

REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

Sexism In Parliament

News: Majority of women in Parliament face harrasment

Lots Of Tiny People

Art: Gerðarsafn gets witchy as hell

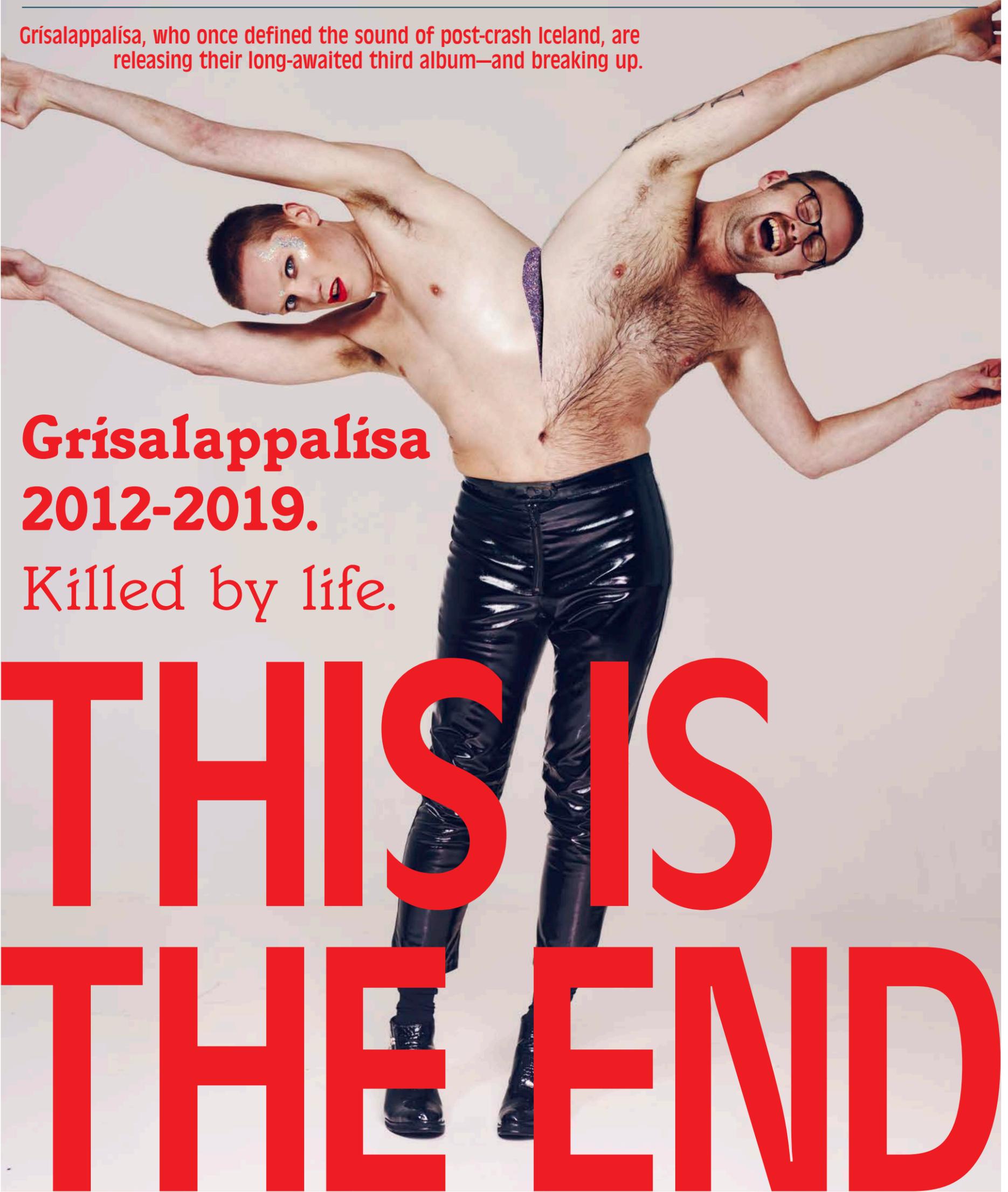
Halldór Eldjárn

Music: A sonic journey to the moon

The Dark East

Travel: Disaster tourism awaits in East Iceland

Grísalappalísa, who once defined the sound of post-crash Iceland, are releasing their long-awaited third album—and breaking up.



Grísalappalísa 2012-2019.

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Plus!

GIG GUIDE × CITY MAP × TRAVEL IDEAS × FOOD



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hordursveinsson.com

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ASSISTANT:
Nicholas Grange

Tasked with illustrating the ongoing break-up of an active band, we ended up with a pretty literal take, because it was fun to do. The Grisa boys are a joy to work with.

First



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EDITORIAL

The Future Of Comics



There has been a heated debate about Marvel movies in the global press. Old masters of cinema have stepped up and expressed what many are thinking; that superhero movies are not art; they are more like a roller coaster in Disneyland. It's not really productive to debate taste. Some liked Rambo while others never did. Who cares. But there is an element that is forgotten in this whole debate, which is the foundation of the Marvel movies: the comics.

ing into a different kind of debate, since comics are definitely a literary medium, and if you would ask me which one is better, Maus or The Godfather, well, my answer is simple; Maus. But, like you're probably figuring out now, that's an unfair comparison.

closer to the novel than the superhero comics we saw in the middle of the last century. If you wanted to, you could look at the superhero genre like the crime noir genre in the literature world. A lot of those books end up as movies, and a lot of those movies are not art. The same goes with the Mafia-theme in movies. A lot of it is shit. So it goes.

What Icelanders are seeing now is an interesting new wave of comic authors like Atla Hrafney, a young woman that we interviewed on page 32, the founder of The Icelandic Comics Society. This small group's generation grew up with the superhero movies and they looked at the core of it, the literature that these movies were based on. More new artists are stepping up and writing comics which are

So, although I agree with Scorsese and Coppola to some degree, I still recognise that the huge popularity of superhero movies could actually produce some meaningful art in the comic scene. And if the result will be something like Maus, it will all be worth it. And who knows, perhaps a great movie will come out of it. **VG** ♥

And then we are suddenly tread-



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



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



Alexander Jean is a Reykjavik-born part-time DJ (under the pseudonym Bervit), event-planner and lover of art, creation and aesthetics. Most recent endeavors include co-producing The Grapevine's own Grassroots concerts at Húrra and LungA Art Festival's busy event schedule.



Lea Müller first came to Reykjavik in 2016. Three years of long-distance, a bachelor's degree in cultural and business studies, and uncountable visits to Iceland later, she finally decided to move here. Apart from her writing, she's currently learning to let go of her perfectionism by learning Icelandic.



Samuel O'Donnell Sam is an English major from The United States. He has his Bachelor's Degree, and keeps telling himself that this is the year he will begin pursuing his Master's. In his spare time, he enjoys playing video games, writing short horror stories, listening to all kinds of metal, and reading.



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



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.



a rawlings is Grapevine's literature correspondent, also covering environmental news, travel, and more. An interdisciplinary artist whose work focuses on environmental ethics, dysfluency, and watery bodies, her books include 'Wide slumber for lepidopterists' and 'Sound of Mull.'



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 electro-pop supergroup FM Belfast. Her comic strip Lóaboratorium appears every issue on page 8, and is also available as a daily dose on her Twitter.

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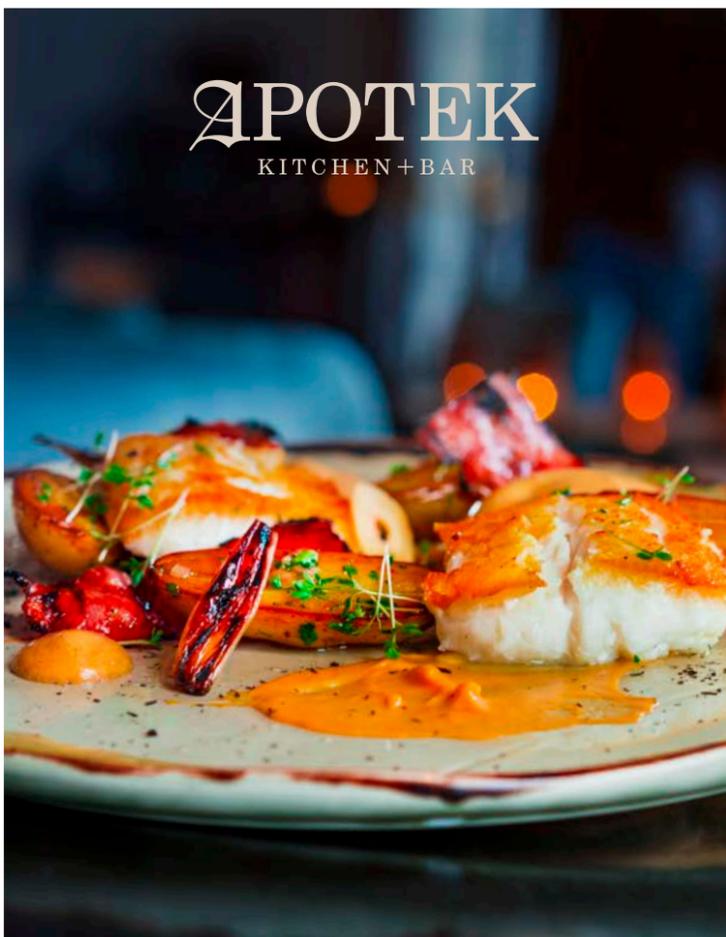


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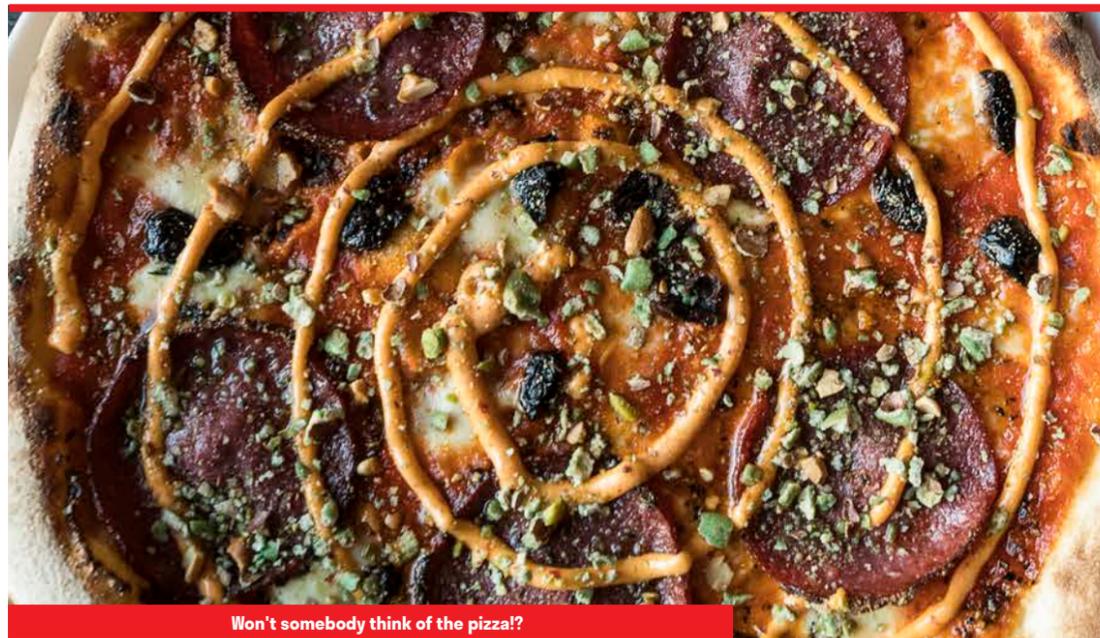


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Won't somebody think of the pizza!?

What Are Icelanders Talking About?

Pizza, whistleblowers and cheap coke

Words: **Andie Fontaine & Sam O'donnell** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

NEWS In an effort to shore up losses, UK-based master franchise **Domino's Pizza Group will be pulling out of four markets, including Iceland.** This should not, however, affect the presence of Domino's pizza in Iceland. Back in 2016, Domino's Pizza Group bought a 50% share in Pizza-Pizza ehf., the Icelandic company that operates Domino's in Iceland. They bought a greater stake in 2017, with the completion of the sale happening this year. Domino's Pizza Group will now sell their share of the company, and finding an Icelandic buyer is highly likely. Therefore the pizza chain will likely remain in operation for the time being.

After shuttering their doors last August, Iceland's first Michelin-starred restaurant **Dill will open again.** The restaurant will change location to the second floor of Laugavegur 59, just above the Bónus supermarket.

The location is an important point; part of the reason why Dill closed was due to its previous location on Hverfisgata. Heavy construction that is still ongoing on that street had a significant impact on the business.

Years in the making, the draft of a new bill from Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir would, if passed, **finally provide the protections for whistleblowers** that organisations such as Reporters Without Borders have urged Iceland to adopt, and which began with the adoption of the Icelandic Modern Media Initiative in 2010.

According to the language of

the bill, a whistleblower would be defined as "those who in good faith convey information or documentation regarding illegal or unethical practices of their employers, whether public or private." Those who fit this definition would be legally protected from criminal prosecution or civil damages.

When this new bill will be submitted to Parliament is still undeter-

mined, the Prime Minister hopes to complete the draft and introduce it to Parliament during the current parliamentary session.

The price of cocaine in Iceland has decreased from 2017, and quantities seized by police and admissions to drug rehabs for cocaine addiction have increased.

Inga Sæland, the chair of the People's Party, contends that the cocaine arriving in Iceland is purer than it has ever been. "Despite the fact that police have seized up to 40 kilos of cocaine, the street value has not gone up, which should tell us that there's more than enough of a supply," she said.

Arnþór Jónsson, the chair of SÁÁ, is urging national and municipal cooperation in increasing housing for drug addicts in Iceland. ♡



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Imagine appearing in a Netflix movie for half a second and getting mad about it

Icelandic Politician Upset With Netflix

Progressive Party chair hurt by The Laundromat

NEWS

The Laundromat, a new Netflix movie about the 2015 Panama Papers leak, has been receiving a lot of buzz lately, but not everyone is a fan—some are downright fuming. In particular, Sigurður Ingi Jóhannsson, the chair of the Progressive Party and the man who replaced Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson as prime minister after he resigned in

disgrace in the wake of the leak.

Taking to Facebook, **Sigurður said it was “hurtful and intolerable to be mixed up with this corruption case in The Laundromat ... Fake news is becoming a problem in the technical and information age.** This is a challenge to the media world and the producers to always have the truth as a guiding light.”

Words: **Andie Fontaine**

Photo: **Art Bicnick**

Just how valid are his complaints?

Sigurður's role in The Laundromat is very brief. During a scene in which the Panama Papers leak begins to break across the global media, as newscasters are reporting the story, **one broadcast uses a screenshot of a Time magazine article, “Iceland Appoints New Prime Minister In Wake Of Panama Papers Leak,” that uses a photo of Sigurður Ingi.** At the same time, the newscaster in question is speaking, saying, “Iceland's Prime Minister has stepped down after being named in the papers.”

This brief moment, Sigurður Ingi believes, puts him within “the wrong context.” Which is strange, considering it is 100% factual. He was, indeed, appointed the new prime minister after Sigmundur Davíð resigned. Perhaps he believes the newscaster in The Laundromat was talking about him?

Could've been worse!

The irony is, if Netflix really wanted to paint Sigurður Ingi in a bad light, they could have mentioned that in the wake of the revelation that Sigmundur Davíð's wife owned offshore company Wintris, Sigurður Ingi had been very diligent about defending not just Sigmundur Davíð but also offshore accounts themselves, telling reporters that “it is complicated to have money in Iceland.” According to a poll taken the month before his prime minister-ship, only 3% of respondents had any confidence in the man at all.

Sigurður Ingi might not like that a photo of him with a factual headline was shown for half a second in a movie about the Panama Papers, but that doesn't make it “fake news.”

ASK AN

Expert

Q: What's the truth behind the Turkish invasion of Iceland?



Words: **Bragi Þorgrímur Ólafsson**
Photo: **Provided by Subject**

One of the most infamous events in Icelandic history is the Tyrkjaránið (The Turkish Raid) of 1627. Although it's commonly associated with modern-day Turkey, the raiders in question were in reality from Algiers, part of the Ottoman empire. We reached out to historian Bragi Þorgrímur Ólafsson to gain insight on those days of horror.

In 1627, a fleet of 12 pirate ships left Algiers, with four of them heading to Iceland. On the 20th of June, one made landfall at Grindavík, taking 12 Icelanders and three Danes prisoner, along with two Danish vessels. Three days later, the same ship sailed towards Bessastaðir. The locals prepared for a conflict, fortifying Bessastaðir with cannons. However, the ship never made it there as it stranded for a few days and then sailed back to Algiers.

Two ships from the convoy then attacked the eastern fjords on the 4th of July, taking 100 Icelanders and 12-13 Danes prisoner before finally making their way to Vestmannaeyjar, now with the third ship in their convoy. They made landfall on July 16th, killing 30-40 people, looting, and taking 242 people prisoner. These people were eventually sold as slaves in Algiers.

Ten years later, 27 of them made their way back to Iceland after authorities paid a ransom for their release gathered by taxation and donations. One of them, the Reverend Ólafur Egilsson, wrote a book about his experience, which was recently translated into English. For the next 300 years after the attack, Icelanders often referred to the Turkish Raid as a testament to the state of the country's defence and were alarmed when any unknown ship approached.

FOOD OF ICELAND

Liquorice

Liquorice gets a bad rap internationally, thanks to black jellybeans being the worst candy ever made, as well as Twizzlers completely missing the mark. (For reference: It's not supposed to have so much damn anise!)

Beloved throughout the Nordics, the candy is made from the root of Glycyrrhiza glabra—the liquorice plant—which is 30-50 times sweeter than sugar. Because of this, most Icelandic liquorice is tempered with salt, or coated in chocolate.

Due to a history of embargoes and restrictions on foreign candies, liquorice was pretty much the only candy available to Icelanders for hundreds of years, so the locals had to get creative. As a result,



a love of liquorice is practically ingrained in the genes of Icelanders. Grocery stores and candy stalls sell the confection in all forms, whether it's covered in chocolate, wrapped around marzipan, dusted in fine pepper, or sold by itself. And, of course, you can go to any ice cream shop in Iceland and have your soft-serve dipped in lava-like

liquorice and covered in whatever candy you like. Then there are the healing properties of the root. It has historically been prescribed to treat coughing, constipation and congestion, and to this day the pharmacy in Iceland sells a blend of liquid liquorice as a cough suppressant. **It's one of the few things in the world that can both cause a stomach ache and cure it.** That said, science has recently found out that too much liquorice can cause high blood pressure and heart attacks—so perhaps moderation is best. **SPO**

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Well, someone's not getting any damn candy

ICELANDIC SUPERSTITIONS

Slaughter Your Sheep, Halloween Is Coming

How Iceland celebrated Halloween before there even was Halloween

Words: **Valur Grettisson**
 Photo: **Art Bicnick**
 Halloween nears, and from the hearts of all the old Norse, you're welcome. The holiday has its roots in old pagan customs originating in the Nordic countries. In Sweden, it was *Dísablót*

(‘Festival Of The Valkyries’), and in Iceland, *Veturnætur* (‘Winternights’), which was once the most popular time to get married. Spooky, right?

JUST SAYINGS

„Of seint í rassinn gripið“

Here's one idiom that suddenly became inflammatory because of #MeToo. It literally means **“too late to grab that ass.”** I kid you not. This is the exact translation. Of course, it's not about a missed opportunity to sexually harass someone, **it simply means that it's too late to do something now.** It's origin is from the 16th century and is believed to be connected to saving someone that is drowning at sea. That is, it's too late to grab his body to haul him from the depths of the crushing Atlantic ocean. **So, use this one with care, and don't grab anyone's ass, unless they're drowning.** VG ☞

LÓABORATORIUM



The wandering dead

Veturnætur was primarily a celebration of the upcoming dark winter, and the holiday revolved around farmers joyously slaughtering their sheep. Afterwards, they would drink themselves unconscious to further honour the gods, as one does.

The harvest festival is often mentioned in the Icelandic Sagas and it appears to have been a rollicking drinking celebration. Beyond that, it's a bit unclear what people got up to. One clan from the Sagas is said to have played some kind of a ball game as a part of the festivities. Others believed that the elves and the dead would wander around on *Veturnætur*, but nowadays, that belief has been associated with a night in the beginning of January called the Thirteenth.

Spooky spirits

Unfortunately, after the Nordic countries became boring—I mean, Christian—*Veturnætur* turned into All Saint's Day, which eventually became Halloween in other parts of the world.

Veturnætur still has some cultural roots in Iceland. Some farmers believe it's bad luck to slaughter sheep in October or later in the winter. *Ásatrú*, the Nordic pagan faith, celebrates the holiday in Iceland every year, and practitioners have been doing so for some time now. The rest of us just get drunk, which, we suppose, is a nice enough homage to the past. ☞

GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST



Hera - How Does A Lie Taste?
 In her new song, Hera asks the important questions. Just how does a lie taste? Well, apparently sugary as hell, if this slick folk-pop ditty is to be believed. If you're a traditional pop fan, Hera will hit all your buttons. She knows the genre and does it well. VG



JFDR - Taking A Part Of Me
 JFDR is back with the first single off her upcoming 2020 album. 'Taking A Part Of Me' bears the strong signature of JFDR, but it's admittedly a little forgettable, unlike her previous efforts. That said, it's a solid track nonetheless and a good reminder of how strong JFDR is, even when not at her best. VG



una schram - get away
 una schram—no capitals please—is a newbie in the Icelandic R&B scene, who will play her premiere Iceland Airwaves set in November. Her newest single—the first of two she'll release before her Airwaves debut—blends charming R&B beats with bad bitch attitude. It's surprisingly refreshing, especially in a tough genre where the music can often tend towards bland. VG



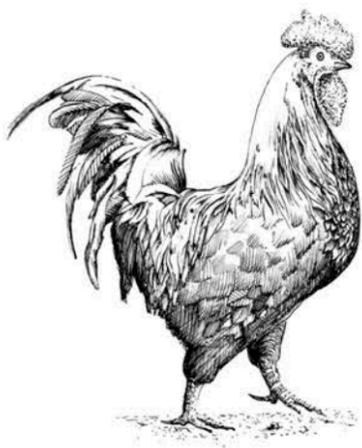
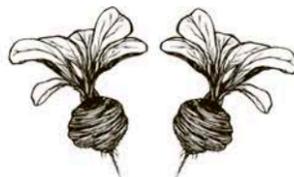
Matthildur - My Own
 Matthildur's vocals are strong, so much so that her smooth R&B might sound even better live than it does with the light vocal effects on her album. She's got a Fiona Apple-turned-trap-and-not-angry vibe about her, but perhaps a little less controversial. Basically, if you like singer-songwriters that you can also vibe and vape to, check her out. HJC



einariIndra ft. Sillus - Dóttir
 einariIndra struck like a lightning bolt into the Icelandic music scene a couple of years ago, quickly proving that he was one of the country's most interesting, soulful electronic musicians. 'Dóttir,' meaning daughter, is a somber trip-hop-ish ride with deep bass and a fantastic vocal addition by Sillus. Don't miss this at Airwaves. We certainly won't. VG



Shakespeare verður ástfanginn - Hvað er ástin
 'Shakespeare verður ástfanginn' is a current musical at Þjóðleikhúsið based on the Oscar-winning 'Shakespeare In Love.' If you're a fan of slightly-cheesy emotional ballads with a touch of soaring vocals—like the music you listen to in the bath when you're 100% sure your roommate isn't home—put this on your playlist. You'll keep it spinning, but probably with your earphones on. HJC



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Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland

Sexism In Parliament

The numbers don't lie

cantly greater degree here than elsewhere in Europe, but one may also ask themselves if we are more willing—which is also in some ways positive—to talk more about these things here than anywhere else.”

The results of the study were compared to a comprehensive survey of gender-based violence conducted by the International Parliamentary Assembly in collaboration with the Council of Europe in 2018. Based on this comparison, it is apparent that the proportion of women who have experienced gender-based violence is higher in the Icelandic parliament than in other European nations.

More about gender-based violence in Iceland

The greatest disparity between Europe and Iceland is the number of Parliamentarian women who have experienced physical and economic violence. In Europe, 14.8% admitted to having experienced physical violence, 9% less than in Iceland. Similarly, there is a 7 point disparity between European and Icelandic women who have suffered economic violence.

The study includes a number of other factors. For example, women tend to serve shorter terms in Parliament than men, and 63.5% of women in Parliament are from the top layers of society.

Katrín believes that many have been affected by the #MeToo movement, and have realized how widespread both gender-based violence and sexual harassment are.

“We have now been at the forefront when it comes to gender equality in the world, but I think many people have had a shock experiencing this violence culture that is linked to the gender system in our community. But the good thing about this is that I think we are starting to talk a lot more, and more openly about it,” she said. ☘

Words: Sam O'Donnell

According to a new study, around 80% which was released on October 18.

of women in Parliament have been exposed to gender-based violence. In May, the study surveyed 33 women who are working in or have recently quit Parliament, with 25 women responding. The results of the study are presented in a new book by Dr. Haukur Arnþórsson,

"This is an incredibly high percentage mentioned here and I expect it to be discussed at the forum now."

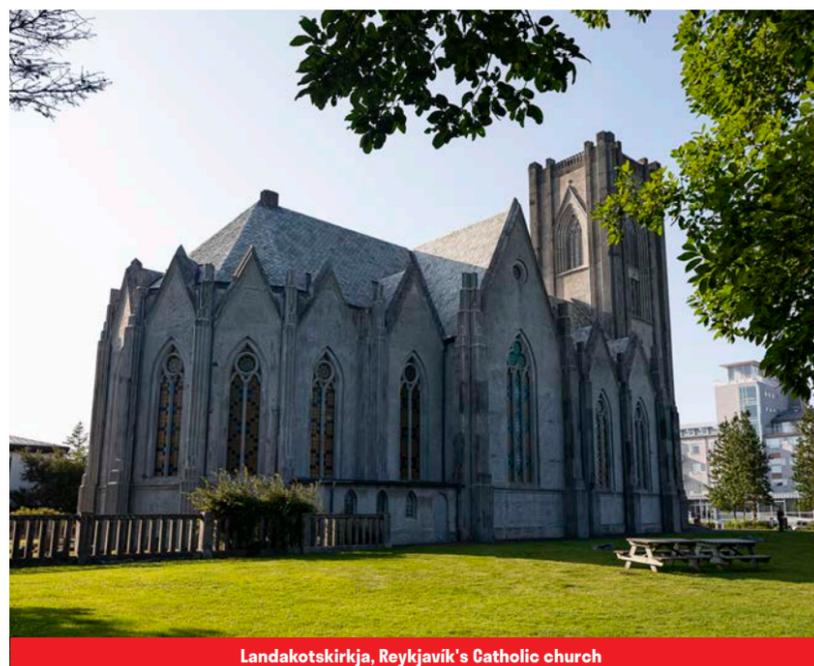
The study finds that about 80% of Icelandic women in Parliament have been exposed to psychological violence, and 28% have been subjected to sexual violence. Additionally, 24% reported physical abuse, and 20.8% said they had experienced economic violence, which occurs when

women are denied terms of employment or facilities to which their position should entitle them, or when their property is damaged.

Something we need to talk about

“This is quite an unbelievably high percentage who are named here, and I expect that this matter will be taken up in Parliament,” Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir told RÚV following the study's publication. “According to the news, this is happening to a signifi-

Photo: Art Bicnick



Landakotskirkja, Reykjavik's Catholic church

Catholic Congregation in Iceland Growing Rapidly

A potential for value conflicts

What causes the increase

With the largest immigration groups coming from countries where Catholicism is predominant, it is no surprise that Catholic churches in Iceland are flourishing thanks to immigration. People of Polish origin comprise the largest immigrant group, accounting for more than 40% of all foreign nationals living in the country, followed by Lithuanians.

Landakotskirkja in Reykjavik, with its priest Jakob Rolland, is the church that has seen the highest increase in attendance and is sometimes hardly able to accommodate the large numbers of people who flock there. Compared to mainland Europe, where the Catholic Church is losing congregates in many places, partly due to scandal, the same change is not the reality in Iceland.

“Catholic churches in Iceland are flourishing from migration.”

a global scale. The reality is that both Christian Churches have been losing ground worldwide for a long time. Perhaps that's why Jakob Rolland, as the most important spokesperson of Catholics in Iceland, is advocating heavily for Catholics to register in the congregation even though Landakotskirkja's is at capacity. The church receives funding from the state

for every member enlisted. He has also been pleading with the government to hear out the Catholic Church's concerns about social issues and points to the fact that their objections to the bills allowing same-sex marriage and concerning abortion were not taken into account when they went through.

Value conflicts

It's highly interesting that a conservative institution like the Catholic Church flourishes in a country that is one of the most progressive in the world—and it doesn't come without conflict, as many of the institution's views and values are out of touch with Icelandic reality. For instance, the Vatican still vehemently defends patriarchal ideas and doesn't allow women into positions of power whilst Iceland is at the forefront of gender-equality. Further, equal rights for queer couples are a foundational value to the majority of Icelanders, yet the Catholic Church still refuses to marry them. What role the Catholic Church can play in the 21st century, least of all in Iceland, deserves full examination. ☘

Words: Lea Müller

Since the turn of the century, the Catholic congregation in traditionally Lutheran Iceland has grown rapidly, mainly due to immigration. In 1994, Catholics accounted for 1% of the population, but as immigration accel-

erated in the 21st century, fueled by Iceland's fast economic growth, the number of Catholics living in the country increased accordingly. As of October 2019, people of Catholic faith make up 4% of the population.

Photo: Art Bicnick

The global trend

However, the Lutheran National Church of Iceland has experienced a decline in members and mass attendance in recent years. In the 1990s, about 90% of the population was registered in the National Church but the headcount has since shrunk to 64%. A record number quit in 2010 when the National Church was accused of attempting to cover up sexual crimes committed by former Bishop Ólafur Skúlason.

What seems to be an oppositional trend in Iceland, with people joining the Catholic Church and leaving the Lutheran Church, doesn't hold true on

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Off The Rails With Grísalappalísa: The iconic Icelandic band bids adieu to their current form

If the early aughts in the Icelandic music scene was defined by lo-fi indie, peaking at around the time of the financial crisis of 2008, Grísalappalísa undoubtedly represents the sound of post-crash Iceland: loud, chaotic, bounding with untameable energy. From their inception in 2012, their creativity was so great that, by the band's own admission, they had enough material for a second album by the time the first one, 'Ali,' was released.

However, their latest album, 'Týnda rásin,' will be their last. Grísalappalísa is breaking up.

In many ways, that's evident in the album itself, and the roughly five years it took to make. "This record is basically about how hard it is to make this record," saxophonist Tumi Árnason explains.

Let's go back to the beginning.

THE DREAM LINE-UP

Grísalappalísa frontman and lyricist Gunnar Ragnarsson got his start in the highly successful Jakobínarína, which won the Músiktilraunir song contest in 2005. While that band would dissipate a few years later, Gunnar hadn't given up on being a musician; it was only a question of with whom he would form his next band. Becoming friends with Baldur Baldursson proved to be the catalyst.

"We bonded a lot, with similar obsessions and habits," Gunnar recalls of his early friendship with Baldur, who would become his co-singer and -lyricist. "We were interested in musicians like Megas, Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen. Songwriters with heavy literary influences. I hadn't been doing anything in music for at least three years, and I wanted some avenue for self-expression. I had a dream lingering, and Baldur was playing with writing lyrics for songs in Icelandic. We spent a lot of time together in his apartment in those years."

So Gunnar considered the people in his life, forming in his mind what he calls his "dream lineup."

"This included Sigurður [Möller Sivertsen], our drummer who also makes the videos for Grísalappalísa, and of course was with me in Jakobínarína," he says. "I also thought of Bergur [Thomas Anderson] on bass and Albert [Finnbogason], who had been together in bands I really liked and who I was friends with. Rúnar [Örn Jóhannu Marinósson] joined the band later. They were all the same age as me

and we were all in bands competing in Músiktilraunir in 2005."

Despite this meticulous planning, fate would introduce Gunnar to Tumi Árnason, the saxophonist and occasional other instrumentalist since Grísalappalísa's beginning.

THE QUIET TYPE

Gunnar met Tumi when they were working together at Bió Paradís in 2011. Where Gunnar is practically crackling with energy, hardly able to sit still as we chat, Tumi provides an interesting contrast; more reserved and composed, with a quiet demeanor.

"I just came home from backpacking trip across Russia, Mongolia, China and Vietnam for the better part of a year," Tumi says. "It was really fun." Turning to Gunnar, Tumi continues, "I remember when you started the band, it was so interesting because while I knew Albert and Bergur, but Sigurður, I didn't really know them at all. I met them at the first rehearsal."

As a kid, Tumi listened a lot to jazz, and was in his school's band. When he started secondary school, he also started attending a high-end music school, perhaps biting off more than he could chew.

"I had no idea what I was doing. I kind of freaked out over it and quit," Tumi says. "Then I just started playing in rock bands instead. I did that for a lot of years, from around 16 years old, then decided to finish my proper education a couple of years ago. Albert and I were in The Heavy Experience together, and knew each other from that, and Bergur and I were in Just Another Snake Cult."

PREJUDICE AGAINST SAXOPHONES

The choice to have a saxophonist, Gunnar says, stems from a number of reasons.

"I had heard Heavy Experience, and I really liked that band," Gunnar says. "And of course, Baldur and I were really into this band Morphine. It was something really basic like this. I've become

very conscious of prejudices and misconceptions about the saxophone from being in this band, because in a lot of the writing about the band, it's always like such a novelty. 'Oh and they have a saxophone player! And it isn't awful!'"

"I think it's because of the 80s prevalence of saxophone solos," Tumi adds. "I heard so many intense statements about saxophones from the indie scene."

"Maybe the idea is that you have the 80s Kenny G sound, and the other idea people have is like John Coltrane and Albert Ayler," Gunnar says.

"It's also very popular in shorter reviews that we've been getting over the years—and not just for this band—where it's like, if there's a saxophone present, you can put this 'jazz' label on it," Tumi says. "With elements of jazz." When there's nothing jazz about Grísalappalísa.

THAT FIRST REHEARSAL

Now that Gunnar had established his dream lineup, the next step was convincing his draft picks to actually come together and play. This he did by creating a Facebook group, adding only the musicians he wanted. Soon, everyone was on board to have their first rehearsal. By all accounts, it was a major success.

"At the first rehearsal we wrote 'Kraut í G,' the first song off of [debut album] 'Ali,'" Gunnar recalls. "That was very cool. Everyone was a bit shy, thinking 'what are we doing here?' And I think it was Bergur who said that he'd been listening to a lot of krautrock. [Sigurður] started the motorik beat. Baldur brought like 20 A4 pages of lyrics. At this stage I was supposed to be the singer and Baldur was just going to write lyrics, but we hadn't formed an idea about that. I had a bit of stage fright, froze and didn't know what to do. But Baldur started frantically yelling into the mic, launching into this existential rant that became the song. That was the first rehearsal."

When all was said and done, they knew they had started something great.

"We were pretty excited about it pretty quickly," Tumi says. "I'd never done anything like this, and I really liked the line-up. It got off to a good start right away."

"There was a period of a few months where we wrote the seven songs that formed 'Ali,'" Gunnar says. "We were writing almost one song each practice. We wrote the first four, and then the last two or three; just flying in a burst



“It's an album about isolating yourself, and your ideas being worn out and having driven you nowhere really. About not being able to face your problems.”



“I've become very conscious of prejudices and misconceptions about the saxophone from being in this band.”

Words:
Andie Fontaine

Photo:
Hörður Sveinsson

of creative joy. We wrote ‘Hver er ég?’ ‘Skritin birta,’ and ‘Lóan er komin’—the most fun songs on ‘Ali.’ The mood was just fun, because we were getting to know each other, having coffee and joking and chatting about music.”

“It’s always been the most fun group I’ve ever worked with, right from the start,” Tumi emphasises. “It’s an amazing dynamic, whether in rehearsals or performing live.”

THE CREATIVE EXPLOSION

‘Ali,’ was widely well received, and took the band by storm.

“For me it was like an explosion in my life,” Gunnar says. “It’s what I wanted and where I thought I was supposed to be: up on the stage, people admiring me, and telling me how great I was. You get addicted to the validation of other people. It happened quite rapidly that people were very passionate and singing all the lyrics. The release show at [the now defunct] Faktorý was crazy. It was a packed room, very sweaty and drunk people with a guy in the front trying to hand me a spliff. A lot of young guys in the front with existential drunk angst. Not the only kind of people, but definitely a type at our shows.”

“Maybe I just hadn’t thought that much about it, but ‘Ali’ was so well received and there was so much energy and fun at the time,” Tumi says. “It was a different kind of vibe from my previous groups. It was just this freedom, because we were all very loose, playing these long songs that could go anywhere and be anything. We were making all this music so fast and it was happening so easily. We were already well ahead of having material for the second album by the time we released the first one.”

Their initial creative output was indeed remarkable, and the group released ‘Ali,’ a 7” of covers of legendary Icelandic singer-songwriter Megas, and their second album, ‘Rökrétt framhald,’ all within a 12 month period. By his own admission, Gunnar says this explosion of material gave them all quite the confidence boost.

“We were very expressive in interviews, like, ‘What’s the deal with all these bands who release just one album in 4 years? We just did two albums in two years and we’re just going to keep on doing it!’” Gunnar recalls.

“I think we were pretty cocky, and just taking the piss,” Tumi says. “But then we did a live album a year after that, and a very non-serious plan where we were like ‘We’re gonna break up, and then we’re gonna come back together with a new line-up and do five more albums.’ It was a five-year plan.”

AND THEN, LIFE HAPPENED

As is often the case with even successful musicians, other facets of life began to put a strain on the band; domestic life, sobriety, and the need for more stable finances all played a part. In the interim, Bergur had moved to Holland

and Sigurður to Bosnia. All of these factors complicated the making of a new album, and the process would end up stretching out over five years.

“From 2016 until now, the band wasn’t really operating as a day-to-day band, playing regular gigs and such,” Gunnar says. “We’d just meet and play a few times a year. People have changed where they’ve been living, with some people overseas.”

“Me, Albert and Rúnar were renting this garage behind Byko in Kópavogur and writing the sketches for songs,” Tumi says. “We were gathering a crazy pile of instrumental demos, where we were all switching around playing different instruments, so it’s super-sloppy, with part of the group totally absent. Bergur was sending some garage band demos from the Netherlands, which became two songs on the album.”

“We had these vague song structures that were piling up in a folder,” Tumi continues. “We were thinking of making a double CD; two and a half hours of music or something. We finished this enormous amount of instrumental music and it switched around—instead of adapting existing lyrics to the songs that were being born on the spot, we suddenly had all these recorded songs and no lyrics.”

“It might have also been because we didn’t have a deadline, like for a gig that we were playing,” Gunnar adds. “This was a factor. But also Baldur and I had big anxiety and procrastination issues and a creativity block. We were always discussing ideas, and then had the demos to listen to, and then had the finished recordings of the demos to listen, but still we didn’t have any finished lyrics. I don’t know how many hours and days and months it was, just listening to the material and going back and forth. I think at some point I told Baldur I don’t think I can carry on if we don’t finish this album. We are very proud of this album, but it was a very arduous and long process.”

“This record is basically about how hard it is to make this record,” Tumi says.

THE LOST CHANNEL

Their new album, ‘Týnda rásin’ (‘The Lost Channel’), is out now, and even the name of the album stems from the creative process.

“It was a joke about Baldur having a guitar, and a cable that isn’t connected to anything, or muted,” Tumi says. “That it would be funny to release an album just from that channel.”

“So this very banal joke becomes the metaphor for our whole life,” Gunnar says. “It’s an album about isolating yourself, and your ideas being worn out and having driven you nowhere really. About not being able to face your problems.”

Gunnar says that for this new album, Grísalappalísa “wanted to be more autobiographical, to be more vulnerable.”

“We were struggling to understand each other, asking ‘Why isn’t this happening?’” he recalls. “We had to address our relationships with each other and be very honest. There’s a very stark contrast between the first two albums and this one. There was no need for introspection back then; we were just being young and not giving a fuck and being beautiful.”

“I kind of feel like this whole journey was like this train that gathers speed and then totally goes off the tracks and mutates into something else,” Tumi says.

“And we’re just finding that out now.”

‘Týnda rásin’ is indeed an eclectic mix. It includes a country track and a de-tuned synthesizer marching band track. Even the Wintris scandal plays a role, as one track was tentatively called “Sigurður Ingi,” but is now called “Taugaáfall í Bónus” (“Nervous breakdown in Bónus”). No, there is no connection.

“It’s very different from the other two albums,” Gunnar says. “It’s also a bit different having the other members more involved with the lyrics and the singing. I also think the guys dealt us a tough hand. Our music has always been very schizophrenic in nature, varying in musical styles and genres. But in writing ‘Týnda rásin’ it got even more extreme, almost as if there were no limitations. It has always been the lyrics that tie it together and let it make sense in a unified way. This brings us also to the joke-y nature of the band—let’s do a country song, or atonal guitar piece and see what those jokers in the front do. Baldur actually gravitates to these more ridiculous songs—so we had them all finished first. But we had a harder time finishing the songs you might have thought were a little more traditional in the rock band sense—trying to perfect every line, second guessing everything.”

WHEN THE PARTY'S OVER

While the band is rightfully very proud of ‘Týnda rásin,’ it proved the final nail in the coffin for their current form. They will be playing at Iðnó on November 8th as a part of Iceland Airwaves, and they intend to perform the entirety of ‘Týnda rásin’ early next year, but, ultimately, Grísalappalísa are breaking up.

“The band is quitting,” Gunnar tells us. “This is the end for the band. So these [‘Týnda rásin’] shows we were talking about in February and March will be the last shows. We’ll play the album in its entirety, then we’ll play another full set of the golden oldies. It stems from everyone having different things going on in their lives, and the process over the years of making the third album. We hadn’t been an active band for three or four years, and this album has kind of brought us to the brink in a collaborative sense and creatively. We are all on very good terms; we’re almost like family. But as seven people together as this band we’ve just come to this now, and have had conversations like, at this point we can’t go on as Grísalappalísa.”

“I think it’s very sad for us, but also kind of bittersweet,” Tumi adds. “We were joking on the way here that this was a kind of Sixth Sense plot twist to the interview.”

The different members of the band will continue working together in other capacities, whether in music or even film. Tumi even has designs on making a Christmas album. All the same, it’s hard to let it sink in that this distinctly Icelandic band is dissolving, even if there is little doubt that the individual artists will not end their creative output any time soon.

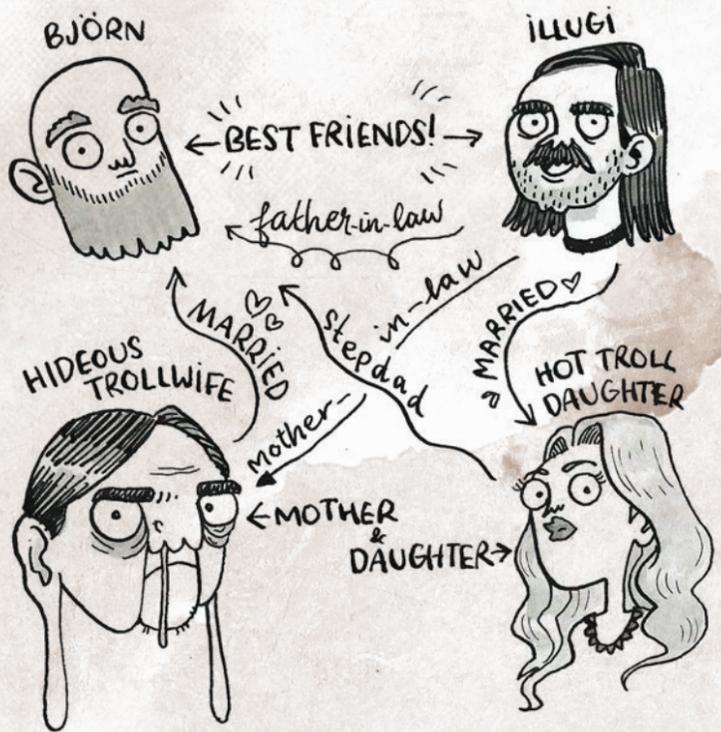
“I guess that’s the whole thing about ‘Týnda rásin’; discovering things about yourself, what you’ve been doing over the last years,” Gunnar says. “Being relieved and proud of the work you’ve done, but it’s also of course a natural sadness of things changing. End of an era, I guess you could say.”

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SHE'S A SHOW feat. a rawlings

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The motto of Copenhagen-based queer feminist poetry pop duo—yes, it's a thing—She's a Show is "AGGRESSION AND FUN!" After having made their way throughout Scandinavia for the better part of a decade, they've finally arrived in Iceland to present a new audiovisual project made in collaboration with many Nordic women, including ecopoet—and Grapevine contributor—a rawlings. We stan. **HJC**



Name A Better Duo

Iceland Symphony Orchestra:
Vikingur & Daniel

November 7th & 8th - 19:30 - Harpa -
2,600-8,100 ISK

If there are two people the staff of the Grapevine constantly fangirl over, it's pianist Vikingur Heiðar Ólafsson and composer Daniel Bjarnason. Seriously, we have life-size cutouts of them decorating the office which we regularly consult for article ideas. See them in the flesh when they team up for two shows with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. Enjoy a program of Grieg, Mozart, Sibelius, and Daniel's own compositions. Then, stop by our place for a raging afterparty. **LM**



Become A Music Critic

Iceland Airwaves

November 6th-9th - Various Times/
Venues - 19,900 ISK

If you don't know what Iceland Airwaves is—and that it's currently going on or about to begin, depending on when you're reading this—we don't even know how you found this paper. Where have you been? The festival, which is, without hyperbole, the backbone of the Icelandic music scene, brings the best and brightest Icelandic artists onstage. It's also a fun week-long party. **HJC**

CULTURE NEWS

Festival

The Icelandic Tattoo Expo will be from November 1st to 3rd at Laugardalsvöllur. Day passes are 2,000 ISK and weekend passes are 3,500 ISK. Tickets just for Sunday are 1,500 ISK.



That's gotta hurt

Best In Show

The Icelandic Tattoo Expo brings some motorised needles to Laugardalsvöllur

Words:
**Hannah Jane
Cohen**

Photo:
Art Bicnick

"A tattoo convention is a gathering of artists who are passionate about the art behind tattoos," Málfríður Sverrisdóttir explains. "So when you're visiting a tattoo expo, you're actually going into a really big art show."

The tattoo artist, who is based out of Hafnarfjörður's Lifandi List tattoo studio, is one of the organisers of the Iceland Tattoo Expo, which'll spray some ink onto the floors of Laugardalsvöllur in early November.

Opening the curtain

The annual convention has been a mainstay of the ever-expanding Icelandic tattoo scene since its inception. This is the 7th iteration of the extravaganza,

which will welcome 80 artists representing all corners of the globe, with styles ranging from traditional to neo-traditional to all shades of realism.

The beauty of tattoo conventions is simple: You show up. Check out some artists. Get tattooed, or just watch others in the making. "At the Tattoo Expo, you can see the whole process of getting a tattoo, which normally happens in a tattoo shop behind closed doors," Málfríður explains. "It's very interesting for people who aren't really familiar with it to see the whole process."

For those interested in getting a piece, Málfríður recommends booking in with the artists in advance on their own websites or Instagrams—many

are already filling up. That said, she emphasises that you can, of course, just show up to the Expo with an idea and style in mind. Many artists will be taking walk-ins and with the variety offered at the show, you're bound to find someone you click with.

Going mainstream

It's true that tattoo gatherings used to be associated with unsavoury characters and criminal behaviour, but nowadays, the only danger you'd likely face is getting a rib-piece without a good breakfast first.

"I remember when I started [tattooing] in 2007, there was a lot of prejudice," Málfríður says. "Today, everybody has tattoos. Policemen, lawyers, politicians; there's people in every category of life with them. It's changed. Now it's whether you have crappy tattoos made at parties of something compared to just having tattoos in general. It's not about if you have them, it's what kind you have."

The new masters

Málfríður is known for her black and grey realism as well as neo-traditional works. She hasn't yet booked in anyone for the Expo days, but is hoping to do some neo-traditional pieces there. "It's a very fun style with beautiful colours," she explains. "There's so much artistic freedom in it." She says she'll be posting on her Instagram closer to the Expo looking for clients, so keep your eyes peeled if you're looking for something new.

As for which visiting artists Málfríður is most excited for, she remains genuinely diplomatic. "All of them are our favourites. Every artist is unique," she says, pausing. "We all have our own styles, just like painters in the old days had their own styles of painting." 🍷

ELECTRIC DREAMS

Music

Listen to bbbbbb Record's compilation EP 'HELLCAT Vol. 1' on Bandcamp or Spotify and keep up to date on their mischief on Facebook and Instagram.



Have You Ever Thought About It?

Icelandic experimental music label bbbbbb on their newest concoction

Words:
**Alexander Le
Sage de Fontenay**

Design:
HELLCAT

Icelandic electronic music producer Bjarki needs little introduction by now. But, if you do need one, calling this Berlin-based musician an 'experimental rave engineer' should make things clearer. This year saw the release of his album 'Happy Earthday', which he described as his most reflective release to-date. His icelandicness and experience of the country's

unique natural environment were a significant influence on the album. Only on occasion does Bjarki perform in Iceland, but when he does, he does it right.

His label—bbbbbb—aims to provide quality experimental dance music for the masses and demonstrate that Icelandic dance music can be entirely original. So far they have

released around fifteen EPs, focusing on the solo work of a handful of Berlin-based Icelandic artists. One being Kuldaboli who specialises in cold-as-ice electro music. His music is featured twice on 'HELLCAT VOL. 1'—a series of compilation EPs which appears to focus on faster, club-ready dance tracks—the label's most recent concoction.

Kuldaboli shares one side of this compilation EP with Bjarki with their collaborative-track 'Hrái Hötturinn'—a blend of the Icelandic words for 'raw' and 'Robin Hood'—which manages to mix together their differing and equally-defining styles. Kuldaboli's second track on this release—the high-paced 'Hefurðu Einhvern Tímann Hugsað Um Það' ('Have you ever thought about it?' in English) is shared with the Tekknótæfan.

Side-A of the compilation features a pair of industrial techno tracks, 'Sober Raving' from the Polish globetrotting techno DJ VTSS, and 'Eating Steel' by club-resident and label-owner Héctor Oaks, who was raised in Madrid before moving to Berlin. VTSS also performed at this year's RAVEKJAVÍK—a small festival held in Łódź in Poland that spotlighted both Icelandic and Polish dance music enthusiasts.

For the sake of local dance music enthusiast, I hope they add Reykjavik to their calendar soon. 🍷



That feeling when you forget your hat on the walk to work

Art Exhibition

The exhibition 'You don't know what you have until it's gone' will run until November 17th at the Nordic House.

Over The Hill

Art advocates land and wildlife protection on Landvernd's 50th anniversary

Words:
a rawlings

Photos:
Art Bicnick

"The photographers gave their work for the exhibition because they [believe it's] an important exhibition about the dangers to the environment in Iceland," says Ólafur Sveinsson of his first exhibition, 'You don't know what you have until it's gone.' "One tends to only see the landscape and not the animals that are living in Iceland. We are trying to bring it together to see it as one being."

The exhibition is co-presented by curator Ólafur Sveinsson, Landvernd,

the Nordic House, and Framtíðarlandið (Future Iceland) to mark the 50th anniversary of Landvernd. As an NGO, Landvernd has been instrumental in land protection strategies that have impacted policy-making, education, and land-use decisions for the duration of its existence.

The exhibition features 73 photographs of Icelandic wildlife and landscapes, an interactive information screen, and three films—two of which were created by Ólafur. The films have English subtitles, so that "foreigners can enjoy this exhibition just as much as Icelanders," he says. "It's an interesting view on Icelandic nature that even Icelanders don't see everyday. It makes a difference in a positive way."

Caring for Kárahnjúkar

The landscape photos included in the exhibition, Ólafur explains, "are either from places that have been destroyed or places that a new power plant could destroy." Each photograph is accompanied by a description indicating if

it has disappeared or if it is currently under threat.

One such photograph is of Háslón, the reservoir from the Kárahnjúkar power plant erected in the east highlands over a decade ago. "There was a big fight about the Kárahnjúkar power plant from 2002 until it [began operating] in 2007," Ólafur recalls. "It's a strange thing. When I came to the highlands by Kárahnjúkar in 2006 to make a documentary about the area, I saw a hell of a lot of vegetation, different than we see elsewhere in the country. I had been working as a tour guide for 13 summers but I had never been there. What surprised me the most was that almost no one knew that there was so much life there. It was not only desert and quietness. It was also teeming with life. One month later they started collecting water in Háslón and destroyed the area. It was one of the biggest natural treasures we had in Iceland. People just didn't realize because almost no one knew it."

The decision to focus the exhibition on at-risk landscapes and wildlife

offers visitors an opportunity to witness nature that is otherwise difficult to access in person. "You really don't realise what has been lost if you haven't been there—like Háslón before it was flooded," Ólafur shares. "It was such an amazing place. In the three short films from the exhibition, you can see how it looked before it was destroyed. I am trying to do what I can as a way to get people to think about what has been lost."

Mapping power

"People think that now Landsvirkjun are not building power plants anywhere because of this fight," says Ólafur. One of the exhibition's co-presenters, Framtíðarlandið (Future Iceland) has created an interactive information screen to dispel this myth. The screen features a map for proposed, under development, and complete power plant projects throughout the country. It also plots areas that have received protection from power plant development.

One such example is the proposed Hvalá power plant in the Westfjords.



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For reservations call 551-3340

Restaurant Hornið - Hafnarstræti 15, 101 Reykjavík - s. 551 3340 - www.hornid.is



This exhibition is only a small part of a much larger project

In 2017, the National Planning Agency assessed that the environmental impact from the proposed plant would have significant negative impact on lakes, waterfalls, and wilderness protected by the Nature Conservation Act. Despite this, development pressed ahead in 2019, though it stalled over the summer due to multiple legal complaints.

“Looking at all the places that might be destroyed by different power plants—mostly hydro-power but also geothermal—I was shocked,” Ólafur relates. “People are shocked when they find out what is still going on, planning to build power plants in some beautiful and remote places. I have been working as a tour guide and have also travelled a lot myself, but a lot of those places I just didn’t know.”

Of a feather

In addition to the emphasis on land protection, several photos in the exhibition champion wildlife protection. Some of the most striking photos are of endemic and migratory birds, a few of which are on the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s list as at-risk species.

“What you have here in Iceland, you don’t have in many countries,” Ólafur explains. “For example, the bird cliffs. There are fewer and fewer seabirds—endangered—because there is one small fish that is really important for these birds. But they are lacking in the ocean around Iceland, probably because of global warming, so there are problems feeding the chicks.”

Ólafur encourages consideration of how previous generations depended on wildlife. “In the history of Iceland, people travelled in late January and February over the highlands to fish in the southern and western parts of the country where cod and other fish spawn. People knew how to use the rhythms of nature to survive. With the hydro power plants now, especially in the south, it’s pretty dangerous.”

The exhibition hinges on this theme of environmental disruption. Ólafur urges, “Hydro

power plants can have very bad influences on spawning grounds because the different fish species use flooding from

the melt-water to spawn. But now the water is collected in reservoirs to use for producing electricity. The rhythm of nature is

destroyed. Everything is connected. You just can’t take one part out and think that everything is okay.”

Future Iceland

“This exhibition is only a small start of a big project I have been working on for years and years and years now,” Ólafur confides. “I am making four or five feature length films, a lot of short films, three or four big exhibitions, and writing books. What I will bring out soon is a documentary that I made about Kárahnjúkar. I went there shortly before it was flooded. In a way, it is the only chance to show people what we have lost.”

“Everything is connected. You just can’t take one part out and think that everything is okay.”



The march of the puffins



The exhibition features 73 photographs of Icelandic wildlife and landscapes

ÍÓÁ

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It can't rain all the time

How To Halloween

We'll be dressed up as the dude from 'Chernobyl'!
No graphite here!

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen Photos: Art Bicnick

Cue the chorus of spooky "Ooooooh!" Halloween has arrived, so get your best slutty Joker costume ready. Here's where to celebrate in Reykjavík.

Halloween Iceland 2019

October 26th - 21:00 - Gaukurinn - 2,000 ISK



Gaukurinn's annual Halloween party is a Reykjavík institution, drawing all the ghouls out from their caverns, cages, coffins and comas. But listen here: No costume, no entry. And that means no shitty costumes like dressing completely normal and calling

yourself a "serial killer." That's stupid. Stop by early for a 'treat'—which we assume means a bottle of True Blood—but make sure to arrive by midnight for the costume contest. It's a legendary affair that people often prepare for months in advance. So try your hardest—if you're an immortal vampire, you'll keep the bragging rights forever.

The Haunting Of IDNÓ

November 1st - 18:00 - IDNÓ - 5,000 ISK



This escape room-cum-haunted house-cum-spooky concert is probably the most ambitious Hal-

loween get-together that Iceland has ever seen. Here's the low-down: Come with a group of sinister pals. Enter an eerie horror story where you and your group must walk through a maze and discover the riddles of this old building. You've got 30 minutes to figure out the mystery, try to not pee your pants, and escape with your life. Afterwards, head downstairs for a drink and a selection of spooky live acts.

Power Tools Pumpkin Carving

October 31st - 18:00 - Reykjavík Tool Library - 2,000-3,500 ISK



Halloween as a phenomenon has only just started to catch on in Iceland, so unfortunately you won't find many Jack-O'-Lanterns—those spooky carved pumpkins you see in American movies—in the city. Never fear, dear goblins, for the Reykjavík Tool Library is opening up their closet of heavy duty power tools so you too can carve your own pumpkin just like Rambo would. Included in the price is a teeth-numbing amount of candy, two beers/soft drinks, one pumpkin, and a screening of some awful Halloween D-list horror flick. Pro-Tip: Steal the power tools and start murdering people like a true Halloween fan. [Editor's Note: Please don't.]

Halloween Horror Show 2019

October 26th - 21:00 - Háskólabíó - 6,990 ISK



If you want to see Icelandic "celebrities" perform "spooky songs"—listed are "Highway To Hell," "Thriller," and for some reason, "Zombie"—the Halloween Horror Show will be the flesh to your werewolf. The ads for the high-production show are delightfully cheesy. Think ghost noises, fake blood, colour contacts, and some seriously spooky set-design. We assume this'll be a "fun for the whole family" deal, but we can't promise anything. Costumes are encouraged and the best will get a prize. We recommend dressing like Svala as she'll be performing. Maybe she'll finally acknowledge you.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sing-A-Long Screening

October 25th - 20:00 - Bíó Paradís - 1,600 ISK



Come on, weirdos, let's do the Time Warp again! Bíó Paradís gifts us a Halloween sing-a-long screening of the 1975 cult classic 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show.' And if you thought Tim Curry was good in 'Home Alone 2: Lost in New York', just wait until you see him in fishnets and stilettoes as Dr. Frank N. Furter. Please get ready to sing and come dressed in costume (and if that costume is completely inappropriate for most settings, you're on the right track)—trust us, you'll feel much more at home and in touch with your inner Rocky. We know you are twitching with antici-
...pation. 🍷



BEST OF REYKJAVÍK

Best Fashion Boutique

Winner:

Yeoman

Skólavörðustígur 22

Having dressed everyone from up and coming artist JFDR to grand dame Björk, Hildur Yeoman is a star of the local fashion scene. Her trademarks are busy prints on fine fabrics, cut into flowing shapes; she also dabbles in extravagant evening wear such as her striking mirror-ball effect gown. The store also spotlights interesting stuff Hildur has encountered on her travels, from jewellery to exotic tea. "You can't see an awards show without someone wearing Yeoman," said the panel. "Her pieces are uplifting." Influenced equally by nature and the occult, inside her patterns you'll find icons and imagery that in endlessly fascinating combinations.



Runners up:

Akkúrat

Aðalstræti 2

Alongside all the intriguing magazines, ornaments and homewares, Akkúrat also has a strong line of streetwear, including their signature Döðlur sweatshirt range. Cosy, oversized, and bearing a unique spin on the Icelandic "D," nobody else back home will have one of these.



Aftur

Laugavegur 39

Aftur created that distinctive 101 Reykjavík look of flowing black dresses and oversized sweaters. While it has, in recent years, kept that aesthetic up, it has since added to it a focus on eco-friendliness and sustainability. "It would be wrong to talk about Icelandic fashion without talking about Aftur," one panellist said. 🍷

October 25th—November 7th

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



Words: **Sigrún Ásta Jörgensen & Valur Grettisson**
Photo: **Birta Rán Björgvinsdóttir**

Sigrún Ásta Jörgensen

Rising stylist **Sigrún Ásta Jörgensen** has worked with everyone from *Tessuti UK* to *Lykke Li* and *Vök*. More importantly, she also often styles *Grapevine* cover shoots. Here's how her perfect day would unfold.

First thing in the morning

On my perfect day, I find myself on a well-deserved day off and wake up very excited. I always wake up around 7:00 AM with my husband and kids, and first drink some fresh-made coffee. Oh god, the first coffee in the morning is a life saver. If I don't get my coffee, I'm a cranky mama. We all have breakfast together and then I give my babies a lot of hugs and kisses and take them to daycare.

Mid-morning

My husband and I get ready and head to the **Blue Lagoon retreat**. I

have dreamt of going there since it opened. Parents of newborn twins need some adult time. We have cocktails, get massages and float around the **Blue Lagoon** for hours laughing and having a great time!

Lunch

For lunch, we go to the **LAVA Blue Lagoon** restaurant and order everything from the menu to try with matching high-end wines. We end the meal with a nice *crème brûlée*, and take the bus back to Reykjavík. There, we are flirting and having fun. Yes, I am a foodie and wine lover.

In the afternoon

We arrive at home and end up having sex all over our apartment. Then, we relax and play cards in bed.

Early evening

I start getting ready for the night. I always love getting ready—it's like

my "me time." I do the "no makeup, makeup look," with a little bit of a glam touch. I feel fabulous and I'm ready for the night to start.

Dinner

This is a girls night out. We start with a nice dinner at **Grillmarkaðurinn**, where we have the 'Trip To The Countryside' menu. It's so delicious and it feels so good to eat all that nice food. We wash it down with a couple of bottles of *Domaine Leroy Chabertin Grand Cru 1990*. We sit there for a couple of hours eating, drinking and having a good time.

In the heat of the night

After dinner, we head to a concert—*FM Belfast* are performing. We dance wildly into the night. What a show! We continue onwards to **Kaffibarinn**, where DJ *Margeir* is playing his awesome tunes. We wrap the night up with a pizza and head home. 🍕



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Venue Finder

| Venues | Museums & Galleries |
|---|--|
| ART67 Laugavegur 67 F7 Open daily 9-21 | The Penis Museum Laugavegur 116 F8 Open daily 10-18 |
| ASÍ Art Gallery Freyjugata 41 G6 Open Tue-Sun 13-17 | Kirsuberjatræð Vesturgata 4 D3 M-F 10-18, Sat-Sun 10-17 |
| Aurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2 B1 Open 09-21 | Kling & Bang Grandagarður 20 A4 W-Sun 14-18, Th 12-21 |
| Asgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74 G4 July 8-Sep 1, Mon-Fri | Listastofan Hringbraut 119 Open Wed-Sat 13-17 |
| B5 Bankastræti 5 E4 Kaffi Vinyl Hverfisgata 76 E6 | Living Art Museum Grandagarður 20 A4 T-Sun 12-18, Th 12-21 |
| Bar Ananas Klappargistigur 28 E5 Kiki Queer Bar Laugavegur 22 E5 | Mokka Kaffi Skólavörðustíg. 3A E5 Open daily 9-18:30 |
| Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54 E5 Loft Bankastræti 7 E4 | Museum of Design and Applied Art Garðatorg 1 Open Tu-Sun 12-17 |
| Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20 E4 Mengi Öðinsgata 2 F5 | The National Gallery of Iceland Frikirkjuvegur 7 F3 Open daily 10-17 |
| Bravó Laugavegur 22 E5 Nordic House Sturluggata 5 H2 | The National Museum Sudurgata 41 G2 Open daily 10-17 |
| Boston Laugavegur 28b E5 Paloma Naustin D3 | The Nordic House Sturluggata 5 H2 Thu-Fri 11-17, W 11-20 |
| Dillon Laugavegur 30 E5 Prikjö Bankastræti 12 E4 | Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17 D3 Open 10-17, Thu 10-22 |
| Dubliner Naustin 1-3 D3 R6013 Ingólfsstræti 20 E4 | Kjarvalsstaðir Flókagata 24 H8 Open daily 10-17 |
| English Pub Austurstræti 12 D3 Reykjavík Roasters Kárastræti 1 F5 | i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16 D3 Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17 |
| Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22 D3 Stofan Café Vesturgata 3 D3 | |
| Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a D3 Ölsmíðjan Lækjargata 10 E3 | |
| Hressó Austurstræti 20 D3 Tívoli bar Hafnarstræti 4 D3 | |
| Hírur Naustin D3 Tjarnarbió Tjarnargata 12 E3 | |
| Ásmundarsafn Sigtún Open daily 10-17 | Reykjavík City Library Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-17 |
| Árbæjarsafn Kistuhylur 4 Open daily 9-18 | The Settlement Exhibition Aðalstræti 16 D3 Open daily 9-18 |
| Reykjavík Museum of Photography Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-18 | Saga Museum Grandagarður 2 B2 Open Tu-Sun 10-16 |
| Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum Laugarnestangi 70 Open Tu-Sun 14-17 | SÍM Hafnarstræti 16 D3 Open Mon-Fri 10-16 |
| Tveir Hrafnar Baldursgata 12 G4 Open Fri-Sat 13-16 | Wind & Weather Window Gallery Hverfisgata 37 E5 |

Vital Info



Useful Numbers

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

Post Office

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

Pharmacies

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

Opening Hours - Bars & Clubs

Bars can stay open until 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.

A



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The Map

Get the bigger, more detailed version of The Reykjavík Grapevine City Map at your nearest hotel or guesthouse, with selections from our Best-Of awards, vital info, downtown bus stops and a wider view of the city.

Dining

1. Fjallkonan

Hafnarstræti 1-3

Named after the female personification of Iceland, Fjallkonan is located smack-bang in the middle of downtown, and caters to locals and tourists alike. For the Icelandic-cuisine-curious, there is a platter of whale, lamb and puffin, all presented beautifully. For those who are just looking for a great selection of fresh meat, fish and vegetarian options, Fjallkonan does these to perfection as well.

2. Block Burger

Skólavörðustígur 8

Block Burger is an office favourite. You can see their white paper to-go 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. Matur og Drykkur

Grandagarður 2

In how many ways can we say, "eat here"? Is it the whole cod head you should get, or perhaps the double-smoked dried lamb, or the creamy halibut soup? Whatever you get, rest assured it'll have roots in Icelandic culinary history, elevated to fine dining standards. And do not leave without trying the fried-to-order kleinur.

4. Sandholt

Laugavegur 36

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

5. Le Kock 2.0

Tryggvagata 14

In the ground floor of a new hotel, it's a large space with three components: the Le Kock diner serving burgers, fish and chips, and comfort food favourites; a cocktail bar called Tail; and a second branch of Deig, Le Kock's sister bakery. The music policy can be shaky—unless you like Status Quo—but the all-day happy hour has 1,500 ISK cocktails and 800 ISK beers.

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 eggs.

7. Public House Gastropub

Laugavegur 28

What happens when Icelandic ingredients are tended to with Japanese flair? Public House Gastropub only gives out-of-the-ordinary, 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. Messinn

Lækjargata 6b

Messinn may be modelled on the well-known Westfjords restaurant Tjoruhúsið, but it's now no doubt a Reykjavík restaurant of choice. What keeps us coming back is how the food keeps getting better every time we dine there. Our favourites include their savoury plockfiskur, velvety graflax, and a perfectly seared trout with honey and almonds.

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 harbour-side 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. Curious

Hafnarstræti 4

Watch out, henny—there's a new

queer bar on the scene, and it's decked out in tropical apparel. Serving up cocktails, coffee and—starting in August—a vegan café, Curious is a one-stop-shop for whatever scene you belong to. Werk.

12. Bravó

Laugavegur 22

Oh, bravo, Bravó, for having the best happy hour in this fair city. With its colourful fairy lights and a plethora of comfortable pillows, Bravó feels like a children's bedroom tent for adults. If you get lucky and grab a table, or even just a single seat, then it's the happiest place on earth.

13. Loft Hostel

Bankastræti 7a

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

14. Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

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

15. Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

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

16. Session Bar

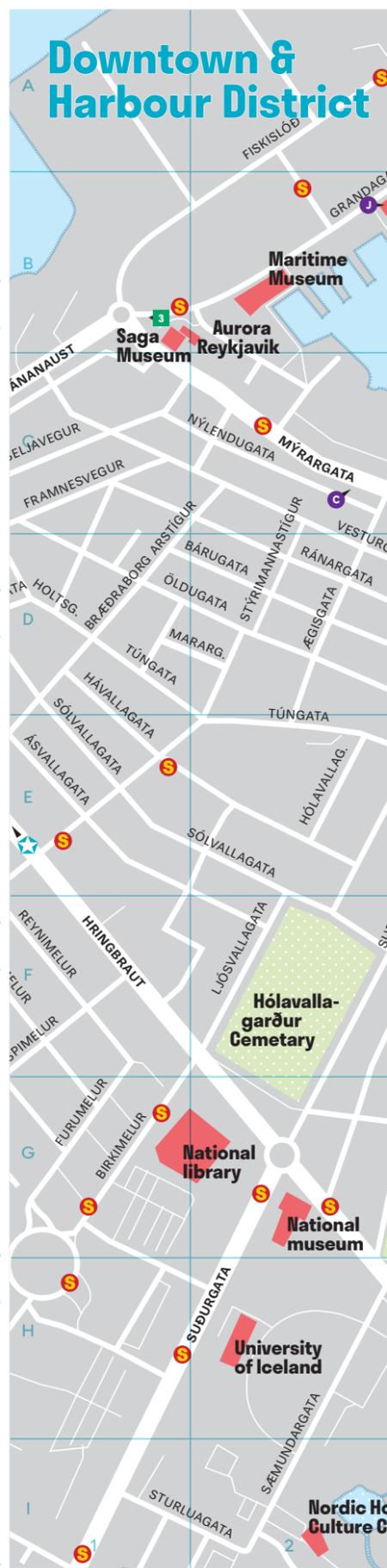
Fógetagarður

Session Bar is a minimalist craft-beer-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. Papaku Reykjavík

Klappastígur 38

Formerly Bar Ananas, Papaku Reykjavík is Reykjavík's only beach bar, and it is truly a breath of fresh air for the otherwise dreary downtown scene. No sir, this is no dive bar, but a club, with a pool table, piano, darts board, a spacious bar, a tiny dance floor, and a solid line of DJs that all aim to make you bust a move.



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

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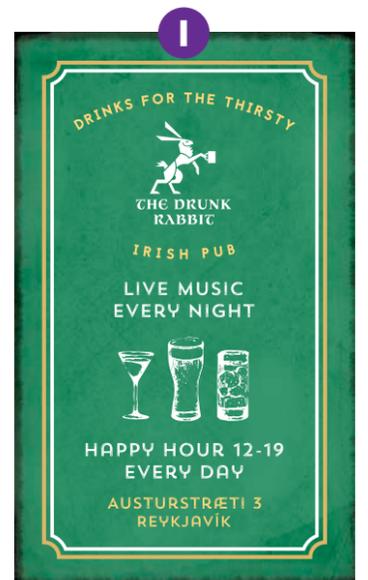
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scene by storm upon opening in 2018, with its eclectic streetwear selection. They have designers that no one else has.

20. Fischer

Fischersund

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

21. ÞA 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. 12 Tónar

Skólavörðustígur 15

This city-centre record store is something of an institution, offering the unique experience of having the store staff ask about your music taste then sit you down with a coffee, some headphones, and a pile of Icelandic records.

23. Farmers And Friends

Hólmaslóð 2 & Laugavegur 37

If you want to pick up an Icelandic

sweater, peruse the Farmers Market outlet. Their wares combine Nordic style with a fresh aesthetic, providing you with a modern take on traditional pieces.

24. CNTMP

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. Spúútnik

Laugavegur 28b

This well-curated clothing emporium

is more like a secondhand clothing boutique than a charity shop. It's expensive but it's all imported stuff you won't find anywhere else. They're also very particular with their selection: after sorting through maybe six shirts, they'll determine that just one is truly good enough.

26. Rauðhetta & Úlfurinn

Skólavörðustígur 8

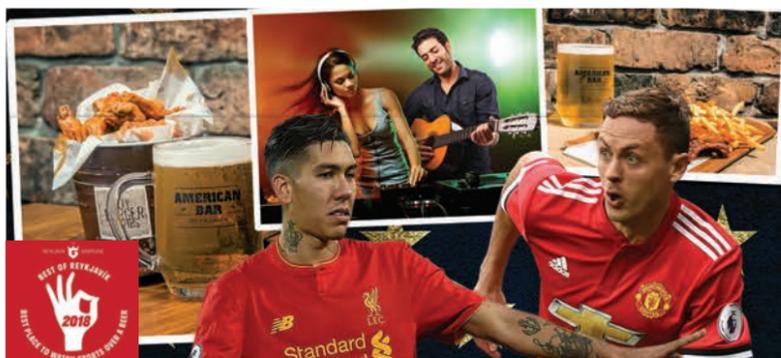
In a sense Rauðhetta & Úlfurinn is a Reykjavik classic. It's been around for over a decade, and the service is congenial without being overbearing. People are loyal to their favourite hairdresser, meaning some of them have long waiting lists, but pop in and try your luck.

New In Town



FRAKTAL
Hringbraut 119

In mathematics, a fractal is a non-regular geometric shape with a seemingly infinite series of patterns at every level of magnification. In Reykjavik, a FRAKTAL is a democratic, worker-run space that has taken up residence in the former Listastofan gallery. The cooperative offers work desks for artists to rent, event spaces, and in the future, there are plans for a vegan café, kitchen, and print shop. No math classes yet, though. **HJC**

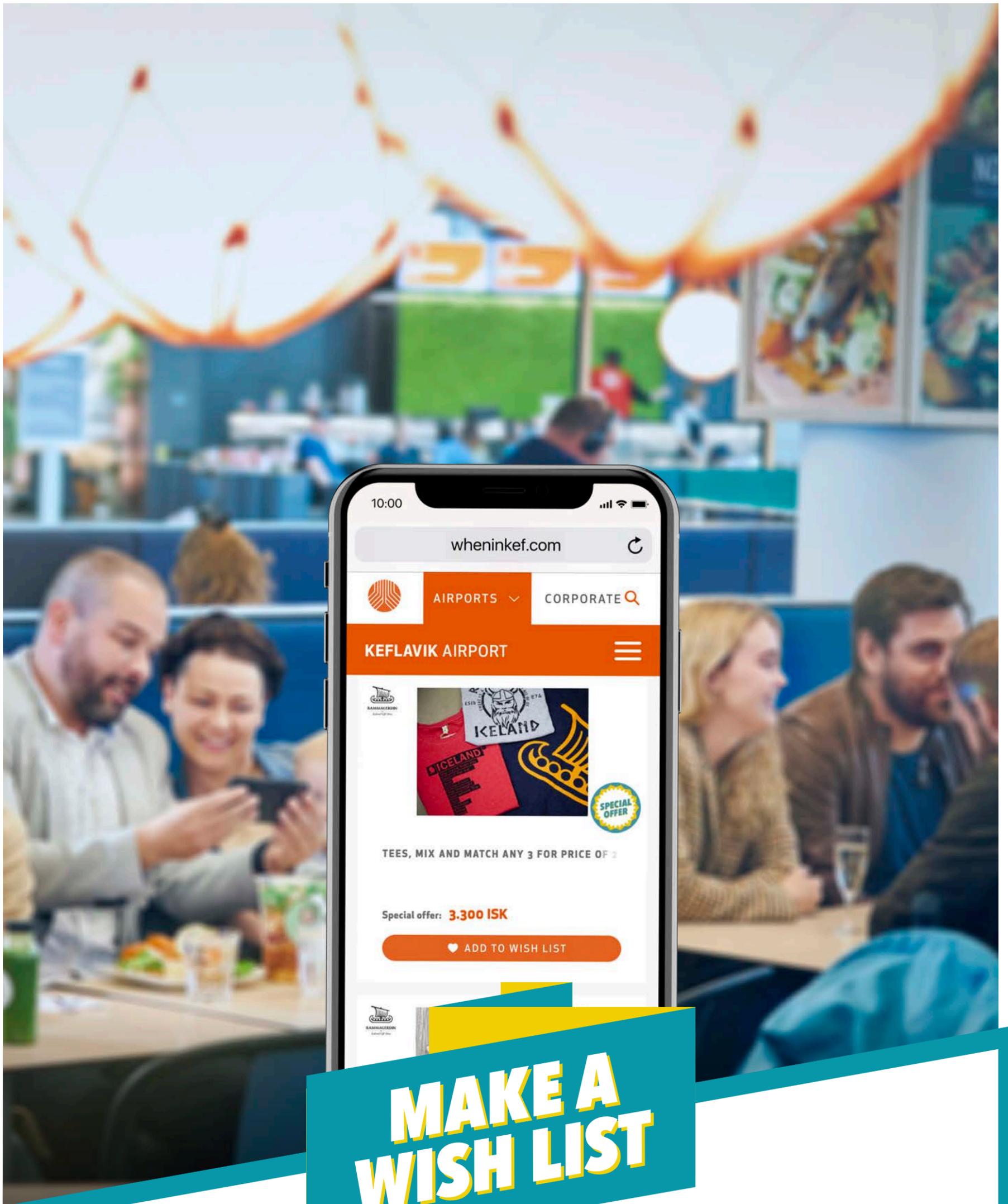


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KEFLAVIK
AIRPORT



“There are very few things that come as close to perfection in my mind.”

ARTIST PLAYLIST

A Dreamy Autumn

Listen to Elín Sif’s favourite songs, then catch her at Airwaves

Words: **Elín Sif & Lea Müller** Photo: **Dominika Milek**

Artist

Check out Elín Sif at Iceland Airwaves.

This autumn is a busy time for young singer-songwriter Elín Sif, best known for her up-beat indie-pop tune “Make You Feel Better.” She’s about to drop her debut album as well as play her first Iceland Airwaves gig. Nevertheless, the artist carved out some time to tell us about her personal all-time favourite tracks. Presenting: A playlist dedicated to daydreaming.

Jerry Williams

Babe

I discovered the song “Babe” a couple of months ago and was instantly captivated by it, as well as by the writer Jerry Williams. She is a young singer-songwriter from England who wrote this song unsigned, among many other great ones. It’s so minimalistic and simple in a way that is hard to achieve. There is only one instrument playing—a guitar that is accompanied by her dreamy voice echoing with a bit of reverb. While being rather ambiguous, I get the sense that the lyrics are coming from a very honest and personal place. Everything

about this song is candid and clean. When I listen to it, I always feel like she is in the room with me, playing a small gig and almost improvising with her guitar.

LAUREL

Life Worth Living

LAUREL is another talented singer-songwriter from England of whom I am a big fan. The song “Life Worth Living” is from her amazing album ‘DOGVIOLET.’ Her music is often labeled as chamber pop because of her rock-inspired sound. Her husky voice and lush lyrics mixed with electronic indie-pop production are addictive. I feel like I’m always in the mood for this song.

L’Impératrice

Erreur 404

“Erreur 404” is my favourite song by my favourite french band L’impératrice. Their music is a mix of electronic pop and disco. I love the delicate and effortless style of the lead singer’s vocals. This song has such a fun sound and many layers of hooks and riffs that make it always interesting.

Beach House

Space Song

“Space Song” is very special to me because my best friend introduced it to me a couple of years back. We went to see Beach House perform in London last year and it was an amazing experience. “Space Song” is a dreamy and addicting track that is strangely easy to get lost in.

Emiliana Torrini

Thinking Out Loud

I wasn’t sure which track I wanted to include last in this playlist but I knew I had to mention at least one by the iconic Emiliana Torrini. As for many other people, her album ‘Fisherman’s Woman’ is on the top of my list of all-time favorite albums. There are very few things that come as close to perfection in my mind. I’ve been listening to the song “Thinking Out Loud” in heavy rotation ever since I was a young teenager. The melody is so beautiful and the repetitive structure of the chorus gets me every time. ♡

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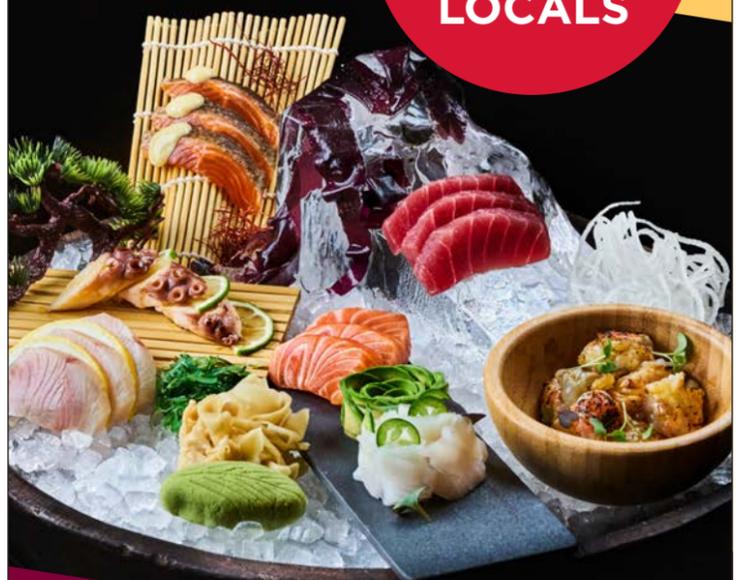
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Music



This hair was made for moshing

Blood Pudding & Other Fun Things

Three Icelandic teenagers redefine heavy metal

Words: Sam O'Donnell Photo: Hörður Sveinsson

Concert

You can catch Blóðmör at Iceland Airwaves on Nov. 7th at 19:30 at Gaukurinn.

A heavy distorted guitar riff. Subtle but pervasive bass. Drums keep a strict beat. A lyrical phrase repeated in rough vocals. This is the recipe Blóðmör (“blood pudding,” in English) uses to craft their music, and it is delicious. Yet, they still manage not to sound formulaic. Every one of their songs is innovative, intoxicating, and different from everything else in the scene.

Categorising the band

For such a sophisticated sound, the band is surprisingly young. Haukur, the guitarist, is 17, as is Matthias, the bass player. Ísak, the drummer, is just one year older. The band has been active for three years (one and a half in its current lineup).

In that short time, they’ve created a group that is difficult to categorise. Their sound is so unique that even asking them what sort of music inspires them seems disrespectful somehow. Nevertheless, they answer. “A lot of Icelandic bands have influenced this,” Haukur says. “A lot of the old punk bands from the 80’s. Then of course Ham. Our drummer takes a lot of inspiration from Sepultura.” The result is a raw, gritty, and fun melange of sounds.

As for what their music is about, they don’t really have a theme. “All

sorts of things inspire my lyrics,” Haukur says. “It’s hard to say one thing because all of our songs are about different stuff.” For example, one song, “Líkþorn,” is about dead skin on the bottom of a foot.

The skeleton on their cover art indicates heavy metal, yet Blóðmör defies the tropes of the genre. While many artists go for an evil sound, Blóðmör embodies mischief. The winners of Músiktilraunir, Iceland’s Battle of the Bands competition, the band brings this same mischief to their live performances. “It’s mostly about having fun and having something that’s catchy,” Matthias admits.

Other fun things

When they aren’t making music, the young men’s interests vary vastly. Matthias likes to fly fish. Haukur goes to music school, so his entire life revolves around playing. He also likes to watch horror movies. Ísak is training to become a sea captain. In fact, he was out at sea when we interviewed the band.

They are currently working on a full-length LP, but don’t get too excited. They won’t be done for another year. “Like half of it is done,” Matthias promises. “But we have a lot of songs to write.” They want to have at least ten songs, but only a few are fully done. “It will be worth it,” Matthias says.

While they’re tight-lipped on the content of these new songs, they do say they’ll be performing some new material at their Iceland Airwaves show. So if you want a taste of blood pudding, you know where to go. ♡



MUSIC NEWS

Iceland’s most pleasant and prodigious pianist—and former Grapevine

cover star—Vikingur Ólafsson was named **Artist Of The Year at the 2019 Gramophone Classical Music Awards**. For those not in the know, this is a big deal. Previous winners of the award include heavyweights like violinist Hilary Hahn and singer Cecilia Bartoli. In their decision, Gramophone said that Vikingur had the gift of, “making something familiar feel entirely his own, drawing you into a world where no other interpretation seems possible.” We agree, Gramophone, and would point those unfamiliar with Vikingur to his stellar Bach reworks and everything by Philip Glass that he’s ever touched. **HJC**



RÚV has allegedly received **157 entries** for this year’s **Söngvakeppnin**, the contest which determines Iceland’s Eurovision act. This is 25 more songs than were submitted last year, the 2020 committee explains, which they attribute to the rise of interest in the competition due to Hatari’s performance. This year’s contest will consist of two semi-finals on February 8th and 15th and a finale on February 29th. The Grapevine cannot confirm or deny that we are one of those fated 157, we can only say that there have been a plethora of key changes heard in the offices below. Watch out, we’re giving ‘em the old razzle dazzle. Cue the jazz hands. **HJC**



Austin, Texas’ famed **SXSW** just dropped their first 2020 artist list, which features 288 acts from around the world, including Iceland’s beloved goth-synth-witches—and former Grapevine cover stars—**Kælan Mikla**. The trio has been a long time favourite of the Reykjavík underground scene, and in recent years has been making quite the international splash after being taken under the wing of Robert Smith. Yes, the patron saint of goths, Robert Smith. If you won’t be in Austin in March 2020, you can catch the girls at Iceland Airwaves 2019 from November 6th to 9th. Can’t find a friend to accompany you? Do like Kælan Mikla and evoke a spooky spirit to dance with you. **HJC**

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31/10 SVÁFNIR SIG & BAND

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2/11 OTTOMAN, FOREIGN MONKEYS, ROCK PAPER SISTERS

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VÍKING BRUGGHÚS

Our Picks



Misþyrming & Mannveira

November 1st - 20:30 - Dillon - 1,700 ISK ★

Black metal mavericks Misþyrming have long been a Grapevine favourite—we've chosen to take their comments about

"no-borders, vegan feminists" as a bad joke. Because regardless of their attitudes towards "snowflakes" in black

metal, they're still the best in their genre and nothing beats the rare occasion of seeing these monsters live. For the uninitiated, check out their most recent effort, 'Algleymi.' It's much more melodic and ambient than the unbridled ferocity of 'Söngvar elds og óreiðu,' and proves Misþyrming are definitely not a one-trick pony. Joining them is Mannveira, who has a new album coming out shortly. We have just one thing to say: Watch out. **HJC**



Hist Og

Oct. 25th & 26th - 21:00 - Mengi ★

Hist Og is a wild mix of members and styles. Check them out for jazz and electronica. **LM**



MSEA: 'Gilded' Video Release Party

October 27th - 19:00 - Ásmundarsalur - Free! ★

MSEA is known for her intriguing, textural electronica-and-voice music. She's well-known for her work with the Weird Kids collective, her music series at Loft, and hopefully this new music video. **HJC**



Hermigervill

Oct., 31st - 23:00 - Kaffibarinn ★

This ginger maestro is all about break-beats, synth washes, and weird shit. **HJC**



KARÍTAS EP Release Concert

October 31st - 21:00 - Hressó - Free! ★

Celebrate Halloween, as one does, with some low-key, dark, harmonic trap. KARÍTAS, who just dropped her EP 'Songs 4 Crying,' is here with her first live show. She'll be performing alongside producer Dadykewl, Regn, and Frid. Wear a costume. **HJC**

October 25th—November 7th

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 October 25th

- ★ **Hist Og Release Concert**
21:00 Mengi
- Múlinn Jazz Club: Piazzolla Quintet**
21:00 Harpa
- DJ SiggaSiggaSigga x Egill Spegill**
22:00 Prikíð
- DJ Óli Dóri**
22:00 Bravó
- BENNI HEMM HEMM**
21:00 Hressó
- DJ Intr0beatz**
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- GG Blues**
22:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
- DJ Guarneros**
20:30 Kex Hostel
- Ljótu hálfvitarnir**
22:00 Hard Rock Café
- Velvet Villain**
22:00 Gaukurinn

Saturday October 26th

- ★ **Hist Og Release Concert**
21:00 Mengi
- Scoter**
18:00 Laugardalshöll
- Babies Halloween Ball**
21:00 Hressó



Bryan Adams, shredding

- Halloween Horror Show**
21:00 Háskólabíó
- Snáðinn & Stílistinn**
22:00 Bravó
- DJ Gísli Galdur**
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- Álftagerði Brothers**

- 20:00 Harpa
- Ljótu hálfvitarnir**
22:00 Hard Rock Café
- Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem**
17:00 Nes Kirkja
- The Eagles Cover Concert**
20:00 Salurinn

Sunday October 27th

- ★ **MSEA 'Gilded' Video Release Party**
19:00 Ásmundarsalur
- Sunday Jazz**
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
- Reykjavik Chamber Orchestra:**
Three Frenchman & Schumann
16:00 Harpa
- DJ Símon fknhdsm**
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- DJ Pálmi**
21:00 Prikíð
- Álftagerði Brothers**
20:00 Harpa
- Ingólfur Vilhjálmsson**
21:00 Mengi

Monday October 28th

- Monday Night Jazz**
21:00 Hressó
- Reggae Fever**
22:00 Bravó
- DJ Byssukisi**
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Tuesday October 29th

- Karaoke Party!**
21:00 Gaukurinn
- Jazz Night**
20:30 Kex Hostel
- DJ Davið Roach**
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Wednesday October 30th

- Marina Ósk Album Release Concert**
20:00 IðNÓ
- Metallica & San Francisco Symphony Concert Screening**
19:30 Bíó Paradís
- Múlinn Jazz Club:**
Agnar Már Magnússon
21:00 Harpa
- Myrra Rós & Band**
21:00 Gaukurinn
- DJ Petersen**

- 22:00 Prikíð
- Don Lockwood Band**
21:00 Slippbarinn
- Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét**
21:00 Sæta Svinið
- DJ Ewok**
22:00 Kaffibarinn
- Forget-Me-Not: IUA's Lunch Concert**
12:15 Kjarvalsstaðir

Thursday October 31st

- ★ **KARÍTAS / Frid / Dadykewl & Regn**
21:00 Hressó
- ★ **Hermigervill**
22:00 Kaffibarinn

- DJ Óli Dóri**
21:00 Hressó

Saturday November 2nd

- Post-Dreifing Showcase / DJ Motherfunker**
21:00 Hressó
- Ottoman / Foreign Monkeys / Rock Paper Sisters**
22:00 Gaukurinn
- Women In Rock Cover Show!**
21:00 Hard Rock Café
- J.S. Bach: St. John Passion**
16:00 Langholtskirkja
- Verpa Eggjum**
21:00 Mengi

- Various Times, Various Venues
- Don Lockwood Band**
21:00 Slippbarinn
- Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét**
21:00 Sæta Svinið
- Múlinn Jazz Club:**
Sigurður Flosason & Hans Olding Quintet
21:00 Harpa
- 'Slayer: The Repentless Killology' Concert/Movie Screening**
19:30 Bíó Paradís
- Brynja Hjálmsdóttir Release Party**
20:00 Mengi
- Forget-Me-Not: IUA's Lunch Concert**
12:15 Kjarvalsstaðir



It's not a Grapevine party if there's not Scooter on

- Lára Rúnas Album Release Concert**
21:00 Bæjarbíó
- Einar Teitur**
20:30 Kex Hostel
- Iceland Symphony Orchestra:**
Noontime Concert
11:45 Harpa
- Helgi Rafn Ingvarsson: Glacier's Elegy**
20:00 Kex Hostel
- Une Boys**
22:00 Prikíð
- DJ Eiki Eiki**
22:00 Bravó
- Sváfnir Sig & Band**
21:00 Gaukurinn
- Byzantine Silhouette**
20:00 Petersen svítan

Friday November 1st

- ★ **Back To The Metal Roots:**
Misþyrming & Mannveira
20:30 Dillon
- Black Sabbath Tribute Concert**
22:00 Gaukurinn
- Salvador Sobral**
20:00 Harpa
- Búdrýgindi**
21:00 Hard Rock Café
- Bryan Adams Tribute Concert**
21:00 Gamla Bíó

Sunday November 3rd

- Sunday Jazz**
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
- Sunday Classics: Icelandic Songs With Ragnheiður Gröndal**
16:00 Harpa
- Reykjavik Big Band: Ellington Forever!**
20:00 Harpa
- Anna Málfríður Sigurðardóttir**
12:15 Hannesarholt

Monday November 4th

- Monday Night Jazz**
21:00 Hressó

Tuesday November 5th

- Tina Dickow**
20:00 Þjóðleikhúsið
- Le Grand Tango**
19:30 Salurinn
- Karaoke Party!**
21:00 Gaukurinn
- Jazz Night**
20:30 Kex Hostel

Wednesday November 6th

- ★ **Iceland Airwaves 2019**

Thursday November 7th

- ★ **Iceland Airwaves 2019**
Various Times, Various Venues
- ★ **Iceland Symphony Orchestra:**
Víkingur & Daniel
21:00 Harpa
- Drum & Bass Night**
21:00 Bravó
- Iceland Symphony Orchestra:**
Open Rehearsal
9:30 Harpa



★ For music listings from Nov. 7th on, check out happening.grapevine.is or our app Appening, available on iOS and Android

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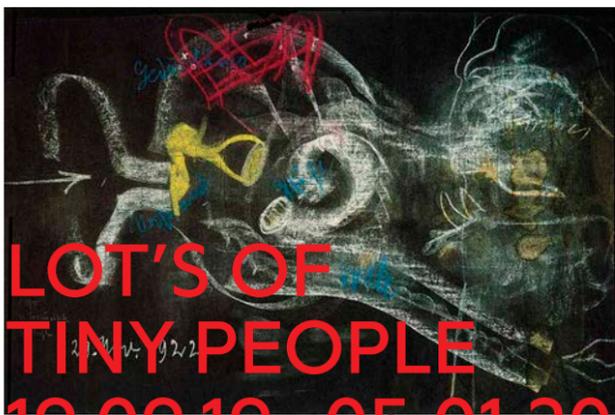
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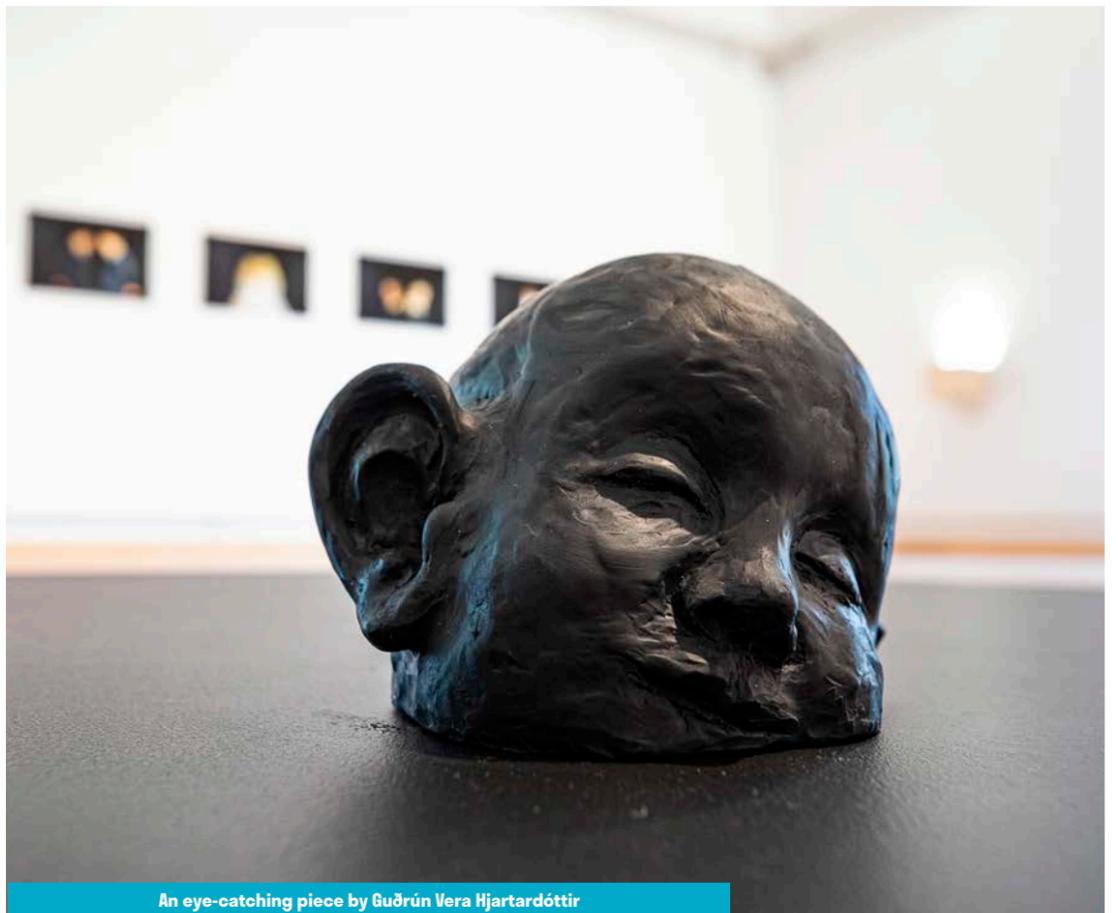
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Art

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An eye-catching piece by Guðrún Vera Hjartardóttir

The Skeleton Is The Seat Of The Soul

Gerðarsafn showcases artworks
on spiritual science'

Words: **a rawlings** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

Exhibition

'Lots of tiny people' is on show at
Gerðarsafn until January 5th, 2020.

A curious display of beakers, glass bottles, and diagrams populate the entrance to Gerðarsafn's group show 'Lots of tiny people.' The installation displays the remnants of Canadian visual artist Dawn Nilo's 'Just drink tea,' a ceremony which opened the exhibition that explores anthroposophy and the esoteric arts.

'Lots of tiny people' is populated with work by powerhouse art names including Rudolf Steiner, Joseph Beuys, and Hilma af Klint. One part mystic, one part pseudoscience, and several parts witchy as fuck, the exhibition showcases contemporary artists' attempts to make the spirit visible. The confluence of the esoteric arts with the physical sciences delivers a bewitching exhibition.

Skeletal remains

Arising from studies in the subconscious and her own dreams, artist Guðrún Vera Hjartardóttir sculpts human anatomy and then paints it charcoal or white. Vertebrae dangle as an extension mid-air. A spine slithers from a young form's back. The work is a study

in becoming—becoming human, becoming more-than-human, becoming a being. Her work's description quotes Rudolf Steiner: "The skeleton is the seat of the spirit."

Elsewhere in the gallery, Sigrún Halldóra Gunnarsdóttir (ÚaVon) offers a blurred video work with a body displayed, pulsing and writhing, on a table. This body occasionally flickers from sight to reveal a curled skeleton. Sigrún's work renders the skeleton supple, pliable. Spirit appears partly glimpsed in the shift between body and bone.

Under the skin

The exhibition fills both floors of the gallery. In the basement, choreographer and dancer Martje Brandsma has translated 24 of Philipp Tok's simple line-and-curve drawings into movement. The result is filmed with each shape present on the screen alongside Martje as she dances. Uli Hohmann's soundscape tracks the movements with a steady beep of a medical monitor.

Movement materializes also in events planned over the exhibi-

tion's duration. In October, Sati Katerina Fitzova led workshops introducing participants to the sacred dances of mystic George Gurdjieff, whose lifework focused on training the development of consciousness. In November, Dutch educator Edward de Boer and Belgian art therapist Ruth Bellinx will offer a workshop investigating intuition in art.

Chalk outlines

The simplicity of Joseph Beuys' blackboards are beguiling to behold. The simple straight and curved lines have been hand-drawn with chalk on a blackboard. The artist was present, but only this trace of him remains in the spectral touch of light on eyes.

The presence of the blackboard gestures towards the desire to study or instruct. So many of the artists' efforts to make visible the spirit appears in progress or temporary, as with presentation on a blackboard that can be erased. The notional is sketched, but never concretised.

Circles and circles and

Far from the tea ceremony at the exhibition's entrance, 14 large cyanotypes hang on the wall. Each cyanotype is printed with minimalist geometry and spiritual symbols. This work, too, is by Dawn Nilo, and she draws on Rudolph Steiner's meditative exercises to render her metamorphosing blueprints.

Could blueprints or blackboards outline ways to comprehend spirit or soul? Nilo's reappearance at the exhibition's conclusion brings the curation full-circle. If we walk the circle enough times, our subtle bodies may materialize. ♡

**"One part mystic,
one part pseudoscience, and
several parts
witchy as fuck..."**

Our Picks



★ Pað sem fer í hring

Oct. 26th-Nov. 7th - Gallery Port

In the exhibition "Pað sem fer í hring," Icelandic artist Kristín Morthens explores the circular form through abstract paintings. The pieces are visual collages containing fluid, organic

forms painted with oil and are interrupted by matte sprayed surfaces reminiscent of old digital image processing programs, sometimes letting the circles float, other times drowning them. Though abstract, Kristín's paintings are strangely relatable. The images are clearly an expression of her personal experiences and often the circles refer to something symbolic. The magic lies in the shapes evoking different emotions in every spectator. Whilst you see a sun, someone else might see a nipple. You'll probably learn a lot about your companion when discussing the pieces. **LM**



★ Dr. Denise León: How a house is made

Nov. 6th - 16:30 - Veröld

Scholar and poet Dr. Denise León holds a guest lecture at the University of Iceland on contemporary poetry written by Argentinian women. Despite relative gender equality, the country continues to struggle with problems like domestic violence. The event will be held in English. **LM**



★ Bótaník

Until Nov. 1st - Coocoo's Nest

Melkorka Porkelsdóttir, who you might know as DJ Motherfunker or one half of DJ Dominatricks, is all about prising, holograph-

ic, gem-encrusted and obnoxious artworks. We'd recommend wearing body glitter and a shiny outfit if you want to fit in. **HJC**



★ Ólöf Nordal: Úngl

Until Jan. 5th - Kjarvalsstaðir

In this mid-career retrospective, Ólöf Nordal dissects the structural material of mythical tales—taking old events and folktales and putting them into a modern context. Enter her preoccupation with nature and connect yourself to the land. **HJC**

October 25th—November 7th

Art Listings

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

Opening

DEIGLAN

Only The Gold Air Can Wake Me
Monade Li presents three experimental art videos, two of them are in homage to Ingmar Bergman's film 'Persona,' and question the duplication and metamorphosis of the human being. The third is titled 'The Selkie' and will be screened for the first time here. Based on a seal-woman legend, it tells of a female character's will to reach the sea and never be a woman again.
• Opens on October 26th, 2019
• Runs until October 27th, 2019

GALLERY PORT

Pað sem fer í hring
In the exhibition "Pað sem fer í hring," Icelandic artist Kristín Morthens explores the circular form through abstract paintings. The pieces are visual collages containing fluid, organic forms painted with oil and are interrupted by matte sprayed surfaces reminiscent of old digital image processing programs, sometimes letting the circles float, other times drowning them.
• Opens on October 26th, 2019
• Runs until November 7th, 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
Violin Power 1
In this autonomous work, observe Steina's development as an artist, from playing the violin in her youth and dancing in later years, to singing along to the Beatles' "Let it Be" as a stoical, mature artist.
• 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.

REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM

Settlement Sagas
As Viking ruins meet digital technology, this exhibition provides insight

into Reykjavik'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
Helgi Gíslason: Where The Boundaries Lie
Helgi Gíslason presents a series of sculptures from different periods of his career. In his work, Helgi deals with man and the human condition. His works, though, are up for interpretation.
• Runs until November 3rd, 2019

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Icelandic Cornershops
In the mid-80s, small shops were found on every street corner of the city, serving as more than just grocery shops but rather as social centres, where people gathered to chat, catch up, and exchange news. This exhibit celebrates that lost piece of history.
• Runs until November 5th, 2019
Encounters - Nordic Photography Beyond Borders
This exhibit is characterised by social and political overtones. In the works, ways are explored of visualising "encounters" between subjects, thus drawing attention to major issues like immigration, changes to land- and cityscapes, or the local impacts of globalisation.
• Runs until January 12th, 2020

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, Erró 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
SOMETHING FROM NOTHING: The Visual Realm Of Magnús Pálsson
Artist Magnús Pálsson is known for the breadth of his mediums. Here, selected pieces from the early 60s until today reflect Magnús's pop/conceptual philosophies in sculptures, bookworks and two-dimensional works.
• Runs until January 12th, 2020

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

Pike Ward
Around 1900, Englishman Pike Ward was a well-known figure in Iceland. The fisherman was an amateur photographer, focusing on everyday life. Here, see over 1,500 photos and 300 artifacts the eccentric collected from his travels around the country.
• Runs until January 12th, 2020

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

Behind The Scenes: Archiving A Ceramic Collection
In 1979, Anna Eyjólfsdóttir began to collect ceramic pieces by Icelandic artists. In 2017, the Museum of acquired her collection. Currently, the museum is cataloguing the collection in front of your eyes.
• Runs until October 27th, 2019

NORDIC HOUSE

You never know what you have until you lose it
In his artwork, Ólafur Sveinsson wants to bring awareness to the fragility of Icelandic nature and the threats posed to it by mankind. The multimedia exhibition in the Nordic House shows areas in Iceland that have already been lost to industrial development, including before and after pictures of the area around the infamous Kárahnjúkar power plant.
• Runs until November 17th, 2019

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

Jóhannes S. Kjarval: Can't Draw a Harebell
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

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

HAFNARBORG

Prison
Olga Bergmann and Anna Hallin capture the "all-seeing eye" of surveillance systems, exploring the concept of prison, both in the conventional sense within the walls of detention centers, as well as beyond into the greater monitoring of everyday society.
• Runs until October 27th, 2019

GERDARSAFN KÓPAVOGUR ART MUSEUM

Lots Of Tiny People
The exhibition project 'Lots Of Tiny People' explores the spiritual, the unknown, esoterism, and anthropology. The title is derived from a blackboard drawing by Austrian anthropologist Rudolf Steiner, who used to draw images to support his spoken words. In addition to the artworks on display, there will also be lectures, courses, and discussions on the topic of art, man, and spirit.
• Runs until January 5th, 2020

MOKKA KAFFI

INDUSTRIA
Photographer Karl R. Lilliendahl presents a series of works exploring old industry and flying birds—a statement to mankind on the eve of the so-called 4th Industrial Revolution.
• Runs until October 27th, 2019

HVERFISGALLERÍ

Djúpalogn
Harpa Árnadóttir embarks on a journey through her inner landscape, where the fjord, the creativity and writing react to each other. The exhibition has autobiographic atmosphere, shaped by speculations on the childhood.
• Runs until November 23rd, 2019

KLING & BANG

Í ALVÖRU - REALLY
Kling & Bang's current exhibition was part of the 2019 Sequences Art Festival. It features works by Mark Lewis, James Castle, Emma Heiðarsdóttir, Jason de Haan, Karin Sander, Ceal Floyer, Kristján Guðmundsson, Sæmundur Þór Helgason, Kristinn Guðbrandur Harðarson, Roger Ackling and Hildur Bjarnadóttir.
• Runs until November 17th, 2019

18

Yui Yaegashi
While at a distance Yaegashi's small, unassuming works display a quiet simplicity, close attention reveals complex patterning and layers of detail. Their handling of paint creates vibrant tensions between control and chance, precision and unexpected beauty, compelling us to look again, more closely.
• Runs until December 7th, 2019

ÁSMUNDARSALUR

Kristinn Guðbrand Harðarson
The Sequence Art Festival's honorary artist this year was Kristinn Guðbrand Harðarson, who is known for personal and poetic processing of his close environment. The exhibition in Ásmundarsalur was part of the festival and features various different mediums.
• Runs until October 29th, 2019

ÍSLENSK GRAFÍK

Sliding Over The Surface
Anna Pawłowska presents a series of prints made in the aquatint technique—an interpretation of optical phenomena and an attempt to find a relation between the beam of light and etching process.
• Runs until November 3rd, 2019

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

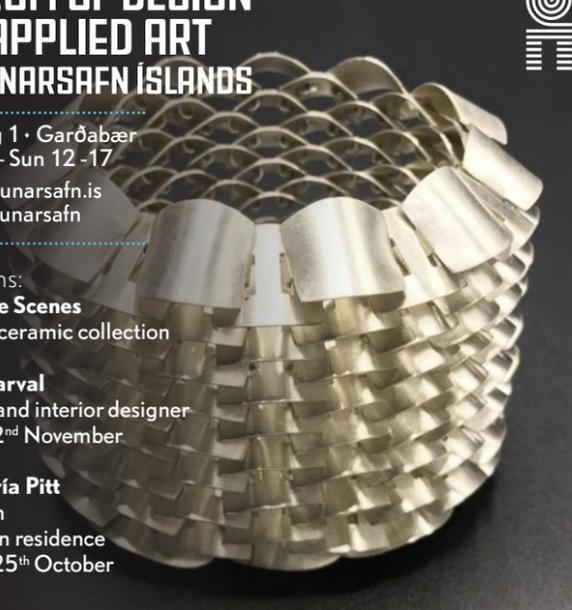
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Filing of a ceramic collection

Sveinn Kjarval
Furniture and interior designer
Opening 2nd November

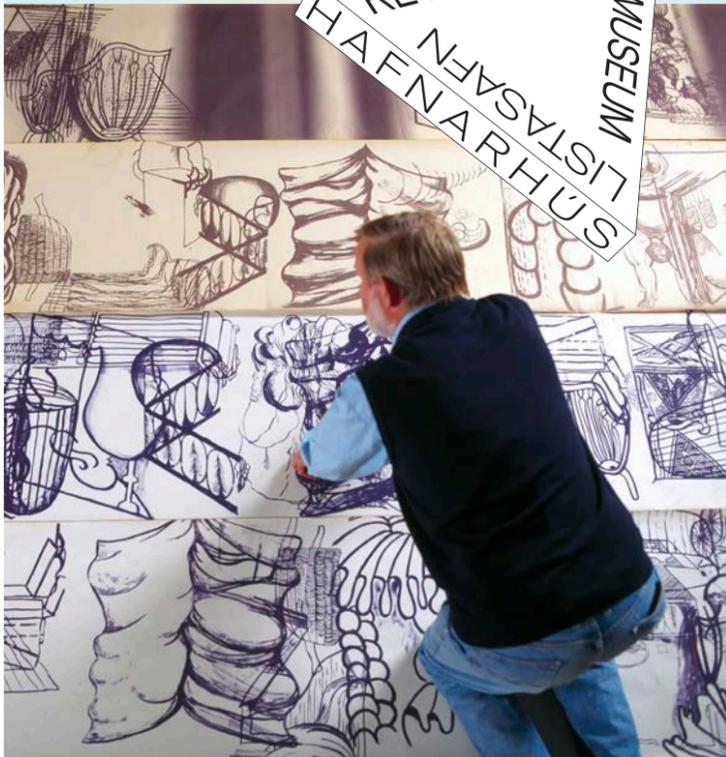
Anna María Pitt
Silversmith
Designer in residence
Opening 25th October



Magnús Pálsson

28.09.2019–12.01.2020

SOMETHING from NOTHING



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Film

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FILM



A rare shot of the director in front of the camera

A Portrait Of A Time And Place

Rúnar Rúnarsson disrupts traditional methods of storytelling

Words: Tara Njála Ingvarsdóttir Photo: Matthew Eisman

Moments of luck

In the film, there is a particularly memorable scene of childbirth. “I thought we would have to shoot many births until we got a great birth that fit the form of the film,” Rúnar shares. “There is, of course, no cutting within the scenes.” The birth took around 7 hours, while the scene itself is around 2 minutes. “The midwives said afterwards that we were very lucky with this birth. There is a lot of luck involved when you’re making films,” he explains.

“Filmmakers are always trying to portray time in films, but time can be your biggest enemy,” he later continues. “Often filmmaking is about capturing the moments you cannot time. Our framework of production allowed for us to wait for the magic to happen.”

That magic is certainly found in how the film walks the line between scripted performance and documentary. “I had written a fully planned manuscript,” Rúnar says. “Some scenes are scripted, sometimes it was just an initiation of a scene and capturing what happens from there and sometimes we were just driving around capturing moments.”

“Each of my films are a personal journey,” Rúnar concludes. “The premiere in Iceland is such a nice departure of many years of effort.” Said premiere will take place on November 19th at theatres around Iceland. Stop by to experience the magic of a singular moment. 🇮🇸

to the audience.”

Each scene is shot on a tripod. There is no traditional story arch. Characters and locations don’t appear twice, and the scenes are not cut. It’s, perhaps obviously, a rather uncommon way to tell a story. This, however, was Rúnar’s goal.

“Modern filmmaking focuses so much on the traditional way of storytelling. When you cut the scene you break time, and when you break time you create a verse,” he explains, emphasizing that ‘Echo’ breaks up this traditional model with the intention of presenting fragments of real life. “What I hope to achieve in my films is that every now and then the audience forgets that they are watching a film. With ‘Echo,’ I wanted to go further with that.”

He pauses. “‘Echo’ is not as audience friendly on paper as my earlier work. When you read about it, it sounds like its an installation in an art museum so I wasn’t sure what to expect at the Locarno premiere in August,” he says. “But it got the best reaction I’ve ever had to any of my films.”

“What I hope to achieve in my films is that every now and then the audience forgets that they are watching a film.”

Film

‘Echo’ premieres in Iceland on November 19th.

‘Echo’ is comprised of 56 poignant scenes presenting short stories, emotions and atmospheres, all set in Iceland between Christmas and New Years. There is a birth, an old farm burning to the ground, children singing Christmas carols, a daughter joining her father’s new family for the holidays, and trash cans being picked up off the streets of Reykjavík. The film captures a portrait of a time and a place as it presents its main character: modern society. The effort is acclaimed filmmaker Rúnar Rúnarsson’s third feature-film following his award-winning ‘Sparrows’ in 2015.

Fragments of life

“I have always been quite fond of Christmas as a background for storytelling. It presents a certain Richter scale for our human emotions,” Rúnar says. “Normally, you have some time to get to know the characters of a film. In ‘Echo,’ we don’t have that luxury. The time period and our collective experience of the season helps to create the relationships of the characters

gpv.is/film
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Various Events

Friday October 25th

Bill Bailey
20:00 Harpa
Friday Party! 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show' Sing-A-Long Screening
20:00 Bió Paradís
Not So Secret Friday Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Saturday October 26th



★ **SHE'S A SHOW feat. a rawlings**
19:00 Nordic House
Halloween Iceland 2019
21:00 Gaukurinn
'Fleabag': National Theatre Live
20:00 Bió Paradís
Halloween Party
21:00 Lebowski Bar
Saturday Night Showcase
21:00 The Secret Cellar
How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa
Halloween Flash Day
10:00 Bleksmiðjan Húðflúr
Vagninn: A Food/Performance Event
19:00 Hallveigastaðir
Reykjavík Kabarett
21:00 Þjóðleikhúskjallarinn

Sunday October 27th

Black Sundays: 'Drag Me To Hell' Screening
20:00 Bió Paradís
Guided Tour In English
11:00 National Museum Of Iceland
Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
21:00 Sæta Svinið
Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits
19:30 Harpa
Vagninn: A Food/Performance Event
16:00, 19:00 Hallveigastaðir

Monday October 28th

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy Night
21:00 Gaukurinn
Daniel Sloss: X
20:00 Harpa
The Magic Viking
21:00 Secret Cellar

Tuesday October 29th

Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!
21:00 Fjallkonan
Funniest Four: Comedy Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Wednesday October 30th

Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy
21:00 The Secret Cellar
Swap 'Til You Drop
16:00 Loft
How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa
Wings Wednesday
All Day, BrewDog Reykjavík
Improv Iceland
20:00 Þjóðleikhúsið

Thursday October 31st

Power Tools Pumping Carving
18:00 Reykjavík Tool Library
Tired Hands Tap Takeover
17:00 Skúli Craft Bar
Climate Change Pub Quiz

21:00 Kex Hostel
My Voices Have Tourettes
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Friday November 1st

The Haunting Of IDNÓ: Haunted House & Halloween Party
18:00 IDNÓ
Halloween Party! 'Saw' Screening
20:00 Bió Paradís
Reykjavík Kabarett
21:00 Þjóðleikhúskjallarinn
Not So Secret Friday Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar
Icelandic Tattoo Expo 2019
15:00 Laugardalsvöllur
Vegan Korean Street Food Pop-Up
18:15 Makake

Saturday November 2nd

Reykjavík Kabarett
21:00 Þjóðleikhúskjallarinn
'Marianne & Leonard: Words Of Love' Screening
20:00 Bió Paradís
How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa
Saturday Night Showcase
21:00 The Secret Cellar
Icelandic Tattoo Expo 2019
15:00 Laugardalsvöllur
Vegan Korean Street Food Pop-Up
18:15 Makake
Lady Brewery 2nd Birthday Party
18:00 Hlemmur Square

Sunday November 3rd

Black Sundays: 'Blade Runner: The Final Cut' Screening
20:00 Bió Paradís
Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits
19:30 Harpa
Guided Tour In English
11:00 National Museum Of Iceland
Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
21:00 Sæta Svinið
Icelandic Tattoo Expo 2019
15:00 Laugardalsvöllur
Vagninn: A Food/Performance Event
16:00, 19:00 Hafnarfjörður Red Cross

Monday November 4th

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy Night
21:00 Gaukurinn
The Magic Viking
21:00 Secret Cellar

Tuesday November 5th

Anne Carson, Bob Currie, Kjartan Sveinsson & James Merry
21:00 Mengi
Funniest Four: Comedy Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar
Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!
21:00 Fjallkonan
How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
19:00 Harpa

Wednesday November 6th

★ **Dr. Denise León: How a house is made**
16:30 Veröld
Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy
21:00 The Secret Cellar
Wings Wednesday
All Day, BrewDog Reykjavík
Improv Iceland
20:00 Þjóðleikhúsið

Thursday November 7th

Porvaldur Þorsteinsson Release Party
17:00 Mengi
My Voices Have Tourettes
21:00 The Secret Cellar

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What's happening at Hard Rock?

Skúraleiðingar concert - 10. Oct.

Deep Jimmy and the Zep Creamts -12. Oct.

Ebba Sig stand up - 17. Oct.

Árstíðir 10th anniversary concert - 18. Oct.

Skauti concert - 24. Oct.

Ljótú hálfvitarnir concert - 25. Oct.

Ljótú hálfvitarnir concert - 26. Oct.

3 ára afmæli Hard Rock Cafe - 30. Oct.

Halloween dance party - 31. Oct.

Búdrýgindi concert - 1. Nov.

Konur í rokki - 2. Nov.



Hard Rock
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Halldór Eldjárn, his head in the stars

Finding Stillness In This Hectic World

The generating process of Halldór Eldjárn

Words: **Lea Müller** Photo: **Matthew Eisman**

Concert

Check out 'Poco Apollo' on Spotify. It will be released on vinyl in the coming weeks.

Eldjárn—the Icelandic word for “fireiron”—suggests a sort of burning rage, but Halldór Eldjárn evokes anything but. Taking a seat at the Grapevine office, the computer scientist-cum-musician, calm and centered, carefully observes his surroundings. Halldór just dropped his solo album ‘Poco Apollo’ in mid-October, garnering instantaneous attention. The effort is a powerful manifestation of his calm energy and a captivating listen.

One small step for man...

‘Poco Apollo’ started as a web app, which used algorithms to generate musical soundscapes based on the approximately 15,000 images in NASA’s photo archive from the Apollo space mission.

“I basically went through the

photo library and picked my favourite parts,” Halldór says with subtle excitement. “Some of the generated pieces are really spot on and I got goosebumps listening to them, so I decided to turn them into a richer orchestration, with strings and percussion.”

Strange paths

The outcome is a highly inventive mix of low-key ambient and neo-classical music. “I try to go on strange paths,” Halldór explains, smiling. “The string orchestra on the recording is what I call a deep string quartet. It’s a term that has never been used before. I chose to have two violas, a cello, and a contrabass, so the instruments are all deeper and deliver a slightly darker sound than a conventional string quartet.”

“When you’re an electronic artist, you tend to be a little bit introverted,” he admits. “I’m not classically schooled in composition, so writing the songs for the instruments can be a bit of a headache; I’m not always aware of what is possible. I just write what I want

and then negotiate later with the musicians what they can actually play. They were very supportive” he concludes.

Time and focus

Performing on stage, Halldór radiates the same meditative energy of his music during the interview. “I did not make this music with meditation in mind, but it’s great if my music can be used in that way,” he explains. The idea seems to resonate with him.

“Meditation is not only the hype of drinking some raw coconut drink and lighting a candle, it’s focusing on a single thing. Our attention is everywhere nowadays and our most precious resources are time and focus.”

Halldór doesn’t just talk the talk. He practices mindfulness exercises frequently—something that has certainly informed his musical output. “I try to remind myself regularly about the ‘now.’ And the songs are maybe created in that state. That state where you can just leave time for a little bit and get into a flow where the music just comes.”

And he was alright

Halldór is most well-known for his work with iconic Icelandic electro-pop act SYKUR—a band that is sonically about as far away from his solo work as you can get. “It was good to get my own space to work on my ideas, my concept,” Halldór says, contemplating the creation of ‘Poco Apollo.’ SYKUR, meanwhile, is about to drop—or perhaps has already dropped, depending on when you are reading this—their long-awaited third album.

The vacuum of space is said to be silent—no sound waves can travel in the ether—but Halldór’s work finds tones in the never-ending darkness. Calibrate your telescope, he’s one to watch. 🌌

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FUCKS YOU UP**

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Beer 695 ISK,
Wine 745 ISK.

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

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

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

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Every day from
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Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

GAUKURINN
Every day from
14:00 to 21:00.
Beer 600 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK,
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GEIRI SMART
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 500 ISK,
Wine 600 ISK,
Cocktails 1,200 ISK.

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Every day from
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Beer 700 ISK,

Wine 700 ISK.
ÍÐA ZIMSEN
Every day from
19:00 to 22:00.
Beer 495 ISK.

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

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

KAFFIBRENNSLAN
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Beer 550 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK.

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

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

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

LOFTIÐ
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Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500 ISK.

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Wine 650 ISK.

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Wine 745 ISK.

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

ÖLSTOFAN
Every day from
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Wine 800 ISK.



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- Gló**
Every day-All day
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Vegan option
- Shalimar**
Monday - Friday
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Curry - 1,290 ISK
Vegan option
- Sæta svinið**
Every day 15-18
Chicken wings - 1,190 ISK
"Dirty" fries - 1,390 ISK
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Monday - Friday
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Ceasar salad - 1,490 ISK
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2f1 Juice + sandwich 1,095 ISK
Vegan option
- Uppsalir - Bar and cafe**
Every day 11-14
Burger & fries - 1,390 ISK
Vegan option
- 2,000 ISK And Under**
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Lunch-catch of the day - 1,980 ISK

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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
- Matarkjallarinn**
Monday - Friday
11:30 - 15:00
Fisherman's fish soup -1,990 ISK
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if you order two adult meals
- At Haust**
the buffet is free for kids

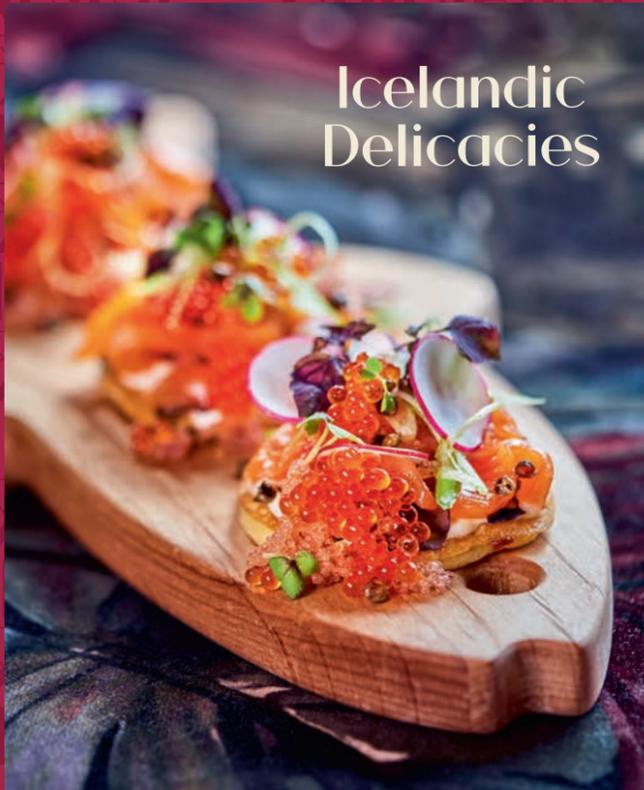


FJALLKONAN

KRÁ & KRÆSINGAR

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

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



Icelandic Delicacies



Must try dishes

LAMB & FLATBREAD

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

ARCTIC CHARR & BLINI

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

ICELANDIC PLATTER

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

THE LAMB BURGER

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

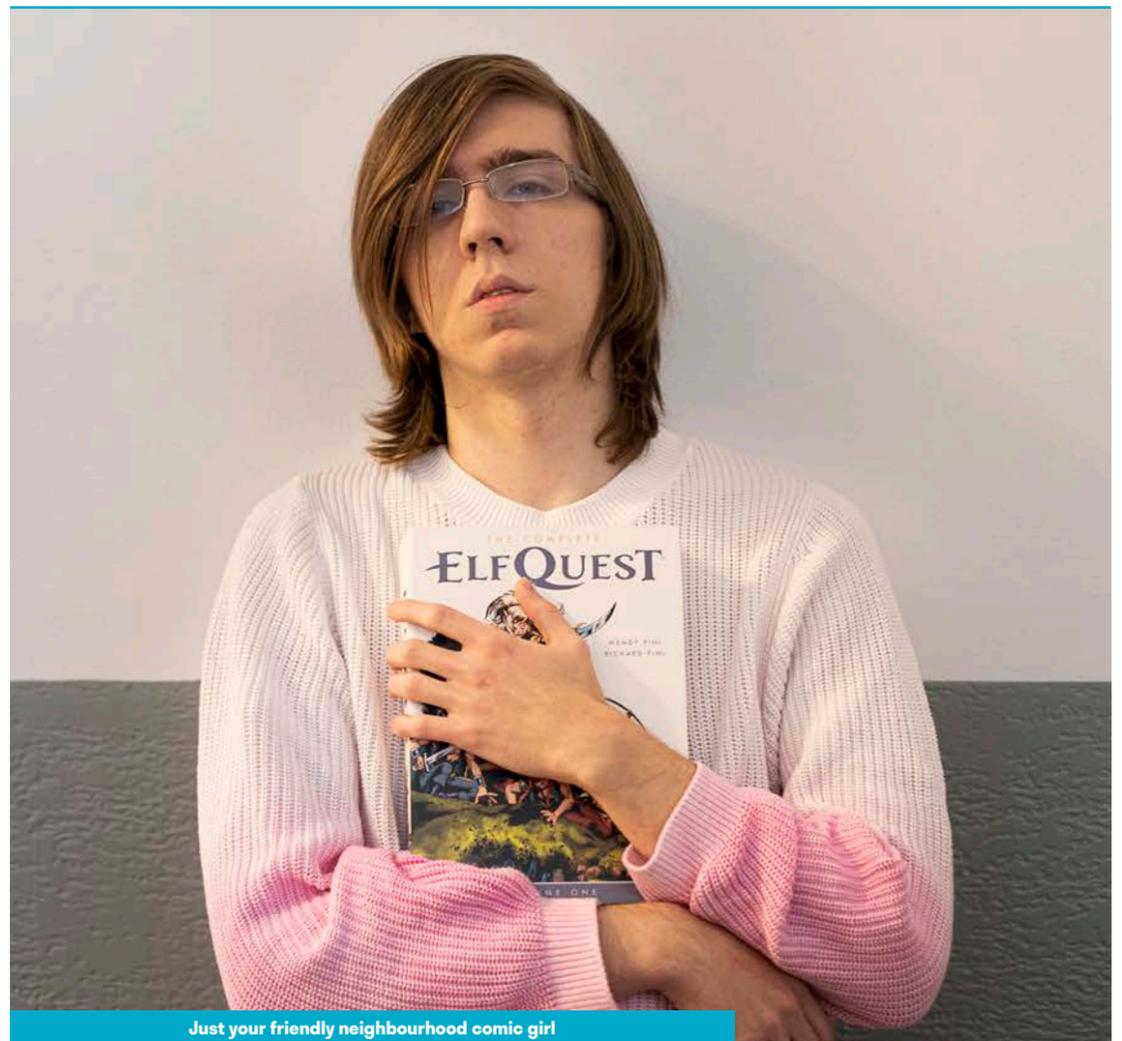
SKYR ETON MESS CHEESECAKE

White chocolate "Skyr" mousse, meringue, raspberries, raspberry sauce

Happy Hour 15-17 every day

Draft beer, house wine by glass and cocktails – **halfprice!**

FJALLKONAN WELCOMES YOU!



Just your friendly neighbourhood comic girl

A Picture As A Thousand Words

The birth of The Icelandic Comics Society

Words: **Andie Fontaine** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

Comics

The exhibition will last until October 28th at Hafnarhús.

While comics are a popular medium in Iceland, and there are certainly comic artists and authors in this country, a real effort is now being initiated for creating future comics cultural venues, in the form of The Icelandic Comics Society (TICS). Founded by Védís Huldudóttir, Einar Valur Másson and Atla Hrafney, TICS "seeks to invigorate the medium of comics and develop new opportunities for the industry in Iceland."

Atla Hrafney, herself an acclaimed comics author and editor at Hive-works Comics, tells the Grapevine that she believes comics, as a medium, is hindered by a number of factors.

"Yes, I do believe the medium is stunted in its potential growth, both here and internationally," she says. "Comics are looked at, from an institutional standpoint, as a genre rather than a medium. When government groups, publishers and grant givers all look at it that way, it's a bit hard to navigate for newcomers, and most comics authors leave the country in pursuit of greener pastures."

"Imagine for a minute if Iceland refused to make more grants for musicians because music is present in most films and TV, which is already supported in various ways. That's kind of what's going on, a miscategorisation of mediums that leads to systemic ignorance, and so our job is to fix that."

Rolling with it

Counteracting this ignorance requires a degree of creative thinking. Ultimately, TICS is born from the idea that the medium can receive both greater public attention and accessibility through a number of different angles, all of which help artists, authors, editors and readers.

"We're hoping to pursue two venues; the first being cultural, and the second industrial," Atla Hrafney says. "The first will be done through workshops, exhibits, and potentially festival or convention organizing. That's why we're so keen on establishing a comics centre, a physical location that we can guide folks through and curate on our own terms helps invigorate the cultural element. The industrial side is mostly bureaucracy and meetings, helping companies or institutions understand the medium and how to work better with it. That might extend to the educational sector, but work like that is always fluid, and day-by-day, so we'll roll with it as it comes."

To this end, TICS is organising a pop-up exhibition at Hafnarhús featuring comics from Icelandic and Finnish creators alike. In addition, Atla Hrafney and Védís will be conducting a workshop for primary school students on how to make comics—thoughtfully so, as primary schools in Reykjavik will

be closed for winter break during the time of the exhibition, which runs from October 24th to October 28th.

The importance of comics

There is little doubt about the popularity of comics, and Atla Hrafney underlines why the medium is so important.

"Anyone can make a comic, which means anyone can express themselves in a visual way," she says. "If a picture says a thousand words, then you can easily fit 5,000 into a comic. There's a reason why most memes exist in image form, and not just as text. Beyond that, Iceland makes some of the most recognizable artworks in the world, across music and films and books. Sigur Rós and Björk are hugely recognised, and Icelandic works right now are a hot item, so from a business angle, it's such

"Comics are looked at, from an institutional standpoint, as a genre rather than a medium."

a great cultural item to export. We've already seen folks like Huggleikur Dags-son prove that Icelandic comics can be a force of nature that reach beyond our shores."

While "all of the members of TICS share common educational backgrounds, particularly in the way we experienced the problems in comics in Iceland," Atla Hrafney emphasises that "we each use it in our own way, and our aesthetic senses are completely different throughout. It's about as eclectic as can be expected."

Ultimately, Atla Hrafney has high hopes for TICS.

"How active the foreign exhibits and pop-ups will be depends entirely on our international collaborators, but of course, a workshop and an exhibit like this is routine in Finland and historical for us," she tells us. "There's a bit more pressure and desire to push it further here, which is exactly what we intend to do."

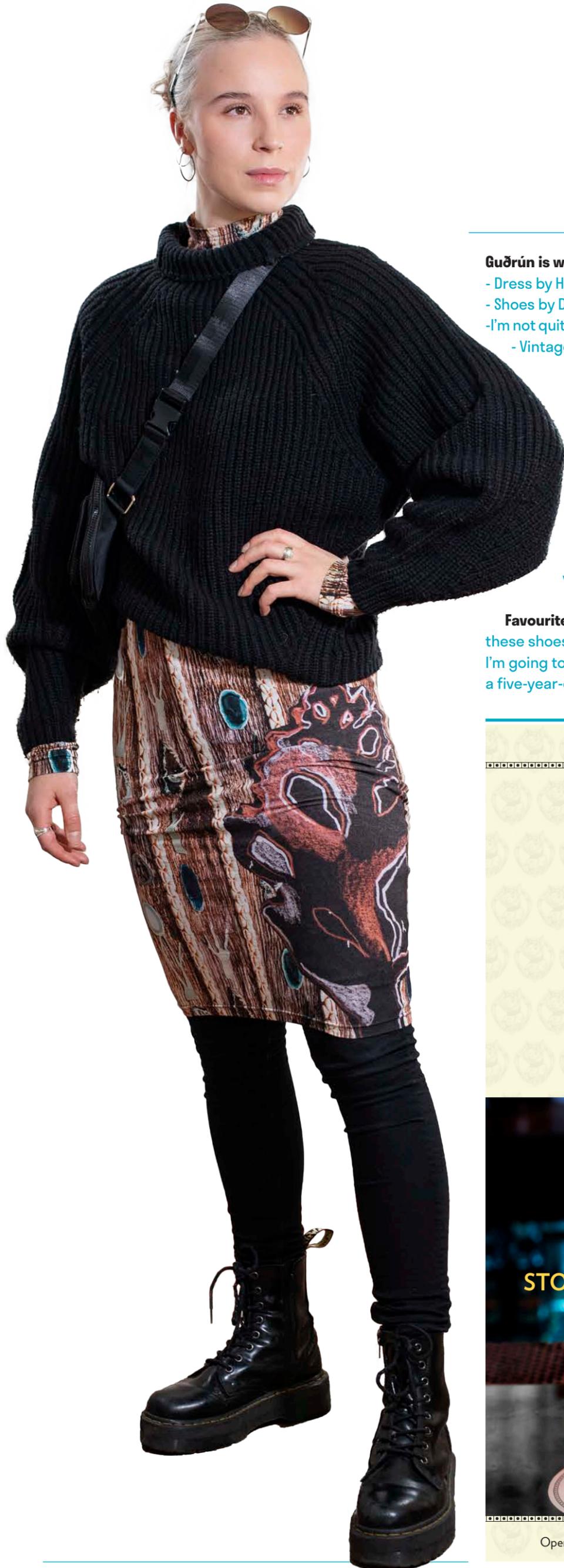
FANCIES is where we talk to Reykjavik's most fashion-forward figures about style

GDRN

Guðrún Ýr Eyfjörð Jóhannesdóttir (23) is singer GDRN.

Catch her at Iceland Airwaves on Thursday, November 7th at 16:30 at Kex Hostel and 23:20 at Hard Rock Café.

Words: Guðrún Ýr Eyfjörð Jóhannesdóttir Photo: Art Bicnick



Guðrún is wearing:

- Dress by Hildur Yeoman
- Shoes by Dr. Martens. They're my favourite.
- I'm not quite sure where this sweater is from.
- Vintage bag from Spúútnik

Describe your style in five words:

Comfortable. Turtlenecks. Flashy but stripped down.

Favourite stores in Reykjavik:

I often go to Yeoman, Spúútnik, GK Reykjavik, and Húrra Reykjavik. Those are my go-to shops.

Favourite piece: Quite recently, I bought these shoes that have LED lights in them. I'm going to use them at Airwaves. I felt like a five-year-old when I found them, I was so

happy. They are really bright and can be static or blink—I'm kind of afraid I'm going to give someone a seizure.

Something you would never wear: There are probably a lot of things I would never wear, but you can never say never. Maybe I'd say I'd never wear this now but then I'll buy it two years later. But in 2007 or 2010, I had this Adidas sweater, yoga pants, and Kawasaki shoes. It was a horrible combo. I would never pair those together again!

Lusting after: If I want to buy something, it's always just something I find at that moment. I don't go into shops to find something because I know that I will always find something I like and will want to buy it and it will probably cost too much. That said, I really want to get a cool, vegan fur jacket for the winter. A big one in white or light brown. ♡

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Pro-tip: Try the drinks

Reykjavík In 8 Drinks

A pub crawl for the debonair souse

Words: Ragnar Egilsson Photos: Art Bienick, Ragnar Egilsson

We're back to the dead leaves and pumpkins month, so it's time for me to rattle my ossified ass out of the house and go haunt some cocktails. Follow in my footsteps with this shambolic cocktail pub crawl that takes you from the rim of the Grandi area, through the ground zero of Iceland's nightlife and up to Hallgrímskirkja, sampling some of the best in Icelandic cocktails along the way.



Slippbarinn

Mýrargata 2

Slippbarinn has been a leading force in injecting cocktail trends into the Reykjavík pub scene. Nestled by the marina and based on the ground floor of the aptly-named Hotel Marina, it's a strong contender for the best place to kick off a Friday night. The cocktail list is made up of dozens of drinks

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spread out over two menus, mostly courtesy of Slippbarinn's head mixologist Alana Hudkins. One of her stand-out creations is the smoky, habanero-laced Summon the Dark One (2800 ISK) but, for the faint of heart, there's always an abundance of basil gimlets to be had.

What gives Slippbarinn a leg-up in the pregame department is their daily Cocktail Happy Hour from 15:00 to 18:00 and a solid selection of bar snacks for sharing.



Fjallkonan

Hafnarstræti 1-3

A brisk 5-minute walk from Slippbarinn, you'll find the restaurant Fjallkonan. It's the most recent addition on this list and they seem intent on throwing their hat into the cocktail ring. The main distinction here is their range of sweet desserts, including a Paris wheel of miniature cupcakes and other bite-sized treats. The cocktails skew a little sweet as well but a stand-out is the Gucci Collins (2690 ISK) which offsets the sweetness of the fassionola tiki syrup with the raw-and-herbal notes of Icelandic gin Himbrimi—a brand that threw open the doors for the abundance of gins now available in Iceland.



Apótek

Austurstræti 16

Straight out the door, hang a left and head up Austurstræti in the direction of Laugavegur. If Slippbarinn fired the opening salvo, Apótek may have entrenched itself as Reykjavík's current favorite cocktail spot. Apótek is a spacious, upscale restaurant whose cocktail creations have picked up a bundle of local awards. With regular guest bartenders, diverse cocktails, and head pharmacists Hrafnkell and Sean fixing to shake up the menu, this is the place to try something new. We recommend the spicy Stranger Tides (2890 ISK) with an amaro and whisky base.



Session Craft Bar

Bankastræti 14

Time for a cocktail break—a break from the cocktails, that is. Head to Bankastræti, and up the hill about as far as you care to when three cocktails deep to craft beer pub Session, overlooking the main drag from the second floor. It's a modern, minimalist, four-walls-and-some-beer kind of place with soft music and seats where Icelanders react to gossip and sinister plots in ingressive sounds of shock and delight. It's impossible to recommend a beer as the selection is broad and ever-changing, but the bartenders are always quick to make a suggestion.



Mat bar

Hverfisgata 26

If you are honestly doing all this drinking in one night (we don't recommend it) then it's time for you to grab a bite. Up Laugavegur and on your first left, on the corner of Hverfisgata and Smiðjustígur, is one of Iceland's best places for a light meal. Mat Bar really captured the vibe of an old Mediterranean wine bar, so we recommend washing the meal down with some autumnal Italian red like a Ricossa Barolo 2012 (2490 ISK/glass).



Miami Hverfisgata

Hverfisgata 33



Did Mat Bar feel a little too Euro-puro for your liking? Good news, across the street and two houses up you can wash away the memory of the wine with the pink cocktails and rolled-up blazer sleeves of Miami Hverfisgata. Decorated like the bastard child of John Waters and Don Johnson, this isn't the place for subtlety. Grab a velvet ottoman and forget about subtlety, whether it be the UnFortunate Mistake (2590 ISK) with Mozart-kügel and coldbrew coffee or the period-appropriate Punch Bowl (2590) with rum, tequila and Carmen Miranda's weight in mixed fruit.



Veður

Klapparstígur 33

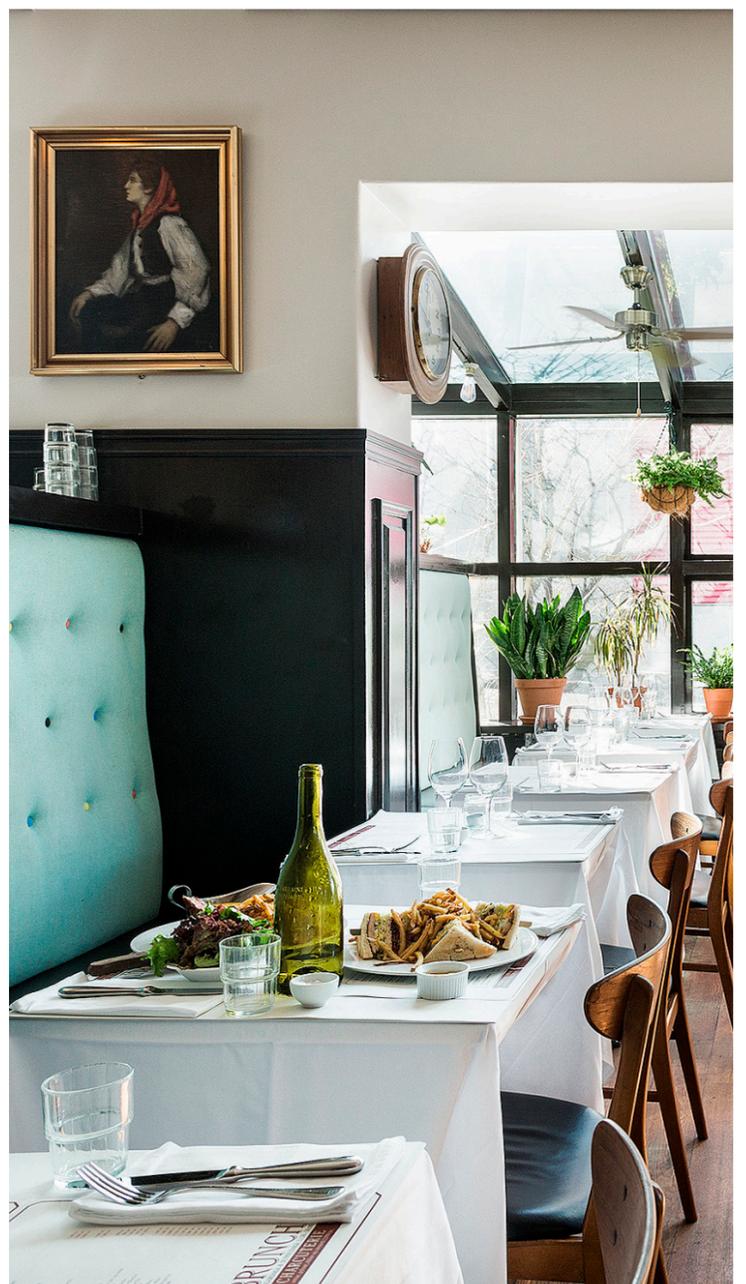
Straight up Klapparstígur from Miami, on your left-hand side, sits Veður. You will be in safe hands with any of the resident bartenders there, but if you catch Tomas on a shift, he may just make you the best cocktail of your trip. No food or frills here, grab a seat by the bar and ask for a recommendation. If in doubt, order their take on the classic Paloma.



Papaku Reykjavík

Klapparstígur 38

It should be getting late now and time to let your hair down. No more 8-ingredient cocktails or craft beer. Midway through a Friday night, there are few better stops than Papaku (formerly Bar Ananas), helmed by the living combo of beard and pompadour called Jasmin. It has the constant feel of a European university bar or budget hostel, and we mean that in a good way. Foosball, pool, a tiny dancefloor and Moscow Mules for the unbeatable price of 1200 ISK. What you do from this point on is between you and Reykjavík. 🍸



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Travel



The Vanishing

Dark tourism awaits in East Iceland's Highlands

Words: a rawlings Photos: John Rogers



Distance from Reykjavik:

650 km (if driving the north route), 700 km (if driving the south route)

How to get there:

Route 1

Accommodation provided by:

lakehotel.is and kukucampers.is

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Gravel road, near midnight. Each yellow road marker emerges from the fog, only one visible at a time. They mark the edge of the road and pull us slowly forward. Without them, we would stop the camper. The fog is so dense that our windshield wipers must occasionally flutter to clear our view of the road. And yet our camper slinks up the mountainside, 30 km/h, and down to 20 at moments.

This is East Iceland's route 939, also known as Öxi Mountain Pass. The pass is, however, impassable in winter. In other seasons, Öxi offers a shortcut to Lagarfljót and Egilsstaðir if weather conditions are favourable. This night, they are not.

Moxie for Öxi

There is no discernible edge to the left of the one-lane road, and no guard rails to provide assurance against a steep plummet into a rocky ravine. To the right, the mountain ascends at a sharp angle. We pass a road sign warning of rock slides. Farther on, a few small boulders pepper the road.

Öxi's shortcut proves a long, harrowing ride. It isn't until we descend to the surprising lush forests surrounding Lagarfljót that we exhale our relief. It is now the witching hour. We set up camp at Atlavík. The gentle shush of the lake's waves lull us to sleep.

Serpentine loop

Lagarfljót is famed for a cryptid serpent thought to inhabit its depths—akin to Scotland's Loch Ness Monster. Having survived the drive over Öxi and a night near a lake monster, we set ourselves the goal of looping Lagarfljót's scenic shore. We drive first to Egilsstaðir for lunch at Salt Café & Bistro, which offers a serviceable and wide-ranging menu of items unusual to find in the subarctic northeast. Next, we round the western edge of the lake.

Numerous paths veer down wooded slopes as we drive above the lake. Hallormsstaðaskógur forest is Iceland's largest woodland, having been protected for over 100 years. We pull off the road by a pine enclave and set off on a hike to the shoreline.

After twenty minutes, we have reached the windy shore with no sea serpents in sight. We do, however, discover treasure in the form of rare wild strawberries. Our harvest is tiny yet tart. We savour the berries as we return to the camper.

Disaster tourism

Iceland holds within its perimeter numerous disaster tourism destinations.

The most famous from recent events, without doubt, is the volcano Eyjafjallajökull. Similar sites include Heimaey for its 1970s eruption, the

Laki craters formed in the late 1800s, and Hekla, which has had a history of erupting every decade or two. Abandoned herring factories have been a big draw, particularly through their renovation into art centres, museums, and even a hotel. One could also include numerous military installations such as the former NATO base in Hvalfjörður, the US military base in Keflavík, or the decommissioned SOSUS listening centres near Höfn and Hellissandur.

Arguably the most infamous of such sites is the tallest concrete-faced rock-fill dam in Europe—Kárahnjúkar Hydropower Plant, constructed an hour's drive from Lagarfljót. We consider whether to make the drive as dusk approaches, aware that we could face a second night in a row of difficult driving. The pull to witness Kárahnjúkar is strong, though, and so we wind up a steep slalom road—this one paved—en route to the dam.

Damn, Kárahnjúkar

The dam's impact on the reindeer population of East Iceland has been notable, as it separated reindeer from their traditional breeding grounds in the highlands. As we drive, we look constantly for reindeer but none are to be spotted. They had, in essence, vanished from the ecosystem where they formerly would have spent their summers.

And then, suddenly from the yawning sprawl of the highlands, we see it: Kárahnjúkar.

The heavily contested hydropower dam was constructed in the early 2000s in order to power the Alcoa Fjarðaál aluminum smelter. The site of much unrest formed the Háslón reservoir, a body of water 27 km long and up to 200 m deep. This renders it comparable to, though deeper than, Iceland's fjord Hvalfjörður, which measures 30 km long and 84 m deep. The reservoir is conspicuously marked out of the Vatnajökull National Park boundaries, which it otherwise borders to the reservoir's east and south.

Ghost waterfall

The dam's architecture is astounding. Overwhelming. Awe-inducing. We arrive to crawl the camper along the concrete drive on the dam's lip. The reservoir is so full that its waterways have been opened to release its glacial-melt overflow. Water rushes down a concrete valley to cascade over a basalt cliff into the gorge below. Great gusts of mist rise from the waterfall, so much mist that the fall itself vanishes. Perhaps a trick of the eye, but it appears the water never reaches the gorge.

Words leave us. After a solemn walk around the dam, we climb into our camper to find our next uneasy rest.

Sænautasel

Night has arrived. We opt to drive an alternate route back to Lagarfljót. But the F-roads are slow-going, and we end up far from our original destination. It is dark as we drive, a foul fog descending over the highlands and light rain sprinkling our ride. An owl swoops through our headlights. Thrushes play dodge with the camper van.

After a series of intuited right and left turns, a few lights glimmer ahead of us through the gloom. And then a dim lake stretches its calm body toward the horizon, half-shrouded in fog. It is not Lagarfljót. We have arrived instead at Sænautasel, where basic camping facilities for bathroom and washing-up greet us.

As we park, a slender mother cat slinks from the shadows to greet us. After 24 hours of murky driving, the cat takes to us gently, offering emotional support as we make camp.

We don't discover what we hope to see—reindeer, a sea monster—but we do discover life in unexpected places—wild strawberries, the mother cat. It's eerie to see how Kárahnjúkar haunts the highlands. Life thrives despite.

"Iceland holds within its perimeter numerous disaster tourism destinations."



The Kárahnjúkar Hydropower Plant

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WELL, YOU ASKED



This One Is For My Haters

Words: Sam O'Donnell
Photo: Art Bicnick

How many Instagram followers do you need to be considered an influencer?

Why? Do you want to be some kind of semi-famous shill for capitalist giants who promise you the world but give you nothing but money and free stuff?

If so, the answer is approximately 10,000. But they have to be real people, and they have to share your content. So sure, buy followers, but don't expect flat-tummy tea or hair pills to give you free stuff if your engagement rate is like 2%. Disgusting.

Are you guys some sort of radical left-wing rag?

That depends on your definition of left-wing. If your definition of left-wing is common sense politics that benefit everyone, embracing our role in reversing climate change, and peaceful activism against fascism and tyranny, then no, we are not a left-wing rag.

We have two divisions here at the Grapevine: the news writing division, and the molotov cocktail division*. That's how we make the news. Unfortunately, no shops will sell us lighters or matches, so we can't actually do anything with the molotov cocktails we make. They're all collecting dust in the corner of our office, nearly blocking the door to the toilet.

We had to lay off the guy who made them. He's out there all alone, wandering the streets of Reykjavik, asking people for a light but everybody vapes now, so he remains out of luck.

**Disclaimer: we don't actually have any molotov cocktails. We really do believe in peaceful activism against fascism and tyranny. (Editor's Note "Speak for yourself, Sam.")*

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

HORROR-SCOPES

The Leo Of The Rings

We looked into your future and we saw death

Words: The Reykjavik Grapevine Spiritual Dep. Photo: Art Bicnick

In HorrorScopes, Grapevine's dedicated team of amateur astrologists breaks down your upcoming weeks based on shit like planetary orbits.

Aries
You're just like Tom Bombadil: People often question why the hell you were even included.

Taurus
Remember that scene in 'The Two Towers,' where Théoden King, in the face of imminent defeat by the Uruk-hai at Helm's Deep, looks at Aragon and says, "Let this be the day we draw swords together." You'll feel similarly at your new figure drawing class.

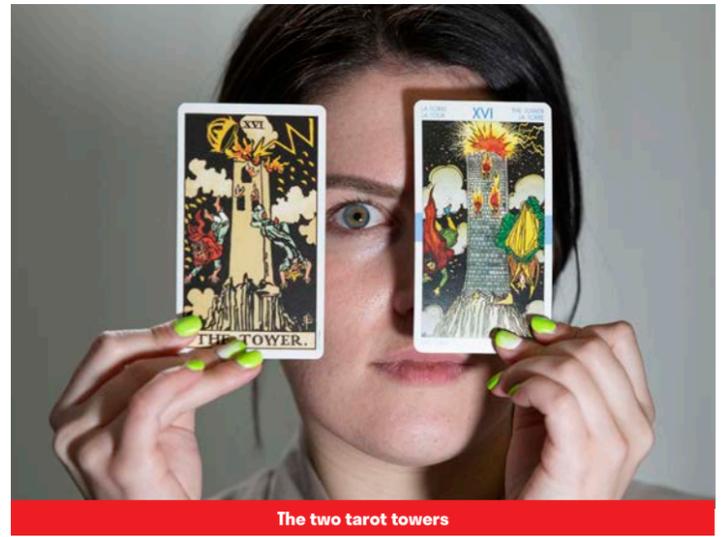
Gemini
Pisces is acting like a total dick. Burn down their yard, call the ents, and watch the havoc that ensues.

Cancer
6,000 spears. It was less than half of what you hoped for. Still, it'll be helpful at your next stick-and-poke tattoo session.

Leo
J.R.R. Tolkien created an entire universe with a theological history, hundreds of characters, multiple languages, and dozens of devastating wars. He then wrote a children's book about it. Maybe you're not ambitious enough.

Virgo
Bill the Pony made it home to the Shire from outside Moria. So, too, will you defeat your demons.

Libra
Pippin, the fool of a Took, knocked a skeleton down a well and subsequently woke up every orc in Moria, a cave troll, and a motherfucking balrog. Remember



The two tarot towers

this next time you "Reply All" to an email at work.

Scorpio
For those of you who never actually read the series, in the end, the hobbits return back to Shire only for it to be under martial law by ruffians and Saruman. They then have to stage a revolution by the proletariat and take back control of their homeland. Study up: This will become useful next time your spouse asks you to take out the trash.

Sagittarius
Everyone around you knows you're out of ideas, because you're totally ripping off of Icelandic folklore for all of your creative writing assignments.

Capricorn
Faramir is an underestimated character. He had the ring in his grasp and willingly gave it up. No wonder Éowyn fell in love.

Aquarius
In the 21st century, seven seasons of 'Game Of Thrones' were gifted to the race of men, who, above all else, desired quality. But they were all of them deceived, for another season was made...

Pisces
Gemini has been pissing you off lately. If they come at you, send a rustic ranger and heir to the throne of some kingdom to seduce them so they will subsequently give up their immortality.



An Icelander showing off their traditional winter style

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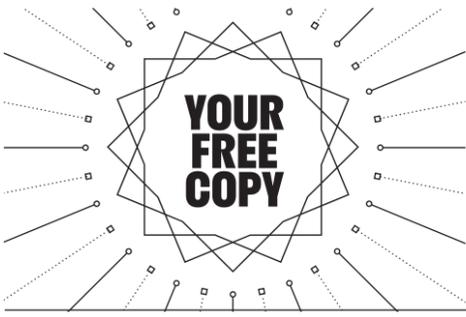
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LAST WORDS

In Defence Of Faramir

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen**

There are but two individuals who held the Ring of Power and willingly yeeted it off to another sucker: Bilbo Baggins and Samwise Gamgee. Other than that, there's the somewhat flamboyant Tom Bombadil, who was seemingly unaffected by and uninterested in the ring, and Galadriel and Gandalf, who were seduced by its power but had the presence of mind to refuse it.

However, there was another being—a MAN, no less—who had Isildor's Bane within his grasp but refused it instantly and kept his vow. Unfortunately, no one remembers him because he's not that hot and he was kind of sensitive. Yeah, remember Faramir? Don't lie. You don't because he didn't kill an elephant in one go or fuck an elf princess. He's forgotten, but he shouldn't be. So here you go Faramir: Welcome to your tape.

Let's go back: During a skirmish in Ithilien, our dreamy Steward's son found Frodo and Sam and took them hostage in Henneth Annûn. Faramir's a perceptive dude, and had previously had dreamy premonitions of a hobbit carrying the ring, so he basically instantly knew who Frodo and Sam were and what they had. This was his moment to seize power and turn it from Gondor to Farador—something any lesser man, and 100% you, whoever is reading this, would do.

See, while his stupid brother Boromir wanted to take the ring to Gondor and give it to his idiotic father, Faramir was smart. And even though his father clearly thought he was lame, Faramir didn't grovel for his father's respect, instead proclaiming, rather eloquently: "I would not take this thing, if it lay by the highway. Not were Minas Tirith falling in ruin and I alone could save her, so, using the weapon of the Dark Lord for her good and my glory." How's that for a speech?

So in conclusion, we're close to Halloween, and while people all around the world will be donning elf ears, Fellowship cloaks, and carrying around a staff, there are few who will put on some ornate leather to adopt the likeness of our young soldier of Gondor. This is a tragedy—perhaps on the same level as global warming—and we will not stand for it. Faramir deserves better. Especially considering he was almost burned alive—something we will probably all relate to in the near future, should Greta Thunberg fail on her quest. 🍷



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