YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD THIS: K.ÓLA

THE REYKJI— VIK GRAPE— VIN E MUSIC AWARDS 2020

plus! GIG GUIDE × CITY MAP × TRAVEL IDEAS × FOOD
The only way to describe the year in Icelandic music now behind us is “Absolutely wild!” Earlier this year, Iceland got itself into a small international diplomatic crisis when the ultra-BDSM-dark-lords-of-the-inescapable-death-of-materialism band Hatari waved the Palestinian flag at the grotesquely pretentious and odd Eurovision Song Contest. Apparently, it’s not allowed to display state flags on Israeli TV... or is it only the Palestinian flag that can’t be shown? Of course, the leather-clad knights of nihilism didn’t care and made Eurovision history with their stunt. Naturally, their song, “Hatrið mun sigra” (Hate will prevail), has been named Song of the Year by the Reykjavík Grapevine Music Awards. You can read the details about Hatari’s award and all the other winners from page 10.

Another Icelandic band catching international attention in 2019 was darkwave darlings Kælan Mikla. They managed to charm legendary Curve frontman Robert Smith, with him inviting the talented trio to international festivals to play alongside the likes of The Pixies and the Deftones. We hear the young women managed to bum out those optimistic Pollyannas with their dark flair.

Anybody keeping even a cursory eye on the scene won’t be surprised by the power-house we’ve named Artist of the Year. Hildur Guðnadóttir wrote the music for the biggest cultural events of the whole world when it came to television and cinema: HBO’s Chernobyl and the blockbuster Joker. Her talent has been rack-upping nominations, winning awards, and making history for women composers.

We at the Grapevine are incredibly proud of all our musicians. Keep on rocking, and keep on surprising the world with your immense talents.

The Reykjavík Grapevine Music Awards ceremony will be held at Röntgen on January 17th. If you’re brave enough, dear reader, you are cordially invited to our celebration of Icelandic music. VG
Keeping Iceland warm since 1926
What Are Icelanders Talking About?

The headlines exploding the comments sections

Words: Andie Fontaine
Photos: Grapevine Art Dept.

The annual debate about fireworks got rolling again last month. Environmentalists were diligent in pointing out the tremendous amount of air pollution that fireworks generate, in the form of particulate matter and various heavy metals, including lead and chromium. Others pointed out how fireworks terrify animals. While polling showed an increase in approval for a ban on fireworks, this was not reflected in sales, said, hotel bookings have been on the decline, as have Airbnb listings, so where all these people are staying is anyone’s guess.

Birgir Þórarinsson, pictured with some libs he just triggered
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Malt & Appelsín

You would think that preparing a simple mixed Christmas drink would be banal, but when it comes to preparing Icelanders’ favourite Christmas concoction, your life and reputation just might depend on your Malt and Appelsín mixology. But first, what are Malt and Appelsín, the dual ingredients in Iceland’s traditional Jólakókull (Christmas ale)?

Malt is an old Icelandic drink that we started brewing yearly around 1915. If you can imagine a slightly sweet, non-alcoholic Guinness, then you’re close. For decades, the drink was quite expensive, which resulted in the tendency to mix it with other drinks to make it last a little bit longer. Enter Appelsín, an Icelandic orange soda that Sigurður, the biggest brewery in Iceland, began manufacturing in 1955. Icelanders quickly learned that the result of combining sweet Appelsín and hearty Malt resulted in a tasty Christmas ale.

Now we get to the controversial part: How one combines these drinks is nothing less than a religious custom. Every year, it must be the same family member that takes on this great responsibility—and they better not mess it up if they want to keep their family membership. For hardcore believers, the perfect blend is 60% Malt and 30% Appelsín, while others swear by a clean 50/50 mix. Be mindful of with whom you discuss the sacred ratio, as the conversation could easily lead to a skirmish from Icelandic society or a good old fistfight.

There are outliers in Icelandic society when it comes to the Jólakókull. Some nonconformists push for a blend of 50% Malt and 30% Appelsín, with Coca Cola making up the difference. In the past, there were even some idiots who preferred Pepsi over Coca, but the Yule Cat hunted them all down and rid the country of such heresy.

So there you are, Malt og Appelsín. The drink that could literally ruin your reputation and status (perhaps your whole life). Enjoy.

FOOD OF ICELAND

NEWS

Words: Andie Fontaine

Photos: Landsbýrg

Weather warning was issued long before the tour began. Police are now investigating the matter.

About 300 rescue workers hurried to the scene when the distress call was made just before 22:00 in the evening. It took great effort to locate and transport the unfortunate travellers to shelter, complicated by very poor visibility and surrounded by icy conditions. The reporter made several more attempts to get a comment from Mountainiers of Iceland, but otherwise had nothing to say. The reporter made several more attempts to call the company before being told by Ölfus to “shut the hell up.”

Ölgerð also reports that South Iceland police have been interviewing people as they were being rescued, and the matter is being investigated.

Déjà vu

This is not the first time Mountainiers of Iceland has been in the news for reported mismanagement of a snowmobile tour. Last January, an Australian couple sued the company for allegedly abandoning them on Langjökull and leaving them trapped in a storm for seven hours.

A reporter for Freyjaböð attempted to get a comment from Mountainiers of Iceland, and were told by tour guide Ölfus Ölfugrenvass that they were “looking into the issue” but otherwise had nothing to say. The reporter made several more attempts to call the company before being told by Ölfus to “shut the hell up.”

Freyjaböð also reports that South Iceland police have been interviewing people as they were being rescued, and the matter is being investigated.

Storm warning

While there were thankfully no casualties, some of those rescued suffered from frostbite on their fingers, and one woman needed to be transported to hospital. They had reportedly been on the glacier for several hours.

Ellín Björk Jonadóttir, a meteorologist at the Icelandic Met Office, told reporters that the tour company in question, Mountainiers of Iceland, should have been well aware that weather conditions were going to get worse. As reported, news of an impending storm was sent out earlier in the morning, and by midday, flights and bus service had been cancelled.

Recovery

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Freyjaböð also reports that South Iceland police have been interviewing people as they were being rescued, and the matter is being investigated.
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The original Völpuspá is the first poem of the Poetic Edda. Its name can be loosely translated as “the prediction of the seeress,” and is for very good reason probably the most popular poem in the Poetic Eddas.

“Varla upp í nös á ketti”

"First"

The Reykjavík Grapevine
Issue 01 — 2020

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"Yeah, how do I explain it?" composer Hildur Guðnadóttir ponders aloud over the phone. She’s currently in Berlin, sitting in her studio and thinking about how complete accident, both projects that I worked on—the reception of them—went beyond my wildest dreams. It’s been quite incredible."

The projects in question are two soundtracks: one for the HBO mini-series Chernobyl and the second for the Warner Brothers film Joker. Calling each work “acclaimed” would be an understatement—Chernobyl won Hildur an Emmy award and is currently nominated for a Grammy, while Joker nabbed a Golden Globe and is a favourite to take home an Academy Award.

**NO EGO**

That said, the two soundtracks could not be more stylistically different. For Chernobyl, Hildur, a classically trained cellist, gave her instrument a break and created a score almost entirely composed of non-instrumental sounds, most of which were recorded by Hildur inside an actual nuclear power plant. "When you’re doing film music you have to put your ego aside and be a servant of the story that’s being told," she explains, referring to this non-traditional approach. "So even though I’m normally more comfortable with an instrument, I just felt that the story needed something else," she says. "It was quite an easy decision to make."

**SYMBIOTIC SOUNDS**

For Joker, Hildur found her sound in the darkest depths of Arthur Fleck’s character. "The strongest moments of intense inspiration hit me after reading the script," she explains. "When I first found his notes, it hit me like lightning in my chest. That was my way into his head and into what I felt like he wanted to say."

This resulted in an intensely symbiotic relationship between the music, acting and direction in the film. Hildur wrote pieces for Joker before filming even started, which director Todd Philips played on set while filming. Hildur’s work, therefore, became a literal soundtrack to the creation of the whole movie.

"The music ended up influencing the performances, the cinematography and the whole pacing of the film. So much so that in scenes like the bathroom dance, that [Joaquin Phoenix’s] actual response to the music that you hear in the film, Hildur explains, with palpable wonderment in her voice. "When they sent me the scene, I just saw Joaquin responding to this music in exactly the same way in which I had felt it when I first wrote it. We had never exchanged a word. It was such a magical process."

**GIVING AN EXAMPLE**

The critical acclaim and widespread media attention that both projects received have thrust Hildur into the spotlight, a position that she doesn’t seem fully comfortable inhabiting. "It’s quite exposing," she admits. But whatever project Hildur takes on next, you can bet on it being adventurous and thrilling. "I feel a sense of urgency in almost all that work that I create," she laughs infectiously. "I’m someone who doesn’t really do things halfway."

**BACK TO BASICS**

This year will prove to be another busy and varied one for the composer, but it’s a different way from the previous. ‘I’m taking a little bit of a film break,’ she admits. ‘I’ve had such an unusually extravedted year, it really feels like it’s time to go back into my cave.’ Instead, Hildur will inhabit other areas of the art world. This month sees the launch of a new exhibition with Ólafur Elíasson, in which Hildur excitingly relays there will be, "a robot playing cello!" Fans can also look forward to the release of a new album. "I’m taking a little bit of a film break," she admits. "I’ve had such an unusually extravedted year, it really feels like it’s time to go back into my cave."

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**“You have to put your ego aside and be a servant of the story that’s being told.”**
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2019 was a banner year for metal quintet Une Misère. Record label Nuclear Blast signed them in January, the same month they released their first single ‘Damages.’ In November, they dropped their debut album ‘Sermon’, which found its way onto essentially every metalhead’s albums of the year list. Now, it has earned them the Grapevine Album of the Year, and for good reason—each track is a well-polished anthem to misery.

**CELEBRATING MISERY**

But why ‘Sermon’? “A sermon is a form of celebration,” vocalist Jón Már Ásbjörnsson explains. When Jón conceived the title, he envisioned one of those megachurches where the minister flies in on a private jet, preaching to a massive crowd about how life is great. “I thought, ‘yeah, that’s proper bullshit,’” he says, laughing. So instead, the band took the idea and inverted it. “[‘Sermon’] is a celebration of misery,” he concludes.

The group may joke about the origins of the album title, but for Jón, every moment of ‘Sermon’ is an intimate one. “The album is written about my times of addiction where I didn’t feel. And I wished I could feel,” he says. “Then I got clean, and I started feeling, and it was awful, but I was still feeling.”

**DON’T FORGET PAIN**

While the album centers around Jón’s journey to sobriety, each member has their own emotional attachment to certain songs. “For the impact factor, the beauty, the anger, for everything packed into one song, for me, it has to be ‘ Fallen Eyes,’” says guitarist Fannar. “That one song is every single song on the album.”

The band’s drummer, Benni, zeroes in on the track ‘Burdened/Suffering’. “When we were recording, I finished it last. It was pretty great to finish it, and to feel like the sermon is done.” To him, the song encapsulates everything they’re trying to do as a band, and pays homage to their biggest influences. “I feel like we captured something that we really wanted to in that song,” he says.

Jón’s favourite tracks are either ‘Sin & Guilt’ or ‘Voiceless’. The lyrics for ‘Voiceless’ are about veganism, about which he is very passionate, but ‘Sin & Guilt,’ he explains, is more personal. “Don’t let me forget my pain,” he says, referencing a lyric of the song. “No matter if someone hurts you or you hurt someone, it’s your pain. I don’t wanna forget that.”

**2020 VISION**

If 2019 was the year Une Misère claimed their metal throne, 2020 will be the first year of their reign. “We’re gonna be really fucking busy in 2020,” Jón says. “A lot of stuff we can’t talk about yet, but the things we can talk about we are really excited about.”

“But we are still recording and rehearsing new music,” Benni interjects. “So it’s just a matter of time until we enter the studio again and do something new.”
Words: Josie Gaitens

While 2018 saw the release of their breakthrough effort Nőtt eftir nót”, it was 2019 that cemented Kælan Mikla as bonafide international goth sensations. The dark wave, post-punk trio burst onto the world stage in 2019, with their first ever North American tour, as well as numerous European dates and some really serious festival slots. Back in Iceland for a brief break before the madness resumed, the trio sat down to reminiscence on the past 12 mystical months.

TOO MANY TO COUNT

“It’s hard to keep track,” bassist Margrét Rósa Dóru-Harrýsdóttir admits when asked about what they’ve been up to. “We played Eurosonic in January (2019). We played a lot of festivals. We finished a headline tour around Europe (2019). We played a lot of festivals. We went on tour in the middle of Russia, close to the border of Kazakhstan, a city called Perm,” synthesiser player Sólveig Matthildur Kristjánsdóttir explains. “It was a really different place and there was a huge crowd there. I was like, ‘What? There are people who listen to us here?’” she laughs. “It was so fun.”

PURE INSANITY

Robert Smith’s patronage also brought them onstage with some of their idols last year. In the summer, he invited them to play at the exclusive Pasadena Daydream Festival in California, which The Cure were both headlining and curating. With only eight other bands on the programme, including scene giants The Pixies and The Deftones, it was no doubt a highlight for the artists. “To be in a lineup of only eight bands and to be one of those huge names, it was insane,” Sólveig emphasises.

But the girls are equally fond of their recent Iceland Airwaves performance, which gave them a rare chance to play to their home crowd. “There were so many people from Iceland who haven’t seen us for so long and it’s fun to know they can see our growth,” Margrét explains. “We’ve been really focusing on getting our music out there and performing a lot abroad. When finally we go to play this gig at Iceland Airwaves, it was really rewarding,” Sólveig agrees.

TOURING TRIALS

But touring, of course, doesn’t come without challenges. “The main way we cope with everything is that we are all best friends and we take care of each other,” says vocalist Laufey Soffía Kristjánsdóttir explains. “We shifted the focus. It was a fun period.”

This year, they released ‘energy’ by Ra:tio—a duo—which works under the moniker Ratico—exemplifies the word “chill.” Producers Bjarki Sigurðarson and Teitur Helgi Skúlason could best be described as low-key. In person, the duo—which works under the moniker Ra:tio—exemplifies the word “chill.” At first meeting, you’d never guess that every album the two have touched has blown up, and as they stand, they’re probably the most talked-about production team in the country. Calling them One To Watch even seems insuffi- cient—so let’s revise that, they’re One To Follow.

PURE ENERGY

The duo burst onto the scene in 2018 with their debut release, GDRN’s ‘Heart of The album, which actually won the 2019 Grapevine Album Of The Year, was one of the biggest Icelandic releases that year—if not the biggest—and cemented GDRN as one of the foremost singers in the country. Both Bjarki and Teitur are remark- ably modest about their involvement. “It was funny because we didn’t have any expectations. We were both making our first records,” Teitur explains. “We had no idea what we were doing, but we had that critical voice in our heads, so we just chose the right types of songs that fit. It’s a weird energy—hopeful but not serious.” Whatever that critical voice was, it worked, and from there, they moved onto a hugely popular collaboration with ClubDub. “ClubDub had this mentality straight from the start that as long as they had fun and we had fun in the studio, nothing else mattered,” Bjarki says. “That gave us freedom to try whatever we wanted.” Teitur adds. The two subsequently began to expand their sound into more club pop terri- tory. “We shifted the focus. It was a fun period.”

This year, they released ‘energy’ by una schram, an R&B songstress and one of the most talked-about newbies on the Icelandic scene. “Una would come to us with written songs. She knew exactly how she wanted to sing the melody and had the lyrics done,” Teitur explains. Both artists were impressed by her professionalism. “I really admire her songwriting abili- ties,” Bjarki agrees. “She is so talented and promising. I can’t wait to see what she does next.”

COHESIVE COLLABORATION

The pair often seem more like broth- ers than creative partners. They exist on the same wavelength, anticipat- ing each other’s stream of conscious- ness and often finishing each other’s thoughts. Perhaps it’s this cohesion that has allowed them to produce such seamless work.

“One of the things that I really like about being in a band with Teitur is that he has no idea what we are doing. He’s an all-around great guy and he’s also super creative and can always resolve an issue. And again, like I said before, he’s an all-around great guy and my best friend,” Teitur returns his smile. “Thanks.”

THE END GOAL

In 2020, the duo plans to expand their horizons. “We’re not working on one album. We’re doing sessions with a lot more artists,” Bjarki explains. “Making one song with each—trying to spread out a little more. It’s been fun because we’ve always been focused on one proj- ect for many months, but now we’re meeting new people everyday.”

Teitur nods, adding, “we’re just trying to explore more and develop our sound into something new. That’s always our end goal. To create some- thing no one has ever heard before.”
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like you’ve never seen them before!

“I Hate you! What you wrote about Njals Saga really hurt my feelings.”
A drunk PhD student

Grayson Del Faro
Illustrated by Elín Elísabet Einarsdóttir

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BEST VIDEO: BJARKI - 'ANA5' PRODUCED BY VIDEO1

For his 2018 Sónar Reykjavík set, Bjarki reached out to friends Daniel Heimisson and Baldwin Vernhardsson to collaborate on the audio-visual aspects of the performance. The result of this fateful partnership was a true feast for the senses. It also resulted in Daniel and Baldwin teaming up to form a new video art duo, Video1. The two would later reconnect with Bjarki to direct and produce the music video for ‘ANA5’, from the electronic kingpin’s February release ‘Happy Earthday’. That video has been crowned the Grapevine’s Music Video Of The Year.

SPINNING HEADS & WEIRD FACES

Bjarki originally approached just Daniel for help with his Sónar set. “I got Baldwin involved and it really kicked-off from there. The two of us have worked together for years in filmmaking,” Daniel explains. “We came up with this idea of using mannequins onstage, replacing their heads with tube TVs showing videos of spinning heads and weird faces.”

The visuals were memorable, and Bjarki subsequently gave Video1 a lot up with this idea of using mannequins onstage, replacing their heads with

“I told Daniel what I was thinking and he made it reality,” Bjarki says of the process. “He is the kind of guy that when he doesn’t know how to do something, he’ll use the opportunity to learn how to do it.”

PLANTING SEEDS

For Bjarki, the song is meant to reflect on environmental issues, but the video adds another dimension to that theme. “There are so many added layers in this video that I notice with every watch,” he explains. In the video, mannequins zoom across Icelandic nature to get to a cave where they are reunited with their offspring. They then take part in a mating ritual to plant seeds for a new generation.

“It’s about us, the human race, fucking up the environment and being total screen-junkies,” Baldwin explains. “But, without delving too deeply into political narrative, we mainly wanted it to be fun to watch.” Daniel agrees. “We were inspired by classic sci-fi films,” he adds. “We wanted it to be glitzy, weird and have DIY style effects meant to appear a bit unrealistic.”

EVERYTHING CAN HAPPEN

Bjarki was not expecting the ‘ANA5’ video to receive an award. “The main reward for me is to be able to work with my friends and enjoy our imagination together,” he says. “It got less attention than we expected, but the reaction has been really good,” Daniel adds.

Currently, Bjarki has no official plans for any events or parties in Iceland anytime soon, but, as he says, “Everything can happen.”

On the Video1 front, Daniel explains they are always looking to do something new. “Working with Bjarki is always exciting. We would like to do something with other artists if they are ready to take on bold creative projects of any kind,” concludes Baldwin. “As long as it’s fun!”

YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD THIS: K.ÓLÁ

Katrín Helga Ólafsdóttir has a natural flair. Her ineffable style and unforgettable talents traverse a vast array of influences to create an intriguing amalgamation of structures, instrumentation and tones, with candid and perceptive lyrics at their foundation. Already an underground icon as the lead singer of dream-junk band Milkhouse, Katrín wanted to explore new territories with her solo project, and it seemed only natural to extend her short-hand artist signature as a moniker for her music: K.Ólá.

WATER GLASSES & LANGUAGES

From playing water glasses to composing for strings, Katrín is known for her exploratory approach to music, although her composition studies at the Iceland University of the Arts don’t necessarily confine her to traditional methods.

“It’s interesting to know how to do a lot of stuff, even if you don’t use it every day,” she explains. “It’s like learning a language and never speaking it, but you still know it. It can help you sometimes when you need it—if you’re lost and need directions.”

CREATIVE POLITICS

K.Ólá’s most recent record, ‘Alt verbur allítli’, showcases this experimental pop prowess. The album is a heartfelt, catchy, seven song melange of genres that took the Icelandic indie scene by storm in 2019, culminating in her winning a Kraumur award at the end of the year. Picking up where her album left off, her new single, ‘Plastprinsessan váknar’, is a slow-burning ballad encompassed with sustained bells and strings, poised to explore the negative spectrum of human impact and emotion as ‘the plastic princess awakens.’

“I think it’s more political... the lyrics of being a plastic princess,” Katrín reflects. “It’s from the perspective of feeling like a super-villain by being a human because we’re destroying everything around us and you can’t do anything but take part in it.”

It’s a serious topic, but one that Katrín hopes to keep entertaining. “I think you can tell the most important stuff with humour. People will listen more if they’re laughing,” she continues. “What I want to do in the future, I guess, is a mixture of both being silly and still having a point.”

FOLLOW THE FUN

Despite achieving one goal after another, and having a new album on the horizon, Katrín is hard on herself, and her thoughts often veer to the self-critical. Just when I’m finishing [something]...in the final 10 metres of the marathon—I start to doubt everything and think ‘Why should I release this? Is this good enough?’ Why was I doing this?” she explains. “It’s weird to be making this new album that is very different, and the only thing I can do is just hope people will like it because it’s not what they would expect.”

To navigate these challenges and find her confidence, Katrín focuses on having fun. “There are so many pressures, from being in school or being in a group of friends,” she says. “Everybody is doing this and that and you kind of feel like you have to be able to do it. It’s nice to think ‘this is fun, I’m going to do it’. I really want to do more of that: follow the fun.”
SONG OF THE YEAR: ‘HATRÍÐ MUN SIGRA’ BY HATARI

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen

One couch. Three banners. Seven seconds of live television. And with that, the leather-clad doomsday anticapitalist BDSM water-hawking scam artist tycoons—we could go on—Hatari, made history under their mantra of “Hatráð mun sigra,” as they brought the world’s attention to Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestine at the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest.

PALESTINE

“We had a couple of banners. Matthias put one in his pants, but I just put them in my bag,” vocalist Klemens Hannigan remembers, discussing the lead up to their on-screen protest. “There was a security check before going into the ‘bubble,’ or the backstage, but no one ever checked my bag.” He laughs, almost incredulously—apparently it’s a lot easier to pull an international political stunt than you’d think—and is quickly joined by the aforementioned vocalist Matthias Tryggvi Haraldsson.

“I think, if they would have checked the bag we would have been in trouble. It wasn’t a very good strategy,” Matthias admits. His voice, a low baritone, is so deadpan that it’s often difficult to tell whether he’s being serious, sarcastic, or sardonic. “We could have maybe discussed the flag-smuggling-strategy beforehand,” he adds, slightly smirking.

HYPOCRISY & LIVE TV

Regardless, the band’s non-strategy worked, and when given their Eurovision moment on live television during the voting, Matthias held up a banner in the Palestinian colours while Klemens gave two peace signs behind it. The visual became iconic and the global reaction instantaneous.

“The first thing that happened is just this frantic booing from thousands of people. 8,000 people just releasing their anger,” Matthias relays. At the same time, security guards confiscated the banners.

“It goes to show the power of live TV is just so insane,” he says. “We had been bringing up topics related to Palestine for weeks in interviews but it didn’t carry the weight until seconds on live TV. That was it for so many people. For us, it was the whole thing: Live TV is a powerful thing, especially when there are people watching.”

For Matthias, Eurovision’s response, most of all, revealed some stark hypocrisies. “We found it strange that, from a Eurovision rules perspective, there were all kinds of flags being waved,” he explains. “We waved the trans flag and the pride flag. There were Norwegians waving the Sami flag, which is a very political thing to do. So why is this where the rules are broken? Obviously, in the context, it carries so much weight, but hopefully, sometime in the future, it won’t.” He pauses. “One state. Two state. No state.”

EUROPE WILL CRUMBLE

“Live TV is a powerful thing, especially when there are people watching.”

While their Eurovision entry might be what Hatari is most known for, the months following have proved that the band is anything but a one-note gimmick, and the year ahead is shaping up to cement their legacy.

“We’re sending in another song,” Klemens says simply, his face blank, when asked about Hatari’s plans for 2020. Then he grins. “No, we’re not. We’re releasing an album. We’re going on tour, Europe Will Crumble.” Matthias nods. He pauses; the smirk slowly re-emerging on his face. “Where we will observe the crumbling of Europe along with our guests.”
SHOUT OUT: HÁTÍNDNI

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen

In 2017, Post-dreifing member Snaebjörn Helgi Arason Jack wanted to have a party, but his tiny, fruit fly-filled basement apartment proved not to be the most auspicious venue. Solution? Rent a community centre in the countryside, grab some friends, invite a few bands, and have fun.

“It ended up that only the bands showed up with a few people,” Snaebjörn reminisces, laughing. Nevertheless, it was at the fateful January soirée where the seeds were planted that would eventually flourish into the Hátiðni festival. In July 2019, the second iteration of the festival hosted a crowd of 300 in BooByri, cementing the Post-dreifing crew as party role models.

TEAM D.I.T.

The beauty of Hátiðni—and the reason it garnered Grapevine Music Awards Shout Out—comes from the modus operandi of the festival and of the Post-dreifing collective itself: Do It Together (D.I.T.).

“The way we view this festival is the same way we view every show, which is that the people are not just a passive audience but are active participants in the event,” explains fellow Post-dreifing-er Bjarni Daniel. “Everyone takes part. Random guests were doing the rounds in the campsites picking up trash or helping in the kitchen. Even though the music is great and the creative aspect is super important for the people will remember.”

Shared values are a central pillar of Hátiðni. “We want to be party role models,” he concludes, though from where we’re sitting it seems they already are.

Words: Inês Pereira

When two seemingly opposite interests combine, the result is something out of this world. This year, programmer and musician Halldór Eldjárn— together with the help of his trusted computer and NASA’s infinite media library—gave us “Poco Apollo.” To make the experimental album, the artist created a programming system that transformed pictures of the moon into musical notes, tones, and chords. The end result is Halldór’s interpretation of the sound of the moon.

MACHINE FEELINGS

“The system analyses each image and looks for hardpoints in the picture,” Halldór explains. “So if there are certain changes in texture or colour, then the algorithm will set a point there.” The goal is then, as he emphasises, to “get the feelings out of the machine.”

“I’ve been a lunatic all my life,” he confesses, referring to his fascination by all things moon-related. This obsession led to him combing through NASA’s archives, where he became especially passionate about the release of the Apollo manned lunar landing mission photos in 2015. “It was so fascinating when they released this library online of all the photos,” he says, “I always felt a really strong connection to the moon landing, so getting to dive into the library of never-before-seen pictures was really fun for me.”

SHOOT FOR THE MOON

Halldór admits to being a nostalgic person, he ties his nostalgia especially to the 1969 moon landing and the movie “Apollo 13,” which he watched almost daily when he was a child. It was also at a young age that he started to dream of setting his own foot on Earth’s only natural satellite, he confesses to having not given up on the journey, promising to give the Grapevine the streaming right when he does.

In 2020, Halldór will participate in Reykjavík’s annual Design-March, where he will be working with generative plants in the basement of Ásmundarsafn. In the music department, he is planning to play some more gigs and continue working on a new album.
Best of Reykjavík

Hey Tourist, This Is How You Support Iceland

Souvenirs that will get you laid

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen & Valur Grettisson Photo: Art Bionick

Everyone and their mother leaves Iceland with some Brennivín, lakris, a stuffed puffin, lopapeysa and a 66°NORTH hat. But don't let us worry, those are great, but for those looking for some deep cuts on the souvenir scale, here are the Grapevine's picks.

If you genuinely want to fit in with stylish Icelandic women, start donning Hildur Yeoman. Yes, her works are a bit pricey—expect to pay something in the 40,000-60,000 ISK range for a dress—but they're timeless works of art that'll fit any occasion. Yeoman is known for mixing loud, elaborate prints with classic, elegant cuts, so you're guaranteed to find a fit that's comfortable for you.

Lady Brewery, First Lady IPA

Vinbúðin (and on tap at many bars around Reykjavík)

Icelanders love to drink—it’s the f1 way they reproduce—so it’s no wonder a host of lovely microbreweries have sprung up in the city over the last few years. Our favourite is Lady Brewery, created and run by designer Bórey Björk Haldorsdóttir. Their signature IPA is a delicious blend of fresh citrus and mellow floral notes, all in a heady, hoppy brew. Inspired by “beer witches”—medieval female brewers who eventually became the archetypal witches (a very interesting thing to research on a rainy day)—it’s the perfect thing to binge drink as you sit in your house alone crying over a Netflix Christmas movie.

Literally Any Not-Internationally-Famous Icelandic Record

Ask any snob at local record stores... you know, the feature story

So you’ve got every Björk b-side, a ton of illegal Sigur Rós merch, and three Klemens from Hatari fan Instagram accounts. We get it, you love Icelandic music. Deepen your clout with the best souvenir—a record you can show off to your annoying I’m-indie-but-really-only-listen-to-metal friends. If you like classical, Gabriel Öfans’ calming piano works come highly recommended. The wistful, yacht-rocky stylings of Bagdad Brothers are great for indie whimsies who’ve grown up with Sigur Rós. Those who enjoy the bar looks like.

Grillmarket Laugargata 2a

The locally-sourced menu of Grillmarket has been a hit with diners since the place opened its doors. A favourite ‘fancy place’ for locals, the restaurant also ups its game by offering fresh, locally grown Icelandic wasabi. Our panel suggested pairing the wasabi with a steak, and some-thing decadent from the exhaustive wine list.

Horníb opened in 1979 was the first restaurant of its kind in Iceland, a restaurant with a true Italian atmosphere. Horníb is known for good food made out of fresh raw materials, good pizzas baked in four ovens, great coffee and comfortable service.

Horníb

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Lunch offers every day.
Open every day from 11:00 to 23:30.
For reservations call 595-5040.
In Your Pocket

January 10th—February 6th

In Your Pocket

Perfect Day

Bára Halldórsdóttir is perhaps best known for being the whistleblower in the notorious Klausturgate scandal, but she is also an activist for disabled people’s rights and an artist. Here, she details what her perfect day in Reykjavík would be like, “a world where I am not chronically ill and can just do whatever.”

Morning

Freyja, my old cat and friend, gently nudges me awake to feed her breakfast. I have slept well and am feeling rested and ready for my perfect day. I hug my wife and give her a tight kiss and then we get up and feed the animals. I eat two slices of toast with bananas. While I am chomping my breakfast, I take my dog, Kíra, on a long walk. It is sunny and bright with a slight breeze. Kíra finds all sorts of interesting new smells and meets fun doggos to play with. On the way home from the walk we pause just to look out the window and die Izzard will be there, along with Neil Gaiman, Douglas Adams and Edie’s, Hannah Gadsby, Terry Pratchett, Steve Martin, Ingínótt and Kattholt. We drive home and I go in and snoop around while I buy something I really need and get my art show for this summer’s perfect day. Alarms set and we float into dreamland, endlessly satisfied.

noon

I pick Hrafna up from work and tell her about the invitation, she is over the moon. We stop by Jömm and get our selves some juicy vegan food. I love their burger and there must be something in the air... We decide to take an evening drive like we love, Kíra joins us, she loves driving. We drive an illogical route to Krívulur and Kíra gets to fetch frisbees we throw out into the lake.

After a drive to Reykjavík and drop in for a while to visit my angel of a grandchild and the family.

Evening

It’s closing on eleven when we arrive in Reykjavík and decide to catch the end of a Drag-súgur show at Ásgarður. It is perfect as usual. On our way home we stop at the roundabout on the westpoint of Seltjarnarnes. We walk on the shore for a while and I find an interesting stone. When we are just about at our car we see a large owl perched on a mamade hill close by us. We watch in awe and Hrafna sneaks a few brilliant pictures. The owl glides away after a short while, but we are elated. At home we finish packing for the trip to New York tomorrow (it will be another perfect day). Alarms set and we float into dreamland, endlessly satisfied.
Dining
1. Fjallkonan
Hafnarstræti 1-3

Rammed 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 fish, fish and vegetarian options, Fjallkonan does these to perfection as well.

2. Block Burger
Skólaböð 8

Block Burger is an office favourite. You can see their white paper to-go bags stacked on writers’ desks. Modeled heavily on the American chain Shake Shack in presentation, Block Burger 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 cold meat 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 “vinarbraut” 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 Dog, 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 soy Tonkotsu. They have a choice of noodles and broths catering to food intolerances and kids, 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 spago served with ginger sauce and the crispy shrimp dumplings with siracha mayo are to die for. Come early and enjoy happy hour while you can’t ya’ll ever want to leave.

8. Messinn
Lækjargata 6b

Messinn may be modelled on the well-known Westfjords restaurant Tjörnahús, 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 plokkfiskur, velvety gravlax, and a perfectly seared trout with honey and almonds.

9. Sea Baron
Beiragarður 4a

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

10. Pylsuhúsí
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 day-drinking or getting messy, it never fails to amuse.

11. Curious
Hafnarstræti 4

Watch out, henny—there’s a new quuer bar on the scene, and it’s decked out in tropical apparel. Serving up cocktails, coffee and—starting in August—a vegan cafe, Curious is a one-stop-shop for whatever scene you belong to. Werk.

12. Bravó
Laugavegur 22

Oh, brave, Bravó, for having the best happy hour in this fair city. With its colourful farty lights and a plethora of comfortable pillows, Bravó feels like a children’s bedroom tant 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
Bakarstraeti 7a

Loft stands many heads and shoulders above most of the all fresco 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 mind-seared peeps to drink with, here you go.

16. Session Bar
Klappastígur 38

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
Formerly Bar Ananas, Papaku Reykjavík is Reykjavík’s only beach bar, and it’s now no doubt a Haakonstein favorite. With a saloon-like atmosphere in the daytime, when dogs and kids run around amongst the diehard local crowd and groups of confused tourists, Papaku Reykjavík 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.

18. American Bar
Austurlaði 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. Kvartrýrinn 49
Laugavegur 49

This minimalist, Bauhaus-esque spot took the Icelandic fashion
This peaceful spot is equal parts floating in the air, and a natural, soothing soundtrack, sweet scents and a soothing environment with a colour palette. They sell a range of amazing things, from hand-eclectic streetwear scene by storm upon opening in 2018, with its eclectic streetwear selection. They have designers that have long waiting lists, but pop in and try your luck. People are loyal to their favourite hairdresser, meaning some of them have long waiting lists, but pop in and try your luck.

20. Fischer
Fischersund
More art installation than regular store, the "Sigur Rós shop" is an aesthetic environment with a soothing soundtrack, sweat events 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. IBA Zimzen
Vesturgata 2a
This peaceful spot is equal parts café and bookstore. so you can get a coffee, a snack, and a book while you leaf through your purchases. Everything there is interesting. If the magazines fail, people-watching never does.

22. 12 Tónar
Skúlagarður 15
This city-centre record store is something of an institution, offering the unique experience of having the store staff talk about your music taste, then sit you down with a coffee, some headphones, and a pile of Icelandic records.

23. Farmers And Friends
Hólmslaði 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. Spútník
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 clothes, and you'll only be allowed in if you're a savior. 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. Rauðhættu & Úlfurinn
Skólabríugður 8
In a sense Rauðhættu & Úlfurinn is a Reykjavík classic. It’s been around for over a decade, and the service is congenial without being overbearing. People are loyal to their favourite hairdresser, meaning some of them have long waiting lists, but pop in and try your luck.
Plan ahead, put together your wish list, and make the most of your last hours in Iceland.

On wheninkef.com, you can browse through our selection of bestsellers, select your favourite items and then shop with ease when you get to the airport. It’s like a wish come true, in a way.

All shops and restaurants are tax and duty free.
Iceland’s most soulful electro artists, EinarIndra recently made a serious splash at the 2020 Iceland Airwaves festival. While we’ve been busy streaming EinarIndra on Spotify (you should, too) we asked him to create a playlist of his favourite Icelandic music, and he delivered everything from the first Icelandic Trip Hop experiments to Underworld’s remixes of Björk herself.

Magnús Blöndal Jóhannsson - Samstirni
Magnús Blöndal was a pioneer of Icelandic electronic music and “Samstirni” (Constellation), from 1960, is such an interesting composition with beautiful sounds that he recorded and edited on tape. It’s good to be reminded of the old ways of making electronic music where you had to spend hours editing one loop by cutting physical tape.

Subterranean - My style is phreaky
From the age of 10 through 16 I listened mostly to hip hop, and when I first heard Subterranean it was like a bomb had gone off in the Icelandic hip hop scene. They were young and fresh, with really well thought out lyrics, and they were skilled rappers. Still, 20 years later, I think they are one of the best hip hop acts of Iceland.

GusGus - Polyesterday
This track was a breakout for me. I was working with my father in Þórshöfn when I was 15 and after a hard day at work, I was lying in bed listening to the radio when I first heard it. It had this hip hop feeling but it wasn’t hip hop; still, I really loved it! GusGus helped me break out of my hip hop bubble and into trip-hop. I followed them up with Massive Attack, Portishead and similar bands.

Björk - Human Behaviour (Underworld Mix)
I was a massive Underworld fan after seeing Trainspotting and somehow I managed to get this mix of Björk’s songs called “The best mixes from the album Debut: (For all the people that don’t buy white labels)”. This track was the first on the CD and I started listening to everything with Björk after that.

Sigur Rós - Leit að lífi (Recycled by Sigur Rós)
I think this is the first track I heard with Sigur Rós and I think it was on the radio (though that seems unlikely) and somehow I connect it also with me walking by Reykjavíkurflói. It has an Amen break for drums and that mixed with the bass and vocals really got me and hasn’t let go since.

Worm is green - Automagic
I had started listening to a lot of glitchy electronic music from Germany and Russia when Automagic dropped. This band had really well programmed drums and beautiful synth melodies. Streaming had not yet begun, so I always bought all my albums on CD.

Jónsi and Alex - Indian Summer
During those years I ran a cooperative cafe/art space in downtown Reykjavík with my friends where Alex and Jónsi were daily visitors. At the same time, or around 2009, when we were being forced out by the house owner (who wanted to build a large shopping mall in the area), I met them and got this album which I think is one of the best albums released. It was something completely new but old at the same time, it’s these beautiful soundscapes unbound by time.
Music

Music Video
Available online now

GYDAs latest release, ‘Evolution,’ has been making waves. Since being one of the founding members of Múm, one of Iceland’s best-known early-2000s indie bands, Gysa Valtýsdóttir has taken her career in many new directions, composing for herself or others. Most recently, she won the 2020 Nordic Council Music Prize, and for good reason. Her soulful, at times ecstatic songs transport the listener to another dimension. Which is pretty fitting, considering the title of her latest single “Moonchild,” connection to the natural world, and water in the outcome of these choices. But I had a choice where to go. Now I live in many new directions, composing and executing ideas with, and I believe that resources will come when I find the stream for them to flow through.”

“Many times the road would split in two and I had a choice where to go. Now live in the outcome of these choices. But this song is about another outcome, which I didn’t take. Any creation is magic—everything we do and create is a thought-form moved into the physical, to me that is magic.”

No rest

An ever-growing and ever-evolving artist such as GYDA is never limited to doing things so much by myself and that it is just more fun to work with others. I’d like to find a manager or a partner in this business that being a musician is. I’d like to have creative collaborators to discuss and execute ideas with, and I believe that resources will come when I find the stream for them to flow through.”

Larger than life musician, farmer and a monarch Prins Póló wrote and performed the final song for the annual year-end Icelandic comedy show Áramítaskaupið and managed to piss people off! Well, Áramítaskaupið is always controversial in a silly way, and it appears that people on Twitter misconception his joke on social media what the hell young people had done for the future generations when it came to global warming.

Where Love Hides

Gysa Valtýsdóttir releases new music video
Words: Andie Fontaine

“I didn’t even try to find a name for this record, knowing it would reveal itself,” GYDA says. “When it did, loud and clear, I was quite surpried. I found it unpoetic, but then I started to see all the ways it made sense and the beauty of the world. Evolution comes in the first sentence of one of the songs on the album called ‘Moonchild.’ I find evolution so fascinating, both ornamenting of matter and the evolution of consciousness, as a collective and individually. I also like that the word Love hides in there. So yes and no, anyone can read what they want into it, it can have endless meanings because it came through me rather than from me.”

Music News
The annual Kraumur Award were announced in December, with 12 nominees being selected from a shortlist of 25 nominated albums. Among them were artists that readers of The Reykjavík Grapevine know well, like our former cover star, the Techno-god Bjarki, for his excellent album, Happy Earthday. The girl punk band, Örka also won, as did Kóla, who also won this year’s Reykjavík Grapevine music award in the You Should Have Heard This category.

Happy Hour
14-21

Happy Hour
14-21

Soulflow Comedy
Women & Queer
Open Mic Stand-Up
In English / 21.00 / Free Entry

Karaoke Party
21.00 / Free Entry

Every Monday

Every Tuesday

10/1
Búkalú - Variety Show
Debauchery, Burlesque, Variety, Comedy

11/1
Drag-Súgur Queer Variety Show
This Month: Musicals!

17/1 - 18/1:
Heldigarhald ’20 - Mini Festival:
Ottoman, Ceasetone, Alchemia

23/1
Drag-Súgur Drag Lab
Monthly Experimental Drag Show

26/1
Songwriter Night

WWW.GAUkurinn.is
Paladin, Alchemia & Ekholia

January 11th - 20:30 - Dillon - 1,700 ISK

Having finished their side quest, Paladin and Oskar hit Dillon to give you a chance to channel your inner dungeon master in public. This legendary quartet plays some of the best power metal out there, meaning that they sing about dragons, dungeons, epic quests, and other heroic things. They rocked the whole block when they played at Dillon during Iceland Airwaves, and if history is anything to go by, they’ll do it again on Saturday. This show is part of the Back to the Metal Roots concert series, which is a precursor to the Eistnaflug music festival in July. Joining Paladin is Alchemia and Metal Karaoke by Alcoholia. Bring your singing voice, and don’t forget to toss a coin to your witcher.

SPD

Dark Music Days: Svina - 23:00
Dark Music Days: Siggi String Quartet - 20:00

Wednesday January 15th

Don Lockwood Band - 21:00
Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlíus & Helga Margrét - 21:30
Panta & Sæta Svíni - 22:00

Thursday January 16th

Jónas & Leskur - 19:30
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Einhenda Koncerta Bartók - 19:30
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Open Rehearsal - 9:30

Friday January 17th

The Reykjavík Grapevine Music Awards 2020 - 21:00

Saturday January 18th

Racio - 24:00

Monday January 13th

Monday Night Jazz - 21:00

Tuesday January 14th

Our Picks

Paladin, Alchemia & Ekholia

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

Concerts & Nightlife

Friday January 10th

One Misère & Cesetome - 21:00 - Hard Rock Café
Niðnjókku - 20:30
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Viennese Favourites - 19:30

Saturday January 11th

Paladin / Alchemia & Ekholia - 20:30 - Dillon
Krossfest: I - DTY / Ísphá / Phlegm / 600x84I - 19:00
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Viennese Favourites - 16:00, 19:30
Niðnjókku - 20:30
Mikael Lund - 21:00
Miðstöði - 23:00

Sunday January 12th

Sunday Jazz - 20:00 - Bryggjan Bruggilus
Vinyl Sunday - 21:00
Niðnjókku - 20:30

Monday January 13th

Monday Night Jazz - 21:00

Tuesday January 14th

Karakonp/ - 21:00 - Sansúrinn
Jazz Night - 20:30 - Æx Hostel

Wednesday January 15th

Don Lockwood Band - 21:00
Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlíus & Helga Margrét - 21:30

Thursday January 16th

Thugs Need Hugs 2: Thugs Back 2 School - 22:00

Friday January 17th

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Saturday January 18th

Racio - 24:00

January 10th—February 6th

Our Picks

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Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Einhenda Koncerta Bartók - 19:30
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Open Rehearsal - 9:30

Friday January 17th

The Reykjavík Grapevine Music Awards 2020 - 21:00

Saturday January 18th

Racio - 24:00

The Reykjavík Grapevine

Issue 01— 2020

Friday January 31st

Benni Hemm Hemm - 20:00 - Tjarðarbóur
Dark Music Days: Tríka V - Young Composers - 12:00
Dark Music Days: The Young People - 18:00
Dark Music Days: Móðurkýri - 20:00
Dark Music Days: Hlíður & Friends - 19:00
Dark Music Days: Reykjavík Chamber Orchestra - 21:30

Sunday February 2nd

Classical Sundays: Brú Baroque Ensemble - 16:00
Sunday Jazz - 20:00 - Bryggjan Bruggilus

Monday February 3rd

Monday Night Jazz - 21:00

Tuesday February 4th

Karakonp/ - 21:00 - Sansúrinn
Jazz Night - 20:30 - Æx Hostel

Wednesday February 5th

Múlum Jazz Club: Jazz With A View - 20:00
Don Lockwood Band - 21:00 - Bryggjan Bruggilus
Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlíus & Helga Margrét - 21:30

Thursday February 6th

Gunnar Summarsson, Sigurur Hrossa-son, Móttur Chor and Hallgrímskirkja & Höður Áskelsson - 20:15 - Hallgrímskirkja

One of the leading figures in the 2000s Iceland music revolution, Benni Hemm Hemm’s joyful indie-pop has inspired everything from Mom to Rifl Árnadóttir to Prís Póll. Let’s put this in the way: Benni Hemm Hemm is here, and we’re just living on it.
Middle East and sticking both in a chasm, Shukri decided he’d make this his own brand, and promptly be- gan working on a line of t-shirts.

His most famous design feature a selfie of a group of women, each wearing a Niqab, above the Marc Jacobs logo. “These two different worlds that the West might not be used to. You know, Niqabi shoppers exist,” he emphasises.

“I started with this project that was basically bootlegging brands like Marc Jacobs and Nike and tak- ing issues that are related to the Middle East and sticking both in a juxtaposition,” he explains.

“I thought, something’s missing.”

To bridge the chasm, Shukri decided he’d make his own brand, and promptly be- gan working on a line of t-shirts. Enter tRASHY. “I started with this project that was basically bootlegging brands like Marc Jacobs and Nike and tak- ing issues that are related to the Middle East and sticking both in a juxtaposition,” he explains.

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Our Picks

• Chromo Sapiens
  a.k.a. Shoplifter, from her spectacular exhibition last summer at the Venice Biennale. Now the artist, who is known for her psycho-deliciously colourful ‘hairstyles’, is back in Reykjavik. For this new installation, pieces through three multi-sensory cave-like spaces full of neon stalactites, ethereal lights, and plants, the artist’s hair extension organ-isms if that’s not enough, Icelandic metal maver-icks HM created a soundscape for the exhibition, which will perform along with Reykjavik. Graspoppen’s 2020 live act Of The Sea Kaian Mikla at the opening on January 24th. Want to be bought online? RJK

• SMOKE
  January 14th - 19:00 – FREE
  Artists Thóra Ólafsdóttir, Árni and Árdy of Bear get together to explore Angantyr, documenting the small moments of our country. Say “Tervetuloa” to your sauna-loving artists to the east. Art, love, feel, four Finnish artists in attendance RJK

• Frostbiter Horror Film Festival
  January 31st
  Journey to Álreshofn for the spooky week-end and grizzly films. The fourth edition of the local horror festival will include short films, features, party screenings, and a pub quiz. Waring Prob-ably not the best time to pick up a horror flick. IP

• Beyond The Sea
  January 24th – April 5th – Nordic House
  Say “Tervetuloa” to your sauna-loving artists to the east. Art, love, feel, four Finnish artists in attendance RJK

January 10th—February 6th

Art Listings

Events are listed by venue. For complete listings and detailed information on venues, visit grapevine.is/happenings. Visit your listings: Sendings@grapevine.is

Opening

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY
– Yes, the exhibition is really called "...in it, photographer Valdimar Thorlacsus turned his lens on Icelan-dic towns with under 500 inhabit-ants and documented the small mo-ments of this country off ignored. • Opens on January 18th, 2020 • Runs until March 15th, 2020

GÍPSAÐUR KÓPAVOGUR ART MUSEUM
– ‘Imprint’ comprises works by seven contemporary artists who decon-struct the ideas of the photographs as a window on reality. Come explore the ambiguous nature of the pho-to, while also playing with the potential of the medium and push-ing the boundaries of it. • Opens on January 17th, 2020 • Runs until March 15th, 2020

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM – HAFNARFJÓRDUR STRUCTURE AND ORDER: DRAFT OF CONTEMPORARY ART HISTORY IN ICELAND
The exhibition is the fourth in a series of drafts of Icelandic contem-porary art history, based on works from the Reykjavik Art Museum’s collection. Works are selected and juxtaposed in a thematic context in an experiment to reflect art history as a real-time discipline. This one takes on the style of minimalism. • Opens on January 15th, 2020 • Runs until March 17th, 2020

D80 UMA BJÖRG MAGNÚSDÓTTIR: VANISH-
ING CROW
The U8 Gallery series invites up-and-coming local artists to host their first solo exhibition. This iteration features sculptor Uma Björn Magnúsdóttir, whose works are notorious for emitting sound. • Opens on January 16th, 2020 • Runs until March 15th, 2020

HAFNARFJÖRDUR

SILENT SPRING
Líja Bjorgsdóttir; Hetta Kissi, and Katrin Ýrðardóttir are a re-neglected environments at the brink of the loss due to climate change. It’s a series of newspaper cuttings designed to remind you of the beauty we still have on this earth. • Opens on January 18th, 2020 • Runs until March 15th, 2020

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY
TREASURES OF A NATION
A selection of over 80 works chosen from the national gallery’s collec-tion displays the evolution of art since the 19th century. • Opens on September 30th, 2020

SESLÖYJA
Come see this retrospective of Jóhanna Kristín Yngvadóttir (1953–1991), who made a splash in the Icelandic art scene in the early 90’s. Jóhanna Kristín’s express-ionist works were received with enthusiasm, and critics were united in their praise of the young artist, whose work was considered mature and refined. • Runs until January 26th, 2020

REYKJAVÍK MARITIME MUSEUM
FISH & FOLK
Flame a better duo than fish and Iceland. You can’t so come learn about this country’s main fisher-ies from row boats to monstrous trawlers. • Opens in 1969

MOLMÖY was a Dutch merchant ship that crashed near Flatey Island in the Faroe Islands. • Opens in 1996

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM – HAFNARHÓfs
ERIC’S WORLD TOUR
Between 1972 and 1880, Írro painted over 130 paintings, with two images of different origins against each other. Chinese propaganda posters of Mao Zedong and Western tourists pictures from famous sites. • Runs until February 9th, 2020

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF ICELAND
AMUNDSSAFN ÞÉÓR SVEINSSON: UNDER THE SAME SKY – ART IN PUBLIC SPACES
Ásmundur Sveinsson; Under the Same Sky – Art in Public Spaces Þéórsafns is named after sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson. This new permanent exhibition presents the artist in a new light. What dialogue does he now provoke? • Runs until February 16th, 2020

ÓLÓF NORDAL: ÓLÓF NORDAL
Ólóf Nordal was a Dutch merchant ship that crashed near Flatey Island in the Faroe Islands. • Opened in 1996

JÓN EINARJSÓN
Permanent Exhibition
The museum contains close to 300 artworks including a beautiful garden with 26 bronze casts of the artist’s sculptures. • Runs until March 1st, 2020

REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM
SETTLEMENT EXHIBITION
As Viking runes meet digital technol-oagy, this exhibition provides insights into Iceland’s farms at the time of the first settlers. • Runs until March 1st, 2020

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM – AMUNDSSAFN
JÆGUR SVERNSSON: VORANGA – ART IN PUBLIC SPACES
Amundssafns is named after sculptor Þéórsafns. This new permanent exhibition presents the artist in a new light. What dialogue does he now provoke? • Runs until February 16th, 2020

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NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF ICELAND
AMUNDSSAFN: ÁSÍN
Around 1800, Englishman Pika Ward was a well-known figure in Iceland. He was a bit of an amateur pho-tographer, focusing on everyday life. Here, we see over 1,500 photos and 300 paintings from Mika’s travels around the country. • Runs until January 12th, 2020

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY
REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM – KÁRVALÓTTADÓTTIR
JOHANNES J. KÖRNILSSON: CAN’T DRAW A HARENBOL
Here, explore the floral works of Johannes Jónsson. Entry into the exhibition is named as it is. Be it ornamental plants, potted plants, or wildflowers, you’ll find it all. • Runs until February 18th, 2020

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY
ÈRRÓ: MAO’S WORLD TOUR
In 1999, artist Úlfur Elíasson documented several dozen glaciers in Iceland. Three years later he returned to photograph them again. This new photographic series brings together images from 1999 and 2020 to reveal the radical threat to our earth. • Runs until January 26th, 2020

HAFNARBORG

Silent Spring
Líja Bjorgsdóttir; Hetta Kissi, and Katrin Ýrðardóttir are a neglected environments at the brink of the loss due to climate change. It’s a series of newspaper cuttings designed to remind you of the beauty we still have on this earth. • Opens on January 18th, 2020 • Runs until March 15th, 2020
The Ni/g.althtmare  
Before 
And Durin/g.alt 
Christmas
Director Rúnar Rúnarsson surprises with ‘Echo’ 
Words: Valur ... 530 2200
 @icelandnationalmuseum
  @thjodminjasafn
WELCOMETO THENATIONAL MUSEUMOF ICELAND

The glacier melt series 1999/2019

The National Museum of Iceland
WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

Filmscreening at Háskólabíó, but not yet with English subtitles.
One of the first scenes in ‘Echo’ seems rather familiar in the context of Icelandic cinema. Man returns to the farm he grew up on, but now as a representative of the city. Instead of moving back into the old family abode, he sets it on fire, intending to import prefabricated housing to build a guesthouse. He also offers to buy eggs from the neighbour for money, disrupting the barter system of the locals. And yet, things seem a bit too strong, almost paradox. It soon becomes clear this is a rather different kind of film.

Drunks play Matador
Instead of following the fate of small-town folk, we soon return to Reykjavik. Polish workers are cheated of their wages. A mother proudly looks on as her daughter practices dance moves. We then see a parade of fitness contestants. Drunks play Matador (Monopoly) and haggle over down payments on housing no one can afford. Characters are introduced and then never appear again. This is probably a first in Iceland—an episodic film. Echoes (pun intended) of Roy Andersson abound, who in recent films has explored the drab downside of the Swedish social-democratic paradise. But Rúnarsson’s third film can perhaps be said to have more bite. After introducing some of those worst off in Icelandic society, we peek into other segments. There are no clear winners in late-capitalist Iceland. There are no easy villains. A bishop would support their cause if ever change unless someone says something, though it is not clear the ranting has improved society very much.

It’s like Home Alone, except Kevin just feels alone in a room full of people.

Deserves to be seen
At 79 minutes, ‘Echo’ does not overstay its welcome, and the ending is nothing short of masterful. The day after the party, and the first baby of the year is born, as depicted with footage from a real live birth. One cannot help but feel sorry for the poor child with all this in store. One cannot help but feel sorry for the poor child with all this in store.

"A seemingly well-off man drinks expensive wine with his TV dinner alone on Christmas Eve while looking at his phone."

‘Echo’ is an admirable antidote to the common perception of Iceland as a nature-loving utopia. There is perhaps nothing more Icelandic than the pre-Christmas, hyper-consumerist rush, which is then followed by maniac overindulging that everyone is supposed to enjoy but few probably do. Two men argue over the merits of the Minister of Finance, one storming out with his minuscule party hat still on, ranting that nothing will ever change unless someone says something, though it is not clear the ranting has improved society very much.

In a way, this can be seen as a companion piece to Ísold Uggadótir’s excellent ‘And Breathe Normally!’ but whereas that allowed us to capture society by zooming in on two women, one local, the other immigrant, Rúnar goes for a more panoramic view. We also get a glimpse here of refugees being deported after seeking shelter in a church, although the idea that the bishop would support their cause is one of Rúnar’s most cruel jokes.

The most traumatic two weeks in the Icelandic calendar: the last two weeks of the year leading up to Christmas and New Years. A geothermal hothouse farmer begs for an extension of his overdraft so that he can give his children a happy Christmas but is turned down. An elderly woman takes her grandson to the graveyard and tells him this is where everyone goes in the end.

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‘Echo’ won’t be to everyone’s taste, but it deserves to be seen.
Various Events

Friday January 10th
Búkalú Burlesque Show
21:00 Gaukurinn
'Step Up 2: The Streets' Party Screening
20:00 Bíó Paradís
Not So Secret Friday Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Saturday January 11th
Drag-Súgur: The Musical
21:30 Gaukurinn

Sunday January 12th
Black Sundays: 'Dead Ringers'
20:00 Bíó Paradís
Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
21:00 Sæta Svíni

Monday January 13th
Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy
21:00 Gaukurinn

Tuesday January 14th
SMOKE: Book Launch
19:00 Iðnó
Drink & Draw
21:00 Prikið
Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!
21:00 Fjallkonan
Funniest Four: Comedy Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Wednesday January 15th
'The Laxá Farmers' Screening
20:00 Bíó Paradís
Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Thursday January 16th
My Voices Have Tourettes
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Friday January 17th
'Cry-Baby' Party Screening
20:00 Bíó Paradís
Not So Secret Friday Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Saturday January 18th
Saturday Night Showcase
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Sunday January 19th
Black Sundays: 'Jacob’s Ladder'
20:00 Bíó Paradís
Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
21:00 Sæta Svíni

Monday January 20th
Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy
21:00 Gaukurinn

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

Wednesday January 22nd
Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Thursday January 23rd
'The Bees Knees Drag Lab
21:30 Gaukurinn
My Voices Have Tourettes
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Friday January 24th
'Grease' Party Screening
20:00 Bíó Paradís
Not So Secret Friday Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Saturday January 25th
'Amélie' 20th Anniversary Screening
20:00 Bíó Paradís
Saturday Night Showcase
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Sunday January 26th
Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
21:00 Sæta Svíni
Black Sundays: 'The Friends Of Eddie Coyle'
20:00 Bíó Paradís

Monday January 27th
Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy
21:00 Gaukurinn

Tuesday January 28th
Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!
21:00 Fjallkonan
Funniest Four: Comedy Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Wednesday January 29th
Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Thursday January 30th
My Voices Have Tourettes
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Friday January 31st
'Sister Act 2' Party Screening
20:00 Bíó Paradís
Not So Secret Friday Show
21:00 The Secret Cellar

Saturday February 1st
Saturday Night Showcase
21:00 The Secret Cellar

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- Followed by 7 delicious tapas
  - Smoked puffin with blueberry "brennivín" sauce
  - Icelandic Arctic Charr with peppers-salsa
  - Lobster tails baked in garlic
  - Pan-fried line caught blue ling with lobster sauce
  - Icelandic lamb with beer-butterscotch sauce
  - Minke Whale with cranberry & malt sauce
  - And for dessert
    - White chocolate "Skyr" mousse with passion coulis

8,990 kr.

LATE NIGHT DINING
Our kitchen is open until 23:30 on weekdays and 01:00 on weekends
Making Of An Artist

Agatha P.—yes, it’s pronounced like you’d think, and yes, it’s genius—is one of Iceland’s most beloved drag queens. Created by the lovely dancer Ásgeir Helgi Magnússon, Agatha is a kooky, silly, sexy, and oddly flexible character known for her bizarre sense of humour and contemporary dance skills. But hold up: Agatha is no bimbo, she’s also a regular correspondent for the Stóru Málin and co-created the hit show ‘Memoirs Of A Valkyrie,’ which will have its final performance at Tjarnarbíó on January 10th. Here’s what makes Agatha...well...P.

Valkyrie-Va-Voom

Swing from the chandeliers with drag queen Agatha P.

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen & Agatha P. Photo: Art Bionick

“If Elsa can make it snow with her frozen fingers, I must be able to find ways to do it, too.”

Sia

There is something so incredibly magical in Sia’s music. And her voice! OMG, she sings in a frequency that stirs everything up inside of me—her music inspires, drives and turns on the waterworks. Waterproof mascara recommended. I also love the fact that she places a young contemporary dancer in the foreground of all her performances. Malleé Ziegler embodies Sia’s music in such a raw, poetic way. I get goosebumps just thinking about it.

Vala Matt

Vala Matt is a national treasure. I grew up watching her on Stöð 2 and I’ve always had great admiration and respect for her. She is creative, chic, very glamorous, and on the screen she always comes across as a lively yet incredibly warm person who shows so much interest in people and their stories. She was a huge inspiration for me when I created my on-screen character, serious anchorwoman Agatha P.

Makeup

I can watch makeup tutorials for days and one of my all-time favourite beauty vloggers is NikkieTutorials. She’s a Dutch girl bursting with energy and love for makeup, plus she is just so damn likeable. I love trying out new things in makeup but I find myself drawn to bright colours that pop out, sparkles, and GLITTER. My favourite brand by far is Sugarpill. They make high pigmented colourful palettes that are cruelty-free and the majority of their products are vegan.

Cartoons

I have a very vivid imagination and I love seeking inspiration from cartoons. The animated world is such an amazing place without boundaries. The imagination gets to run free and challenge the laws of nature. I always strive ways to take this into performances and push the boundaries of what is “doable” on stage. If Elsa can make it snow with her frozen fingers, I must be able to find ways to do it too.

Contemporary Dance

Contemporary Dance is objectively the best form of dance and definitely a life-changing factor for me. Being a professional dancer is maybe somewhat of a poorly paid profession but it’s a rich and fulfilling lifestyle. I’ve toured the world, worked with amazing artists, and made beautiful life-long friendships. One of my wonderful friends from dance even ventured on the journey into the world of drag with me.

Wagner ‘Valkyries’

I love opera! It combines everything I adore. Glamorous divas, over-the-top makeup and costumes, and beautifully overacted melodrama. I have a freakishly soft spot for the theatrical and my adoration of this art form brought me to create a drag theatre performance based on Wagner’s Valkyries. Four drag queens in full armour riding on inflatable horses—what could go wrong? Come see us in Tjarnarbíó on January 10th. #shamelessplug

The best of Icelandic produce with a nod to Japan and South America. Modern Icelandic flavours, share plates and award winning cocktails.
**Cheap Food**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Bar</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Every day from 16:00 to 19:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer 800 ISK, Wine 900 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aþþen</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Every day from 15:00 to 18:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer 695 ISK, Wine 745 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beer Garden</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Every day from 15:00 to 19:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer 800 ISK, Wine 970 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Big paradósi</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Every day from 17:00 to 19:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer 800 ISK, Wine 970 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Birko</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Every day from 11:00 to 20:00</td>
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<td>Beer 700 ISK, Wine 970 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bryggjan</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Every day from 15:00 to 19:00</td>
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<td>Beer 700 ISK, Wine 1,050 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Café Babam</strong></td>
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<td>Every day from 19:00 to 21:00</td>
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<td>Beer 800 ISK, Wine 795 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Doilón</strong></td>
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<td>Every day from 14:00 to 19:00</td>
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<td>Beer 800 ISK, Wine 850 ISK.</td>
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<td><strong>Forrestábarinn</strong></td>
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<td>Beer 750 ISK, Wine 750 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gaukurrin</strong></td>
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<td>Every day from 14:00 to 21:00</td>
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<td>Beer 800 ISK, Wine 750 ISK.</td>
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<td><strong>GerðisMart</strong></td>
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<td>Beer 500 ISK, Wine 800 ISK.</td>
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<td><strong>Gesi</strong></td>
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<td>Beer 800 ISK, Wine 800 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kálfuborg</strong></td>
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<td>Beer 750 ISK, Wine 750 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kafé Barn</strong></td>
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<td>Every day from 16:00 to 18:00</td>
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<td>Beer 700 ISK, Wine 700 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kafið</strong></td>
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<td>Every day from 16:00 to 19:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer 800 ISK, Wine 850 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kex Hostel</strong></td>
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<td>Every day from 15:00 to 19:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer 750 ISK, Wine 750 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lift</strong></td>
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<td>Every day from 16:00 to 20:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer 800 ISK, Wine 650 ISK.</td>
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<td><strong>Máni</strong></td>
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<td>Every day from 15:00 to 20:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer 800 ISK, Wine 800 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pablo Discobar</strong></td>
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<td>Every day from 17:00 to 18:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer 700 ISK, Wine 1,000 ISK.</td>
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<td><strong>Selkirk Bar</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer 800 ISK, Wine 700 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spáni</strong></td>
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<td>Every day from 16:00 to 20:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beer 800 ISK, Wine 800 ISK.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supurbarn</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Every day from 15:00 to 18:00</td>
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**Main sponsors:**

- **Kaldi**
  - Every day from 16:00 to 20:00
  - Beer 800 ISK, Wine 750 ISK.
- **Bíó Paradósi**
  - Every day from 17:00 to 18:00
  - Beer 900 ISK, Wine 890 ISK.
- **Kafið**
  - Every day from 16:00 to 19:00
  - Beer 495 ISK.
- **Kaffibarinn**
  - Every day from 15:00 to 20:00.
  - Beer 710 ISK, Wine (On Wed.) 700 ISK.
- **Kaffibærinn**
  - Every day from 16:00 to 20:00.
  - Beer 550 ISK, Wine 750 ISK.
- **Kaldi**
  - Every day from 16:00 to 19:00
  - Beer 850 ISK, Wine 850 ISK.
- **Kex Hostel**
  - Every day from 15:00 to 19:00
  - Beer 750 ISK, Wine 750 ISK.
- **Loft**
  - Every day from 16:00 to 20:00
  - Beer 800 ISK, Wine 800 ISK.
- **Maxbar**
  - Every day from 16:00 to 19:00.
  - Beer 600 ISK, Wine 650 ISK.
- **Müni**
  - Every day from 15:00 to 20:00.
  - Beer 500 ISK, Wine 800 ISK.
- **Pablo Discobar**
  - Every day from 17:00 to 18:00.
  - Beer 700 ISK, Wine 1,000 ISK.
- **Selkirk Bar**
  - Every day from 16:00 to 18:00.
  - Beer 700 ISK, Wine 700 ISK.
- **Spáni**
  - Every day from 16:00 to 19:00.
  - Beer 850 ISK, Wine 850 ISK.
- **Supurbarn**
  - Every day from 15:00 to 18:00.

Get the complete Happy Hour listings! Download our free Appy Hour app in the Apple and Android stores.
Fjallkonan is a new lively restaurant & pub in the heart of Reykjavík offering a selection of Icelandic and international dishes from local ingredients.

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

**Icelandic Delicacies**

**LAMB & FLATBREAD**
- Slow cooked lamb, traditional Icelandic flatbread from the Westfords, carrot purée, pickled red onions, horseradish sauce

**ARCTIC CHARR & BLINI**
- Lightly cured arctic char, chickpea blini, horseradish sauce, ris, crispy lentils, yuzu-wildflower dressing

**ICELANDIC PLATTER**
- Pork belly, lamb, fish, seafood, traditional Icelandic flatbread, homemade butter, herbs
- Lamb tartar, chive mayo

**Puffin, crowberry gel**

### Must try dishes

**Arctic Char & Blini**

**Lamb & Flatbread**

**Happy Hour 15-17 every day**

**Books**

**Reading Too Much Into The Icelandic Literary Prize Nominees**

... and who we think will win

Words: Valur Gretisdóttir Photo: Adobe Stock

The Icelandic Book Prize winners will be announced in late January.

It’s that time of the year, when writers and scholars fight to the deaths—in the poetic sense, of course. Yes, the nominees for the Icelandic Book Prize have been announced, including 15 authors in three categories, who will now compete for the prestigious honour and a one million ISK cash prize.

The Reykjavík Grapevine parsed the nominees to predict what is likely to win and determine what we think actually should win.

**The poetry possibility**

First off, when looking at the Icelandic literary scene this year, one quickly notices one important detail: There have never been as many poetry books published in Iceland.

That said, there is only one poetry book nominated on the list in the Novel category, which is ‘Dimmumör’ by Steinn Sigurðardóttir, a veteran writer who also won the prize in 1995 with her novel ‘Hjartastadur’ (‘Where the Heart Is’). She is a strong contestant and could win again as a representative of the poetry scene, although the statistics are not on her side when it comes to an author winning the award more than once. Only two writers have achieved that feat since 1989.

Bragi could win...

But there are notable heavyweight champions in the Novel category. Bragi Ólafsson has a book in the race called ‘Staða punsins’ (‘Staða of the Pound’). The book is, like most of Bragi’s novels, a little bit incoherent and slow, but brilliant in its own unique style. Bragi is very well respected, but has never won the prize. Our money is on him.

That said, our heart is with Bergþora Snaðbjörnsdóttir. She is relatively new in the scene, having released her first poetry book last year, ‘Fjölsáldöngur’ (‘Florida-Poems’), which was nominated but didn’t win. Her new book, a novel called ‘Vinsinsblóð’ (‘Pig’s Head’), is a unique tale of immigrants experiencing the harshness of Icelandic culture and weather.

But hold on

There are two more writers in the race, both brilliant. First off, Guðrún Evi Mínervudóttir is nominated for her short story collection ‘Ábersfi til þess að lifa af’ (‘Methods of surviving’). Guðrún Evi is just other-worldly when it comes to writing, having gone from magical realism to just odd realism. She’s one of those writers that makes you feel like you’ve been touched by something special.

As well, Sólvi Björn Sigurðsson is nominated for his novel ‘Selta — Apókrýfa úr ævi landlæknis’ (I feel truly sorry for the brave soul who will try to translate this title, but the first word would be ‘Sailinity’).

### If that helps. Both of these writers are incredibly capable, but to be blunt, the buzz is not there. That said, anything could happen.

**The first immigrant to win?**

What’s really enjoyable about the book prize is that it has a special category for children’s books. Five writers are nominated in the category, one of whom, Hildur Knutsdóttir, has won the prize before. She is now nominated for her young adult novel ‘Normin’ (‘The Witch’). The buzz, however, is around Lani Yamamoto’s book, ‘Egill spármaður’ (‘Egill The Prophet’). Lani’s nomination is unique in the sense that she doesn’t speak Icelandic, or, at least, not in interviews. So if she wins, she will be the first immigrant to claim the prize. Our money, as well as our heart, is with Lani, and it’s truly refreshing to have a voice like hers in the race.

**The nightmare group**

Now to the heavy stuff. Five writers are nominated in the non-fiction category. In this group, we have a former member of parliament, Ólafur Páll Pávar Bardarson, who wrote about the history of ancient medicine in Iceland. We also have a veteran cultural journalist and director, Páll Baldwin Baldvinsson, who wrote about Iceland’s history of fishing herring.

Icelanders are suckers for fish, as you probably know, so we’d put our money on this book.

That said, there has been a lot of buzz about the biography of the legendary writer Jakobina Sigurrósardóttir, which was written by her own daughter, Sigurrúr Kristín Pogarúnsdóttir.

If we had to choose between two nominations and flip a coin for it, we would say Jakobina or the herring history.

Well, there you have it, all of the nominees. The award ceremony will be held at the presidential residence Bessastaðir at the end of January. We don’t take bets, but if you win some small fortune based on our insights, please donate 30% of the winnings to the Grapevine. If you lose, please don’t mention our part in it.
FANCIES is where we talk to Reykjavík’s most fashion-forward figures about style.

Sand Shark

Sand Shark (22) is a fashion student, cosplayer and costume-enthusiast.

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen  Photo: Art Bicnick

Sand Shark is wearing:
- Tiny purple glitter top
- Fluffy jacket from Dolls Kill
- Skirt from TopShop
- Shoes from Dolls Kill
- The patch is from a con. It has Marina and The Diamonds lyrics on it.

Describe your style in five words:
Colourful, glittery thot. That’s it.

Favourite stores in Reykjavík:
It depends on the time of year. For example, I really enjoy that glitter-clothes become more popular around Christmas. I have really been liking the stuff at Zara and Júník right now because it’s all so sparkly. But there’s not a lot of stores here that sell the type of clothing that I really love. But I do love—when I go dark—Rokk & Rømantik.

Favourite piece:
This pink furry jacket, and also my glitter shoes. Glitter is my love. Just pour some glitter on me and I’m good.

Something you would never wear:
That’s a hard one. The colour yellow I don’t really like on me. I’ve seen other people pull it off, though. You know that Icelandic fashion mustard colour? No. Not gonna happen.

Lusting after:
Right now, what I’m focusing all my energy into is getting my degree because I really want to go to school in the U.K. to become a costume technician. Making costumes and making dresses is where my passion lies. But I’m also lusting after biodegradable glitter to be easily accessible here.

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen  Photo: Art Bicnick

Sand Shark (22) is a fashion student, cosplayer and costume-enthusiast.
I walk into the womb-like vestibule of Dill, still smelling faintly of tar and paint, with just enough lighting to help my eyes adjust to the dark interiors. The light grows as I walk up the stairs and so does my anticipation.

Dill 3.0 has only been open a few weeks. We normally do not review restaurants this early, but this is chef Gunnar Karl, and when he tells you that he is planning to turn the restaurant-ingredients-techniques for the very svelte one-bite sized designed to leave one longing for more.

Dill 3.0 rattles fine dining norms. And that it does, with aplomb. Beyond tasting menus

A stream of demure and verdant local veggies arrives next. Mâche like raw rutabaga becomes more than the sum of its parts with its co-r Pfalzflascher than the quenelle of cod that pre- ceded it. The dry 2017 Chenin Blanc from Garo Vín is an arresting accompaniment, but the cod centres are so textbook I find myself longing for some guts and glory.

The goose breast with pickled crowberries reminds me that this is what the goose likely ate sans the copious pipple of seaweed butter of course. The punch is delivered with the intensely savoury goose leg broth, every sip studded with a brinose of pickled root vegetables.

As I look back, however, it is the humble griddle-cooked potato flatbread I am thinking about. Nos- talgia is a powerful ingredient in curating one that Dill has long cooked and one that Bull has long teased. Here the bread with smoked cream cheese and hand harvested salt is a reminder of flastkaka and smoked meats traditionally eaten in Iceland, with neither of the two components actually being served.

Dill 3.0 cleverly curates an entire experience, be it the absence of branding except for subtle flourish-es in the letterpress menu cards, the cutlery jar instead of place settings and the eclectic playlist. Even as the signature snacks arrive in rapid succession—a teeny disc of cod chip dotted with prunes, a thimble of ‘kitchen scrap’ consommé is a mouthful of deep dashi-like intense- ty, and the goose offal pate is like swallowing a Christmas bauble in the best possible way. Ruby red beets and really rattle fine dining norms.

For some guts and glory.

Dill 3.0 cleverly curates an entire experience, be it the absence of branding except for subtle flourish-es in the letterpress menu cards, the cutlery jar instead of place settings and the eclectic playlist. Even as the winning wine and dinner service are boshened by precision food, it is all designed to put you at ease, and really rattle fine dining norms. And that it does, with aplomb.
Cupcakes on Ferris wheels, smoke-filled bubbles on cocktails, duck leg pancake towers in birdcages—Fjallkonan is big on whimsy and not shy about it.

Located at the historic at Hafnarstræti 1-3, the duck leg bird cages serve as a sly call-back to the building’s history. Originally the site of “Fálkahúsið” (The Falcon House) which was used to store locally-captured falcons for the Danish king during the latter half of the 18th century. The original building was torn down in 1868, and between 1880 and 1907 the house was expanded. Two floors were gradually added and ultimately the city stuck a couple of wooden falcons to the ridge of the roof in memory of the halcyon days of colonial bird prisons. The structure remained essentially the same until it was officially given protected status in 1991.

The 2000s saw the location play host to a rotation of bars, cafés, and restaurants such as Café Victor, Uno, Balthazar, Rustik, and Gali
teleó. Curiously, all of them featured a Mediterranean or Icelandic theme or some combination thereof and Fjallkonan seems set to continue that theme with added pizzazz (no pizzas, though).

Lady of the mountain
Fjallkonan opened in June 2020, with the most Icelandic name possible (“Lady of the Mountain” being the literal female personification of the nation), and backed by the same team of restaurateurs that own next door’s gastropub Sæta Svíni as well as sharing owners with perennial local favourites Apótek, Tapasbarinn and Sushi Social.

As with the other restaurants on their roster, the menu at Fjallkonan is extensive and features a wide array of ingredients. The price bracket would land them in high-end dining but it’s a relaxed fit atmosphere and the portions are quite generous. A couple of “small courses” may well be enough for a date night (especially if you’re hoping the date goes well and don’t want to feel like a human bouncy castle).

Shift of focus
Initially, the cuisine of Fjallkonan complemented the patriotic name, with a reasonably strong focus on Icelandic techniques and ingredients, but it has gradually moved to include more inspiration from Mediterranean and Middle-Eastern cuisines. This amalgamation of influences is well represented by the presence of “skyttahul” in several dishes or by employing savoury Icelandic crepes for the hoisin duck wraps.

Vegans and vegetarians are well served with dishes like BBQ mushroom “ribs” and yuzu-glazed beets with whipped feta cheese (the second being a particular stand-out).

Deconstructed desserts
The atmosphere is lively on weekends, with groups of locals and tourists of all ages plonking down to quaff bright cocktails and stuff themselves with deconstructed desserts influenced by classic Icelandic candies before disappearing into the Reykjavík night to plow through the sleet.

The inclusion of one of the city’s largest outdoor seating areas meant that Fjallkonan has been quick to establish itself during one of Iceland’s warmest summers on record and it isn’t showing any signs of letting up.
Standing in a heated, pine-panelled room, putting off changing into my swimsuit to bathe in the outdoor hot-pot Giljaböð, I began to question all decisions that brought me to this exact point in life. The temperature outside was -6° Celsius. My coat hung on a hook fashioned from an old horseshoe, and my bag rested on a bench topped with a goat hide. Outside the changing room, a series of rugged cliffs carved out a canyon, covered in fresh snow and bisected by a shallow river. We were alone in the canyon and as soon as I joined her in the warm waters of Giljaböð, all doubts, worries, and regrets melted along with the chill in my bones as we popped open the champagne.

A long-awaited journey

In order to make the hike over to the cliffs’ edge and down a slippery set of stairs, Harpa and I donned slip-resistant shoe-covers. The weather had caused our journey to be postponed more than once, and our faces were pummeled with falling snow as we made the trek; we wondered if perhaps we should have stayed home. But we were determined, as we had an anniversary to celebrate.

Bearing this in mind, I took a deep breath, pulled on my swim trunks, braced myself and confidently approached the door. The counterweight that kept the door shut lowered as I opened it, and the whipping wind and snow greeted me eagerly, stinging every bit of exposed flesh. I sprinted to the pool where my wife, clearly the braver half of our partnership, was already waiting.

We were alone in the canyon and more than once, and our faces were bisected by the snow, I ran past the snowy path to the rustic facilities. The storm last night had cleared the snowy path to the rustic facilities. The storm last night had blocked the way for two overeager lovebirds. Honesty, I couldn’t blame him.

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Dicks, Solariums And A Goldfish

Words: Sveinbjörn Palsson
Photo: Jóh Kjartans

Got a problem that needs solving, a burning issue that needs addressing, a matter that needs settling, or a thorn for awesome life advice? We at the Grapevine are here to help.

I’m haunted by the phrase “don’t be a dick,” as I am truly a “prick,” person-wise. Do I get points for being the best “knob” that I can be, within the framework of a life lead as a natural “plonker”?

- H. Sigurðsson (Freelance, Reykjavík)

No. Tactlessness can be ascribed to both kinds of hot air can be exchanged freely, with pleasure.

When did visiting solariums stop being cool?

- Anonymous (DJ, Reykjavík)

1996. This has nothing to do with relative age, the fact that I turned 17 that year is an absolute coincidence.

In getting a goldfish morally defensible?

- J. Flygenring (Artist, Reykjavík)

According to veganism, no. All exploitation of animals is off the table. If you want a lively pet-something, your option is one of those fly-eating plants, or getting a Tamagotchi off Bland.is.

Concepts breaks down your upcoming weeks based on garbage datapoints like your time of birth.

In HorrorScopes, the Grapevine’s dedicated team of amateur astrologists breaks down your upcoming weeks based on garbage datapoints like your time of birth.

Aries

The Law Of Attraction states that if you send positive vibes out to the universe, the universe will respond in kind with blessings. We’re SURE this will cure your eczema.

Taurus

Stay the fuck away from the Golden Circle.

Gemini

Mae West might be most well known for her raunchy double entendres, but she was also arrested for obscenity charges relating to her 1937 play ‘Sex.’ West knew the police were coming so she put on some lipstick and surround-ed herself with drag queens. The subsequent paparazzi photos went ‘1920s viral.’ Tragedy will strike in 2020, Gemini, so you best turn it into publicity.

Cancer

Cancer, you are a strong, attractive, interesting, loving, and hysterical person. Stop texting your ex. He watches ‘The Big Bang Theory.’

Leo

So in 2019 you went vegan. In 2020, take the extra step and become ‘spiritual.’ Everyone loves a mandala tattoo.

Virgo

Nail-bitting is not a proper solution. Virgo, January is the month to bring out the pepper nail polish and pretend it works until you catch yourself enjoying the punishing taste while you try to hang on to the feeling that everything is under control. It’s not.

Libra

Henry VIII’s oft-forgotten Catholic wife, Anne of Cleves, somehow secured an amicable annulment from the notoriously unstable leader. She left the palace with a generous salary, two castles, and outfitted almost everyone involved with Henry’s crazy AF life. Let Anne be your guide for 2020. By that, we mean, never consummate a marriage.

Sagittarius

It’s time to reflect on the back pain that carrying a clown mask for all these years has put on you. Bury the clown, kick the clown, open up to the clown and be free.

Capricorn

Yes, Capricorn, everyone can tell you’ve been listening to too much Xanax rap even though you’re clearly not cool enough for that. You’re an accountant.

Aquarius

On New Year’s Eve you got trashed and shaved your head in the back alley of an underground club in Berlin…now what? Aquarius, no one is surprised.

Pisces

This is the year for bathroom breaks to stop crying breaks, Pisces.
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The Gateway to Iceland’s Most Active Volcanic Area

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Volcano & Earthquake Centre
Austurvegur 14, Hvolsvöllur, South Iceland
Thank you for so publicly displaying your hate in the form of a sizeable decal on your otherwise standard issue MacBook. Standing behind you in line, you spoke with such congeniality to the barista (who is most certainly not Nordic... why didn't you “resist” her?) that I contentedly sat with my oat milk latte and a warm feeling in my heart that I was sharing the space with another good and decent human being. Thank you for correcting me.

As 2020 kicks into gear, I am grateful for the opportunity to sip my morning coffee in close proximity to your hostile symbolism, as the experience has served to strengthen my resolve to spend this new year and every year thereafter doing what I can to combat your ideologies and build a society where you do not feel comfortable being so brazen in your hatred.

I resolve, among other things, to multiply my efforts to instill in my children a deep appreciation and love for people of every colour, creed, gender and ability and teach them that all people are welcome and worthy.

If I were a religious person, dear Nazi, I would pray for you. But instead I will keep you in mind as I spread love and acceptance. I will also hope that in this new year, for the sake of yourself, Icelandic society and the world at large, you will resolve to embrace and appreciate the differences of the people around you rather than continuing to harbour so much disdain in your heart.

Happy New Year. 😊