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The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

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For All

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weird stone cats

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ABOUT THE PICTURE:

Kristinn Hrafnsson,
the editor-in-chief of
Wikileaks, does not
give a lot of interviews.
But the 2016 elections,
the Michael Cohen
testimony and the
arrest of Chelsea
Manning have prompted
him to speak up.



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First

No Votes Are Worth The Violence



EDITORIAL

Icelanders, like the rest of the world, were shocked when a hateful shooter attacked two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand on March 15th. Fifty people are dead because of a deranged ideology that Muslims are somehow taking over. This pathetic lunatic from Australia wrote a manifesto—some incoherent nonsense fused together by Youtube videos and many misunderstandings about immigration in Europe.

If anybody is in doubt, Europe is in no danger. No other continent is as prosperous as Europe. Crime is low, the economy is fine and, what's more, there's peace all over the continent—perhaps with the exception of Russian aggressions on its eastern edge. There is no place in the world where the average life expectancy is higher, or overall prospects better; Europe does not need to be saved.

But of course, facts don't mesh well with the ideas of fanatics—both white supremacists and the Islamofascist terrorists like ISIS or Al Qaeda—who are nothing less than criminal organisations that rely on creating mayhem to spread their agendas. All of these groups are the same. I see no difference between them.

If Europe is facing any threat, it's that of bad politicians, inside and out. The ones who fuel hate for Muslims and the Middle East, and the ones fuelling hatred in general.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has risen above the hate and misconceptions and led her country in the wake of recent terror—because she is a real politician and leader, not an irresponsible populist. She did not ask for revenge, like the United States after 9/11. She didn't blame anyone for these evil deeds other than the shooter. Because he has no excuse. And neither do the politicians who poison people's minds with their ideas about racial superiority.

Icelandic politicians could learn a lot from Jacinda. If you look at some of the rhetoric over the past days about the asylum seekers protest at Austurvöllur, you can see a frightening normalisation of racism and dog-whistle politics. Their responsibility, as elected officials with the most public of platforms, is grave—especially if their speech sparks violence. They will not be able to wash that responsibility away. No votes can be worth the violence.

We at Reykjavik Grapevine express our sympathies and support for the people of New Zealand. **VG**

Read about the tensions in Iceland on pages 4 and 6, and see pictures from the protest on page 38. **👉**



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



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



John Rogers an Englishman who first joined Grapevine as a music writer, later graduating to Managing Editor. A constant traveller and a lover of art, culture, food & nightlife, he edits our Best of Reykjavik, Best of Iceland and Iceland Airwaves sister publications. His first book, "Real Life," was published in 2014.



Art Bicnick is a man of mystery, moving like the wind through the parties, soirées, openings and social events of Reykjavik. Sometimes he can be seen abroad in the countryside, braving the spray of a waterfall or the frozen glacier air. Always, he will have a camera, documenting the moves of his writer companion.



Sveinbjörn Pálsson is our Art Director. He's responsible for the design of the magazine and the cover photography. When he's not working here, he DJs as Terrordisco, hosts the Funkpátturinn radio show, or sits at a table in a Laugardalur café, drinking copious amounts of coffee and thinking about fonts.



Sam Daniels, a Grapevine Intern, is a connoisseur of the weird and wonderful. Originally from the UK, he moved to Iceland a few years ago and never looked back. He enjoys writing poetry, novels and short stories and finds amazing amounts of inspiration in the tales of Norse mythology and Icelandic folklore.



Andie Fontaine has lived in Iceland since 1999 and has been reporting since 2003. They were the first foreign-born member of the Icelandic Parliament, in 2007-08, an experience they recommend for anyone who wants to experience a workplace where colleagues work tirelessly to undermine each other.



Aliya Uteuova is a reporting intern all the way from Kazakhstan. She studied journalism in Maine and reported on ocean acidification, rising sea levels, and marine crustaceans (i.e. lobsters). Her fascination with sea life brought her to Iceland where she thoroughly enjoys the coastline.



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

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Such disrespect!

What Are Icelanders Talking About?

The latest cheers and jeers on social media

Words: **Andie Fontaine** Photo: **Jón Benediktsson**

NEWS It's been a wild time for hateful vitriol on social media these days. With news coming in of a **deadly shooting in a mosque in New Zealand** that left 50 people dead, Icelanders were active in the comments sections of online articles covering the tragedy. Not all of them were sympathetic, either—some of them were downright celebratory, because Muslims died. This may come as a surprise to readers who know Iceland to be sympathetic with the Palestinian cause. If so, it is with heavy heart that we report that xenophobic shitbishops exist in our corner of the world, too.

Speaking of xenophobic shitbishops, a recent week-long **protest by refugees and their supporters** in front of Parliament had the unintended effect of drawing some of the worst racists in the country out of their sewer pods and into the comments sections of Icelandic news websites. These were folks encouraging the police to arrest everyone, to deport everyone, and to use violence to drive them away. The situation got so bad, in fact, that some media outlets began closing their comments sections under any story about the peaceable protests.

Related to these protests, the **police use of force** has also been hotly contested lately. As the Grape-

vine reported, and as video evidence confirmed, police confronted the protesters directly in March, initiated a physical confrontation, and soon began using pepper spray at will—even against protesters who were following police orders and leaving the area. Numerous Icelanders pointed out some inconsistencies about how the police handled the situation: that Icelanders have frequently protested in that exact spot without a permit, in the hundreds and even in the thousands, without the police doing anything at all. Why a group of no more than a couple dozen people necessitated this degree of force is something the police are, at the time of this writing, having to answer for before the parliamentary Judicial Affairs and Education Committee.

Finally, the **resignation of now former Minister of Justice Sigríður Á. Andersen** has been an active topic on Icelandic social media. A large part of the conversation surrounds the confusion she caused by announcing she was merely “stepping down” temporarily, to return at some undisclosed time in the future. The statement even seemed to confuse a few media outlets, who repeated her contention as if it were fact. The reality is, she no longer heads the Ministry and is not returning, as there is no legal way a minister can quit, tell someone else “hold this seat for me,” and then come back whenever. Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Innovation, is now also the Minister of Justice. ☘



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Icelandic police vs. refugees and their supporters

Parliamentarians, Refugees And A Statue

Current and former politicians divided over asylum seekers

NEWS

Refugees and their supporters protested in front of Parliament throughout the last week of March, in the hopes of being able to speak with any MP about their demands for the right to work, access to health care, having their cases reviewed and related issues. While no member of Parliament, as far as we know, has spoken *with* these refugees, many members of Parliament were active in talking *about* them.

Words: **Andie Fontaine**

Photo: **Art Bicnick**

“Concerns”

A casual observer could be forgiven for thinking that there is a certain inconsistency regarding who may or may not exercise their constitutionally protected right to peaceably assemble and protest at Austurvöllur, the square in front of Parliament that has been the scene of numerous protests in the past. Ólafur Ísleifsson, an MP for the Centre Party, expressed “concerns” about the protest; namely, that demonstrators had erected a tent

on the square, with the permission of Reykjavik City Council. These “concerns” were addressed in parliament to the new Minister of Justice, Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, and were met with hisses and jeers from others in the hall.

Won't someone please think of the statue???

Of particular point of interest to a few MPs was the statue of Jón Sigurðsson, a towering figure in Icelandic history, who was himself an active protester in his fight for Iceland's independence from Denmark. Páll Magnússon, an MP for the Independence Party, took to Facebook to complain that the protesters had the unmitigated gall to festoon a sign around Jón's neck reading, “I'm surrounded by marvelous people.”

Páll called the act “deeply shameful.” He is also the chair of the Judicial Affairs Committee, which at the time of this writing is questioning police about their recent use of force against the protesters.

Jón has always been a symbol of protest

Not everyone was antagonistic towards the protesters. Þorsteinn Viglundsson, an MP for the Reform Party, took to Facebook to point out that the statue of Jón Sigurðsson has been adorned by protesters with everything from pink dresses to aluminium foil, and that this latest act was perfectly in keeping with Jón's legacy. Some MPs from the Pirates, Social Democrats, Left-Greens and the Reform Party also criticised their more xenophobic colleagues.

All this said, Iceland's refugees are still trying to have a dialogue with the people who write laws that affect their lives directly. So far, their efforts have only resulted in arrests and pepper spray. 🍷

FOOD OF ICELAND

Bragðarefur



Remember that time when you were pregnant and craving gummy bears, coconut, and ice cream? Remember frantically stuffing your mouth with all three at once and lamenting the fact that you couldn't get it in fast enough?

Long ago, the

genius foodies of Iceland found a solution to this quandary with their beloved creation bragðarefur. Directly translated as “Tricky Fox,” the treat is a blended mix of crushed up candy and soft serve vanilla ice cream. For foreigners, you could compare it to a McFlurry, except with more than one candy, better ice cream, and three times the serving size. Seriously, this thing

makes American portions look like an appetiser. Order a small.

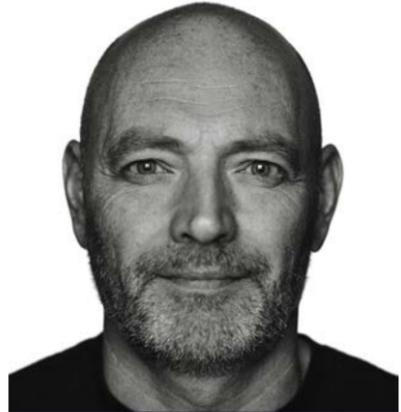
The choices for treats inside your bragðarefur are endless. Daim, liquorice, fruit, anything your heart desires. The process is simple: You order one, point to your fillings of choice, and the trusty ice cream shop employee puts it all in a blender and whips it up. The best part of this, though, is that often there is

a long line at the ice cream shop and bragðarefur are somewhat time consuming to make, so then everyone hates you for making them wait longer for their post-breakup binge. But such is life for us gluttons, right?

While the traditional bragðarefur is made with vanilla ice cream, in the years since its inception, stores have begun offering chocolate- and strawberry-based

concoctions as well. The Grapevine strongly condemns these flavour deviations and recommends that you stick with the old faithful, vanilla. See, vanilla allows you to not only taste the sugary goodness of ice cream, but also appreciate the delightful goodies you have chosen to mix in. Go forth, ye hungry folks, and definitely don't count calories. **HJC** 🍷

ASK A Eurovision Expert
Q: Why are Icelanders SO obsessed with Eurovision?



Words: **Sam Daniels & Felix Bergsson**
 Photo: **Jónatan Grétarsson**

With the Eurovision Song Contest glittering on the horizon, we at the Reykjavik Grapevine have found ourselves wondering, “Why are Icelanders SO obsessed with Eurovision?” In desperate need of answers, we turned to Felix Bergsson, who heads up Iceland's Eurovision delegation at RÚV. Here is what Felix had to say.

1. The obvious reason is we LOVE competing on equal ground with the big boys, and in music, Iceland actually stands a chance of winning. It is a slim chance but it does exist. And like always, Icelanders take that kind of challenge very seriously.
2. Icelanders are fiercely nationalistic. Even though they won't admit it. They are so happy when they see the Icelandic flag with a sea of other flags in Eurovision. It fills them with pride. And they will support their representative all the way.
3. The not so obvious reason is that Icelanders love their kids. They are generally good parents and they love to do fun things with their children. And the children are crazy about Eurovision. People who would normally not give Eurovision a second thought end up getting really into it. Then the kids grow up and they host their own Eurovision parties and so it goes, on and on and on...
4. Last but not least, Icelanders have realized how much fun Eurovision is. They make fun of it like most nations, but never in a nasty way. Many of the ESC entries are played on Icelandic radio and many become popular before and after the competition. That is very different from other countries in the competition. 🍷

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We love the smell of gin in the morning

might be an alternative fact, the gin— Old Tom Gin from Himbrimi—did win Best Compound Gin at the 2019 World Gin Awards in London. Bravó, martini-maker.

Different & interesting

The panel of alcoholic experts at the competition described the spirit as having, “plenty of tree bark and orris root, as well as nutmeg, hazelnut, and cumin. Just a whisper of juniper, and maybe a touch of thyme.” They continued on to call it, “Different and interesting.” Different and interesting, huh? It may not be sexy and cool, but we’ll take it.

It’s a truly prolific win for the five year old Brunner Distillery, who produces the gin. Óskar Ericsson, the director of the company, originally made it for fishing trips. He used herbs that grow along rivers and still handpicks them himself every summer. Each bottle is still labeled by hand and will continue to be, despite his newfound celebrity.

A big win

“This is a hugely significant recognition for us,” Óskar told reporters after the win. “To compete in Britain with an Icelandic gin is like competing in Japan with Icelandic sushi or in Scotland with Icelandic whisky.”

We agree, and highly anticipate that next year Iceland will dominate at the Westminster Dog Show and the next season of ‘Strictly Come Dancing.’ 🍷

WHAT HAVE WE WON?

More Gin More Grins

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen

Rollin down the street, smokin’, sippin’ on victory

Photo: Himbrimi

Just this February, Icelandic gin came out of the shadows. Emerging proudly, bare chested, banging on pots and

pans in woollen sweaters, they smugly howled, “HÚH, bitches, I’m here to stay!” While that particular sentence

WORD OF THE ISSUE

This four letter word is probably the most complicated word in the Icelandic language. Not because of the word itself, but because of the different tones of it that can change its meaning entirely. Jæja literally translates to ‘well’, but it can easily mean over ten things depending on your intonation. For example, when pronounced with the famous inhaling sound,

Jæja

it means “I don’t really have time or energy to keep on with this discussion and I need to go.” When said sternly, it can mean “stop it, you fucking idiot.” So if you are all about being passive aggressive, this is the word that you want to study. 🍷 VG

LÓABORATORIUM

A HANDFUL OF HUMANS



THE GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST

The must-hear tracks of the issue



Good Moon Deer - Aloner
The choppy, glitching, tumbling electronica of Good Moon Deer jumps into warp speed with this excellent new single, featuring fractured snatches of vocals, wriggling bass and spasmodic rhythms. For all the chaos, the production feels like it has a renewed sense of focus. We’re looking forward to the album. JR



Hafdis Bjarnadóttir - A Northern Year (January-June)
Composer and electric guitarist Hafdis Bjarnadóttir just dropped her two-part project ‘A Northern Year.’ The first track—documenting January to June—is experimental mood music to the nth degree. Hafdis apparently transforms data about the sun’s position over Reykjavik and turns it into melodies and rhythms. Expect weird rhythms and jazzy soundscapes. HJC



Emigrate - War (Seint Remix)
Seint remixes the grand synth pop of Rammstein’s Richard Z. Kruspe, who goes under the solo moniker of Emigrate. Seint picks up on the dark synth undercurrent of the epic original and pushes it to the forefront, creating an arena-sized anthem in the process. JR



LDN TING - GABRIEL MANI & GK3
You’ll probably be singing this track all day after hearing it. Is this satire? We genuinely don’t know. You gotta take it for what it is, and what it is is a solid banger with a great beat and fucking catchy chorus. The lyrics are basically what you’d find if you Googled ‘London’, i.e. Tracksuit-ting. Camden-ting. Grime-ting. Nike fleece-ting. Basically the early days of Gisli Pálmi. Lots of fire emojis in the comment section. LDN TING forever. (Is it satire, tho?) HJC



Wanton Boys Club - The Mandarin
A comparison to Todd Terje’s Inspector Norse isn’t out of line on this one, not only in terms of the Scandi-Italo soundscape, but for the unexpected twists and turns and the majestic, joyful composition that just keeps growing. SP

Listen, watch & hear more tracks: gpv.is/play



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What will she do next? Bartender at Klaustur? Beat cop? Late Eurovision contender?

Judge, Jury And Executive

How our former Justice Minister inadvertently ended her post

Words:
Gunnar Hrafn
Jónsson

Photo:
Art Bicnick

Iceland got a new justice minister this month, after a dramatic ruling by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) found former justice minister Sigríður Á. Andersen had illegally appointed judges to the Icelandic Court of Appeals. The finding casts into question every decision made by the court since its inception in January 2018.

The court's troubled history can be traced back to a decision Sigríður made the previous year. A special evaluation committee had been set up to select the top 15 candidates to be appointed to the court for life.

The motivation behind setting up a dedicated appellate court was freeing up the valuable time of the country's highest court, the Supreme Court, to deal with only the gravest and most crucial matters of legal dispute, rather than re-hearing so many individual cases from the lower courts.

Told you so

The committee provided a well-vetted list of 15 names, but Sigríður removed four names from the list and provided four of her own nominations, before using the government majority in parliament to swiftly pass the appointments into law. Opposition MPs at the time (full disclosure: the author of this article was one of those MPs) pointed out that at the very least Sigríður had broken with procedure by providing parliament with an unalterable roster of candidates, rather than holding a vote on each candidate. The ECHR has since agreed.

The government at the time dismissed these and other concerns over the appointments and decided to move forward. Two of the four judges, who were omitted from Sigríður's list, were awarded compensation by the Supreme Court, which found that the

minister had indeed broken with procedure. Yet all 15 judges remained in place and continued to hear cases for over a year.

Predictably, one of the cases they heard resulted in a ruling against a defendant who decided to try his luck by appealing all the way to Strasbourg. Those rascally Europeans refused to dismiss the case, despite pleading from the (now slightly modified) Icelandic coalition government that insisted it was a waste of time and no one did anything wrong.

In mid-March of this year the ruling came in and the game was up. The ECHR found that Sigríður's appointment of judges to the appellate court violated article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. That article guarantees an individual's right to a fair court trial. The implications are clearly ominous and the judges of the court responded by immediately putting a halt to their work amidst the legal uncertainty. All eyes were on Sigríður, who was in the hot seat.

Sigríður is part of the Independence Party, which has been a major coalition partner in three successive governments. That's actually not something to brag about in this case since the first two collapsed because of scandals (first the Panama Papers and then a shitstorm involving who knew what about a notorious pedophile having his full civil rights restored).

A coalition of the stable

The current coalition is ostensibly led by the Left-Greens and their Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir, but she has been severely criticized for taking a passive role compared to the former prime minister and current Finance Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, leader of the Independence Party. He says he stood stalwartly by Sigríður through all of this and only accepted her decision to resign (or step aside, more on that later) with much regret. No one is really buying this.

The truth is, the current government is based very firmly on the principle of not collapsing like the previous two. The idea to bring together the left and the right like this didn't come out of thin air but bitter experience with previous attempts at forming stable governments in recent years. Stability has been the hallmark of the Independence Party for decades, so much so that they use it in campaign ads to this day

without a hint of irony.

The feeling so far is that the Left-Greens have had to endure quite a bit more in this effort to keep things together than their partners on the right. Sigríður didn't immediately resign after the ECHR ruling, rather there were reportedly tense meetings behind closed doors that ultimately culminated in a press conference where reporters harangued her about whether or not she was forced to leave her position or did so of her own free will.

You don't simply step aside in Mordor

Neither she nor Bjarni Benediktsson nor Katrín Jakobsdóttir would comment on

exactly what conversations took place or how to characterize them. Many are convinced Sigríður was forced to quit in order to appease angry elements within the Left-Greens who are unhappy with how the coalition government is working out in general. Despite the language used initially, that Sigríður was simply "stepping aside" temporarily to clear the air, it doesn't seem she has a clear path back into government at the moment and in fact there is no such thing as a minister stepping aside, according to Icelandic law. You have

to simply quit and hope they take you back at some point.

There will be elections and governments after this one and the Left-Greens will have to have something to show for their stewardship of this coalition. There are rumours that Katrín Jakobsdóttir and other key figures in the party plan to retire from politics to initiate a rebuilding period after this government comes to an end. Indeed, many are expecting the party to suffer a massive blow and lose some of their base to the new Socialist Party as well as the Social Democrats and perhaps even Pirates.

Whatever happens on that front, the uncertainty over the Court of Appeals remains. There is much talk of appealing the decision of the ECHR but it's not clear what this would achieve other than cause more delays in dealing with the fallout. The court is at least back in session following Sigríður's resignation, with a revised list of judges. The four appointed by Andersen are now on indefinite leave and the court struggles on with 11 remaining judges and serious legal uncertainty. ❧

“There will be elections and governments after this one and the Left-Greens will have to have something to show for their stewardship of this coalition.”

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Jón Sæmundur held an exhibition of forgeries. None of these are believed to be in circulation.

“As I recall I made about 10 paintings in all”

basis of an entire art show by Jón Sæmundur Auðarson. This was back in 1998, a few years after Stórval’s death.

“It was during my second year in art school,” recalls Jón Sæmundur. “I just adored him as an artist and the idea was to celebrate his legacy with a small exhibition in his style. As I recall I made about 10 paintings in all, of varying quality, and we exhibited them in a gallery on Skólavörðustígur that students had access to.”

Since those paintings were all clearly marked on the back as being created by Jón Sæmundur, he says it seems unlikely they could have been resold as authentic Stórval’s at a later date. But someone has definitely been trying to sell Stórval knock-offs, as was discovered by auctioneers at Gallery Fold recently. Since his works sell for 200-300 thousand krónur a piece, it is a potentially lucrative endeavour.

The poorly drawn elephant in the room

An expert was called before the auction was held and he determined two pieces, to be sold as Stórval’s, were indeed forgeries. According to reports by RÚV and other Icelandic media, there was absolutely no doubt in this case as the signatures did not match and brush strokes and materials were noticeably different from authentic originals.

That doesn’t preclude the possibility of there being other, better fakes out there. District prosecutor Ólafur Þór Hauksson confirms that he has opened an official investigation into the matter, but he is unable to comment on the details or the scope of the investigation at this stage.

RÚV quotes Gallery Fold’s manager, Jóhann Ágúst Hansen, as being deeply worried the case will lead to the uncovering of systematic forgery efforts once again. “I’m afraid this is of a larger scale than we realize at the moment. It’s incredible to think this could all be

starting over again, a new round of forgeries” he said, referencing what is generally known as “the big forgery case” that was uncovered in the nineties and lead to the discovery of sophisticated efforts to defraud art-buyers and gallery owners. 🇮🇸

as Stórval. Stórval painted in the style known as naive art and was indeed somewhat eccentric. He never had any formal instruction and only began painting when he was in his late forties or early fifties after having moved to his farm in Möðrudalur around the mid-20th century.

Stórval’s paintings largely consist of simple landscapes, almost always including his beloved Herðubreið, a mountain he could see from his home. More often than not the paintings also included simplistic depictions of horses and these two elements became his hallmarks. The fact that the horses could in some instances be seen graphically copulating caused something of a stir when the works were exhibited for the first time in the 50s.

This naive style and repetition makes Stórval’s work relatively easy to imitate and, indeed, this was once the



Stórval - Stefán Jónsson from Möðrudal

Discovery Of Naivist Fakes Stokes Fears Of Art World Scandal

But is it art?

Words: Gunnar Hrafn Jónsson

Main Photo: Art Bicnick

A few years ago, there were alarming international headlines based on interviews with Swiss investigators who found that over 70% of the artworks they authenticated were forgeries or misattributions. This turned out to be at least a slight exaggeration—many of the works they audited had already been suspected of being bogus and that is the whole reason they were subjected to forensic testing in the first place.

Yet it seems certain that such a lucrative industry as the arts attracts its fair share of unscrupulous types, and some talented ones at that. The

Icelandic art world has been rocked by several large-scale forgery scandals over the past decades, which in turn has lead to much more caution being exercised by art dealers and gallery owners. Now, there are reports that the beast of forgery has reared its unaesthetic head again.

Naive horseporn conquers the art-scene

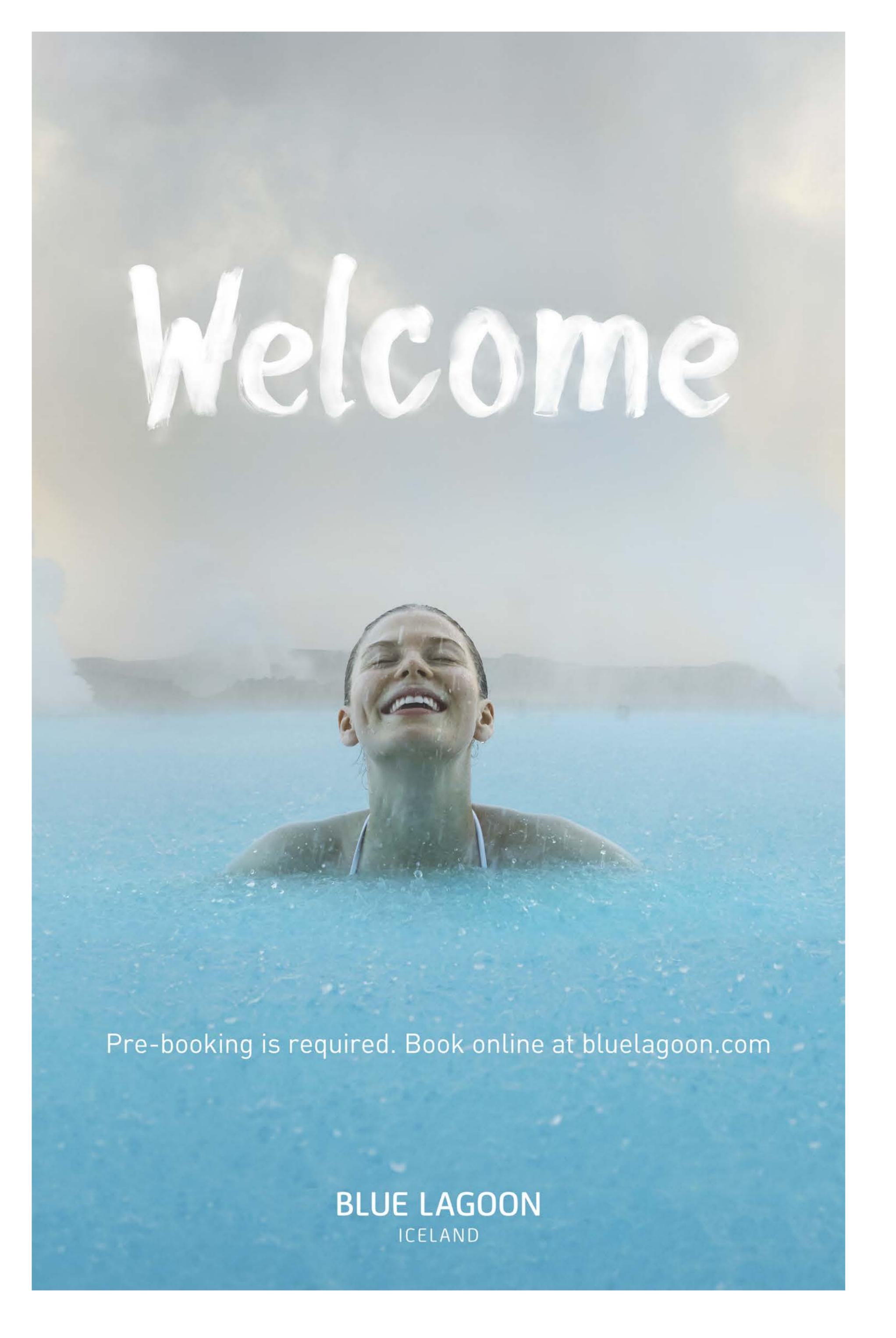
The victimized artist in this case is the late and much beloved Stefán Jónsson from Möðrudal, affectionately known



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INFORMATION IS NEVER NEUTRAL: THE EDITOR OF WIKILEAKS BREAKS HIS SILENCE



Words: Andie Fontaine
Photos: Hörður Sveinsson

No matter what Kristinn has to deal with, his convictions on the role of Wikileaks and journalism in general remain strong.

What brought Kristinn from freelancing in his early days to the role he plays today? Why is Wikileaks still important? In the age of clickbait and “fake news,” what is the future of journalism? Most of all, how can the average person know what media to trust?

FROM KOMPÁS TO CRASH

Kristinn’s journalism career began in the 80s, doing what most people do when they start out in the business: freelancing. He would land a job at Iceland’s public broadcasting network, RÚV, in 1991; a time when there was plenty to report, both at home and abroad. Even in his early days, Kristinn had very clear ideas about what a reporter’s job should be.

“I felt that journalism had to be ethical, but tough,” he tells us. “The ideals that I followed at the time would probably be considered radical today. The accusation that journalism should be neutral in some way was a bit absent at the time. Being a journalist in Iceland for 20 years, I’ve gotten accusations of bias from all sides. As I was telling a friend the other day, when you’ve had people shouting at you from all corners of the political spectrum then you’re probably doing your job right.

“You become inoculated to that kind of criticism. You have to commit yourself to certain ideals if you want the privilege of the job.”

Kristinn would get his chance to put those ideals into action in a major way when he joined the team of Kompás, a first-of-its-kind for Iceland investigative news programme. Working with a small staff and constricted budget, Kristinn describes his time there as “a lot of work but very gratifying.”

The financial crash of 2008 would end up being a major turning point for Kristinn. Amongst the findings of the Special Investigative Commission, a body charged with examining the causes of the crash, was a fairly damning assessment of how the Icelandic media had been complicit in its silence, and its blind faith in financial actors to tell reporters the truth. It’s an assessment Kristinn agrees with wholeheartedly.

“In general, I think we as journalists had a lot to answer for. I said so, publicly,” he says, referring to an Icelandic Journalist Union meeting about a month after the crash. “I was quite critical of myself and my colleagues, for breaching the trust that was granted to us by the general public. We trusted all financial matters to dedicated financial journalists, who were often in bed with the bankers; pundits of the elite. The rest of us thought financial matters were too complicated and required specialisation. We bought into the story of these wizards who created wealth out of nothing; these modern day alchemists in the banking sector. We didn’t see through the smokescreen. That’s a failure. We ignored the warning signals, like many others. We as journalists had a lot of soul searching to do.”

ENTRY TO WIKILEAKS

“IF YOU’RE NOT A RADICAL JOURNALIST, YOU’RE NOT A JOURNALIST,” KRISTINN TELLS US NEAR THE BEGINNING OF OUR INTERVIEW. “YOU’RE BASICALLY PART OF THE PROBLEM. YOU’RE IN PR.”

“Not to say that these reporters are necessarily being paid directly by the powers that be; they could also be avoiding conflict or shielding themselves from criticism. It can be difficult to take on power, and some people are just averse to conflict.”

Kristinn is not one of these people. His entire journalistic career, from his early days at public broadcasting to his current job managing Wikileaks, is a reflection of this notion that journalism is about speaking truth to power. Perhaps unsurprisingly, he cites his early influences as Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the reporters who broke the Watergate story based on material leaked to them by a whistleblower, along with films such as ‘All The President’s Men’ and ‘China Syndrome’. “Films that depict journalists as a force for good in society.”

As the editor-in-chief of Wikileaks, Kristinn certainly has his plate full. Chelsea Manning’s re-arrest, the Michael Cohen testimony, the Mueller investigation as a whole—all of these things involve Wikileaks in some fashion or another, justifiably or not.

“When you've had people shouting at you from all corners of the political spectrum then you're probably doing your job right.”

The wake of the financial crash would end up introducing Kristinn to Wikileaks, in part due to a data dump the site made that vindicated a story Kristinn had been working on about Robert Tchenguiz, a financier who was deeply involved with the failed Kaupthing bank. In fact, the legal blowback to the Tchenguiz story is what began to sour Kristinn's taste for journalism.

This started in January 2009, when Kristinn received information on Tchenguiz's borrowing in the days before Iceland's collapse, which included offshore accounts in tax shelters. While Kompás shuttered its doors early in the year for financial reasons, the story was picked up by Kastljós, RÚV's roundtable news discussion show. This, however, sparked an investigation of Kristinn having possibly broken the bank secrecy act, the same legislation which nearly ten years later would be used to attempt to silence the magazine Stundin's coverage of the pre-crash money dealings of Minister of Finance Bjarni Benediktsson. The injunction against Kristinn's reporting would end up falling apart in autumn 2009, but it had a lasting effect on him.

“My taste for the profession had been souring for quite a bit in light of all this,” he recalls. “It was quite a revelation then when in the beginning of August 2009 when I was working at RÚV again, I was given a tip to check out this site called Wikileaks. I had never heard of it before. But lo and behold, but there was the entire Kaupthing loan book, with the internal evaluation a few days before the banking crisis.” Robert Tchenguiz so happened to be in this leak. This led to “this bizarre episode in Icelandic journalism” when the Kaupthing resolution committee sought an injunction against RÚV reporting on what was in the Wikileaks loan book dump. “I was amazed. I got confirmation of the loan book's authenticity very easily.” He had sent the leak out in a pdf to a number of business insiders. “Within minutes, I got a call back of someone asking me, ‘Where the hell did you get this?’, and I was like, ‘Well, thanks for confirming.’” Kristinn laughs. “It was incredible. I had been working for months to get information on this individual, and there it was, all of it.”

Wikileaks appealed to Kristinn's journalistic sensibilities. “This was something that was adding to the transparency,” he says. “It was legally difficult to stop. On that basis, I sought out Julian [Assange]. He was invited to Iceland in the autumn of 2009. We met, befriended, and that led to my involvement.”

THE GAME-CHANGER

2010 was a banner year for Wikileaks. Leaks such as Collateral Murder, the

Afghan war diary, a similar report from Iraq, and the Cablegate leaks were all highlights of the organisation and would put them at the forefront of international headlines. The importance of this work cannot be overstated.

“In journalism, Wikileaks did two things,” Kristinn says. “First, it showed the power of huge leaks of this nature, and that you can really move things by exposing many aspects of corruption and war crimes. Second, we pooled together resources of the mainstream media. We demanded that people work together, which was often difficult.” The organisation created a media alliance with hundreds of outlets around the world. “It laid the groundwork for the [International Consortium of Investigative Journalists' (ICIJ)] cooperation on the Panama Papers, for example. This also inspired other whistleblowers. Edward Snowden has confirmed that if it hadn't been for those leaks in 2010, there would not have been Snowden leaks later on.”

This work, though, has not been without criticism, neither about Wikileaks or its founder, Julian Assange. One of the most prominent criticisms about Wikileaks is that they dump files without making any redactions. There is no filter to the information Wikileaks might post, prompting what Kristinn describes as “counter-spin,” most prevalent after the Collateral Murder leak: that the release of unfiltered information could put innocent lives at risk. Kristinn isn't having it.

“It was quite extraordinary to see the Joint Chief of Staff on television, almost in tears over the supposed dangers, saying that Wikileaks could already have blood on their hands for releasing this information,” he says. “But this hasn't materialised. Information is never neutral. It can have adverse effects to some degree. Every journalist knows that. But to this day, there has not been a single incident from this biggest leak in military history exposing all these internal secrets of the most powerful military machine in the world. No harm has befallen anyone; no one has lost their lives. I'm pretty sure we would have heard about it if that would have happened. This was confirmed during the Chelsea Manning trial of 2013 by the Pentagon officials—the leak had not caused harm.”

Ultimately, the ethos of Wikileaks is fairly simple: everything should be in the public domain except sensitive personal information. “Transparency should be the norm, and exceptions from transparency should be very few and must be justified,” Kristinn explains. “All freedom of information laws were based on that principle, but for some reason it doesn't seep in. We're still fighting this endless war against secrecy.”

ON ASSANGE

Beyond Wikileaks, Assange is also a polarising figure, and many people put off by Wikileaks are so because of him. Kristinn addresses the criticisms of Assange directly.

“Well, the Swedish case was dropped,” Kristinn says, referring to the sexual assault allegations made against Assange. “This is something we maintained for a very long time was very spurious, in how it was being pushed. We got confirmation of that, through a FOIA request by an Italian journalist, Stefania Maurizi. There we saw email exchanges from Sweden showing that Swedish authorities were not pursuing the case; they were actually being directed by the Crown Prosecution Service in London telling [Swedish authorities] not to give up and to keep the pressure on. All this is in the public domain now. The Swedes were ready to drop the case years before they eventually did.”

Kristinn believes the Swedish case was, in part, an extension of a great campaign against Wikileaks. “We also knew early on that a grand jury investigation against Wikileaks had started, in early 2010, because of the leaks that year, and it has continued for almost a decade now,” he says, adding that this investigation has been renewed repeatedly. “Unparalleled in scope and nature. Years ago we heard the documents gathered for the investigation exceeded 40,000. We've always known that this was ongoing and brewing. We were called conspiracy theorists because of that, ridiculed for maintaining that there was a real danger of extradition to the US. Until the confirmation came a few months ago, inadvertently and by mistake, that an indictment against Julian is ready and sealed, along with an extradition request to the US.”

WIKILEAKS, RUSSIANS, AND THE 2016 ELECTIONS

Wikileaks also caught plenty of flack for the Democratic National Committee emails leak, which started in June 2016. Critics have contended that the leak was the work of Russian hackers, working at the behest of Donald Trump's campaign team, and that figures such as Roger Stone and Paul Manafort allegedly either speaking with or meeting Assange underscores a conspiracy to steal the election from Hillary Clinton, with Wikileaks' collusion. Kristinn addresses these charges in a systematic fashion.

“What people are missing about this story is the core principle here,” Kristinn says. “That journalists are supposed to publish materials on politicians, and especially candidates prior to election. That's the role of journalists; that's why it's called the fourth estate. It's totally amazing that even journalists are telling me, ‘You shouldn't have published [the emails] before the election.’ Are we not supposed to inform the electorate about the candidates? Isn't that your job? If you have internal information about a candidate or a party, it's your duty. It would be a journalis-

tic crime to withhold it. Then I heard ‘You should have waited until you had something on Trump so that you could be balanced.’ But it doesn't work that way. The DNC emails had information that was newsworthy, and definitely it should have been published prior to the election, and that's the end of it. It doesn't really matter where it came from. It's not the concern of the journalist to disregard information because it comes from some source that might have an agenda. You always have to evaluate the information that is in front of you. Is it in the public interest to publish it? It's a no-brainer: either it is, or it isn't.”

Kristinn believes that rather than blame Wikileaks, the DNC should instead do some soul searching.

“The DNC wants to maintain [the email leak] had an effect, to try and brush over the humiliation of their defeat in the electoral college,” he says. “The Democratic Party just needs to come to terms with the fact that Hillary Clinton was not a charismatic candidate that people were excited about. Of course, it's a hard thing to swallow, but it's a necessary thing to do if the Democratic Party wants to come to terms with this and try to move forward. I haven't seen any discussion within their ranks about how it's possible you could win the popular vote and still lose the election. For us who have a hard time understanding the electoral college, when you get an instant like that, it should call for introspection and that the system needs to be changed. It's a very serious situation that demands examination.”

“In the general scheme of things, is the country that came to be the bastion of democracy in the world going to accept and acknowledge that a few dozen rogue trolls in Saint Petersburg can actually upset the entire process, working on a budget that is basically a fraction of what is spent on the election?” he asks. “That would actually be an admittance of an extreme weakness of the system, I would say.”

ON ROGER STONE, PAUL MANAFORT AND CHELSEA MANNING

“It's rather pathetic how people are trying to connect the dots about some kind of collaboration” between Team Trump and Wikileaks, Kristinn says, citing the fact that early on, Assange broke from past precedent and disclosed that the DNC email leak source was a non-state actor. “I think it was a sort of clearing of the air. If you look at what has happened since, with the Mueller investigation, nothing has emerged that changes what I've said.”

Roger Stone, a lifelong weasel of the Republican Party who was an advisor to the Trump campaign, has gone on record saying he spoke with Assange. This was also brought up in the testimony being given by former Trump lawyer Michael Cohen.

“If you read through [Stone's indictment], and it's only 23 pages long, it's basically a confirmation that there was no communication between Roger Stone and Julian Assange,” Kristinn says. “Stone claimed that there had been. He was trying to elevate his position. He's a player in that circle. It's Roger Stone.” In fact, Kristinn says,

"The only communications that arguably took place between them was a direct message on Twitter in January 2017, where Wikileaks asked Roger Stone to please stop making the claims that you had access to Julian Assange and had communication with him. Because it didn't exist."

With regards to the Cohen testimony, Kristinn points out that Wikileaks is mentioned only once, "When [Cohen] said that he was present when Roger Stone called Trump and said that he had just talked to Julian Assange. So that's the proof that Trump knew that Stone had talked to Julian Assange and therefore there's a direct connection? But it's a claim. You're going to take at face value something Roger Stone is saying, at the same time that you're charging him with lying to investigators?"

The idea that Paul Manafort met secretly with Julian Assange at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where Assange currently resides, is even more absurd to Kristinn.

"No such meeting ever took place," Kristinn says. "And the Guardian [who broke the story about the meeting] should know best that it didn't take place, because a few months earlier, they had written a story about how the embassy in London is monitored with internal cameras, 24/7 surveillance outside, not just by the metro police, either. Every visitor that comes into the embassy has to hand over his passport, sign a log, and is filmed by dozens of cameras. The Ecuadorian Embassy behind Harrod's in London is probably the most surveilled spot in the most surveilled city in the world. It is absolutely impossible and unthinkable that anybody could sneak into that building and have a secret meeting, and the Guardian should know that. They're not defending the story or answering any questions. Everyone knows that the story is wrong."

Another figure who again appears in the crosshairs of the US government is Chelsea Manning, who was recently jailed again, this time for refusing to testify against Wikileaks to a grand jury. The response to this, in particular from Rachel Maddow at MSNBC, is something Kristinn has

likened to "Alex Jones at his best" when it comes to weaving conspiracy theories.

"I think it's unethical, disgusting and disgraceful," he says of this reporting. "This grand jury investigation reminds me of the Middle Ages: very much not in line with what you would consider normal in a civilised, democratic society. The fact that you can have a secret investigation in a secret investigatory court for years and years, where the people being investigated have no say in it at all, this is what Chelsea Manning has pointed out is the main reason why she is not willing to testify. It's an incredibly brave thing, what she's doing. It's unfathomable that you should be called into court marshalled for. She gave full testimony in her court marshal, she was sentenced, she served seven years in jail in conditions that were tantamount to torture by UN standards, and then pardoned by Obama towards the end of his term, perhaps remembering that he campaigned on a platform of protecting whistleblowers. And now years later, being hauled to jail for refusing to testify against Wikileaks and Julian Assange. She needs a lot of support."

WHERE IS JOURNALISM HEADING?

Kristinn is one of many journalists who believe a war on journalism is already taking place, and that it is getting worse.

"There's a silencing epidemic going on that is part of what I'm referring to as neo-McCarthyism," he says. "The war on journalism will probably escalate somewhat further. I don't really expect the mainstream journalism community to see the danger that is looming and why it is absolutely necessary to wake up now and support Julian Assange, Wikileaks and Chelsea Manning. Things will probably get worse before they get better. But I try to be an optimist. It did take some years for the mainstream media to come to terms with the fact that we had been lied to about the reasons for the invasion of Iraq."

Kristinn points out that famed journalist and personal friend John Pilger has noted that all the major stories about abuse of power—the after effects of the bombing of Hiroshima, the My Lai massacre, the crack and CIA connection—were all broken by smaller, more independent media outlets, indicating that smaller jour-

nals perhaps reflect a sort of light at the end of the tunnel.

That said, with so many sources to choose from, how are readers supposed to know who to trust?

"People will simply have to be more critical," Kristinn says. "They will have to learn to trust certain news outlets; never fully though. But you should read news outlets with a critical mind. Take into account the influence that might be behind the reporting. Do you trust the BBC when it's reporting on the British intelligence community? Do you trust Russia Today when they're reporting on Putin? Do you trust Al Jazeera when they're reporting on Qatar? You should take everything with a grain of salt, and learn how to put together a somewhat unsordid picture of what is going on in the world. But you should also demand proof and say 'show me the documents'. Demand the evidence. Demand transparency."

As he continues to soldier on, for his ideals and for the truth, Kristinn is not particularly worried about his legacy.

"I'm old enough to have seen the pendulum swing back and forth," he says. "I have no doubt that it will be recognised in historical terms the tremendous importance of Wikileaks to journalism. Whether I or Julian will be gone by then, I don't know, but Wikileaks will be recognised as such." 🍷



Travel

Seafoam Dreams

Finding inner calm in Hellnar

Words: Rex Beckett Photos: Rex Beckett & John Rogers



Distance from Reykjavik:
179km

How to get there:
Route One North,
turn onto Route 54
at Borgarnes

Snæfellsjökull glimmers in the sunlight like the crown of a lemon meringue pie. It looms appetizingly over the shining black tarmac of the road as my friend's car weaves through the peaceful curves of the southern coast of the Snæfellsnes peninsula. This early March day is a rare one—brightly sunlit, almost windless, with a gentle mist rolling in from the glittering ocean and over the meadows.

We are on our way to Hellnar, a tiny coastal village that once upon a time was home to a fruitful fishing community. Now the few homes and businesses in the outpost are rarely inhabited outside of the summer peak season, and what draws people to it are the wave-carved sea caves, the stunning oceanic lava formations, and the peaceful cliff top trails. I am here for nothing more than escaping the city, albeit briefly, and enjoying the wide open space.

Seaside tranquility

As we arrive at the car park at the cliff head of the village, we are promptly greeted by the happiest, cuddliest Pomeranian named Rebbi, likely on

an independent walk from one of the few inhabited homes at this time of year. We stroll down the hill, towards the rocky beach and find that the seaside café Fjöruhúsið is still closed, but each table setting is placed, ready for the new season.

We fumble our way across the stones and find two large rocks to sit on and gaze at the breakers crashing against jutting rock formations along the shoreline, watching as they hit each formation in a triptych sequence. The salty air wafts towards us, pairing with the salted crisps that make up our lunch.

Zen mansion

Looking around, we spy the wood-decked trail leading up through the hay covered hillocks of the cliff side. We make our way towards it and as we ascend, the smell immediately changes in the valley to the sweet scent of wet spring hay, the sun bleached strands blown smoothly over the rocks and moss. Reaching the heights of the trail, a dreamy red and blue A-frame house with a prominent yin yang symbol on it peeks out of the

hills, overlooked by the meringue-like glacier. One imagines this Icelandic zen mansion lined with crystals, the air rich with Palo Santo smoke.

Craven rituals

The path leads past several signs pointing to historical landmarks so subtle that they are barely noticeable. The sign that marks the site Nátthagi points to a small, bare rock-lined field, where one imagines the locals once held traditional dances welcoming the summer, or performed ancient craven rituals.

Choosing not to venture too far along the trail, my companion and I return to the beach and make our way out along the concrete pier, broken halfway down, presumably by the force of stormy waves. Beneath the crushed structure, the waves dissipate into frothy turquoise seafoam, a Jacuzzi of frigid waters swirling. This rocky shore is both an invitation and a warning, a relaxing reminder of the power of the sea. ♡

"We gaze at the breakers crashing against jutting rock formations along the shoreline, watching as they hit each formation in a triptych sequence."



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Rebbi the dog



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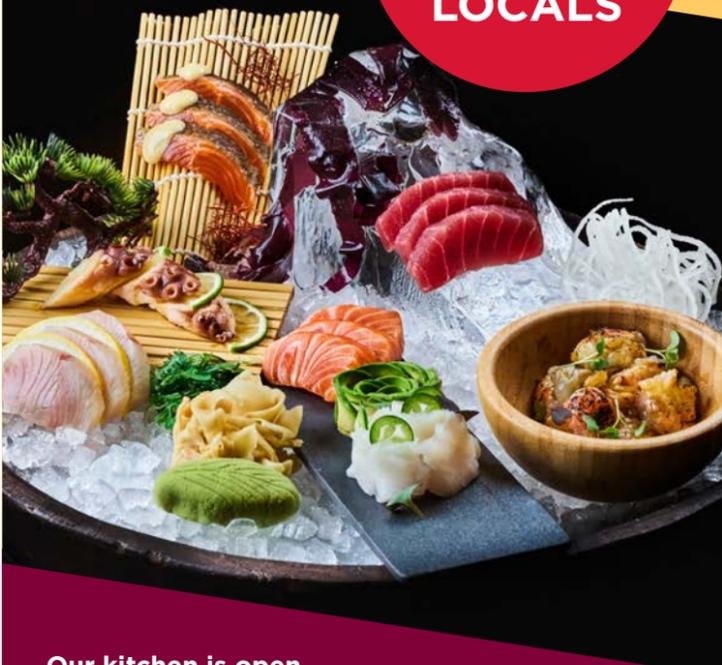
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The maw of Viðgelmir

ROAD TRIP

Borgarfjörður

Words: John Rogers Photos: Tim Lambrecq & Art Bicnick

Just an hour north of Reykjavík lies in the secluded inland sprawl of Borgarfjörður. Home to some interesting historic villages, a powerful hot spring and a large lava field—plus caves, waterfalls, hiking trails, and distant Highland glaciers—it's a fascinating place for a day trip from Reykjavík or, preferably, a longer stay.



Drive:
Hallmundarhraun

This 52km-long lava field dominates Borgarfjörður. There's a road all the way around its edge, with great views over the mossy expanse and various tempting hiking trails leading off into the craggy, mossy rocks; the mountainous scenery makes it an enjoyable drive whether you decide to stop for a walk or not. Stick to marked trails if you do, especially in winter time.



Visit:
Hraunfossar

Hraunfossar is a series of waterfalls pouring from the 900m

edge of the Hallmundarhraun lava field. Countless rivulets pour down into the Hvítá river below and there are trails leading to viewpoints over the area. Barnafoss is nearby, with an information plaque telling the grim tale of how it got its name, Children's Falls.



Stay:
Hotel Húsafell

The last town before the interior wilderness is Húsafell, a tiny settlement where you'll find the relatively newly built Hotel Húsafell. Tucked discreetly into the landscape, it's a nice find: the rooms are cosy and the restaurant—including a cocktail bar—is excellent. You'll also get access to a simple swimming pool with hot pots.



Visit:
Viðgelmir

This impressive lava tube is over 1.5km long and, in places, over 15m high. The cave is gated to preserve the features inside, so take a tour from the nearby visitor centre. This makes for an enjoyable experience with an expert guide who can fill you in on the formation of the cave, its many geological features and information about an intriguing period of human habitation.



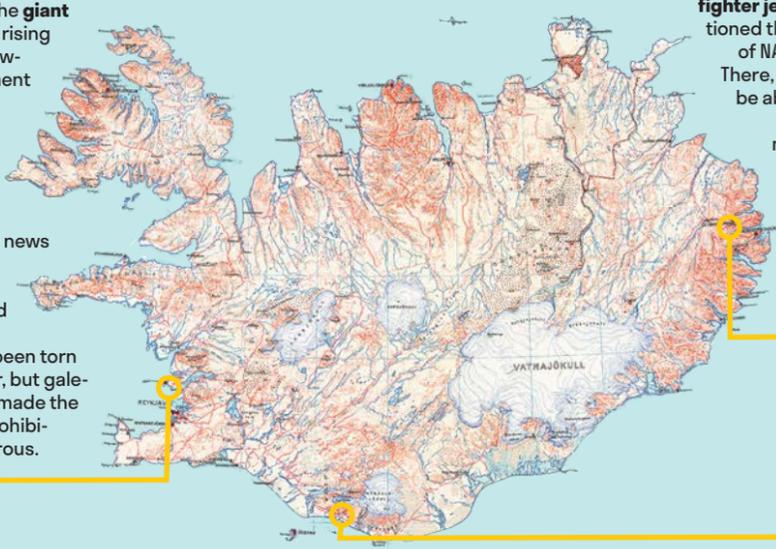
Activity:
Snowmobiling

Langjökull forms a white bar over the eastern horizon of Borgarfjörður. There are a couple of ways to get onto the ice to experience the glacier first hand. One is the "Into The Glacier" trip to a man-made ice tunnel, running daily from Húsafell; another is a snowmobiling excursion, where you can follow a guide on your own vehicle, speeding over the white expanse. 🇮🇸

Island Life

Hot news from the cold Icelandic countryside

Words: **Andie Fontaine**



One of **Akranes'** most iconic landmarks, the **giant smokestack** rising out of the now-defunct cement factory, was **demolished**. In honour of this momentous occasion, West Iceland news service Skessuhorn live streamed the event. It would have been torn down sooner, but gale-force winds made the operation prohibitively dangerous.

It would be a bad idea to invade the northeast town of **Egilsstaðir**, at least until mid-April. Until that time, **Italian fighter jets** will be stationed there as a part of NATO exercises. There, residents will be able to witness firsthand the military prowess of the Italians, for which they are famous the world over. Intruders beware!

Numerous global polls have shown **Icelanders to be amongst the happiest people in the world**, but **who are the happiest Icelanders?** According to an online poll conducted by Gallup, it's the residents of **Grindavík**, a southwest Iceland coastal town. The most unhappy? Residents of the **Westman Islands**. Well, you try living on an active volcano that once devastated the only town on the island and keep a smile on your face.

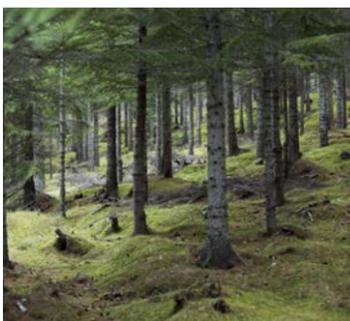
Best Of Iceland

A selection of winners from our Best Of Iceland travel magazine



North:
Newcomer Pool
Geosea Sea Bath

This new luxury spa in Húsavík takes the concept of healing geothermal water to a whole new level. The baths, in fact, are filled with geothermally heated seawater. The place has all the facilities you need, from geothermal water to affordable food, but it's the view over the Arctic Ocean that will captivate you.



West:
Easy Hike:
Hallormsstaðarskógur

Our panel always enjoys a light, free-form hike through the lakeside forest of Hallormsstaðarskógur. You can park and explore Iceland's biggest forest, characterised by gushing streams, tucked away cabins, views over Lake Lagarfljót, and the famously picturesque and mild-weathered Atlavík camping ground.



South:
Newcomer Hotel:
Midgard Base Camp

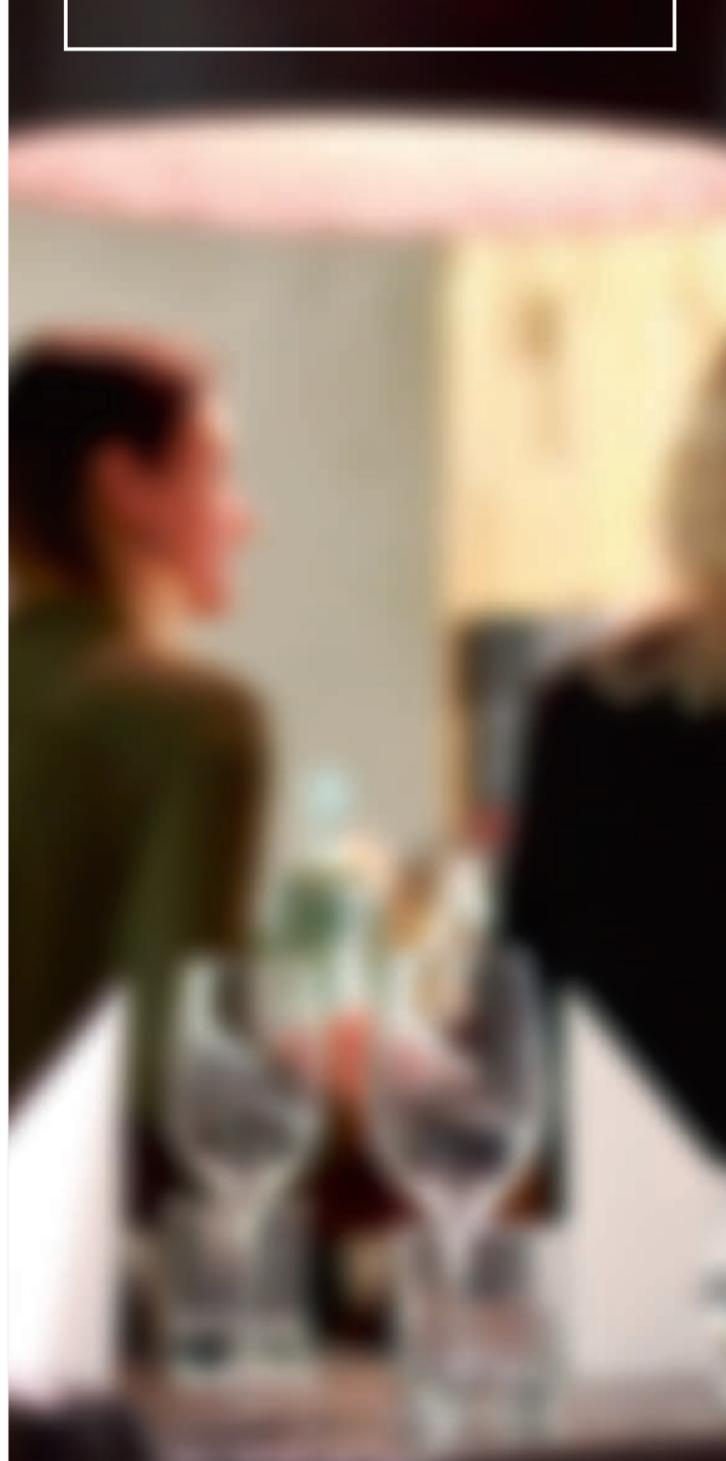
Run by an amazing family of local expert guides, the atmosphere of this place is top notch. Opened in May 2018 in a former car mechanic warehouse, this simple, clean and friendly hostel aims to be a home-away-from-home for its guests. "Ending a day of adventuring with a dip in the rooftop hot pot that looks out to Eyjafjallajökull will always be memorable," said one panellist



Hressingarskálinn (Hressó) is a Classical Bistro, located in the heart of the city at Austurstræti 20. Food is served from 10 until 22 every day. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, after the kitchen closes Hressó heats up with **live music**. Weekends, **DJs** keep the party going until morning, with no cover charge

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WELL, YOU ASKED

'The Bachelor' Shower Scene Edition

Words: Hannah Jane

Why did Colton jump the fence?

Are you serious? Did you not watch Colton get his heart broken in a way not seen since last season with Arie and Becca? Seriously though, that was one of the most brutal things we've ever seen on TV. We literally watched a man get his heart smashed into pieces on live TV so it's natural that he would vault over a 2.5 metre fence into darkness to heal his virgin soul.

But you got to give it up to 'The Bachelor' editors, who, in a stroke of pure genius, cycled between confessionals of Colton saying, "Cassie is the one. I am in love with her," and Cassie responding, "I am just not there with him." Now that's showbiz.

Did we really miss out on a great Fantasy Suite with Demi?

Yes, a thousand times yes. Were we subjected to a fantasy suite with Demi "I haven't dated a virgin since I was 12" Burnett, we assume she'd end up in prison with her mom for burning down the building with her hot moves. #DemiForBachelorette.

Do you think Courtney ever talked to Colton?

No. We reached out to Colton for comment and he had no idea who we were talking about, saying only, "Isn't that the one who had sex in the ocean a few seasons ago?"

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

WAR OF THE NERDS

The Shadow War On Laugavegur

Under Reykjavík's peaceful façade, there is a merciless war raging on.

Words: Valur Grettisson Photo: Art Bicnick

There is trouble brewing, trouble that hides under the dust of Laugavegur, beneath the ever-flowing groups of tourists, behind the Viking-street-singer who only (poorly) sings Neil Young and Bob Dylan.

You would think that Iceland's main shopping street would be a peaceful place. But think again. It's a war zone out there.

In 2011, city council dropped the first bomb, figuratively speaking of course, when it decided to try something that had never been previously tested on Laugavegur. They sought to close part of the street temporarily to vehicles, changing it into something called a "walking street."

This, of course, for the Icelandic car-loving nation, was a shock.

Important questions arose from this unprecedented situation. Do they want us to use our legs? Just walk down the street? What are we, animals?

It quickly became apparent that this was not all bad. Pedestrians started to enjoy this new space and even going into the shops, that they used to drive past while carrying out their sacred icelandic ritual called "rún-turinn" (driving aimlessly).

But there was a resistance brewing. Some shop owners claimed that fewer were coming to their shops because of the lack of car traffic. Still, they went along with the changes, hopeful that something would change. It only got worse.

The tourist boom exploded



It looks peaceful and quiet, but a war is brewing.

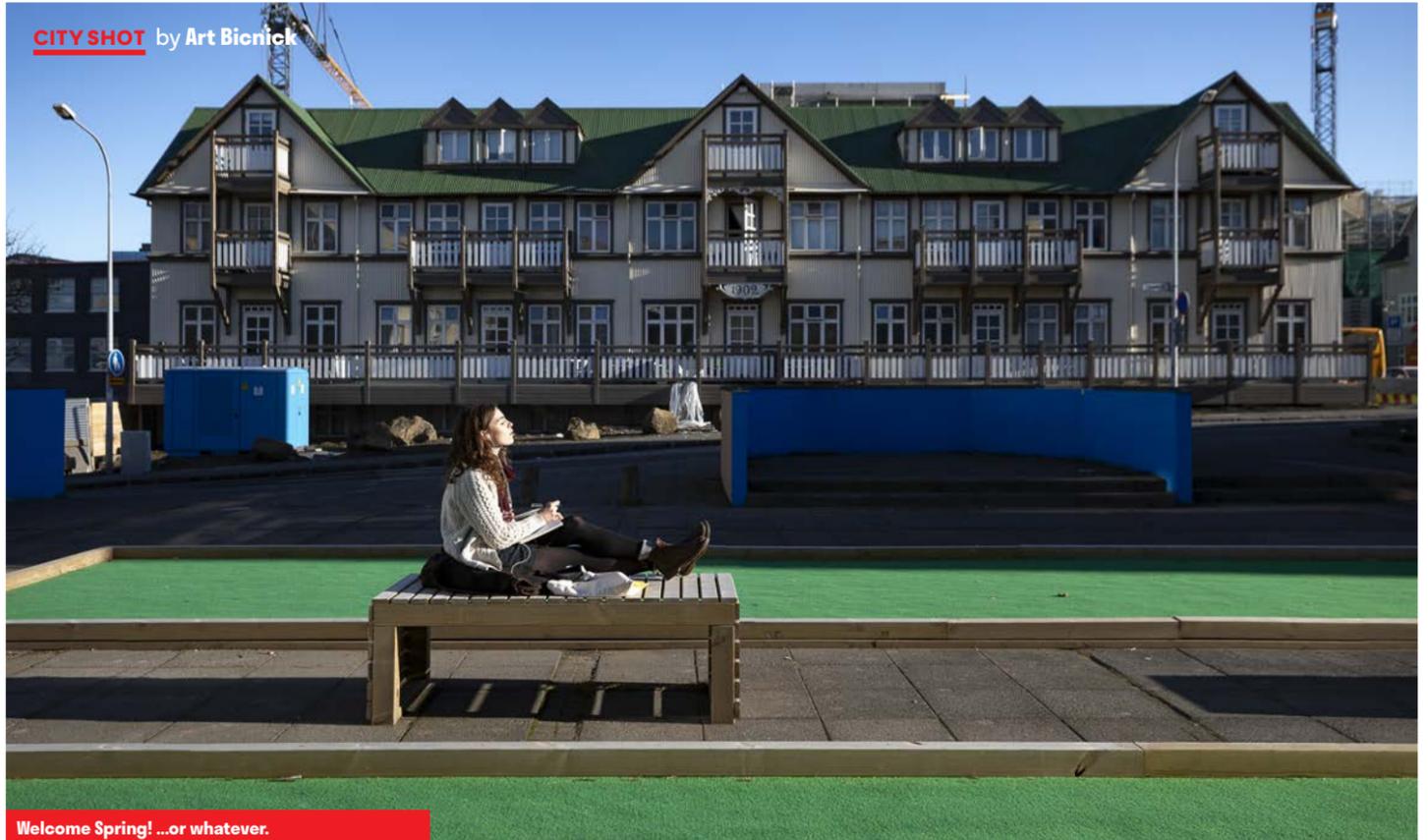
like a supernova over the dark grey skies of Iceland, and hundreds of thousands of tourists filled the streets like an invasion army in flashy Gore-Tex. Again, Laugavegur was closed, now for the duration of the Icelandic summer. The resistance realised that the city council would not stop until there were no cars at all on Laugavegur. Only people.

But the City Council had a devastating ace up their sleeve. They published a poll that showed that the majority of the shop owners were delighted to be free from the oppression of the cars. The resistance was not convinced. None of this mass tourism—now over

four times the population of Iceland—was keeping their business afloat. One shop owner made his own poll, and stated that the vast majority was unhappy with the seasonal closure of Laugavegur.

What's more, the City Council now wants to close the street to car traffic indefinitely as of May. The tension has never been higher, and one can only hope that a full-fledged war will not break out and the easygoing shop owners will not end up throwing those cute puffin mascots at each other. But beware. The final battle is upon us. So tread lightly, and stay hydrated.

CITY SHOT by Art Bicnick



Welcome Spring! ...or whatever.

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The Lava Centre just received two Red Dot Awards, which cement its position as a world class exhibition.

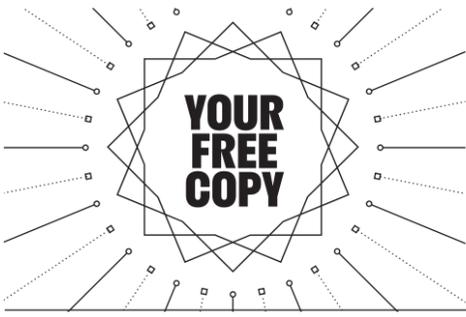
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LAST WORDS

Goth Is Cool Now

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen**
Photo: **Lovísa Sigurjónsdóttir**

I have a confession: I was a teenage goth, or mall goth as they were called in suburban America, whence I come. I was the kid who dyed their hair black in my bathroom and wore chained Tripp pants to school and listened to KMFDM obsessively. I begged my Mom to let me get an Ankh tattoo and buy me a corset and cyber falls for my birthday. I pierced my nose in my school bathroom and gave stick and poke tattoos of occult symbols to my fellow goth buddies.

And I was a total loser for it.

Velvet darkness, they fear

At this time, goth was explicitly lame. It was for loners and school shooters. In fact, people in my high school did think my friends were gonna shoot up the school. For reference, they didn't. We were more interested in listening to nu-metal and hanging out in front of Hot Topic—before it became a meme store. What a sad development that was, though.

But now, 10 years after the fact, goth is not just back, it's in style. It's legitimately cool. In Iceland, the rise of Hatari has seen children dress up in BDSM gear for Öskudagur. Influencers now wear pentagrams. Rappers don black vinyl dresses and sing about depression. If you had told me in my highschool years that in a decade, mainstream society would start dancing to industrial music, I'd have been incredulous.

Paradise Lost 4eva

On one hand, I'm like, why wasn't it like this when I analysed Marilyn Manson's 'Coma White' for my high school writing class? I think my teacher had a discussion with me after that. On the other hand, I'm like, here's my worn 'Antichrist Superstar' CD and 'Repo! The Genetic Opera' DVD. Oh, and don't miss 'Gothic' by Paradise Lost, that's a classic.

So welcome to the community, guys. I'll see you on VampireFreaks, if that still exists. I don't think it does, but we can easily bring it back. Let's get down, fellow creatures of the night, and don't forget: Always dress to depress. 🖤



DAY TOURS
WE GUIDE IN 10 LANGUAGES

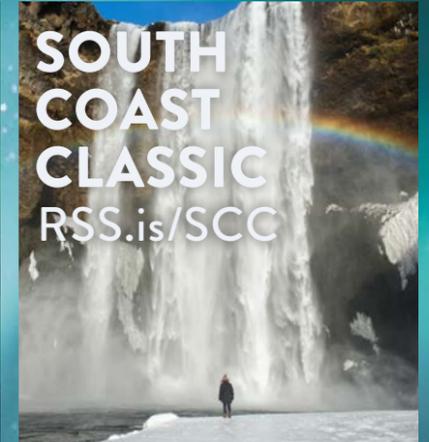


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A Lil Hip, A Lil Hop

Red Bull Music Presents: Afsakanir

March 29th - 21:00 - Gamla Bíó - 4,500 ISK

Sultry smooth-talking crooner Auður serves up something you rarely see in hip-hop: pure sincerity. Last year, he dropped 'AFSAKANIR', his sophomore effort, which was nominated for 8 awards at this year's Icelandic Music Awards. Currently travelling around the world writing for J-Pop artists in Tokyo, touring Europe, and working on his next album with Sony Records, Auður is an infectious performer you should take advantage of seeing. The ticket price is steep, yes, but the show will be worth it. **HJC**



Inappropriate Laughter

Hugleikur Dagsson: Son of the Day

April 5th - 20:00 PM - KEX - 2,000 ISK

Perhaps best known for his hilariously dark stick figure cartoons, Hugleikur Dagsson will be presenting his very first hour-long comedy show. Don't worry, it's in English, so you are guaranteed to laugh at several things that you'll feel guilty for later. The only gay Australian comedian in Iceland, Jonathan Duffy, will be warming him up, so sit yourself down and strap in for some gut-busting chuckles. Leave Grandma at home **SD**



Feel The Noise

Bárna Gísla & Skúli Sverrisson

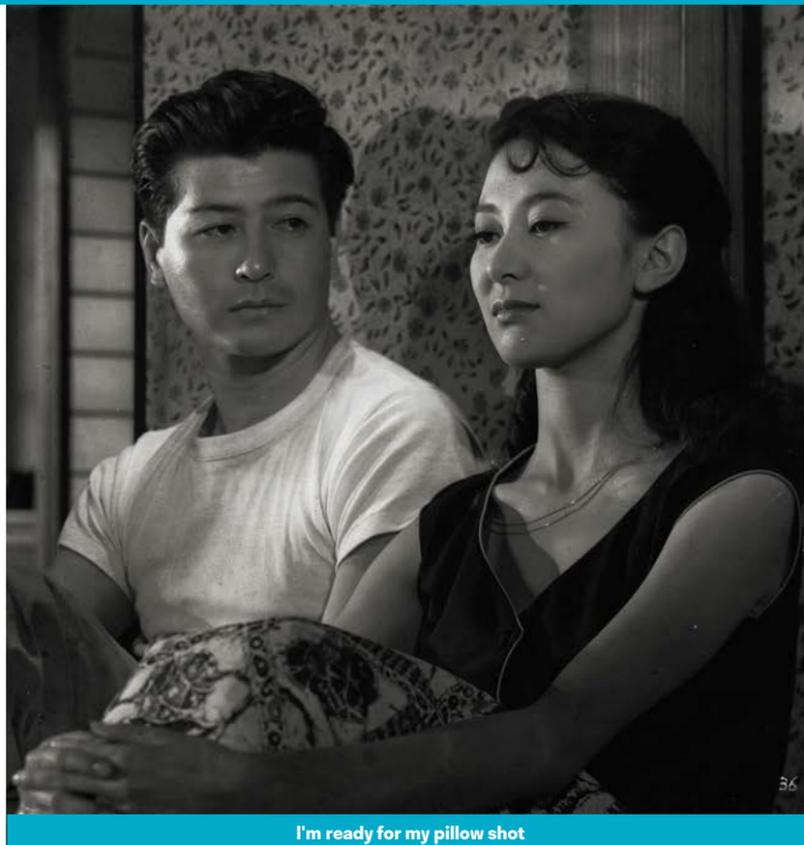
March 23rd - 21:00 - MENGI - 2,000 ISK

Two powerhouses of Icelandic composition come together for a night at MENGI. Bárna Gísladóttir is a fast-rising young composer and performer, specialising in discordant contrabass noise somewhere between Daníel Bjarnason and Ben Frost; Skúli Sverrisson is a renowned guitarist known for his stunning collaborative works and lyrical, sensitive guitar. The two are working on a joint album together—get a preview here. **JR**

CULTURE NEWS

Festival

Yasujiro Ozu Film Days run from March 28th - 31st at Bíó Paradís. There will be one film screened each day. Tickets are 800 ISK, but the screening of 'The Flavour Of Green Tea Over Rice' on March 28th will be free.



I'm ready for my pillow shot

A Poetic Pioneer

Yasujiro Ozu Film Days brings Ozu's enigmatic works to Reykjavík

Words:
Hannah Jane
Cohen

Photo:
Film Stills

When you picture the masters of Japanese cinema, you might think of Akira Kurosawa or Kenji Mizoguchi. For those outside of the film world or Japan, the name Yasujiro Ozu is probably unfamiliar. But among critics and film connoisseurs, he's widely believed to be one of the best filmmakers of all time. And while his works came out more than 50 years ago, they still hold resonance today.

Now, the Embassy of Japan and the Japan Foundation will bring Ozu's pio-

neering works to Reykjavík as part of Yasujiro Ozu Film Days, which will screen four films by the artist at Bíó Paradís from March 28th to 31st.

The pillow shot

"The first [Ozu] film I saw was 'Floating Weeds,'" says Reiko Tatematsu, the head of cultural division at the Embassy of Japan. "I remember that I was pleasantly surprised at how beautifully colour-coordinated the film was." Afterwards,

she researched Ozu and found out his masterful use of colour was something he was particularly celebrated for. Her senses were clearly on point.

But in truth, many aspects of his style changed the face of cinema forever. In fact, there are few filmmakers credited with such a distinct style. A technique called 'Pillow Shots' are particularly synonymous with the artist. These were short cutaways which began a scene. Imagine a gorgeous landscape or empty room held statically for five to six seconds. At the time, this was a radical departure from traditional filmmaking, but the enigmatic shots created a distinct mood, which then held for the entire scene.

Intergenerational struggles

Ozu was also known for his subject matter. "His films may not be particularly dramatic, but they captured ordinary people's everyday life in a detailed manner," Reiko explains. She references scenes of average familiar conversations on tatami-covered floors, which were the style for average Japanese people at the time. "Ozu's films depict the complexity of human behaviour in a simple but profound way, which I believe is hardly a uniquely Japanese issue and can easily be relevant to non-Japanese."

For those new to the director, Reiko recommends 'Tokyo Story', which is not only considered Ozu's best film, but also widely believed to be one of the best films ever made among critics. It tells the tale of intergenerational struggles, as two elderly parents leave their home village to visit their indifferent grown-up children in the city.

But as Reiko emphasises, there is more to the director than his most celebrated work. "To understand Yasujiro Ozu, we recommend that you watch as many works as possible on an occasion like this!" she says. We're sure Roger Ebert would agree. **👍**

ELECTRIC DREAMS

Festival

Sónar Reykjavík 2019 happens at Harpa from April 25th-27th. For tickets and further information visit sonarreykjavik.com.



Sónar Season (Part One)

Sónar Reykjavík 2019 is a cunningly curated lineup of emotionally-charged, intimate and rhythmic dance music

Fam, Sónar season is soon upon us. It's the annual three days of music, creativity and technology that brings together local and foreign lovers of beat-driven, dreamy, danceable and in any way technological music. Of the numerous exciting talents on the line-up, here are a few standouts and must-see audio-visual experiences to be had in the halls of Harpa this April.

Bruce (UK) b2b Ární (IS)

A guiding light in Iceland's bass music scene and one of Reykjavík's most skilled DJs, Ární Skeng will return to Sónar Reykjavík this year with a bang. Ární (formerly known as Skeng) will team up for a b2b set with Bruce—

whose outstanding, hi-tech musical expression knows no bounds. Bruce's debut album 'Sonder Somatic' was released last year on Hessle Audio, the unpredictable label that aided a redefinition of UK club music. Boom.

SiGRÚN (IS)

SiGRÚN's latest release 'Onælan' is an elegant rollercoaster bursting with spiritually-fuelled soundscapes, with dashes of breakbeat energy. She charges those soundscapes with emotional, experimental vocals over a blend of ambient, classical and dance infused music. Her intimate and heartfelt performances—with moments of radiant happiness and

grand sadness—perfectly distill the music's harmonious richness.

Allenheimer (IS)

Allenheimer's ethereal soundscapes might hit you hard and leave you in an existential mood, but his wall-of-sound bangers will put you in a pleasant daze—especially when mixed with his trademark visuals of heavily-manipulated analogue video signals. In January, he served up an acid techno remix of 'Ornamental' by local folk-and-reggae musician Teitur Magnússon, giving it an overall floor groove. What will he do next?

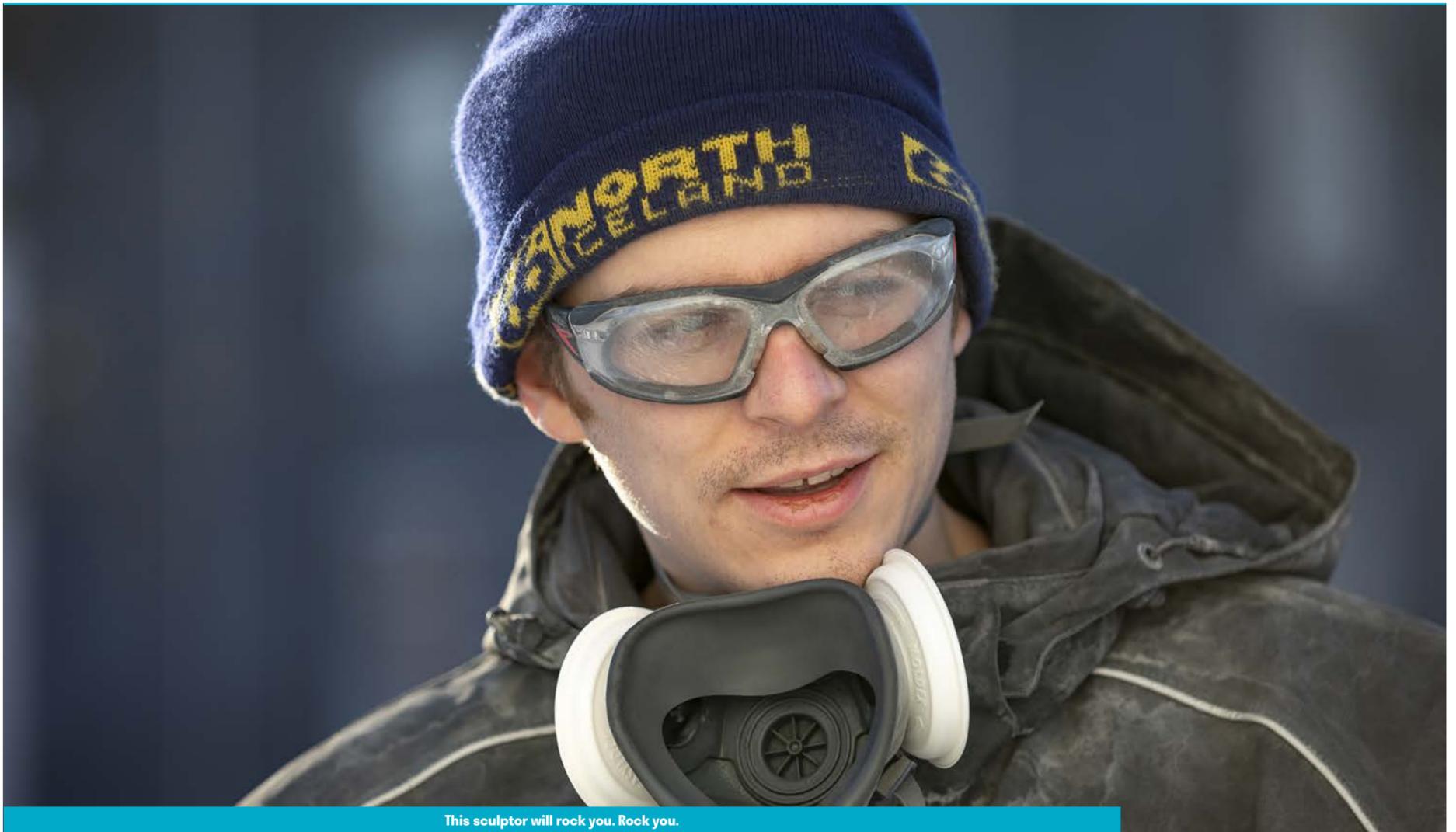
Objekt (UK)

Objekt's music is simultaneously complex, unexpected and extremely fun to listen to. His ongoing series of eponymous EPs are a motley collection of styles and an excellent entry-point that will keep you on your toes. His second LP—2018's 'Cocoon Crush'—contains playful odysseys and hauntingly-beautiful melodies. His Iceland debut is not to be missed.

The nuanced, while simultaneously offbeat approach each of these artists possess seems like a necessary, logical step in the right direction: something Reykjavík needs right now. I'm so excited, I just can't hide it. Stay tuned for Sónar Season Part Two in the next issue of the Grapevine. **👍**

Words:
Alexander Jean
de Fontenay

Photo:
Bruce (UK) and
Ární (IS) - Credit:
Suzana Benesova



This sculptor will rock you. Rock you.

New Sculptures, Old technique

Matthías Rúnar Sigurðsson's stone sculptures have beauty at their core

Words: Sam Daniels Photos: Art Bicnick

Sculptor

Check out Matthías' work online at [instagram.com/matthiasrunar/](https://www.instagram.com/matthiasrunar/) and in real life at the Ásmundarsalur museum

Iceland is a country that has, in a relatively short span of time, become a strong contender in the international art scene. From the early days where the small island dominated literature with the Sagas, to life in modern-day Reykjavík where large portions of the city act as blank canvases for street artists, it's a society that values individual expression and does its best to nurture budding artists.

All it takes is one look at the raw, untamed landscapes that Iceland has in abundance and you will very quickly understand. When you are surrounded by such phenomenal nature, it's almost impossible not to become inspired.

A city full of sculpture

Walking through Reykjavík, you are sure to notice the vast array of art that the city has to offer and, in particular, you are bound to take note of its many sculptures. From abstract pieces like Ásmundur Sveinsson's 'The Face of the Sun'—outside Reykjavík High School—to more traditional pieces like 'Man and Woman' by Tove Ólafsson in Hljómskálagarðurinn, they don't just add visual flair to the city, they reveal the ever-evolving story of Iceland.

One artist who is working hard to add his own chapter to this story is sculptor Matthías Rúnar Sigurðsson, whose seemingly traditional style of stone carving blends beautifully with

modernist elements to create something new and unique. Currently working in the gardens at Ásmundarsalur, which sits next to the Einar Jónsson Sculpture Garden, Matthías was only too happy to share some details of his work.

Traditional work, modern twist

Matthías began experimenting with different materials in 2010, originally working with clay. He soon started to find deeper inspiration when he discovered older sculptures made from bone and stone. Soon enough, he de-

ecided to try working with these materials himself. "We probably have better tools now than they did thousands of years ago," says Matthías, "so I could do this as well."

Though he learned a variety of techniques during his time at art school, when it comes to his stone carvings, Matthías is largely self-taught. "I have been working exclusively with stone since 2015," he says. "But now I am open to carving different materials. It's the whole carving thing that interests me. It doesn't have to be stone."

Bringing order to chaos

In his more recent work, Matthías has moved on to an Icelandic hard rock—similar to granite—that he sources from Icelandic quarries. "To begin with, I would just find the stones around the city, by the sea or maybe from building sites," he says. "For the past year, I have preferred to get the hard kind of stone and organise exactly what I am going to make. But recently I have been using the softer kind

of stone that I find lying about, because I am much quicker at working with it."

Matthías has a notably free-flowing style to his work. "Sometimes I

"It's the whole carving thing that interests me. It doesn't have to be stone."



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

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



A cat sculpture at Ásmundarsalur. This one can't run away from your strokes



Can you tell what it is yet?

might plan what I am going to do, I might sketch and get some ideas that way," he explains. "I might just draw some pictures in my book and I try to memorise them instead of having them before my eyes while I am carving. I try to recreate those drawings, or sometimes I get new ideas while carving."

"When you break the stone down it is kind of chaotic," he continues. "It doesn't have an even surface, and you may see something in that." It is a process that clearly excites Matthias and drives his creativity.

A feline persuasion

A common theme in Matthias' sculptural work has been cats. The reason, however, is surprising. "Cats have features that can be hard to memorise," he explains. "For one year I just made cats—

expressions of the cats I like. It's a unique challenge actually. I might do a few cat sculptures and then do something else in-between."

Matthias explained that there are no rules to what he does, aside from wearing a mask to avoid breathing in the stone dust. "The most difficult part of doing this is to just start doing it," he explains, stressing that the process requires patience. "While you may not see results right away, if you are persistent with it then the piece will eventually come through."

Sculptures: the next generation

"When you break the stone down it is kind of chaotic—you may see something in that."

As he showed off some of his latest work, Matthias explained that he takes inspiration from the tales of Icelandic folklore and a

lot of indirect inspiration from the Icelandic Eddas, which he has read many times. Interestingly, many of the figures in his sculptures, while animalistic in nature, have been given anthropomorphised features.

With Matthias' hand-carved creations becoming increasingly popular and growing—as rapidly as can be expected—in number, it's certain that his chapter of sculpture in Reykjavik will be one that stands out. 🐾



Fly like a stone cat, sculpt like a... bee?

BREAKFAST, BRUNCH, LUNCH, DINNER

Your journey to the Golden Circle starts at Þrastalundur



Great place to see the northern lights!



Lovely Restaurant with a Stunning View! We stopped @ Thrastalundur on our way to Geysir (40 min away). Everything about this place was just magical - the food, the coffee, the view and the team. Highly recommend for anyone who wants to rest in a very picturesque scenery and enjoy truly Icelandic hospitality! - *Aga J. - Tripadvisor.*

Food was so good, we came back twice! We really enjoyed eating at Þrastalundur Restaurant. We tried the lamb soup, fresh brook trout, and leg of lamb. It was a Sunday, and they had a lovely two-piece band playing. The staff really made us feel at home, and gave us some travel suggestions for the Golden Circle. We enjoyed it so much, we came back the next night for pizza, soup, and beer. - *Kim H. - Tripadvisor.*

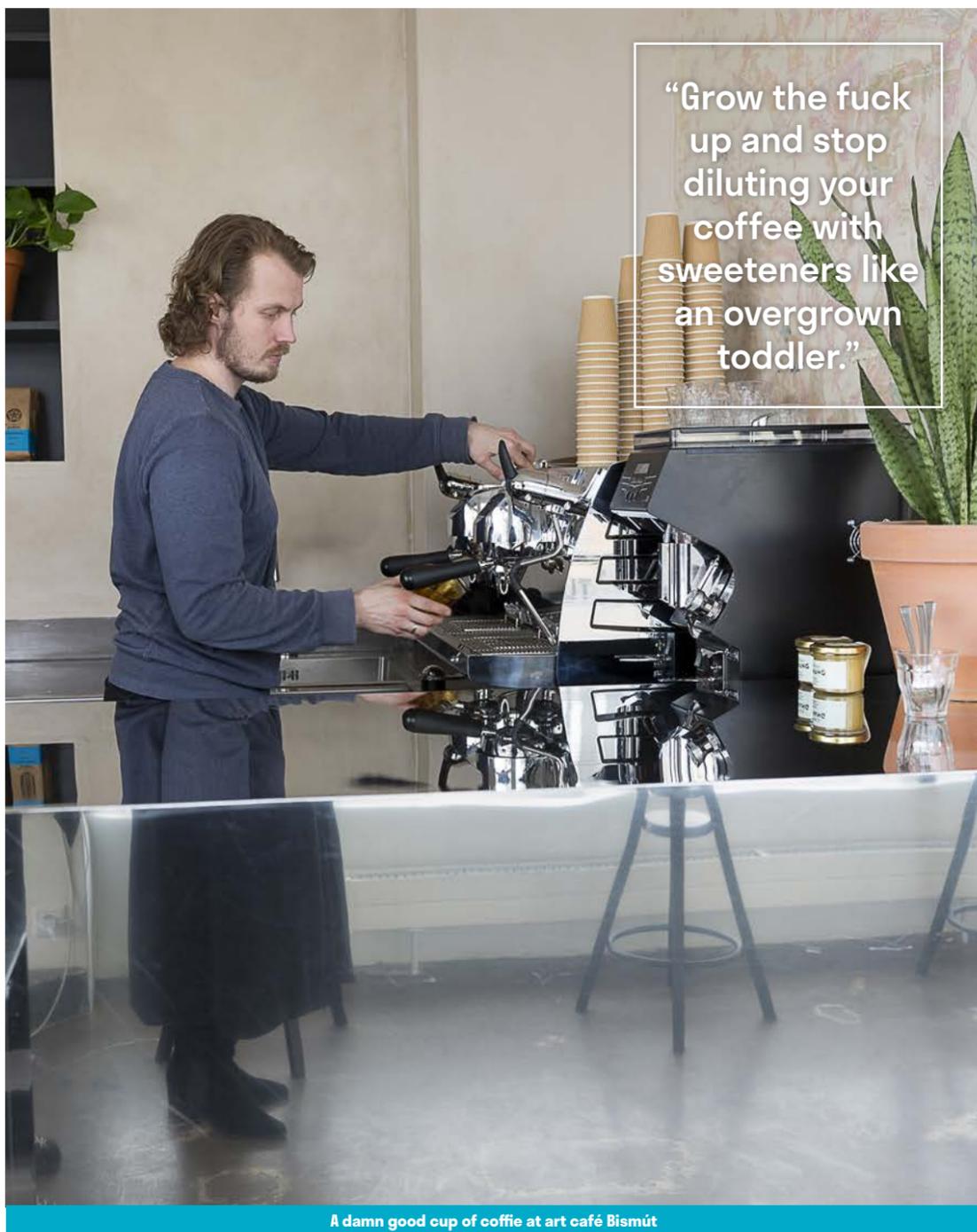
More than outstanding pizza Lovely restaurant situated in very scenic spot on a river bank. In summer one can see people fly fishing. The service was very good. Food was good and the atmosphere good. Will definitely go there a.s.a.p. Old but renovated in good taste. Brunch yummie. Thank you. I loved it - *Sigga Hallgr. - Tripadvisor.*

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SINCE 1928



“Grow the fuck up and stop diluting your coffee with sweeteners like an overgrown toddler.”

A damn good cup of coffee at art café Bismút

The Grapevine Guide To Coffee

Our art director loves caffeine, and he's here to help

Words: Sveinbjörn Pálsson Photos: Art Bicnick

First things first: There's no such thing as “best” when it comes to coffee advice. People have different palates and different needs, so really, this guide isn't so much geared to finding coffee for you as it is finding you and then getting some nice coffee. But that's totally fine, as you're probably in Iceland to find yourself anyway.



Third wave / Scandinavian coffee

In recent years, a new style of coffee-making has come forth that's all about roasting the coffee lightly so it's less bitter and burnt and leaves more of the beany taste behind. While Italian coffee is about consistency, third wave—what we call this new style—is about variety. Reykjavík Roasters has been the local standard bearer for third wave beans and cups. Pallett in Hafnarfjörður is also a popular place for this, especially among Grapevine journalists. Recently, upstart roastery Kvörn has been making (third) waves, as have Bismút and Kaffi Laugalækur, with Bismút winning



Italian coffee

First, you have classic Italian coffee. This is the dark-roast, bitter, thick brew that hits your palate in a sharp but pleasing way. The king of the crop here is Kaffifélagið, but Prikið also serves a gut-punch of an espresso that'll put hair on your chest, which can be unfortunate for women.

our coveted “Best Coffee House” award in this year's Best of Reykjavík Awards.



Transitional Style

I cribbed this term from typeface history to describe Kaffitár on Bankastræti, which has a brew that sits somewhere snugly between the two styles, darker than the fruity Scandinavian tones, but not quite the deep aroma of Italian.



African

African describes a super dark brew, or burnt, really, to my weak-ass palate. Many of my friends swear by it. I don't. The place of legend for this

style of coffee is Café Haiti, a place with a slightly corny decor and a good selection of cakes, or in other words, a relaxing, unpretentious space. The service is lovely and friendly, and it never seems very crowded.



A lovely latté

If you're looking for a consistently great latté, Te & Kaffi is the place to go. They have branches all over the place and will do even Starbucks-like frappos, but their regular coffee drinks are much better than what you'd expect from a chain, certainly a few steps above Starbucks, Costa, Segafredo and the like.



Just an espresso for me, takk

While not exactly a dedicated queer Most people that are into espressos go for the Italian variety, as the Scandinavian light roast can get pretty sour. Kaffifélagið is a popular spot.



Pumpkin spice latté frappuccino with extra sprinkles

Te & Kaffi are the best at “specialty orders”. By the way, I ordered their vaunted “Pumpkin Spice Latté” the other day, years after hearing Americans buzz about this drink of legend. Did you know that it's just a regular latté plus sugar and cinnamon? And most cafés have cinnamon that you can just get for free. Don't get a pumpkin spice latté! Grow the fuck up and stop diluting your coffee with sweeteners like an overgrown toddler. No time like the present. You can do it, we believe in you! 🍷



BEST OF REYKJAVÍK

Best Goddamn Bar

Winner: Kaffibarinn
Bergstaðastræti 1

KB is the hands-down winner here. Many bars come and go and redecorate and rename and put on bells and whistles, but Kaffibarinn has stayed the course for the better part of two decades—because it's just a really good, reliable place. “They have great drink selection, you can dance or sit and talk if you want, and the DJs are always on point,” said one panellist. The finest point of the place is perhaps the incredibly colourful staff, who always seem like a little family. Whether having a quiet happy hour beer or doing “Russian cocaine” shots at 3 a.m., Kaffibarinn is fucking awesome.



Prikið

Bankastræti 12

Prikið is a downtown staple. It's a really cool place in many senses, and has its own unique vibe unlike anywhere else in town. On top of being a great bar, it's a pretty awesome diner too with a kick-ass burger-and-beer happy hour. So you can go there the morning after too.



Húrra

Tryggvagata 22

This one's also pretty much a no-brainer, given that it's the kind of place that everyone can (and will) go to. There's plenty of space to chill, plenty of space to dance, a great concert programme, and it's totally mad on weekend nights. It's still young, but it's definitely a cool kid.

March 22nd—April 12th

In Your Pocket

Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

Perfect Day

A face of the downtown scene tells us how to spend a perfect day in Reykjavík



“It’s like Fyre Festival, only more extravagant and without the fraud!”

Words: Sam Daniels
Photo: Patrick Ontkovic

Tara Margrét Vilhjálmsdóttir

Tara Margrét Vilhjálmsdóttir is the chair of Iceland’s Association for Body Respect and is a strong voice for body positivity around the world. We reached out to find out what her perfect day in Reykjavík would be.

First thing in the morning

I wake up on a sunny day in Reykjavík. It’s my birthday. My hubby is making me pancakes to eat with my caramel latte and the newspaper. Weight stigma, bariatric surgery and dieting have been outlawed worldwide. Trump has been impeached and imprisoned for his crimes and Michelle Obama is now president of the USA. My dear friend and disability activist Freyja Haraldsdóttir just adopted her second child. TERFS (Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminists) never existed. Nobody does blackface on Halloween anymore. Poverty has been eradicated and global warming has been reversed. It’s looking

to be a good day!

Afternoon

After brushing up on the news, I go to **Árbæjarlaug** swimming pool to soak, relax, and maybe do a few laps. Árbæjarlaug has the best view of all the swimming pools in Reykjavík. The pool is full of people of all shapes and sizes just strutting their stuff in their swimsuits unapologetically. You can taste the body positivity in the air!

Dinner

I get my hair and makeup done and put on my favourite dress because me, hubby, and our friends are going to dinner at one of my favourite restaurants, **Sushi Social**, to celebrate my birthday. Our table is decked with sushi rolls and cocktails. Conversations are flowing. It’s just a cosy moment with my favourite people.

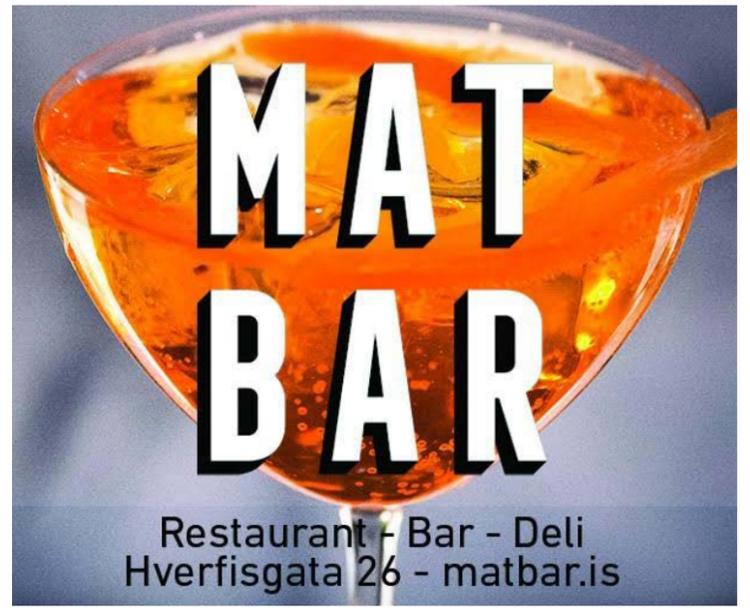
Evening

After dinner, we head down to

Reykjavík harbour, where a yacht is waiting to pick us up. Beyoncé and Jay-Z came to Iceland to renew their vows and we’re invited! They’ve leased **Viðey Island** for the celebration and made it into a tropical island just for the night. It’s like Fyre Festival, only more extravagant and without the fraud!

In the heat of the night

We keep partying into the night on Viðey. Cocktails and champagne are flowing but they are special types of drinks so you don’t get too drunk and have no hangover the next day. The vow renewal party is star-studded and filled with musical performances from the likes of Beyoncé herself, The Spice Girls, Rihanna, Justin Bieber and Lady Gaga. Serena Williams and Meghan Markle face off in a twerking competition while Blue chuckles. Hubby and I don’t get home until 6 in the morning, so we snuggle up on the balcony and watch the sunrise. ☺



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Venue Finder

Venues	Museums & Galleries
The numbers on the right (i.e. E4) tell you position on the map on the next page	
Austur Austurstræti 7 D3	ART67 Laugavegur 67 F7 Open daily 9-21
American Bar Austurstræti 8 D3	ASÍ Art Gallery Freyjugata 41 G6 Open Tue-Sun 13-17
Andrými Bergþorugata 20 G6	Aurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2 B1 Open 09-21
B5 Bankastræti 5 E4	Asgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74 G4 July 8-Sep 1, Mon-Fri
Bar Ananas Klappastigur 28 E5	Berg Contemporary Klappastigur 16 E5 Tu-F 11-18, Sat 13-17
Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54 E5	The Culture House Hverfisgata 15 E5 Open daily 10-17
Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20 E4	The Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksgröta 1 G5 Open Tue-Sun 10-17
Bravó Laugavegur 22 E5	Ekkisens Bergstaðast. 25b F4
Boston Laugavegur 28b E5	Galleri List Skiphólt 50A H10 M-F 11-18, Sat 11-16
Dillon Laugavegur 30 E5	Hafnarborg Strandgata 34, 220 D3 Open Wed-Mon 12-17
Dubliner Naustin 1-3 D3	Hitt Húsið Pósthússtræti 3-5 D4
English Pub Austurstræti 12 D3	Hverfisgalleri Hverfisgata 4 D4 Tu-Fri 13-17, Sat 14-17
Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22 D3	i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16 D3 Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17
Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a D3	The Penis Museum Laugavegur 116 F8 Open daily 10-18
Hressó Austurstræti 20 D3	Kírsuberjatræð Vesturgata 4 D3 M-F 10-18, Sat-Sun 10-17
Húrra Naustin D3	Kling & Bang Grandagarður 20 A4 W-Sun 14-18, Th 12-21
	Listastofan Hringbraut 119 A4 Open Wed-Sat 13-17
	Living Art Museum Grandagarður 20 A4 Tu-F 11-18, Sat 13-17
	Mokka Kaffi Skólavörðustíg. 3A E5 Open daily 9-18:30
	Museum Of Design and Applied Art Garðatorg 1 B2 Open Tu-Sun 12-17
	The National Gallery of Iceland Frikirkjuvegur 7 F3 Open daily 10-17
	The National Museum Sudurgata 41 G2 Open daily 10-17
	The Nordic House Sturluggata 5 H2 Thu-Fri 11-17, W 11-20
	Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17 D3 Open 10-17, Thu 10-22
	Kjarvalsstaðir Fískavörðugata 24 H8 Open daily 10-17
	Ásmundarsafn Sigtún D3 Open daily 10-17
	Reykjavík City Library Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-17
	Árbæjarsafn Kistuhyllur 4 D3 Open daily 9-18
	The Settlement Exhibition Adalstræti 16 D3 Open daily 9-18
	Reykjavík Museum of Photography Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-18
	Saga Museum Grandagarður 2 B2 Open daily 10-18
	Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum Leugarnestangi 70 D3 Open Tu-Sun 14-17
	SÍM Hafnarstræti 16 D3 Open Mon-Fri 10-16
	Tveir Hrafnar Baldursgata 12 G4 Open Fri-Sat 13-16
	Wind & Weather Window Gallery Hverfisgata 37 E5

Vital Info



Useful Numbers

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

Post Offices

The downtown post office is at Pósthússtræti 3-5, open Mon-Fri 09:00-18:00.

Pharmacies

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

Opening Hours - Bars & Clubs

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

Opening Hours - Shops & Banks

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

Swimming Pools

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

Public Toilets

Public toilets in the centre can be found inside the green-poster covered towers located at Hlemmur, 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 min
Fare: 460 ISK adults, 220 ISK children.
Buses run from 07-24:00, and 10-04:30 on weekends. More info at: www.bus.is.

A



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The Map

Get the bigger, more detailed version of The Reykjavik 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. Grillmarkaðurinn

Lækjargata 2a

The tasting menus with produce sourced from local purveyors have been a hit with diners since Grill Market opened its doors. We suggest choosing one of the set menus and letting the chefs go to town.

2. Hamborgarabúllan

Geirsgata 1

Hamborgarabúllan Tómasar is beloved among Icelanders for slinging honest, sweaty burgers to the masses. Would you not want to indulge in the meat options, try their chickpea-and-barley-based patties, which boast a texture that's very sumptuous. We approve!

3. Tapas Barinn

Vesturgata 3b

Tapas barinn may not be faithful to the Spanish definition of a tapas bar, but what they do capture well is the atmosphere and liveliness of tapas. The selection is huge, spanning local (langoustine, puffin, lamb) as well as more global fare. And it's delicious. If you're looking for a place where the food and drinks keep coming and the service never falters, look no further.

4. Reykjavik Roasters

Kárastigur 1

With an in-house roaster, a shiny, handmade Synesso and a regularly trained staff, this place serves the best coffee in town. Drop by for some 24-hour-brewed Peruvian cold brew and a fragrant cinnamon scone; then pick your favourite record and people-watch in this fast-paced environment.

5. Sandholt

Laugavegur 36

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

6. Matur og Drykkur

Grandagarður 2

In how many ways can we say, "eat here"? Is it the whole cod head you

should get, or perhaps the double-smoked dried lamb, or the creamy halibut soup? Whatever you get, rest assured it'll have roots in Icelandic culinary history, elevated to fine dining standards. And do not leave without trying the fried-to-order kleinur.

7. Systir

Hverfisgata 12

This sibling restaurant for the Michelin-starred Dill serves up á la carte dishes in the new Nordic style, a specially curated natural wine list, and some excellent cocktails all for a great price. Pick up a five course tasting menu for 5,990 ISK.

8. Taqueria la Poblana

Hlemmur Mathöll

Taqueria la Poblana serves "authentic Mexican tacos and other delicious fare from the region." Pick up soft homemade corn tortillas, fresh chili sauces, and a michelada crowned with spices to wash it down."

9. Apótek

Austurstræti 16

Even though Apótek is up there in price when it comes to dining, the two- and three-course lunch offer is great value for money and perfect for when you want to stretch that lunch hour to the tilt. Furthermore, with an awarded head mixologist at the counter, this place offer the best cocktails in town in their slightly Oriental lounge bar.

10. Mandi

Veltusund 3b

Here you'll find the perfect lunch for a sunny day, the perfect meal after a night out and the best bite for your hangover. Whatever it is you crave, the friendly staff of Mandi understands. No fries in town rival Mandi's, seasoned with chilli and garlic sauce. They also prepare the freshest hummus and tastiest shawarmas—just remember to ask for extra spice. They'll know what you mean.

Drinking

11. Kex Hostel

Skúlagata 28

Despite being a hostel bar, KEX Hostel kind of transcend that description, with an amazing sea view over Faxaflói and Mount Esja, beautiful décor and a large wraparound bar. It's especially fun if they've got a

live show booked, with the bonus of great food and a good beer selection.

12. Kiki Queer Bar

Laugavegur 22

If you're looking for Kiki, walk until you see the building that is entirely rainbow. The only dedicated queer bar in Iceland, Kiki is beloved by all the local gays, lesbians and in-betweens. There, find drag shows, queer concerts, and hot sweaty dance floors every weekend night. They also have glitter shots for 500 ISK.

13. Loft

Bankastræti 7a

Loft stands many heads and shoulders above most of the al fresco drinking spots in Reykjavik, not least because it's on the roof of the Loft Hostel and has a balcony that looks over downtown. Before the evening-time entertainment begins, it's the perfect place to catch some late-afternoon sun.

14. Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

With a saloon-like atmosphere in the daytime, when dogs and kids run around amongst the diehard local crowd and groups of confused tourists, Kaffibarinn turns into an all-out party during the small hours of the weekend. Whether you're holiday day-drinking or getting messy, it never fails to amuse.

15. Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

If you prefer your music grungy, raw and weird, then Gaukurinn is your place. With dim lights, leather sofas and a gender neutral bathroom, it's become the perfect hangout for the unorthodox Reykjavíkingar, so if you're looking for like-minded peeps to drink with, here you go.

16. Miami

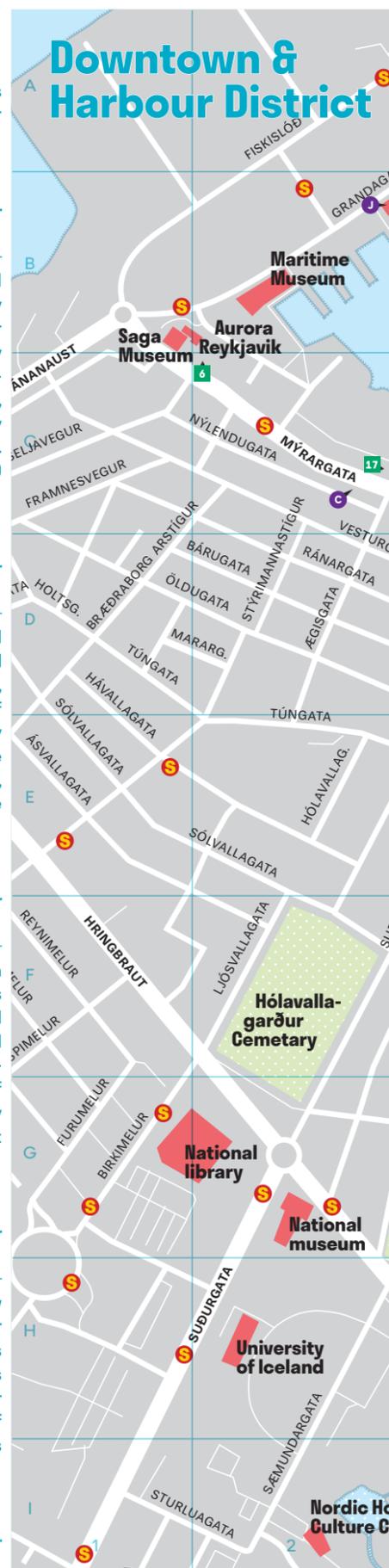
Hverfisgata 33

Reykjavik's new out-and-proud theme bar takes on the Magic City of the '80s. With a sharp aesthetic, Miami serves up pure vice with a splash of cosmopolitanism and a dedicated ping-pong room in the basement. It's pricey, but it has a good happy hour, the cocktail menu was crafted by mixology veterans, and the wine and champagne list is well-curated.

17. Slippbarinn

Mýrargata 2

This standard go-to bar for cocktails holds its own as far as the mixing game goes, with a unique menu and highly skilled bartenders to shake them up. The bar itself is a beautifully designed space with a gorgeous view, right in the Old Harbour.



18. Bastard Brew & Food

Vegamótastígur 4

This rooftop bar is located on the top of the cavernous Gamla Bíó theatre. It has loads of seating with soft furniture to luxuriate on, a view across the harbour, cocktails, and all the sun you could wish for.

Shopping

19. Spúútnik

Laugavegur 28b

This well-curated clothing emporium is more like a secondhand clothing boutique than a charity shop. It's expensive but it's all imported stuff



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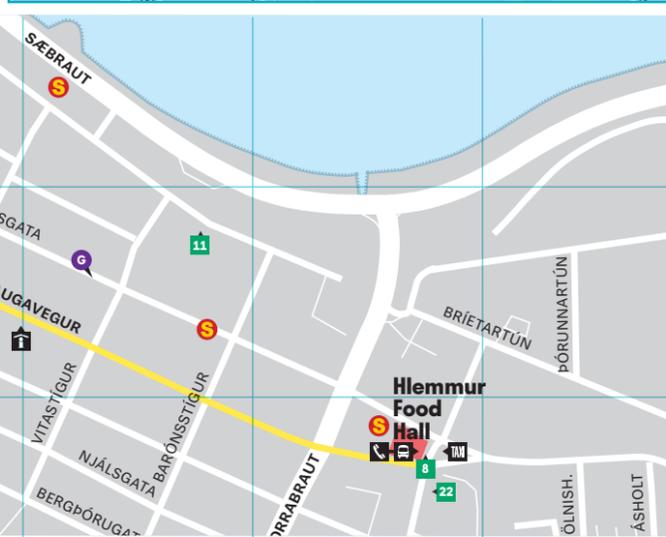
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New In Town



Mathöll Höfða
Bildshöfði 9

Reykjavik is a speedy city: the latest measurements show it can accelerate from 0-3 food halls in as many years. The newest kid on the block is aiming to make the 110 postcode great again. Located in a tucked away commercial-industrial area, Mathöll Höfða has a wide range of offerings, from the "upper class street food" of the Gastro Truck to New Nordic cuisine at Hipstur and East Iceland craft brews from the Beljandi Bar. We'll be checking it out in more detail soon, so stay tuned. **JR**

you won't find anywhere else.

20. Fischer

Fischersund

More art installation than regular store, the "Sigur Rós shop" is an aesthetic environment with a soothing soundtrack, sweet scents floating in the air, and a natural, earthy colour palette. They sell a range of amazing things, from hand-picked herbal tea, to artworks, records, and custom herbal scents.

21. Bókin

Klapparstígur 25-27

Bókin is the kind of place you'd imagine an eccentric genius spends his afternoons. They have a great

selection of used books and rare Icelandic publications. It's the best place for a treasure hunt or simply to get lost in a quiet, dusty maze.

22. Lucky Records

Rauðararstígur 10

Lucky Records is probably the biggest record shop in Iceland, with shelves upon shelves of new and used vinyl and CDs on offer. They have a small stage where local and visiting bands sometimes perform and stock classics and limited editions,

23. Farmers And Friends

Hólmaslóð 2 & Laugavegur 37

If you want to pick up an Icelandic sweater, peruse the Farmers Market

outlet. Their wares combine Nordic style with a fresh aesthetic, providing you with a modern take on traditional pieces.

24. Tulipop

Skólavörðustígur 43

Tulipop serves up everything from lamps to wallets all covered in the cutest monsters you'll ever see. The Icelandic brand's flagship store is an explosion of pastels and neons. Stop here for gifts, souvenirs, or just a little adorable pick-me-up.

25. Yeoman Boutique

Skólavörðustígur 22b

Fashion designer Hildur Yeoman's boutique is a must-see. As well as her

own womenswear—characterised by flowing shapes made with colourful, busy prints—the store features work by an assortment of Hildur's fellow designers, as well as shoes, jewellery, French tea and other trinkets.

26. Rauðhetta & Úlfurinn

Skólavörðustígur 8

In a sense Rauðhetta & Úlfurinn is a Reykjavik classic. It's been around for over a decade, and the service is congenial without being overbearing. People are loyal to their favourite hairdresser, meaning some of them have long waiting lists, but pop in and try your luck.

G

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Sigurpáll is going through a Tears For Fears phase and we support him

ARTIST PLAYLIST

Sigurpáll's Bagdad Inspo

Words: John Rogers & Sigurpáll Viggó Snorrason
Photo: Patrik Ontkovic

Sigurpáll Viggó Snorrason is the guitarist in fast-rising New Icelandic indie band bagdad brothers. Winners of the Grapevine's Best Live Act award for 2018, they're an effervescent spectacle full of good vibes, jangly tunes and fresh energy. Here are a few of the key tracks that shaped Sigurpáll's musical outlook.

Stuðmenn - Út á stoppistöð

This one is absolutely ridiculous. I'm still trying to figure out what "Valinkunnur skríll" means, and who "Kalli" and "Bimbó" are. Amazing track, though; always gets me in a slightly better mood. Let's party in the 70's with Stuðmenn and get the summer vibes going.

Bedroom - Nothing Lasts

This is the perfect heartbreak song... maybe the title gave that away, I don't know. It's packed with emotions and catchy melodies. I love it. Maybe it's the imperfect recordings, the catchy yet very simple guitar riff or just the very raw and honest emotion of this song I find so inspiration-

al, but every single time I hear this song I have the urge to grab a guitar and play something—just anything.

Valdimar - Beðið eftir skömminni

This is one of Valdimar's finer works. Beautiful, echoing guitar blended in with some amazing synth-sounds, and then Valdimar's voice on top of it all. I listen to their album "Um stund" on a regular basis—it's a great record—and this track always stands out to me.

GRÓA - EoEo

From the first time I saw GRÓA play, I have watched them grow and completely outrun the rest of us in this scene. This is my favorite track from their self-titled debut album. It's GRÓA doing what they do best: a groovy beat with that amazing bass-line and

"Every single time I hear this song I have the urge to grab a guitar and play something."

fantastic vocals. I'm just waiting for GRÓA to release some of their new material. They play it a lot on their shows lately, it's awesome—check it out.

Unknown Mortal Orchestra - Swim and Sleep (Like a Shark)

Aaaaah! This lead guitar! It's fantastic! WAIT here come the vocals! Oh shit! This quickly became one of my all time favorite tracks, beautiful lyrics wrapped up in a cozy melody and wonderful guitars—I couldn't really ask for more. Oh yeah: the music video is also fantastic.

Steely Dan - Hey Nineteen

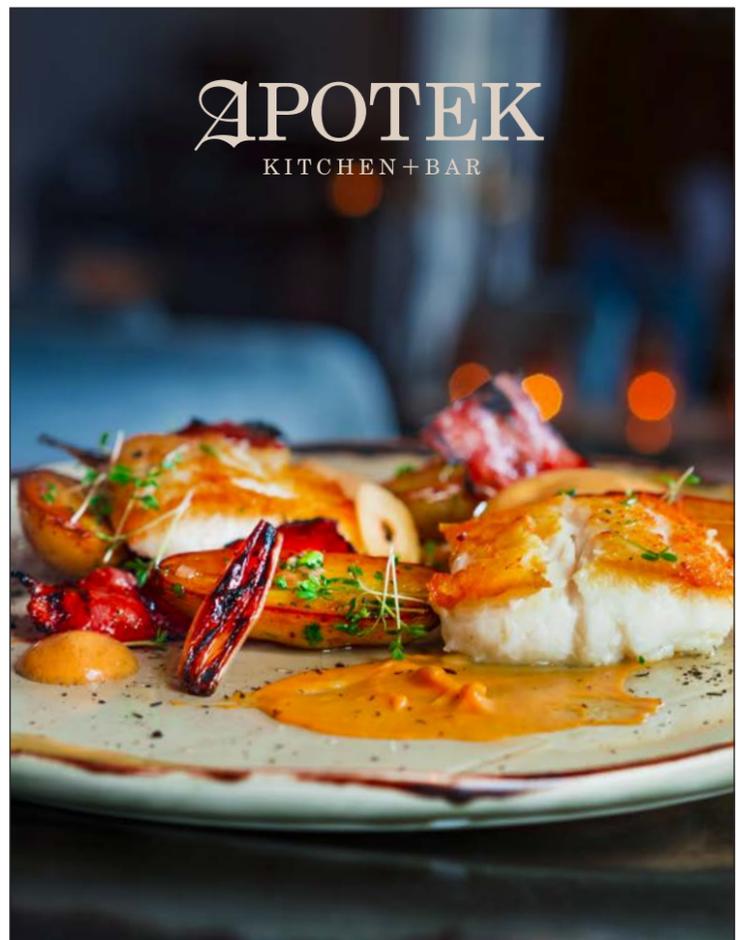
This is where the dad rock in me peaks. This one goes way back to my childhood where my dad used to put this song on every time I climbed into his 1999 Toyota Land Cruiser. "This is real rock 'n' roll," he claimed.

K.óla - Undir trjánum

I remember when I heard this song for the first time at Húrra. It blew my mind. This playful bass line blended in with Katrín's beautiful vocals is just amazing. I miss seeing her play live though. Hope she will in the near future.

Tears for Fears - Everybody Wants to Rule The World

I umm... I'm going through a phase. 🐶

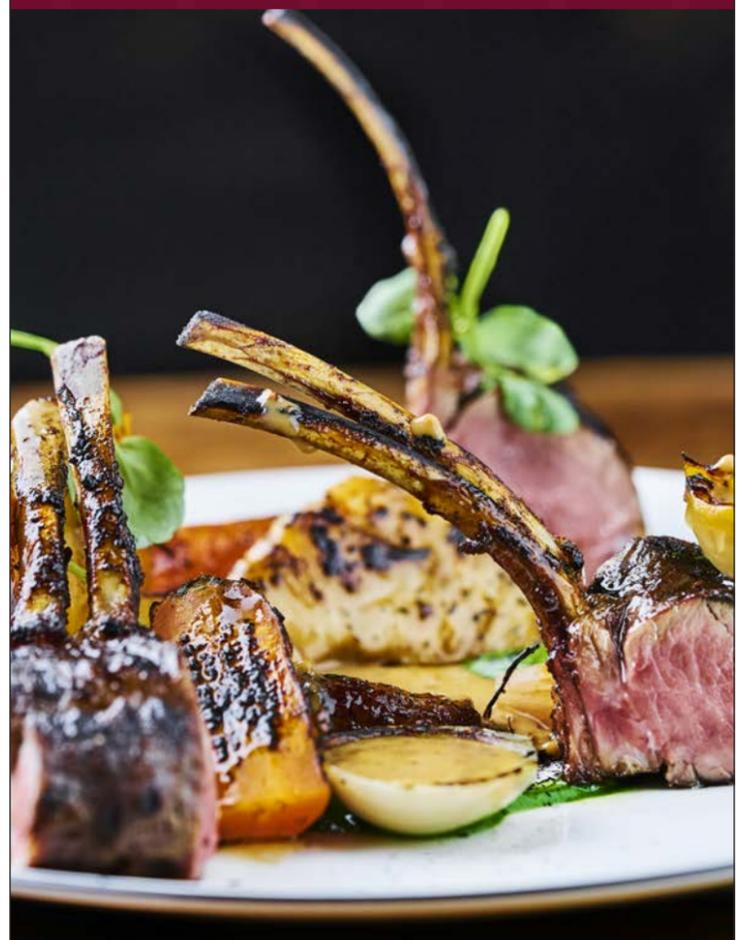


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Music



Chill boys having harmless street fun

Celebrate The Filth

Örmagna paves a new path in Icelandic black metal

Words: Illugi Þór Kristinsson Photo: Art Bicnick

Throughout its lifetime, Icelandic black metal has never been linked to good vibes, smiles and rainbows. Nor has black metal in general. After hearing Örmagna's self-titled debut album, which came out in early February, this becomes abundantly apparent.

One could argue that the current wave of Icelandic black metal is too recent to adhere to tradition, but there are threads that tie the scene together. Örmagna, though, is going their own way, both topically and musically.

A solo venture (in good company)

Örmagna (which translates to 'Exhausted') is the brainchild of Ö, who wished to remain anonymous for the article. The musician's claim to fame is most notably being the frontman for local black metal group Naðra as well as being a member of various black metal projects for the last decade or so, for example Nvll, Mannveira, Dys-thymia and many more. Örmagna is, however, the first that we hear from Ö that puts his own, personal writing efforts on display.

"It started with riffs and ideas I had for some of my other projects but they perhaps didn't fit perfectly with what they were doing, so the material was sidelined but I kept coming back to it," Ö explains. "Before I knew it, I had puzzled together the first song. Shortly after, I had recruited members to assist in making the project come alive." These anonymous members mostly come from the other projects Ö is involved in.

Straying from the beaten path

Musically, Örmagna may not be the

harshest or most brutal band out there, but even at their most melodic and groove-laden, such as in the title track of the album, there is this harrowing sense of sadness. It leans to the side of traditional black metal rather than the more dissonant, contemporary stuff, but breaks into doomy, heavy passages every now and then, which keeps things from going stale.

"The songs portrayed a different feeling than the other stuff I did; the lyrical themes are more in the area of addiction, abuse and lethargy. The closer to the bottom of being human, the better," explains Ö. This is evident in the album's closing track, 'Dansar Saur og Saurlífis,' which roughly translates to 'Dance of Filth and Deviance'.

Down and dirty

The vocals, though, are what truly sets Örmagna aside from their contemporaries. They often sound more like distressed yelling than howls, which just adds to the general feeling of despair throughout the album, making the songs significantly more gritty than grandiose, and giving the feeling that some point is being made rather than just trying to scare the shit out of the listener. There are some clean vocals thrown in as well, which feel a bit unpolished, but fit in well with the overall atmosphere of the album.

Örmagna's debut release is an ambitious effort that provides an interesting parallel to the already established flora of Reykjavík black metal in its own bent and broken way. "We plan on going abroad in the near future and playing some new material we've been working on," Ö says. "And maybe sobering up a bit for the next album." ♡

gpv.is/music
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AUÐUR, shredding

MUSIC NEWS The tiny rural music festival **Bræðslan** has announced the lineup for its 2019 edition.

Located in the far-flung village of Bakkagerði in Borgarfjörður Eystri, it's one of Iceland's most remote music festivals—the town hit the news a few years ago when locals took it upon themselves to repair the potholed track that leads through the cliffs to get there. For those who make the journey, a fun time awaits: this year, **AUÐUR** and **GDRN** bring 101 to 720, accompanied by **Dr. Spock**, **Jón Jónsson & Friðrik Dór**, **Jónas Sigurðsson**, **Söldógg**, and **Dúkkulísur**. Tickets are 9,300 ISK. Get more info at braedslan.is.



Patti Smith is made for lovers

The **Secret Solstice** festival—under new management this year—has announced a couple of international big hitters joining the 2019 festival lineup. Eternally cool hippie earth-mother mystic folk revolutionary art lady **Patti Smith** will dance barefoot on the big stage, along with unfortunately unavoidable pop act **Black Eyed Peas**. These two join trip-hop almost-weres **Morcheeba**, Russian riot grrrl activists **Pussy Riot**, techno legend **Mr. G**, American House DJ **Kerri Chandler** and US veteran DJ and producer **MK**. Tickets are on sale now.



Dark lord Sólla

One third of Kælan Mikla, **Sólveig Matthildur** has announced her second solo album. "Constantly In Love," is due to be released by Artofact on vinyl, CD and download on April 19th. The ten track release is the follow-up to her lauded debut, "Unexplained Miseries & The Acceptance Of Sorrow," which won Sólveig a Grapevine Music Award in 2017. It's her first album to be recorded in English, so now people outside Iceland can understand for the first time just how sad this music is. **JR**

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28/3 LUCY IN BLUE

29/3 BRAIN POLICE
SUPPORT BY THRILL OF CONFUSION

30/3 JOHN DAVIS (US), BRÖTT BREKKA, DISCIPLINE, BÖRN

31/3 HANS.MOV [NIGHT] - CULT MOVIE NIGHT WITH HANS THE DRAG MONARCH

3/4 GRÚSKA BABÚSKA, MIMRA

5/4 DRAG-SÚGUR QUEER VARIETY SHOW
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14-21

VÍKING
Létíól

Our Picks



★ The Icelandic Music Experiments

March 30th - April 6th - Various Times - Harpa - 1,500-2,000 ISK

What do Of Monsters And Men, Mammút, Vök and Jónsi in Sigur Rós all have in common? No, the answer is not that they're all Icelandic (although that's also true). The answer is that long before hitting the big time, they all partici-

pated in Músíktílaunir (Music Experiments). The annual competition is a beloved event on Iceland's social calendar and has always been a magnet for Iceland's best and most promising music talents before they become world famous. Although the evening is filled with unpolished diamonds, it's also a great place to see what the youngsters are thinking about music-wise. So if you want to discover the next Sigur Rós, this is the place to be. **VG**



★ IMPRA

March 31st - 18:00 - Frikkirkjan - 1,000 ISK

Impra is an all-female vocal ensemble that showcases the best music written by women. **Feminism! HJC**



★ John Davis / Brött Brekka / Discipline & Börn

March 30th - 22:00 - Gaukurinn - 1,000 ISK

Two local rock groups. One dark-wave Lynch heroine. And John Davis—for reference: not the frontman of Korn, a different John Davis. He will give you a folk-explosion the likes of which you've never seen from Jonathan Davis. **HJC**



★ Úlfur Úlfur

March 30th - 22:00 - Húrra - 2,000 ISK

Úlfur Úlfur, tarantúlar, is back! Check out their new disco rap track, 'Hræði', then see it live. **HJC**



★ Can't think just feel #3

March 29th - 20:30 - Loft - Free!

In this iteration of MSEA's concert series, new-wave goth, synth-wave, ambient, what have you, Grapevine favourite Port takes the stage along with the Kate Bush-esque Íriis and notorious weird guy Umer Consumer. This'll be a weird show. Get prepared. **HJC**

March 22nd—April 12th

Concerts & Nightlife

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

Friday March 22nd

- Vök Album Release Party**
19:00, 21:00 IDNÓ
- Devine Defilment / Grit Teeth / Gamli / Dead Herring & Camino**
22:00 Gaukurinn
- Rock & Roll Can Never Die: Sverrisson Hotel / Gunk / Toivoton Keis**
21:00 Hard Rock Café
- DJ Young Nazareth**
23:00 Prikið
- DJ Dominatricks**
23:00 Kaffibarinn
- DJ Óli Dóri**
22:00 Bravó
- ViBES Collective**
23:30 Húrra
- Troubadour Arnar & Ingunn**
21:00 American Bar
- ROT: Funky Blues Night**
22:00 Dillon
- Mosi DJ Set**
22:00 Boston
- Frisky Fridays: Karl & Hjörtur**
22:00 Vintage Box
- Svartidauði: Album Release Concert**
20:00 Húrra

Saturday March 23rd

- ★ **Bára Gísladóttir & Skúli Sverrisson**
21:00 Mengi
- DJ Bensol**
23:00 Kaffibarinn
- Icelandic Opera: La Traviata**
20:00 Harpa
- 101 Savage & Snorri Ástráðsson**
23:00 Prikið
- DJ Karítas**
22:00 Bravó
- DJ Oktavdj**
23:00 Paloma
- Collective / Kima & Meistarar Dauðans**
22:00 Gaukurinn
- DJ Battlestar x Fusion Groove**
23:00 Húrra
- Troubadour Biggi & Rosa**
21:00 American Bar
- Sneaky Saturday: DJ Seth Sharp**
22:00 Vintage Box
- GG Blues**
22:00 Dillon
- Pan the man DJ Set**
22:00 Boston

Heiða Ólafs

20:00 Salurinn

Sunday March 24th

- Aldís Fjöla**
20:30 Hard Rock Café
- DJ Símon FKNHNDMSM**
21:00 Kaffibarinn
- Sunday Jazz**
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
- Álfbear**
21:00 Bravó
- Troubadour Hlynar Ben**
22:00 American Bar
- Sing Together With Skotfélagið**
14:00 Hannesarholt

Monday March 25th

- Sunna Gunnlaugs Trio & Vernerí Pohjola**
20:00 Harpa
- MonJazz**
21:00 Húrra
- DJ John BRNLV**
21:00 Kaffibarinn
- Troubadour Addi Fridriks**
22:00 American Bar

Tuesday March 26th

- Karaoke Party!**
21:00 Gaukurinn
- DJ Terrordisco**
21:00 Kaffibarinn
- Troubadour Biggi**
22:00 American Bar
- The Reykjavik City Band: Winds From All Directions**
20:00 Harpa

Wednesday March 27th

- Múlinn Jazz Club: Ómar Einarsson Jazz Quartet**
21:00 Harpa
- Charles Ross & Katherine Wren**
21:00 Mengi
- Don Lockwood Band**
21:00 Slippbarinn
- Party Karaoke With Þórunn Antonía**
21:00 Sæta Svinið
- Wednesday Jazz Night**
22:00 Miami
- DJ Silja Glommi**
21:00 Prikið
- DJ Fro\$ty**

- 21:00 Kaffibarinn
- DJ Einar Sonic**
21:00 Bravó
- Troubadour Siggi Thorbergs**
22:00 American Bar
- Blues Jam: Beggi Smári & Bexband**
21:30 Dillon

- 23:00 Kaffibarinn
- African Dance Party: Cheick Bangoura**
21:00 IDNÓ
- Kollvarpið: Godchilla / Spünk / Korter í flog / hXcLaxness**
20:00 Bravó
- DJ Oktavdj**



The mighty Prince Polo

Thursday March 28th

- Dillon Jazz Jam: Mókrokar**
21:30 Dillon
- Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Open Rehearsal**
9:30 Harpa
- Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Mendelssohn & Beethoven**
19:30 Harpa
- Hófi & Gunnar**
21:00 Petersen svítan
- DJ Gunni Ewok**
21:00 Prikið
- DJ Sonur Sæll**
21:00 Kaffibarinn
- DJ Battlestar**
21:00 Bravó
- Troubadour Hreimur & Matti Matt**
22:00 American Bar
- Krossfest I: Dead Herring / Snowed In / CXVII / Þóranna**
20:00 Sólvallagata 79
- Lucy In Blue**
22:00 Gaukurinn
- DJ Kári**
22:00 Miami

Friday March 29th

- Brain Police**
22:00 Gaukurinn
- Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Dancing Symphony**
18:00 Harpa
- Can't think just feel #3: PORT / Íriis & Umer Consumer**
20:30 Loft
- ★ **Red Bull Academy Presents: Afsakanir**
21:00 Gamla Bíó
- Vesna**
22:00 Dillon
- Pink Iceland's Queer Fridays: Ukelluller**
21:00 Pink Iceland
- DJ KGB**

- 23:00 Paloma
- Mosi DJ Set**
22:00 Boston
- Rockabilly Party: The Swamp Shakers**
22:00 Hard Rock Café
- DJ Styrmir**
23:00 Húrra
- Múlinn Jazz Club: Sigríður Thorlacius & Trio Uppáhellingarnir**
21:00 Harpa

Saturday March 30th

- ★ **The Icelandic Music Experiments**
19:30 Harpa
- Prins Póló**
22:00 Hard Rock Café
- Icelandic Opera: La Traviata**
20:00 Harpa
- Bluegrass In Harpa**
15:00 Harpa
- DJ Spegill**
23:00 Prikið
- Cryptochrome / Seint & Regn**
18:00 R6013
- DJ Margeir**
23:00 Kaffibarinn
- Shag Presents!**
22:00 Bravó
- Pan the man DJ Set**
22:00 Boston
- DJ KGB**
23:00 Húrra
- GG Blues**
22:00 Dillon
- SMIT 7" Record Release**
17:00 Mengi
- ★ **John Davis / Brött Brekka / Discipline & Börn**
22:00 Gaukurinn
- ★ **Úlfur Úlfur**
22:00 Húrra

Sunday March 31st

- Sunday Jazz**
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
- DJ Silja Glommi**
21:00 Kaffibarinn
- ★ **The Icelandic Music Experiments**
19:30 Harpa
- Welcome Home: Gulli Björnsson**
16:00 Harpa

Monday April 1st

- ★ **The Icelandic Music Experiments**
19:30 Harpa
- MonJazz**
21:00 Húrra

Tuesday April 2nd

- ★ **The Icelandic Music Experiments**
19:30 Harpa
- Karaoke Party!**
21:00 Gaukurinn

Wednesday April 3rd

- Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Star Wars Film Screening & Live Performance**
19:30 Harpa
- Don Lockwood Band**
21:00 Slippbarinn
- Party Karaoke With Þórunn Antonía**
21:00 Sæta Svinið
- Tom Waters Trio**
21:30 Dillon
- Wednesday Jazz Night**
22:00 Miami

Thursday April 4th

- Vile Creature / ROHT / Kvelja / Grafnár**
18:00 R6013
- Bjarni Ómar**
20:30 Hard Rock Café
- Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Star Wars Film Screening & Live Performance**
19:30 Harpa
- Geir Ólafsson & Band**
21:00 Petersen svítan
- Grúska Babúska & MIMRA**
21:00 Gaukurinn
- Wednesday Jazz Night**
22:00 Miami



For music listings from April 5th to April 12th, check out happening.grapevine.is or our app Appening, available on iOS and Android

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Music

“We were wondering where this spontaneous music came from.”



Let's talk about sax baby

The Immeasurable And The Unsaid

Tumi Árnason and Magnús Trygvason Eliassen release their intimate debut 'Allt er ómælið'

Words: **Phil Uwe Widiger** Photo: Magnús Andersen

Album

Tumi Árnason and Magnús Trygvason Eliassen's new album 'Allt er ómælið' is now available on [Bandcamp](#).

“Everything is immeasurable,” said the pre-Socratic Greek philosopher Anaximander. Did he actually predict that sometime in the future, there would be a music genre called jazz? We might never know. But drum and saxophone duo Tumi Arnason and Magnús Trygvason Eliassen decided to name their album after this particular statement regardless—and it makes perfect sense.

The creative void

“In Icelandic, it’s also a play on words,” says Tumi, a saxophonist who performs with various Icelandic bands. “It suggests that there is something unsaid.”

The record is comprised of free improvised music. Some of the songs are spontaneous improvisations, whereas others have slowly evolved over time. There are underlying song structures that the listener will never hear—and this is where we find the unsaid and immeasurable.

“We were wondering where this spontaneous music came from,” remembers Tumi. “Improvisation is always also an interplay between

the musicians and their relationship. It doesn’t really come from nothing, but there are still a lot of things that didn’t exist before. Or at least, things we didn’t know existed.”

Two musicians one roof

Magnús and Tumi had been collaborating regularly for a few years, but this is the first time they’ve released their work as a physical record. If you listen to the first track of the album, entitled “You can have it,” with headphones, it sounds as if you were standing right next to them at the moment of the recording.

“We recorded the album in this tiny studio on the top floor of Iðnó, right under the roof,” says Tumi. “We just set up the drums in one corner, and I was in another corner.”

Alive and dry

All the songs on 'Allt er ómælið' were recorded live. Tumi had been experimenting with using effects on the saxophone for many years, and one can hear the value of this experience listening to the record. He says that this album is more “alive and dry” than some of the other stuff he has done.

“There were tiny parts that I wanted to change,” remembers Tumi. “But it was better to leave them in. That way, it’s more real and authentic.”

Jazz & co.

The outcome is an album ripe with intimacy—and arguably the first Icelandic sax and drum record ever released. “Seeing how productive the music scene here is, I feel it’s a shame how little of this type of music finds its way onto physical records,” says Tumi. “One of the reasons why I wanted to do this record was to prove that it’s not that unrealistic.”

The Icelandic jazz scene sometimes seems to be set apart from the all the other music in the country. According to Tumi, we not only need to see more of its experimental side, but it would also benefit from blending and cross-pollinating with other genres at concerts. Some hardcore, some jazz, and then some electronica—R6013, are you listening?

A record on global warming

Both Magnús and Tumi are busy people, and while Tumi is about to release the third full length record with his band Grísalappalísa this summer, they’re also working on another record together.

“I still want to do a sax, drum and bass trio record,” says Tumi. “But now I also have this other idea I can’t shake out of my head. I really want to do a record about global warming. And I think Magnús will be on it as well.”

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Vök, ready to play a concert or sell you some LA real estate

Dancing In The Dark

Vök turn to pop on their new record

Words: Rex Beckett Photo: Sigga Ella

Album & Concert

Vök's album release show is at [Iðnó](#) on March 22nd and they play in [Akureyri](#) on March 23rd. They are on tour in Europe throughout April.

In a small pink, neon-lit basement studio in a remote part of Reykjavik, the members of the band Vök are coiling cords and packing up their gear after shooting a press video. Having just returned from touring in Eastern Europe, multi-instrumentalists Margrét Rán Magnúsdóttir and Einar Stef, and drummer Bergur Einar Dagbjartsson, have this process down to a science, methodically gathering equipment into various cases while carrying on casual conversation.

In the dark

Having risen to international prominence over the years since breaking out at the Músíktílaunir music contest in 2013, Vök are garnering more attention back home since the release of their latest album, 'In The Dark'.

"It's more immediate and accessible stuff," says Margrét, about the uptick in local interest. "They are liking the pop stuff."

Indeed, the new album is a large step away from the colder, mellow electropop of their previous album 'Figure'. Vök used the opportunity to challenge themselves to create a highly accessible record full of

shiny power-pop songs. "We tried to keep the old soundscape, but just make it accessible," says Bergur. "It would have been way easier to just make the same album with the same sounds, just new songs. Making it more accessible is a new step. It's better than doing the same thing over and over again."

Writing pop

The writing process was led by Margrét and Einar, who together laid out clear intentions from the onset. "We made a massive playlist with the sound we wanted to aim for," says Margrét. "We had Tame Impala, The Weeknd, Little Dragon, MGMT, a bit of eighties, a bit of now." The songs then began from Margrét creating a half-formed concept, then passing it off to Einar to continue, and then merging the process together before bringing it to their new producer, James Earp.

"He's a major pop producer so we had to step back a little bit," says Margrét. "We had to put down some ground rules. I think we were dancing on the line of being commercial." His influence had a huge impact on the result, notably with the single "Erase You," which Mar-

grét wrote with James over two days. "He really pushed my singing," she says. "He was really controlling to push me to use my voice more, so you can hear more of a power-pop diva."

Finding vulnerability

Although they say they were all doing well at the time of writing, Margrét tried to dig back into sadder, more vulnerable aspects of human emotion lyrically. "It's basically about broken relationships," says Margrét. "I kinda went a bit back to get rid of stuff. Bad friendships, relationships, heartbreak. It's really normal human stuff but it's more personal."

At present time, the band's lineup and their roles have changed drastically from where it began and they say this feels like a fresh start. Their focus now is with their audience. "It's really fun playing the new

stuff live," says Margrét. "It has really changed the dynamic and you can feel more energy from the crowd." "More screams, less depression," adds Bergur. "Well, a little bit of depression though." 🍷

"Making it more accessible is a new step. It's better than doing the same thing over and over again."

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ADORNO

Our Picks



Different Materials, Same Reaction

★ Reservation

Until May 26th - Hafnarborg

Brynjar Sigurðarson and Veronika Sedlamir are two of the most unconventional artists you'll ever find. Whether it's creating a four person flute—which required

a high end flute maker and four flautists trained in circular breathing—or objects that look like rocks, but are really ceramics covered in a mix of feldspar created specifically for the two artist by scientists, or other objects that look like rocks, but are actually sponges covered in plaster painted to look like granite, you really have no idea what to expect. Come marvel at a photo series where the same photo is reproduced over and over, but with completely different materials—one a plastic bag, the other a jellyfish, the next a wavy piece of glass—and so much more. **HJC**



★ 'SÓLEY' Film Screening

March 25th - 20:30 - IDNÓ

'SÓLEY' is a lost film. While the original negatives are long gone, there is one 33mm bootleg

copy, which will screen March 25th. If you love it, donate to the online campaign for its digital restoration. **HJC**

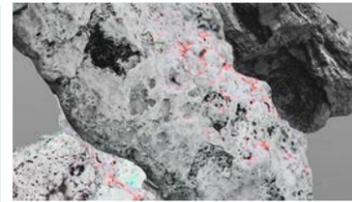


ART IS OUR ONLY HOPE

Until March 31st at Galleri Miðpunkt

Katrín Inga Jónsdóttir Hjördísardóttir aims to give humanity hope

through art, saying "Only art can give life meaning." Make the trip to Kópavogur and see if your art soul can be saved. **JR**



★ Seismic Soils

Until March 28th - Ásmundarsalur

Graphic designer Siggeir Hafsteinsón and fashion designer Harpa Einarsdóttir of MYRKA combine forces for an urban wear collection that'll be bold, unapologetic, unorthodox and no doubt incredibly trendy. **HJC**

March 22nd—April 12th

Art Listings

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

Send your listings to: listings@grapevine.is

Opening

LISTASTOFAN

The Space Between

This exhibit sets in parallel two projects by Candice Quédec and Nina Fradet. Exploring air, light, and fragility, they take glass and woven bamboo and turn them into magic. There will be a musical performance during the show at 18:00 on March 30th.

- Opens on March 28th, 2019
- Runs until March 30th, 2019

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

Weather Workshop

Artist Shu Yi opens up a conversation on Iceland's ever-changing weather by transforming weather data into visual forms in the entrance of the Design Museum.

- Opens on March 23rd, 2019
- Runs until June 2nd, 2019

URBAN SHAPE

Architect Paolo Gianfrancesco used data from Open Street Map to celebrate cities. The constant interplay of people and their environment will be revealed before your very eyes.

- Opens on March 23rd, 2019
- Runs until September 8th, 2019

HARBINGER

Re-Fresh

Sindri Leifsson and Vala Sigbrúðar Jónsdóttir explore the concept of renewal. The need to "refresh" is in man's nature. Get in touch with it here.

- Opens on March 23rd, 2019
- Runs until April 13th, 2019

Ongoing

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

Treasures Of A Nation

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

- Runs until December 31st, 2019

Violin Power I

Steina is one of the pioneers of multimedia and video art, having experimented with electronic sound, stroboscopic light, and video in the late '60s. Here, come see her first autonomous work 'Violin Power I'.

- Runs until May 1st, 2019

BEIRÚT, BEYRUT, BEYROUTH, BEYROUT

Beirut, has become a fashionable locale within the art world. This exhibi-

tion highlights the socio-politically complex society, whose unstable political situation has had a lasting effect on the creativity, words and dreams of its inhabitants.

- Runs until March 31st, 2019

EINAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM

Permanent Exhibition

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

THE ÁSGRIMUR JÓNSSON COLLECTION

Korriró And Dillidó

Ásgrímur's art explores the fears and dreams of generations, as mysterious Icelandic elves, trolls and monsters finally take shape and materialise as vivid beings.

- Runs until April 30th, 2019

ÁRBÆR OPEN AIR MUSEM

Daily Guided Tours

Tours are from 13:00 to 14:00 through its open air exhibits.

REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM

Settlement Sagas

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

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM -

ÁSMUNDARSAFN

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

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

- Runs until December 31st, 2019

Sigurður Guðmundsson:

Intimacy & Sculpture

Using various mediums, from photos to performance, conceptual artist Sigurður Guðmundsson presents an exhibit where, as he says, there are no ideas behind the works.

- Runs until March 31st, 2019

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

...now

Páll Stefánsson has spent 37 years as a traveller and photographer. Here, he captures the silence of the present. From refugees to endless glaciers to random strangers, he explores everything from discrimi-

nation to the inevitability of nature in a momentary glance.

- Runs until April 12th, 2019

Primary Colors

Every week, idiotic tourists get themselves in stupid situations only to be heroically rescued by the Icelandic Association for Search and Rescue. In this exhibit, photographer Catherine Canac-Marquis captures their daring fearlessness. Bravo.

- Runs until April 8th, 2019

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

Discovering Iceland's Monasteries

Are you fascinated by really old things? God? This exhibit combines both, based on research by archaeologist Steinunn Kristjánsdóttir.

- Runs until May 26th, 2019

Artists' Books

Familiarise yourself with the books of Icelandic artists'. You'll find examples of printmaking dating all the way back to the latter part of the 19th century.

- Runs until June 2nd, 2019

REYKJAVÍK MARITIME MUSEUM

Fish & Folk

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

Melckmeyt 1659

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

NORDIC HOUSE

The Children's Book Flood

This exhibition provides a day of creativity for children, including a viking ship to craft on, and a dark cave to dream of galaxies in.

- Runs until March 31st, 2019

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS

Erró: Black & White

Here, historical leaders, Manga characters, and animated figures are put side by side in exclusively black and white works—a first for the artist.

- Runs until April 25th, 2019

Anna Guðjónsdóttir: Pars Pro Toto

Here, Anna Guðjónsdóttir questions the boundary between the original and the copy. Two-dimensional painted surfaces and three-dimensional real spaces collide.

- Runs until May 19th, 2019

D36 Steinunn Önnudóttir

Steinunn explores the materiality of paintings in her works. The D-Series exhibits up-and-coming artists, of which Steinunn is the 36th.

- Runs until April 28th, 2019

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM -

KJARVALSSTAÐIR

Jóhannes S. Kjarval: ...author of

great aspirations

Kjarval was one of the pioneers of

Icelandic art and is uniquely credited with making modern Icelanders appreciate it more. Come see a special exhibit based on his poetry.

- Runs until April 28st, 2019

Eyborg Guðmundsdóttir:

Circle, Square and Line

In this retrospective, experience the abstract geometric art of Eyborg Guðmundsdóttir. Called Op-Art, Eyborg's paintings are based on the primary qualities of art—shapes.

- Runs until April 28th, 2019

SIGURJÓN ÓLAFSSON MUSEUM

Connections

To celebrate the 13th anniversary of the museum, this exhibition presents 13 artists in dialogue with Sigurjón and his art.

- Runs until October 6th, 2019

WIND AND WEATHER WINDOW GALLERY

MYTHISTORIA -Chapter III -

The Great Whale

Mythistoria, in Latin, means a fabulous narrative and tall tale. Artist Tanja Thorjussen takes this and combines it with underwater sea creatures, forming, well, a whale of a work of cut-out drawings and ink.

- Runs until April 27th, 2019

STUDIO SOL

& Again It Descends To The Earth

Kathy Clark's multi-media installation dives deep into the divine connection of the female form and human's existence in a cosmic void. Bow down.

- Runs until April 13th, 2019

ÁSMUNDARSAFN

Trophy: Flétta Design Studio

Flétta Design studio has taken over Ásmundarsalur to deconstruct trophies—objects representing the pinnacle of human achievements.

The workshop will be open until the beginning of DesignMarch, at which time the results will be exhibited

- Runs until March 31st, 2019

GERÐARSAFN KÓPAVOGUR ART MUSEUM

OH SO QUIET!

A number of international and Icelandic artists present a tête-à-tête on the parallel histories of modern art, contemporary art, and cinema, all within the context of music—or, more specifically, noise. Within the spacious rooms of Gerðarsafn, they've created complex sound installations that'll lure you into abstract tonal worlds.

- Runs until March 31st, 2019

HAFNARBORG

Reservation

Here, rural, urban, and cultural areas are connected in an attempt to forge new relationships between environments—all through mixed-media art, of course. The exhibit is presented as part of Design March.

- Runs until May 19th, 2019

TVEIR HRAFNAR

Sailing Solo

Anna Jóelsdóttir's paintings navigate the overflow of information, of calm or erupting emotions, confusion, understandings, and misunderstandings.

- Runs until March 8th, 2019

LIVING ART MUSEUM

Everything Is Great

Arna Óttarsdóttir uses shades of pink, from crabapple jelly to shrimp cocktail, within her tapestries to create a visceral experience where everything is great. Or is it?

- Runs until April 28th, 2019

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

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Paolo Gianfrancesco

Weather Workshop
Shu Yi

Behind the scenes
with Einar Þorsteinn



What's happening at Hard Rock in March and April?

22. March
Tekið til í skúrnum – rokkið lifir

24. March
Aldís Fjóla Tónleikar

29. March
Wild Rockabilly Party with the Swamp Shakers

30. March
Fyndnustu mínar + 2 gaurar Uppistand

30. March
Prins Poló

4. April
Bjarni Ómar útgáfutónleikar

5. April
Skálmöld

6. April
Skálmöld

12. April
Alanis Morissette tribute

13. April
Unnur Birna Tónleikar

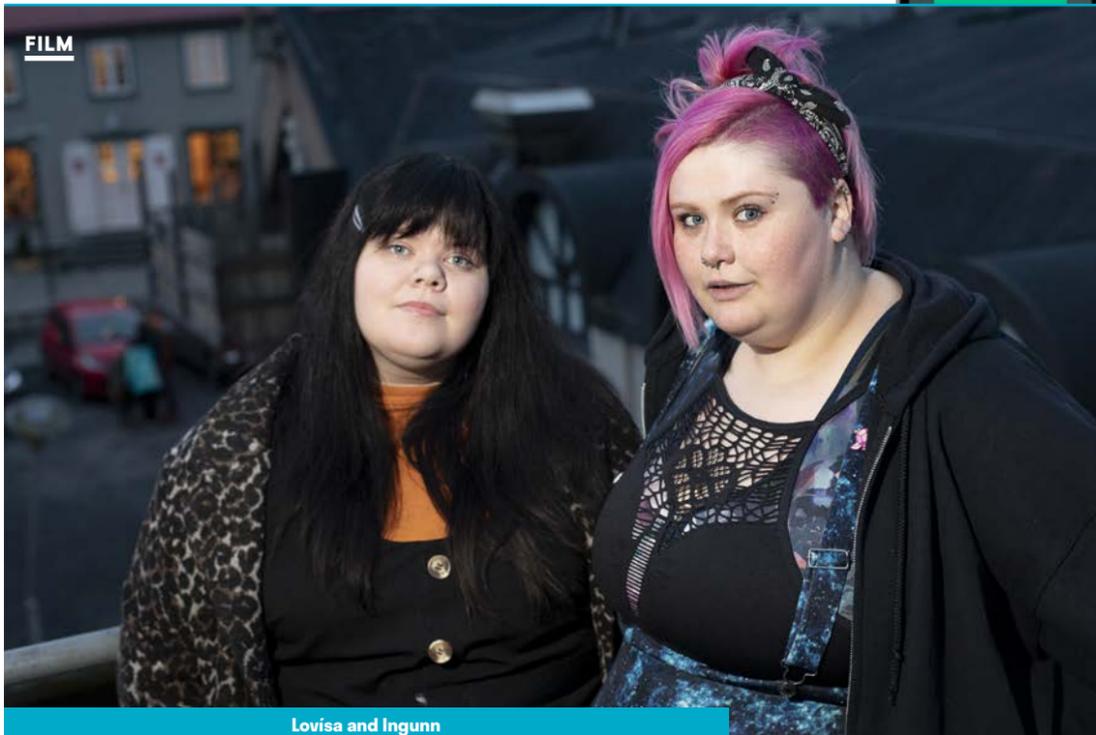


Hard Rock
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Film

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



Lovísa and Ingunn

Being Believed

'Fyrirgefðu' tackles the hidden problem of queer abuse

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen Photos: Art Bicnick

When actress Ingunn Mía Blöndal and writer and director Lovísa Lára Halldórsdóttir decided to make a short film together, they wanted to push boundaries, but definitely didn't expect to find a worldwide audience for their work. The film, 'Fyrirgefðu' ('I'm Sorry'), tells the story of abuse in a queer relationship and has found unprecedented resonance in both the queer and straight community, being screened everywhere from Iceland and America to Russia, Australia, Nigeria, India, and beyond.

Personal pain

The film was primarily inspired by Ingunn's personal experiences with abuse. "I have been abused by a girl and I met a lot of resistance when I told that story, being told it didn't happen because it was a girl," she explains. "I'm queer and I wanted to talk about queer relationship abuse because it's not talked about at all."

Lovísa realised this wasn't an isolated experience. "I remember I was with friends and we were talking about a queer friend of ours and they were saying, 'Oh, he's so dramatic, he is always fighting with his boyfriend' and then they just went on talking," she says incredulously. "That always stuck with me because imagine if it was said about a man and a woman. No one would say that so casually. Why do we skate over that as if it is not abuse?"

Ingunn also wanted to bring another facet of abuse into the equation—that relating to physicality. "I was also in an abusive relationship with a guy for many

years and people tend to disbelieve it because he was smaller and thinner than I am," she explains, "which is why it was important to me that the girlfriend in the movie is smaller than me. I don't give a shit about appearances but this was important. Abuse is not about bodies."

Trust & intensity

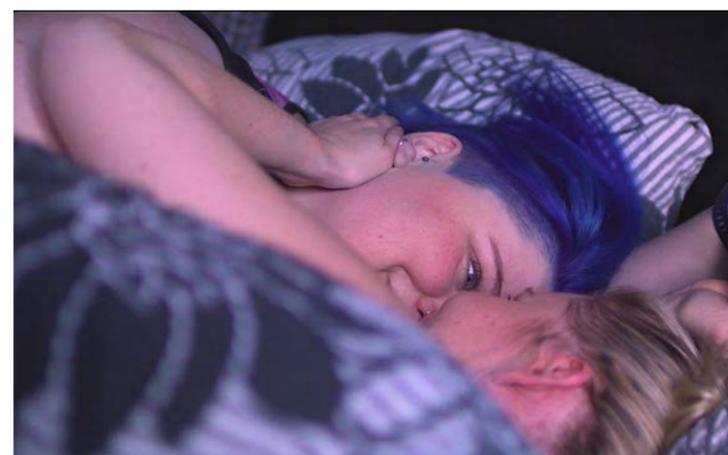
The film tells the story of Addý and her girlfriend Salka, a relationship which looks perfect from

and take them to dark places," explains Lovísa. Ingunn, though, felt safe and supported on the set. "I would tell Lovísa, say my trigger three times and I will cry. Then we should shoot and I trusted her. In my mind, I knew I was helping people talk about something that had been shut down for too long, which helped," she says.

Finding hope

The initial months of the production were hard, particularly due to a disturbing experience at their film school. "There was a teacher who said it wasn't rape because there was no penetration. There was no penis," Ingunn reveals. "We felt, OK, is this a real perspective? He wanted us to change it, he wanted me to have a knife. He said there was no threat. If the girl was not going to rape her, why doesn't she have a knife?"

But while it was a discouraging experience for the two—particularly given the sensitive



Opening minds about queer abuse

the outside. One day at work, a co-worker of Addý's helps a friend of hers who is being abused and seeing that makes Addý realise the flaws in her own relationship.

With a topic so close to home, the filming process was intense, but the trust between the two long-time friends made it possible. "I usually don't want actors to go into their own experiences because it can be emotionally draining

subject matter—the responses from actual filmgoers and those within the industry was radically different. At the most recent festival in New York, they even had performers from Stonewall in attendance. "What Ingunn gave me was a challenge," says Lovísa. "It's something that people who are not queer don't think about, but I'm happy they are thinking about it now." 🍷

"I wanted to talk about queer relationship abuse because it's not talked about at all."

gpv.is/film
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Various Events



Eddie Izzard? We're there

Pub Quiz & Concert
17:30 Stúdentakjallarinn

Thursday March 28th

★ **DesignMarch 2019** ★
Guided Tour In English
11:00 National Museum Of Iceland
DesignTalks 2019
9:00 Harpa
Yasujiro Ozu Film Days: The Flavour Of Green Tea Over Rice
19:00 Bíó Paradís
My Voices Have Tourettes
21:00 The Secret Celler
Café Lingua: Language Rendezvous
18:00 Stúdentakjallarinn

Friday March 29th

★ **DesignMarch 2019** ★
Miss Gloria Hole: Drag Show
21:30 Kiki Queer Bar
Yasujiro Ozu Film Days: Early Spring
17:30 Bíó Paradís
Design Diplomacy: Denmark
16:00 Danish Ambassador
Design Diplomacy: Finland
12:00 Finnish Ambassador
DesignMatch 2019
Various times Various locations

Saturday March 30th

★ **DesignMarch 2019** ★
Harpa Guided Tours
13:00, 16:00 Harpa
How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa
Yasujiro Ozu Film Days: Floating Weeds
20:00 Bíó Paradís
Design Diplomacy: France
13:00 France Ambassador
Design Diplomacy: USA
15:00 United States Embassy
Northern Laughs: Free Comedy Show
21:00 Secret Celler

Photo Gathering
19:00 Andrými

Sunday March 31st

★ **DesignMarch 2019** ★
Harpa Guided Tours
13:00, 16:00 Harpa
Eddie Izzard: Wunderbar
20:00 Harpa
Soccer & Basketball Sports Camp
14:00 Eglilshöll
Guided Tour: It's Oh So Quiet!
15:00 Gerðarsafn
Yoga
12:00 Loft
Yasujiro Ozu Film Days: Tokyo Story
15:00 Bíó Paradís
Black Sundays!: 'Secretary' Screening
11:00 Bíó Paradís
Free Origami Class
13:00 Bíó Paradís
Seat Filler: Iceland's Only Free Game Show!
23:30 Secret Celler
Guided Tour In English
11:00 National Museum Of Iceland
Gloria Hole: Think You've Got Talent?
21:00 Kiki Queer Bar
Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
21:00 Sæta Svinið
HANS.mov [night]: 'Repo! The Genetic Opera' Screening
21:00 Gaukurinn
Letter Writing To Trans Prisoners 2: Trans Day Of Visibility
18:00 Andrými

Monday April 1st

Stand-Up Comedy (in English!)
21:00 Gaukurinn
Miami Open Ping Pong Tournament
20:00 Miami

Tuesday April 2nd

Funniest Four: Comedy Show
21:00 The Secret Celler

Wednesday April 3rd

Open Mic Stand-Up Comedy
21:00 The Secret Celler
Culture Wednesdays: Conservation Of Art Works
12:15 Gerðarsafn

Thursday April 4th

My Voices Have Tourettes
21:00 The Secret Celler
Prump í Paradís: 'Lady Terminator' Screening
20:00 Bíó Paradís



For events listings from April 5th to April 12th, check out happening.grapevine.is or our app Appening, available on iOS and Android

Friday March 22nd

How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa
Taiwan Film Festival: 'Cape No. 7'
19:30 Bíó Paradís
Friday Party!: 'Four Weddings and A Funeral' Screening
20:00 Bíó Paradís
The Reykjavik Grapevine Design Awards
17:00 Ásmundarsalur
Just Another Drag Show Or Whatever: Alaska Thunderfuck & More
19:30 Gamla Bíó
Green Days: Pub Quiz
18:00 Stúdentakjallarinn
William Shatner's 88th Birthday Celebration
21:00 Stúdentakjallarinn

Saturday March 23rd

Harpa Guided Tours
13:00, 16:00 Harpa
'Tails Of Iceland' Premiere
20:00 Bíó Paradís
Northern Laughs: Free Comedy Show
21:00 Secret Celler
Aperitivo & Serie B: Live Football
17:00 IDNÓ
Taiwan Film Festival: 'Pusu Qhuni' Screening & Storytelling Workshop With Wei Te-Sheng
18:00 IDNÓ
Anti-Whaling Protest & Sign Making
16:00 Andrými

Sunday March 24th

How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa
Harpa Guided Tours
13:00, 16:00 Harpa
Guided Tour In English

11:00 National Museum Of Iceland
Yoga
12:00 Loft
Taiwan Film Festival: 'KANO' & Q&A
19:30 Bíó Paradís
Black Sundays!: 'Total Recall' Screening
20:00 Bíó Paradís
Seat Filler: Iceland's Only Free Game Show!
23:30 Secret Celler
Gloria Hole: Think You've Got Talent?
21:00 Kiki Queer Bar
Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
21:00 Sæta Svinið
Clothing Market
14:00 Loft

Monday March 25th

Stand-Up Comedy (in English!)
21:00 Gaukurinn
Miami Open Ping Pong Tournament
20:00 Miami
The Magic Viking
21:00 Secret Celler
★ **'Sóley or: The Hidden People Of The Shadowy Rocks' Screening**
17:00 IDNÓ

Tuesday March 26th

Funniest Four: Comedy Show
21:00 The Secret Celler

Wednesday March 27th

Rick & Morty Pubquiz
20:00 The Secret Celler
Open Mic Stand-Up Comedy
21:00 The Secret Celler
Design Diplomacy: Norway
17:00 Norway Ambassador
Design Diplomacy: Sweden
20:00 Swedish Ambassador
Swap Til You Drop
16:30 Loft
Powerpoint Comedy
20:00 Loft



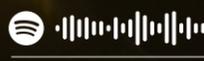
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REFUGEES PROTEST AT ALÞINGI

Text: Andie Fontaine
Photos: Ómar Sverrisson

A group of refugees and their supporters recently spent a week protesting in front of Parliament, in the hopes of having a dialogue with any elected official. The group have a few demands, which include the right to work, access to health care, and similar desires. While the group number a couple dozen at most, police who arrived on the scene initiated a physical confrontation. This included the police pepper-spraying protesters, including those who were trying to flee the scene, as has been confirmed by video footage of the confrontation. Photographer Ómar Sverrisson was there, and in addition to taking these striking photos, he was reportedly also pepper sprayed and punched in the chest by a police officer. The police are answer questions about the incident before a parliamentary committee at the time of this writing. ▀



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APOTEK
Every day from
15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 695 ISK,
Wine 745 ISK.

BAR ANANAS
Every day from
16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK,
Cocktails 1,650
ISK.

BAZAAR
Every day from
16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 850 ISK.

BIÓ PARADÍS
Every day from
17:00 to 19:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

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

**BRYGGJAN
BRUGGHÚS**
Every day from
15:00 to 19:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 1,050 ISK.

DUBLINER
Every day from
12:00 to 22:00.
Beer 700 ISK.

FORRÉTTABARINN
Every day from
16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

GAUKURINN
Every day from
14:00 to 21:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK,
Shots 750 ISK.

GEIRI SMART
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 550 ISK,
Wine 600 ISK,
Cocktails 1,200
ISK.

HÚRRA
Every day from

18:00 to 21:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

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

IÐA ZIMSEN
Every day from
19:00 to 22:00.
Beer 495 ISK.

ÍSAFOLD
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

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

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

KAFFI VÍNYL
Every day from
15:00 to 19:00.
Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

KALDI
Every day from
16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

KEX HOSTEL
Every day from
15:00 to 19:00.
Beer 650 ISK,
Wine 650 ISK.

KIKI QUEER BAR
Wed to Sun from
20:00 to 23:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK,
Shots 600 ISK.

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

LOFTIÐ
Every day from
18:00 to 21:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK,
Shots 500 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

**MATUR OG
DRYKKUR**
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 550 ISK,
Wine 700 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK

MIAMI
Every day from
15:00 to 20:00.
Beer 500 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK,
Cocktails 1,000
ISK.

PABLO DISCOBAR
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

PRIKIÐ
Weekdays from
16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 600 ISK.

PETERSEN SVÍTAN
Every day from
16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 890 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

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

SKÚLI CRAFT BAR
Every day from
16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 850 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.



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Every day from
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Wine 650 ISK.

STOFAN CAFÉ
Every day from
15:00 to 21:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 950 ISK.

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

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

ÚT Í BLÁINN
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 700 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

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

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



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- Solon**
Monday - Friday
11:00 - 14:30
Ceasar salad -
1,490 ISK
- Lemon**
Every day
16:00 - 21:00
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sandwich
1,095 ISK
Vegan option
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- 2000 ISK
And Under**
- Essensia**
Every day-All day
Lunch-catch of
the day - 1,980 ISK

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Brugghús**
Monday - Friday
11:30 - 15:00
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Mazen Morouff has jokes for the gunmen

Memories Of War

Mazen Maarouf's fiction debut nominated for the Man Booker Prize

Words: **Aliya Uteuova** Photo: **Jenny Marie Hviding Schjerven**

Book

Find Mazen Maarouf's debut collection of short stories 'Jokes for the Gunmen' at your local Eymundsson store and online

The first feeling Mazen Maarouf felt when he learned he was nominated for the Man Booker International Prize was panic.

"I was happy," he says, recalling midnight on March 13th—a night when he got hardly any sleep. "But my happiness materialised in the form of panic, rather than jumping and screaming."

Given the subject matter of the book, his response is perhaps understandable. Mazen's debut collection of short stories, entitled 'Jokes for the Gunmen,' is written from the perspective of a child in a war zone. It was first published in 2015 in Arabic, with an English translation coming out in early 2019. And then suddenly, it had been announced as one of 13 contenders for the Man Booker Prize: one of the most prestigious literary awards in the world.

The first person he told about the nomination was his mother. "My mom is a heroine in my mind," says Mazen, who was born to Palestinian refugee parents in Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War. "My mother, and other mothers in Lebanon, did everything possible to protect their children and families during the time of war," he continues. "This left them with lots of scars in their minds and souls."

Disturbing peace

In 2011, Mazen's journalistic work led him to seek refuge in Iceland through ICORN. When he arrived in Reykjavík, the biggest culture shock for him was

peace. "The peace was confusing," Mazen explains. "In Lebanon, you walk in the streets and wonder whether the car you're passing by has a bomb inside it."

Living in Iceland, where one in 10 people are likely to publish a book, helped Mazen keep his ego in check. "When a 75-year-old plumber came to my place to fix my sink, I introduced myself as a writer," he says. "The plumber gave me a copy of his book. This is what I like about Iceland. Nobody is a superstar, and everybody is a superstar."

Lost in translation

Mazen learned to compose stanzas by reading the works of Persian poets like Rumi and Omar Khayyam. The very first poems he wrote were love poems. "I was a 15-year-old boy who wanted to impress a girl," he recalls. He'd go to her place under the excuse of helping her with physics and pass the love poems.

Over time, Mazen built up his poetic style from classical to his own. But when a thief stole his backpack in Stockholm in 2013—complete with a notebook containing 27 finished poems—Mazen got poet's block. Moving into writing prose was part of his recovery.

Determined not to repeat the writer's worst nightmare, Mazen digitised his work, which is both comforting and concerning. "The computer doesn't show you the history of the text," Mazen says. "When you write it on paper, you can scratch and change the word—you can see how it evolved and developed."

A translator himself, Mazen is deeply aware of words being lost in translation. "When I read a translated book, I'm only reading this book in a second language," he says. "There's a missing part that might tell me a lot about the story."

Immigrant's path

In 2013, Mazen was granted Icelandic citizenship. "The world has suddenly opened to me because of this [Icelandic passport]," he says. "I'm the same person who was banned from many countries five years ago and now I can go everywhere. This tells you a lot about the hypocrisy of the world we live in."

Mazen had to adjust to the newfound luxury of speaking his mind freely. "I am protected by the system—I can say whatever I want," he says. "But at the same time, there are people who suffer for doing that elsewhere." He often refrains from tweeting about the problems of his Icelandic life—compared to the daily struggles of people in war-torn countries, such complaints feel miniscule.

But something Mazen does give voice to is Iceland's flawed approach to handling refugees and asylum seekers. He took part in protests over the government's use of force against refugees earlier in March. "If Iceland wants to promote itself as a country of freedom of speech, of a very high level of human rights, the politicians should be more consistent with that," Mazen says.

"Immigrants are not stupid—we have intelligence, we have history, and we are not passive."

Immigrants are not stupid—we have intelligence, we have history, and we are not passive." The years of living with and through war accumulated in different ways in Mazen's mind

and body. While 'Jokes for the Gunmen' isn't autobiographical, some of the details and storylines are based on real events. When asked if—eight years later—he is finally used to the peace he found in Iceland, Mazen says: "No—thanks to the characters I write." ♡



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Words: Grace Achieng
& Hannah Jane Cohenn
Photo: Art Bicnick



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

Grace Achieng

Grace Achieng (33) is a fashion designer and influencer. You can follow her at [@achigracie](https://www.instagram.com/achigracie) on Instagram.

Grace is wearing:

- ▶ Red jumpsuit from Fashion Nova. That's one of my favourite stores because it's made for curvy women.
- ▶ Jacket from Júnik
- ▶ Shoes from Zara
- ▶ Bracelet from Michael Kors
- ▶ Necklace from Sif Jakobs
- ▶ Lipstick from Nars

Describe your style in 5 words: Feminine, effortless, chic, contemporary and modern.

Favourite stores in Reykjavik: I like Zara because they're very feminine and have quality fabric. I also like Júnik because they are always on-trend. You can get anything from a casual outfit to a party dress there.

Favourite piece: I have a black skirt that I made myself, it's high-waisted and all the way down to the floor with a thigh high slit. I love that, but to be honest, right now I love most of the things

in my closet. I don't have a lot of stuff but the stuff I have is stuff I love. I also have a lot of shoes. I would say I'm a collector. For me, to have a display of heels just makes me happy. My favourite right now are these deep red ankle boots with a hollow golden heel. Every time I walk on the street with them people are like, "I love your shoes!"

Least favourite trend: When I see people not trying, not putting in effort. When I see people in sweats on the street—especially grey sweats—that annoys me sometimes. Just put a little effort! It makes you feel good! Some nice clothes, a little makeup, just a little goes a long way. Make yourself feel good.

Lusting after: A good feminine trench coat with a hood. I am very specific about the coat I want but I want something for all weather types. When it's bad weather, I still want to have a nice trench to go with a good outfit. ✨

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Food

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Chef Hamilton: a colourful character dressing a colourful meal

Top Of The Masterclass

Food & Fun is Reykjavík's tastiest festival

Words: **The Grapevine Fine Dining Dpt.**
Photo: **Antonia Lárusdóttir**

Festival

Food & Fun took place February 27th-March 3rd. Find the festival online at foodandfun.is.

The annual Food & Fun festival is always a special week for Reykjavík's foodies, and this year was a particularly fine vintage. With 21 acclaimed international guest chefs taking over the kitchens of 19 restaurants for five nights only, festival-goers hastily researched where they'd treat themselves to a special tasting menu (all priced at 8,990 ISK per person). A panel appointed by the festival was also at large, sampling the cuisine presented by each restaurant. The top four chefs went head-to-head in a cook-off for the best menu award, which was eventually won by the fine Italian cuisine of Nicola Fanetti at Essensia. This year, there was also a new "off-menu" pro-

gramme for gourmet snacks, including the much talked-about Korean street food at KORE. With only so many meals in a day, our reviewers didn't make it to every restaurant, but here's what the deeply satisfied and slightly misty-eyed crew made of this memorable weekend of feasting and fun times.

Essensia

Guest chef: **Nicola Fanetti (IT)**

Nicola Fanetti applied luscious and decadent Italian-style cooking to Icelandic ingredients. After a melt-in-the-mouth char carpaccio with pistachio sauce came a conversation-stopping handmade cod ravioli. Each bundle came with a thick wafer of truffle, and a whorl of pecorino cream speckled with seaside-scented dulce. We lingered over

"After the entrée my companion dubbed the next course 'the lambshank redemption.'"

each heavenly parcel, not wanting it to end. At Food & Fun, the battle for "best lamb" is as fierce as the battle for Westeros; Nicola's iteration was studded with dried blueberries, marrying well with the meat. The bitter Szechuan pepper caramel dessert was the only misstep. A high level display, and a worthy winner. **JR**

Geiri Smart

Guest chef: **Sasu Laukonen (FI)**

A zero-waste cook, Chef Sasu's opening volley was smoked char and red pepper on a potato crisp, rutabaga skewered on a twig, and a tomato with jolts of wasabi and strawberry juice. He came into his own, however, with the cod courses. From sashimi-style fillet with cod-head broth to crispy fish skin with bone/roe sauce and an oily medalion of cheek, it was an intimate and holistic experience of Iceland's premiere catch. My companion—not a fish lover—was re-engaged by the lamb entrée, dubbing it "the lambshank redemption." Cooked to perfection, the succulent meat flaked beautifully into the coffee gravy. An engaging journey. **JR**

Kopar

Guest chef: **Kobe Desramaults (BE)**

Chef Kobe—the youngest Belgian ever to receive a Michelin Star—has a reputation for refined, cre-

ative cuisine, and we got the best seats in the house at Kopar to enjoy it. Our bright and fresh-faced waitress Malin presented the absorbing five-course journey, from lobster in miso cream and wasabi to a stunning snow crab dish with Geuze beer and bergamot, and a vividly hay-smoked leek broth cradling delicious splayed scallops. The rack of hogget was gamey and immaculate, and the sunchoke ice cream in dark beer, malt and chocolate eye-opening. The vegetarian menu was every bit as well-conceived. A masterclass. **JR**

KORE

Guest Chef: Deuki Hong

Deuki Hong brought Korean-American street food to Grandi Mathöll. The chicken bites were juicy, tender, and—in keeping with Deuki's style—Southern, rather than Korean. Next came kimchi fried rice with crispy chicken skin, which, along with a sweet and spicy tteokbokki fried rice cake, was reminiscent enough of Seoul street food to satisfy any Korean cuisine lover. The fried chicken sandwich with kimchi mayo was the star of the menu—spicy and satisfying, in a perfectly soft but sturdy-to-hold bao bun with a cheese and corn melt and Flamin' Hot Cheetos smuggled in from the US. "A perfect hangover cure," says the chef. **AU**

Mimir

Guest chefs: Ismo Sipeläinen & Pekka Terävä (FI)

This Suomi chef duo brought a welcome sense of creativity and mischief to Mimir. Their love of texture play was clear from the "semolina porridge" starter—a light foam with crunchy rye crumble and onion broth. A fragrant hunk of winter truffle was grated generously over the cured halibut at the table; browned scallops were served with "soy pearls"—roe-like droplets of salty soy. The lamb fillet was ingeniously rendered as a delicious herb sausage; the dessert of ash-grey liquorice ice-cream was set alight with chunks of orange and lemon, garnished with petals, "liquorice herb" sprigs and a swirl of white chocolate. Well-conceived fun. **JR**

Reykjavik Meat

Guest chef: Hamilton Johnson (US)

The shaven-headed, heavily tattooed bulk of Chef Hamilton was an unmissable presence at Food & Fun 2019, and his charisma also erupted

onto the plate. The tuna entrée was like a firework of flavour exploding in the mouth, the buttery crumble carrying an eye-opening citrus kick; the langoustine tail a creamy, juicy, smokey masterclass in how this ingredient should be handled. The beef tenderloin was left to speak for itself—a generous hunk of meat, cooked perfectly medium-rare. The vegetarian courses—taken, as it turns out, from the house menu—were amongst the best on offer this year. Joyful, vivid, hearty cuisine. **JR**



Nostra

Guest Chef: Brian Canipelli (US)

An evening spent in Nostra's sleek dining room is always a pleasure. The feast began with a fine-dining take on tacos—sharp, marinated Icelandic cheese spooned onto a crisp endive leaf—and a trio of salmon-topped flatbrauð, slow roasted carrots, and gorgeous celery-crowned blue mussels. The star of the production was Chef Brian's risi e bisi—a masterclass in self-control and the power of simplicity. The gentle umami miso butter sang while the textures of Arborio, yellow peas and puffed rice delighted. The slow cooked lamb that followed parted at the very sight of a serrated edge and melted on the tongue. The impeccable service further elevated a top notch evening. **CF**

Grand Hotel

Guest Chef: Michael Ginor (US)

Chef Ginor's menu slid in Icelandic ingredients covertly. The delectable oily broth surrounding the arctic char contained Brennivín; the wasabi was made locally. While his courses referenced Icelandic traditions—an octopus pylsur; traditional sweet bread—the nods were subtle. The butter-soft char fought valiantly, but it was a starter of scallops in a sea of miso and foie gras snow that became the conversation piece of the night. The perfect blend of sweet, sour, salty and umami, it cemented miso and foie gras as a

duo made in heaven—we mopped up every drop of the sauce with bread. A truly memorable meal. **HJC**

Sumac

Guest Chefs: Gerald Addison and Chris Morgan (US)

Chefs Addison and Morgan transformed Icelandic ingredients with techniques, tastes and textures of the MENA region. With grilled flatbread and a trio of spreads—including shanklish skyr convincingly masquerading as goats cheese and an eggplant hummus best described as a sucker punch to the taste buds—the meal got off to a roaring start. The wolffish could have benefitted from two fewer minutes over the heat, but the lamb kebabs that followed were succulent, their gaminess offset by a bright cabbage salad. The vegan equivalents—not simply dishes minus the star protein—were divine, including deceptively spicy carrots and a roasted head of cauliflower with falafel. An exotic culinary trip. **CF**



Vox

Guest Chef: Ryan Rodgers (Denmark)

Chef Ryan Rodgers from Mielcke & Hurtigkarl brought high-level technical precision and distinguished flavours. We started with fried chicken and silky pâté, then delicately smoked perch—each jostling for attention with pristine plating. The confit cod was deceptively simple—perfect roundels of cod, elevated to memorability with velvety butternut squash and black garlic purée. The chef's homage to Asian flavours was a thread running throughout, without screaming appropriation, as seen in the use of the umeboshi-like plums, Nuoc cham notes, and a tsukemen style sauce with the lamb. Rodgers deserved his place as a finalist in the Food & Fun finale. **SB**

Read an extended review at grapevine.is/food.



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