Sweden before picking up and moving to Iceland. Having studied psychology and human rights, she's now flexing her journalistic muscle at the Grapevine. She spends her spare time secretly watching reality TV and dreaming of getting a dog.



Catharine Fulton is a writer who has been involved with the Grapevine for many years—possibly too many—serving as journalist, food editor and news editor before settling on copy editor. When not wielding her red pen she's often found opining on Canadian politics (professionally), and bitching about Icelandic politics (for fun).



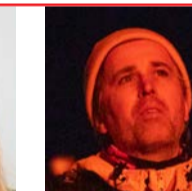
Shuruthi Basappa is one of Iceland's most knowledgeable foodies. She's covered local restaurants for years and has also been involved in various food competitions in Iceland, such as Food & Fun and more. By day, she works as an architect at Sei Studio.



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.



Reetta Huhta is a Finnish student who moved to Iceland to become an au pair, and decided to never fully leave the country. She aspires to become a journalist, and what would be a better place to start than Grapevine? You can probably spot her at Kaffi Vest, where she spends most of her free time.



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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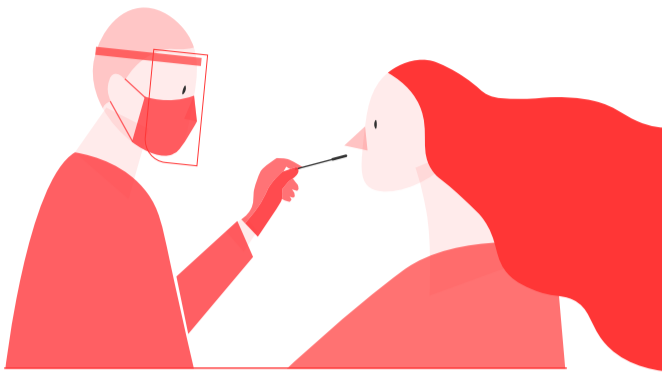
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Aron Einar Gunnarsson

What Are Icelanders Talking About?

Stop the presses, there are people with opinions!

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photos: **Twitter & Wikimedia Commons**

NEWS The biggest news right now is concerning our general elections, which saw the ruling coalition of the Left-Green Movement, Independence Party and Progressive Party expand from 33 to 37 of Parliament's 63 seats. However, this was largely due to the strong performance of the Progressive Party, who gained five seats, while the Independence Party held steady and the Left-Greens lost one. While these three parties are, at the time of this writing, in talks about whether and how to continue their partnership, the results have led to much speculation across the political spectrum. Icelanders on the right believe the Independence Party and the Progressives should pick another centre-right party to join them in government, while Icelanders on the left have been a bit more creative. Pirate MP Þórhildur Sunna Evarsdóttir has floated the suggestion that the Left-Greens and the Progressives could bring the Social Democrats into a new coalition that would have the support of the Pirates, resulting in a minority government with 33 seats. What we will end up getting might become evident by the time you're reading this.

In other news, the national men's football team continues to have a sexual assault problem. Most recently, team captain Aron Einar Gunnarsson has been implicated, as a survivor has come forward alleging Aron sexually assaulted them in 2010, which Aron categorically denies. The scandal has been worst of all for survivors, who point to the lack of sympathy and support they have received, as indicative of many people's preferential feelings for the football team. The entire

board of KSÍ, the national football association, has resigned in the midst of this scandal, while Vanda Sigurgeirsdóttir has recently been elected to KSÍ's directorship, a first for a woman.

Just as the volcanic eruption at Geldingadalur has begun to calm down a bit, new seismic activity has been recorded in Reykjavík. For a nation already weary from the eruption, there has been considerable worry that another volcano is on its way, but the jury is still out amongst scientists as to whether the earthquakes do in fact signal a new eruption or are just the result of magma connected to the current eruption. Either way, the news has certainly been exciting for those outside of Iceland, if the web traffic to our articles on this subject are any indication. As with all things seismic, it is impossible to predict what will come next. 🍷



More seismic shifts in the southwest



Published by Fröken ehf. Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavík

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Member of the Icelandic Travel Industry Association www.saf.is

Printed by Landsprent ehf.

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Nevermind the unsealed ballots...

How To Count Paper Ballots

The recount scandal in the Northwest District

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine**
 Photo: **Adobe Stock**

All went smoothly when Iceland's general elections were held on September 25th—that is, except for one voting district: the Northwest. Repeated mishandling of ballots there could lead to brand new elections being held in that district alone.

Too close to call

It all started on the morning after election day. It was initially reported that Iceland became the first European nation to elect a parliament with women comprising the majority

of seats, taking 33 of the 63 available. Amongst those was Lenya Rún Taha Karim of the Pirate Party, who was also the youngest member to be elected to Parliament in Icelandic history, and the first of Kurdish descent. However, the recount in the Northwest not only flipped the gender balance to 33 men and 30 women; Lenya Rún was bumped from her seat, replaced with Gísli Rafn Ólafsson of the same party.

It further came to light that, on election night, the ballots for the Northwest District were not sealed; instead, they were locked in a room. Icelandic voting

laws dictate that ballots are supposed to be sealed after counting. Lawyer Katrín Oddsdóttir told reporters that this revelation undermines trust in the count as a whole.

The power of Instagram

Further complicating matters was when the daughter-in-law of the hotel manager of Hótel Borgarnes, where ballots for the Northwest District were counted over the weekend, posted—and later deleted—two photos to her Instagram showing a room full of ballots, some of them unsealed and in open boxes, with the caption “The count is over!”

This further undermined the integrity of the count, prompting the national election board to request data from all districts to prove that their counts were up to snuff. In the end, the board announced that the Northwest was the only district that could not prove they had counted in a satisfactory manner.

The ball in Parliament's court

Kristín Edwald, the chair of Iceland's national election board, referred to Article 46 of the constitution, which states: “Alþingi decides whether its Members are legally elected and also whether a Member has lost eligibility for election to Alþingi.” Parliament has assembled a committee to examine the results, and to decide if the elections in the Northwest were valid, or if new elections there will be necessary.

Stay tuned! 🇮🇸

ASK AN

Expert

Q: Why are Icelandic windows built differently to windows in other Nordic countries?

Words: **Reetta Huhta**
 Photo: **Art Bicnick**



In Nordic countries, the windows are typically built using two double panels of glass. This way the chilly air doesn't have easy access to the apartment. However, in Iceland the windows consist of only one double glazing rather than two, even though the country is – literally – as cold as ice. So why are things done differently here?

The question turned out to be much harder to solve than we had expected. If we were annoying intellectuals waiting for a chance to sneak in posh idioms, we would describe the journey as Kafkaesque. But since we aren't, we'll just quickly recap the events.

At first, we reached out to architects, but they were busy architecting and didn't have time to come up with an answer. Next, we asked the Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland to see if they would have anything to say about the critical issue in hand. They couldn't give us a waterproof answer but encouraged us to contact the Housing and Civil Engineering Institute. We contacted the institute only to receive speculations about the topic. They, in turn, urged us to ask the same question from a window factory.

Weary of the hunt for an answer, we turned finally to Glugga og Hurðsmiðja SB, a manufacturer of windows and doors. From them we finally received the long-awaited answer.

According to the owner and managing director of the factory, Jónas Sigurðsson, the main reason for the lesser-insulated windows is the cheap cost of heating in Iceland. He mentions also that Icelandic winters aren't as cold compared to the other Nordic countries, which encourages Icelanders to build their windows in a lighter way.

All's well that ends well! It turns out that there was a simple answer to a simple question. 🇮🇸

LOST IN GOOGLE TRANSLATION

Writer Refusing To Leave Home

According to a headline on Visir, a writer from Westman Islands refuses to leave their home. This may seem like a wise decision—after all, the fall is slowly but surely creeping up on us. Why would anyone in their right mind want to go out, when there's a possibility to curl up on a sofa, cover yourself with cozy blankets and enjoy a cup of your favorite fall beverage—as long as it's not a pumpkin spice latte; you don't want to be that big of a cliché.

But then you start to wonder, what if this mysterious writer has other reasons to stay indoors besides the changing seasons? Maybe they belong to a risk group and are afraid of catching COVID? Perhaps their OCD is getting the best of them? For all we know, the writer might be a real life Vitalstatistix,

the village leader from Asterix & Obelix, who is famously afraid that the sky may fall on his head.

Upon taking a closer look at the article, it comes to light that the main character isn't actually a writer but a bird called “rita” in Icelandic. Apparently Google Translate isn't that familiar with our feathered friends, since it only knows the homonym verb “að rita”, meaning “to write”. Thus, a bird became a writer.

It appears that only birds have the audacity to refuse stepping out of their homes. According to Grapevine's sources, us humans—whether we're writers or not—must still continue visiting the outside world. **RH** 🇮🇸

Rituungi í Eyjum sem neitar að fara að heiman

Magnús Hlynur Hreiðarsson skrifar 6. september 2021 20:10



A writer in Eyjar who refuses to leave home

Magnús Hlynur Hreiðarsson writes 6. September 2021 20:10



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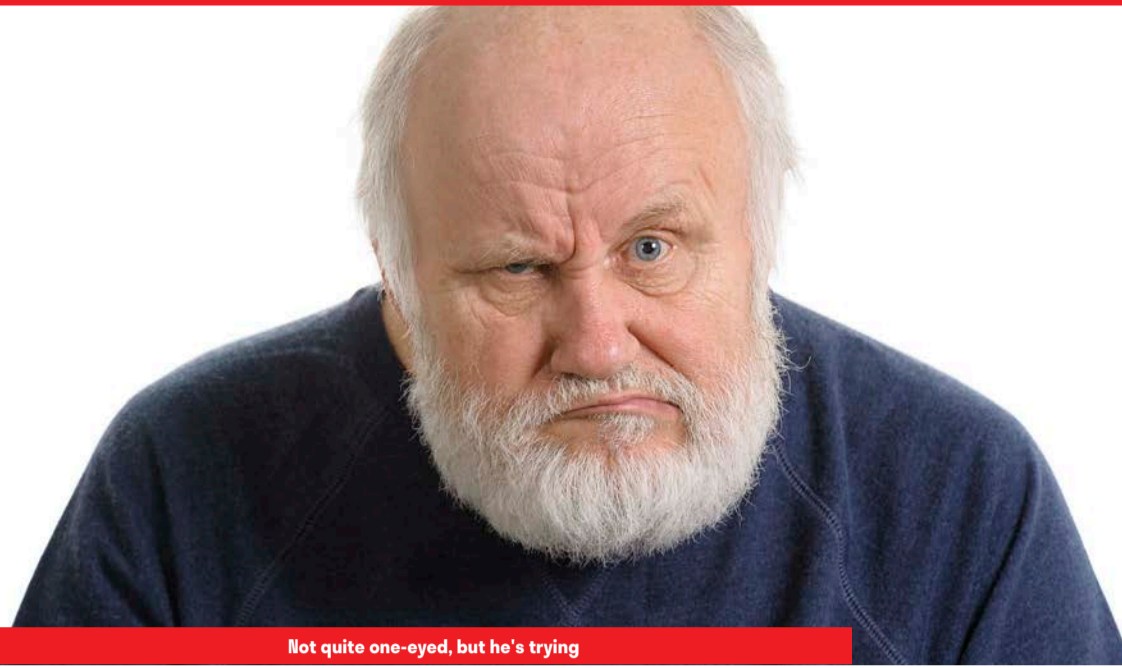


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GODS OF ICELAND



Not quite one-eyed, but he's trying

Gods Of Iceland: Óðinn

The wise fool of Valhalla

Words: Reetta Huhta
Photo: Adobe Stock

Have you ever encountered a peculiar person who seems to live their life liberated from the boundaries of social norms? The kind of person who decides to take no notice of what's considered normal in society and lives their own life to the fullest? Well, we have found just the right god to represent those people, and he's none other than the ruler of Valhalla himself, Óðinn.

A one-eyed masochist

Óðinn is what one could call a wise fool, a character that might seem foolish at first but later comes to be seen as a holder of great wisdom. The appearance and acts of this bizarre god raise questions of his sanity. That cloak-wearing, long-bearded guy gouged out one of his eyes just to get a sip of Mimir's well, and sacrificed himself to himself by wounding his body with a spear called Gungnir.

As if that wasn't enough, he then hanged himself from the world-tree Yggdrasil, where he remained until he grew tired of death and brought himself back to life using sorcery. No wonder he's called the ruler of possessed. He even owns two ravens, Huginn and Muninn, with whom he has daily chats.

So far Óðinn appears to be a complete moron. I mean, what kind of a fool rips out their eye as a payment for water? Just pack your own bottle the next time you go on an adventure. Also, why does he talk to the ravens, and—most importantly—who sacrifices themselves to themselves?!

Wisdom weighs more than pain

Believe it or not, there's a perfectly good explanation for all of his doings: the quest for wisdom. He's done all sorts of

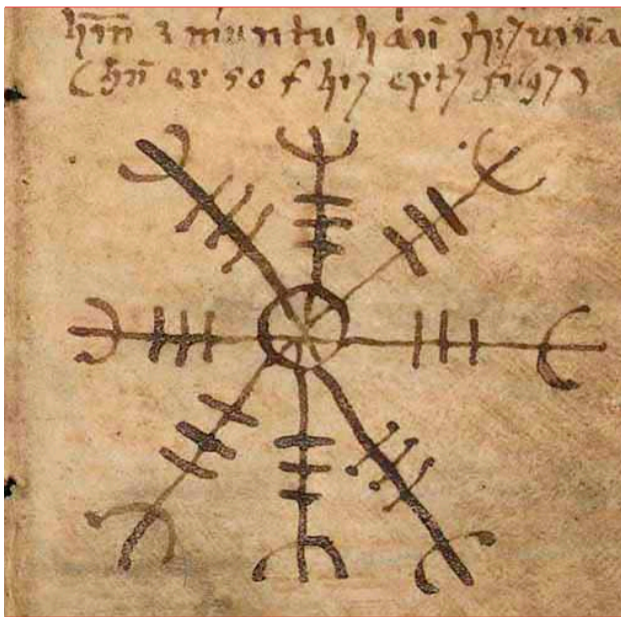
freaky things in the name of obtaining greater knowledge. Óðinn's yearning for wisdom seems to be never-ending, and he's willing to pay any price for it: He gave his eye to Mimir, because the water running in the well is said to impart cosmic knowledge. He sends his ravens each morning to the world to collect information, which they then share with him. And when he hung and wounded himself, he learned to create the runes.

So next time you come across a person who seems a bit weird, don't underestimate them. They might be onto something. 🍷

Superpowers:
Wants to read up on everything

Weaknesses:
Has only one eye

Modern Analogy:
That weirdo from your school, who probably reads too much for their own good



Get this baby tattooed on your forehead and go slay a dragon

JUST SAYINGS

„Helm of terror”

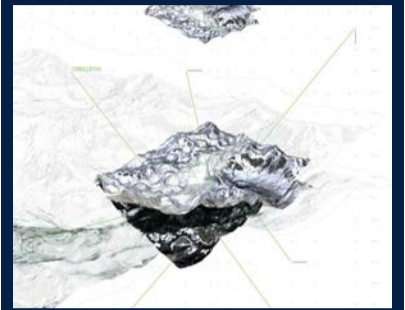
In Icelandic, it goes like this: Að bera ægishjálmu yfir [einhvern]. This literally means, to wear the helm of terror [over someone]. I know, the English translation is grammatically wrong, but then again, English is often too simple to capture the intricacies of the Icelandic language.

Now, the first question is obvious; what the f#\$ is 'ægishjálmu'? The short answer is a magical rune. Ægishjálmu is the helm of awe or helm of terror,

and Sigurður Fáfnisbani from the saga of Niflungar wore one on his forehead when he slayed the dragon. It is powerful protection for warriors that can be used for good or evil.

The saying, "Að bera ægishjálmu yfir [einhvern]" means that you dominate someone or are by far better than your opponent. So, the next time you crush someone in League Of Legends you are wearing your helm of terror over them. VG 🍷

NEW MUSIC PICKS



Tunglleysa featuring Katrína "Mogensen of Mammút - Feigsey"

This beautiful, ethereal slither of slinky trip-hop defines its own unique musical mood; consider Angelo Badalamenti scoring a track for Portishead to perform in the imagination of David Lynch, and you might be getting close. Tunglleysa is a collaboration between Reykjavík musicians Porkell Atlason and Pan Thorarensen, with this track featuring Mammút's Katrína Mogensen on vocals. It all bodes very well for the pair's eponymously-titled vinyl. JP



BSÍ - "My Knee Against Kyriarchy"

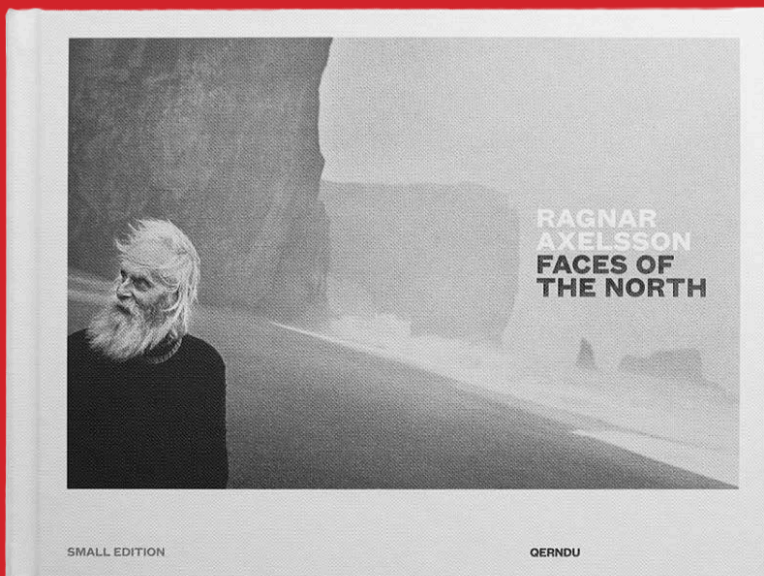
Quirky indie darling duo BSI have come through with a track that couldn't be more dissimilar to the drab, Reykjavík bus station they've named themselves after. "My Knee Against Kyriarchy" is upbeat and impossible not to bop along with, making you wish you could sing along during the first play. This song is anything but an accident—it takes you on a journey, and that might be one thing they do actually have in common with BSI the building. DT



Gróa - "Dansa Uppá Paki"

The self-taught punk trio GRÓA recently released an album called 'What I Like To Do'. The track we've picked here sums up the vibrant tone of the whole album: it's fiery, energetic, and funky. "Dansa Uppá Paki" urges you—quite literally—to dance on a roof. RH

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FROM ‘WHAT IF’ TO REALITY

With credits to her name in both music and television, GDRN talks storytelling, taking on her first acting role and creating music in these atypical times

Words: **Desirai Thompson** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

Telling your story takes courage. Telling someone else’s story takes empathy. Guðrún Ýr Eyfjörð Jóhannesdóttir, or GDRN as she’s known in front of the mic, is no stranger to either. First launching into the public eye as a refreshing young voice in Iceland’s pop scene, she’s now known around the world as Gríma from Netflix’s mind-bending, chill-inducing hit series *Katla*, AKA one of the most popular Icelandic shows in history. When the pandemic turned the world upside down, Guðrún turned it into an opportunity to better herself, her craft and hopefully—her community.

“I want to be like her”

Growing up in an interdisciplinary artistic family, Guðrún began playing music when she was just five years old. She picked up a violin for the first time and began classical lessons after seeing Sigrún Eðvaldsdóttir performing on television with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra, telling her mother, “I want to be like her.” Shrugging off the suggestion to learn the piano instead, Guðrún

uncovered a passion that would accent her life for years to come. Eventually, she picked up jazz singing and jazz piano, two passions that would come to help define her signature GDRN style.

Feeling adrift after high school, unsure of what step to take, Guðrún even considered studying medicine for a time. In the mid-2010’s, she decided to take a year off, begin working and keep herself open to possibility. It was during this time that fate revealed its plan for her.

“My two friends asked me if I wanted to check out some of their beats,” she reminisced. “They were starting to produce music under the name Ra:tio and they were like, ‘Do you want to sing something over it?’ We just had so much fun. We released the song ‘Ein’ in 2017 and two days later Alda Music reached out and said, ‘We want to sign you.’ It all happened pretty quickly.”

The Beginning Of Something Big

Guðrún’s star has been on the rise ever since. Her debut album ‘Hvað Ef’ (‘What If’) dropped in August 2018, garnering all manner of nominations at the Icelandic Music Awards including wins for Pop Singer of the Year and Pop Album of the Year, while her single “Lætur mig” was awarded Pop Single of the Year and Music Video of the Year. “It was surreal,” she shares, “I didn’t realize that it could actually happen—to be a musician like this, but I’m so thankful for it. I just stumbled upon the right self in life.”

It was then, in February 2020—right on the heels of the release of her second album, the eponymously titled GDRN—that fate struck again. “It was like fifteen minutes before COVID,” Guðrún quips about the timing of her album release. With a jarring swiftness, her release concert and all upcom-

“I didn’t realize that it could actually happen—to be a musician like this, but I’m so thankful for it. I just stumbled upon the right self in life.”

ing gigs were cancelled. In terrible irony, the album had been recorded with as many live instruments as possible—an attempt to be able to offer live shows as true-to-sound as the songs fans streamed at home. Now the potential for live shows has disappeared. She equated the experience to walking through a door but not being able to close it behind you. While the future of live music hung in the balance, Guðrún sought out positivity wherever it sprouted.

Making Music, Making Moves

Guðrún credits her smooth transition from music to television to her performance in the National Theatre of Iceland’s 2019 production of ‘Shakespeare in Love.’ Not only was the play’s director, Selma Björnsdóttir, also casting director for *Katla*—the experience itself introduced Guðrún to the acting world through music. “I was on the side playing violin the whole time and I would occasionally come out to sing,” she says. “I was really comfortable. I got to kind of dip my toes into this whole world without diving into it.”

One day Selma reached out about a Netflix show she was scouting for Baltasar Kormákur. “At first I thought, ‘I’m not an actress’ but then I realized I have nothing to lose. If I get the part, which I really want, it’s going to be incredible. If not, then it’s amazing they wanted me to audition at all.”

She recalls, “I was so stressed about the audition, I decided to dress in all black so they wouldn’t see if I was sweating. And honestly, I don’t really remember how it went, I just kind of blacked out.” Luckily, her nerves didn’t show and she was offered the lead role of Gríma after reading with Íris Tanja Flygenring, the actress who would come to portray her sister Ása in the show.

Capturing Katla

Filming began for the Netflix sci-fi series in February 2020, and the cataclysmic downturn in Icelandic tourism in the early days of the pandemic actually worked out well for shooting. “It was pretty amazing because most of the story happens in Vík, which is usually a tourist place, but it was just empty. The series is supposed to happen where everyone has moved out of the town, so it was just perfect.”

The similarities of storytelling through music and television gave Guðrún a soft place to land. While her first album focused on emotions and aspects of her personal life, she set out to tell a story with her second album. “I wanted to create an atmosphere where you would listen to the song and see it in front of you,” she explains. “It’s always about love, but it’s put into this costume of a story. I was trying to paint a picture for someone to interpret into their own life and emotions. I feel as though my music and this show are like a mirror.”

When it came time to don the role of Gríma in the ashen landscape of *Kalta*, interpreting emotions came as second nature. Guðrún shares, “The first day I was kind of stressed because I didn’t know if I was going to see the cameras and become all stiff. I was worried if it was going to work. Then, as soon as we started, I realised that it’s kind of the same as being on stage, performing music for a live crowd, because you’re just trying to get your emotions to the audience.”

“When you’re acting, you have this emotion and you’re just trying to deliver it to the camera so you kind of forget everything that’s around you. It’s just so pure. I think that the reason it went so well is because of my music experience. I’ve been performing music on stage since I was five years old. It’s really similar but at the same time, it’s really different—I realized I could use so many things I’d learned through performing music and apply them to acting.”

“It’s like performing a cover of a song that really resonates with you, and the things that are being told are not your story but you’re trying to perform it as if it is your story. When I was doing the part of Gríma, I tried to find the things that were alike between us, like she’s really proud and strong. She doesn’t have any attitude, but she really goes for things and she gets stuff done. I know that feeling, so I was like, ‘you go, girl!’ On the other hand, when I found things that were different, I would try to dig deep into those things to understand the core of it and apply it to myself.”

Goaded Grief

So much of the series is centered on grief—not only personal grief, but the trauma of an entire community. Guðrún took such care to research the experience of trauma and what it does to a person that she often had restless nights, dreaming of traumatic events that left her unable to sleep.

“You watch the show and it’s so much about the personal journey. It really makes you wonder, ‘if everything you wish for would come true, is it really what you wanted?’ Or do you need to look inside of yourself and try to understand how you can move forward. It’s like a sci-fi show, but in the end it really gets you thinking about ourselves as people, our community and the trauma in our lives.”

“It’s so funny to think of the contrast between the first day of shooting and the last because the difference is gigantic. It was like I got an acting crash course. I feel like there was a point where it clicked and I just kept growing and growing and growing. I think

there’s nothing more rewarding as an artist than when you feel this growth.”

When asked if the eruption of Fagradalsfjall on March 19th, just three months before the release of *Katla*, felt like the greatest teaser trailer of all time, Guðrún shared “It felt like the best PR move ever. It’s not an eruption that’s dangerous, it’s just pretty so we were like, ‘wow, this is meant to be.’”

Industry Equality

In 2017, the landscape of many industries, especially in entertainment, began shifting with the virality of the #metoo movement. Guðrún entered the scene in the midst of all this. Simultaneously she noticed the vast presence of men in the industry and an underrepresentation of women and non-binary people. Luckily, she felt the public was ready for a dynamic shift.

“People were happy to see a young woman unafraid of expressing herself in this way. Now there’s so many young women that have so much talent who are stepping up at the moment,” she shares. Guðrún credits Ragga Gísla, Birgitta Haukdal and Sigríður Thorlacius, among other female Icelandic musicians, as inspiring her to believe she had this potential from a young age. “I hope I’m helping to pave the way for other women.”

“It’s so important to have women and non-binary people in the music industry to show people who have dreams that this is possible, that you can step up. I want people to think, ‘If they can do it, I can do it.’”

Covid And Community

Guðrún speaks with such infectious positivity, it’s easy to forget that we’re in the midst of a pandemic—but she doesn’t shy away from its impact on her. “Of course living through the pandemic is hard but I don’t think I would’ve had this growth as a person without this experience. I think a lot of people feel this way,” she muses, “Everything stopped and we were kind of forced to look at our lives and reconsider things. A lot of people are always looking at the future, one step ahead of themselves, and Covid forced us all to live more in the moment.”

“People realised they needed change—for themselves and for their communities—and the time is now, you can’t wait for the future to happen. With movements like Black Lives Matter, we’re all realising we have to make changes now. So of course, Covid has been devastating but if you want to be super positive, you can take away so many good things from this time.”

Inspiration Abounds

“It’s been a bit hard trying to record another album. For the longest time, having written an album but being unable to perform it felt like I’d walked through a door but that door was still open behind me. I was so proud of this album, but I hadn’t closed the door on it yet,” she shares.

“I always want to try something new and expand myself as an artist. I don’t want to get stuck in one place just because it’s selling.”

On September 24th, after a year and a half of uncertainty, GDRN finally graced the stage of Háskólabíó, accompanied by a string quartet, to perform her largest and most anticipated concert to date.

"I am up in the sky. It went so well," she says, her voice gleaming with excitement. "I had a couple of panic attacks in the days before, but when it came down to the day of the concert, I was done with that. The only thing I had left was to just have fun and perform this music."

Anyone with their ear to the ground can tell you that there's a noticeable tonal shift when GDRN comes up in conversation. Her enthusiasm radiates an energy that fills a room. It's as if the whole country is rooting for this young artist—and she values every

ounce of it. "There was not one thing I think that could've been better," she shares with a laugh. "The day after I just felt such relief. The whole audience was so happy, and I was so happy about it."

Now that she's finally had the chance to perform her namesake album, Guðrún is ready to dive into new projects. "For a year and a half I've had my mind on this release concert and now I feel a bit like, 'What am I going to do now?' But I feel a lot of inspiration for new music." With this long awaited milestone now a warm memory, Guðrún feels the experience has come full circle. "I think this was a barrier that I had to get through to be able to move on."

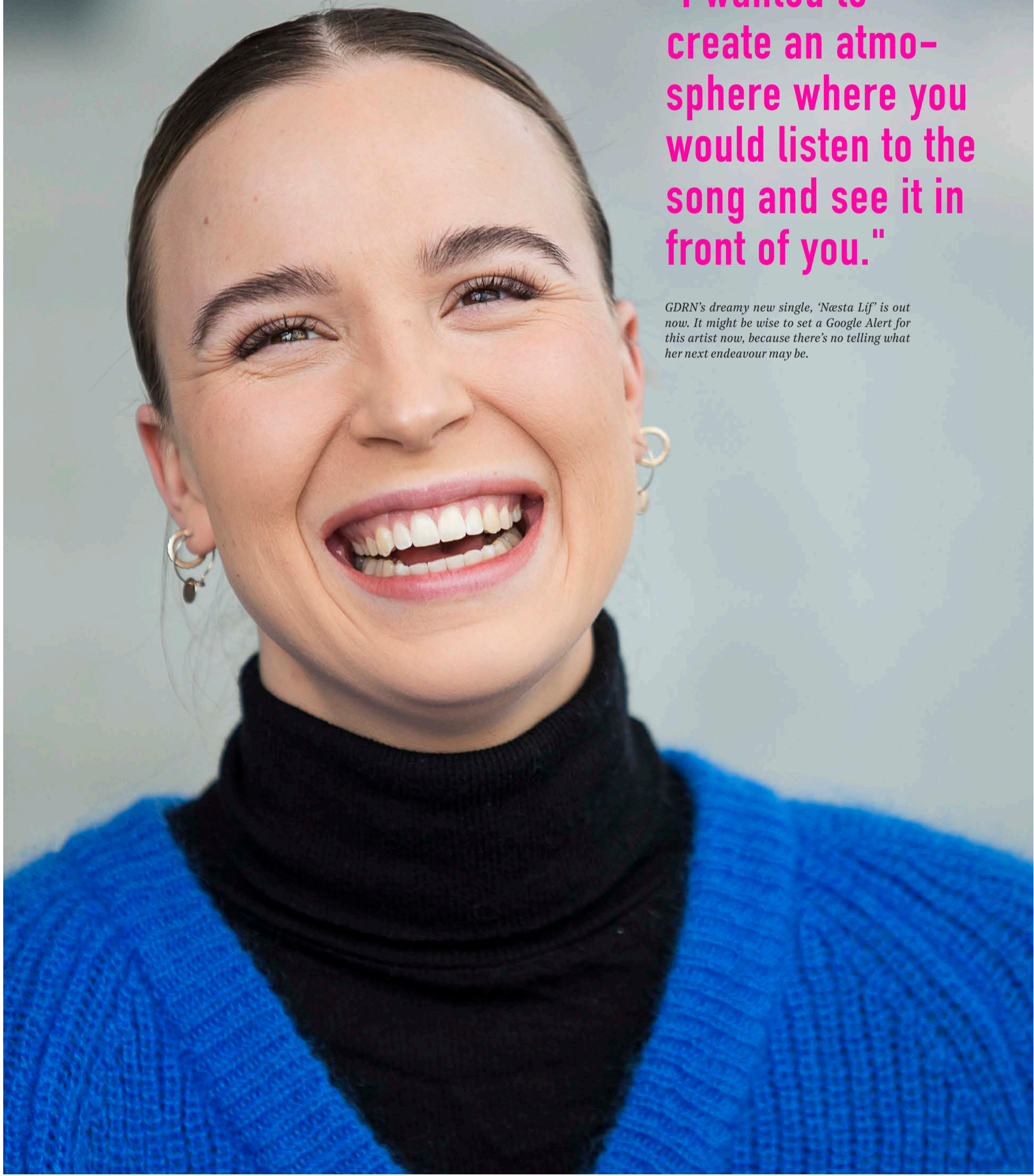
She also hopes to continue acting, she shares, "I want to find more opportunities

and exciting roles because I feel that my role in Katla actually made me a better musician. It's just inspiring to be around such professionals who are so good at what they do." She goes on, "I always want to try something new and expand myself as an artist. I don't want to get stuck in one place just because it's selling."

"In the end, it's all about, 'does this bring me happiness?' If I'm not doing it for my happiness or because it drives me, then I'm not doing the right thing in life." 🍷

"I wanted to create an atmosphere where you would listen to the song and see it in front of you."

GDRN's dreamy new single, 'Næsta Líf' is out now. It might be wise to set a Google Alert for this artist now, because there's no telling what her next endeavour may be.



Happening

Find today's events
in Iceland!
Download our free
listings app - APPENING
on the Apple and
Android stores



Briet Finally On Stage

Album Release Concert

Oct. 22nd - 20:00 - Harpa 6.900-12.900 ISK

Briet's long-awaited album release concert is finally happening! Postponed from September to October due to pandemic restrictions, Briet takes over Harpa to present her most recent releases. Her music makes you feel a wide range of emotions, everything from sorrow to love. Strong lyrics accompanied by mellow, compelling music make you feel like you've experienced exactly what she's singing about. The concert is said to include secret guests, which makes it even more intriguing. Don't wait, secure your seat now. RH



Rap Spectacle For All Ages

Herra Hnetusmjör With A Band

Oct. 30th - 17:00 & 20:00 - Háskólabíó - 3.990 - 6.990 ISK

One of Iceland's most famous rappers, Herra Hnetusmjör, is playing a double-header October 30th in Háskólabíó, with one show for minors and another for the party crowd. What's new in addition to the concert being free of age limits, you ask? Well, Herra Hnetusmjör will be performing with an actual band for the first time ever. Bring your family and/or friends to experience this exceptional show. KÓPÓ! RH



Spooky Costume Contest

Halloween Iceland 2021

Oct. 30th - 20:00 - Gaukurinn - 2.000 ISK

Halloween is just around the corner, and so are the parties related to it. It's time to head to the storage room and search for materials to make a kick-ass Halloween costume for the most epic Halloween party in town—at Gaukurinn, of course. The best costume wins a prize, so go all in with your design. The doors open at eight o'clock, and prizes will be doled out around midnight. RH

CULTURE NEWS



That moment when you discover that you forgot to pack your performance art trousers

The Whole Town's A Stage

The A! Performance Festival Lights Up Akureyri

Words: [Andie Sophia Fontaine](#) Photos: A! Festival

The Icelandic art scene is largely comprised of visual art; painting, sculpture and video that can, in theory at least, be preserved over long periods of time. Performance art is often overlooked. A medium that requires one to be physically present for it to be enjoyed, once it's over, it's over forever.

This is where Akureyri's A! Performance Festival comes into play. This year will mark its seventh iteration, and extending over a period of just four days, so if you want to enjoy some of the incredible work on offer, do make sure you're in town from October 7th through October 10th.

The town as performance

"I think we are the only festival that emphasizes solely performance art," Guðrún Þórsdóttir, the festival's project manager, tells us. "It's a four-day festival where the town itself turns into a performance."

"When it comes to art education, our schools are, unfortunately, deficient" Guðrún laments. "The quantity of art education that each child gets seems to depend on the principals and whether an arts-teacher is available in the area. This is, of course, a great concern since art education is an important factor in our children's education."

"Artists in Iceland do not get much support from the government, only some get a relatively low stipend. Supporting local artists is therefore important, so the whole community will benefit. We should all be aware of this. It's so important that small places like Akureyri nourish the assets that are local," Guðrún emphasizes. "During the 18 years that I have lived in Akureyri, I have seen how local artists such as Anna Richardsdóttir, Kristján Ingimarsson, Snorri Ásmundsson and Ásmundur Ásmundsson have influenced children and youngsters in a very positive way in regards to creativity and art. It amazes me how these artists enrich our community."

That creativity is certainly blossoming this year, with A! Performance Festival boasting artists from Iceland and abroad. You'll be able to catch performances from Þóra Sólveig Berg-

steinsdóttir, Liv Nome, Anna Richardsdóttir, Egill Logi Jónasson, Sigtryggur Berg Sigmarsson, Snorri Ásmundsson, Libia Castro & Ólafur Ólafsson & Töfrateymið, Brák Jónsdóttir, Steinunn Gunnlaugsdóttir, Elisabeth Raymond, Amber Smits, Niklas Niki Blomberg, Javier Barrozo and more.

Collaboration

"When we started, seven years ago, it was with Ragnheiður Skúladóttir, Hlynur Hallsson and myself," Guðrún says. "So, it was kind of like Local, the annual festival in Reykjavík, and Akureyri joined forces. It has been evolving and changing ever since. The artists performing at Local came to Akureyri for more crowds and communities to enjoy the arts."

That is certainly the case, as just a quick peek at the program will tell you. These joined forces include galleries, theatres, cultural cen-

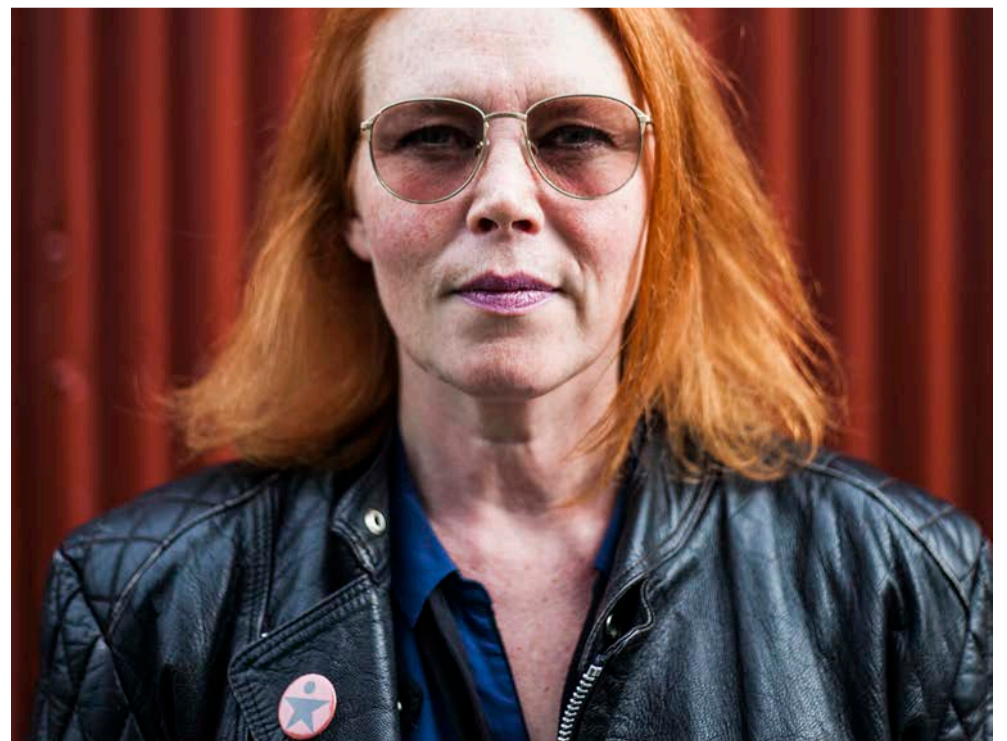
ters and much more. But what will be in store for us?

"Well, the Constitution will be involved," Guðrún says. Which is important today after the recent scandal with counting of the votes from the parliamentary elections in Iceland. Javier Barrozo from Argentina will join us and I know he has been working for several years in the forests of Argentina, working with the true Argentinians, the indigenous peoples and I'm quite sure he will perform in that spirit."

Nourishment for the mind

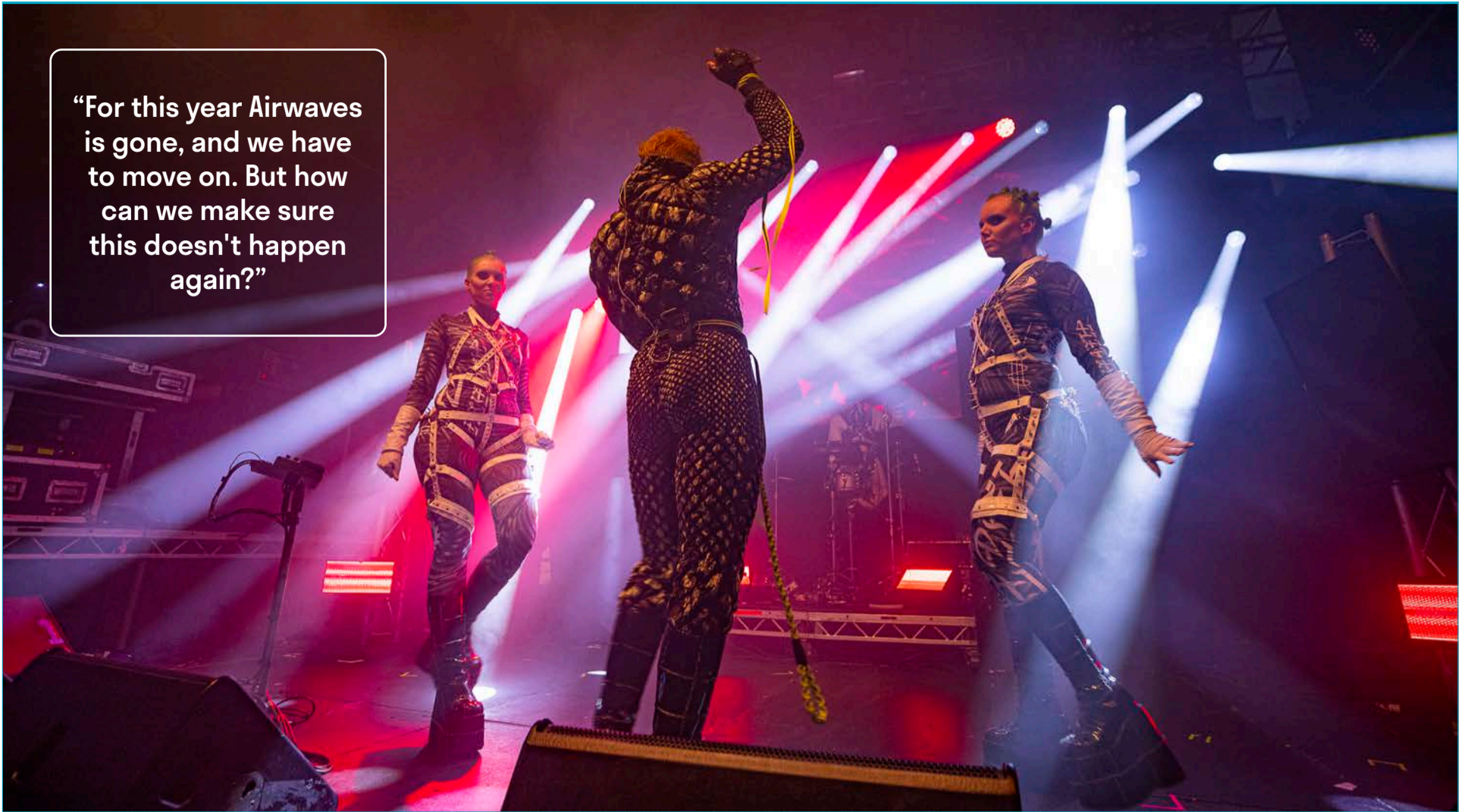
When asked what attendees can expect from the experience, Guðrún says, "They can expect nourishment for the mind, for the heart and for other core nodes, because for me, performance art combines all forms together; visual arts, dance, music, poetry and theater. It's like poetry." ♥

Info: You can catch A! from October 7th through October 10th, with the full program available at <http://www.listak.is/en/exhibitions/next-exhibitions/a-performance-festival> and on their Facebook page.



Festival Project Manager Guðrún Þórsdóttir

“For this year Airwaves is gone, and we have to move on. But how can we make sure this doesn't happen again?”



The Unheard Festival

The pandemic has silenced Iceland Airwaves for the second year running, leading to claims that the government isn't listening to live music

Words: John Pearson Photos: Art Bicnick

In the first week of November, Reykjavik will be a lot quieter than it should be. Iceland Airwaves—arguably the nation's highest-profile music festival—has again become a COVID casualty after promoter Sena Live declared the event impossible under current pandemic restrictions.

The cultural significance of this annual celebration of Icelandic music is undeniable. “Everything in the Icelandic music industry centres around Airwaves,” says Ísleifur Þórhallsson, the festival's director. “All the new bands—and the established acts—have it in their calendar as the main event of the year.”

“If you have new material you'll release it just before the festival, and you'll use your stage slot to premiere your new act. The eyes of the world are on Airwaves; it is the annual chance for Icelandic artists to show themselves on the global stage.”

The financial impact of Airwaves is also profound. In addition to ticket sales for the concerts themselves, the event provides brisk business for the venues, suppliers and staff that make it happen. And then there's the cash injection administered to the Icelandic tourist industry. In a normal November Reykjavik's hotels, bars and restaurants teem with attendees of Airwaves, all determined to spend money at an otherwise quiet time of year.

“Airwaves creates income to the economy of around one billion Icelandic krónur,” Ísleifur points out. “And then there are the side effects of around 5000 people flying to Iceland, talking on social media about how amazing it is, then going back and saying, ‘I've

never been to a festival like this. Reykjavik is awesome and Iceland is incredible!’”

A year is a long time in a pandemic

Ísleifur has no doubt that cancelling the festival in 2020, although a bitter pill to swallow at the time, was the correct course of action.

“The only thing to do in the beginning—before vaccines, and when we knew less about the virus—was to shut things down,” he says. “Everybody understood and respected the rules, and we were all working towards a common goal. And the government did a good job, particularly in supporting struggling businesses and individuals.”

But Ísleifur draws a distinction between Iceland's pandemic situation in 2020 and the state of affairs this year, as Airwaves approached. The success of Iceland's vaccination program presented an opportunity to move on from last year's tight restrictions on public gatherings. And the experiences of concert and festival organisers elsewhere in the world have provided case studies to inform pandemic policy, and operational blueprints which could be followed.

However, three months out from the festival it was clear that Iceland's gathering bans were not going anywhere. With only 200 people allowed to stand in a venue—and higher audience numbers constrained by measures like numbered seating, with everybody facing front—it became clear that it was going to be impossible to produce an event that would be recognisable as Airwaves.

Sit down and shut up

So Ísleifur assembled some allies—such as Iceland Music, the body responsible for promoting the export of Icelandic music—and in August they began to lobby the government.

“We were part of this letter that went to four ministers,” recalls Sigtryggur Baldursson, managing director of Iceland Music, “along with Sena and the music societies in Iceland, asking the government to seriously consider speed testing and vaccination proof as a way to make bigger events possible.”

“They took it very well, and wanted to ‘give it a serious look’ as they put it. But they came back with a proposal that still required numbered seats and that sort of stuff. That's really what pulled it for Airwaves.”

Of course, Airwaves is far from the only Icelandic event to suffer cancellation at the hands of the pandemic. Djóðhátíð in the Westman Islands was pulled in July as a result of the gathering ban, around the same time as Reykjavik Pride was forced to abandon its usual parade. But these were decisions taken in midsummer, when the more worrying COVID-19 situation left less scope for creative approaches to planning public events.

Other music festivals—such as Reykjavik's Extreme Chill, which was forced to cancel in 2020—are going ahead this year. However Extreme Chill curates a very particular vibe for its events, featuring small venues like Húrra and seated venues like Harpa's Kaldalón, which work more easily within the pandemic restrictions.

The problem is in staging large-scale shows where punters stand,

drink beer, jump up and down and breathe all over each other; in other words, rock ‘n’ roll.

Too little, too late

Given the apparent importance of Airwaves to the cultural and financial health of the nation, it might be expected that the government would be eager to help avert its cancellation. But Sigtryggur wasn't too shocked by their conservative response, which delivered insufficient change too late in the day to save this year's Airwaves.

“It didn't come as a surprise to me, or I think anyone else in the game,” he says. “They were well within character; their reaction was very cautious.”

Nearly 90% of Icelanders over the age of 12 are now vaccinated, and festival organisers are able to deploy testing, mask use, proof of COVID-19 status and other contagion management measures in their plans. So what stood in the way of a more pragmatic, collaborative approach from the government? Ísleifur has some ideas.

“You would hope that maybe an upcoming election would open up the debate. What it actually

seemed to do was close down the debate,” he says. “It looks like people in the government feel that debates about restrictions are such a hot potato, they're better off saying absolutely nothing.”

“But of course, at this point they have to have opinions on how to move forward. It is a political decision. But they were afraid to speak their minds, which is a shame because we elected them to run the country.”

Ísleifur points out that the intention was never to make Airwaves a special case; overly restrictive rules are a problem for the whole Icelandic event industry, and an across-the-board solution is required. He hopes that minds in parliament will be able to focus on the matter once the election is out of the way.

“We need to address the big picture. For this year Airwaves is gone, and we have to move on. But it's really about ‘how did that happen? And how can we make sure it doesn't happen again?’”

The Grapevine's approaches to the Minister of Education, Science and Culture for comment remained unanswered at time of going to press.



Iceland Airwaves Festival Director Ísleifur Þórhallsson

Farmers Market

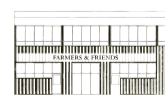
ICELAND



OUR STORES IN REYKJAVÍK: FARMERS & FRIENDS



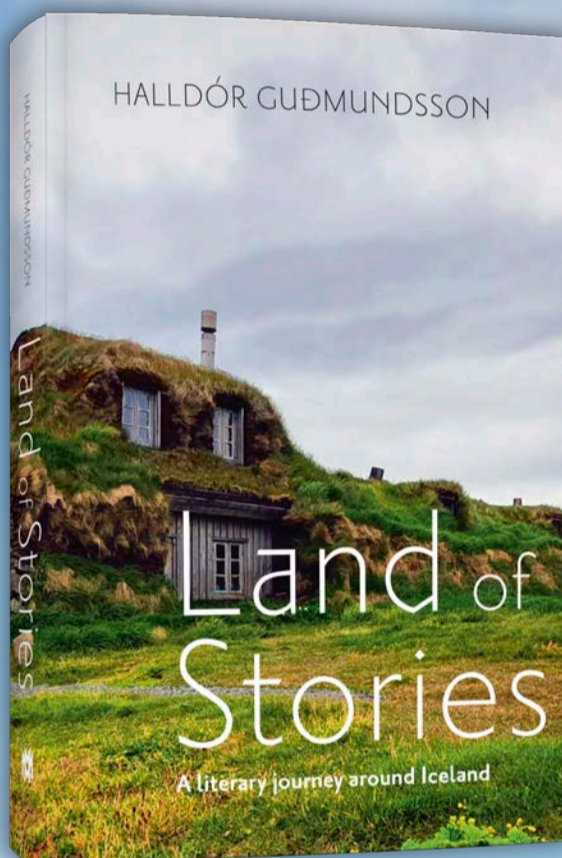
Laugavegur 37



Hólmaslóð 2 / Grandi

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A LITERARY TOUR AROUND ICELAND



Storytelling is probably the most important cultural tradition in Iceland and a lot of its places have enthralling tales to tell.

This book is a round trip around the country, with thirty stops at such places along the way.



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Cheers! Or skál, if you prefer

Sip, Sip, Hooray!

The Grapevine's tried and true picks of our favourite wine bars. Why, you ask? Well, wine not?

Words: **The Grapevine Cork Crew** Photo: **Art Bicnick**



Bodega

Týsgata 9

If what you're looking for is an experience drinking distinct wines otherwise nearly impossible to get ahold of in Iceland, Bodega, relative newcomer and sister bar to local treasure, Snaps, needs to be your first stop. There's no better place to be on a sunny afternoon than sipping a natural wine in the square just outside the front door. But hey, if it's rainy, the inside's no slouch either. Serving you pure East-Village-meets-Les-Deux-Magots vibes, come here to get tantalised, transported and...maybe a little bit tipsy. **DT**



Vinstúkan Tíu Sopar

Laugavegur 27

Tucked half a floor below Laugavegur, you'll find the outwardly unassuming bar Vinstúkan Tíu Sopar. Listen here, lighting is a skill and Vinstúkan has found the sweet spot—perfectly illuminat-

ing its cozy interior for first dates, lowkey after-work drinks and every kind of outing in between. For those not in the know, if your bartender ever says, "I'm actually a mind reader", know you're about to have an experience curated just for you. Luckily, these connoisseurs come through every time. **DT**



Port 9

Veghúsastígur 9

When asked if there was a wine list to peruse, the bartender at Port 9 motioned to the wall of outward facing bottles behind them and said, "The wine list is what you see here"—at once catering to oenophiles who love to choose their glass based off the advice of a knowledgeable bartender AND wine newbs who just want what's in that cool looking bottle. That's how it's done. This place feels accessible to those hoping to expand a burgeoning wine-interest while also making those already in the know feel right at home. **DT**



Mikki Refur

Hverfisgata 18

Fancy a glass of wine after watching a show at the National Theater? You're in luck, since one of the best places to quench your thirst is located just opposite the theater. Mikki Refur works both as a café and winebar, serving lunch and unprocessed, natural wines. The warmth of the interior feels like a much-needed cozy hug during the colder seasons here in the North. Pair the good vibes with a glass of funky orange, and let yourself become one with the mellow atmosphere. **RH**



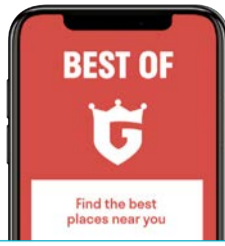
Röntgen

Hverfisgata 12

If rustic, tavern-like milieu is what you're looking for in a wine bar, head straight to Röntgen. Alongside great cocktails and beers, the bar carries a hefty amount of wines to satisfy each palate, whether it's red, white, pink, bubbly, or natural that you crave. Order a glass of whatever you fancy, take a seat in the comfy sofas by the windows, and enjoy the hazy atmosphere. If your stay extends longer than expected—which is likely to happen, just so you know—you'll notice the music getting louder, and you might even find yourself on the dancefloor. **RH**

October 8th — November 4th

In Your Pocket



Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

Perfect Day

Dance, jive & have the time of your life

Words: **Reetta Huhta**
Photo: **Birgir Breiðfjörð**



Helga Margrét Marzelliusardóttir

Helga Margrét Marzelliusardóttir is a musician and the leader of the Reykjavík Queer Choir. She studies rhythmical choir conducting and arrangements at the Royal Academy of Music in Denmark and is probably the only person we know who uses their juicer on a daily basis.

Note: This is Helga Margrét's Perfect Day, and there's no rules when it comes to creating it. Thus, teleportation plays a big part in her ideal day, making her able to move from Reykjavík to Ísafjörður in a matter of seconds. Have some imagination, please.

Starting off with a juicer

My Perfect Day would start by waking up at home in Reykjavík. I would make myself a juice...actually, this is supposed to be a perfect day, so let's change that a bit: Someone else would make me a freshly squeezed juice made of apples, lemons, fresh strawberries and raspberries. The juice would then be blended with a bit of banana and ice and ready for me to enjoy.

Hiking in the mountains of Ísafjörður

I would then be transported to summery Ísafjörður, my childhood hometown. The weather would be perfect, as it always is there—even when the weather is horrible, it's still perfect. But on this day, it would be sunny and not at all windy. I would drive to any of the beautiful mountains and hike alone while listening to music. Now, it's important that I'd be alone, so I could go at my own pace and not worry about walking too fast or too slow.

After my daily exercise in the mountains, I'd go home to my parents, where my mom would have made me some kakósúpa. It's kind of like hot chocolate, enjoyed with some tvíbökur, a type of biscotti. I know I should have something healthy to eat after a hike, but I started my day off with a smoothie, so cut me some slack here.

Napping and working

I would then head back home to Reykjavík and take a nap, which I encourage all of you to do more. When I'd wake up, I'd work a bit from home, composing something new for my band, the choir or myself. Afterwards, I'd head to a choir practice, which

we would end by having a toast with the choir's own beer, Hinsegin Kórin Bjórinn.

Champagne and sveitaball

Dinner would be served in a world-famous fish restaurant in Ísafjörður, Tjörúhúsið. I would fill the house with all my friends, and we would eat well while drinking champagne and gin and tonics. After dinner we would head to a sveitaball, a country dance party, which would be held in a place with a similar atmosphere to Kiki's. I wouldn't dance, because I rarely do, but I enjoy watching other people go crazy on the dancefloor.

Ending the day mesmerized by the summer sun

When everyone would be exhausted from dancing, we'd head to Fjarðarstræti and sit on the rocks facing the fjord. Because it would be summer, the sun wouldn't go all the way down, and we would be able to see it just above sea level, painting the view with beautiful colours.

I would end the Perfect Day by falling asleep at my parents' house, knowing that I'd wake up to the smell of my mom's pancakes. 🍷

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 weekdays 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
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, Ingólfstorg, by Hallgrímskirkja, by Reykjavík Art Museum, Lækjargata and by Eymundsson on Skólavörðustígur. Toilets can also be found inside the Reykjavík City Hall and the Reykjavík Library.

Public Transport

Most buses run every 20-30 minutes. Fare: 490 ISK adults, 245 ISK children. Buses run from 06-24:00, and 7-04:30 on weekends. More info: www.bus.is.



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B

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C

Wine bar & food



VÍNSTÚKAN TÍU SOPAR

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. Blackbox Pizza

Borgartún 26

Blackbox is a solid competitor for best pizza pie in the city. Thin crust, inventive toppings, delivery—what else could you ask for? We'd particularly recommend the Parma Rucola, which serves up all the parma ham goodness you could wish for. For those journeying outside the city, they've also got a location in Akureyri.

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. Hosiló

Hverfisgata 12

A newcomer on the block who has certainly made a big stir! Hosiló is a small spot—seating around 30 patrons at full capacity—that offers an eclectic rotating menu of local fresh food. The offerings feature meals from around the world, from French cuisine to Northern Africa goodness, and much more.

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 hænán' and the 'shawaramabake' are our top lunch picks. Also, if you're keto, don't miss 'em,

5. Brauð & Co

Frakkastígur 16

First off—don't miss Brauð & Co's pretzel croissants unless you really don't want to have a spiritual experience. We also swear by their "snuður"—cinnamon bread rolls smothered with a sugary glaze. They take it a step further and stuff the classics with blueberries and whatnot, eliciting inappropriate satisfied moans. Get there early to snatch a warm one.

6. Snaps

Pórsgrata 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 crème brûlée 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. Röntgen

Hverfisgata 12

If the cancellation of literally everything is damping your glamorous rock and roll style, Röntgen at Hverfisgata 12 will cure what ails you. This place—a relative newcomer—is already a stalwart in the bar scene, with a stellar atmosphere, great drinks and a lineup of the best DJs in Iceland. Just remember to raise a glass to the good doctor Wilhelm Röntgen (who discovered x-rays) while sipping your tipples.

14. Húrra

Tryggvagata 22

Húrra is BACK! ARE YOU SERIOUS? YES, WE ARE! After a despairing absence from the local scene, the beloved favourite has returned with a vengeance. Seriously—in the few weeks they've been open, the bar/venue has already had shows from heavyweights like Skrattar, Skóffinn and Mannveira. Stop by for vibes, alcohol and other fun things like that you know. Also, their bathroom renovation is pretty crazy.

15. Veður

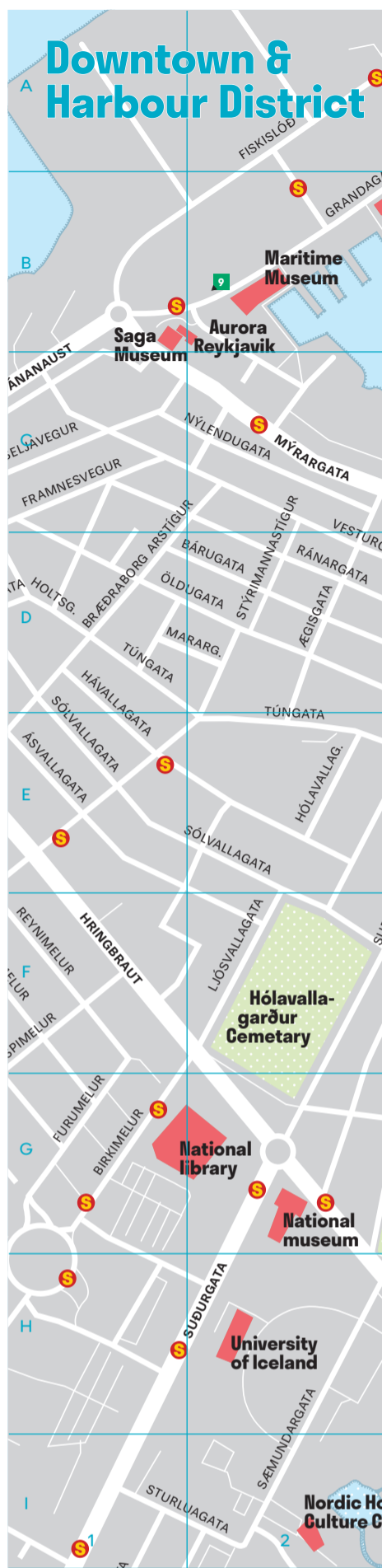
Klapparstígur 33

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.

E

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New In Town ☆



Kaffi Ó-le

Hafnastræti 11

If you were born in Iceland in the early 80s, you just might remember the name Café Ó-le. Hearing it may even overwhelm you with nostalgia, memories of lost loves or nicotine poisoning. Café Ó-le was once the name of the local haunt of the young genX cool kids, but is now a slick coffee house next to the Radisson 1919 Hotel. Sounds like the revolution ate its children. Don't fret, GenX never believed in anything anyways. But we can tell you right now, the coffee at the new Café Ó-le is way better than we used to drink. **VG**

F

FÓTÓGRAFI
Souvenir shop
 Skólavörðustígur 22

G

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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 neo-school and more. 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 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. Fótógrafi

Skólavörðustígur 22

Fótógrafi claims to have been one of the first photo galleries in town. While its interior is tiny, there's a surprising number of photos to be found inside. The pictures on display are mainly shot in Reykjavik or

elsewhere in Iceland and all of them have a slightly different, edgy take on the island, instead of adding to the abundance of touristy subjects.

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. Lucky Records

Rauðarárstígur 10

Lucky Records is probably the biggest record shop in Iceland, with

shelves upon shelves of new and used vinyl and CDs on offer. If that's not enough, they're notorious for their expert staff whose knowledge goes far beyond the latest Björk or Sigur Rós offerings. In fact, it's best if you just let them take the lead.

25. Húrra Reykjavík

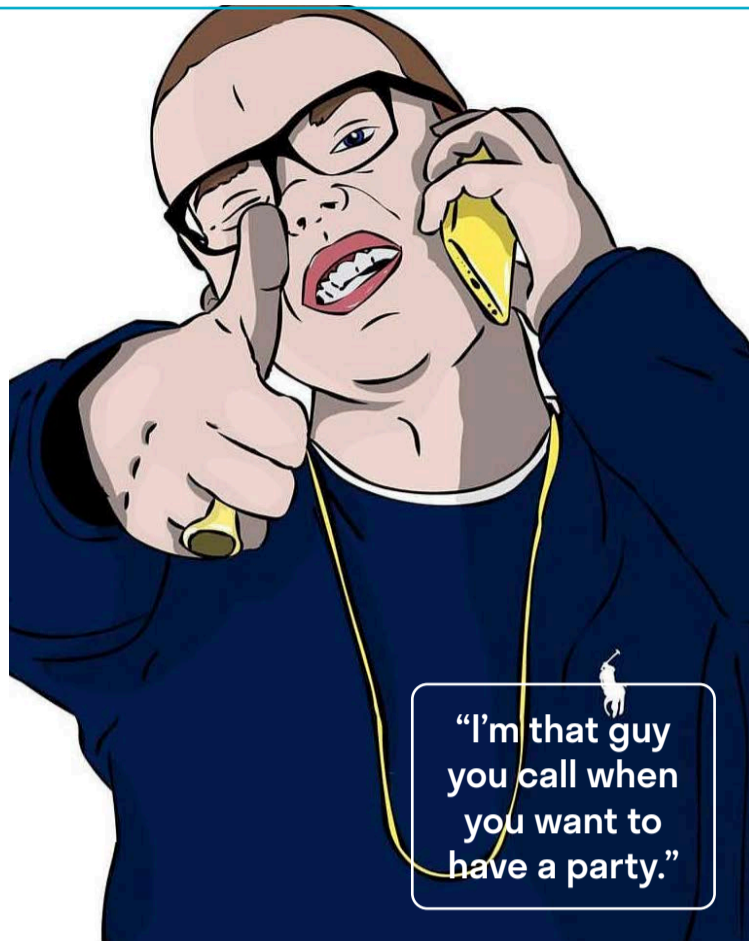
Hverfisgata 18A

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

H

WASTELAND
SECOND HAND CLOTHING
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I've never, ever rapped about being a gangster. I just rap about my city, Kópavogur, and the money I make from rapping. I try to keep it from being melodramatic." He goes on, "I'm just a dad with another baby on the way."

Approachable Entertainment

On October 30th, Herra Hnetusmjör is putting on a double-header concert at Háskólabíó. The opening concert at 17:00 will be accessible to the whole family. He shares, "I've gotten many, many e-mails from parents who want to bring their kids to my concerts and it hasn't been available until now." A more party-focused concert will take place at 20:00, perfect for the fans looking for the usual Herra Hnetusmjör live experience.

"A lot of my concerts so far have been at Gamla Bíó, which is a really nice place, but it's a real party venue. It's a mosh pit venue. So it's perfect for 18 to 25-year-olds or so, but there's a whole demographic beneath that and over that who don't really want to go into a mosh pit and get beer thrown on them," he chuckles. "I haven't really given them an opportunity to come see me in a full concert before." 🍷

Tickets for both of Herra Hnetusmjör's performances at Háskólabíó on October 30th are available now at tix.is

gpv.is/music
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conviction can only be achieved by someone undoubtedly destined to fill the space they occupy. Evolving your style while remaining true to your distinct sound may seem like a challenge to some, but for Herra Hnetusmjör it's what's made him an unstoppable force—and elevated his name to a staple in Icelandic hip hop as much as its

namesake spread is a staple in pantries around the world.

"In the past few years, rap has gravitated more towards pop and I think that's cool. Some people say because I'm so popular now, I'm not a rapper anymore, but I really don't care. I just do whatever I'm feeling at the time," Herra Hnetusmjör says. "I just rap about my reality.

KÓPÓ! Bringing The Flow And The Fest

Herra Hnetusmjör's here to break down his reality and bring the party

Words: [Desirai Thompson](#) Photos: [Hörður Sveinsson](#)

The landscape of Icelandic rap has been ever-evolving since the first fully Icelandic language rap albums dropped in 2001. While English-language hip hop existed in Iceland before this point, the linguistic shift provided a crucial turning point which continues to influence the country's rap offerings today. The Grapevine spoke with Árni Páll Árnason, better known as the pre-eminent Herra Hnetusmjör, about his style, his history in the scene and his upcoming family-friendly show.

Reclaiming A Name For Himself

"I thought there was something sweet about using my old name," Herra Hnetusmjör says with a laugh, referring to the sarcastic rap duo he was a part of at 11-years old. "We didn't listen to any Icelandic rap at the time, I thought it was horrible. We only listened to what was going on in the United States."

Nearly a decade and a half later, Herra Hnetusmjör's name is omnipresent in Icelandic rap—a genre, he says, which had finally started coming into its own by the time he

burst onto the scene in 2014. With names like Úlfur Úlfur, Gísli Pálmi and Emmsjé Gauti on the tracks, "more and more people were doing cool, diverse shit," he says. That same year, Herra Hnetusmjör released the single 'Elías' and he's been maintaining his spot at the helm of Icelandic rap ever since.

Influence, Not Imitation

Known for pairing his swift, omnivorous flow with relatively light-hearted content and nearly unparalleled technical skill, Herra Hnetusmjör puts himself in a league of his own. "I'm that guy you call when you want to have a party," he remarks. This is where his international influence from renowned artists like Rick Ross, Yo Gotti, 2 Chainz and T-Pain becomes apparent. "When I was younger, the hottest shit around was Snoop Dogg and Akon," he reminisces. "I think the music in 2008 was the best music that's ever been made."

For his part, Herra Hnetusmjör commands the mic without a wisp of hesitation. This level of melodic

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Event Picks

experimental music & sonic arts

REYKJAVIK 7 - 10 OCTOBER

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MIXMASTER MORRIS (UK)

BJARKI (IS) + MATHILDE CAEYERS & ARTTU NIEMENEN (NO)
BORGAR AO (IS) BRYNJAR DADASON & HAFDÍS BJARNADÓTTIR (IS)
E.U.E.R.P.I (NO) FLAARYR (IS/AR) FUTUREGRAPHER (IS)
GOOD MOON DEER (IS) HARP & ARP (IS) HEKLA (IS)
HERMIGERVILL (DJ SET) (IS) INGIBJÖRG TURCHI (IS)
JÓHANN EIRIKSSON (IS) KJARTAN HÖLM (IS) KRAFTGALLI (IS)
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Extreme Chill Festival 2021 ★

Oct. 7th to 10th - Various places - 4-day festival pass ISK 11.900

Craving a festival after years of numbing pandemic rules banning one event after another? We've got you covered. The Extreme Chill Festival will satisfy your longing for extremely chill event.

musical shenanigans. This four-day event brings together local and international artists from around Europe, such as Roger Eno, Plaid, Mathilde Caeyers & Arttu Nieminen, and Sóley. The line up is diverse and includes many genres from classical to electronic music—there's sure to be something for everyone! This festival isn't only about music, either. It unites different art forms together by colliding music with visual arts. Get a festival pass or buy single-day tickets for this extremely chill event.



Together in the Moorland ★

Oct. 14th-16th - Nordic House

The international festival of child and youth literature takes place in the Nordic House this October. Icelandic and foreign authors, illustrators, and other experts will be present at different events, including readings, lectures and all sorts of workshops. This year's theme will concentrate on environmental issues and uniting people with different backgrounds.



BDSM Introduction - Kinbaku + Passion Screening ★

Oct. 10th - 16:30 - Nordic House - 2.900 ISK

Curious to learn more about BDSM culture? Great! This event is for you. Being a part of the Reykjavik International Film Festival, the event starts with screenings of BDSM-related films. Afterwards, Reykjavik Ropes will hold an introductory course in BDSM. Step outside your comfort zone and get ready to learn about this fascinating world!



MUSIC NEWS The Reykjavik based, **Possimiste**, won the **European emerging bands** contest last September. Around 150 bands from 27 countries participated in the contest and Possimiste—which has been Reykjavik-based for the past decade—was one of six winners. The triumphant musicians will perform at the European Youth Event in Strassbourg. Later this year. The accolades come as no surprise for us at The Reykjavik Grapevine, as Possimiste has been tearing it up on the Icelandic music scene for years now. **VG**

October 8th — November 4th

Concerts & Nightlife

Events are listed by day, and are all live performances or DJ sets. For complete listings and detailed information on venues visit grapevine.is/happening

Send your listings to: events@grapevine.is

Friday October 8th

Apocalypstick Drag Show
20:00 Gaukurinn
DIMMA
20:30 Harpa
Kef LAVÍK
20:00 Kex Hostel
Friday Jazz Night
20:00 Mál og menning
Sunna Gunnlaugs Tríó
20:00 Skuggabaldur
Friday Jazz Night
20:00 Mál og menning
Salóme Katrín
20:00 Mengi

Saturday October 9th

Tjaldid Theater for Kids
11:00 & 13:00 Borgarleikhúsið
How To Become Icelandic in 60 min
19:00 Harpa
★ **Extreme Chill Festival DJs**
14:00-20:00 KEX Hostel
FLÆDI X LOFT Art Market
14:00-20:00 Loft Hostel
Hjálmar
20:00 Mál og menning

Sunday October 10th

★ **Plaid - Exteme Chill Festival**
19:30 Húrra
★ **BDSM Introduction**
16:30-19:00 Nordic House
The Joker Concert
19:30 Harpa
Bakalú Burlesk Show
20:00 Mál og menning

Monday October 11th

Björk with the Iceland Symphony
20:00 Harpa
Lindy Hop dance lessons
18:00 Loft Hostel

Tuesday October 12th

Karaoke
20:00 Gaukurinn
Blankiflúr
20:00 Mál og menning

Wednesday October 13th

LHI Lunch Concert: Forget-Me-Not
12:15 Kjarvalsstaðir
Edgar Smári
20:00 Mál og menning

Thursday October 14th

★ **Children's Literature Festival**
9:15-14:30 Nordic House
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Tchaikovsky & Prokofiev
19:30 Harpa
Alanis Morissette Tribute Concert
20:00 Gaukurinn
Jazz Night with Nico Moreaux
20:00 Mál og menning
Hugo Palmasköld, Selma & Rikharður Friðriksson
20:00 Mengi

Friday October 15th

A Night full of Wonda - Drag Show
20:00 Gaukurinn
Funi Kun x Chase Murphy ft. Hxffi
20:00 Prikið
DJ Már & Nielsen
20:00 KEX Hostel
Friday Jazz Night
20:00 Mál og menning
Adam Buffington: Mekas Told Me to Screening
20:00 Mengi

Saturday October 16th

DJ Benni B-Ruff
15:00 Hringekjan
Ask the slave, Kontinuum & Volcanova - Live Show
20:00 Gaukurinn
Vök Album Release Concert
20:00 Húrra
Nordic Affect
20:00 Mengi

Sunday October 17th

Opera: La Traviata Cinema Live
15:00 Bió Paradís
Sunday Classics - Andri Björn & Brák
16:00 Harpa

Rómeó & Julia Dance Performance
20:00 Borgarleikhúsið

Monday October 18th

Lame Dudes
20:00 Mál og menning

Tuesday October 19th

Karaoke
20:00 Gaukurinn
Hafnarfjörður Concert Band
20:00
Mandólin
20:00 Mál og menning

Wednesday October 20th

Opera: La Traviata Cinema Live
19:30 Bió Paradís
Jack & Joey - Rock Troubadour
20:00 Gaukurinn
Beebee and the Bluebirds
20:00 Mál og menning

Thursday October 21st

KAJAK - Live Show
20:00 Gaukurinn
AION - Iceland Symphony and Iceland Dance Company
20:00 Harpa
Quiz
20:00 Kex Hostel
Dr. Gunna Album Release Concer
20:00 Húrra
Porsteinn Eyfjörð
20:00 Mál og menning

Friday September 17th

Múr - Live Show
20:00 Gaukurinn
Briet Album Release Concert
20:00 Harpa
DJ TBA
20:00 Kex Hostel
Friday Jazz Night
20:00 Mál og menning
Sóley Stefánsdóttir
20:00 Mengi

Saturday October 23rd

Party Karaoke
20:00 Gaukurinn
DJ TBA
20:00 KEX Hostel
Ateria Album Release Concert
20:00 Mengi

Sunday October 24th

Dagdraumar Dance Performance for Kids
15:00 Borgarleikhúsið
Björk with the Hamrahlíð Choir
17:00 Harpa

Monday October 25th

Lindy Hop dance lessons
18:00 Loft Hostel

Tuesday October 26th

Karaoke
20:00 Gaukurinn
Sigga Ózk
20:00 Mál og menning

Wednesday October 27th

LHI Lunch Concert: Forget-Me-Not
12:15 Kjarvalsstaðir
Einar Thor
20:00 Mál og menning

Thursday October 28th

Blankiflúr - Live show
20:00 Gaukurinn
Jess Gillam and Prokofiev - Iceland Symphony Orchestra
19:30 Harpa
Mandólin
20:00 Mál og menning

Friday October 29th

Pianist Luka Okros: Beethoven & Chopin
19:30 Harpa
HANS Halloween Drag Show
20:00 Gaukurinn
Friday Jazz Night
20:00 Mál og menning

Saturday October 30th

Halloween Iceland Party
20:00 Gaukurinn
Todmobile Return Concert
20:00 Harpa
Herra Hnetusmjör with a Band
17:00 & 22:00 Háskólabíó
Hatari
20:00 Húrra
Halloween Concert
20:00 KEX Hostel

Sunday October 31st

Björk with the Iceland Symphony
20:00 Harpa

Wednesday November 3rd

Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Dowland, Britten, Adés and Ravel
20:00 Harpa

Thursday November 4th

Quiz
20:00 KEX Hostel



Before **gusgus**, there was **GusGus**. And it was a pretty unique ensemble of artists in the mid-90s, in which you could find artists like **Emiliana Torrini**, **Hafdís Huld**, **President Bongo** and **Maggi Legó** all contributing in their own ways to the legendary history of the band. Among them was also **Magnús Jónsson**, a well known actor, visual artist and a film director. Now, **Magnús** and **Daniel Ágúst**, who still remains synonymous with **gusgus**, have formed a new kind of a supergroup, called **Dynomat-ic**. Their newly-released disco-house hit **Miracle** will not only force you to dance, it will fill you with the urge to break out your old roller skates for a promenade down Laugavegur while listening to it. Don't believe us? Check out their new video and then find the Grapevine staff cutting it up in Ingólfstorg. **VG**



BSÍ is an indie gem of the Icelandic music scene that, in our opinion, hasn't gotten the attention they deserve. The band has appeared multiple times in our magazine, and if there is anything sure in this world, it's that good talent always finds its way. The duo is now slated to perform with the English indie band **The Vaccines** this month in the UK and Germany. **BSÍ** won't be the only Icelanders on the stage that night—the bass player of **The Vaccines** is Icelandic musician, **Árni Árnason**. **VG**

i8

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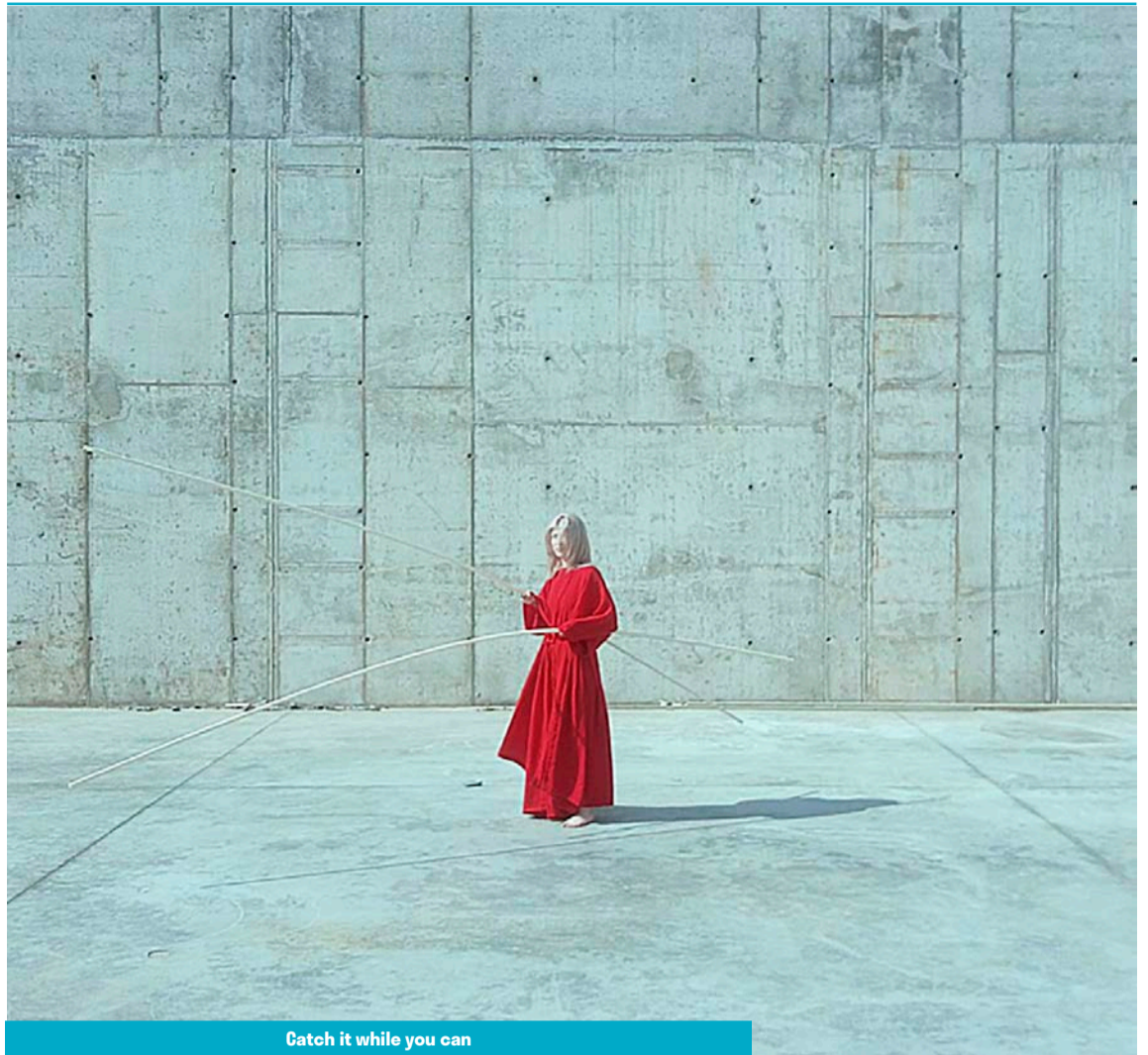
Elisions

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9 September - 20 November 2021



Art



Catch it while you can

The Time Has Indeed Come: Sequences Is Back

The celebrated art festival returns

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photo: **Sequences**

Info:

Sequences will be held all over the country from October 15th through October 24th. The full program can be found at <https://sequences.is/program-2021>

Iceland has always had a vibrant art scene that spread far beyond the confines of the capital area. The variety is so great, in fact, that it can be difficult to sort through it all; to know who to see and experience, when and where. This underlines how incredibly important the job of the curator is, and it's something Sequences curators Þórunna Björnsdóttir and Þráinn Hjálmarsson are keenly aware of.

"It really is a creative job," Þráinn says. "And it's in so many aspects of ideas, because you just wander around with ideas, and then at a certain point you have to say 'Okay, how can I make this happen,' and then, 'what does this idea need to be interesting? Or does it need to be in this sort of context?'"

Þórunna agrees, saying, "I mean, in terms of our connection with this, it has been quite creative, because we just started with a very intuitive conversation. We started to put together our ideas, and of course, names of artists that we found in harmony with what we were speaking about. And what we've also maybe worked with in the past as artists.

"This festival and collaboration with the artists on these projects

have been so diverse," Þórunna continues. "But then we've also been really involved with the development of ideas ... So the whole range of the conversation has been really broad and it's a lot of fun. And then in many, if not most instances, it becomes like a part of the creative process itself."

Like sands through the hourglass

The tenth iteration of Sequences is titled 'Time Has Come', which refers to the ephemeral nature of the space the festival encompasses; for a brief, shining moment, it's there, and in the next, it's gone, leaving nothing behind but memories and the impact it's had on its participants.

"All the artists that take part in the festival, they kind of made a new sort of whole social setting, in a sense," Þórunna says. "So even though the platform is the same, it's never the same. That's what we're kind of hinting at with the title, it becomes this sort of social space, and then it kind of evaporates."

The variety of life

This year boasts quite the diverse cavalcade of artists and performers, with events happening in many parts of the country. There's the legendary Elísabet Jökulsdóttir, performing 'Stories of Creation' at the home of former Icelandic pres-

ident Vigdís Finnbogadóttir; the artists of colour collective Lucky 3 performing PUTI—which examines diaspora and racism; Ræktin, a workshop for children, and so much more.

"Yeah, like the gym," Þórunna says, referring to the literal translation of Ræktin. "I love the name of it, because it's about how you have to rack up not just your muscles or your brain, but this whole inner world, to take care of it. That's what I'm excited about, and see how it sort of can then blossom into society, in the minds of the people that come and have that dialogue."

Beyond Reykjavík

"I think it's really beautiful, personally, because I think it's really important to showcase that there is an enormous amount of creativity, with the music, or the visual arts or installations that are happening all over the country, it's very important to highlight them," Þráinn says.

He couldn't be more correct. While many of these events happen in or around Reykjavík, there's also something to see in Hveragerði, Ísafjörður and beyond. Wherever they may be, there's always a lot of creativity in Iceland.

"It springs from a group of visual artists who wanted to emphasise visual art," Þórunna says. "We want to honor this as well as the interdisciplinary aspect of artists who work within different fields and media. They might use drawing or painting, sculpture, installations, video, sound, words and text. So we're also curating an energy you know, that's the thing we're also putting out there. People who strike our nerves. What we've been doing throughout has been curating wonderful exhibitions."

✂

02.10.2021–16.01.2022

Guðný Rósa Ingimarsdóttir

opus- oups

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Art Picks



★ Augmented Reality Disorder

Weekends from Oct. 9th to Oct. 30th - Midpunkt, Hamraborg 22

Since social media began taking over the world, the impact

of our digital lives on our real-life selves has been a constant topic of discussion. The recent hours-long blackout of Facebook and Instagram proved just how intertwined these features are with our lives. This fact is not lost on Hákon Bragason and Katerina Blahutova, whose forthcoming exhibition, 'Augmented Reality Disorder', tackles that very dynamic. A body segmented at the waist is omnipresent in the space as you follow the journey of this exhibition, demonstrating a person suspended between two worlds. Come by Midpunkt to connect, disconnect or forge your own path between the two. Whatever you choose, your mind will be opened to a new world. There's just no telling which one. **DT**



★ In Media Res

Until Nov. 6th - BERG Contemporary, Klapparstigur 16

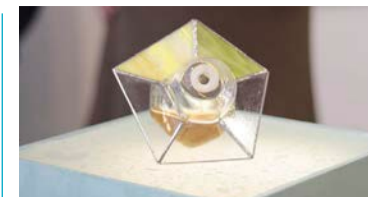
The artistic journey Hulda Stefánsdóttir took in publishing her book 'Time Map' inspired the creation of her newest exhibition. The pandemic has, for better or worse, made all of us stop and reconsider time—likely more than ever before. For Hulda, it's no different. Pay a visit to BERG Contemporary to press pause on your own timeline. **DT**



★ The Portrait Collection

Until January 2nd, 2022, National Museum of Iceland, Suðurgata 41, Up to 2.000 ISK

Composed largely of donations from private individuals, the National Gallery of Iceland is showcasing the depiction of humans through various media, be it painting, photography, needlework or sculpture. Are you interested in seeing the oldest known Icelandic portrait? Stop by for sepia-toned insight into fellow (and former) Icelanders. **DT**



★ Complete Spaces

Until Oct. 10th - Ásmundarsalur, Freyjugata 41

Artists Anna Hrunn Másdóttir, Jóhanna Ásgeirsdóttir and Daniel Magnússon worked together on an open art-maths lab in preparation for this interactive exhibition. By employing mathematics, among other inspirations you wouldn't immediately connect with art, they've created their pieces for this cerebral experience. Arithmetic and art? Don't mind if I do. **DT**

October 8th — November 4th

Art Listings

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

Send your listings to: events@grapevine.is

Opening

ICELANDIC ART CENTER

Time Has Come

The 10th Sequences art biennial returns, curated by Þórunn Björnsdóttir and Þráinn Hjálmarsson. Creative energy abounds in dialogue between featured artists specialising in various media. At times, this interchange between moment, environment and context rises to the level of art itself. Take part in this multi-day interdisciplinary event showcasing 35 local and international artists.

- Opens on October 15th, 2021
- Runs until October 24th, 2021

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

Sunna Örlygsdóttir: Fashion Designer in Residency

What you wear often reveals who you are. Sunna Örlygsdóttir understands this as well as anyone. Her fascination with the process of garment making is evident in her curious and captivating creations. From the luxurious to the peculiar, Sunna experiments with it all.

- Opens on October 8th, 2021
- Runs until December 30th, 2021

FOLD GALLERÍ

Double Opening

Fold Gallerí—auction house, and purveyors of fine art since 1990—presents a new exhibition featuring Hrafnhildur Inga Sigurðardóttir and Rósa Sigrún Jónsdóttir. Hrafnhildur Inga is an oil-on-canvas artist who predominantly features water in her art, be that a river, a waterfall or any kind of rivulet inbetween. Rósa is a visual artist who often utilises the tension of differing textiles in her sculptures and installations.

- Opens on October 30th, 2021
- Runs until November 19th, 2021

Ongoing

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

Of The North

'Of the North' (2001) is created from Steina Vasulka's archive of video recordings of Icelandic nature, shot from macroscopic and microscopic viewpoints. So from microbes to crashing waves and melting ice, this is a visual document of the formation and destruction of our planet.

- Runs until January 9th, 2022

Hello Universe

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

- Runs until January 9th, 2022

Muggur

Guðmundur Thorsteinsson, widely known by his artist name, Muggur, was also known for his captivating personality. While his artistic career may have been relatively brief—he died at the age 32—he lived a full and adventurous life. This fact is evident in this exhibit which depicts scenes from his travels around the world, as well as around his native Iceland. His worlds of fantasy are also on display here, among works showcasing various other themes.

- Runs until February 13th, 2022

EINAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM

Permanent Exhibition

In 1909 Einar Jónsson—described on the museum's website as "Iceland's first sculptor"—offered all of his works as a gift to the Icelandic people, on the condition that a museum be built to house them. The resulting edifice, constructed just over the road from Hallgrímskirkja, now contains close to 300 artworks. There is also a beautiful garden with 26 bronze casts of the artist's sculptures to enjoy.

REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM

Settlement Exhibition

This exhibition—where Viking ruins meet digital technology—provides insight into Reykjavík's farms at the time of the first settlers. Archaeological remains uncovered on site dating back to 871 AD surround you.

18

Elisions

This new show gathers together pieces by American artists N. Dash, K.R.M. Mooney, B. Ingrid Olson and Carrie Yamaoka, who use painterly, photographic and sculptural methods to explore the concept of

'Elision'. This word conveys the sense of something missing, truncated, compressed, or contracted. To quote the promotional material supporting this launch: "Removal is additive, just quietly so." Quite so. • Runs until October 30th

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.

GERÐARSAFN

Debatable Lands: Dialogues from Shared Worlds

This is a mid-career retrospective of the 20-year collaboration between artists Bryndís Snæbjörnsdóttir and Mark Wilson. Snæbjörnsdóttir and Wilson approach their art partnership with an ecological and pluralistic view. In a research-based practice, they prompt discussion and thought about our changing world, and our own human role in those changes.

- Runs until January 9th, 2022

HVERFISGALLERÍ

Below / Beyond

Largely inspired by conceptual and minimalist art of the 60's and 70's, British artist Perry Roberts' new exhibition at Hverfisgallerí features works on paper and paintings on canvas. Laid out with the intent to tell a story uninterrupted, his paper works in particular flourish within the delicate intermix of existence and nothingness.

- Runs until November 6th, 2021

MUTT GALLERY

Wild About You

Pop artist Tinna Royal offers a contemporary take on romantic relationships and consumerism through the lens of WWII comics. The Arkanes-based artist spent years scouring the public domain to procure these images, often highlighting romance, heroism and gender roles perhaps considered outdated today. Her modern perspective on what underlies these images is undoubtedly worth a visit.

- Runs until October 9th, 2021

Y GALLERY

The Oldest Spark

Energy can be explosive, but it can also be subtle. Regardless—demure or dynamic—it courses around us every day. Whether it's fluttering between two bodies or coursing

between currents, Elisabet Brynhildardóttir reminds us of that—and in doing so, begs us to consider even the most minute implications of that very first spark.

- Runs until October 16th, 2021

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The Return of the King

Artist and photographer Sigmundur Unnar Birgisson marries floral images by the late photographer Hjálmar R. Bárðarson with strikingly simple photographs of elderly Icelandic men. The union feels a touch unusual, but at the same time quite harmonious.

- Runs until December 12, 2021

Reunion

Shifting angles can change so much of how we view our environment.

This exhibition, featuring the works of Anna Elín Svavarsdóttir, demonstrates this while showcasing an aesthetic instantly identifiable as her own.

- Runs until October 31st, 2021

NORDIC HOUSE

Time Matter Remains Trouble

The interplay between matter and time is the focus of the newest exhibition at Nordic House featuring artists Alice Creischer, Anna Lindal, Anna Rún Tryggvadóttir, Bjarki Bragason and nabtæeri. Here we're urged to remember that creation, preservation and decay is a natural progression faced by humans, objects and ideas alike.

- Runs until December 21st, 2021

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS

Iðavöllur: Icelandic Art in the 21st Century

This year Reykjavík Art Museum is focusing on the creative microenvironment, with an aim of display-

ing the growth of the Icelandic art scene. The whole of Hafnarhús is being used to exhibit new works by leading young artists.

- Runs until October 17th, 2021

Guðný Rósa Ingimarsdóttir: opus-oups

Guðný lives and works in French-speaking Belgium. The word 'opus' denotes a piece of artwork, while 'oups' is French for 'oops'. Paired together the words demonstrate that art that can come from seemingly inconsequential things. Often employing found, forgotten or formerly used materials, Guðný brings the essence of 'opus-oups' to life.

- Runs until January 16th, 2022

FOLD GALLERÍ

Entropy

Rune Werner Molnes' photographs of stand-alone homes and barns present a sense of both abandonment and strength.

- Runs until October 18th, 2021

Echoes of the Mind

Margrét Sossa Björnsdóttir's work largely features the human form, at once lively in content and subdued in style.

- Runs until October 23rd, 2021

HAFNARBORG

Community of Sentient Beings

This year's autumn exhibition at Hafnarborg is 'Community of Sentient Beings', curated by Wiola Ujazdowska and Hubert Gromny. They have invited various professionals to participate in the exhibition with the aim of creating a space for multiple voices to come together, reflecting different ways of voicing, hearing and sensing. Makes sense, right?

- Runs until October 31st, 2021

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

GARÐATORG 1
210 GARÐABÆR

EXHIBITIONS

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Film



Guns are not usually required around Icelandic lambs, but...

Lamb: A Strange Tale of Nature And Nurture

Something weird has slithered from the shed
into Icelandic cinemas

Words: **John Pearson** Photos: **Film stills**

The Icelandic environment and its folklore are inextricably intertwined. The island's often bleak and treacherous landscape is the perfect backdrop against which the monstrous and fantastical can take form in human imaginations, and 'Lamb' is a worthy modern contributor to this tradition.

The narrative of the film revolves around María and Ingvar, a married couple whose sheep farm is the focus of their somewhat joyless existence. They have no children, and apparently find scant solace in their routine of tending the land and birthing lambs.

However one such birth shocks the couple out of their torpor. The ill-formed new-born is nothing like either of them has seen before, and their initial reaction is one of horror and confusion. But this new life landing in their laps stimulates dormant nurturing instincts, and leads to the prospect of a new life for both of them.

This creature is no ordinary lamb, if indeed it is a lamb at all. Nevertheless, the opportunity to care for something that needs them is irresistible to the couple. They take the new arrival from its mother for bottle-feeding, and into

their bedroom to occupy the crib of Ada—their dead daughter. And they give the new arrival a name too: Ada.

A fragile contentment

When Pétur, Ingvar's brother, shows up uninvited at the farm it seems that his incursion into this bizarre domestic set-up might burst its bubble. Pétur is initially revolted by Ada, and by his family's reaction to her arrival. "What the fuck is this?" he asks Ingvar. "Happiness," comes the response.

Pétur's extended stay allows him to slowly enter the couple's world of suspended reality. And in time, as unlikely as it seems, Pétur comes not only to accept Ada but to join María and Ingvar in nurturing her.

However nature doesn't care about the feelings of humans, and the forces which fomented this strange but comfy scenario eventually initiate its horrific unravelling.

Strong start, slow burn

'Lamb' is a remarkable directorial debut for Icelander Valdimar Jóhannsson, and was lauded at the

Cannes Film Festival this year. Valdimar also co-wrote the film, working with award-winning Icelandic novelist and poet Sjón.

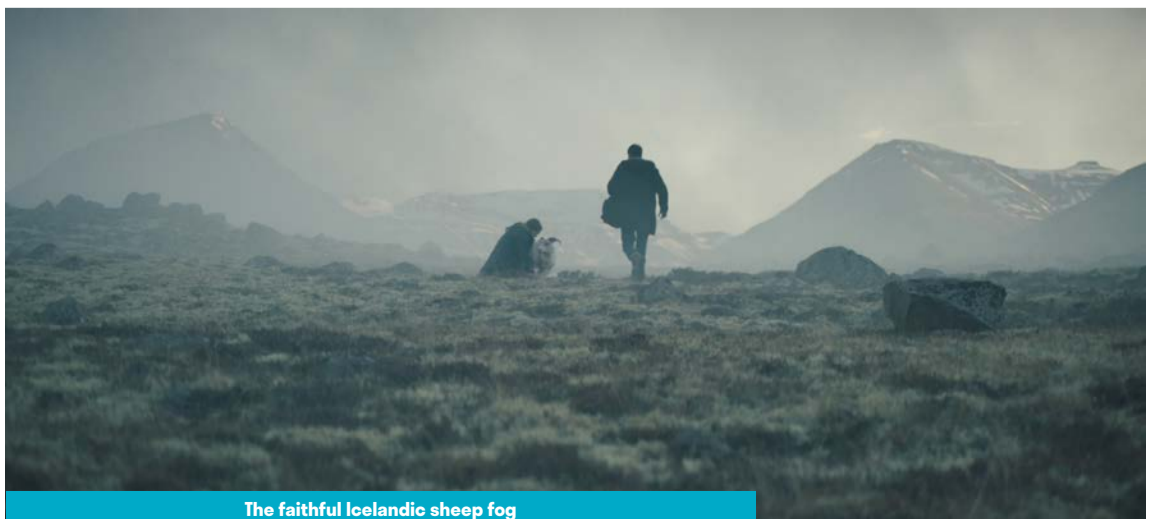
Shot on an abandoned sheep farm in north Iceland, the film has a distinctly Nordic magical realism about it. The visual aesthetic is rich but cold, (blue-grey hues dominate throughout), and the pace of direction is slow; we watch María and Ingvar going about their business for the first ten minutes of the film before either of them speaks.

This slow, low-key feel extends to the gradual revelation of the main plot developments. When the bizarre nature of the newborn is revealed to the viewer, it is without fanfare and almost incidental. It's as if the viewer is being invited to join in the suspension of reality adopted by the three human characters, and to accept that this is all quite normal.

'Lamb' deftly intertwines natural, supernatural and human elements into a coherent space in which the story can play. It's a modern-day manifestation of the lore that folk have created since the beginning of time, in an attempt to make sense of their world.

But beneath the supernatural elements, 'Lamb' is also a very human tale. It examines the fraught insecurities of love, of the desire to create a protective bubble around the object of that love and to fiercely defend against anything which might intrude. And it reflects our shared experience of loss and longing; of needing to need, and be needed. **👍**

'Lamb' is on general cinematic release internationally from October 8th, using the name 'Dýrið' ('The Beast') in Iceland.



The faithful Icelandic sheep fog



“We want to be cutting edge.”

The Farm Of The Future

VAXA introduces a new way of farming

Words: Reetta Huhta
Photo: Art Bicnick

What do you see when envisioning a farm? A rustic house in the countryside, surrounded by tilled fields with healthy crops wavering in a light breeze? While this romantic image might be preserved in the minds of many, the future of agriculture looks a lot different.

Vertical farming is a new, efficient way of growing crops. It uses soilless farming techniques and aims to optimize plant growth by controlling all the aspects of the process. The gist of vertical farming is that it enables farmers to grow more produce in smaller areas than regular farms, since the crops are grown in stacked layers rather than on expansive fields. It is a step towards a more sustainable future—and one that’s been taken VAXA.

Sci-fi setting in an industrial area

Located within a 10-minute drive from central Reykjavík, VAXA farm holds court in a grey industrial building next to Bauhaus. Looking at the building, it’s hard to imagine it houses one of Europe’s largest vertical farms. Nothing suggests that this place is home to an ample amount of greens.

When stepping inside the building, you can’t help thinking that the place must be a backdrop for a sci-fi movie. It feels like you’ve entered a space station orbiting the Earth.

Upon entering the growing room, visitors are equipped with lab coats and shoe covers. Hands are required to be sanitized before going into the area, and many doors need to be opened before reaching the destination.

That’s when that ingrained image of a farm goes through a complete metamorphosis: farming at VAXA is on a whole new level—quite literally. Grow-

ing the produce takes place indoors, without even the slightest sight of sunlight. The plants are grown on multiple floors, stacked one on top of the other. Each floor is divided into two levels: the upper one carries the greens and the lower is filled with water, which the plants then absorb. Sunlight is replaced with countless LED lights, while heat and humidity are adjusted with air conditioning, and dozens of fans mimic the wind. The process is meticulously controlled to create ideal conditions for the greens to grow.

The result is shelves overflowing with healthy heads of lettuce, baby leaves, herbs, and micro greens, all packed with flavour. VAXA produces only greens at the moment, though they have experimented with growing kohlrabi and parsnips as well. Each month, the farm cultivates a hefty amount of greens, which are sold to Icelandic restaurants, grocery stores, and individual customers who have signed up for a weekly farm box delivery.

Solutions For The Future

Walking between the flourishing shelves, Íris Ósk Valþórsdóttir, the Chief Operating Officer of VAXA, describes the benefits of vertical farming. As the world’s population grows rapidly, field spaces will only decrease. Vertical farming makes it possible to grow considerable amounts of produce in smaller spaces. “This place is 600 square meters, but we’re actually growing on 1500 square meters, because we aren’t growing the plants on one level. It’s a no-brainer for areas that have limited amounts of land to utilize vertical farming,” she says, looking up at the high shelves filled with greens.

In addition to its space efficiency, this new way of farming is much

friendlier to the environment than greenhouses and fields that are out in the open. The water that’s used to grow the plants in VAXA farm is reused by pumping it out to a container, cleaning it and then pumping it back inside the plant shelves. “That means we can grow a kilo of salad using only a liter of water,” Íris explains. In a traditional greenhouse, the amount of water required would be at least 15 times higher, not to mention the fields outside, where growing one kilo of greens requires an astonishing 250 liters of water. “A lot of the water goes to waste in the fields, when it’s absorbed by the soil,” she explains.

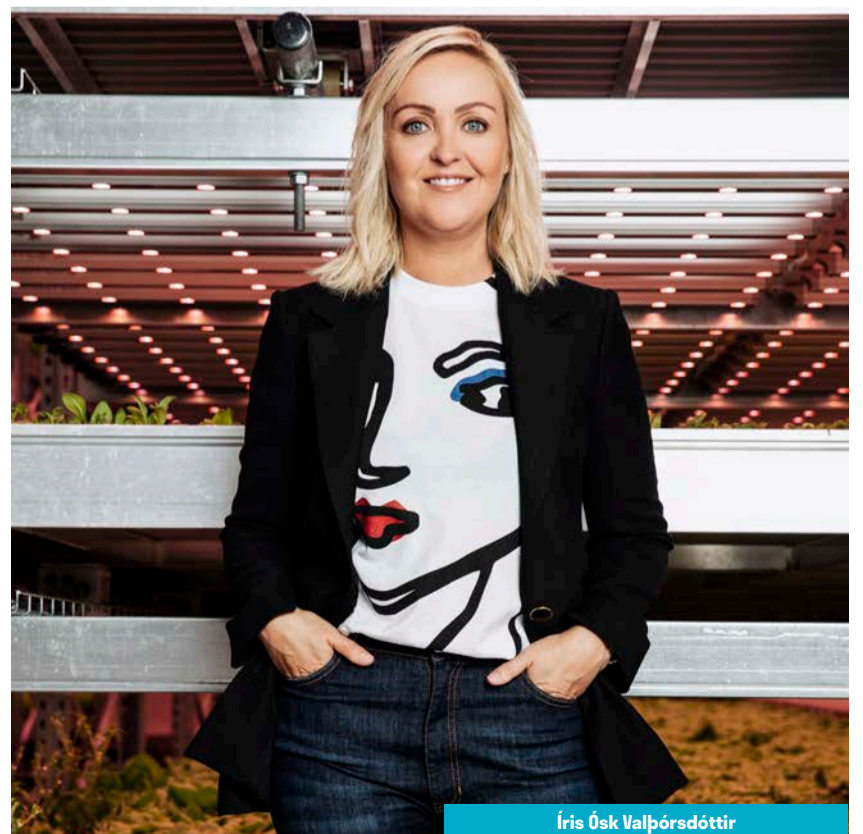
So why isn’t vertical farming more

popular if it checks all the boxes from efficiency to eco friendliness? Íris thinks that one of the reasons might be that the method is quite far ahead of its time. “It’s been a bit of a struggle to fit into the system,” she recounts. Because VAXA isn’t a conventional greenhouse, securing government grants and down payments has been a challenge. “We can’t even get certified as organic, because we don’t do things by their standards, although it doesn’t get more organic than this,” she adds.

Visionaries Of Farming

Because VAXA believes in what they are doing, they continue their work—even if society is lagging behind. “We want to be cutting edge,” Íris remarks. She implies that VAXA has bigger plans as well: “This here is supposed to be a proven concept, just so we know that it works, in case we want to do it somewhere else.”

Though modest about it, VAXA is certainly bringing us closer to the future. “People think we work with sci-fi products, but at the end of the day, we’re just growing salad,” Íris laughs.



Íris Ósk Valþórsdóttir

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Enough about the music, can we talk about these shirts?

Eleqant By Quest

Think Phil Collins, minus the baldness

Words: **Valur Grettisson/Quest** Photos: **Provided by Quest**

Info

To listen to Quest is a quest in itself. Their first album, "Eleqant" is humorous, allowing the band to be tacky at times, while something undeniably cool permeates their surroundings; some hipster vibe you can only find with someone that has achieved a zen-state of existence. Naturally, this involves a mullet and an ironic moustache, coupled with inventively playing with the standard pop format. We are hooked and we wanted to know more, so we asked Quest to take us through "Eleqant" track by track. Here's what Reykjavik's newest band has to say for themselves.



ELEQANT

Stoneheart

We wanted to start the album with a sensual bang! Stoneheart is a power ballad about the force that is love. It starts with a reoccurring synth pad, orchestral guitar melody and some tight drums, slowly building to an epic outro. In the middle of all this you will find a soothing saxophone solo to ease you on your journey. "Don't let your heart turn into stone!"

Fanturinn

Fanturinn (e. "The Brute"), we all know one, he is everywhere, he is in our worst enemies but also within us all. When he gets rewarded for selfish behaviour he embodies it to impress those around him, while neglecting compassion and respect. This was our first single, the first mix we got from Þórður Gunnar, who then mixed the whole shebang! The song is a shoulder-padded leather jacket, one size fits all.

Father Time

It's another cold, dark winter morning for the hooligan but the anticipation gets him up. Factory, punch the clock, fight time, finish work, go to the pub, finish a beer, fight other hooligans, match on, times up. Again tomorrow. Silly, we know, but the song is quite simple. Synths, drums, guitar, some freezing harmonies and a very odd, clunky piano in the end. You might even start to sing along.

P.S. Can you hear the Eurovision reference?

Stundarfríður

This song has a special place in our hearts. It features Ingólfur Bjarni, a founding member of the band, and was written during a beautiful part of our band's life. The song is an upbeat pop song inspired by an early 80s theatre play about how technology is distancing us. A nostalgic perspective on modern problems.

Place in Heaven

Think Phil Collins meets Dr. Phil and they write a traditional gender-role focused love song. A haunting and pulsating guitar sets the theme of the song, like a broken heart. Layered by airy synths, powerful drums and dreamy lyrics. The song unfortunately has expired so we are no longer responsible for it. You can have it.

Síðasta lagið

Síðasta lagið (e. "The Last Song"). We take a lot of pride in our live shows and this song might be the most fun to perform. It has a one-take moog solo, congas, perks, groovy bass and smooth, punchy vocals served together in quality repetitions that continually build up for five epic minutes. The lyrics are about you, dear reader. We hope you decorate your life with yourself.

Lessons

Just when you thought Síðasta Lagið was the end, we surprise you with life's lessons; we can either learn them the hard way or dance them away. We only provide you with the options, not the answers. We are very happy that you have made your way through our album. We can only hope that you enjoyed and might consider subscribing and liking and biking and hiking, showering and eating healthy and laughing and dancing and adding us to your email list. 🍷

**THE GUIDE THAT
FUCKS YOU UP**

A selection from

Every Happy Hour

in 101 Reykjavík

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APOTEK
Every day from
15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK.

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.

BREWDOG
Wed-Sun
14:00 to 17:00.
Beer 990 ISK,
Wine 990 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.

IDA ZIMSEN
Every day from
8:00 to 10:00.
Coffee 400 ISK.

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BAR**
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Wine 1,000 ISK,
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.

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

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

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



Featured Drinking Hole

MIAMI
EVERY DAY FROM
15:00 TO 19:00,
HVERFISGATA 33, 101
REYKJAVÍK

Now here is a
philosophical
question for
you: why start
drinking at 17:00
when you can
start at 15:00?
It's a tough one,
we know, but

Miami might just
have the answer.
So dig out that
old Hawaiian
shirt that your
spouse hates,
head down to
Miami Bar and
buy a sunny
cocktail for 1.200
ISK. Because you
deserve it. **VG**

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keep your wallet feeling
happy and full.

1,000 ISK And Under

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Every day
15:00 -18:00
Nachos, wings &
onion rings -
990 ISK

Dominos
All day Tuesday
Medium sized
pizza with three
toppings -1,000

Selected tapas
half price

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

**1,500 ISK
And Under**

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

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

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

Sæta Svinið
Every day
15:00 - 18:00
Chicken wings -
1,190 ISK

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

Uppsalir
Every day
11:00 - 14:00
Burger & fries -
1,390 ISK
Vegan option

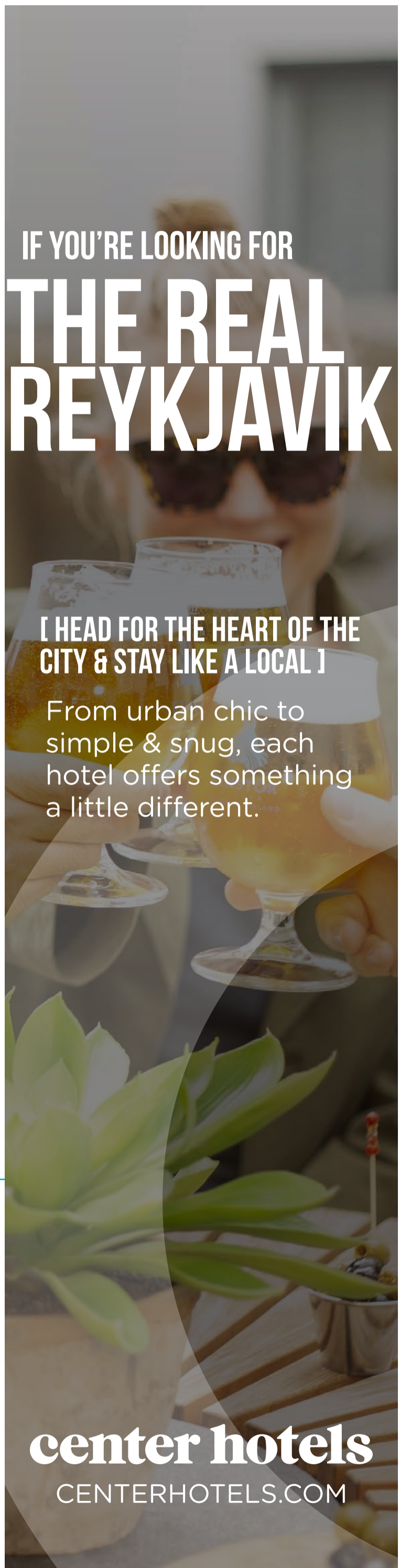
**2,000 ISK
And Under**

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

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

**5,000 ISK
And Under**

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



IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE REAL REYKJAVÍK

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It has to be said before we continue; Galdraskræða, or Sorcerer's Creed, is a dangerous book and should be handled with caution and respect. This is an odd tome, its first version was handwritten and published in 1940. It contains powerful magical runes, magic letters and black and white magic that could easily be misused by dishonest characters. With these runes, one can protect themselves, curse a neighbour, sway people's hearts to fall in love or protect one's mental health. But it also contains the secrets of waking up the dead, forcing people to steal and there is even a rune to make ensure a legal case is won. Should you continue reading, let it be known you have been warned.

Strange man, dark history

The author of Sorcerer's Creed was a strange man with a deep interest in the dark history of Icelanders and sorcery. His name was Jochum Magnús Eggertsson but wrote the book under the name Skuggi (Shadow, in English)—an alias he used often when investigating mysticism. He was born in 1896 and died in 1966. No stranger to the written word, Jochum was the nephew of one of Iceland's greatest poets, Matthías Jochumsson, who penned the poem that serves as the lyrics of the Icelandic national anthem.

Krýsar

Jochum had controversial ideas about the settlements in Iceland. His theory was that histo-



The Mysterious Book Of Sorcerer's Creed

Need to wake up the dead? Look no further

Words: Valur Grettisson Photo: Magical stöff

rians had changed the history of the first hundreds of years after the settlement to omit the story of a clan called Krýsar. The Krýsar are said to have lived in Hafnarfjörður, in a place we to-

day call Krýsuvík, and they were originally Irish. The leader of the clan, Kolskeggur, is said to have written Iceland's greatest poems and books, everything from Njál's Saga's The Story of Burnt Njál to

the Hávamál, a deep philosophical manuscript about honour. Jochum also claimed that he had found a book that Kolskeggur wrote, called the Golden Script, or Gullskinna (also known as Gullbringa). Its pages were filled with instructions about magic as well as the true story of settlement in Iceland. Jochum never showed anyone this book and therefore never proved its existence beyond doubt, although he claimed to have it in his possession.

Erased from history

The story goes that the Icelandic chieftains felt the Krýsar were too powerful, and so they decided to wipe out the clan. And so they did in the year 1054, according to Jochum's theories. Kolskeggur was killed as well. But with time, his name changed, and it became Kölski, which simply means, the devil. The books of the Krýsar were banned or forbidden and said to be evil books about black and white magic. Kolskeggur's grave is said to be in Krýsuvík, but a priest decided to build a chapel on in. To top it all, the scholar Ari "Fróði" Sæmundsson was said to have erased all evidence of Krýsar's existence from history.

Now, this matters, because Jochum's Sorcerer's Creed is said to be based on ideas of sorcery practiced in Iceland at the time of the settlement. Although, all of the runes Jochum found were compiled from well-known ancient manuscripts that one can find in our national library, some might be from the mysterious Golden Script, Gullskinna—if it really existed at all.

First version handwritten

The first version of the book was handwritten—everything from the runes to the magic letters—by Jochum himself. Some of the scripts he used originated in the Westfjords, where Jochum was born. Icelanders burned quite a few warlocks, but only one witch, in the late 16th century Westfjords. Iceland was different from most European countries when it came to burning witches, since we only burned one woman of the 25 people that were executed for sorcery

Reshaped and republished

The Sorcerer's Creed was out of print for decades before young students at the Iceland University of the Arts decided to reshape and republish the book in association with the Icelandic Magic Company (Lesstofan). They rewrote it, drawing the runes in better quality.

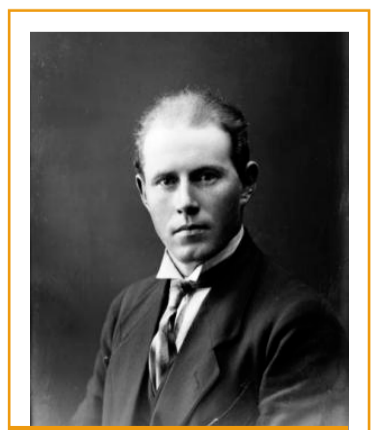
In this book, one can find hundreds of runes and magic letters. Now, before you go buying

"The story goes that the Icelandic chieftains felt the Krýsar were too powerful, and so they decided to wipe out the clan."

this book with grand plans of winning all your legal cases or catching thieves—or simply waking up the dead—keep in mind, all of this is considered quite dangerous. But if you

need a protective tattoo, we recommend the Greater Shield Of Terror. It can't hurt. Literally.

Info: Buy this book at shop.grapevine.is



Jochum Magnús Eggertsson

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Elinborg Kolbeinsdóttir and Chanel Björk Sturludóttir

Raising Her Voice

Highlighting the struggle of women of foreign origin in the Icelandic healthcare system

Words: **Desirai Thompson** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

Personal health is something many people erroneously put off for a number of reasons—be they emotional, practical or, in some cases, financial. For women of foreign origin living in Iceland, these reasons are complex and multifaceted. Enter the Her Voice 2021 Conference, which set out to raise this long-overdue discourse.

Organisation

Chanel Björk Sturludóttir and Elinborg Kolbeinsdóttir are the founders of Her Voice (Hennar Rödd), a non-profit organization focused on centering the voices of foreign women in Iceland. Since its founding in 2018, the pair have joined Chanel's personal experience as a woman of mixed heritage with Elinborg's academic background in human rights and democratisation as the basis of their work.

"It's common knowledge that people have all sorts of different backgrounds, and race is not necessarily connected to national identity," Chanel shares in our interview. Íslenska mannflóran, a radio show she produced for RÚV about multiculturalism in Iceland—with a name meant to represent the diversity of people—"became a catalyst for a lot of other projects, including this one."

"Especially after the Black Lives Matter movement began last year,

people really want to learn and understand what prejudice looks like in Icelandic society," Chanel explains. "The population is becoming so much more diverse, so this is something a lot of people are asking for."

Human rights, health and Her Voice

Her Voice 2021 took place at Borgarleikhúsið on October 2nd. After First Lady Eliza Reid delivered the opening remarks, women of diverse backgrounds shared the stage to offer insight into how the Icelandic healthcare system works—or doesn't work—for women of foreign origin.

"I felt it necessary to have a human rights perspective," Elinborg said. "I took a course in international women's health and human rights, which helped inspire the theme for our conference this year. Of course, the Covid situation made the issue even more timely."

Unique obstacles in accessing healthcare exist for women of foreign origin living in this country. "One of the major struggles these women face is due to the language barrier and the interpretations services they receive," Elinborg explained. "Some women will go to the doctor with a family friend and the doctor will speak to the family member but not straight to the

patient. So of course it can feel as if the doctor isn't listening to them." This can cause added uncertainty during times which may already be frightening for patients.

"They're treating you," Shantaye Brown, author and deputy member on the board of W.O.M.E.N. shared in a panel on this topic, "You should know what's going on. You should have that peace of mind. Nobody else."

Forward movement

Participants of Her Voice 2021 demonstrated the urgent need for improved and diversified language services as well as widespread cultural sensitivity training across Icelandic healthcare services. At the same time, the call for women who are impacted by these issues to be brought into meaningful positions where they're able to exact change was omnipresent.

"We need to empower people of diverse backgrounds to decision-making positions," said Nichole Leigh Mosty, the US-born director of the Multicultural Center. "We need to see people of foreign origin in high seats on electoral lists in local politics. We need to see them pushed up in government agencies. [...] We need to have space to be agents of change."

"There was no tragedy that happened to me," Jade Alejandra, founder of The Sila II Act shared regarding an experience in Icelandic healthcare as a person of multicultural heritage. "The tragedy was that it didn't need to happen. We live in such a privileged country." 🇮🇸

Support the mission of Her Voice by becoming a member for the 2021-2022 operating year at <https://hennarrodd.is/membership>.



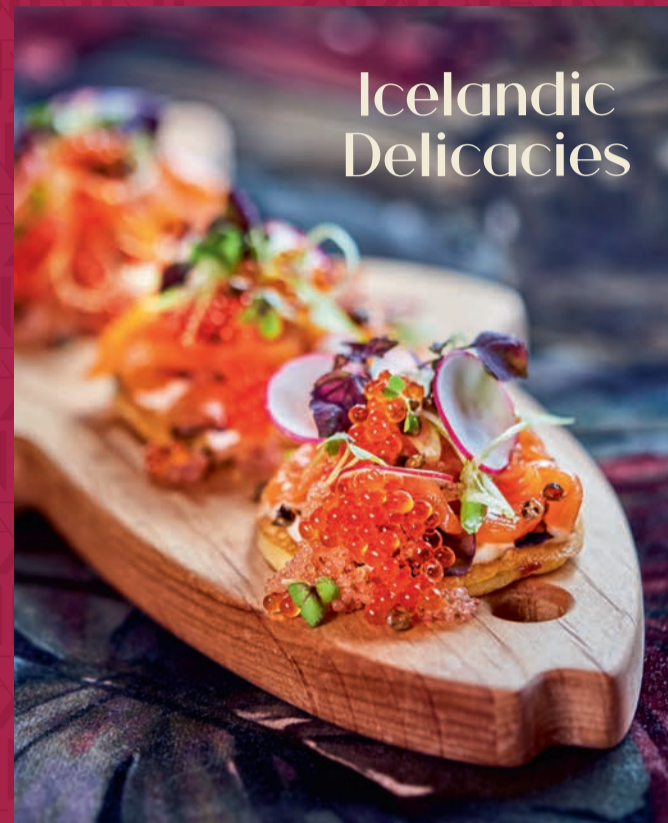
Sharing experiences of the Icelandic healthcare system

FJALLKONAN

KRÁ & KRÆSINGAR

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

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Icelandic Delicacies



Must try dishes

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ICELANDIC PLATTER

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

THE LAMB BURGER

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

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Food



A Promising Food Gem in Selfoss

The Mjólkurbúíð Mathöll is a new food court in Selfoss with some serious potential

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine, Shruthi Basappa, Valur Grettisson** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

South Iceland is experiencing a renaissance of sorts, and nowhere is that more evident than at Mjólkurbúíð Mathöll in Selfoss. The spacious setting is home to a wide array of foodstuffs, some of which were very pleasantly surprising. We had a wonderful time stuffing ourselves silly as we sampled literally every food booth there. Here are our verdicts:

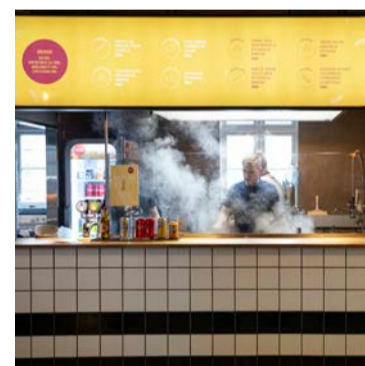


El Gordito

Valur: What exactly is the definition of a taco? Because you're quite confused when eating at El Gordito, which seems to think that a taco is a blank canvas for anything with a taco shell wrapped around it. It's not that simple, of course. The food was fine, but you could barely taste the meat. Overall, way too much happening here, and too little of it is taco-related.

Andie: I was a little bit skeptical about the idea of seared broccoli as a substitute for meat on a taco, but it actually worked. Their take on what constitutes a taco stretches the definition to the very limit; by this standard, a hot dog is arguably a taco. It was tasty, though; just not entirely sure if they ought to be called tacos. "Open wraps", perhaps?

Shruthi: I commend the confidence of stretching culinary nomenclatures (I don't). And El Gordito runs amok with their 'tacos'. That said, the corn tortillas themselves are tasty, even if they're let down by their fillings. I thought the fried broccoli was nice (so happy to not see the ubiquitous cauliflower). I'm still baffled by their choice of mayo instead of salsa, and crushed chilli-wasabi nuts from the snack aisle.



Romano

Valur: I was not overtaken by the pasta dishes, but they had a warm homey feeling. The pasta felt a little dry and clunky and it was mediocre at best. That said, it felt like a convenient fast food, and in some ways, honest as such.

Andie: Whenever I am served pasta, I always cite my Italian ancestry to give my opinions an air of authority. There's no need to do that this time, though. The pasta shells were perfectly cooked, and the marinara was the right mix of savory, sweet and spicy. The alfredo was creamy without being cloying, and included some chunks of smoked pork that complimented the spectrum of tastes well.

Shruthi: I'm not Italian but nonetheless profess the same air of authority having grown up on a steady Indian diet of overcooked pasta that would colour an Italian grandma garnet. Which is great, since that is the usual suspect pasta I encounter in Iceland. Romano's pasta took me right back home with their arrabiata. Granted it didn't boast enough chilli flakes to deliver that warm heat, but it was comforting in its familiarity. The carbonara, however, is a very Jamie Oliver affair with copious amounts of cream and way-too-chunky hunks of salty pork. The bowl of grated parmesan went down a treat at our table, though.



Flatey Total

Valur: I expected nothing less than excellence here, and of course, Flatey delivered. I loved the pizza with sweet potatoes and dates. Inventive and delicious.

Andie: So I had to try the pizza that boasted hummus in lieu of cheese with sweet potatoes and dates. It turns out that when you cook hummus, the taste of it all but disappears. Either that or it didn't have much taste to begin with. That said, the sweet potatoes and dates went very well together. Definitely some-

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thing I'd order for a Friday movie night.

Shruthi: Flatey always delivers. The young pizzaiolo however, would do well to rotate the pie regularly so that the crust is evenly cooked. The yeasty bottoms were both under- and overcooked in the same slice, but kudos to them for making sweet potatoes and hummus on pizza a thing!



Samúelsson Matbar

Valur: I was quite taken by Samúelsson. The veal was perfect and a great pagan option. The meat was tender and tasty, something that you don't often find in Iceland. The fish was the star, though. Perfect meal, perfect fish, everything was perfect here. Samúelsson was one of my favourites; they hit all the notes and did so impressively. I wasn't a fan of the truffle fries, though. They didn't add much to an otherwise perfect meal.

Andie: Why is anyone still serving veal here in anno domini two thousand and twenty one? Haven't we all agreed this is the kind of thing that ought to go the way of foie gras? Well, hypocrite that I am, I did still enjoy their chicken salad. Very good use of dark meat, savoury, crunchy, and even light.

Shruthi: I'll admit I wasn't exactly chuffed when I read their menu. But boy was I blown away. The veal rib-eye sandwich was hands down one of the best over-the-top sandwiches I've had. Samúelsson's target audience will love the fatty, tender meat and it also manages to be well priced by Icelandic standards. The chicken salad is piled high, with fried cashew nuts in every craggy morsel making it a satisfying lunch. I felt

the fish dish could've used a little restraint, but overall this was a surprise treat.



Smiðjan Brugghús

Valur: Smiðjan Brugghús is one of those hidden gems in the countryside. You won't find this place downtown Reykjavík, only in Vík í Mýrdal and this new food hall. Nonetheless, this place serves some of the best chicken burgers and wings in Iceland. The beer selection is both inventive and well-executed. I would drive to the end of the world to have just one more bite or another glass of the mango passion fruit beer.

Andie: Often when you're served a chicken burger, the result is a perfectly round disk of dense, dry, flavourless "meat" pressed like particle board. This was absolutely not the case with these folks, who served up juicy and crispy dark meat, breaded and fried to perfection. Very likely the best chicken burger I've ever tasted. The fries are great, too.

Shruthi: Lemme just say, if these guys were in Reykjavík, they'd sweep the Best Burger category clean. I love that the beef burgers are proper; no brioche bun madness, just a good solid burger that is so goddamn enjoyable to sink your teeth into! Juicy, tender patty, great balance of ratios, an overall great burger. I also really appreciate that they aren't heavy handed with their sauces. Sorry, sjoppuborgari. Their chicken burger (it wasn't a sandwich) and wings may have just made Selfoss a culinary destination. What I'd also like to point out is that the consistency between their original Vík outpost and this new one is admirably on point.



Menam

Valur: I don't really know where to start here. Menam was impeccable. It serves fantastic Thai food at an affordable price and the quality was not only high, but it felt like it was cooked with immense love and respect. Menam is good, and they can only get better. Hands down my favourite and most unexpected experience of our visit.

Andie: Now this was something really special. Soft but firm savoury noodles served with loads of veggies, all of them brimming with flavour. I have absolutely no notes. Just a great job all around.

Shruthi: I would have to go back to sample their proper Thai menu, but as a self-confessed lover of all things stir-fried I can say that their noodles are likely the best I've had here in Iceland. Hear me out, cooking on the wok is a real test of skill and experience and Menam manages that signature wok hei smokiness that's sadly amiss in almost any other restaurant offering stir-fried dishes. If you drive to Selfoss for one thing, make it these noodles. Restaurants with passionate owners are a whole other thing and Menam is very ably helmed.

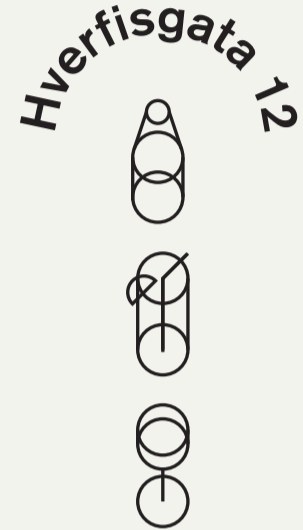
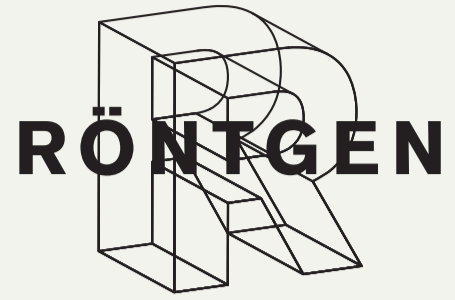


Dragon Dim Sum

Valur: I liked dim sum. It was good, but the dumplings were not as mind-blowing as expected. Felt like everything was done right, but it also felt like they are still trying to find their groove here.

Andie: I really wanted to like this. I really did. Unfortunately, the mushroom dumplings really didn't work. They tasted a bit like they had used dried mushrooms that had been soaked in water before cooking (something I've done before, so I'm familiar with the taste) and it didn't help that there was something sandy in one of the bites I took. The dumpling dough is really quite extraordinary though, and I enjoyed the dipping sauce, so maybe they were having an off night.

Shruthi: I was nervous about this franchise venture of Dragon and wondered how dumplings (a notoriously challenging set of dishes to make) would translate to an out-of-town franchise format. I was pleasantly surprised that the flavours and presentation were close to the parent, although the dipping sauces were a let down for me. On the other hand, I find that the already sauced and dressed dumplings seldom need a dip alongside and I enjoyed the vegan cashew red curry number and the shrimp dumplings. 🍷



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



Travel

A Dreamy Fishermen's Village With Sea Monsters On The Side

Your chance to experience a village untouched by tourism

Words: **Reetta Huhta** Photos: **Art Bicnick**



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375 km

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Fosshotel Westfjords
islandshotel.is

Car provided by:
gocarrental.is

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Travelling through the Westfjords can be a tricky business. The roads conform to the curves of the endless fjords, paved roads alternate with gravel ones, and most of the time there's no fence securing the car from drifting out of the road. The journey from Reykjavik to the Westfjords takes a good five hours, and since the internet connection cuts in and out, you're forced to entertain yourself by taking in the sweeping roadside views, which Grapevine suggests even if your connection is working just fine.

The car weaves up and down the narrow mountain roads bisecting the rural landscape. Gravel rattles against the bottom of the vehicle while light rain washes the windows. Just when you think you've become blunt to the bare yet captivating scenery, the mountains yield, unveiling a spectacular view of a village resting in the valley's embrace. There lies the destination, Bildudalur.

Bildudalur is a small fishing village, located right next to the Arnarfjörður fjord, and home to only 238 people. The atmosphere of the town is almost tangible: the few tourist attractions are all closed for the season, stores require customers to call the owner to open the door if they're in need of visiting the shop, and the sidewalks and roads are devoid of people, even though it's election day.

The shore of sea monsters

Although the tourist attractions in Bildudalur—such as the Old Blacksmith's Workshop and Bildudalskirkja—are open only during the summertime, the Icelandic Sea Monster Museum opens its doors for special visits. The museum has amassed monster stories from all around Iceland and presents them to the visitors in multiple ways. Compact placards about sea monsters and their behaviour are presented throughout the museum, and visitors can listen to the stories of these cryptic creatures from an old radio. Skeptics will be converted through screening documentaries in which people who have encountered these monsters explain what it's like to meet them eye-to-eye.

It's no wonder that the museum is in Bildudalur, since many of the stories have occurred near Arnarfjörður. Many of the people living on the shores of Arnarfjörður have a story to tell about sea monsters. While it is intriguing to hear the folk tales, you can't help but wonder if it's the dreaminess of the small towns that makes the mind create these visions.

Leaving the museum, you stroll down the shoreside and come across a small-scale breakwater, which tempts you to step aside from the pavement to explore the rocky ground more closely.

You head to the end of the breakwater, skipping from one rock to another. Birds hiding in the crevasses flutter in flight as the turquoise swell beats against the boulders—or who knows, maybe they saw a monster swimming towards them.

Warming up in Reykjafjarðarlaug

It's easy to lose track of time when the serenity and sounds of the churning sea take over. After breathing in the ambience of the village by wandering around the seaside and the streets accompanied by colorful buildings, it's time to head to Reykjafjarðarlaug hot pools. Located within a 20-minute drive of Bildudalur, the geothermal pools—one dug into the hot spring, the other built further away—rest in the midst of the surrounding mountains and fjord.

As the wind tries to carry you into the sea, second thoughts about dipping into the pools might enter your

mind. Running from the changing rooms to the first pool, you try not to slip on the muddy pathway, and when you enter the pool, the water feels almost burning. But in a matter of seconds the temperature starts to soothe your wind-shaken body. The walls of the pool are given a beautiful green color by plantains and moss, and though the walls are muddy, the bottom of the pool stays clean. You feel confident that you'll never want to leave this haven.

You relax there until it's time to move on to a cooler pool, which is built right next to the changing area. This pool is much bigger, allowing sporty bathers to swim a few laps. Its water is much cooler and, unlike the first pool, it's not ideal for lounging.

You fight the urge to move back to the warmer pool, and instead get dressed as quickly as possible. You blast the heaters in the car and feel the euphoric warmth taking over your body. Feeling refreshed, you head on with your journey in the Westfjords. 🍷



Scary monsters on the wireless

Don't turn around, but...

Oh, Snap! Marvelous Zodiac Pairings

I can do this all day.

Words: **Desirai Thompson**

What tells you more about a person: their Zodiac sign or which Avenger they most identify with? It's always better to be overinformed, so Grapevine got busy pairing the star signs with characters from the Marvel Cinematic Universe. So...before we get started, does anyone want to get out?

Aries

You're the intergalactic cowboy of the Zodiac, Star-Lord. When you're not on the run from space bandits or bopping along to eighties hits, you're punching the purple out of genocidal warlords. At least we got one more Avengers movie out of the whole thing since it all could've been over then and there if you just knew how to keep your cool.

Taurus

Known for being stable, patient

and uncompromising, Taurus, you're Cap all the way. I mean, you had to wait decades to reunite with the woman of your dreams. We stan age-and era-defying love.

Gemini

You're the empath of the Zodiac, therefore you're the empath of the Guardians. Live your life by Mantis' mantra, "Kick names, take ass."

Cancer

A sign of extremes, you're the perfect Zodiac symbol for Bruce Banner and Hulk. What's your origin story, Cancer? Were you outbid for your favorite childhood Furby on eBay and never quite got over it?

Leo

Sorry it took half a sec to put the attention back on you, Leo. Gregarious to a fault and unwaveringly convinced that you're the main character of, well, everything, you're clearly Ironman. Your creativity is second to none and we applaud you for that but WOW do we wish you could shut up about your newest passion project.

Virgo

You? Analytical? Well of course, Vision, you're a freakin' robot.

Libra

Ah, the symbolic scales demonstrating Cliff Barton's desire to balance his dedication to his family and his loyalty to the Avengers. Does he strike this equilibrium perfectly? Of course not. The only thing Hawkeye can strike perfectly is a bullseye and that's more than we can say for you.

Scorpio

You're a true friend to the ones closest to you but we've also heard you have a bit of a violent streak. Whether you're more Winter Soldier or Black Widow, we can't say—or we're afraid to.

Sagittarius

No one can spin a yarn quite like a Sag. There's also no one more determined to be the center of attention. That's why you're the Nordic saga-based hero, Thor. Few other star signs, or Avengers for that matter, are so concerned with understanding the meaning of life and their purpose in it. So go ahead, crack open that ale and tell a tale or two.

Capricorn

You're practical, you're disciplined, you're condescending. You're Dr. Strange and that's all we have to say about that, Cap. No, not that Cap.

Aquarius

Progressive and humanitarian. It's hard to imagine two words to better describe Aquarius or Black Panther. We'll leave it at that. Wakanda Forever.

Pisces

The only sign so weighed down by your emotions that you would construct a whole new reality just to escape them. Dust off that 50's era A-line dress and practice saying "yes, dear" with such sugary sweetness it makes your eyes water because you're living Wandavision, honey. ♡

WELL, YOU ASKED



The Cleanest Country On Earth

Words: **Reetta Huhta**

Answers to the confused Finns visiting Iceland

Why don't Icelanders use bidet showers?

Some Finnish friends of mine have noticed that Icelandic bathrooms don't include a bidet shower. And no, they're not talking about the bulky and inconvenient porcelain bidets, or the crazy Japanese toilets that are designed to clean the critical areas after taking a dump. No, said Finns are talking about the good old "bum guns", the small shower heads found beside many Finnish toilets.

My simple answer to their question is that Icelanders don't need bidet showers in order to be clean. After all, this country is as clean as it gets. Think about it! The water running down the rivers and from the taps is some of the cleanest worldwide. The air that Icelanders breathe is fresh and crisp, nothing like the polluted air in the world's largest cities. On top of that, Iceland has an abundance of clean energy to work with.

It goes without saying that when you utilize the purest commodities in the world, it is absolutely unnecessary to use a bidet shower after taking a number two. When your body is surrounded and saturated by cleanliness, nothing that comes out of it will be able to mess things up.

Why is the rush hour so dreadful in Reykjavík?

The same Finnish friends were flabbergasted by the daily traffic jams in Reykjavík. I'll make it simple: you have money. You buy a car. You sit happily in the traffic and laugh at people waiting for a bus outside in horrible weather. You feel superior. That's it. ♡

CITY SHOT by John Pearson



Low autumn sun, pink church

HOT CHIKIN & BAO BAR



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