



COVER ARTWORKS
Kosmonatka

ABOUT THE ARTWORK:

A close collaboration between Kosmonatka and our Art Director, this cover has been months in the making. Styled after '50s horror movie posters and comic books, it is a fairly literal read on the band's name, set to visuals that represent the theme of their new album "Fever Dream." Look out for Natka's work decorating a lot of icelandic indie music artwork.





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A Gateway Drug

During the making of this issue, it came

EDITORIAL as a bit of a surprise to us in the Grapevine office to

discover that our new cover stars, Of Monsters and Men, are Iceland's most listened-to band. By the metrics of Spotify, they have 5.3 million monthly listeners, making their month-to-month fanbase more than double Sigur Rós (953k) and Björk (1.5m) combined. By this single but significant metric, Of Monsters and Men are the most popular group that Iceland has ever produced.

It's an interesting development. Since the 1990s, Iceland's international musical reputation has been touted for experimentation, sublimity, sincerity and eccentricity. Whilst wildly different in many respects, success stories like Björk, Sigur Rós, múm, Ólafur Arnalds, and the late Jóhann Jóhansson can comfortably sit on a Venn diagram connected by their overlapping interest in expressing a sometimes ephemeral but always palpable sense of wonder.

But this appealingly neat picture was never the whole story. Iceland has a hidden history of homegrown music—one that's been explored by the restless musical mind of Hermiger-

vill (**P. 24**), who has smashed, sliced, and stitched back together samples of the most obscure Icelandic releases imaginable into quixotic homebrewed dance music. From black metal to coldwave (**P. 27**), techno, trap and—more recently—a resurgent DIY indie movement (**P. 34**), the local scene is teeming with diverse and interesting artists to discover. Check out our latest selections (**P. 8**), and the playlist made for us by DJ and master atmosphere creator Z (**P. 28**), for some fresh meat and deep cuts.

You can read Of Monsters and Men's whirlwind success story, and find out about their new album, on **page 19**. And you never know—maybe they'll be a gateway drug to Iceland's wider scene for their millions of fans. We hope you'll agree as you leaf through the pages of this issue that the attention would be richly deserved. JR v

Valur Grettisson is away.



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



Hannah Jane Cohen is based out of loe-land 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 is 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 Revkiavík, Best of Iceland, and Iceland Airwaves sister publications. His first book, "Real Life," was published in 2014.



Shruthi Basappa traded the warmth of Indian summers for Iceland's Arctic winds. She's a food enthusiast masquerading as an architect at Sei Studio, and loves obsessive attention to detail. When not leading our Best of Reykjavík food panel, she can be found trying to become a Michelin restaurant inspector.



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 Funkbátturinn radio show, or sits at a table in a Laugarda lur café, drinking copious amounts of coffee and thinking about fonts.



Josie Gaitens is a Grapevine intern who is also a freelance arts project coordinator, musician and writer from the Scottish Highlands. She was once erroneously referred to as the Queen of Scotland by a Malaysian newspaper and has been falsely using that title ever since.



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.

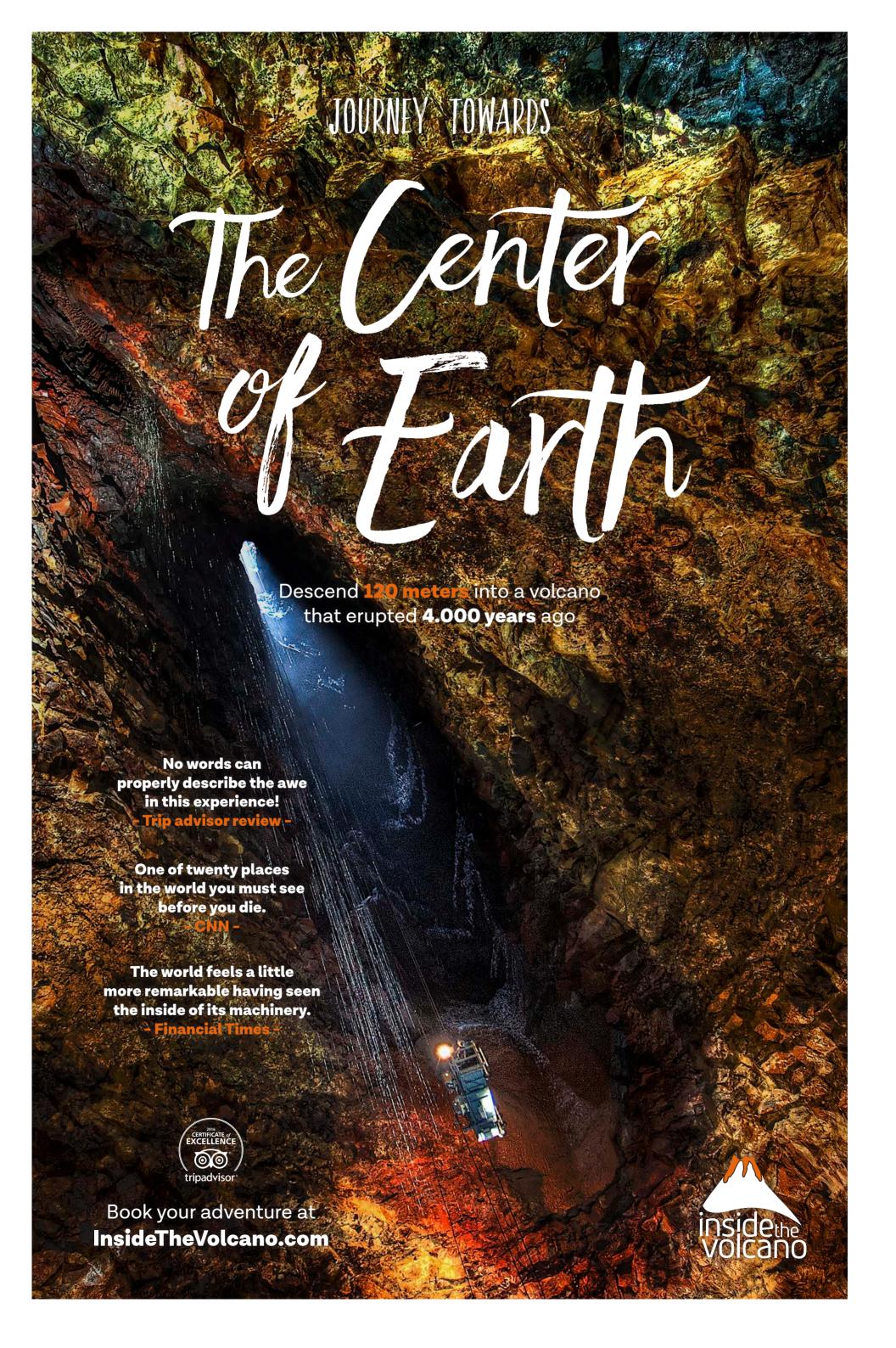


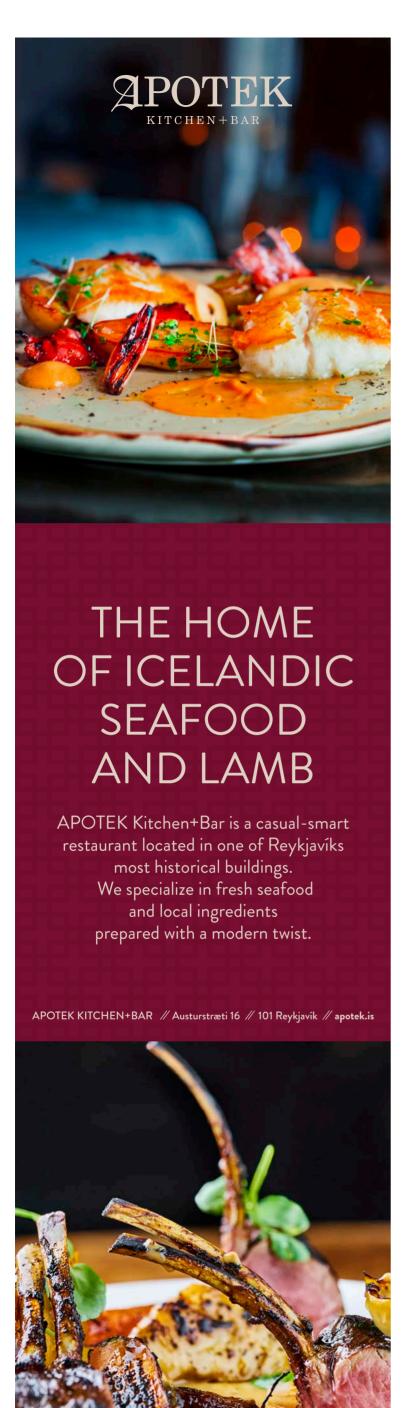
Felix Robertson is a theology student from the UK who is currently on a gap year and is trying, with varying degrees of success, to 'find' himself in the frigid wastes of the north. He likes classical music, long walks and really dead languages. He's one of our current interns.



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







First



What Are Icelanders Talking About?

Angry reacts only

Words: Andie Fontaine/Valur Grettisson Photo: Creative Commons

It's not often that Iceland gets into a diplomatic dispute with any country, but a recent row between Iceland and the Philippines' president, Rodrigo Duterte, has certainly grabbed our attention. It started when Iceland submitted, and got approval for, a UN resolution condemning that country's police's extrajudicial violence in Duterte's "war on drugs." Duterte, who initiated and has staunchly defended the violence, fired back against Iceland in characteristic style. And by that we mean calling us "sons of whores" with "too much ice and there is no clear day or night there". Touché, Mr. President. It bears mentioning that Iceland is certainly no angel when it comes to human rights (see page 14) but 'sons of whores' really stuck in our craw. What connection the midnight sun has with a low incidence of crime is still known only to Mr. Duterte.

A lot of Icelanders—or, to be fair, mostly suburban, middleclass, middle-aged parents—are expressing horror at a proposal, put forward by one of the country's leading epidemiologists, that condoms be handed out in **primary schools**. The reason for the proposal is a consistently high incidence of chlamydia and syphilis; in fact, Iceland leads Europe in cases of syphilis per capita. The pushback has included nightmare scenarios of condoms put in the hands of little children magically prompting them to begin experimenting sexually. In reality, primary schools include students as old as 15 years old, an age not uncommon for the beginnings of sexual activity for the modern Icelander, raising the question as to what's more important: preventing the spread of potentially damaging diseases, or preserving the illusion that teenagers don't have sex.

News that Marko Svart's business partner—and co-owner of SVART by Marko Svart-Momo Hayashi is facing deportation has garnered considerable space in the public discussion lately, as it seems many people are discovering for the first time that not all immigrants are treated equally. In broad

terms, while Europeans are free to move to Iceland and compete in the job market with Icelanders, anyone from outside of Europe may only do the jobs that no Icelander can do or wants to do. Momo does indeed have specialty skills, and moreover has lived in Iceland for four years, with a near perfect command of the language and a small business of her own. Nonetheless, both the Directorate of Immigration and the Directorate of Labour seem set on their decision that she has to leave the country ASAP, thereby demonstrating that even "model immigrants" that white Icelanders are so fond of touting are still vulnerable to arbitrary deportation decisions.

Lastly, it has come to light that **US President Mike Pence wants** to visit Iceland. About this, we can only say: ice cream shops in Iceland are plentiful, and many, if not most, also make milkshakes. &

CARTOON



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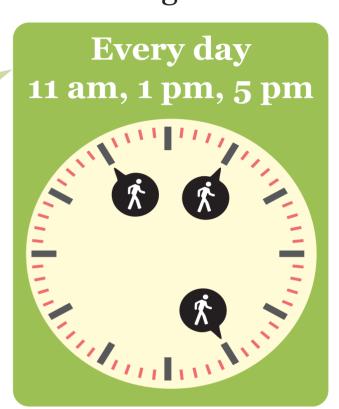
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ASK AN

Expert

Q: Why Are There No Reindeer In Western

Iceland?



The Case Of The **Ghost Plane**

Crashed DC-3 is a crumbling tourist attraction that's attracting new controversy

NEWS

Words: **Andie Fontaine**

> Photo: **John Rogers**

On any drive through South Iceland, it is very likely you will encounter one of the most iconic and peculiar tourist landmarks in the country: the wreck of a US Navy DC-3 transport plane (its very classification a source of contention for many over the years). This wreckage has appeared in photo galleries of Iceland since long before the advent of Instagram, or any other social media for that matter. The airplane was never

intended to be a cultural touchstone, but it continues to be more meaningful for visitors than locals.

Can you believe people vandalise this rusting pile of metal??

Normally, graffiti being scrawled on a tourist site is frowned upon. This makes it understandable that, when

Polish television station WP recently reported on the site, they expressed shock and outrage at the graffiti that practically covers the DC-3, and scolded their countryfolk for being a part of the problem (some of the graffiti is in Polish).

While carving your name into a tree, or into the side of a mountain, does evoke understandable ire from the locals, the fact that the wreck of the DC-3 has been vandalised—and even fired upon, as the numerous bullet holes in it attest—is not a huge concern to locals. Benedikt Bragason, the owner of the land upon which the wreck rests, told reporters in response to the WP story that he simply did not care if people damaged the wreck further.

What is it even doing there?

The aircraft itself was once owned by the US Navy, and crashed at its current location back in 1973, after encountering a problem with ice on its wings. The wreckage was simply abandoned by the military, leaving it for Icelanders to deal with. They opted to not deal

By this point, however, the wingless wreck is in such a state of disrepair that it bears little resemblance to its original form. These days, it's a rusting, graffiti-covered, bullet-ridden hulk of metal, quietly eroding on the black sand, presumably destined to stay there until the heat death of the universe. On the other hand, there is undeniably a haunting beauty to the sight of this ghost plane from a bygone era guarding the black sands of southern Iceland. In many ways, the airplane, first flown in 1944, is an accidental monument to Iceland's military history. For the time being, its crumbling skeleton remains one of Iceland's most unlikely tourist attractions—graffiti and all. 🗸



Words: Andie Fontaine Photo: Art Bicnick

You probably know that reindeer are not native to Iceland; they were actually brought to the country in the 18th century. Since then, they have done well for themselves, flourishing to such an extent that it's not uncommon to encounter them in the East Iceland countryside and have to stop for a small herd blithely milling about on the Ring Road.

However, one part of the country where you won't see them is in the West. Why? We asked Sigríður Birna Björnsdóttir, a specialist at the Reykjavík Park & Zoo, for the truth of the

"While early attempts have been made to promote the reindeer populations in other parts of Iceland, it was only in the East where they really thrived. The reason for this is deceptively simple: the East just has everything reindeer could ask for. This is especially the case on account of the moss which grows plentifully in the East.

Reindeer travel in herds and have a large range that spans from the northeast of the country all the way down to Höfn in the southeast. In the winter, when food is more scarce in regions with higher elevation, the reindeer will descend to lower elevations in search of food. This is why you will often see them by or even on the highway (so be careful when driving in the East). Although they are hunted, the annual quota is strictly limited, meaning reindeer are not especially shy about human contact. It would probably be a good idea and not disturb them anyway; just enjoy their beauty as you drive slowly by and take photos." &

FOOD OF ICELAND



News broke recently that Krispy Kreme is shutting down its Icelandic operations. How will we survive? Well, perhaps by sampling any one of the bazillions of Icelandic pastries. And there's no better place to start than with a kleina.

There's much to appreciate when it comes to Iceland's rugged equivalent of a doughnut. For those of an etymological persuasion, you can im-

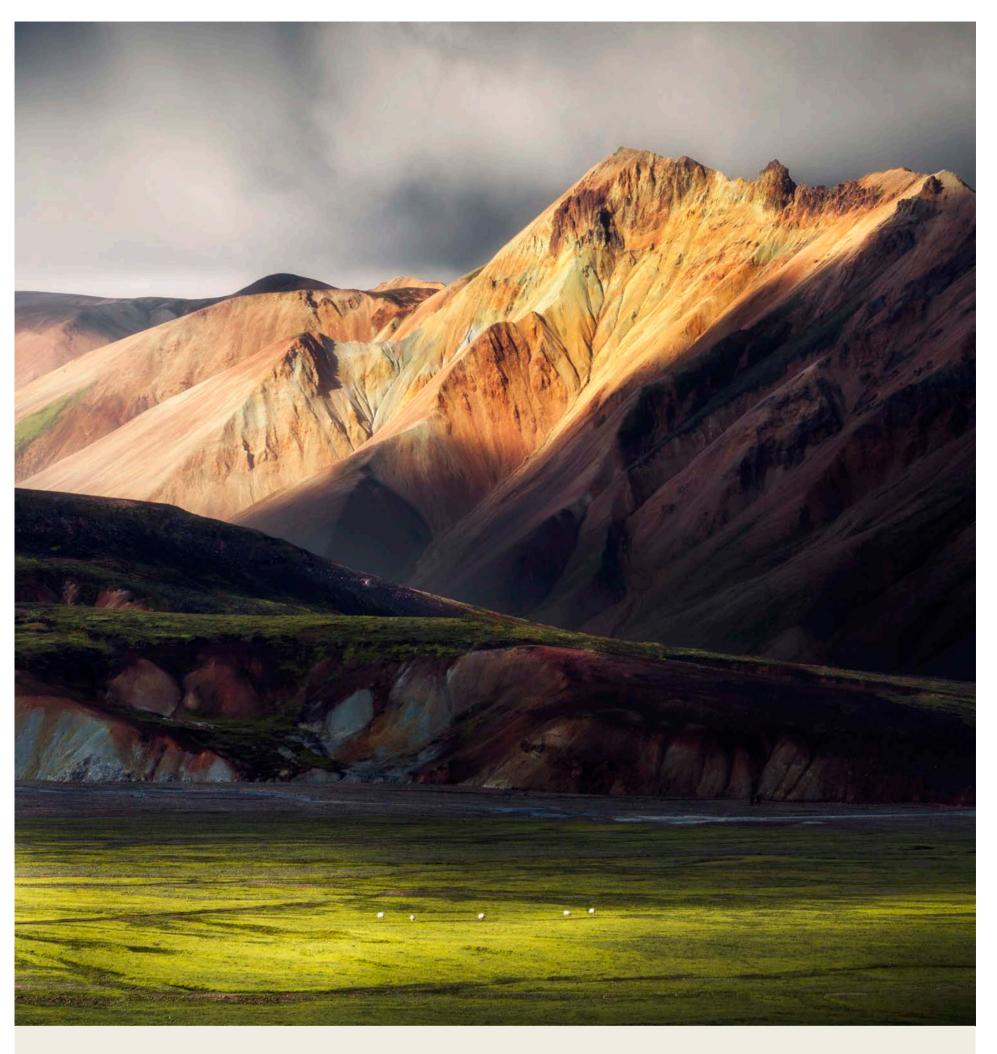
merse yourself in fulfilling debates as to whether the word kleina (or the plural, kleinur) is originally of Swedish or low Germanic origin.

Or if geoculinary transferences get your tummy rumbling, you can appreciate the impressive distribution of this pastry throughout Nordic and eastern European countries. 0r, you can be like us at The Grapevine and simply scarf them down. That's good,

To butcher Rule 34: if you can think of it, there's probably a kleina flavour of it. You can get these twisted treats sugared, coated in lemon glaze or even made with a healthy glug of Cognac. But invariably, simple is best. A good kleina, after all, is significantly more robust than your wimpy American doughnut. The dough is twisted like a bow and then fried in oil

or, if you're feeling particularly metal/authentic, rendered sheep tallow, forming a surprisingly solid exterior. The best kleinur should crunch just a little as you bite into them. After a gruelling research project, I can confirm that the best way to enjoy a kleina is with a large mug of coffee and no meal plans for the next few hours. Kleinur are available at all good cafes and bakeries. FR 💆







NATURALLY DELICIOUS

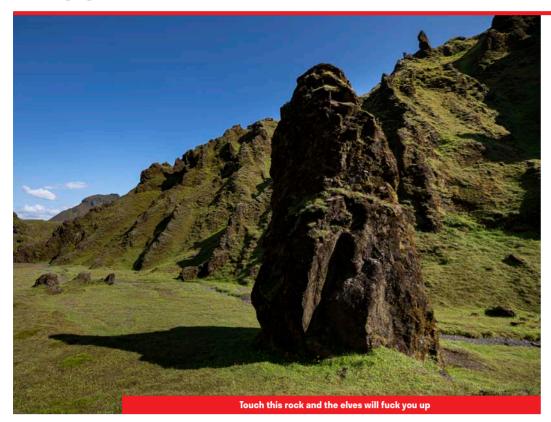
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The must-hear music of the issue





ICELANDIC SUPERSTITIONS

> Words: **Andie Fontaine**

JUST SAYINGS

Photo: **Art Bicnick**

Don't Mess With An Elf Hill

Or a boulder that looks like it might be one, for that matter

One of the most widely known Icelandic superstitions is that we believe in elves. While this is not true of all Icelanders—or perhaps even most—even the hesitate to interfere with an elf hill.

Elf hills don't have to be what you might traditionally think of as a hill; they can be very large boulders. The important thing is that elves live inside these things, and you wouldn't want someone barging into your home wrecking all the furniture, would you?

Care and caution around elf hills is especially important when it comes to construction projects. Hardy is the fool who dares to build a road through one, as they will be met with failing machinery, uncooperative earth or even worksite injuries.

Fortunately, there are ways to avoid catastrophe. You could, for example, simply build the road around the hill. This is why the road connecting Kópavogur and Reykjavík does that weird curve—to avoid disturbing Álfhóll, an elf hill that was complicating construction efforts for decades.

You could also hire a priest to speak with the elves in an effort to appease them, as they did in the small Westfjords town of Bolungarvík in 2011. There, spiritualist Vigdís Kristín Steinþórsdóttir convinced parish priest Rev. Agnes Sigurðardóttir to confer blessings upon a construction area in the hopes of appeasing the elves.

While it may seem strange that a utheran minister would involve themselves in such a pagan superstition, we should bear in mind that superstitions are cultural; not necessarily confined to one religious denomination. There might be no such thing as elves, but do we really want to take that risk? The answer, usually, is no. &

staunchest epistemological sceptics

Brjóta Heilann

duo Munster, Krassasig's debut single 'Brjóta Heilann' is a bright,

One half of art-pop

breezy, and amiable

pop tune. With a clattering rhythm,

bassy pulses, chill

guitar strums and

catchy vocals, it's

the kind of track

that could easily

summertime hit. See

múm - Smell Memory

20 years on, múm's

Today Was Okay' is

subtle, handmade

now considered a milestone of

electronica. To

celebrate the

anniversary, Kronos Quartet

have reworked the distinctive

'Smell Memory

recomposing the heavily-treated

string sound of

the original as orchestration. **JR**

Was Dramatic,

inial 'Yesterday

him at Airwaves. **JR**

oecome a

hear them at full force on this stellar



Having emerged from the DIY Postdreifing scene, K.óla's new seventrack release is crisply recorded and lushly produced pop music. Her voice has a fine timbre with a

ragged emotional edge reminiscent of Karin Dreijer, and compulsive pop tunes like "Nýir Draumar" bring to mind U.S. Girls. Great stuff. **JR**



Siggi String Quartet & Una Sveinbjarnardóttir -

This latest piece from the Siggi String Quartet channels serious Koyaanisqatsi vibes The strings initially are so frenzied that they sound percussive, leaping around in octaves and fifths, while the eerie chords and a slightly psychedelic video complete the effect. **FR**



ADHD -KEXP Live Session This evergreen quartet fuses elements of jazz. improv, post-rock thrillingly propulsive sound. Between the virtuosic drums of percussion of Magnús Trygvason Óskar and Ómar Guðjónsson on guitar, and Tómas nsson on keys ADHD are particularly

From 99 Smoochy pop barons Hjaltalín return with another new single. A slow-dance beginning with Högni's distinctive vocals and some unexpected brass chops gives way to a fidgety chorus, of sorts. Having successfully crowdfunded their as-yet untitled new album, catch them live at Harpa on September 6th. **JR**

One expression you are likely to hear in Iceland is "enginn verður óbarinn biskup," which literally means "no one will be an unbeaten bishop." Essentially, the phrase means "it takes considerable work to reach your goals," and one English version of this expression would be "no pain, no gain".

The phrase is apparently even confusing to Icelanders, many of whom have questioned whether beating up bishops was a common practice in the old days. In fact, it's a reference to one Bishop Guðmundur Arason, who was influential in the 12th and 13th centuries. Guðmundur apparently had to endure a lot of hardship in order to attain this high office, especially as a child, when he would be severely beaten if he slacked off on his studies.

Today we know that physical violence does not help children study, but the expression has persisted over the years to present day. AF 💆

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Why Have Just Two Goals?



As the Pepsi League reaches the halfway point of the 2019 season, KR Reykjavík—the black 'n' white magpies of Vesturbær-show no signs of letting up in their domination of Iceland's top division. Having won all five of their last games, they're sitting pretty at the top of the table, seven points clear of their nearest rivals, swashbuckling Kópavogar

Meanwhile, the current Pepsi League title-holders—our heroic 101 boys, Valur—are still recovering from a supremely shaky start, and are currently clawing their way back from mid-table ignominy. And this is despite reuniting three of the national team's heroic Euro 2016 and World Cup smiters—Hannes Halldórsson, Kári Árnason and Birkir Már Sævarsson—in their defence.

This lack of drama at the top of the table hasn't affected the amount of people turning out to see games. It was announced this month that the total Pepsi League attendance so far is 76,646 over the 68 matches that have been played to date, with an average attendance of 1,127 per game.

For context, Old Trafford—the stadium of Manchester Unitedhas a capacity of 75,653. This means that, in theory, you could reduce the amount of Pepsi League gamedays to two, selling out 0ld Trafford each time. Of course, all the teams would have to play simultaneously to make this work, so you'd have to have 12 goals on the pitch, perhaps in a large circle. All the teams would be playing at once, so there'd be 132 players running at each other in this Braveheart-battle-scene freefor-all football spectacular.

If anyone at KSÍ or FIFA is reading, they're obviously going to want to make this new take on the beautiful game happen. Drop us an email at grapevine@grapevine.is. The future of sport beckons. JR ♥



Trusssst In Smite, Jussst In **Smite**

Sexy Rúrik turns on the charm at SV Sandhausen

Words: John Rogers & Greig Robertsson Illustration: Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir

With just a few weeks remaining until the start of the 2019-20 season, the smiters have returned to their clubs to sharpen their axes, make their blood offerings and cast their hexes for the campaign ahead. Here's the latest Icelandic football news, sent to us directly from all over Europe via our doughty unkindness of messenger ravens.

Sexy Rúrik Strikes

Stone-cold hottie and nuclear

bombshell Rúrik "The Siren" Gíslason is the wiliest of bun-wearing man-babes, and his recent preseason performance for club side SV Sandhausen has set the German second division swooning.

With main man Andrew Wooten heading for Philadelphia, the pulchritudinous winger was given a golden chance to play centre-forward in a friendly game against third-division Sonnenhof Großaspach, and he rewarded the decision with a handsome hat-

at The Den Jón Daði Böðvarsson has finished licking his wounds after an injury-

to roar

The

beware when they

German

second divi-

sion better

them this

season. His

hypnotic

sapphireblue eyes

and Timo-

"Stone-cold

hottie Rúrik

Gíslason set

the division

swooning with

a pre-season

hat-trick."

smited 2018/19 season at Championship strugglers Reading, and is back on the hunt. He left The Royals recently for Millwall after two seasons at the Madejski Stadium and fifty appearances that yielded 14 goals, having previously been ousted from reaching his true

destiny as a world-famous striker by dodgy Jorge Mendes at Wolves in 2017.

The Iceland forward said upon joining The Lions that he liked the club's "vision" and "ambition" something that will hopefully see them finish higher than 21st in the table next season. We have a sneaking feeling that this clear-eyed, laser-guided giant will dominate the box for Millwall, and have their fans calling him "The Daði" by this time next year. **GR**

Jóhann Berg blown away by stellar **Burnley signing**

As if playing for Burnley under Sean Dyche wasn't glamorous enough for

Jóhann Berg Guðmundsson, he was greeted by a new signing-Stoke and Netherlands reject Erik Pieters—upon his return to pre-season training.

A sometime attacking mainstay for Burnley, Jóhann Berg assisted six times and scored three in 2018/19, and has been one of the club's more lively attacking players, famed for his darting runs down the wing. As one of three Icelanders in the Premier League this season, he's also carrying the flag for smiting on the big stage of European football.

However, playing at Burnley isn't the most glamorous job in the Premier League. To distract him from his own deafening internal screams of "please get me out of this shithole," Joí has to fight for his place in the Burnley starting eleven, after being displaced by fast-rising prodigy Dwight McNeil in the latter stages of last season. And if that doesn't happen, at least he can jump in the car when the youngster inevitably secures a move to a big club.

Alfreð named as Lewandowski heir-apparent

Robert Lewandowsi may be the Bundesliga's top scorer, but the league's official website ran a story recently about the people

> vying to snatch his crown this season. Featured, of course, was none other than gimlet-eyed poacher Alfreð Finnbogason. Sidelined for half of last season, he still managed to score 10 times in his 17 appearances, meaning

he's snapping at the heels of Lewandowski's goals-per-game ratio. Watch out Robert, Alfreð is coming for your golden boot—and, possibly, your scalp. JR 💆

Follow our live-tweets on Euro qualification matchdays on Twitter at <u>@rvkgrapevine</u>. Iceland's indomitable and unstoppable march to the Euro 2020 trophy will continue throughout 2019, as Aron, Gylfi, Jóhann Berg and the boys smite their way through all the continents of the world, laying waste to any team foolish enough to step into their terrible path to glory.



Helcome



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BLUE LAGOON ICELAND

"Ballarin has

been involved

with both the

Pentagon and

the CIA, and

apparently wants

to breathe new

life into a budget

News



Picking The Bones Of WOW

The ghost of the late budget airline haunts Iceland still

Words: **Andie Fontaine**

> Photo: **Marvin Mutz**

When WOW Air suddenly ceased all operations in March 2019, filing for bankruptcy shortly thereafter, the primary question that arose was how Iceland's tourism market would be affected by its demise. Recent tourism figures have given strong indications that it has had an effect, but at the same time, former management and

assets of WOW Air are also being used to cobble together two new airlines: virtual clone WAB Air, and a newer version of WOW.

The date of WOW's collapse falls very close to the end of the first quarter of 2019. Recent data from Statistics Iceland on the second quarter gives us some indication of the effect this had:

overall tourism did decrease, by about 20%, but something very interesting happened to accommodations: bookings for AirBnB rentals, popular with the budget traveller, declined by 14% in this quarter, while decidedly more expensive hotel bookings remained more or less unchanged. It might not be unreasonable to wager that the sudden disappearance of a budget airline then had a more significant impact on budget accommodation than it did on more expensive rooming options.

Luck o' the Irish

Earlier this month, Fréttablaðið reported that a new airline—dubbed WAB Air—was in the works. The minds behind this project have some very

optimistic projections: they expect some 1 million passengers to fly with WAB Air, which will hire 500 employees over the next 12 months, generating about 20 billion ISK in revenue.

However, this is contingent on a significant capital investment from Avianta Capital, an Irish company, which has report- airline in Iceland." edly pledged some 5

billion ISK to WAB Air in exchange for a 75% stake in the company. The other 25% will go to a new company called Neo which, it turns out, is led by some former WOW Air board members. These folks are also trying to get Arion bank and Landsbanki to lend money to Avianta for investment in the company, but that has yet to play out.

Somali jihadists and **budget airlines**

Far more interesting is the possible resurrection of WOW itself. When it came to light that someone was buying up WOW's logo, website domain name, uniforms and other assets, reporters in Iceland did some digging and discovered that the driving force behind this was one Michele Ballarin.

A recent profile on Michele in Foreign Policy magazine described her as a "flamboyant West Virginia heiress", who bears the distinction of organising Sufi resistance against Wahhabi militant groups in Somalia since 2006. Providing both money and logistical support to these resistance fighters, she has been involved with both the

> Pentagon and the CIA in these efforts for years. And now, she apparently wants to breathe new life into a budget airline in Iceland.

> This naturally raises the question: what plans does Michele have for WOW Air, exactly? Will WOW re-emerge with a new MO, or does this mark a new field of interest for her? Those questions remain unanswered,

but unless and until one or both of these airlines get off the ground, the lack of budget flight to Iceland has had a greater impact on budget travellers to the country than it has had on the number of booked hotel rooms. 💆





US Politicians Visiting Iceland

Why? Thank the Cold War 2.0

Fontaine

Photo:

Words: Andie The United States and Iceland have a long and colourful history together. Icelandic emigrants have been going to the United States since at least the 19th **US State Dpt.** century, and the US returned the favour

by occupying Iceland during World War II, establishing a base in Keflavík around the time of Iceland's entry into NATO in 1949.

While the base formally closed

in 2006, US military staff never completely left—so-called "submarine listeners" are amongst those who have remained—and the Pentagon has been budgeting for greater development of the base. At the same time, certain key US politicians, at the highest levels of the American government, have either visited or are preparing to visit Iceland. What gives?

Arctic oil rush

First, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo paid a visit to Iceland in February 2018. This visit proved to be more than just a diplomatic photo op for Mike and his Icelandic equivalent, Minister of Foreign Affairs Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson. Rather, it coincided with Iceland's preparations to take over the Arctic Council chairmanship from Finland.

This is important, as there are vast reserves of oil, gas and minerals in the Arctic that have sparked territorial disputes, most notably between Russia, China and European Arctic nations. The US State Department has been quick to side with its NATO ally Iceland, saying in a statement that the US "is committed to a strong, united, and capable transatlantic alliance rooted in the principles of common defense, democracy, and fundamental freedoms."

And now Pence

Less obvious is the purpose behind US Vice President Mike Pence's reported wish to visit Iceland in September. While nothing is yet confirmed, the Icelandic government is reportedly making preparations, and sources close to MBL have stated that the visit may mark a new phase in US-Icelandic relations.

That "new phase" may indeed have a lot to do with Iceland's strategic position in both the Arctic and the North Atlantic, especially as tensions with Russia grow. Indeed, the specific line-item budgeting the Pentagon has made for the Keflavík base all point to increased combat readiness.

The US then may hope Iceland can prove a vital launching point in a fight with Russia, whether over fossil fuels or military supremacy. Knowing for certain ahead of time may prove difficult when dealing with the notoriously tight-lipped American forces, but the truth may come to light soon enough. Stay tuned. 💆





Child DeportationsIn Iceland

Does the law need changing, or enforcing?

Words: **Andie Fontaine**

Photo: Art Bicnick

Earlier this month, two then-pending deportation decisions—those of Shahnaz Safari and her two children, Zainab and Amir, aged 14 and 12; and Asadullah Sarwary and his sons, Mahdi and Ali, aged 9 and 12—followed a familiar pattern: their cases began to receive considerable traction on social media, respected public figures began to speak up against the deportations, a petition was started, a protest was organised and launched, members of Parliament sparred rhetorically with each other, and then the Minister of Justice penned a slight change to immigration regulations that allowed these specific families to remain in the coun-

It's a process Iceland has witnessed numerous times before, as elected officials again debated their interpretations of both domestic and international laws on refugees, as well as whether subsequent changes made to regulations and laws on the subject make things better or worse.

The fundamental question that still needs answering is this: does Iceland need to change its laws on foreigners, or adopt a more charitable interpretation of them that honours the spirit in which they were written?

The law as written

Child deportations tend to strike a particular chord with the Icelandic public; nearly every case that has been brought to public attention has sparked widespread protest. After a particularly tumultuous year of such cases—under the auspices of former Minister of Justice Sigríður Á. Andersen, known for her hard-line stance against asylum

seekers—Iceland changed its Law on Foreigners in 2017 to provide special protections to child refugees. How this law was changed bears examination, as it is very similar to how immigrant regulations were changed earlier this month.

First, it changed the text of Article 36 Section 2, which stated in part that if more than 12 months have passed since an application for international protection has

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written?"

been submitted to authorities without a decision being made, then that application will be taken into authoritative consideration. The emergency measure changed this period to nine months if the matter concerns a child. Second, it changed the text of Article 74 Section 2, which stated that if no decision has been made on an application for international protection for humanitarian reasons within

18 months of first applying, then the applicant can be issued a residence permit. The emergency measure changed this period to 15 months if the matter concerns a child.

On the surface, these changes appear to favour the child, as guaranteed protections if no decisions are made within a shorter time frame than the previous law allowed for. However, it is important to remember one key detail: not all applications for asylum are even reviewed before decisions to deport are made. Immigration authorities can, and very often do, simply decide to deport child asylum seekers without even examining the merits of their cases.

As such, shortening the time frame does not necessarily protect these children at all; it merely shortens the amount of time immigration authorities have to decide to deport a child.

Greece is the word

Some readers may wonder how it is that immigration authorities can make such a life-altering (and in some cases, life-ending) decision as a deportation without even taking a glance at whether or not the asylum seeker in question needs protection. The reason is the Dublin Regulation, an interna-

> tional agreement to which Iceland is party that has been a subject of great contention for many years, both in Iceland and across Europe.

In a nutshell, this agreement grants states the power to send asylum seekers back to their previous points of departure if they previously registered for asylum in other countries. Superficially, this seems fair enough: why should Iceland grant asylum to someone here

who already applied for asylum elsewhere? This reasoning ignores the fact that many first-entry countries for refugees—namely, Italy and Greece—require refugees to register with authorities in those countries in order to gain entry, regardless of whether they want to remain in those countries

or head to another country in Europe. Immigration authorities in Iceland,

Immigration authorities in Iceland, by now, cannot plead ignorance of this situation, yet they continue to invoke the Dublin Regulation as if it gives them absolutely no choice on the matter; they interpret the agreement to mean they are obliged to deport asylum seekers to Greece and Italy, a sentiment Minister of Justice Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir has voiced herself, recently telling reporters that "it is difficult to not send children to Greece".

This, though, is not true. Not only can Iceland decide not to send asylum seekers back; existing international agreements that Iceland is party to prohibit the practice. Iceland has encoded in its laws the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Refugee Convention—all of which, directly or indirectly, prohibit deportations of this nature.

Couple this with the well-documented deplorable and inhumane conditions that refugees in Greece must endure, and the cruelty of these deportations is clear.

Form a committee?

All this makes the contentions of politicians that Iceland needs to make some grand legislative changes to its laws in order to prevent these deportations hard to swallow, and those who suggest this are facing growing criticism. For example, Kolbeinn Óttarsson Proppé, an MP for the Left-Greens, penned a lengthy column, published earlier this month on Visir, called "Show refugees compassion." In it, Kolbeinn argued that Iceland needs to make systemic changes in order to prevent these deportations, and proposed the formation of a special committee tasked with gauging whether and how the Law on Foreigners is followed.

For many Icelanders, however, this proposal falls flat, with many raising the point that the time for action has not only long since passed; these deportations could be ended today within the current legislative framework. Amongst them was Pirate MP Þórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, who pointed out the obvious on Facebook in plain terms, writing, "All it takes is for the Minister of Justice to decide to abide Iceland's international obligations regarding refugees and children. [The Minister] could decide today to cease all child deportations to Italy and Greece, where conditions are unsuitable for children."

And changing again

In the end, these most recent impending child deportations were halted, with the Minister of Justice changing the regulations so that the response period for asylum decisions was shortened to 10 months. After this time, immigration authorities are granted the power—but not the obligation—to actually examine the cases. This, as with the 2017 changes, does not necessarily provide greater protections for children; it can also mean that immigration authorities need to make deportation decisions faster.

Ultimately, Iceland may continue to repeat this pattern over and over: immigration authorities make an inhumane and arguably illegal deportation decision, the public cries out, and the Ministry makes minute, vague changes to the regulations. Or it could simply follow the letter and spirit of the international agreements that it contends to honour and uphold. Until Iceland starts to do the latter, we may continue to experience the former, over and again.







Stones Alive

Elín Agla Briem on vernacular culture farming in Árneshreppur

Words: a rawlings

Photo: **Art Bicnick** In Iceland's rural Westfjords district of Árneshreppur, a struggle brews for the memory of the land. Tension lies between the construction of a hydropower dam and the erection of a yurt. Árneshreppur has been the focus of interest for its depopulation over decades. The district currently has 53 residents. Over the past thirteen years, Vesturverk has planned to construct the Hvalárvirkjun Dam—a divisive project for residents and Strandir-interested folks alike.

Yurt-opia

In the wilds of Árneshreppur, Elín Agla Briem has erected the yurt.

Elín Agla is a self-professed vernacular culture farmer, and the yurt has become the vernacular culture farm. Elín Agla describes vernacular culture farming as a way to practice culture. "You don't study, discuss, or write about culture; you practice in a particular place. The place will tutor you about her culture."

In her work, Elín Agla advocates for cultural memory embedded within land and traditional practices. Her dream of establishing Árneshreppur as a site for knowledge exchange and cultural activities has come to fruition this summer, housed in the yurt.

Are you a witch?

Elín Agla was formerly the headmistress of the region's rural school and is currently the harbour master. Her own ties to the region stretch back over a decade. After she was married there, she saw an advertisement for the position of headmistress. "I saw this ad. It said, 'ARE YOU A WITCH' and I was like, what's that? I looked, and it was that little school where I got married." Elín Agla was hired and moved to Strandir.

When asked if she identifies as a witch, Elín Agla replies, "The word in Icelandic would be norn, which is the same root as north. This is a practice of the north. The seiðr practice is what we now call magic, but it's a practice of letting words affect what's happening. I'm a definite believer in that."

In addition to vernacular culture farming, Elín Agla works as Norður-fjörður's harbour master. "It's an amazing group who come to fish in the summer. I'm on the forklift, weighing

cod and chatting to the fishermen. It's a really good life.".

Land as culture

The importance of inhabiting Árneshreppur, for Elín Agla, lies in the gift of landbased memory. "What Árneshreppur gave to me was this memory. It was lost in my surroundings in Reykjavík and in my family lines—just a direct connec-

tion to memory, in my marrow, my blood. But you can't tell people that you should move there because it's important to preserve culture. That's the funeral description of culture. If it happens, it happens."

Through her Masters studies in cultural ethnography, Elín Agla focused on the philosophy of sustainability in conjunction with the Árneshreppur popu-

lation. In 2014, she held a meeting to present the idea of Árneshreppur being deemed a cultural national park. Such a designation, she suggested, "would get us a better road and supply us with jobs. We can preserve our culture and live here. It's a win-win situation." While the cultural national park idea has stalled, Elín Agla has continued her efforts with cultural heritage through establishing the yurt.

Yurt versus dam?

Over the past months, volunteers erected the yurt in Seljanes. "So many people came and helped day after day. People told these incredible jokes to lighten the situation because it's highly political at the moment. We were getting relief and joy from being a community, to give beauty back to the land."

The yurt overlooks the location of the proposed hydropower dams, where dissent has reached a fever pitch over whether Hvalárvirkjun should move forward. Elín Agla voiced her opinion on Hvalárvirkjun two years ago. "I organized a conference for two days where everyone was invited, the people making the dam and their opposition. After that, I haven't spoken about it. I'm not fighting anyone."

Damnation

While the dam construction and road development received a permit from the Árneshreppur district council on June 13th, the project has since received multiple legal complaints.

Landvernd, Rjúkandi, Náttúruverndarsamtök Íslands, and Ungir umhverfissinnar issued a complaint to the Environmental and Natural Resources Complaints Board to have the permit reconsidered. The environmental organizations contend that the Environment Impact Assessment conducted of the site was not considered by the district council, as development would violate environmental protection laws.

Drangavík landowners likewise filed a complaint against the decision to grant the permit. They claim that the area

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slated for the hydropower dam is based on incorrect property boundaries, and that landowners have not agreed to the development. The appeal requested construction to halt while the matter is investigated.

When the hydropower project faced legal obstacles over the past month, Elín Agla explains, "the people who want to make the dam view the yurt as the

symbol of everything that has gone against the dam. They have focused their whole rage against the yurt because everything is falling to pieces. Their last fight is against the yurt. It's incredible to put these as opposites."

Elves, stones, stories

Elín Agla relates yet another legal action taken by landowners in Ingólfsfjörður against road development that supports Hvalárvirkjun. "They started to nibble at the rocks where there's an elf colony. The people in Ingólfsfjörður pressed charges, saying we own the land and road."

Elín Agla continues. "The belief in elves is really strong with Icelandic people. We'll move roads because of elves. You shouldn't move stones unless you need to. This is his home. The battle now is a battle over stones up in the wilderness. The rift between seeing stones alive, with spirit, to wanting to crush them in a 270km square area, this is the story we need to hear."

Yurt Happenings

The yurt officially opened on July 13th, with a feast honouring women excellent at handcrafts. One guest of honour was Marianne Tóvinnukona, who has become prominent for working wool with a Settlement-Age spindle. Kvæðakonur, or women who perform Icelandic chanting, sang to the land at the opening.

The next event, on July 22nd, will feature Canadian storyteller Stephen Jenkinson and musician Gregory Hoskins as they present Night of Grief and Mystery. There will also be a course at a later date on constructing morning altars.





BREAKFAST FROM 7 LUNCH FROM 12

BERGSSON







WEEKEND CONCERTS WITH INTERNATIONAL CONCERT ORGANISTS SATURDAYS AT 12 NOON AND SUNDAYS AT 5 PM

22nd/ 23rd June **Björn Steinar Sólbergsson** organist at Hallgrímskirkja, Reykjavík 29th/ 30th June **Mattias Wager**, organist at Stockholm Cathedral, Sweden

6th/7th July **Johannes Skoog**, concert organist, Sweden

13th/ 14th July **Johannes Zeinler, Austria,** 1st prize winner at the Chartres International Organ Competition 2018

20th/ 21st July Yves Rechtsteiner, concert organist, France

27th/ 28th July
3rd/ 4th August

Lára Bryndís Eggertsdóttir, organist at Hjallakirkja Kópavogur, Iceland

10th/ 11th August
 17th/ 18th August
 25th August
 Mattias Wager, organist at Stockholm Cathedral, Sweden































LUNCHTIME CONCERTS WITH ICELANDIC ORGANISTS - THURSDAYS AT 12 NOON

27th June
 4th July
 11th July
 Tuuli Rähni, organist at Ísafjörður Church
 Guðmundur Sigurðsson organist at Hafnarfjörður Church
 Eyþór Franzson Wechner organist at Blönduós Church

18th July **Jón Bjarnason**, organist at Skálholt Cathedral with **Vilhjálmur Ingi Sigurðsson** and

Jóhann Ingvi Stefánsson trumpets.

25th July Ágúst Ingi Ágústsson organist Reykjavík with Lene Langballe, zink/ cornetto and

recorder, Denmark

1st August

Steinar Logi Helgason organist Reykjavík, with 3 baritone singers: Fjölnir Ólafsson, Örn

Ýmir Arason and Hafsteinn Thorolfsson

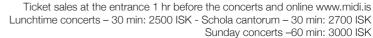
8th August
15th August
22nd August **Guðný Einarsdóttir** organist at Háteigskirkja, Reykjavík **Kitty Kovacs** organist at Landakirkja, Westman Islands **Eyþór Ingi Jónsson** organist at Akureyri Church

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS WEDNESDAYS AT 12 NOON WITH SCHOLA CANTORUM PRIZE WINNING CHAMBER CHOIR OF HALLGRIMSKIRKJA

Schola Cantorum chamber choir of Hallgrimskirkja is celebrating it's 11th season of the popular Wednesdays Lunchtime Summer Concert this summer. The choir sings various beautiful music from their repertoire, both Icelandic choral pearls as well as famous choral works by Byrd, Bruchner, Handel, Mendelssohn and more, occasionally accompanied by the great Klais organ. Conductor is Hörður Áskelsson, Music Director of Hallgrimskirkja. Coffee and tea served after the concert.



LISTVINAFELAG.IS SCHOLACANTORUM.IS













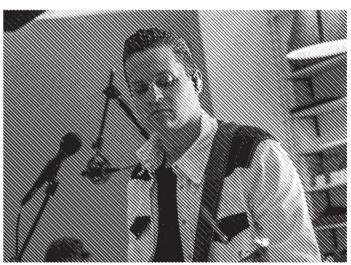






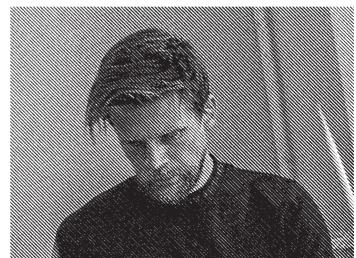












"A FEVER DREAM—THAT'S **WHAT THESE TWO OR THREE YEARS** HAVE BEEN."

"We've never been as excited to share something with people," says Ragnar Þórhallsson, smiling broadly as he sips his coffee. Ragnar—better known as Raggi—is referring to 'Fever Dream,' the forthcoming album from Of Monsters and Men, the band in the band in which he sings and plays guitar. It's clear he's almost bursting with excitement for the world to hear it.

The band's other singer and guitarist, Nanna Bryndís Hilmarsdóttir, is no less enthused. "Fever dream," she states simply. "That's what these two or three years have been while writing the album. That's what the process was like." She pauses. "For us, it's a fever dream."

DREAM

The two burst out laughing at the cheesiness of using the album's title in such a lofty statement. It's just the way Raggi and Nanna interact. They talk with a familiarity more common among siblings, finishing each other's sentences, peppering their thoughts with inside jokes, and ripping on each other in a way only those who've spent too much time together can.

It's easy to imagine why. Over the past ten years, the two, along with their three bandmates, have achieved something most can only dream of. They've travelled the world, had a number one single, and made a name for themselves internationally as one of the foremost bands in their genre. With an uncanny ability to mix the Icelandic krútt sensibility with earworm melodies, Of Monsters and Men found a niche that has captivated listeners around the world.

Now, after a three year writing period, they're back and ready to enter the next stage of their takeover.

FIND-**ING THEIR** PEOPLE

Of Monsters and Men grew out of Nanna's solo project, Songbird. Originally from the small Reykjanes village of Garður, Nanna began playing guitar and writing songs at age 13. "I don't come from a musical family," she says. "So it was a bit of a random thing that I was interested in learning guitar and songwriting."

was listening to at that time, the songstress immediately blushes. "Oh Jesus, at 13? I don't even know," she laughs, only to be immediately interrupted by Raggi. "Avril Lavigne?" he interjects with a grin. "Yeah, probably," she replies, with a shrug.

Raggi, on the other hand, is a born and bred city boy. "I started playing music really late," he says. "I played around with the guitar, but I only started writing when I met Nanna at age 17 or 18. She and [OMAM guitarist] Brynjar [Leifsson] were playing together and they needed..." he pauses, doubling back on himself. "Well, they didn't need anything."

Nanna rolls her eyes. "We wanted," she states firmly. "I had seen him at parties. He'd be playing the guitar and singing something.

"Something horrible probably," Raggi interjects.

"No, no," Nanna chastises him, always, of course, with a smile.

Nanna asked Raggi to join them onstage for her Airwaves 2009 offvenue show. The trio clicked and decided to form a proper band, calling themselves Of Monsters and Men. In 2010, just one year later, they entered and won Músiktilraunir, Iceland's national annual battle of the bands, which kickstarted their career.

BATTLING FOR A **PLATFORM**

Winning Músiktilraunir afforded the group the opportunity to record a demo. "That's the great part about Músiktilraunir," Nanna explains. "The platform they give you."

The two still keep up with each year's winners, and admire how the contest elevates musicians of all genres. "It's very cool that a metal band can win one year and then a rap group can win the next," Nanna says. Of her recent favourites, the songwriter names Between Mountains as particularly inspira-

Raggi, meanwhile, gives his stamp of approval to this year's winners, metal band Blóðmör. "They were just playing recently by my house in Kópavogur. I could hear them through the window," he grins. "They're good."

With the studio time furnished by Músiktilraunir, the band recorded two songs before the 2010 Iceland Airwayes on a handmade CD. One was called "From Finner." The other was a 4m 24s minute track entitled "Little Talks."

When asked what type of music she "WE OPENED UP THE SONGWRITING PRO-CESS. IT OPENED UP

A "LITTLE" SONG

The track would go on to gain more than 400 million Spotify streams and 270 million YouTube plays. It remains, even today, the all-time highest charting single on the Billboard Top 100 by an Icelandic artist.

"Little Talks" was a kingmaker; one that set the band on a two-year journey of touring, interviews, and fame far beyond their wildest dreams.

"It was crazy. It just happened," Raggi says, clearly still somewhat shocked by the whole experience. "We got signed. We got a manager. We started touring, but the song just got bigger and bigger."

"We were always catching up to the song," says Nanna. Raggi nods. "We were booking venues and then kept having to upgrade to a bigger place. Every time we planned something, 'Little Talks' got bigger," he says. For the next year, the band spent their time racing after the ever-growing fame of their little song.

"Looking back, it was such a cool experience, but it was definitely very strange and foggy," Nanna says. "Every morning we were doing a session at a radio station or doing a little concert, then we had soundcheck, then another concert," Raggi relays. "Interviews, no sleep, loading in and loading out," he adds, sardonically. "Yes, it's very fun."

MV HEAD IS A HIT

The release of their debut effort, 'My Head Is an Animal,' cemented their legacy as bonafide stars. Chock full of whimsical, heartfelt, sing-a-long tunes, the album's folksy duets and soaring harmonies resonated with people. There was something attractively wholesome about the group; something authentic that grabbed people of all ages and backgrounds. 'My Head Is an Animal' managed to musically bridge the gap between childlike sincerity and adult understanding, and it has since gained a place as one of the canonical indie-folk albums of recent years.

"'My Head Is an Animal' has an energy to it that is very innocent and wide-eyed," says Nanna. Her eyes sparkle when she talks about it. None of that innocence has been lost.

For Raggi, the album evokes a coming-of-age. "You're always trying to figure out who you are," he interjects. "Also who you are as an individual trying to write songs and your place in the band and what that is at that moment. Thinking about that, we wanted the album to be very cheery."

Neither can contain their smiles when discussing the album. Those early years, while busy and overwhelming, are clearly awash with happy memories. It seems the excitement of the 'My Head Is an Animal' era is still with them.

IN A WEIRD PLACE

Four years and countless shows later, Of Monsters and Men returned with their sophomore effort 'Beneath the

Often referred to as their introverted album, 'Beneath the Skin' presented a darker tone. While it still contained the fantastical lyrics and wilderness themes of their debut, it had a distinctly more adult undercurrent. The topics were more serious, exploring such themes as loss of identity and regret. It featured their first flourishes of electronic production, using droning guitars and other sounds alongside their characteristic acoustic sound.

"It was a hard album to make," says Nanna, quietly. "We went in the opposite way. We were trying to figure things out. You have your entire life to write your first album." Raggi nods. "We were in a weird place."

The band began making the album directly after returning from two years of touring, which proved to be a difficult transition. "For me, it was a strange thing, coming back," Nanna explains. "When you're on tour, everything is planned out and you get used to that. Then you come back and it's like, alright, make an album! I got pretty lost at that time."

Raggi had a similar crisis. "When you play every night there's an adrenaline high, but when you get home, you don't get that," he says. "We didn't know what we were getting into."

"Overall, we wanted to get more personal on 'Beneath the Skin.' We wanted to be mature. More mature than we are." He pauses. "That said, we are very proud of that album, and a lot of it translated onto the next one."

A NEW ANGLE

'Fever Dream,' their upcoming third album, is a coalescence of everything the band learned from their first two efforts. It continues the electronic progression started on 'Beneath the Skin' whilst returning to the fun and whimsical feeling of 'My Head Is an Animal.' A whirlwind of ethereal electronica mixed with stadium rock, with nods to their more acoustic roots, it's a new angle for the group. It's Of Monsters and Men at their most weird, but also at their most alluring.

"It's playful," grins Nanna. She attributes this to how they wrote and recorded the album, which was a drastic departure from their first two. "We got rid of how we've always done things, and our roles within the band. How we wrote the first two albums was writing something on an acoustic guitar and then bringing it into the space, and moulding it together. Going into the third, I thought 'I can't do this again.' It didn't feel inspiring."

"You limit yourself," Raggi adds. "It limits you to the guitar you have in your hand. For the two of us, we're not amazing instrumentalists," he laughs. "We need more time. So for this, we wrote more on our laptops."

Nanna nods. "Instead of just having a piano or guitar, you can say, 'I am going to make this rhythm, or loop this thing, or chop up this vocal," she says. "It gives you a new way to find that 'Oh, that's interesting!' feeling."

"We opened up the process," Raggi concludes. "It opened up a whole new world for us.

Writing separately using computer software allowed for the creation of more varied songs, and freed the band up to play with structure and tone. "There are songs with no guitar in them, because that's what the song was meant to be," Nanna explains. "If we'd recorded together in person, we'd say, 'Oh, but I'm a guitar player, the piece has to have guitar.' So it's things like that which changed it."

Changing up their writing process also allowed the band to progress lyrically. "We separated a bit," Raggi adds. "We've done a lot of the lyrics together, which is fun, but it does limit you in



how deep you go personally."

"We let each other have our own space," Nanna agrees. "Before, I think we were always trying to fit each other into the song." She pauses, looking to Raggi for an explanation. "It's something that we changed," he adds. "We've always believed that everyone has to be involved in everything, everyone has to have a voice." Nanna smiles. "We're super democratic."

Jettisoning the idea of pleasing everyone at all times turned out to be useful. "Sometimes when you do that, everything mushes into something that's in the middle," says Raggi. "But on 'Fever Dream' there are more moments when people shine by themselves."

A PROPER ROCK ANTHEM

The first single from the album, "Alligator," is a case in point. The song puts Nanna's voice front and centre in a haze of guitars, thumping drums, and fierce, gasping vocals. To put it bluntly: It's a proper rock anthem. With such a desperate, clawing feel, it's hard to believe this is the same band propelled to fame by "Little Talks."

The video is just as intense. Featuring the band in person—an unusual departure for the group, who usually animate their videos—the video features Nanna's dismembered head growing alligator-like tendrils, while the rest of the band resides in creepy

masks. Is this really the same band who used to sing about forests?

WE'RE ACTORS NOW?

"At the beginning, we were horrible at being in videos," Raggi admits. "We're musicians and all of a sudden, we're supposed to be actors as well?"

"I did act in the video though, I knocked on a door," he continues. "What you don't know is that in every scene in every movie, there's like 50 people staring at the actor. Is the light good? Is his makeup good? He's just there knocking on a door." Raggi shakes his head. "How do they do that?"

For Nanna, the video was an equally intense and hilarious experience. "I had to crawl on the floor," she adds, a small smile lighting up her face. "When you're crawling on the floor in front of a camera, it's a lot."

WAITING WITH BATED BREATH

But making the video was only one step toward what they are really excited for, which is their upcoming world tour. "We haven't played in three years," Nanna says, incredulous. "This album was such a process to make. It's taken a long time. We wanted to get it really right; it feels good to finally be at this point."

"We're just waiting to play it live," Raggi adds. The two look at each other fondly—the familial bond they share resurfacing as they look together towards their future. "We've been rehearsing." He pauses, a mischievous look painting his face. In typical Raggi and Nanna fashion, he can't help but end with a joke. "We've been playing our old songs, and we still remember them," he grins. "So that's a great start." \heartsuit

"WE WERE
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Tramp Round Town

Slutwalk 2019

July 27th - 14:00 - Starts At Hallgrímskirkja

It's been eight years since the first Slutwalk took place in Toronto, and luckily since then the world has sat up, taken notice, and become a lovely safe place for women and vulnerable people to exist in. JK, Donald Trump is president and the world is a dumpster fire. But there's still plenty of us fighting the good fight, insisting on zero-tolerance for victim-blamers, slut-shamers and general Bad Vibers. Fly the slut flag high. **JG**



Ice Docs Baby

IceDocs 2019

July 19th-21st - Various times/prices - Akranes

Based in Akranes at one of Iceland's oldest cinemas, the programme for the debut Iceland Documentary Film Festival has (finally) been released, and it's a captivating mix of local and international filmmaking. Look out in particular for the award-winning 'In Touch,' 'Hail Satan' (a "humorous take on satanism"), and 'Aquarela,' a film where water is the main character, along with many more, including several free screenings. FR



Impress Your Cool Friends

Seint, Quest, Ari Árelius & Flavor Fox

July 19th - 22:00 - Gaukurinn - 1.000 ISK

It's an arty night of artsy artistic sound art. First you've got Seint's expansive, atmospheric electronic soundscapes. Then, the jazz/rock fusion of Ari Árelius. Add to that the melodic beach rock of Flavor Fox and dreamy, ethereal post-rock of Quest, and you've got a night that's sure to impress even your most stuck up audiophile friend. Get their autographs while you still can. **HJC**

CULTURE NEWS

Festival

Norðanpaunk will be held in

Laugarbakki from

August 2nd-5th.

nordanpaunk.is

Buy a ticket at



These poeple are monsters

For The Love Of Extremes

Norðanpaunk returns for the 6(66)th time

Words: Phil Uwe Widiger

Photo: Phil Uwe Widiger

These words have been written before, and so they shall be again: Norðanpaunk is an event like no other. The annual gathering of the Icelandic punk community spans three days and boasts no less than 50 local and international bands. It is a full-on music frenzy that was founded to give "difficult" music a place to exist.

Dillon, 2013

In 2013, a group of friends met at Reykjavík's Dillon Whiskey Bar to discuss a problem plaguing Iceland's extreme underground scene: the bands had no venue to call home. Six years ago, Reykjavík had a few more venues than it does today, but often such bands would be turned away by management concerned with turning a profit. "If you have a karaoke night, you have lots of people drinking, singing and having fun," explains Norðanpaunk co-founder Árni Þorlákur Guðnason. "If you book some kind of avant garde industrial artist, you will have him and his five friends, all of whom are broke."

Yet, at the same time, Iceland's biggest metal festival, Eistnaflug, was growing both in size and commercial success—but even there, new underground bands had difficulty playing, and aggressive music would be turned down due to (non-)accessibility.

The question remained: Where would these "difficult" bands be able to play?

Strong values

The small community of Laugarbakki

came to the rescue, and a Mecca for fans of underground music was found. It was decided at the very start that no band would play more than two years running, to give new bands a chance to be heard and discovered.

"The last piece of the puzzle was to avoid everything that annoys us at festivals," says Árni. That includes paying a high ticket price, only to feel ripped off by the unholy cost of food and drink inside the festival. Norðanpaunk thus became strictly BYOB, and people felt less exploited and way more chill as a result.

The organisation is also completely DIY. Nobody gets paid, instead, it is built on the passion of the volunteers—and anyone can be one. "The people in attendance are aware that they can't just throw trash on the ground and expect somebody to pick it up," says Ólöf Rút Benediktsdóttir, who has been in charge of the visual art at Norðanpaunk since its inception. "We all have to work together and create a space that's clean and nice to be in, so that we can come back next year."

Visiting the family

The passion for music, the determination of the volunteers, the feeling of a community, and the strong core values of Norðanpaunk make it a unique experience that feels more like visiting family than attending a music festival — art corner and late-night campfires included.

This year's edition convinces, with a reliable blend of established acts and brand new bands from the underground scene, including Godchilla, The Post Performance Blues Band, ROHT and Kælan Mikla. "The first half will melt your brain and the second half will melt your face," says Árni. "As an extra treat, we offer hand-picked international artist to melt whatever part of your body that is still intact."

ELECTRIC DREAMS

Music

Follow Fruit on soundcloud.
com/fruitdj. His two years-in-the-making EP 'Drømmeland,' is out now on Coastal Haze.
Pick it up at juno.co.uk



Dreamy And Dancey In Denmark

Icelandic producer Fruit on his danceable music and Copenhagen connection

Words: Alexander Le Sage de Fontenay

Photo: **Flemming Bo**

Over the past couple years, Anton Sandholt—Icelandic DJ, musician and event promoter—has been making his mark in Copenhagen's dance music scene. His music productions, under his moniker Fruit, range from spiritual soundscapes to melodic club-ready dance tracks. He also co-

hosts the Normal Fun event series which has received massive turnouts in both Copenhagen and Reykjavík.

Anton began studying music and singing in a choir at a young age. "The last couple of years, I've focused on DJing and developing my sound as a producer and composer," he ex-

plains. "Event organization can be straining, but the joy of making something that really comes together is something I thoroughly enjoy."

To Anton, his music is a way for people to experience a specific emotional view-point, with enough room for personal interpretation. "My music is often a bit melancholic, or even nostalgic," he explains. "Some of my friends tell me my music is like having a good time at the beach with an old friend."

Last year, Anton released a cassette tape with music on Øen Records—a small Copenhagen label run by a venue. Last month, his EP 'Drømmeland' was released on London-based label Coastal Haze, after considerable delays.

"Most of the tracks were ready two years ago, but didn't get released since the label I made an agreement with initially came to a halt," he says. "It seriously challenged my faith in the music industry."

Anton has a lot of projects in the works and a new EP will be ready before the end of the summer. "I'll be playing events in Norway and the US soon and then there is an event series I am especially excited about in September at Øen," he says. "There I'll be paired with a poet to perform a half-hour improvised set together." "





Albums

'II' and 'The Future Sound of Iceland' are out now on Spotify and elsewhere. Hear Hermigervill's early releases at hermigervill. bandcamp.com



The Future Sound Of Iceland

Hermigervill's new album explores the contemporary dystopia

John Rogers

Photos: Art Bicnick "Whether you know it or not, you've probably heard the music of Sveinbjörn Thorarensen. A producer, solo artist, master collaborator, multi-instrumental live performer, remixer, composer

"I chase whatever

unicorn I find

interesting, and it

always turns out

to be a problem."

for dance performances, and more, he's been involved in a dizzying variety of projects for over a decade. You might have seen him wielding a keytar in FM Belfast, adding propulsive

electronic flourishes to Retro Stefson,

In person, as onstage, Sveinbjörn is a one-off. Within moments of meeting, he's pouring forth his trademark joke ideas. Nintendo, he says, should make a "Mario Pint" drinking game, in which

> the player has to drink against Mario to catch up with the alreadytrashed Luigi. Parappa The Rapper from the cult 90s rap-along video game should return as "Parappa the Rabbi," spitting sage

advice instead of cartoon rhymes. "Everything I do is kind of a joke," says Sveinbjörn, considering the inherent mischief of his work. He makes eye contact, suddenly mock-stern. "But it's **Quest for obscurity**

This kind of playful rearrangement is also a trademark of Hermigervill's musical output. Long before he had formed his current identity, his thought processes and methods were already forming. "My father had a MIDI keyboard in the '90s," he remembers. "You had all these sounds—screaming sounds, helicopter sounds. He had a computer that you could sequence with. And I was fascinated."

His first two albums—self-released in the early noughties—were tapestries of obscure samples gleaned from the dusty annals of Icelandic pop history. "Those early records were very inspired by DJ Shadow and RJD2," says Sveinbjörn. "I'd try and find the most obscure samples possible—it's wasn't like using a Madonna song. I used a sampler, a Technics turntable, and a lot of records. I'd bounce samples, record into a tape machine and overdub it, and record that into the computer. It's quite Stone Age compared to what kids have today, but almost there, technically."

Chasing unicorns

To deepen his catalogue of sounds, Sveinbjörn went to Geisladiskabúð Valda-an Aladdin's cave of assorted second-hand CDs, computer games, and vinyl—to pick up old Icelandic records for 100 króna apiece. "They're priceless now, but absolutely nobody wanted these records in 2002," he laughs. "You couldn't really go on the internet for samples yet, and I was always swayed against using samples that were ac-





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cessible to everyone. It was always a quest for finding samples other people don't have access to. I wanted my source to go back one step further. And this still carries with me today."

It made for interesting, fresh music with an intentionally retro feel. But the patchwork of uncleared samples made his early music all-but unreleasable; today, these albums are still only available on Bandcamp. "I make things very difficult for myself," Sveinbjörn grins. "Both on purpose, and unintentionally. You could start with my artist name. People see my shows, and afterwards they have no idea who was playing. They can't even write it down. I just say, 'Forget about it! Enjoy that you saw it and don't try to look for my music, ever.' There's a self-destructive vibe. It clashes with me wanting to be as famous as... Deadmau5. No wait, don't say Deadmau5. Say Daft Punk."

His next two albums were reworked, largely instrumental covers of much-loved Icelandic pop classics. "Also a legal grey area," he laughs. "But there's a thread. When digging for records, I'd stumble on these weird Moog cover albums. If I could find the shittiest Beatles cover, played on a synth with all the wrong notes, that would be my favourite version. I chase whatever unicorn I find interesting, and it always turns out to be a problem."

A new hope

So it was that his sparkling, characteristically playful fifth solo album was entitled 'I'. "It was a new



starting point," "We've trashed savs Sveinbjörn. our planet and But it would take four years for the we don't know if sequel to emerge. there's hope for After tempting hints in singles us, or not." "Solitaire" and "Vape Aquatic,"

he dropped the much-anticipated 'II' on December 23rd 2018, in the heart of the publicity black hole of the Christmas period.

It was worth the wait. A gleaming, pristine soundscape that contains all of the charm and mischief of his early works, 'II' adds an appealing and easy-going accessiblilty. The dreamy artwork felt of-the-mo-

ment in a way that Hermigervill's work had never quite before, moving his musical identity from the margins to the zeitgeist.

It's as close as Hermigervill has come to releasing pop. "It was purposefully not retrospective, sound-wise," says Sveinbjörn. "It's a take on today. Part of that was influenced by hanging out with Logi Pedro and Sturla Atlas and the 101derland guys. I wanted to do a take on the hip-hop and trap that has been very present here in Iceland, but with sound design instead of rap as the focus."

Icelandic Beyoncé

All of this made it even more of a surprise when a Facebook message popped up on July 7th. "Hey! Here's a little heads up... got a full new album up this weekend. It's called Hermigervill Presents: The Future Sound Of Iceland."

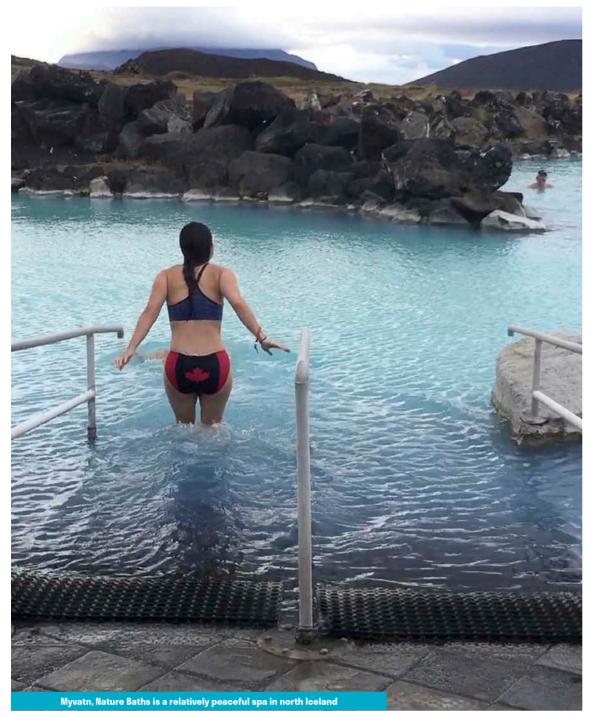
"I made this record in a weekend," says Sveinbjörn. "I started with nothing on Friday, and had a record by Monday."

A darker, sleeker proposition entirely, his new snap-release is a concept album about a future dystopian Iceland. "There are tracks called 'Global Warming' and 'Population 400k,' which we're approaching now," he explains. "'Tokyavík' is like Reykjavík with a neon skyline. And there's 'Dead Island,' about how after we've wiped ourselves out, the island will still be here. It's the big thing that's going on today. We've trashed our planet and we don't know if there's hope for us, or not."

So is this the start of the more serious Hermigervill? He pauses, his eyes gleaming with amusement. "I mean, the end of Iceland. How is that not funny? ♥







Soak The Blues Away

Seven countryside spas

Words: John Rogers Photos: Art Bicnick, Timothée Lambrecq & John Rogers

You've probably heard about the borderline-magical healing powers of Iceland's swimming pools. Unlike the heavily-chlorinated urban puddles of many mainland European countries and the US, Icelandic pools run on a constant, plentiful supply of geothermal water, heated by the earth itself. And while even the most humble municipal pool in Iceland is worth a relaxing half-hour visit, these are some modern rural spas where you'll want to spend a whole afternoon.



Blue Lagoon

Grindavík

The original mothership of fancy bathing spots, the Blue Lagoon has handled the teeming crowds who flock there all year round by enlarging the swimming area

and limiting the amount of people who can enter at any one time. This has restored the health-spa atmosphere that made it a firm favourite in the first place. Sink into the pearlescent white, silica-rich water—which has first been used to produce clean energy by the neighbouring geothermal power plant—and you'll feel like a new person, inside and out. Be sure to book ahead.



Krauma

Borgarfjörður

A newcomer with a stark black design, Krauma exploits the most powerful hot spring in all of Europe, Deildartunguhver. There are several hot pots of varying temperatures—all offering great views over the

picturesque valley in which the pool is situated—as well as a searing steam room. Take a robed-up selfie in the relaxation lounge and watch your Instacomments explode with envy.



Sjávarsmiðjan

Reykhólar

One of the more humble setups on the list, the Sjávarsmiðjan spa is basically a handful of outdoor hotpots in the lower-Westfjords village of Reykhólar. What makes it special, though, is the use of seaweed. There's a processing plant just outside the village, creating a nutritious seaweed powder that's used in all kinds of cosmetics. At Sjávarsmiðjan, they ladle it decadently into the water to replenish your skin and soul as you look out towards Snæfellsnes to the south.



Mývatn Nature Baths

Lake Mývatn

The 'Blue Lagoon of the North' is a much quieter proposition than its southerly counterpart. Bask in the main pool, swimming around to find the temperature that suits you; pop into the sauna to steam yourself, and then cool off on the deck. It's the perfect end to a day spent exploring the wonders of Lake Mývatn's shoreline, or as the final stop of your Diamond Circle road trip.



GeoSea

Húsavík

On a grassy hilltop at the edge of Húsavík you'll find this stateof-the-art bathing facility. A relative newcomer to the scene, GeoSea takes advantage of a borehole that mixes salty seawater with a geothermal outpour, enabling you bask in a naturally-heated saline pool. The attractively-designed pool has an undulating edge and a stunning view over the Skjálfandi Bay.



Bjórböðin

Árskógssandur

While the concept of bathing in beer might sound like some kind of Viking-themed fantasy, everyone from the Grapevine who's visited Eyjafjörður's Beer Spa has come back singing its praises. The young beer in the bath has beneficial effects for the skinand there's a pump to pour yourself a fully-developed brew right next to the tub, plus an outdoor hot pot to relax in afterwards.



Vök Baths

Urriðavatn

This newcomer spa in East Iceland just opened, and we've been drooling over the early photos of the "floating pools"—that is, hot pots that hover in waters of Lake Urriðavatn. With a cold mist tunnel, a pool bar, and more, we'll be checking this one out as soon as we can. 😇



Best Indian

Winner:

Austur-Indíafjélagið Hverfisgata 56

A tried and tested local favourite, Austur-Indíafélagið has singlehandedly steered an entire generation to embrace spices and menu reflects regional Indian cuisine and their no-nonsense attitude toward "uncompromising authenticity" brings a freshness most on display with dishes like the Adraki Chaamp bone-in lamb grilled to smoky perfection, transporting one to the streets of India. Instead of ordering an entire curry, do like the Indians do and dine-in family style. The tandoori kulchas are perfect to mop up both curries and kebabs. Finish the meal off with some steamed rice and garlic-laced dal that alone warrants repeat visits.



Runners up: **Shalimar** Austurstræti 4

Shalimar's daily rotation of weekday thalis still have our hearts skipping a beat. A grilledto-perfection tandoori chicken, alongside an assortment of vegetables and meat, naan and rice is a meal fit for a queen, and all her minions. Our panellist shares that "what most don't know, is that their kheer—a slow cooked rice-pudding-like dessert—is an undiscovered gem."



Hraðlestin Lækjargata 8

This small local chain has a few branches, but the mothership is the Lækjargata location, where ment and blast your face off with a rich, decadent, tasty vindaloo or a spot-on madras. Follow them on Instagram for Tuesday specials. 🗸

July 19th—August 1st

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



Laufey Soffia

Laufey Soffía is the singer for darkwave, synth-punk band Kælan Mikla, who will be embarking on a US tour at the end of August. We caught up with Laufey to find out what her perfect day in Reykjavík would look like.

First Thing

When I'm feeling enthusiastic enough to go out early, I always go visit my friends. They live on Ránargata with a manic parrot and a depressed cat. On the way, I stop at Pétursbúð and pick up items for vegan brunch and say hello to my friend Steinnun (dj. flugvél og geimskip) who sometimes works there. At my friends' place we drink a thousand cups of coffee and make some art together—we're always plotting spooky things. They let the parrot fly around the apartment so he's always coming and sitting on your head.

Mid-morning

After brunch I go to the pool—either Vesturbæjarlaug or Sundhöllin—for

a swim or a soak in the hot tub at. I find it very meditative to swim, but I swim really slowly, so I always go when there's just one grandmother there. It's not really exercise. I like to treat my body like a potato; put it in hot water and let it float around.

In the afternoon

I take the bus to our studio in Höfði, which we share with a bunch of cool black metal dudes. We do some Kælan Mikla business and work on new material and magic then grab a bite to eat. There are so many restaurants around the area, I always go to either Fönix, a great Asian restaurant, or Mathöll Höfða. Fönix has a bunch of crazy good vegan Chinese dishes, which is great as all my friends are vegan.

Dinner

Even though we just ate, we're having second dinner because I'm always hungry. I meet up with my best friend. Agústa, and we go to one of our favourite noodle places. lt's either gonna be Núðluskálin or Ramen Momo because no day is complete without a bowl of steaming hot noodle soup and a whole bunch of chillies.

In the heat of the night

If I'm feeling like a party I go to a show at Gaukurinn or R6013. We start with a concert at R6013 where my teenage heart-throb band, The Libertines, will be playing, and I'll be in the front so they will sing me a song. Pete Doherty is going to sing to me, personally. In an Irish basement, Afterwards we do karaoke. Sölvi from Skrattar runs this karaoke night every other Monday. The machine is just his computer, and last time I was there it broke down three times while I was singing.

Normally my go-to karaoke song is something screamy, but I had a sore throat so I was trying to sing Amy Winehouse. I gave up because it was getting sad and sang Lana Del Ray instead. My day ends in bed with my cat and Netflix. The cat is actually the mother of the depressed cat my friends have. She's called Frú Dimmhildur, which translates to 'Madame Darkness'-but we just call her Dimma for short. 5

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American Bar Austurstræti 8	D3	Kex Hostel Skúlagata 28	E7			
Andrými Bergþórugata 20	G6	Kaffibarinn Bergstaðastræti 1	E4			
8 5 Bankastræti 5	E4	Kaffi Vínyl Hverfisgatur 76	E6			
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Síó Paradís Hverfisgata 54	E 5	Loft Bankastræti 7	E4			
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Dillon .augavegur 30	E 5	Prikið Bankastræti 12	E4			
Dubliner Naustin 1-3	D3	R6013 Ingólfsstræti 20	E4			
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lard Rock Café .ækjargata 2a	D3	Ölsmiðjan Lækjargata 10	E3			
Iressó Austurstræti 20	D3	Tivoli bar Hafnarstræti 4	D3			
lúrra Vaustin	D3	Tjarnarbíó Tjarnargata 12	E3			

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kurinn Jgvagata 22	D3	Stofan Café Vesturgata 3	D3	Hitt Húsið Pósthússtræti 3-5 D4	
d Rock Café :jargata 2a	D3	Ölsmiðjan Lækjargata 10	E3	Hverfisgallerí	
ssó turstræti 20	D3	Tivoli bar Hafnarstræti 4	D3	Hverfisgata 4 D4 Tu-Fri 13-17, Sat 14-17	
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The Penis Museun igavegur 67 en daily 9-21 Laugavegur 116 Open daily 10-18

SÍ Art Gallery eyjugata 41 <mark>G6</mark> pen Tue-Sun 13-17 Kirsuberiatréð Vesturgata 4 D3 M-F 10-18, Sat-Sun 10-17 rora Reykjavík andagarður 2 B1 en 09-21 Kling & Bang Grandagarður 20 A4 W-Sun 14-18, Th 12-21 **grimur Jónsson Iseum** rgstaðastr. 74 **G4** ly 8-Sep 1, Mon-Fri **Listastofan** Hringbraut 119 Open Wed-Sat 13-17 Living Art Museum Granadarður 20 A4 T-Sun 12-18, Th 12-21 **rg Contemporary** apparstigur 16 **E5** -F 11-17, Sat 13-17 **e Culture House** erfisgata 15 en daily 10–17 **Mokka Kaffi** Skólavörðustíg. 3A **E5** Open daily 9-18:30 Museum of Design and Applied Art e Einar Jónsson iksgata <mark>G5</mark> en Tue–Sun 10–17 Garðatorg 1 Open Tu-Sun 12-17 The National Gallery of Iceland Fríkirkjuvegur 7 Open daily 10–17 k**isens** rgstaðast. 25b **F4 llerí List** ipholt 50A **H10** F 11-18, Sat 11-16 The National Museum Suðurgata 41 G2 Open daily 10–17 **fnarborg** randgata 34, 220 en Wed-Mon 12-17 The Nordic House

Hafnarhús

Kjarvalsstaðir Flókagata 24 Open daily 10-17

Sturlugata 5 H2 Thu-Tu 11-17, W 11-20 Tryggvagata 17 D3 Open 10-17, Thu 10-22

Reykjavík Museum of Photography Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-18 **Saga Museum** Grandagarður 2 Open daily 10-18 Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum Laugarnestangi 70 Open Tu-Sun 14-17

Ásmundarsafn Sigtún Open daily 10-17

Reykjavík City Library

Trýggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-17

The Settlement Exhibition Aðalstræti 16 Open daily 9-18

Árbæjarsafn Kistuhylur 4 Open daily 13-17

SÍM Hafnarstræti 16 D: Open Mon-Fri 10-16 Tveir Hrafnar Baldursgata 12 Open Fri-Sat 13-16 Wind & Weather Window Gallery Hverfisgata 37

Vital Info

Useful Numbers

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

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

Pharmacies

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

Opening Hours - Bars & Clubs

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

Opening Hours - Shops & Banks

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

Swimming Pools

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

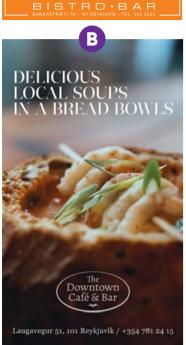
Public Toilets

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

Public Transport

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









G The Map

City Map at your nearest hotel or guesthouse, with selections from our Best-0f awards, vital info, downtown bus stops and a wider view of the city.

Dining

1. Icelandic Fish & Chips

Tryggvagata 11

Sometimes you just want fresh fish deep-fried. Icelandic Fish & Chips does this well. The fish is fresh and the batter is light and crispy, with Skyronnes, a skyr-based dipping sauce that comes in nine different variations including tartar sauce. Try the steinbítur, Atlantic wolffish. It's as ugly in life as it is delicious in death.

2. Block Burger

Skólavörðustígur 8

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

3. Burro

Veltusund 1

Needless to say, we love Reykjavík's only fully South American restaurant! With a vegan tasting menu and a smattering of chevices (and a tongue-in-cheek bar serving tropical delights upstairs in the form of Pablo Discobar), Burro is a not-to-miss locale

4. Brauð & Co.

Frakkastígur 16

Regulars swear by Brauð & Co.'s "snuður"—cinnamon bread rolls smothered with a sugary glaze. They take it a step further and stuff the classics with blueberries and whatnot, eliciting inappropriate satisfied moans. Get there early to snatch a warm one.

5. Deig Workshop

Tryggvagata 14

Barring kleina and the odd US chain, we've been a doughnut-starved nation. But thanks to Deig, fresh fried doughnuts are a reality. Should we gush about the custard filled creme brulée doughnut or cry for the now discontinued surmjölk and Cheerios doughnut? (Bring it back!) They make pretty good bagels too. Psst... they open at 7am.

6. Ramen Momo

Tryggvagata 16

Iceland's first Ramen bar has upped their broth game with a silky slick Tonkotsu. They have a choice of

noodles and broths catering to food intolerances and fads, and a popular 'Ramen of the Month'. We suggest getting the Ramen Tonkotsu with their perfectly cooked soy cured

7. Public House Gastropub

Laugavegur 28

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

8. Jómfrúin

Lækjargata 4

Jómfrúin may be of Danish import, but it's 100% an Icelandic institution. With its typically open sandwiches, smørrebrød, and the slightly retro décor, this is the place for a casual, playful lunch. Don't miss out on the marinated herring and hand-peeled shrimps, and pair it all with some of the house zingy snaps.

9. Sea Baron

Geirsgata 4a

Some say the langoustine soup recipe has changed a little since the eponymous "Sea Baron" himself passed away, but this harbourside diner is as popular as ever anyway. Get a warming cup of soup, and a melt-in-the-mouth fresh fish kebab, still smoky from the coals.

10. Pylsuhúsið

Ingólfstorg

One of the many post-jam options in town for those looking to put a tasty end to a fun night out, the Hot Dog House is a solid place for a quick snack. If you feel too inebriated by life to experiment, a classic one "with everything" will do the trick.

Drinking

11. Boston

Laugavegur 28b

A spin-off from the late, lamented, recently-resurrected and currently-undead Sirkus, Boston is a Laugavegur drinking hole with a dark drinking room, and a huge balcony terrace out back with heaters, sofas and blankets. So if you're done listening to DJ, you can smoke your face off in comfort.

12. Veður

Klappastígur 33

Besides the classic beers and wines, Veður's specialty is their meticulously crafted twelve-cocktail menu, including a Brennivin-based Moscow Mule and a Kamikaze taken like a shot. Admire the craftsmanship behind the wooden floors and take of multi-coloured homemade bitters and syrups and syrups.

13. Loft Hostel

Bankastræti 7a

Loft stands many heads and shoulders above most or the and fresco drinking spots in Reykjavík, spots of a spot of the 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 allout party during the small hours of the weekend. Whether you're holiday day-drinking or getting messy, it never fails to amuse.

15. Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

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

16. Session Bar

Fógetagarður

Session Bar is a minimalist craftbeer-focused drinking den housed in a former hair salon in the heart of downtown. There are sixteen beers on tap, both Icelandic and international, and they have a focus on keeping the prices affordable, in contrast to Reykjavík's generally pricey craft bar.

17. Kaldi

Laugavegur 20b

Kaldi is one of the champion craft beer brands of Iceland. Their bar in Reykjavík is a cosy hole-in-the-wall, with a literal hole in the wall—a former alleyway is now an additional seating area. Patrons can get a satisfyingly chunky pint of their unfiltered lager, dark ale, or whatever seasonal brew is currently on the taps.



Downtown &

NYLENDUGATA MYRARGATA FRAMNESVEGUR RANARGATA MARARG TUNGATA

> Hólavallagarður Cemetary

National

SOLVALLAGATA

brary National University

STURLUAGATA

Nordic He

Culture C

18. American Bar

Austurstræti 8

Football fans will rejoice in seeing the row of screens perennially tuned on sports channel above the bar, while troubadours aficionados will find in American Bar a great spot to listen to classic country music. Grab a rib from the adjacent Dirty Burgers & Ribs and be happy.

Shopping

19. Kvartýra №49

Laugavegur 49

This minimalistic, Bauhaus-esque spot took the Icelandic fashion





scene by storm upon opening in 2018, with its eclectic streetwear selection. They have designers that no one else has, designers that you wouldn't know before going there.

garður Park

20. Fischer

use

enter

Fischersund

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

21. IĐA Zimsen

Vesturgata 2a

This peaceful spot is equal parts café and bookstore, so you can get a coffee and a snack while you leaf through your purchases. Everything there is interesting. If the magazines fail, people-watching never does.

22. Lucky Records

Rauðarárstígur 10

VATNSMÝRARVEGUR

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.

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

Curious

Hafnarstræti 4

24. CNTMP

Landsspítali

Hospital

Laugavegur 12b

This sleek and minimal streetwear boutique occupies an enviable spot on the main Laugavegur strip. An acronym for "contemporary," the shop's name describes its concept—the store will sell limited garments by streetwear brands.

25. Hertex

Garðastræti 6

A true-blue second-hand shop, you

coffee and—starting in August—a vegan café, Curious is a one-stop-shop for whatever scene you belong to. If that's not snazzy enough, they often have surprise cocktail deals, DJs every weekend, and a surprisingly cosy smoking area. Werk it.

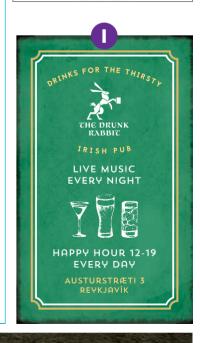
never know what you're going to find at this Salvation Army outlet. The stark store, covered with clothes of all shapes and colours, is a delight for all senses that'll have you alternating between, "Who would throw that away?" to "Who would buy that?"

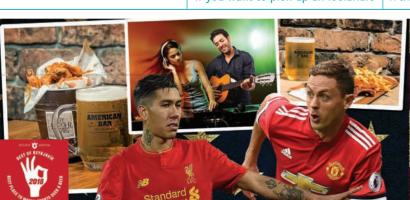
26. Rauðhetta & Úlfurinn

Skólavörðustígur 8

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

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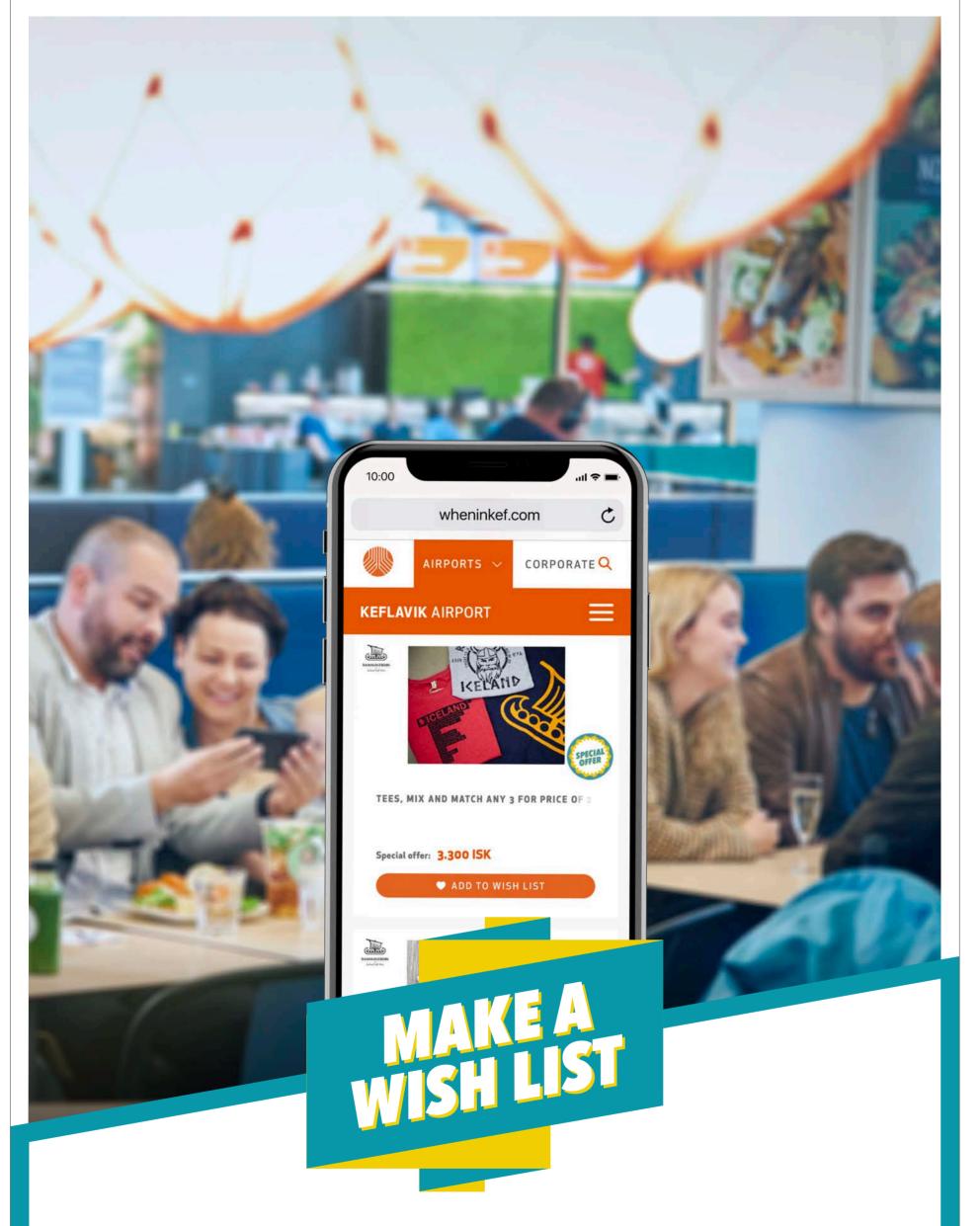


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Listening To The Gods

Out-of-body musical experiences with Z

Words: Óskar Þór Arngrímsson Photo: Art Bicnick

DJ

Check the Grapevine's iPhone and Android app 'Appening Today' for Z's latest DJ dates

Óskar Þór Argrímsson—who performs as Z—is one of Reykjavík's most eclectic DJs. His sets can contain anything from unfamiliar Eastern scales to brass band renditions, cover versions of classics. oddball curios and futuristic electronica. We asked him to line up a few of his all-time favourite Icelandic tracks.

Björk - Stonemilker

I hadn't listened to Björk for a long time and found 'Vulnicura' when flying home from South Africa. I'd been travelling for 30-odd hours, and was at a weird place in my life. I ended up listening to this song on repeat, finding emotions that I had been escaping for years. The nice lady next to me handed over some tissues that came with her gin and tonic because my eyes were leaking. I will never forget how Björk spoke to my soul on that flight.

ADHD - Bacalau

ADHD is a phenomenon that I'll never understand—and really don't want to. To come close to understanding, you need to experience them live. They'll take you on a journey unlike any other. Last time I saw them I had an out of body experience the whole time. I went from seeing colours not known to man, to a tractor driving in the Highlands in a blizzard. This song is somewhere in the mystic

Ellý og Vilhjálmur Vilhjálms - Vegir Liggja til Allra Atta

There's something in the drum groove of this song that's so pleasing. Then, it breaks down to a violin and bass and everything becomes foggy. When we return to the song, Ellý comes on again. There have never been two voices that compliment each other so well. The perfect road trip song.

Megas & Spilverk Pjóðanna -Heimspekilegar Vanga-veltur Um Þjóðfélagsstöðu

I'm not sure why there isn't a statue of Megas in Reykjavík. It's hard to pick just one of his songs, because they're all so good. My friend, Siggi, and I often ended up after a long night listening to the album this one is from. It paints a beautiful picture of the darker side of Reykjavík, and gives life to the people on the streets.

Hildur Guðnadóttir -Pump Room

Hildur Guðnadóttir has become my

favourite composer of the last few years. This song was made for the TV series 'Chernobyl.' I read somewhere that she sampled sounds from a nuclear power plant in Lithuania. She's so clever in manipulating sound. I've listened to this album on repeat since I watched the show, and it has taken on a life on its own in my head.

Venter - Ben Frost

I have no clue what Ben Frost is saying with his songs—all I know is he always seems to please a strange part in me. This is my "get your shit together" song. Somehow there are no limits—the gods have an open line to you, and everything is possible. It's like the Icelandic winter, dark and cold.

Æla - Your Head Is My Ground

Aggressive, strange and vulnerable is probably the best way to describe Æla. They're my all time favorite live band, and they used to go berserk everywhere they went. There was something so charming about a man that started most shows in a tuxedo, got violently drunk, fell off his chair a few times and ended up in a snow white dress. I hope that they start playing again—the world needs more Æla. 💆

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Music



Come Into The Chamber

Reykholt's civilised summer music festival

Words: Felix Robertson Photo: Valgerður G. Halldórsdóttir

Festival

The Reykholt Chamber Music Festival runs from July 26th-28th. Further information: <u>www.reykholtshatid.is</u>

Since its founding in 1997, the Reykholt Chamber Music Festival has become one of Iceland's most treasured classical music events, and, in 2018, its reputation was cemented with a nod from the Icelandic Music Awards. This year, the festival runs from July 26th to 28th, and the programme is as diverse and intriguing as ever.

A special place

Now in its 22nd year, the Reykholt Chamber Music Festival is one of the oldest classical music festivals in Iceland, all the more impressive considering its relatively remote location—the tiny village of Reykholt, situated an hour and a half drive outside the cultural hub of Reykjavík. But, as Artistic Director Sigurgeir Agnarsson explains, Reykholt is a better location than one might expect.

"In my experience, when you play or go to a concert the atmosphere tends to be different in the countryside than in downtown Reykjavík. It's not better or worse, just different—and people like that." But the small village

of Reykholt itself has its own value. "It's a really beautiful setting, for a start," says Sigurgeir. "And it has a very strong historical background. Icelandic Saga poet Snorri Sturluson

used to live here. So it's a bit like a magnet—it's a special place for a lot of Icelanders."

Quality, not quantity

One of the most striking aspects of the festival is its brevity—it runs only two days. "In general, we strive for quality, not quantity," says Sigurgeir. "We only have four concerts, but everything is done to a really high standard."

One of the more intriguing pieces on the programme, entitled King Harald's Saga, testifies to this sentiment perfectly—it is said to be the shortest opera in the world, clocking in at just over ten minutes. "It's actually based on Snorri's writing," explains Sigurgeir. "Even though it's written by an English composer (Judith Weir). And since Snorri lived in Reykholt, you could say the piece is coming home."

Another connection to Iceland comes in the form of the Vox Feminae choir. "The choir is bringing a great selection of Icelandic folk music," Sigurgeir explains. "Some of the songs are quite well known folk songs, others are less known. And some of the best know are actually in new arrangements. Many will be songs that people aren't used to hearing performed by a female choir."

A dialogue

While in some years the festival has had a theme, often there's no overarching thread connecting the pieces. As such, I ask Sigurgeir how

"Now in its 22nd

year, it's one of

the oldest clas-

sical music festi-

vals in Iceland."

he plans for the future of the festival. "I could spend all day writing out pieces I would like to perform in the future," he says. "But it often works out quite nicely to just talk

to the players. Even though I'm the boss—sort of!—I talk to them and say: 'Hey, what should we play?' It's a back and forth. It's not like I present a master plan for the festival. It's more of a dialogue."



Ar Silla

MUSIC NEWS **Mr. Silla** has unveiled the first single from their forthcoming second solo

album 'Hands On Hands' this month via a premiere on grapevine.is. "Naruto (say you'll run away)" is a blissful, summery house-pop track with a relaxed, late-night-after-party feel. The video was shot in Gondomar, Portugal. Directed by Svanhvít Júlíusdóttir—who also performs as a dancer alongside Flora Di Martino and Sara Iris Douet—it has a quietly euphoric vibe that echoes the carefree sentiment of the track's central lyric. The track promises great things for 'Hands On Hands,' which is due for a July release via Making Records.



Cate Le Bon is coming to town

The Hljómahöll music venue at Keflavík's Museum of Rock 'n' Roll, has announced a concert by Welsh indie star Cate Le Bon on Monday September 9th. Cate's latest album, 'Reward,' has been making waves internationally and gaining plenty of critical acclaim, sweeping the board of respected music websites with gushing reviews. Her back catalogue is also well worth a listen: check out her biggest track to date, the virulently catchy "Are You With Me Now?" for a primer of what to expect. Tickets for the concert are on sale now at tix.is.



Boo! Another treasured Reykjavík music venue has bitten the dust. After changing hands several times in recent years, Húrra—a space with a storied history, having previously been everything from legendary party bar Bakkus to music venue Harlem to a weird, austere and short-lived Germanthemed pub that was gone so quickly nobody really remembers it—has blinked out of existence. Rumour has it that it'll be renovated as a sports bar. This is part of a continuing, worrying trend in the city. Be sure to support independent venues like MENGI, R6013 and IĐNÓ. JR 🍯

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24/7 RETRO CUP #4
RETRO COMPUTER GAME TOURNAMENT

25/7 DRAG-SÚGUR DRAG LAB
MONTHLY EXPERIMENTAL DRAG SHOW

SINGER/SONGWRITER NIGHT

OTTOMAN + SUPPORT

BLÓÐMÖR, INZEROS, SPÜNK

26/7

27/7

28/7

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HAPPY HOUR 14-21



Our Picks



🖈 Madonna + Child, Meðlæti, Sól Ey & Marc Von David

July 25th - 18:00 - R6013 - Pay what you feel!

If we know anything about the acts playing this show, this will be an eclectic, weird and wildly-creative night. R6013 is a DIY space in

the centre of Reykjavík that has become a home for the city's underground music scene. Importantly, it is also an all-ages

venue, with hearing protection for young uns provided. The lineup for this evening is Madonna + Child (GV staff review: "sounds like the music they'd play in an early 90's movie about the future"), Meðlæti ("electronic vocals meets synthy dream-pop"), Sól Ey ("performance art with physical movement and sound") and Marc Von David ("no idea"). The Internet says Marc Von David is Erik DeLuca. You know more than us, Internet. **JG**



★ Morpholith, Slor & Kvelja

July 20th - 21:00 -Gaukurinn

Wacken Metal **Battle winners** Morpholith are here to sludge you with some stoner doom gloom. **HJC**



Bagdad brothers

July 28th - 15:00 - Nordic House - Free!

Cuddly indie-pop darlings bagdad brothers have a fondness for all things nice, and having a lovely great time. Not much could be more on-brand for them than playing a picnic. So get stuck in. And remember, no horse play. JR



InZeros & Spünk

July 26th - 22:00 -Gaukurinn

Teenage punkers Blóðmör show you don't need to be of age to rage at the system. Stop by to bring down capitalism. **HJC**



🖈 Can't think just feel #7 // Salt

July 26th - 20:00 - Loft - Free!

In this iteration of MSEA's monthly concert series, check out the spooky and synthy tones of RYBA, Sunna Margrét's eclectic club beats, and the 90s trance pop of rauður. Basically, it's all the emotions tossed into one free concert package. HJC

July 19th—August 1st

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 July 19th

🖈 Seint, Quest, Ari Árelius & Flavor

22:00 Gaukurinn

Pink Iceland Queer Pop-Up 19:00 Pink Iceland

Reykjavík Classics:

Mozart Piano Quintet K452

12:30 Harpa **DJ Katla**

22:00 Kaffibarinn

DJ KrBear

22:00 Bravó DJ Dóra Júlía

23:00 Club Sólon

Kool DJ Kári & DJ Vala 22:00 Prikið

DJ Sigrún Skafta

15:00 Stúdentakjallarinn

20:00 Klaustur



Saturday July 20th

🖈 Morpholith, Slov & Kvelja 22:00 Gaukurinn Reykjavík Classics: Mozart Piano Quintet K452 12:30 Harpa **International Organ Summer:**

Yves Rechtsteiner

12:00 Hallgrímskirkja Dúndurfréttir: Led Zeppelin

Cover Band 21:00 Harpa

Högni 20:00 Hotel Holt DJ Gunni Ewok

22:00 Kaffibarinn DJ Dóra Júlía

23:00 Club Sólon **DJ Petersen** 22:00 Bravó **DJ Karítas** 22:00 Prikið Dead Bird Lady & Frid 20:30 Hlemmur Square

Sunday July 21st

Sunday Jazz: Katrín Halldóra

20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús **Omotrack**

15:00 Nordic House

Schola Cantorum Choir

16:00 Gljúfrasteinn Laxness Museum

Sunday Jam With Pétur Pan 21:00 Boston

Reykjavík Classics:

Mozart Piano Quintet K452

12:30 Harpa

International Organ Summer: Yves Rechtsteiner

17:00 Hallgrímskirkja

DJ Z

22:00 Kaffibarinn

Monday July 22nd

Revkjavík Classics: Clara Schumann & Fanny Mendelssohn Lieder 12:30 Harpa **DJ Alfons X**

22:00 Kaffibarinn

Tuesday July 23rd

Icelandic Music & Storytelling 13:00 IĐNÓ

Karaoke Party!

21:00 Gaukurinn

Jazz Night 20:30 Kex Hostel

Reykjavík Classics: Clara Schumann

& Fanny Mendelssohn Lieder

12:30 Harpa DJ Óli Dóri

22:00 Kaffibarinn

Hildigunnur Einarsdóttir, Oddur Arnþór Jónsson & Guðrún Dalía

Salómonsdóttir 20:30 Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

Wednesday July 24th

Svavar Knútur 21:00 Nordic House **Don Lockwood Band** 21:00 Slippbarinn

Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét

21:00 Sæta Svínið

Schola Cantorum Choir

12:00 Hallgrímskirkja Reykjavík Classics: Clara Schumann & Fanny Mendelssohn Lieder

12:30 Harpa **DJ Passa**

22:00 Kaffibarinn **Slutwalk Pre-Party**

20:00 Gamla Bíó

23:00 Club Sólon **DJ KrBear** 20:00 Klaustur

Saturday July 27th

Reykjavík Classics: Clara Schumann & Fanny Mendelssohn Lieder 12:30 Harpa

DJ CasaNova

22:00 Kaffibarinn DJ KGB

22:00 Bravó DJ Snoori Ástráðs



DJ Kocoon 22:00 Prikið

Thursday July 25th

🖈 Madonna + Child, Meðlæti, Sól Ey & Marc Von David

18:00 R6013 Reykjavík Classics: Clara Schumann & Fanny Mendelssohn Lieder

12:30 Harpa International Organ Summer: Ágúst Ingi Ágústsson & Lene Langballe

12:00 Hallgrímskirkja DJ Atli Már

18:00 Petersen Svítan DJ Intr0beatz

22:00 Kaffibarinn

Freviujazz: María Magnúsdóttir 17:15 Listasafn Íslands

DJ Crush 22:00 Bravó

Paradís Sessions: Jelena Ćirić 20:30 Hlemmur Square

Friday July 26th

🖈 Blóðmör, InZeros & Spünk 22:00 Gaukurinn

🖈 Can't think just feel // Salt Kisses 20:00 Loft

Reykjavík Classics: Clara Schumann & Fanny Mendelssohn Lieder

12:30 Harpa DJ Sonur Sæll 22:00 Kaffibarinn

DJ Óli Dóri 22:00 Bravó

DJ Platurn & Gervisykur 22:00 Prikið DJ Atli Kanil

22:00 Prikið

Teitur Magnússon & Æðisgengið

15:00 Klaustur

DJ Andrew Ramirez

23:00 Club Sólon **International Organ Summer:**

Isabelle Demers

12:00 Hallgrímskirkja **Ottoman**

22:00 Gaukurinn

Sunday July 28th

* Bagdad Brothers

15:00 Nordic House

Jóhann Kristinsson &

Ammiel Bushakevit

16:00 Gljúfrasteinn Laxness Museum Sunday Jazz 20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús

Reykjavík Classics: Clara Schumann & Fanny Mendelssohn Lieder 12:30 Harpa

DJ Símon fknhndsm 22:00 Kaffibarinn

Perlur Fyrir Svín & DJ Pálmi 22:00 Prikið Sunday Jam With Pétur Pan

21:00 Boston International Organ Summer: **Isabelle Demers**

17:00 Hallgrímskirkja Singer/Songwriter Night 21:00 Gaukurinn

Monday July 29th

Reykjavík Classics: **Great Guitar Solos** 12:30 Harpa

DJ Krummi

22:00 Kaffibarinn

Tuesday July 30th

Karaoke Party!

21:00 Gaukurinn Icelandic Music & Storytelling

13:00 IĐNÓ

Jazz Night 20:30 Kex Hostel

Reykjavík Classics: **Great Guitar Solos**

12:30 Harpa **DJ Krystal Carma**

22:00 Kaffibarinn

Tribute To Viktor Urbancic 20:30 Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum

Wednesday July 31st

Mirja Klippel & Alex Jønsson

21:00 Nordic House

Don Lockwood Band

21:00 Slippbarinn Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía &

Helga Margrét

21:00 Sæta Svínið

Schola Cantorum Choir

12:00 Hallgrímskirkja

Reykjavík Classics:

Great Guitar Solos 12:30 Harpa

Jazz With A View: ASA Trio

21:00 Harpa DJ Andrés Nielsen

22:00 Kaffibarinn **DJ Orang Volante**

22:00 Prikið

DJ Krummi 22:00 Bravó

Cellar Jazz 21:00 Stúdentakjallarinn

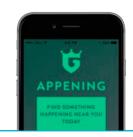
Thursday August 1st

Reykjavík Classics: **Great Guitar Solos** 12:30 Harpa

International Organ Summer: Steinar Logi Helgason, Fjölnir Ólafsson Örn Ýmir Arason &

Hafsteinn Thorolfsson, 12:00 Hallgrímskirkja DJ Már & Nielsen

18:00 Petersen Svítan 0mnipus 20:00 Vínyl



★ For music listings from August 2nd on, check out happening.grapevine.is or our app Appening, available on iOS and Android



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Selected works from the collection

> **Opening hours:** please visit our website www.listasafn.is



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Music



West Coast Summer Sound

Wholesome fun in a lost village at Post-Dreifing's Hátiðni festival

Words: Josie Gaitens Photos: Art Bicnick

Festival

Hátiðni took place in Borðeyri on July 5th-7th

Google translate told me that the word 'Hátiðni' meant 'radio' but my friend shook her head when I told her. "It's more like noise," she said. "Like static."

"Hátið" also means "festival," meaning "Hátiðni" is a play-onwords and also the name of a small, curious three-day music event pulled together by the amorphous group that is Post-Dreifing, an independent collective of artists and musicians based in Reykjavík. The festival. like everything Post-Dreifing does, is DIY in nature. It took place in Borðeyri, a good twohour drive away from the capital city, which seems an interesting choice. The tiny hamlet is barely a village, and is part of the smallest municipality in Iceland. There are 16 people living in the village, and 100 in the wider area.

At the very least, it's not a bad place to make a lot of noise.

Finding neverland

The festival was a three day affair, running the entire weekend. Participants, volunteers, musicians and attendees—the line between any of these groups was intentionally vague-stayed at the campsite or in the school building that was also the main venue. Classroom doors were adorned with hand-painted signs declaring 'No party here, only sleeping!' These rooms were filled with mattresses and often a few folk taking a siesta.

Hátiðni-goers wandered back and forth between the school and the campsite, filling the town with their voices and bright clothes. Often you would find a group of them flopped in a corner of the car park like over-sized puppies, enjoy-

ing the sunshine. They ran down the lupine-filled hill, played football on the tiny pitch, hung their coats and wooly jumpers up in a line on

the pegs in the school's foyer. The whole thing felt like summer camp meets Peter Pan's lost boys.

Extra-curricular

The weather added to the dreamy, surreal atmosphere. The sun beat down ferociously, gleaming off the sea. A yoga class took place outside in the campsite and slowly collected participants who congregated quietly on the warm grass. The sky was the bluest it seemed possible for the sky to be.

In addition to the yoga, there were a number of other 'fringe' events, mostly taking place in the old slaughterhouse. The organisers had cordoned off a section of the building and pulled in a variety

of sofas and chairs to make a cosy communal space. This was the site for poetry readings and the like, as well as a well-attended presentation on the history and nature of Post-Dreifing.

Waffles for days

The other main congregation point was the oldest building in the village, the Riishús, named after the rich merchant who built it in the early 1900s. This compact building has many functions: museum, a store selling both second-hand and hand-made goods, an information point, public bathroom and a cafe of sorts, albeit one that only sells hot drinks and waffles. During Hátiðni the benches outside were heaped with young adults drinking coffee, like some incredibly hip cafe in the city had accidentally been unceremonious-

ly dropped on a tiny corner of northwest Iceland. Inside, a small group of local women beamed at their new customers

and kept a steady stream of waffles flowing. There was literally no other food available in the village, other than what Hátiðni was providing for volunteers and performers at the school. Just waffles.

"The whole thing

felt like summer

camp meets Peter

Pan's lost boys."

I was interested to know what the waffle-making women thought of this strange influx of noise-makers to their normally quiet home. They told me they were delighted. I asked one particular woman in a bright pink sports top, with a warm, matriarchal air, "Will you be going to see any of the bands later?" She laughed uproariously. "Oh, maybe," she grinned, with a conspiratorial wink. I wasn't surprised

> gpv.is/music Share this + Archives



to not see her or any of the other locals amongst the crowd later on.

A forgotten place

While Hátiðni momentarily boosted Borðeyri's population, even the joyous rapture of young people enjoying music and sunshine and pals couldn't distract from a town that has clearly seen a drastic change in fortunes over its history. In the 18th Century, Borðeyri's natural harbour made it a thriving port and commercial centre for the surrounding area. In more recent years, the town obviously stayed significant enough to have a shop, cafe, slaughterhouse and various other facilities. But even these are now gone, most likely due to the rapid reduction of farming communities and depopulation as people seek different opportunities in larger towns.

It was hard not to feel deep sadness about all the derelict buildings and other remnants of a once-thriving small community. As lovely as it is to see Hátiðni fill the village, one weekend of visitors is not going to turn Borðeyri's fortunes around.

The (new) sound of music

Later on, full of new Post-Dreifing knowledge and innumerable waffles, we made our way up to the school to see some of the bands. The lineup for Hátiðni was impressively extensive, running from 4pm on Friday to 3am on Sunday. Producing a programme of more than 12 hours of live music is quite an achievement. The quality of the acts was high and bands were well-received by an unsurprisingly supportive audience. They performed in a small theatre space in the school with curtains and other material duct-taped over the large window behind the

stage—this set up proved to be not entirely reliable, but was fixed in true 'D.I.T.' (Do It Together) style.

Highlights included Captain Syrup, who played a dynamic and energetic set so loud that we even-

tually had to listen from outside the building. In the car. Note to self—never forget to bring earplugs to a music festival. MSEA—all pink ruffles, effect pedals and ambient vocals—captivat-

ed the crowd. I was particularly blown away by Saturday's opener, Salóme Katrín. Impossibly together and cool for her age, she and her two band members wove a tapestry of utterly enchanting sound.

In particular, a semi-improvised piece stuck in my mind for days. She is one to watch for sure.

It takes a lot of energy to make anything happen and to create something out of nothing. For

"Salóme Katrín

wove a tapes-

try of utterly

enchanting

sound."

that something to be a three-day event featuring 30-odd bands and catering to almost 200 people is a testament to the hard-working nature of the Post-Dreifing clan. Where exactly

Fun in the lupin fie

Hátiðni will go next, both physically and metaphorically, is unclear—but I think that's just how they want it. 💆

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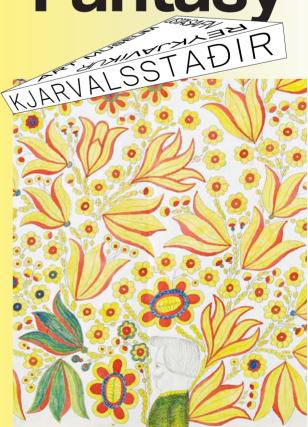
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Art

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Beyond Death And Satan

Faroe Islands' Nordic House exhibits Ragnar Kjartansson's "key works"

Words & Photos: a rawlings

Exhibition

'Key Works' is on show at Tørshavn's Nordic House until August 18th. Entrance is free

Outside, it is warm. Faroese orchids and petit daisies undulate with a light breeze, their forms catching occasional sunlight as clouds slip above them.

Inside the Faroe Islands' Nordic House, Ragnar Kjartansson strums a guitar, buried up to his waist in the green grass of a Reykjavík park. This looped video also depicts a sunny summer day, similar to Tørshavn's stunning weather. Ragnar is bare-chest-

ed and sings, "Satan is real." The media chooses to write 'climate crisis' instead of 'climate change' from now on.

Ragnar's video "Satan is real" (2004) is one of four selected works in his exhibition 'Nøkur verk' ('Key works'). The video is situated in a dim hallway, steps from the brightly lit

foyer where fifteen of his seascape watercolour paintings are hung as the series "Omnipresent Salty Death" (2015). The paintings are co-created by Ragnar and his father, Kjartan Ragnarsson, in a repetition of the Romantic form and a meditation on heritage, lineage, seamen, and semen. To view "Satan" or Ragnar's other works, "Nur wer die Sehnsucht

kennt" and "A lot of sorrow," you must first pass the roiling waves of "Death."

Hand-painted mountains

Beyond "Death" and "Satan," you have the option of entering two exhibition rooms. The door on the left is open, with light streaming beyond. The door on the right is closed, with a sign inviting entrance.

First, through the closed door, into darkness.

Rock band The National are projected on one wall of Dansistofan. They play their song "A Lot

"The paintings are co-created by Ragnar and his father in a meditation on heritage, lineage, seamen, and semen."

of Sorrow" repeatedly for 6 hours, 9 minutes, and 35 seconds—an endurance which holds within it elation and suffering. Originally staged at MoMA PS1, "A Lot of Sorrow" (2013-2014) is a repetition of repetition recast in the Nordic House's lonely dance hall. Beyond "Death" and "Satan," "Sorrow" fills a room.

Finally, through what's open,

into the light.

Hand-painted mountains and glaciers on plywood grace Nordic House's Skálin room. The piece is titled "Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt" ("Only he who knows yearning," in English) (2015) after Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's poem. As you walk between the mise en scène of "Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt," the mountainscape reveals the trick of the work itself: mountains that are not mountains, plywood that is not plywood; an unfinished wish for a place that was or that might be, a place in the process of melting or a place where humans never dwelt.

Romantic gestures

The mountainscape of "Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt" functions as a stage set, and the capacity to move between the erected plywood breaks the fourth wall of the set-up. Indeed, in Ragnar's pieces, the audience is invited to consider the set-up of each romantic gesture. This is a gentle yet pointed critique of the little theatres in which one situates oneself, begging us to look again at the man behind the curtain, at



the scaffolding and the material holding each performance together. Can you identify how the shape that your longing takes to fill the space between what materially, concretely is, and what it is projected to be?

Yearning for interconnectedness, the amalgam of 'Nøkur verk' is whimsical melancholy writ large on a summer's day."

Our Picks



★ Cheating The Constant

Until September 15th - Hafnarhús

A ticket to

ally gets you into three separate museums but it's worth it for this Hafnarhúsið actu- supremely weird

dungeon, two mighty subwoofers positioned over a vast tank of black water fill the air with an almost unbearably low hum, generating a slight ripple over the tank and making you feel like your brain is slowly dribbling out of your ears in the process. Factor in the faint

exhibition alone.

In a semi-dark

but carefully placed lighting throwing reflections amidst the gloom and you get a near perfect space for an edgy Instagram post. Alternatively, you could go horcrux hunting because if there's anywhere in Reykjavík a dark lord might conceal a portion of his soul, it's here. FR



★ And what then..?

Until August 14th - Living Art Museum

us something

that might never

then?' That's for you to answer. FR Can art change what will happen? Can art show

happen? Go to this exhibition to find out. 'And what



🖈 Óþreyju barn, kom innst í lundinn

Until August 9th - Listasalur Mosfellsbæjar

Hulda, aka Unnur Benediksdóttir Bjarklind, is a little known poet. This exhibition

by Harpa Dís Hákonardóttir and Hjördís Gréta Guðmundsdóttir seeks to remedy this with art focusing on

Hulda's influence

on Iceland. HJC



🖈 I Remember the Mountain

Until August 21st - Reykjavík Museum Of Photography

Weather conditions, seasons. lightning, natural forces, and hu-

man experiences coalesce into an exhibition of photographscum-paintings. **Analog images** reworked reveal universal vastness. HJC

July 19th—August 1st

Art Listings

Events are listed by venue. For complete listings and detailed information on venues, visit grapevine.is/happening. Send your listings to: <u>listings@grapevine.is</u>

Opening

REYKJAVÍK ROASTERS

Í Kring 02: Sigurður Ámundason

Sigurður's drawings display classic battles between good and evil that dive into the deepest pits of his subconscious. Ooh, spooky stuff.

- Opens on July 19th, 2019
- Runs until August 21st, 2019

Ongoing

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

Treasures Of A Nation

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

· Runs until December 31st, 2019

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.

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 Jóhann Eyfells: Palpable Forces Early in the 1950's, Jóhann Eyfells started creating abstract sculptures which were based on experiments in physics and chemistry. Come see them here.
- Runs until August 25th, 2019

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Icelandic Meat Soup

Photographer Kristjón Haraldsson focuses on the practice, process, and form of photography, ultimately creating intimate portraits of himself, his family, and the nation of Iceland in the '70s and '80s.

· Runs until September 8th, 2019

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

Myth Of A Woman

Agnieszka Sosnowska immigrated to Iceland 13 years. With her photographs, she documents herself, her students, new family members, and friends. Her inspiration is the strength of the female spirit.

· Runs until September 1st, 2019 Life, as it is lived, before the trans-

In stark black and white, Yrsa Roca Fannberg captured life in Árneshreppur, the smallest parish in Iceland. Crisp and unrelenting, the photos capture the symbiotic relationship between man, animal

Runs until September 1st, 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.

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS

Erró: Mao's World Tour

Between 1972 and 1980. painted over 130 paintings, with two images of different origins against each other: Chinese propaganda posters of Mao Zedong and Western tourist pictures from famous sites.

 Runs until January 5th, 2020 **Human Condition Draft Of Contempo-**

rary Art History In Iceland [III] What does it mean to be human?

What are the psychological and corporeal characteristics of it? Here, selected artists take on these fundamental questions.

• Runs until September 15th, 2019 D38 Ragnheiður Káradóttir: minimini multiverse

Ragnheiður uses everyday objects and materials in her works, modifying them and giving them a new and unexpected role. The merger of these forms and materials results in the personification of dead objects.

· Runs until August 11th, 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

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

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.

• Runs until September 8th, 2019 **MORRA**

Fashion designer Signý Þórhallsdóttir takes over the lobby to work with Icelandic flora on silk and paper for her MORRA collection.

• Runs until September 25th, 2019 **Behind The Scenes: Archiving A Ceramic Collection**

In 1979, Anna Eyjólfsdóttir began to collect ceramic pieces by Icelandic artists. In 2017, the Museum of aquired her collection. Currently, the museum is cataloguing the collection in front of your eyes.

· Runs until September 25th, 2019

NORDIC HOUSE

Porcelain Souls

Photographer Inuuteq Storch went through his parents' archives and found photos and letters from their lives in Greenland and Denmark in the '60s and '80s. Explore them here.

Runs until September 26th, 2019

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM -

KJARVALSSTAÐIR

Jóhannes S. Kjarval: Can't Draw a

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

• Runs until December 31st, 2019 William Morris: Let Beauty Rule! English artist William Morris was a true Icelandophile, and even translated the Sagas. Here, see original

drawings of Morris's patterns, wallpapers and work processes, paintings, drawings, and more.

Runs until October 6th, 2019

HAFNARBORG

In Transition

Eight photographers present their take on the town of Hafnarfjörður. The town is currently in a state of transition, and this exhibition documents its progress into that of a true urban centre.

• Runs until August 25th, 2019

GERÐARSAFN KÓPAVOGUR ART MUSEUM

The exhibition 'Outline' shows works from the collection of Gerðarsafn from 1950 until this day. In the exhibition, the outline becomes the connection between works in different mediums, the thread that ties them together.

• Runs until September 8th, 2019

Culture Hunt

This Culture Hunt will lead you in-between the Kópavogur Culture Houses, where in each location guests will be asked to solve a puzzle or answer a question on nature, art or music. It is available in English, Icelandic and Polish and is free of charge

· Ending date TBA

HVERFISGALLERÍ

Corrections

In Sigurður Árni Sigurðsson's third exhibition at Hverfisgallerí, he presents a body of work based on photographs and postcards that he collected all over Europe and corrected over the last three decades.

• Runs until August 17th, 2019

18 GALLERY

Fingered Eyed

B. Ingrid Olson's classification-defying exhibition considers the nature of the dual through symmetry, form and function. Particularly striking are the indeterminate 'Photographic Objects' which aim to, as she says, 'summon multiple truths simultane-

ously.' · Runs until August 10th, 2019

ÁRBÆR OPEN AIR MUSEUM

HEIMAt: Two Worlds

To mark the 70th anniversary of the arrival in 1949 of a group of Germans to who travelled to Iceland aboard the Esja ship, this exhibition presents photographs of their journey

made by Marzena Skubatz.

Runs until October 31st, 2019

KLING & BANG

All Is Fair

'All Is Fair' is inspired by, as the press release says, "Tip toeing in flip-flops made of pizza boxes and tape," among other things. It sounds very weird and we can't guarantee you'll ever be the same once you leave.

Runs until August 4th, 2019

HVERFISGALLERI

Corrections

Sigurður Árni Sigurðsson's exhibition presents work based on photographs and postcards that the artist has collected all over Europe over the last three decades. Come soothe your wanderlust.

• Runs until August 17th, 2019

ÓFEIGUR GULLSMIÐJA

Angelo Sturiale: Sjö

Italian composer, visual artist, and performer Angelo Sturiale presents a collection of colour drawings exploring inner worlds, secret messages, love, music, and poetry.

Runs until July 23rd, 2019

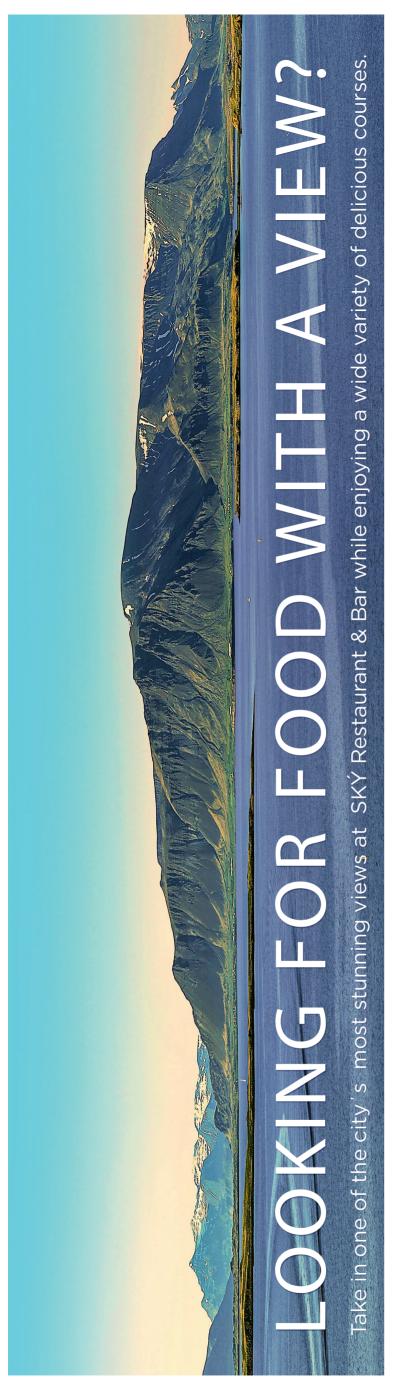
GALLERÍ GRÓTTA

DULUR

Anna Þóra Karlsdóttir's exhibition is full of translucent pieces that resemble watercolour paintings. In them, soft layers of colour allow light to pass through, and the materials capture a range of densities which invokes throughts of oil paintings.

Runs until July 31st, 2019







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Equine Sex, A Dropout Manchild, And Yes, **There's An Elf**

Bíó Paradís parades the golden not-so-oldies of Icelandic cinema

Words: The Grapevine Movie Dpt.

Icelandic Films

See these films at Bíó Paradís all summer long. Times and info: bioparadis.is

Each summer, Bíó Paradís screens a programme of acclaimed Icelandic films with English subtitles. This year, there are eight films on offer, featuring everything from farmer nudity to eco-terrorism to a Viking Western. From oldest to newest, here's our guide to what you can expect.

The Raven Flies (1984)

Often described as a "Viking spaghetti western," this cinematic classic from Hrafn Gunnlaugsson is every bit as fun and entertaining as any Sergio Leone film, but with Settlement era Vikings instead of Clint Eastwood. Helpfully, the warring clans are easily identified—one wears red, the other wears blue. Snilld, AF

Cold Fever (1995)

If you ever wondered where the stereotype that Icelanders are quirky and eccentric came from, look no further. While ostensibly about a Japanese man who visits Iceland to pay respects to his parents, who died here in a car crash, it's actually a continuous but disjointed series of encounters between a reserved man and various wacky Icelanders. And yes, there's an elf, too.

101 Reykjavík (2000)

The coming-of-age tale that put the Icelandic cinema's slowcore style of storytelling on the map, 101 Reykjavík charts the life of a dropout manchild as he tries to discover his place in the world. His terminal boredom and general misadventures are witty and well-observed, offering countless memorable moments. It's also a valuable period piece about turn-of-the-millennium Reykjavík-check out the unrecognisable skyline in the final shot. JR

Jar City (2006)

This murder mystery was nenned by Arnaldur Indriðason and directed by Baltasar Kormákur. Ingvar E. Sigurðsson, Iceland's most notable actor of the period (and perhaps still), does a fine job as cranky detective Erlendur; bad guy Theódór Júlíusson manages to look menacing at 57. Despite the often-impressive production values, it feels in parts like a TV pilot-quite good, but it could have gone further. VG

Of Horses And Men (2013)

Infamous for its xxx-rated movie poster featuring equine sex, 'Of Horses And Men' interweaves half a dozen sagas about rural Icelanders and the horses on which they interdepend. The stories unfold through the hors-

es' eyes, as fortune and misery befall their human companions. Passion for romance, passion for alcohol, passion for equestrianism, passion for survival—'Of Horses And Men' seduces through quirk and charm. AR

Rams (2015)

After a 40-year falling out, two brothers butt heads over the wellness of their prized sheep stock. Unusual premise for a film? Absolutely. One of the best Icelandic films ever? It's the real deal. It is exquisitely written, touching, and altogether surprising from start to end. Also, I haven't been this excited about full frontal nudity since Harvey Keitel in 'The Piano,' so there's that added carrot. AR

Under The Tree (2017)

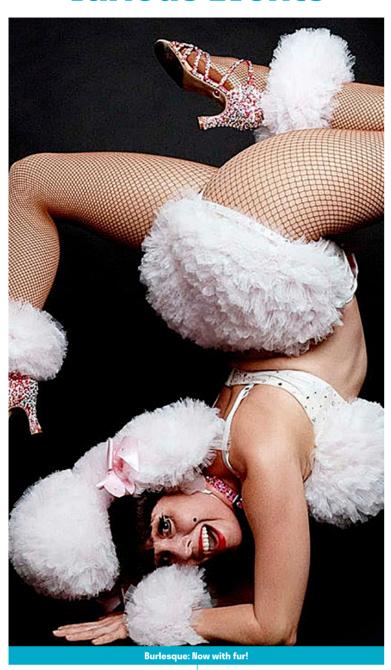
In 'Undir Trénu,' the shadow cast from the tree next door sparks a seething feud between neighbours which ultimately culminates in tragedy. Through its suburban setting and tight knit cast of intriguing and troubled characters, Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurðsson's third film deftly juxtaposes raw emotion with the banalities of daily life to bleakly funny effect. CW

Woman At War (2018)

An activist carries out a one-woman campaign to halt an unnamed industrial development. Much-hyped and heavily stylised, 'Kona Fer í Stríð' features an all-star band that hangs around in the background soundtracking the scenes while our heroine carries out cute eco-terrorism and communes with the nature she's protecting. It's pretty to look at—Wes Anderson fans will appreciate it—but the message seems simultaneously lightweight and heavy-handed. JR 💆

> gpv.is/film Share this + Archives

Various Events



Poetry Open Mic Night

20:15 Stúdentakjallarinn

Guided Tour (in English!)

Tuesday July 23rd

20:00 Reykjavík City Library **Funniest Four: Comedy Show**

Wednesday July 24th

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

How To Become Icelandic In

21:00 The Secret Cellar

Beer, Booze & The Prohibition Years:

Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits

Improv Iceland: Comedy In English!

12:30 Hafnarhús

Free Walk

19:30 Harpa

20:00 Tjarnarbíó

Swap 'Til You Drop

Musical Pub Quiz

20:00 Bíó Paradís

21:00 Gaukurinn

Tournament

Bollywood Dance Night

RetroCup #4: Retro Gaming

Thursday July 25th

My Voices Have Tourettes

How To Become Icelandic In

'Take That: Greatest Hits Live'

21:00 The Secret Celler

Drag-Súgur DRAG LAB

21:00 Gaukurinn

20:00 Tjarnarbíó

Ari Eldjárn

60 Minutes

19:00 Harpa

Screening

20:00 Bíó Paradís

60 Minutes

19:00 Harpa

16:30 Loft

19:00 Loft

Friday July 19th

★ Icedocs 2019 10:00 Akranes

Friday Party!: 'Muriel's Wedding' Screening

20:00 Bíó Paradís How To Become Icelandic In

60 Minutes

19:00 Harpa **Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**

19:30 Harpa

Búkalú: Burlesque Show 21:00 Tjarnarbíó

Saturday July 20th

🖈 Icedocs 2019 10:00 Akranes

How To Become Icelandic In

60 Minutes

19:00 Harpa Ari Eldjárn

20:00 Tjarnarbíó

Sunday July 21st

★ Icedocs 2019

10:00 Akranes **Guided Tour In English**

11:00 National Museum Of Iceland Party Bingo With Sigga Kling

21:00 Sæta Svínið HANS.mov [night]: 'Hellraiser'

Screening

21:00 Gaukurinn

Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits 19:30 Harpa

How To Become Icelandic In

60 Minutes

19:00 Harpa

Yoga Friends Pop-Up x Loft Yoga 12:00 Loft

Monday July 22nd

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy Night

21:00 Gaukurinn

19:30 Harpa

20:00 Bíó Paradís **Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**

Friday Party!: 'Ace Ventura: Pet

Friday July 26th

Detective' Screening

How To Become Icelandic In **60 Minutes**

19:00 Harpa

Close:Up Reykjavík Film Festival 2019

18:00 Bíó Paradís

Saturday July 27th

🖈 Druslugangan 2019 / Slutwalk

14:00 Hallgrímskirkja

Slutwalk Afterparty

16:00 Stúdentakjallarinn

'Mamma Mia!' Sing-a-Long Screening

20:00 Bíó Paradís

How To Become Icelandic In **60 Minutes**

19:00 Harpa

Búkalú: Burlesque Show 21:00 Tjarnarbíó

Sunday July 28th

Party Bingo With Sigga Kling

21:00 Sæta Svínið

Guided Tour In English

11:00 National Museum Of Iceland **Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**

19:30 Harpa

How To Become Icelandic In **60 Minutes**

Monday July 29th

19:00 Harpa

Terra Madre Film Screening 17:00 IĐNÓ

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy

Night 21:00 Gaukurinn

Guided Tour (in English!) 12:30 Hafnarhús

Tuesday July 30th

Funniest Four: Comedy Show 21:00 The Secret Cellar **Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**

Wednesday July 31st

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

Improv Iceland: Comedy In English!

20:00 Tjarnarbíó How To Become Icelandic In

60 Minutes

19:00 Harpa

19:30 Harpa

Thursday August 1st

My Voices Have Tourettes 21:00 The Secret Cellar

How To Become Icelandic In

60 Minutes 19:00 Harpa

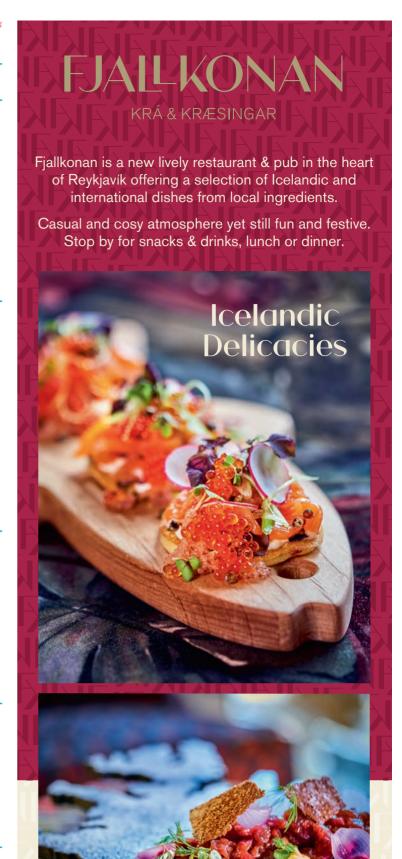
Evening Walk In Laugardalur

Through The Valley

12:30 Ásmundarsafn



★ For event listings from August 2nd on, check out happening.grapevine.is or our app Appening, available on iOS and Android



Must try dishes

LAMB & FLATBREAD

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

ARCTIC CHARR & BLINI

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

ICELANDIC PLATTER

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

THE LAMB BURGER

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

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Making Of An Artist



Smoke, Carbon, And A Love Supreme

A few of Úlfur Hansson's favourite things

Words: Úlfur Hansson & John Rogers Photo: Elísabet Davíðsdóttir

Musician

Learn more about Úlfur's work at ulfurhansson.com and instagram. com/ulfur_d.

Úlfur Hansson is a Brooklyn-based solo musician, film composer and sound artist. He has released three albums—2008's 'Sweaty Psalms,' followed by 'White Mountain' (2013) and 'Arborescence' (2017). He has performed and collaborated with Gyða Valtýsdóttir, Nordic Affect, Kronos Quartet, and Jónsi, among others. He is also the creator of the Segulharpa (electromagnetic harp, in English) an electromagnetically powered acoustic instrument he invented and built—which is currently in use as part of Björk's 'Cornucopia' show. We asked him to share a few of the influences that made him the artist he is today.



Vapour

More and more I enjoy subtle things; like the way a candle behaves when it is dying out. The flame will begin doing things candles normally shouldn't do, and then, as the flame turns to ash, the sudden burst of vapour takes its flight with great importance, it's as if it instinctively knows where it must go. Writing music is a bit like that, but it can be tricky finding ways to allow yourself to rush towards your creation, the part of you that exists fully outside of yourself. It's almost as if that part of you has been projected out into the exterior world, and from that place it radiates desire back into you. This mysterious circuitry is only activated through softness and subtlety.



Ghost in the Machine

When electricity passes through a wire, or a carefully arranged network of carbon and silicon, the flow of energy can create disturbances in the air, vibrations, which then enter into the brain through the ear canals. When the sound is heard, the complex ebb and flow of electrons is mirrored within the listener, as a hologram, and so the listener has become part of the circuit—the energy flows through you before it hurtles towards earth, its source of desire. It's such a cosmic thing. Looking at it this way, I think it's clear that an instrument can become so much more than just a sum of its parts.



A Love Supreme

Can you imagine the world exploring itself through a love circuit of John Coltrane and his saxophone? The world mirrors itself within you. Was the world completely blind before there were eyes? The world will see itself through your eyes. The interior and exterior world meet like two spheres, and sitting between the two great pressures is a point of spectacular intimacy where creation is happening, burning like a fire. It may just be the source of everything, the fabric of the universe. A kiss. A love supreme.



Miles Davis

I believe nothing exists but thought and motion, and the impermanence of things is the drive of constant creation. "You have to play a long time to be able to play like yourself," says Miles Davis. Maybe the end goal is to sound like the universe. As you keep interacting with the world, you are driven towards further iterations of the dream that is your existence. Creativity is a cosmic force; it is the only thing that is real. "



PAPAKU

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Beer 645 ISK,

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Beer 900 ISK,

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in 101 Reykjavík

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

BEER GARDEN Every day from 15:00 to 19:00. Beer 800 ISK, Wine 800 ISK

BÍÓ 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 700 ISK, Wine 1,050 ISK.

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

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

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 500 ISK, Wine 600 ISK, Cocktails 1,200

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

Wine 700 ISK.

IÐA 7IMSFN Every day from 19:00 to 22:00. Beer 495 ISK

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

KAFFIBARINN Every day from 15:00 to 20:00. Beer 750 ISK, Wine (On Wed.) 700 ISK.

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

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

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

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

LOFTIÐ Wed-Sun from 16:00 to 21:00. Beer 800 ISK. Wine 800 ISK, Cocktails 1,500

MARBAR Every day from 16:00 to 19:00. Beer 600 ISK, Wine 650 ISK.

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

PABLO DISCOBAR Every day from 17:00 to 18:00. Beer 700 ISK. Wine 1,000 ISK. Cocktails 1,500

Beer 500 ISK, Wine 750 ISK, Every day from Cocktails 1,200 16:00 to 22:00. Beer 690 ISK,

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

STOFAN CAFÉ **Every day from** 16:00 to 18:00. Beer 750 ISK, Wine 950 ISK

SOLON **Everyday from** 15:00 to 18:00. Beer 800 ISK. Wine 800 ISK

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

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

VFÐUR 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



Featured Happy Hour

🗯 VÍNSTÚKAN **TÍU SOPAR**

LAUGAVEGUR 27

This charming basement haunt features natural wines from small producers at affordable prices. Their

Happy Hour is a bit unusual-it's a first come, first serve handpicked bottle by the owner sold at 900 to 1,200 ISK a glass. When it runs out, it runs out, and Happy Hour is over.





Here are some deals that'll keep your wallet feeling happy and full.

1,000 ISK And Under

Hard Rock Café Every day 15-18 Nachos, wings & onion rings -990 ISK

Dominos Tuesdays-All day Medium Sized pizza with 3

toppings -1,000

ISK-Vegan option

Sólon

Monday - Friday 11:00 - 14:30 Soup of the day

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

Various prices

Every day-All day Donut, coffee & bagel -1,000 ISK

Deig / Le Kock

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

Baked almonds -

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

500 ISK

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

1,500 ISK And Under

Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar Tuesdays-All day Burger, french fries & soda -1.390 ISK

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

Gló

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

Sæta svínið Every day 15-18 Chicken wings 1,190 ISK "Dirty" fries -1,390 ISK

Solon Monday - Friday 11:00 - 14:30 Ceasar salad -

1,490 ISK

16:00 - 21:00 2f1 Juice + sandwich

1,095 ISK

Vegan option

Lemon

Uppsalir - Bar and cafe Every day 11-14 Burger & fries -1,390 ISK

> Vegan option **2.000 ISK And Under**

Essensia Every day-All day Lunch-catch of the day - 1,980 ISK

Bryggjan

Monday - Friday 11:30 - 15:00 Dish of the day soup & bread -1,690 ISK

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

Monday - Friday 11:30 - 15:00 Fisherman's fish

Matarkjallarinn soup -1,990 ISK

5,000 ISK

Apótek Every day

11:30 - 16.00 Two-course lunch -3,390 ISK Three course lunch - 4.390 ISK

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At Haust the buffet is

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Books



Mother Tongue Baths

G! Festival's literary program features diaspora writers and a Meejah soundbath

Words & Photo: a rawlings

Festival

G! Festival took place in The Faroe Islands July 12-14th

A spotlight falls on Siri Ranva Hjelm Jacobsen. She stands to read aloud a poem in the Fjósið cowshed. Moments later, Danish band Meejah kicks into their song "Lysgænger" which closes their soundbath as part of the Faroe Islands' G! Festival literature program.

Co-curated by Kim Simonsen from Forlagið Eksil and Ida Bencke from the Laboratory for Aesthetics and Ecology, the literature program featured the theme 'Always Coming Home.' The week's events included performances, interviews, lectures and video screenings by Faroese, Danish and Icelandic authors, held both in Tørshavn's Nordic House and onsite at Gøta during the G! Festival.

Taegeuk and the I Ching

For the soundbath, Meejah collaborated with Faroese, Danish, and Icelandic poets. Their music-andpoetry set was formed around the Taegeuk (the original Korean flag)

"The Faroese lan-

guage is strong,

the culture is

strong, but that's

in spite of the Dan-

ish culture trying

to dominate."

and the I Ch. ing, which Meejah framed by saying, "When you live or play through it, you come home." Each poet was requested to pen an original poem using the traditional Korean form of sijo, which has

the constraints of 14-16 syllables per line, three lines, and development of a pastoral theme. The poets were further assigned one of eight elements depicted on the Korean flag: Fire ≡, Thunder ≡, Mountain ≡, Lake ≡, Water ≡, Earth \equiv , Heaven \equiv , and Wind \equiv . The poems were then performed in

between each song of Meejah's set.

Regarding Meejah's soundbath and her own contribution for wind, Siri reflects, "It was a beautiful way of bringing different artists together in a very egalitarian space. I really appreciated that people spoke in the languages they felt comfortable speaking in. Some translated, some spoke in native languages, some spoke in native languages and then translated. The fact that was left open made a beautiful tonal artwork."

Home loss

The strong multilingual presence in the group of writers prompts songwriter and lead vocalist Mai Young Øvlisen to comment, "That's why we are attracted to the literature programme. I integrated the Faroese language because everyone on the Faroe Islands, they need to learn Danish as part of their education. Even though it's a country and a language, our neighbours, it's a way of investing in another culture."

Meejah is on the Faroese record label TUTL, and they are the first Danish band to write lyrics

in Faroese Mai first visited the Faroe Islands in 2003, and has been part of the music community ever since. She visits two or three times per year.

Mai continues, "The Faroese language is strong, the culture is strong, but that's

in spite of the Danish culture trying to dominate. On the Faroe Islands, when there is mist on the cow window, you just have to take your finger [and wipe to find] that pain of a few hundred years not being able to speak your language in public schools, churches, government. Because I'm Korean

and adopted [into a Danish family], I can relate to that. The point of loss is a way that you can connect with other people. In the Korean culture, the concept of Han is the concept of loss, but that you live strongly because of the loss, with the loss. I think the Faroese people do that well."

Given home

Siri was born in Copenhagen, but has travelled frequently to the Faroe Islands since she was a child to visit family on Suðuroy and Vágar. Her first novel 'Ø' (which translates from Danish as 'Island') rewrites 'The Odyssey' through the story of a young woman growing up in Denmark who doesn't know her Faroese family. "She seeks out Faroese people in Copenhagen," Siri explains, "and a Faroese guy at a bar says, 'You can't even pronounce your own name.' Then she goes to the Faroe Islands in search of an answer to the question: How can you long for a home you've never been able to call your own?"

Siri continues, "Home is a place that you are given. My personal experience is that I am given home [in the Faroe Islands] on some very specific terms that have to do with name, blood, and history, but also that has to do with this culture's idea of family and belonging. It's closely connected to it being a diaspora culture. Half of the Faroese population lives abroad."

Faroese diaspora

Considering discussion of the Faroese diaspora experience, Mai mentions her first encounter with Siri and her writing, which led to their subsequent collaboration through the soundbath. "It's very similar to my experience as an adoptee. I lost my original name, family and language. Siri and I had a connection even before we met. I heard her on the radio."

When Siri brought her novel 'Ø' to the Faroe Islands in 2016, she recalls, "I was extremely afraid of how I would be received. I shared that fear with the Faroese author Sissal Kampmann. She said, 'Oh, no, everyone has a granddaughter like you. Every single Faroese family has somebody that has left and that is, in fact, always coming home.' But it is important in the political sense to maintain that home is given. That is a key element in the conversation about who gets to be home and who doesn't." 💆



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



Helgi is wearing:

- Dungarees from Wasteland
- ► My fifth pair of Air Jordan 1s
- ▶ De La Soul Hoodie
- ► Casio calculator watch
- Sputnik 1985 bag
 - ► Fernet Branca hat

Describe your style in five words: Whatever feels right.

Favourite stores in Reykajvík:

Just Wasteland right now. It's coming in hot. They have good prices and good variety. I also sometimes drop into Húrra to get some sneakers.

Favourite piece:

Good question. Probably all of the 90s hip hop merch that I've bought online, or my Moosehead bomber jacket.

Something I would never wear:

How about something I would never not wear? I would never skip socks.

Lusting after:

These dungarees just appeared at Wasteland after I had been looking for two years for the perfect pair, so there's nothing I want now. 🔊





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Animals & Funk

Tíu Sopar breathes new life into an old haunt

Words: John Rogers Photo: Art Bicnick

Wine Bar

Visit Vínstúkan Tíu Sopar at Laugavegur 27. Happy hour runs 4-6pm, or until the wine runs out

It doesn't take long to feel at home in Vínstúkan Tíu Sopar. Five minutes after arriving, I find myself perched on a stool with three tasting glasses on the go, snacking on crunchy asparagus stems with parsley sauce, roaring with laughter with two of the owners. "There's nothing serious about this place," says Ragnar Eiríksson, the former chef of Dill, as he casually torches some chilli peppers for our next snack.

Ólafur Örn Ólafsson, Ragnar's bushily mustachioed colleague, looks on. "I'm willing to say, on the record, that 90% of the wine lists in Reykjavík are the same," he proclaims. "And that's fine, but we want to do things a little differently." He smiles, with a gleam in his eye. "We want people to have a nice glass here for the same price as they would have a shitty glass somewhere else."

Ten sips

"Tíu Sopar" translates as "Ten Sips"—a play on the space's former life as popular café Tíu Dropar ("Ten Drops"). The wine enthusiasts had been scouting around for a space for their bar, and were overjoyed when this charming basement came up. "We didn't do much," says Ólafur. "New floors, painted the walls, and these new benches. Bragi Skaftason, our CEO, knows a little about building stuff." It was all the place needed. Tíu Sopar feels like it's

"Natural

wines

aren't

a fad or

fashion."

been there forever, in the best possible way.

The drinks menu, however, is completely up to date. "We have an emphasis on natural wine, and interesting wines from smaller producers and lesser-known regions,"

says Ólafur. "That's our concept. If you look at the wine list, you won't know many wines. We always have at least 12 bottles open, and the selection changes every day. Whatever we feel like opening, we open it."

No filter

Natural wine is a trend that has arrived in force in Reykjavík over the past two years. Eschewing industrial processes meant to deliver a smooth, familiar taste, natural wine goes back to basics. It's a much less predictable proposition altogether, and it's been a divisive development in the wine world.

"It's not pressed, and not filtered,

and it only uses the yeast from the grape," says Ragnar. "Natural wines aren't a fad or a fashion—conventional wines are. People have been making natural wine for 10,000 years. And we've been doing wine with chemical filtering and so on for just 100."

Ten year process

Natural wine has also brought about a whole new vocabulary. "People talk about animals and funk," says Ragnar, pouring a glass of red with a pungent, earthy taste. "And acid-

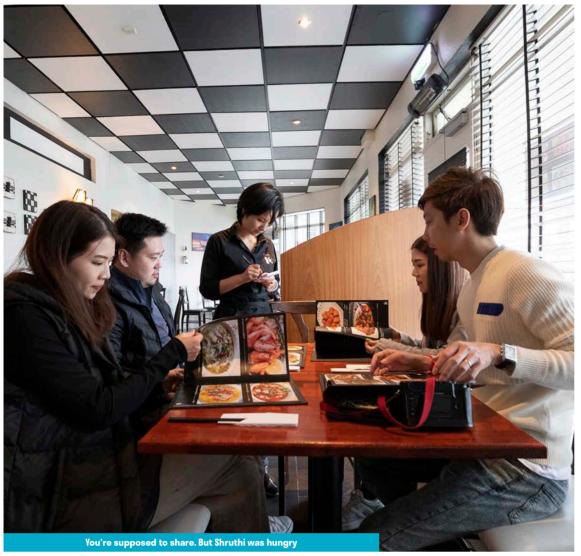
ity," adds Ólafur. "People would use balsamic vinegar as a comparison, which they would never say about a conventional wine."

"We introduced wines like this when I was at Dill ten years ago, and nobody understood

what the hell it was," Ólafur continues. "It's taken these ten years, and now there's a moment for it. The reason we opened this bar is because we wanted a bar where we would like to drink." He smiles. "But we didn't think it through—because now we're always working."

Despite their jocular demeanour, the two are full of enthusiasm and curiosity about all the developments in the wine world. "In the whole of Scandinavia, wine is not in our culture," says Ólafur. "It's only in the last 25 years that we've started to study wine. Nordic sommeliers are good at their job because they have a broad horizon. It's so young to us that we search the whole world."





Sumptuous Sichuanese **At Fine**

Hand made noodles, dumplings and other veritable delights

Words: Shruthi Basappa Photo: Art Bicnick

Fine Restaurant

Visit the restaurant at Rauðarárstígur 33, and follow them on Facebook @icelandfine

I'll be honest. Growing up, most, if not all of my references to Chinese food were centered around the fusion Indo-Chinese restaurants in

India. Here in Iceland, that mantle has largely been occupied by generic chains like Nings, peddling the sweetand-sour takeaway

Having never een to China, nor had access to Chinese home cooking, I rely on outings to restaurants whilst overseas-accom-

panied by people far more knowledgeable than me—to taste what authors like Fuchsia Dunlop, and bloggers like Elaine at China Sichuan Food and Maggi Zhu at Omnivores Cookbook describe.

Thanks to Fine Restaurant, the musky intensity of doubanjiang, or the tingly citrus buzz of papery thin, ruby red Sichuan peppercorns, or the exquisite technique of 'velveting' meat are no longer a faraway experience. Of the eight traditions of Chinese cuisine— Cantonese, Sichuan, Hunan, Anhui, Fujian, Shandong, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang, Fine focusses on Sichuan, with chefs hailing from Chengdu.

Meaty little parcels

A promising hint when walking into Fine, is the absence of the ubiquitous lunch buffet. There are no Buddhas or bottles of hot sauce on the tables, which I take as a sign of confidence. The small menu.

"Hand pleated, the dumplings are intensely earthy, arriving three to a mesmerised, in silence."

helpfully, has beautiful pictures of the dishes for newcomers. Over the course of several meals, I am accompanied by my friend Kunsang, who grew up eating Chinese food. And at each meal, we're lavishly rewarded.

Fine is one of the few Reykjavík restaurants that make their own dumplings. The jiaozi (1,990 ISK) are meaty little parcels of boiled dumpling cradling juicy pork and chives. The Shanghai shao mai (1,290 ISK), unlike dimsum shumai, are filled with sticky rice, minced pork so fine it barely stands out, and shiitake mushrooms. Hand pleated, they arrive three to a basket, and are intensely earthy; we eat mesmerised, in complete silence.

Hand-pulled noodles

All the dishes, barring noodlebased ones, are meant to be eaten with rice. When I bring each bite of meat and rice close to my dainty rice bowl, chopsticks force me to eat slowly, and with careful consideration—I slowly understand that there is a purpose for chopsticks that goes beyond utility.

The hand pulled oil noodles (1,990 ISK) are an absolute steal. The Yu-Shiang chicken (2890 ISK) is chock full of wood ear mushrooms. The chilli chicken (2,890 ISK) is dry-fried and fiery, with nubby bits of meat under a glorious mound of dried chillies. Even then, the generous amount of Sichuan peppercorns, strewn like tiny pearls, deliver the distinctive 'ma la' (numbing) punch. For din-

ers not used to meat on the bone, this might prove a challenge, but I recommend it nonetheless.

Beyond deep fried shrimp

For a cuisine deper dent on knife skills and laborious techniques, it's ironic that Chinese food is associated with cheap eats.

One bite of the sour chilli potatoes (2,690 ISK) proves why this sentiment is wrong. Thinly sliced into matchsticks, the potatoes are remarkably crisp—a quick stir-fry, with nary any heat, this is a dish greater than the sum of its parts.

The Western perception of Chinese food has long been associated with unsavoury generalisations, but Fine is a window to a cuisine whose diversity is rivalled by few. Fine does a fine job of introducing non-Chinese diners to flavours beyond deep fried shrimp. Set aside apprehensions and you'll be amply rewarded. "





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Distance from Reykjavík: 454 km How to get there: Route One North

61 to Ísafjörður

Acommodation provided by:

then Routes 60 &

Trip provided by: westtours.is

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We're about an hour out of Ísafjörður harbour when the horizon suddenly tilts. As our tiny, crowded passenger boat passes out of the sheltered fjord, we're beset by the high waves of the North Atlantic and thrown violently from side to side. The skyline pitches to 45° one way, then the other; saltwater sloshes aboard through the flapping awning, and several faces quickly turn grey.

The captain remains stoic and unphased, going about his business as if piloting a pleasure cruise. Our destination is Hornstrandir, the wild, jagged peninsula perched atop the Westfjords. Only reachable by boat and lacking the most basic infrastructure, Hornstrandir was once home to a small farming community of 500 or so people, but they left in the 1950s. Although some of their descendants have since reconstructed old farmsteads into summer houses, it has been all-but uninhabited since.

When the people left, nature was quick to fill the gap. The whole 580km² area was protected as a Nature Reserve in 1975, and has become famous as a remote hiking destination rich with diverse flora, birdlife—and Arctic foxes.

Bones and feathers

The sea calms down as we chug into Jökulfirðir, the system of fjords named after the nearby Westfjordian glacier of Drangajökull. As our curious eyes scan the vast, green, flat-topped mountains jutting from the choppy ocean, Eyjólfur—our guide, who goes by the nickname Eyjó—reports that the landing point has changed due to the weather. We'll disembark by dinghy onto the stony beach of Lónfjörður and hike to Kvíar, the fox-spotting base camp.

We clamber out of the dinghy, finally setting foot in Hornstrandir. The beach is littered with finds: bird bones and feathers, neatly splayed purple mussel shells bearing giant barnacles, and mangled fish skeletons. All of this, says Eyjó, is evidence of foxes. Natural scavengers, they often come down to the shoreline to feed on the debris left by seals or birds. As we begin the hike, the trail passes plenty of bone piles and gnawed fish carcasses that suggest they may have had some recent success.

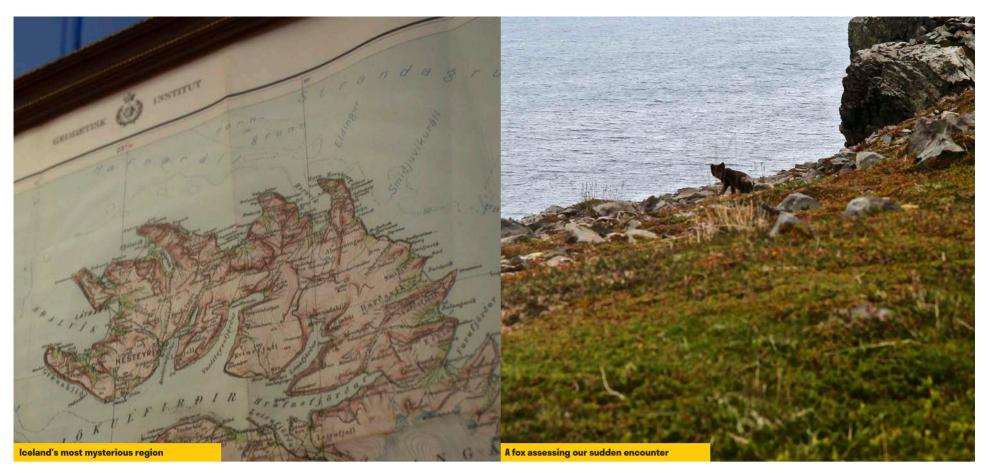
The undisturbed nature of Hornstrandir is fascinating, and we spot plenty of plants and wildlife along the way. Without free-range sheep to graze it away, the plantlife is flourishing. We pass large patches of roseroot, their distinctive upward-curved leaves cradling gems of rainwater beneath yellow flowers; sprays of heath spotted-orchids are in full bloom at the peak of Icelandic summer, showing their distinctive small, hooded flowers. A flight of swans passes gracefully below us, effortlessly tracing the shoreline and heading out to

The Hornstrandir exodus

As we hop over streams and pick through patches of marsh, Kvíar finally comes into view. It's a lonely house that crowns a verdant hill set against a backdrop of steep coastal mountains receding into the mist. The interior is like a time capsule, and Eyjó tells the story of the house's former life, when it was home to an extended family of 20. He fills us in on the saga of the Hornstrandir exodus, which began when the local doctor left, leading to a fateful vote when the populace chose to abandon the area, leaving behind their houses and land.

After warming up with some hot soup whipped up by Eyjó, we head out to look for foxes. There's a den in the copse of trees by the house, and we carefully circle the woods to find "When I look up, my heart skips a beat. Just a few metres away, my companion has startled a sleeping fox that bounds past her in two high, arcing jumps."





higher ground and settle in to wait. Several of the group have come prepared with telescopic zoom lenses, and they trace the land patiently for signs of movement.

Eyjó's voice lowers. He recounts how Arctic foxes are Iceland's only indigenous land mammals, thought to have arrived on icebergs 10,000 years ago. They can survive temperatures as frigid as -35°, so the rough winters aren't a threat, but they've been locked in battle with Icelandic farmers since the settlement era. Foxes

gpv.is/travelFollow all our travels

were the settlers' nemesis, known for raiding larders and killing vulnerable livestock—a matter of grave importance in the time of subsistence living. They're still hunted today, mainly for sport—but they've been a protected species in Hornstrandir since 1993.

Into the valley

The afternoon draws on, and my companion and I decide to part from the group for a while and hike up the valley. We head towards a waterfall in the middle distance, and fox-signs peter out the farther we get from the den. Kvíar drops out of sight as we cross the lush wetlands, and we

pass through meadows of cottongrass, wild angelica and purple creeping thyme, soaking in the sounds, smells and colours of the untouched countryside.

As we circle back along the coast towards the house, I momentarily fall behind, absorbed in the hike. When I look up, my heart skips a beat—just a few metres away, my companion has happened upon a sleeping fox, almost stepping on it. It leaps up in surprise, bounding past her in two arcing head-height jumps and trotting off to hide in a nearby outcrop. The three of us freeze. The fox's head rises from behind the rocks as it regards the situation. Its coat is patchy, between

the white of winter and the black of summer. Its pointed ears sink away once more. Although Hornstrandir's foxes are tame, this one has been startled, and it slinks away up the steep hillside and over the clifftop.

Last gasp barks

Back at Kvíar, Eyjó is serving up a dinner of baked fish, omelettes and potatoes. There's been no activity at the den. We recount the story of our sighting, passing around the camera to share the handful of blurry pictures of our encounter.

However, all is not lost. After packing up the house, the group is

hiking back to meet the returning boat when a strange sound echoes down from the cliffs. Camera lenses shoot up, and the culprit is quickly identified—it's the bark of a different fox, this time on the mountain overlooking Lónafjörður. Shutter snaps ring out as it stalks along the crest of the mountain and into the wilderness beyond.

The group's spirits are lifted even after this sighting-at-distance. There's much to talk about on the homewards journey—so much, in fact, that we barely noticed the choppy sea as the wild cliffs of Hornstrandir vanish back into their halo of clouds.



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Distance from Reykjavík: 326 km

How to get there: Route One South, meet at Skaftafell

Acommodation provided by: hof1.is

Tour provided by: mountainguides.is

Car provided by: gocarrental.is

Clothes provided by: 66north.is

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It was quite pleasant inside the crevasse, once I realised I wasn't going to die. The ice inside was smooth and pale green, like sea glass, and gave off an other-worldly glow. I looked down—there was quite a lot of down to look at—and figured it was probably time to start trying to get out. Nice though, crevasses. Peaceful. Certainly far more relaxing than trying to climb a 2000 metre mountain.

It began, as many misadventures begin, with a Facebook message from a colleague. The writer about to embark on a grand adventure had fallen and damaged her knee. Could I fill in and climb Hvannadalshnúkur—Iceland's tallest mountain—tomorrow?

Sub

The next day, we set off towards Hvannadalshnúkur, on the edge of Skaftafell National Park in southeast Iceland. In 2008, Skatafell was combined with surrounding protected areas to create Vatnajökull National Park. Recently designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is hoped that recognising the value and importance of Vatnajökull on a national and global scale will protect the area for future generations—so that they, too, can experience falling into a crevasse.

We arrived at Skaftafell at 6pm to meet our guides, Maja and Chris, who made us feel immediately like we were in safe hands. They talked us through what to wear, eat and bring, as well as providing us with equipment—ice axes, crampons, walking poles, and, in my case, sturdier boots.

By the end of the meeting, though, I was terrified. Every year, hundreds of tourists are injured or even killed whilst experiencing Iceland's nature. But by going with qualified guides, we were taking the best precautions we could against becoming one of these sad statistics.

Breakfast rock

After half-sleeping through the bright summer night, we congregated at 3am. The climbing group was a seven-strong international bunch aged from mid-twenties to mid-seventies, of mixed ability and climbing experience.

We started out down a rough and gravelly path. At 350m, we stopped to fill our water bottles, and in my case, to apply copious plasters—whilst essential for ankle support and crampon use, my borrowed boots didn't make for pleasant walking.

The trail steepened until our next stop—a 750m high point referred to as 'breakfast rock'. We strapped on our crampons, and got roped up. Taking in the already impressive view, I bid farewell to the reassuring path, and we continued onto the snow.

Pure slog

The next 1,000 metres of the ascent were a pure slog. No matter how far we walked, the crest of the hill never seemed to get closer. I hadn't done any serious snow hiking before and was surprised by how quickly it exhausted me. We also started to encounter crevasses. Chris, leading

the group, would stop us while he poked at the snow bridges, sussing out their reliability. When he found a route he would scrape a cross onto any dodgy areas with his walking pole so we could follow safely.

The snow was fairly firm, so our main challenge was the unrelenting ascent. Although the gradient wasn't impossibly steep, pushing my body upwards for hours on end was unbelievably tiring. Finally, we hit the edge of the plateau—essentially the crater of the snow-capped volcano—and started the trek towards the base of the final summit.

Cleared to summit

We'd been waiting for a forecast update to see whether we could attempt to summit—bad weather had been due in from the northeast—but at 8:30am we got the all-clear. Southeastern Iceland is well known for its good weather, but even in that area conditions can change rapidly in a moment. The fact that we were blessed with clear skies and fairly light winds for the full 12 hours is not lost on me. In fact, despite regularly slathering on SPF 50 sunscreen, my pale, Celtic skin still turned the colour of a nice ham by the end.

The last push for the summit was tough, with the steep, wind-whipped mound covered in thick snow. The joy of reaching the top of the mountain was eclipsed only by the joy of being able to lie down for a moment. But the winds at the top were strong enough to not want to hang around, and after a celebratory dram we hoisted the Reykjavík Grapevine flag

"There's the point at which your mind thinks your body is done, and then the point at which it can actually go no further. Between those two points is where you climb the mountain."

(an extra-large t-shirt that I've slept in ever since, cheers guys) and then quickly headed off.

Muffled world

The difficulty of climbing is that when you hit the top you're technically only halfway done. For much of the descent I was on auto-pilot, trudging through the sun-softened snow, knees buckling every few steps. As clichéd as it sounds, the idea of 'the mountain of the mind' began to make perfect sense to me. There's the point at which your mind thinks your body is done, and then the point at which it can actually go









no further. The fight you have with yourself between those two points is where you actually climb the mountain.

We continued down, again navigating those ominous cracks in the glacier. I was the second-to-last link in the rope chain and was stepping out across a snow-bridge when suddenly the world became closed and muffled. The ropes snapped taut—I'd fallen beneath the snow, far enough for my head to be a couple of feet below the surface. I dug my crampons into the ice and threw my arm over the lip of the crevasse,

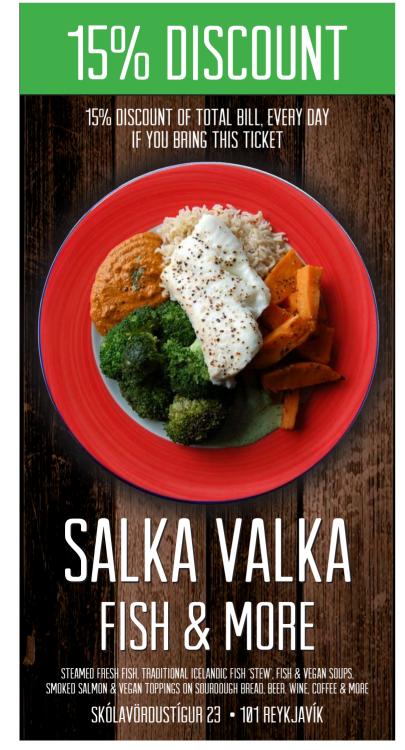
pulling myself up. Slowly, with all the ungainly beauty of a calf being born, I hauled myself up and flopped back out into the bright day. "I didn't get a photo of you," lamented my photographer companion, "because I had to hold the rope." A truly caring man.

The rewards

The adrenaline of the fall gave me a boost for the final descent. Nevertheless, I was delighted when we reached ground level and I was able to put my wobbly little calf-legs on solid rock. Focussing hard on the lamb burger I intended to eat for dinner, we picked our way back down to the car park, a full 12 hours after we'd set off.

Climbing Hvannadalshnúkur is one of the hardest things I have ever done, and I was surprised to find that the difficulty was as much psychological as it was physical. But the sense of achievement is indescribable. I have rarely felt so proud of myself. You better believe I deserved that lamb burger.





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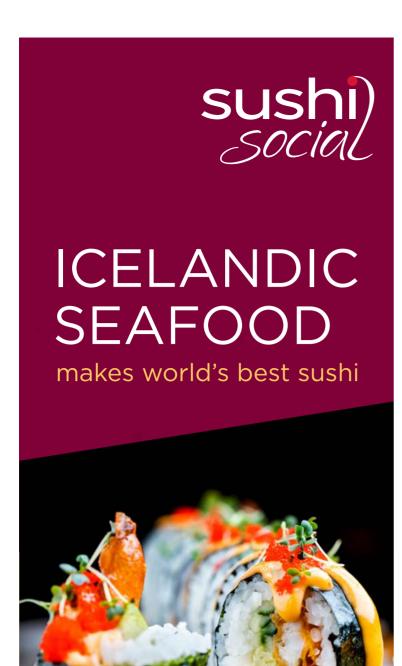
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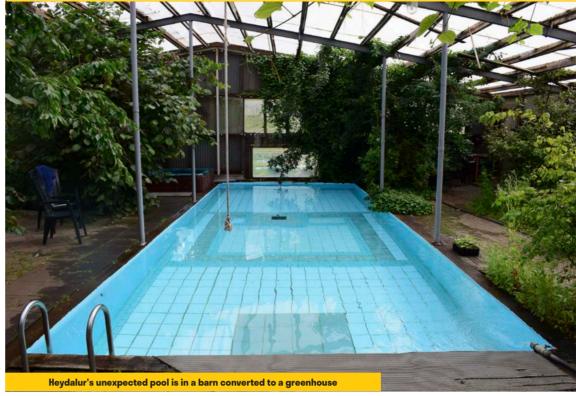
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Distance from Reykjavík: 340 km How to get there: Route One North, Routes 60 & 61 to the

Further information: heydalur.is





The Secret Greenhouse

The hidden bathing paradise of Heydalur

Words & Photos: John Rogers

It's approaching midnight when we turn down Route 633 towards Heydalur. The rough dirt road traces the coastline of Mjóifjörður past paddling ducks with processions of ducklings, and swans glide smoothly past rocks that look like basking seals in the midsummer

At the crook of the fjord a large building comes into view, flanked by summer houses and barns. Having phoned ahead to report some car trouble and our late arrival, we're welcomed by Gísli, a member of the family who owns and runs the place. Gísli hands over a key with a smile, and says the bathing area is open 24/7 should we fancy

a dip. It's music to our ears, and we drop off our bags in our smart summerhouse and head out to soak the road away.

Through the poolhouse door lies an unexpected paradise. The roof is transparent, and the space is lit by the dim midnight sun; birds chirp and fly between the branches and fronds of manifold trees, bushes, flowers and shrubs, thriving and blooming in the warm air. The pool itself is through a corridor of plants; a splash of bright blue in the

verdant space. A hot pot sits under some low-hanging branches, steaming invitingly. As we sink into the water, it's like a vision in a dream.

Special plants

The next morning we meet Gísli's mother, Stella, who runs the place alongside him. After leading a friendly and raucous staff meeting from the head of a long table, she sends the staff to go about their business, and comes over for a chat.

"We bought it in the year 2000," she says. "My husband and my two sons were looking for a place where they could fish and grow trees in 1997. My son found this, but we were afraid it was too far from Reykjavík. My husband called a friend who

lives on the island of Æðey, and he Horse riding and kayaking are of-

ten rooms, and added the new summerhouses two years ago." The pool building was converted from a sheep house. "We moved the sheep out, turned it into a greenhouse, and planted a lot of special plants," Stella continues. "There were three deep holes. We filled up two of them, and the third one is now the pool."

Future dreams

Today, Heydalur has 19 rooms, three well-appointed cabins and a campsite. Working on an eco-

"We moved the

sheep out, and

turned it into a

greenhouse. There

were three deep

holes there, and

one of them is

now the pool."

friendly basis, the majority of the food that's served is local, with eggs and vegetables from the farm and trout from the lake. Geothermal water, found through repeated drilling, fills the pool and heats the buildings.

said we shouldn't hesitate. There fered as summer activities



were other people interested, so they signed... and then we came to the Westfjords to see what we had

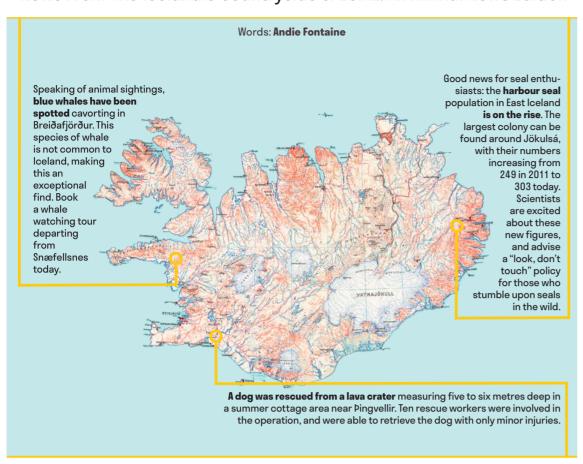
Blind purchase

The bold blind purchase couldn't have turned out better. "It was a farm back then," says Stella. "This room was a barn, and the bedrooms were part of a cow house. Later on, we built another

But there's still more to be done. As we finish our conversation, we notice a telescope of quite a considerable size sitting in a corner. "Ah, yes," says Stella. "We do walks to see the northern lights in the winter. I want to build a small house around this, but we haven't got around to it yet." She smiles, with a gleam in her eye. "We're always doing something. We still have several future dreams." 🍯

Island Life

News From The Icelandic Countryside SPECIAL: All Animal News Edition



Best Of Iceland

A selection of winners from our Best Of Iceland travel magazine



South: Best Hike Fimmvörðuháls

One of the more challenging dayhikes in Iceland, this 25km route is worth it for the diverse riches you'll see along the way. The trail starts at the foot of Skógafoss, passing countless Highland waterfalls on the way to its 1,000m apex. You cross between the Eyjafjallajökull and Mýrdalsjökull glaciers, passing the still-steaming site of a 2010 eruption. Finally, you'll descend into the dreamy Þórsmörk valley.



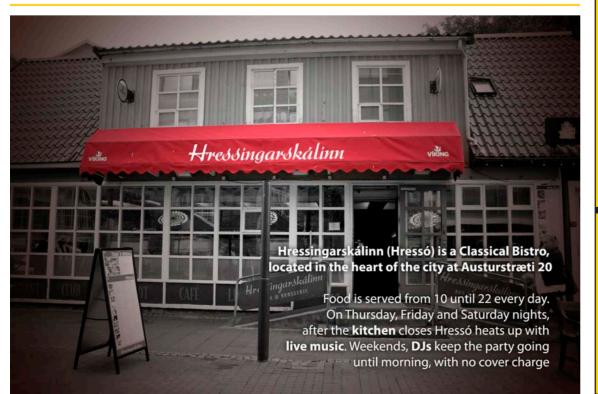
Westfjords: Best Pool Krossneslaug

Straight up the road from Djúpavík, this old-school bathing spot is quite literally where the road ends. Sandwiched between the mountains and the sea, it offers a wild and positively sublime pool experience. "By the time you make it there on that rough road you're exhausted, and jumping in the pool is that much more rewarding," said the panel. "Those views out to the sea from the edge of the pool are just incredible."



West: Best Café Gilbakki Kaffihús

Don't pass through Hellissandur without dropping in on your grandma. Okay, so maybe not your actual grandma—but we imagine she'd be right at home in this comfortable café. "I love the cosiness of the place," said one panellist. "Enjoy a piece of cake with your coffee." Another panellist called Gilbakki the perfect place to while away a summer day, enjoying the view of the glacier.





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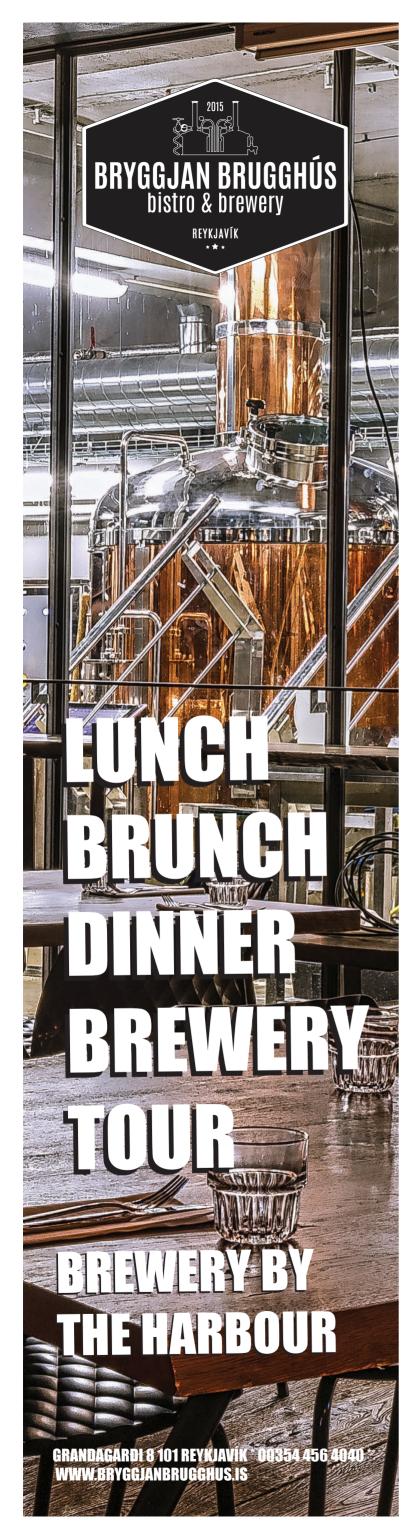








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EDDA RECAP

Rígsbula

The List of Rígu

Words: Grayson Del Faro Illustration: Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir

In this series, we illuminate the individual poems of the Edda-that most famous, epic masterpiece of Icelandic literary tradition-with humour, vulgarity and modern realness. If you're still confused, Google 'Saga Recap.'

This poem tells the story of Old Norse eugenics, so it's obviously a bit fucked up.

I know, I know, it was written like 1000+ years ago when our contemporary concepts of racism and classism didn't exist, so we can't necessarily call it out like we would a celebrity's long-forgotten racist tweet from 2008. Let's just say that this should definitely make you slightly uncomfortable, but hopefully you can squeeze a

chuckle out of that discomfort too.

Three's company

The god Heimdallur goes for a walk along the sea. Eventually he comes to the house of a Greatgrandmother and Great-grandfather, and after introducing himself as Rígur, they invite him to dinner. When their dinner is over and they go to bed, Rígur "sleeps" between them. I would've pegged Rígur for a power bottom, honestly, but the poem is very clear about his preference for the middle!

Nine months later the Greatgrandmother has a baby, which sounds very unhealthy but okay, sure. The baby is described as black, ugly, and malformed so they name him Slave. He grows up to doing physical labour and eventually meets a girl basically named Slavette. They have a hoard of babies with names like Fighty, Smelly, Fatty, Slutty, Blacky, Fatleggy, Bignose, Slaveling and more! And thus, according to the Old Norse belief system, all the slaves and black folks of the world were created. I'll just leave that there.

Orange is the new black

Rígur comes to another house. (See where this is going?) This one is owned by Grandmother and Grandfather. They eat dinner and do the thing in the bed with Rígur the way he likes it. When Grandmother gives birth to a little ginger boy, they name him Farmer. He grows up to marry a girl named Daughter-in-Law and they have jolly little babies such as Manly, Neighbour, Blacksmith, Lassy, Missy, Pretty, and so on, in their working-class mediocrity.

Ultimately, he comes to the fancy home owned by Mother and Father, who are well-dressed and (the poem is clear about this) very, very white. They have a spit roast for dinner and then they spit roast Rígur for dessert. Later, Mother has a little blond boy named Lord. Rígur actually comes back one day to instruct him to seize property, so Lord sets off to kill and maim his way to the top of the aristocracy. He marries a girl named Lively and they have kids named Noble, Heir, Inheritor, and eventually the youngest: King. And thus began the system of white supremacy and capitalistic exploitation in which we still live today! Amen.

Morals of the story:

- 1. Do I really have to explain this?
- **2.** Racism is bad.
- 3. Threesomes are great, but use contraception. Obviously. ♥



TV GODDESS

Girls Incarcerated

Lóa takes on the world of TV

Words: Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir

Netflix has released another docuseries and this time we get to spend time behind bars with girls. The first season is set in a women's jail, but in the second—which happens to be my favourite—the girls are in a correctional facility for minors. For some of them, it's their last chance before they turn eighteen and will be charged as adults

if they commit more felonies.

I feel deeply sorry for all of the

girls. Most of them have had a lousy start in life and it would take an abnormal saint not to be affected by their upbringing. It's a shame American youth don't get the same opportunity of being young and stupid as teenagers are supposed to get. Hormonal changes are like being subjected to a horrible MKUltra experiment and they can turn the most sensible person into a devil. The reason why I like sea-

son two better is because it depicts more hope and more humanity.

In the LaPorte Iuvenile Corre tional Institution the girls are not called inmates and are not serving a sentence. They are students and they can graduate from the programme. They have classes and people who work at the institution seem to have a genuine interest in seeing these girls succeed in life. The captain of the ship is a man named Galipeau. He is sort of like the principal of LaPorte. Unlike my old principal, who would have been the world's worst warden, he is kind and patient. The negative part about the series is that you are actually watching a real life human during their worst moments in life and there is something deeply disturbing about sitting on a sofa, munching on snacks and passing time with their misery. 🗸









WELL, YOU ASKED



Tvo Bjóra, **Barkeep**

Words: Josie Gaitens Photo: Art Bicnick

My wife is Icelandic and recently gave birth to our first son. I am British but both my parents are from Myanmar. Is our son the first Iceland-Myanmar mix-breed? How would we find out?

Mazel tov on the birth of your beautiful, bright-eyed financial burden! We're happy to assist with your endeavor—just send over any relevant passports, bank details and social security numbers and we should have the results back to you in eight to ten working days.

Is Iceland like the supermarket?

During my student days I was known for doing my booze shopping at Iceland the supermarket, where you could buy two bottles of lurid pink Jacques cider for a whopping five whole British pounds. I was such a lightweight that this was all I required for a night of partying. By way of comparison, two vodka-lemonades at a Reykjavík bar the other night cost me 4,000 ISK (25 GBP). A girl could weep.

What's the best way for foreigners to learn Icelandic that doesn't involve living in Iceland continuously?

There are a number of resources available for the Icelandophiles out there. The university has free online courses (icelandiconline.is) and it's worth searching for Icelandic language material on both learning site Memrise as well as notorious time-wasting hotground YouTube. An app called Drops teaches Icelandic vocabulary, although not grammer. As a result, I can now list off a range of breakfast foods and have even learned the word for 'train station'—highly useful in this country, let me tell vou—but cannot vet form a single sentence. The longest phrase I can say in Icelandic is 'tvo bjóra' and frankly that is just a matter of survival. 💆

Send your unsolvable (UNTIL NOW) problems to editor@grapevine.is or tweet us at @rvkgrapevine.



WAR OF THE NERDS

Cloaking Device Activated

Nerds of EVE Online lose minds over change in chat function

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen Photo: EVE Online

Remember in the first season of 'Star Trek: Discovery' when the Vulcans gained the ability to fly undetected by comms in stealth mode, and the Federation promptly lost their shit? Well it ain't just on TV anymore, kids. Welcome to EVE Online's #chatgate2019.

A "safe life"

Only a week after NPC space pirates invaded EVE Online's Nullsec space—the "Wild West" of the galaxy—players were then subjected to another massive and unexpected change to the game when their chat function was removed.

In Nullsec, the chat function previously alerted all players toanother player entering their location, showing their name, ships, and alliance. This meant that you could track your friends, enemies, and frenemies, and ensure you wouldn't unexpectedly be slaughtered by them. Nullsec was, therefore, a lovely haven where players could thrive, start businesses, have families, be merry, and generally live a happy "safe" life.

No chatting

Not anymore. Without notice, CCP games, the Icelandic company behind EVE Online, altered the chat function of Nullsec so you can no longer identify who is in your area. The removal of the chat mode amounts to a new "stealth" mode in which the newly-invisible players are plotting horrific campaigns against others. The gameworld is in havoc, with players stealthily massacring each other in what was previously a peaceful area. New players live in terror. Citadels are being destroyed. Fam-

It's a complete madhouse. CCP has given no notice as to

ilies broken apart. Lives ruined.

if or when the original chat function for Nullsec will be restored. It seems the best recourse for alliances and players are hope, superior gun power, prayer, or just turning off the game and getting a life. 💆







LÁ ART MUSEUM

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Hveragerði

PEOPLE

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ICELAND MUSEUM AWARD 2018

The House at Eyrarbakki

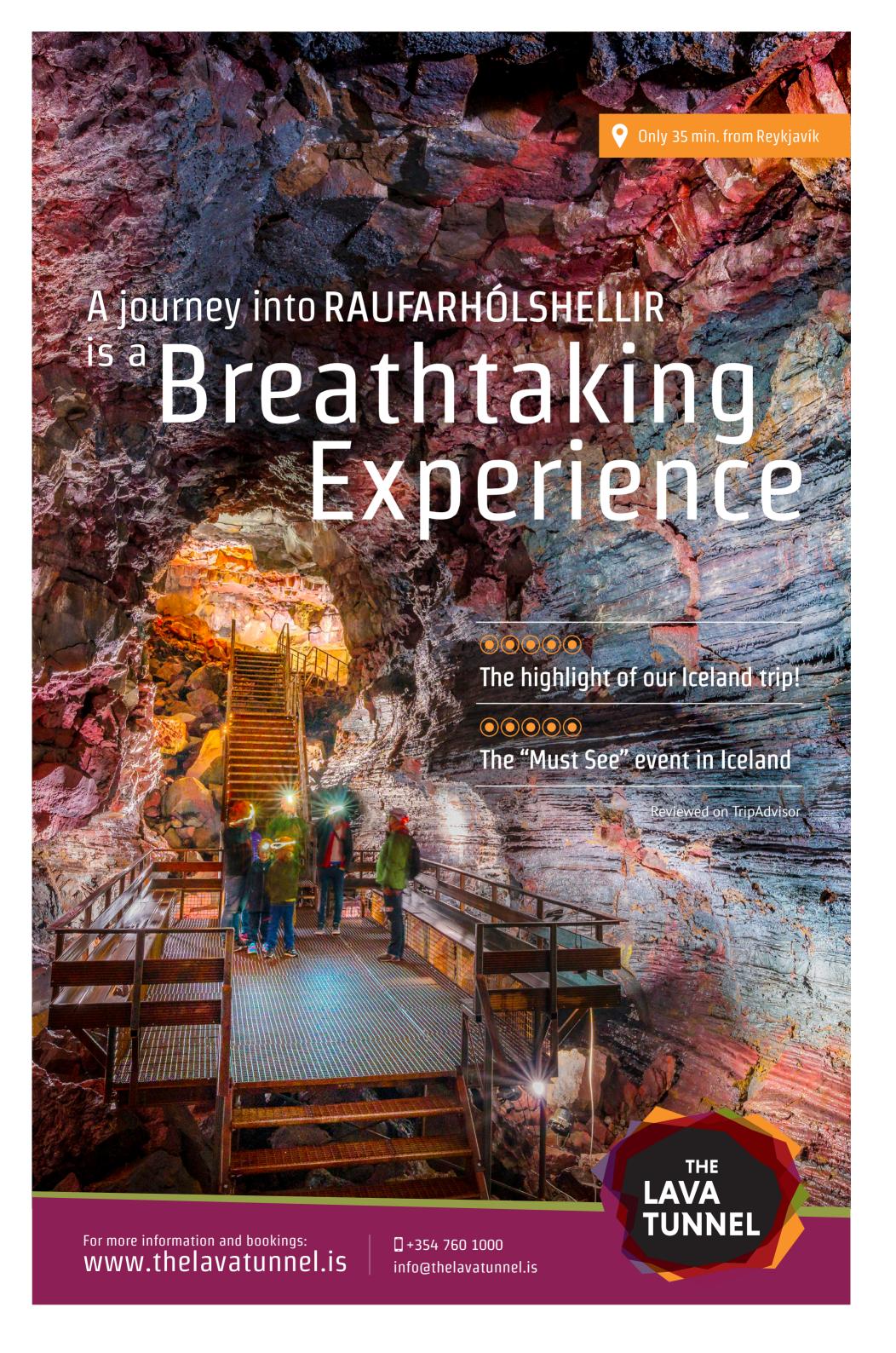


Árnessýsla Heritage Museum is located in Húsið, the House, historical home of the Danish merchants built in 1765. Húsið is one of the oldest houses in Iceland and a beautiful monument of Eyrarbakki´s time as the biggest trading place on the south coast.

Today one can enjoy exhibitions about the story and culture of the region, famous piano, shawl made out of human hair and the kings pot, are among items. Húsið prides itself with warm and homelike atmosphere.



ÁRNESSÝSLA **HERITAGE MUSEUM**







LIFE, TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND

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LAST WORDS

We're All Gonna Die

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

According to new scientific studies, we've got about 30 good years left before climate change kills us all in a fiery blaze. Bummer. I had big plans to watch all of 'The West Wing' in my retirement years.

:(

This is, of course, pretty depressing. As a relatively powerless individual, it doesn't feel possible to wield much influence over the monolith of climate change. Sure, you can go vegan, reduce plastic waste, and recycle—but if governments and corporations don't change their practises, the actions of regular citizens can only do so much. Another bummer.

So how does one deal with the resulting existential dread? Meditation? Exercise? A Xanax prescription? How does a 25-year-old like myself deal with the fact that I might not really have a future? Or, if I do have a future, it'll resemble some post-apocalyptic Hollywood film, except with female body hair and expired gasoline?

I'll use this space to make one thing clear: Within a year of a global catastrophe, all the gasoline in the world will go bad, so that whole 'Mad Max' fantasy is totally unrealistic. Another bummer.

Quelle horreur!

I'll do my part—for what it's worth—but I'll also keep the mindset that sometimes you just have to stare into the global warming void and allow it to stare back. We're all going to die one day. Why should it not be at the hands of polluting corporations that only think about short term gain? It's probably better than a serial killer, or dementia.

Perhaps, it's best to just accept that the world is a fucking dumpster fire and it's best to just live your life to the fullest and accept that you might never get the chance to finish 'The West Wing.' I've heard it's a pretty lame show anyway.





from **08:00 - 18:00** or book online.





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