

REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

Cross-Eyed Hubbies

First: Learn 1 weird trick Icelandic to avoid this

Pagan Collusion

News: Nefarious foreign funding for ancient sect

Fight For Paradís

Art: Rent bubble forces Iceland's only art cinema closure

Ancient Caves

Travel: Beauty, mystery and secret carvings in Hella caves



BREAKING DOWN HATARI

In their first personal biggest BDSM groups drop

interviews, members of one of Iceland's EBM Neo-Goth Pogo-Dance Anti-Capitalist their masks and show their true selves.

Plus!

GIG GUIDE × **CITY MAP** × **TRAVEL IDEAS** × **FOOD**



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Anna Maggy
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MAKE-UP:
Atli Freyr Demantur

ABOUT THE COVER:
An intimate shoot on a stormy night out by the oil tanks in Grandi, Anna shot the band for an hour, and then spent quite a few days experimenting with ways to find interesting angles on distortion.



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First



EDITORIAL

Save Paradís



Bió Paradís proved that an art-house cinema can work in Iceland. But, in Reykjavík's cut-throat rental market, only the wildly profitable businesses survive. Moderate success goes bankrupt.

Bió Paradís was founded a decade ago in the footprint of Regnboginn (Rainbow), one of the oldest cinema houses in Iceland and a place that all Icelanders have some fond memories of. I saw 'Dances with Wolves' there when I was a kid, in a full auditorium. I also saw 'Pulp Fiction' there when I was a teenager, and later Baz Luhrman's 'Romeo + Juliet'. It closed in the early 00's, until Bió Paradís came along to bring the silver screen back to 101 Reykjavík.

Bió Paradís receives 20% of its funding (roughly 70 million ISK) from Reykjavík City, and they serviced some 60 thousand

guests last year. By comparison, 120 thousand people caught a show at the National Theatre in 2019 and it receives a whopping 700 million ISK annually from the state.

Funding aside, it's the owners of the building housing Bió Paradís, property investors Karl Mikli ehf., are raising the rent some 300% to 400% over the moderate rental price the cinema has been paying in accordance with an old lease agreement. The house is also in bad shape and it's time for an extensive renovation.

This is the technicality of things. This is why Reykjavík is losing its only art-house cinema. For us, who love cinema, this is a tragic moment for downtown culture. There are bigger cinemas in the suburbs, of course, and some of them are wildly successful, but they focus on mainstream blockbusters. But Bió Paradís, Icelanders didn't have much selection of movies outside Hollywood. Bió Paradís changed the scenery and proved

that not only do Icelanders want more diversity when it comes to cinema, they deeply appreciate it.

Everything stands or falls with political will when it comes to Bió Paradís. The cinema needs more money from taxpayers, though that, of course, is debatable.

But the city already funds a lot of cultural activities, like the great Tjarnarbíó, Borgar-leikhúsið, and much more. And they deserve praise for their goodwill. We at Reykjavík Grapevine consider Bió Paradís as one of the city's true gems. For us, it has a special place, because there you can find movies with English text, something you will not find anywhere else in Iceland. There you can also watch new Icelandic movies with English subtitles, and that's how they can touch even greater numbers of audience. This is important for the artists themselves.

This matters. It's important to us. Let's save this cultural gem.

VG 🇮🇸



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



Hannah Jane Cohen is based out of Iceland by way of New York. She's known for her love of Willa Ford, David Foster Wallace, and other such "intellectuals." Her visionary work is known for expanding the definitions of emotion, introspection, and above all else, taste. Hannah is also the current Drag King of Iceland, Hans.



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



Inês Pereira graduated in Journalism and immediately traded the warm coast of Portugal for the icy landscapes of South Iceland. From a young age she felt she would have to write to express herself, being that she was interested in everything and great at nothing.



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



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



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



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



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

Volcano & Earthquake Exhibition

Photo: Eyjafjallajökull Eruption 2010



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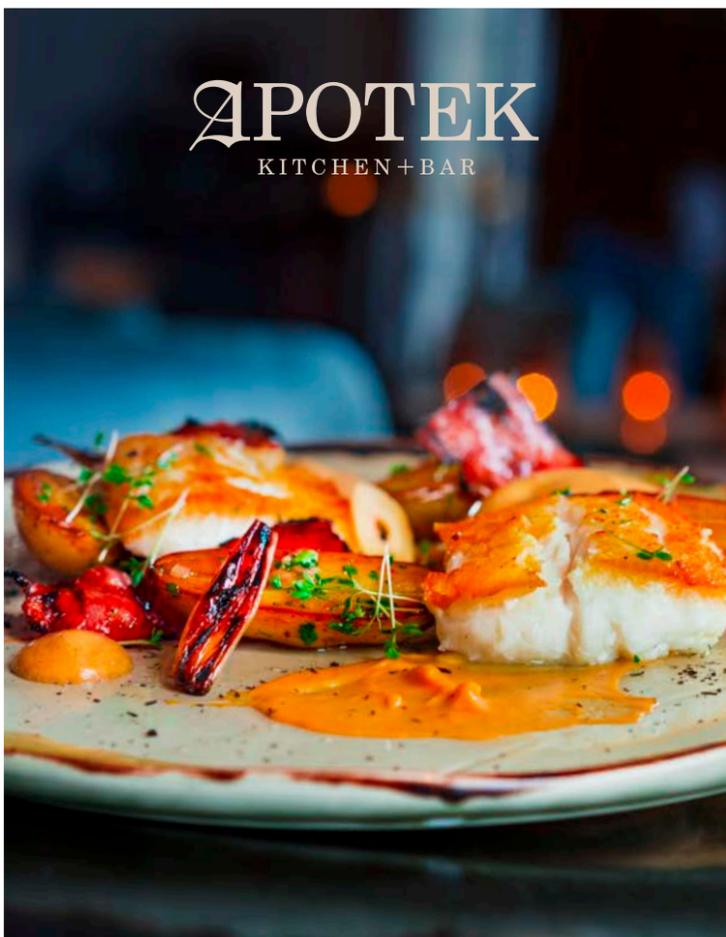
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Busy month for rescue workers

What Are Icelanders Talking About?

Avalanches, epidemics, bankruptcy and a whole lot of music awards

Words: Sam O'Donnell Photos: Art Bionick

NEWS January has been, for lack of a better term, insane. The month kicked off with a series of **extreme weather events**. First, massive piles of snow kept us inside. Then, an **avalanche hit Flateyri**, breaking records and destroying homes. Later, at the end of the month, **another avalanche occurred north of Reykjavík** at Móskaðshnúkar. One person died in the aftermath.

Then **news of the coronavirus** broke, scaring everyone in the world. It hasn't come to Iceland (yet) but that hasn't stopped people from freaking out. The Directorate of Health issued a list of frequently asked questions designed to allay the concerns of people worried about contracting the disease. Bear in mind that at this point you are more likely to die of influenza than coronavirus. That said, you should still cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze, and wash your hands. That's good manners.

A large percentage of **workers in the Efling union have voted to strike**. Approximately 1,800 people who work for the City of Reykjavík belong to the union, including 1,000 playschool workers and 710 caregivers. The union believes that the workers are long overdue for a wage correction. Unfortunately, negotiations with the city have broken down completely, and at the time of writing, the workers are still striking.

In business news, **Cintamani**

has gone bankrupt. The outdoor apparel outlet has operated in Iceland since 1989, originally from a small shop in Akureyri. Since then, they have grown to be a direct competitor to 66° North. Recently,

doors open. The cultural institution has fallen victim to the most notorious symptoms of late-stage capitalism: the rent is too damn high. The indie theatre is set to close in three months, unless a bunch of meddling kids step in and hatch a plan to save the cinema. Read more about it on **page 28**.

In lighter news, **awards season has been kind to Iceland**. Let's be real, though; Iceland deserves it. Between Hildur Guðnadóttir taking home a Grammy, an Emmy, a Golden Globe, and a BAFTA, Cell7 and Countess Malaise being nominated for Album of the Year by the



The only cinema in Iceland that does not focus on Hollywood blockbusters is closing

however, times have apparently been difficult, and the once giant outdoor apparel line has gone bust.

Along with Cintamani, **Bío Paradís** has announced that they **can no longer afford to keep their**

Hyundai Nordic Music Prize, and many Icelandic artists going on global tour, it's been a great year for music in this country, and it's only getting started. ✨



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Young Muhammed, who has never known anything else than Iceland, was recently spared due to public pressure

Child Born In Iceland Faces Deportation

The situation is hopeless if the law doesn't change

NEWS

Ali and Razia, a young couple from Afghanistan who had a baby in Iceland over Christmas, are now being expelled from the country, Kveikur at RÚV reports. The couple fled Afghanistan when Ali was 15, and the Taliban threatened to kill him if he did not join their ranks. After spending a year in Iran, they moved to the Greek island of Lesbos in 2016, where they were granted asylum.

Words: **Sam O'Donnell**

Photo: **RÚV**

The situation for refugees in Greece is bleak. Housing is sparse, and access to medical services is limited. When Razia became pregnant in early 2019, they decided to seek a better life for their baby. They moved to Iceland and

requested asylum here. Iceland's Directorate of Immigration, Útlendingastofnun (ÚTL), promptly rejected their request on the grounds that they had previously been granted asylum in Greece. They appealed the decision, but it was deemed final. The fact that their baby was born in Iceland didn't matter.

Similar song, different dance

The case of Ali and Razia isn't an exception for those seeking asylum in Iceland. Faisal and Niha Khan and their son Muhammed, faced a similar situation recently. They applied for asylum

in 2017 after fleeing Pakistan. In her home country, Niha was supposed to marry her much older cousin, but she fell in love with Faisal and eloped with him. Unfortunately, her cousin's influence and power gave her good reason to believe that her life would be in danger. But they didn't quite fit the strict guidelines for refugees from Pakistan. ÚTL is merciless in the application of the law (though not always to international child-welfare and refugee accords to which Iceland is signatory), so the family was denied.

A happy ending

Having befriended the Khans, the Grapevine's editor-in-chief, Valur Grettisson used his connections and influence to help them. Thousands of others rallied behind the family, signing a petition on change.org. Even with the petition and community support, it looked as though they would have to leave. At the last minute, however, Minister of Justice Áslaug Arna Sigurbjörnsdóttir passed legislation that said families with children who have been here more than sixteen months would be allowed to stay. This meant a happy ending for the Khans. Of course, this happy ending came with an overwhelming amount of publicity and support, which not every case receives.

The future

At this time, it appears as though the situation for Ali and Razia is not as positive. Until the law changes, countless other asylum seekers and refugees will face the same bleak circumstance. There has been a lot of political debate around how to solve this, and many politicians are trying to pass legislation to make it easier for refugees to seek asylum here.

ASK AN
Ethics Professor

Q: Why do Icelanders work from such a young age?

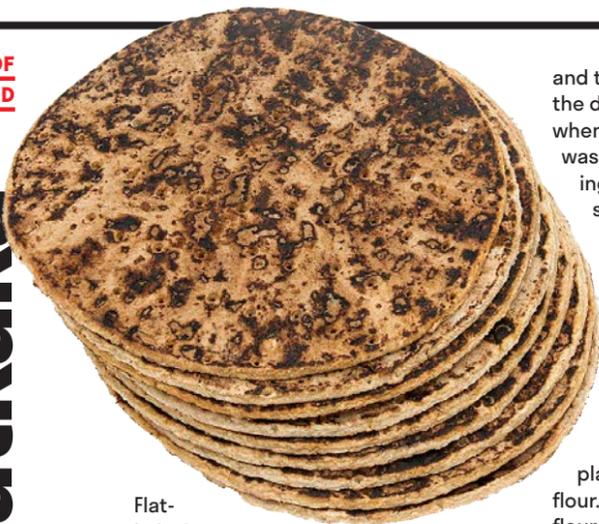


*It is inevitable to notice the teens and pre-teens working behind registers and on farms all over the country. We asked **Salvör Nordal, Director of Centre for Ethics at the University of Iceland, the origins of this.***

The idea of working hard is deeply rooted in Icelandic culture and it has been generally accepted that it is good for children to experience participating in the labour market from an early age. For centuries, while Iceland consisted mainly of farmers and fishermen, children started assisting their parents or the household at a very young age. Until rather recently, the school year was organized around farm work: it ended at the beginning of May so children could participate in lambing season and started again mid-September after the sheep gathering. Nowadays, children are encouraged to work during summer holidays and many children, especially those 15 years and older, work 1-2 days a week during the school year. It is however important that work does not interfere with their sleep, education and free time. The legislation regarding child labour is twofold: it aims at protecting children from participating in jobs that are dangerous for their well being or interfere with their education and their development and it aims at keeping their job participation within reasonable limits. It is furthermore important that special consideration is paid to children in collective wage agreements and that children are aware of their rights. Parents have supervisory responsibility for their children when they enter the labour market.

FOOD OF ICELAND

Flatkaka



Flatkaka is an unleavened rye flatbread. It is

made by mixing boiling water with flour

and then cooking the dough. Back when Iceland was first settled, ingredients such as grain were scarce, so moss was often used to supplement the flour. As time passed, moss was replaced with rye flour. Today, wheat flour is often used with the rye, with the final prod-

uct being a soft, round, thin, and dark. This efficient vehicle of flavour can be cooked in many ways, but the most traditional method is to place the dough directly over hot coals. Today, most people use a hot plate, and they cook it outside to avoid filling the house with smoke. Others use a pan specifically for cooking flatkaka, also outside, or at

least in a well-ventilated space like a garage.

Flatkaka may also be purchased in stores all over the country, but as with most foods, homemade is better. Either way, it is best to eat flatkaka with some sort of topping, with the most common being butter and hangikjöt. The smokiness of the hangikjöt perfectly complements the rye flavour of

the flatkaka, and the butter binds it all together in holy matrimony.

It is also possible to top flatkaka with cheese, lamb paté, and other savoury goodness. For a less traditional but still delicious flavour combination, try it with hummus, or peanut butter and bananas. **SPO**

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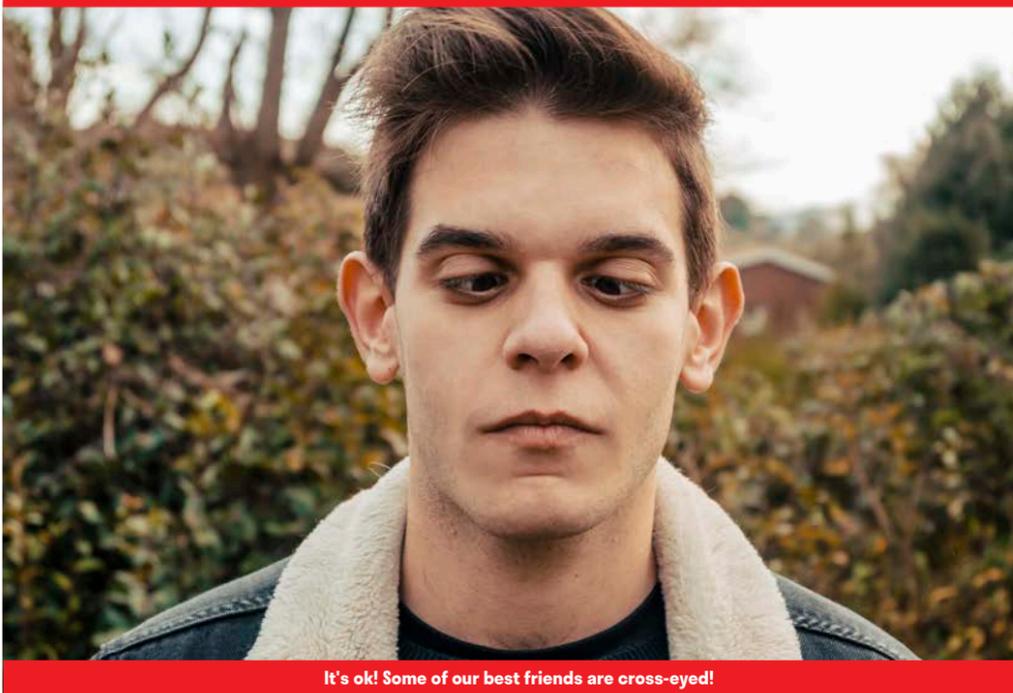


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It's ok! Some of our best friends are cross-eyed!

The Possibility Of A Cross-Eyed Husband

Realise your dreams with this one weird trick

ICELANDIC SUPERSTITIONS

Words: Valur Grettisson

Photo: Adobe Stock

Dinner tables are nothing less than a gamble about one's future and, in worst cases, harbingers of death. If you are really unlucky, your husband will turn crosseyed. So here are the do's and don'ts when it comes to the seemingly harmless daily routine of sitting at a dinner table.

The immense power of the dinner host

Among Iceland's dinner table superstitions is the belief that where and how you are seated will determine your future marital status. If an unmarried girl is seated between two brothers, she

"Now, if you're having a dinner party, and your frenemy is coming, here is your chance to mess with her."

won't get married for the next seven years. The same goes for the guys. The seven-year rule also applies if you're seated with a table leg between your knees. Some believe these seating arrangements won't necessarily stop someone from getting married, but their mother in law will be an absolute hag. So, choose your poison.

A Michelin-star level revenge

Now, if you're having a dinner party, and your frenemy is coming, here is your chance to mess with her. Make her sit at the end of the table. This means that her husband will go crosseyed and you can make fun of her forever. Revenge is a dish best served at the end of the table.

If, when the dinner is over, you find two knives laying together, forming a cross, prepare for a string of bad luck. If you drop a fork to the floor and it manages to pierce the wooden floor to stand up, it may seem cool at first, but it actually means that you will die soon.

So, be careful where and how you sit, and watch those forks! 🍴

JUST SAYINGS

"Sjaldan er ein báran stök"

The Icelandic saying "sjaldan er ein báran stök" literally means "there is seldom only one wave that breaks", but figuratively it's the equivalent of "when it rains, it pours." One of the great things about this phrase is that it can be applied to both good and bad situations (although more often than not, it usually has a negative connotation), so it can also function like "good things come in threes," only waves seldom come in threes, either. And if there are any people who understand the way waves work, it would be an island fishing nation. Try saying it the next time an Icelandic friend shares some bad news with you, just to show what a great friend you are. **ASF** 🍷

COMIC

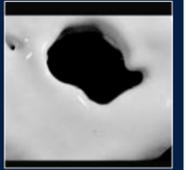


Bistro Boy - evolve
Bistro Boy is definitely our boy. He just released a new EP called 'evolve', and boy, has Bistro Boy done just what the title says. The album is beautiful ambient-fused electro with a lot of soul. He takes us from the wave of sorrow to an electro waltz and leaves us in the sunset dust. It's a wholesome album from a matured artist. **VG**



Kaleo - Break My Baby
Kaleo released two new songs in January, "I Want More" and "Break My Baby." The latter is classic Kaleo, with the definite riff, and the rough whisky voice of Jökull "the abs" Júlíusson. The song is solid rock and roll with strong blues vibes. If you like Kaleo, or abs, this is for you. **VG**

tune is not only easy to listen to, it's hard to stop. It starts sparsely, quietly, before the bass kicks in, and with it the melody. I found myself nodding along while working. Give it a spin. **SP0**



Vil - Hvor Drömmene
Okay Icelanders, don't get mad just yet. Yes the lyrics are in Danish and Vil are a Danish band, but they are here to give back to Iceland and run away from their own crown (...we're speaking for them here, no direct quotes). This project takes you on a beautiful trip through the insides of the human dreams, whatever form they may take. **IP**



Ramses - Legend i leiknum
Join the Faraó of Icelandic Rap in his musical trip through the ages to install the new musical empire. No pyramids or aliens, but a lot of headbanging and walking like an Egyptian. **IP**



Hatari - Engin Miskunn
We all know how everything will end. With the meteorite of leather-clad-BDSM-posthumous-laughter of Hatari. So buckle up, listen to this song, and scream No Mercy if you can't repeat the Icelandic lyrics. Doomsday is near. Just don't forget your leather thong for when the Mad-Max era is upon us. **VG**



JFDR - Shimmer
This song moves through your veins like watered-down blood. You will catch yourself diving into a sad but confident mood as soon as Jöfriður's sweet and crystalline voice invades your skin and raises your armhairs. It's beautiful in the same way that rain is when you watch it from inside the house. **IP**



Ólafur Arnalds & RYX - Oceans
This chill trip-hop



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Coming soon: Divine Providence

Ásatrú Pagans Receive Foreign Aid

The gods work in mysterious ways

Words: Sam O'Donnell

Ásatrú Pagans received aid from an unexpected source. Religious leaders in Thailand donated thousands of euros toward the construction of their temple. “The gods are doing their work

in a mysterious and inspiring way,” Pagan Chief Hilmar Örn Hilmarsson told Visir. The group plans to begin crowdfunding later this year to finish construction. They hope to be a great

attraction to visitors from abroad who are interested in ancient Norse culture. “I have always said this will be one of the major buildings in Reykjavik when it is finished,” Hilmar said.

One of Óðin's names

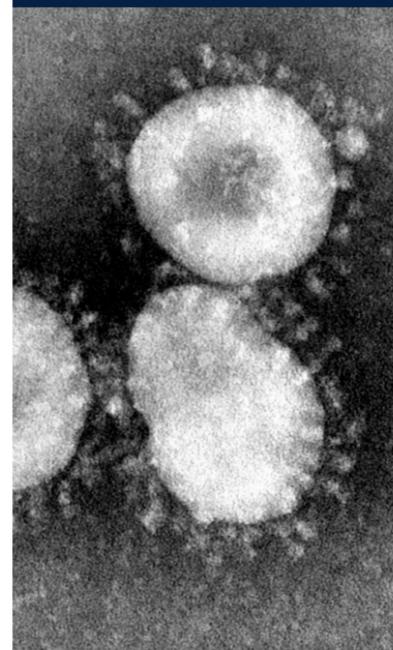
The location of the temple was provided by the City of Reykjavik and, as Hilmar explains, is quite perfect. “We were originally supposed to be in Leynimýri, but that was not possible because of the airport. Then Vilhjálmur Þórmundur Vilhjálmsson descended on this location, which he said was really perfect. Here are all the names which are connected to Ásatrú. We have Hrafnabjörg right below us. We have Hangakletta, which is now one of the names of Óðin...So I think this is divine providence.”

Built with their own money

The banking collapse also delayed construction. The group had hoped to begin construction in 2010 or 2011, but it did not begin until 2017. Also, the temple was initially set to cost 127 million ISK, but today it is valued at over 300 million ISK—the project has been on hold since last year due to lack of funding. Fortunately, the group has not borrowed any money from the bank. “We have built with our own money,” Hilmar explains; “never borrowed.”

“State Of Uncertainty” Issued Over Coronavirus

State of uncertainty issued in Iceland



Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine
Photo: CDC/Dr. Fred Murphy

While there are no reported cases of coronavirus in Iceland, the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management has issued a “state of uncertainty” over the situation.

“While there are no suspected cases of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Iceland, the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police, in association with the Directorate of Health, has declared an uncertainty phase based on risk assessments from The World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Center for Disease Control (ECDC),” they state in part. “‘Uncertainty phase’ is characterized by an indication of event that could pose a health- or security threat to people, communities or the environment. Relevant authorities are closely coordinating the response and monitoring the situation.”

To this end, Civil Protection is working closely with the police and the Directorate of Health to monitor the situation more closely.



Coming soon: Trade Negotiations

Iceland And Britain Sign Agreement, Ensuring Pre-Brexit Rights Until End Of 2020

The gods still work in mysterious ways

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine
Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Iceland and the United Kingdom have signed a joint agreement that will ensure all the European Economic Area (EEA) rights and privileges of citizens of both countries currently enjoy until at least the end of 2020, an announcement from Iceland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports.

Brexit cause for concern

Though Brexit became official at 11 p.m. GMT on January 31st, the UK will remain within the EU market until the end of 2020. While Iceland is not in the EU, it is in the EEA, and Brexit has been a cause for concern amongst Icelanders living in the UK and Brits living in Iceland.

Citizen not affected by Brexit

Minister of Foreign Affairs Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson signed an agreement with London in January that will ensure that citizens of these countries will not be affected by Brexit, provided they have moved from one country to the other before the end of 2020.

Continue our close relationship

Furthermore, Iceland and the UK will begin trade negotiations to prepare for when Britain will be officially out of the EU market at the end of this year. The stated goal of this agreement is “to continue our close relationship now and in the future, and to take the best advantage of the opportunities that will arise.”

Town Celebrates First Day Of Sunlight

The gods really work in mysterious ways

On January 28th, RÚV reported that the inhabitants of Siglufjörður, on Iceland's north coast, celebrated a very special day: the return of sunlight.

A long period of darkness

It's no secret that Icelandic winters are characterised by long periods of darkness, but some places fare better than others. Icelanders who live in Reykjavik, for example, are spared the worst of it, as the city is in the southwest and the landscape to the south is relatively flat. Further north, especially for towns flanked by mountains to the south, such as Siglufjörður, they receive only ambient sunlight for much of the winter.

In fact, today marks the first day since mid-November that Siglufjörður residents have been able to enjoy direct sunlight.

Bake-off

The occasion is marked by a massive pancake bake-off, where some 2,000 Icelandic pancakes are consumed. School children were permitted to go on a guided walk to enjoy the sun's rays, culminating in a sing-along by the local church.

It's a touching moment, and hopefully one that reminds people that we should be grateful for all the little things that make life worth living, even those things we often take for granted, like sunlight.



Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine

Photo: Art Bicnick

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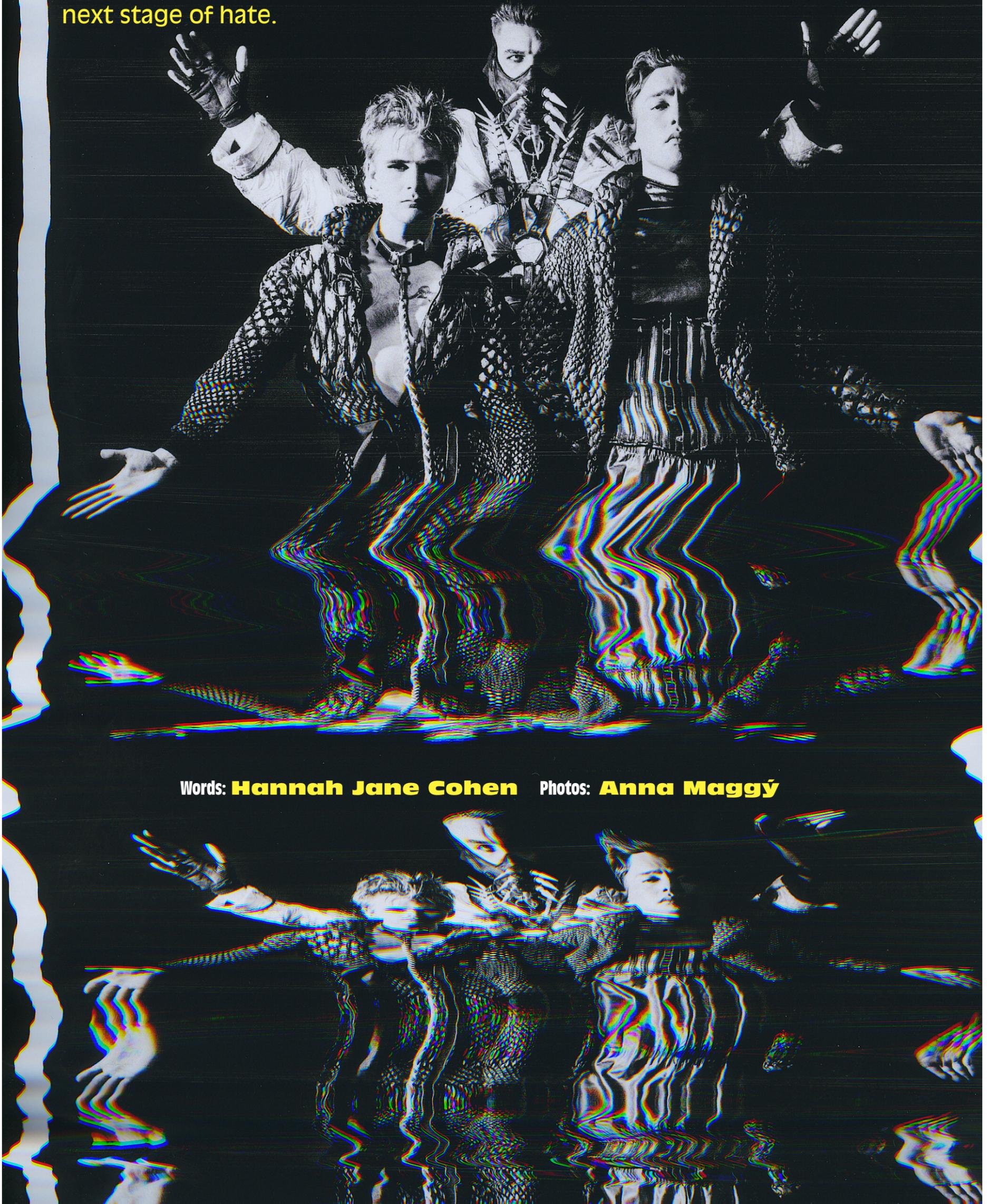
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From their early years as the dystopic darlings of the underground Reykjavík scene to their 2019 media takeover at the Eurovision Song Contest, the BDSM-clad lads of Hatari have always been a puzzle. At once shrouded in secrecy while also relentlessly attention-grabbing, the band has consistently strutted the fine leather line between sincerity and satire. Are they performance artists? Serious political activists? Professional trolls? Kinkster exhibitionists? Or, as their name would suggest, haters? **The trio sat down—sans chains, masks, and political bribes—to talk with the Grapevine about their origins, the new album, and the next stage of hate.**

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photos: **Anna Maggý**



Klemens

“It’s good to be back in the daily life of Klemens,” Klemens Hannigan says, a small smile brightening his face. He sits cross-legged on the floor, forgoing the couch, leaning back against Matthías’s bed. “My older daughter is back in kindergarten and I’m finishing some renovations on the house. Just normal life.”

Goodbye humanity

As we speak, we’re days away from the release of ‘Neyslutrans’ (‘Consumption Trance’), Hatari’s debut album; just weeks before Klemens and the rest of the band embark on their Europe Will Crumble tour. For Klemens, this is the last bit of normal life for a while—the calm before the storm, you might say.

“Neyslutrans’ is a sort of hymn or memorial to the 21st century,” he explains. As he talks, the smile previously gracing his face disappears. “A goodbye album to the Earth or, rather, to humanity. The Earth will do just fine without us.”

While others get angry or impassioned by the current environmental crises, Klemens just seems upset. “It’s a bit sad. You get a lot of anxiety-driven thoughts about how you, as an individual, can actually make an impact or change, and what you should actually be doing to maintain the human race,” he says. “Me, as an individual, I don’t know what my contribution is. I try to recycle. It’s a bit counterintuitive to be organising a European tour but yet again we describe the counterintuitively through the name of the tour, Europe Will Crumble.”

He pauses. It’s clear this issue is one of great importance to him. “Although, we did carbon neutralise our last tour on this website where you can pay X amount for the distance travelled and then they plant trees for the carbon you used,” he explains. He seems happy at the attempt, but definitely quizzical on just how much of an effect something like that actually has.

Building a world

At all times, Klemens encapsulates the word ‘artist.’ He takes every remark seriously, calmly reflecting on his words before he speaks, and when he does, projecting a raw sense of vulnerability with them. A lesser man might mistake this openness for fragility, but they’d be wrong to do so. As you speak with him, it becomes clear that Klemens is intensely connected to his thoughts, emotions, and artistic desires. Building, creating, and innovating is more than important to him, it’s fundamental.

“I never really found myself in this industrial route that you’re forced into,” he explains, thinking back to his schooling and teenage years. “Education, then having to choose a career, and fulfilling your 30-40 years of

8:00-17:00. Reading and writing never comes easy to me, but being very physical and visual comes easy. Doing things with my hands—molding, sculpting, making music as well.”

He laughs—gobsmacked—when asked what a younger Klemens would think of his work in Hatari. “I would have been pleasantly surprised, I don’t know,” he grins. “Art can always start, or often starts, as some ridiculous idea you get with yourself or with others.” Hatari, he emphasises, was no exception. “I had just started making electronic music and I asked Matthías to shout something over this beat. We enjoyed the entertainment of creating the concept and the imagery around the band—making this other world. It’s just a coincidence that it ended up being a band rather than just us two concept artists.”

Digressing into BDSM

In these early days of Hatari, the group donned military costumes, which eventually evolved into their current BDSM aesthetic. “It was a natural progression, like you do, to digress into BDSM. Everyone does it,” he laughs. “The dynamic onstage between the three of us has progressed, yes, but it is still very similar to the way we imagined it in the beginning. Matthías as the dictator. Me, the resented foster son, the empathy, the emotional side. Einar, the hidden trauma or pain, the general of the dictator’s army, the Gimp.”

Eurovision, as Klemens explains, pushed the Hatari world even further, in ways the group couldn’t have imagined, and perhaps might not have wanted. “We maintained more mystery before Eurovision. We refused all interviews and all kinds of connections to media were either staged or produced by us hands-on,” he explains. “Eurovision forced us to present the concept of the band. We’d never had such a demand for us to explain our art. I feel that it’s unnecessary for an artist to explain the art that you produce but, going into this very mainstream TV show, a lot of our humour and comedy leaked into the band then.”

2020 trance

Thankfully, the demands on the group to prove themselves have lessened since the competition, and the three are now looking forward to the next stage: the Consumption Trance.

But for Klemens, 2020 will be a trance of more than just music. Along with continuing his schooling in conceptual art, he’ll be getting married in April to his longtime girlfriend, Ronja. And there will be moments of returning to daily Klemens life. “Hopefully finishing renovations in the house soon,” he says. “And of course, striving to be a good father to my two beautiful daughters.”

“NEYSLUTRANS’ IS A GOODBYE ALBUM TO THE EARTH OR, RATHER, TO HUMANITY. THE EARTH WILL DO JUST FINE WITHOUT US.”

Einar

Einar Stefánsson has never done an interview as a member of Hatari. For years, the elusive, submissive CEO of Svikamylla ehf. (Hatari’s parent corporation) has refused all press, staying silent, preferring to skulk in the shadows in his white contacts and spiked face mask. The Gimp, as he’s referred to, is the ultimate enigma.

It’s unclear, then, why he’s decided to speak up now to the Grapevine, and to be fair, his answer to the question is fittingly shady. “I was given permission.” That’s all.

Finally balanced

While Einar’s character in the band is voiceless, stoic, and impassive, in person, Einar is rather sweet. He’s impeccably dressed and handsome. When he speaks, he uses no filler words and fiddles with his hands, speaking so articulately that it often feels like he’s dictating an academic essay. We sit in his studio—a cosy, lived-in flat peppered with bits and bobs of Hatari merchandise and Red Bull cans.

“I’m balanced,” Einar responds, zen, when asked simply how things are going. “I am 27-years old—when a lot of musicians die—but it’s going well so far. I have nine months left.”

The artist grew up bouncing between various European countries and began playing drums when he was 13-years old. Music, he emphasises, has always been a visceral experience for him. He instinctively remembers his early experiences with sound, like the first album he bought with his own money—Rammstein’s ‘Mutter’—and can describe vividly where he first listened to it. He even plays me the first song he ever wrote.

“The wonderful thing about music is the nostalgia,” he muses. “It can immediately transport you to a certain space and time. It’s really powerful.”

The freedom of anonymity

As a teenager, Einar met bandmate Klemens in Brussels. There was a two year age difference between the two. Being older, Einar immediately took young Klemens under his wing. “I remember thinking he was a bit of a kid, but I liked his spirit. He had a really unique radiation. There’s something good about him. He’s a good person,” Einar explains. The two were fast friends and quickly began collaborating on music together.

Because of this relationship, it was natural that Klemens would later go straight to Einar to show him the early Hatari recordings he made with his cousin, Matthías. “It was new, fresh, and weird, and something that I couldn’t put my finger on, which was really intriguing. If you can’t put something in a box and you’re so desperately trying to find a definition of what it is and you can’t, I think that’s probably a really good position to be in, especially as a producer,” he says, reminiscing on those early listens.

“I saw great potential.”

Einar immediately jumped into the project, and quickly adopted his role as the silent Gimp. “I was always intrigued by the idea of being unknown, of being a mystery person behind the drums. People would wonder who it is,” he explains. “Especially in a small community like Iceland. It’s very difficult to be anonymous. It’s very difficult to be Andy Kaufman. The music scene is very close-knit so the idea was just to have a masked drum gimp, which felt very fitting for me. It was somebody who I felt I was to an extent. And there’s a freedom in that.”

Business 101

But Einar came to the group with more than just production experience, songwriting skills, and a great mask, he had a savvy mind, honed with a bachelor degree in business and years of experience in the industry.

“People associate business a lot with capitalism and consumerism, but business is why we started coming together as people,” he explains, softly but passionately. “Not that I want to start mansplaining a lecture on Business 101, but I find the whole idea that together we make something bigger really interesting. It’s a beautiful concept. It’s very scientific.”

And from his perspective, the current musical landscape was an ideal place for a young, off-the-map outfit like Hatari to grow.

“We live in the age of information,” he says. “The major industry is not as powerful as it was. As an independent artist, you can get way further without having to suck up to as many people in order to get your music heard. You can just upload it to the world wide web. The limitations are far less.”

For Einar, this meant a world where listeners could hone more personal and outlandish musical tastes. “People often find their identity through art, music, and films, and often the way that it gets formed [depends on] what access you have,” he continues. “It used to be there might be one record label or one record shop that you’d have access to and then an identity was based on the curation of that record shop. I feel like there’s a rise in the development of subcultures. You don’t have to just stick to one thing; it’s a beautiful time.”

Punish me

2020, Einar hopes, will also be a beautiful time, and a big year of business for Svikamylla. One must remember, the submissive Gimp is, after all, the CEO of the scam artists.

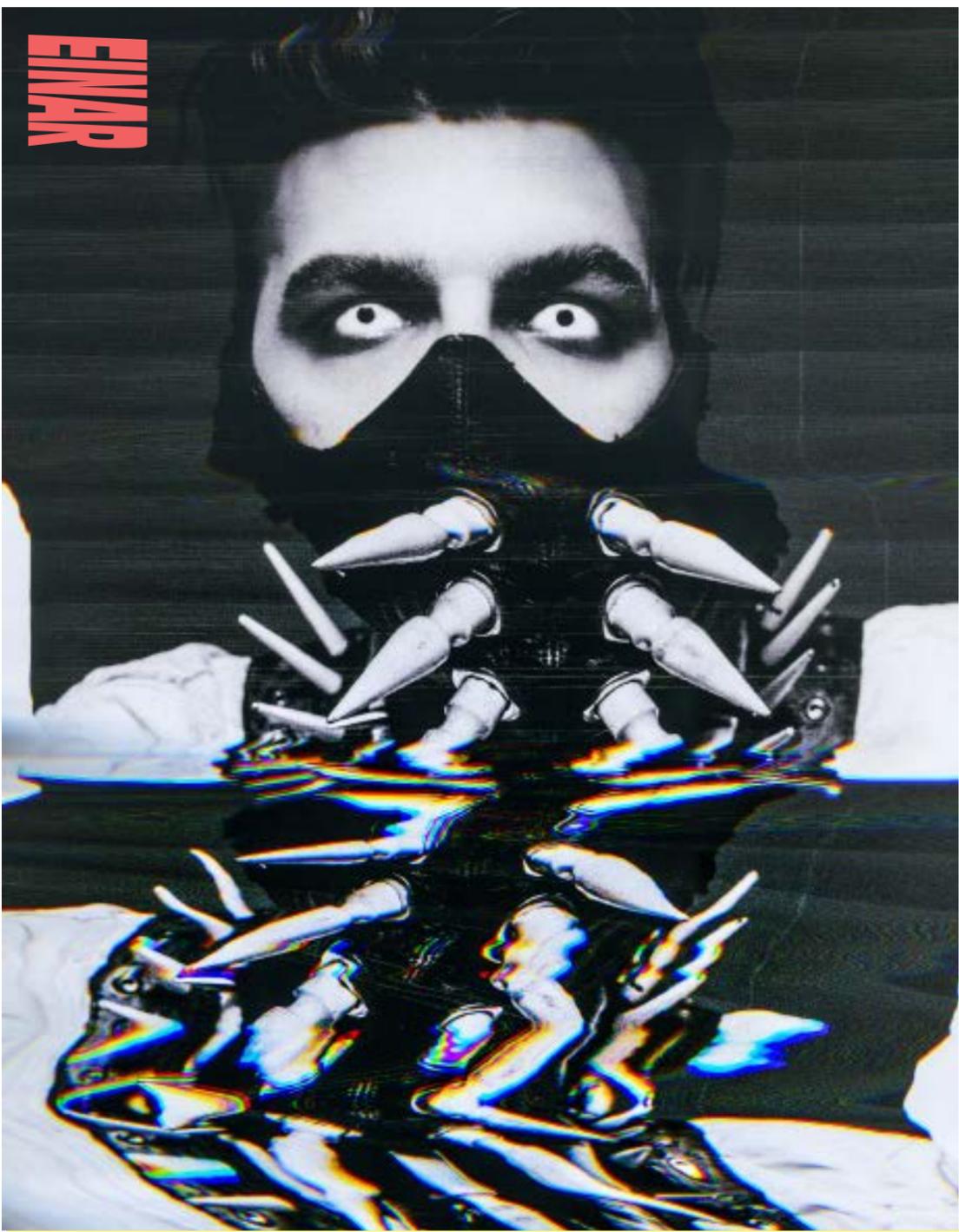
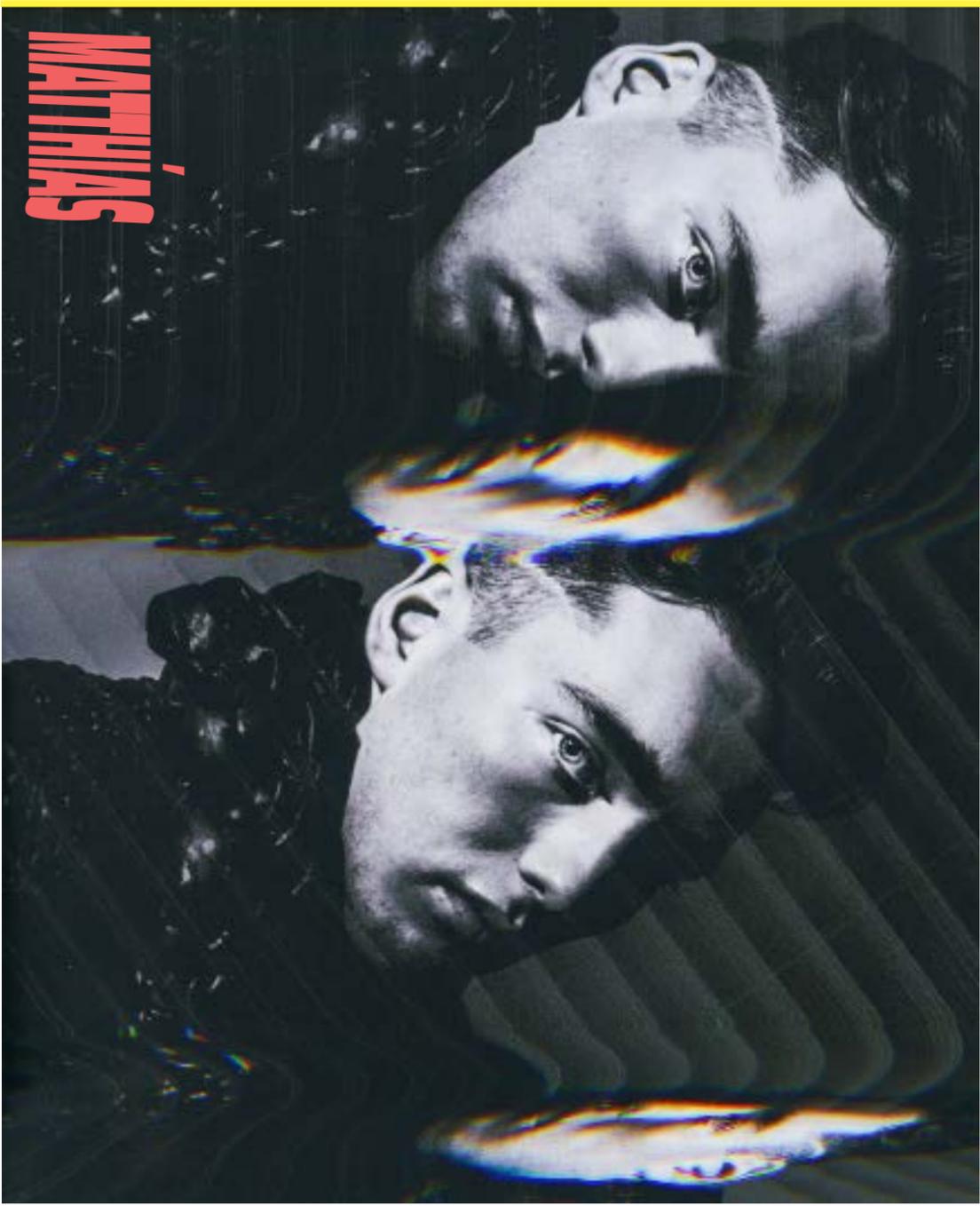
“Not a lot of people know that I’m the CEO,” he admits, grinning. “It’s sort of a win-win situation. If we do well, and the quarterly reports are good, I am rewarded. If we do bad, and our sales are not good, I get punished,” he stops. “Which is also a reward.”

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Matthías

“The title of the new album is ‘Neyslutrans’ (‘Consumption Trance’),” Matthías Tryggvi Haraldsson says mechanically. His eyes are fixed unwaveringly on the wall as he talks; his voice is monotone yet theatrical, like a salesman hawking snake oil. We’re sitting in his bedroom—a bright sun-filled downtown abode completely devoid of any leather, straps, or other goth paraphernalia. Instead, it’s packed with books, which Matthías admits are mainly his girlfriends’.

“The album contains fan favourites such as renowned nihilist rant, ‘Hatred Will Prevail,’ and hitherto unreleased doomsday prophecy ‘No Mercy,’ along with other extravagant musical experiences,” he preaches, his eyes still fixed on the same spot. With a stone-cold face, he begins to name collaborators, each with similarly bizarre descriptions.

I ask if his response was rehearsed. He chuckles. “I just came in from writing the press release. That’s probably exactly it,” he admits with a boyish grin, the salesman mask suddenly dropped to reveal the real Matthías. “It’s just a normal day at home.”

A joke that went too far

Matthías is, for lack of a better term, curious. Charismatic in a somewhat street messiah-esque fashion, talking to him often feels like listening to a sermon—an eloquent philosophical escapade interjected with satirical statements and off-the-wall ideas. At the same time, he’s an open book. If you ask him anything personal, he’ll answer honestly—an unexpected quality for an artist famous for doing interviews in character.

“I think the precise moment when [Klemens and I] started Hatari was when we got bored of playing Civilisation 5,” he says, when asked about the advent of the band. He pauses then laughs. “I don’t know if I’ve ever said that to anyone.”

In fact, before Hatari, Matthías had never made music. He actually flirted with the idea of becoming a lawyer. At the time he and Klemens teamed up to create their first songs, Matthías was a poet with a theatre degree interested in performance art and production.

“Basically, the process was a joke going too far, I guess,” he admits. At the same time though, he emphasises that it was a joke concretely rooted in each of the band members’ personal experiences of living in the 21st century. They were unhappy about the destruction of the environment, disappointed in leadership and the rise of consumerism, and saw art as one of the only mediums that could promote personal engagement with these crises.

The logical response

“What we say in interviews is that Hatari is the logical response to the rising populism across Europe and the rampant growth of capitalism,” he explains. “We are living in the era of the hyper-individualist and a lot of what the wider Hatari concept is dealing with in one way or another is branding and image, personal or political or as a franchise. An anti-establishment band living within an establishment. This hyper-individualist time we are living in is such a source of apathy.”

This philosophy, Matthías emphasis, gave Hatari a grander purpose beyond just making music. The band would represent a perceptually distorted ideology that would tread the line between seriousness and irony, complete with distinctive imagery, manifesto, and spectacle. To sum it up: the band would criticise the modern world by existing within it.

“I had a close relationship with Laibach [as a teen],” Matthías explains. It was then that his love of controversial satire began. “The fact that you never knew whether it’s humour or dead serious critique or whether their use of all these kinds of fascist or proto-fascist imagery is sincere admiration. Which would be very disturbing,” he admits. “Or is it this ironic way of revealing what this imagery entails? It can work as both, which is a bit dangerous, but also in a way fascinating.”

Winning awards!

From their early years, Matthías and the band brought up the contradictions they wanted to explore through Hatari’s notorious branding campaigns. From their sponsorship by SodaDream to their ‘collaboration’ with Landsbankinn, the band continually pointed out the ridiculousness of marketing by, well, marketing.

“I don’t always know if it always comes across,” Matthías laughs. “I would have thought that saying you are an award-winning anti-capitalist band would be a clear contradiction, but maybe we are living in times where that is normal.” He puts on an announcer voice. “Yes, they are anti-capitalist but they have to win awards to sell records!”

capitalism@hatari.is

It’s here that Matthías gets to the crux of his ethos: Hatari continually strives to execute the unexpected. The band aspires to be a funhouse mirror of the world—an ineffable swirl of stark truth, cutting caricature, all packaged with a referential catalogue worthy of ‘Ulysses.’

So at this moment, on the eve of their album release, what would be the most unexpected stunt the group could pull? Upon hearing the questions, the wheels start turning in the poet’s head.

“I guess if we would hire a super well trained team of Korean boy band look alike and become a Korean boy band. Fire all the Hatari members and replace them with K-pop members who can dance and sing. I mean, the brand is still there. It’s still Hatari and they are doing the same songs. It’s on playback, so it’s my voice,” he explains. As he paints the rather dystopic picture, his eyes drift back to the wall—it seems the snake oil salesman has returned.

“Then the anti-capitalist merch goes to a new level, and there’s a whole factory where the workers are exploited producing anti-establishment merch for the K-pop band that is Hatari. We get a cut of ticket and merch sales and move to Mexico,” he bursts out laughing. Even he can’t keep up this charade.

“So if there is a K-pop producer reading this interview, they are free to contact us at capitalism@hatari.is,” he explains. “Yes, it’s a real email. It works.”

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tenor



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A Trip To The God Church

Hatari: Neyslutrans Release Concert

February 22nd & 23rd - 21:00 & 19:00 - Austurbær - 3,333-4,444 ISK

For those of you who are excited about the end of the world, Hatari is hosting a release concert for their debut album, 'Neyslutrans,' as part of their Europe Will Crumble extravaganza. The anti-capitalist multimedia conglomerate and all around good dudes will deliver a lavish get-together in the hopes of dismantling capitalism... we're sure it will work. I mean, we hope it will. That said, advertisers please don't stop buying Grapevine ads. **SPO/HJC**



Hip Kids Being Hip

101 Festival

February 15th - 18:00 - Austurbær - 3,990 ISK

Reykjavik welcomes yet another cool-ass festival. The first edition of the 101 Festival, held by cool-ass radio station Útvarp 101, is gonna be a cool-ass concert that'll rock your cool-ass socks off. Artists include Vök, Flóni, Auður, Yamaha, Sturla Atlas, Logi Pedro, Joey Christ, Gróa and Briet. Love it. **IP**



Let There Be Light Kv. God

Reykjavik Winter Lights Festival

February 6th-9th - All Over Reykjavik - Free!

Ok, let's admit it: The winter is scary for us, too, and we're just a magazine. No one can deal with each other, your skin is dry, and it's hard to see a literal light at the end of the tunnel...until now. From February 6th to 9th, the annual Winter Lights Festival will bring some much-needed sparkle to the city to celebrate the fact that the days are finally (!!!) getting longer. Activities include free pool and museum nights, concerts, and more. **IP**

CULTURE NEWS

Performance

The Teenage Songbook Of Love And Sex will play at Tjarnarbío stage on February 13th and 15th at 21:00. Tickets are 2,900 ISK.



"We are not shying away from the clinginess or awkwardness."

Love, Sex & Song

Come hear The Teenage Songbook Of Love And Sex

Words: **Inês Pereira**

Photos: **Art Bicnick**

An all-ages crowd gathers outside the doors of Tjarnarbío, waiting to embark on a musical voyage through the minds of dozens of teenagers. From the joys of being a slut to the stomach-twisting thirst for self-discovery, The Teenage Songbook Of Love And Sex will soon indulge the awaiting crowd in a solemn ode to the coming of age.

The will to explore "the aspects of teenage life that aren't being dealt with," came to artist Alexander Roberts and Choreographer Ásrún Magnúsdóttir, after years of working with teenagers in various projects. They invited musician and composer Teitur Magnússon to join them in conceptualizing a musical show where teenagers would be allowed to tell "the stories that are not being told," says Alexander.

The themes for the songs first came in the shape of letters. The teens wrote to first loves, grandparents, siblings and even David Bowie. It was then the adult's job to compile the feelings, ar-

range the concept and turn them into music and choreography.

Enough with the heteronormativity

Love and sex are the number one subjects in the history of all art ever, but as reflection and freedom in sexuality and identity evolve, cultural representation seems to be having a hard time keeping up the pace.

"There are a lot of unrealistic shows about teenage love and sex", asserts Ísafold Halldórsdóttir (17), her colleagues nod in agreement. "It is the first project that is written by actual teenagers, so of course it's gonna have a more authentic view," adds Uloma Osuala (17).

The show is made up of 10 songs (in Icelandic and English). Songs like "Hello Woman" or "I'm a slut" engage in a candid but playful tone that makes the audience want to jump on stage. "We are not shying away from the clinginess or awkwardness. We don't pretend like everything is great. Or even, that everything is terrible. It's just how it is in real life," says Egill Andrason (18).

We're all in this together

A community was born from this process, among the creators and performers but also with the audiences. "The sort of thing that unites us most is the reason why we are here," assures Una Yamamoto Barkadóttir (18). "We are a community based on trust and friendship and we're trying to enlarge that community, to bring the audience with us through this, every single person in the world will or can relate, too."

The show has been very well received in Iceland, and travelled to Bergen, Norway, where the group collected more stories and experiences from local teenagers. Two more shows are scheduled for February 13th and 15th in Tjarnarbío and tickets are 2900 ISK. Do not worry if you don't speak Icelandic, they handout booklets with the English



translation for the few parts spoken/sung in Icelandic. This show is for everyone. **👉**

ELECTRIC DREAMS

EP

Kuldaboli's 'Geðveiki og brjálæði' is out on Sweaty Records now.



ity, which is something I've dealt with all my life."

His songs possess a sense of somberness towards the baffling nature of life and often make a point about things that he feels are wrong. "Lately I have been experimenting with wild tempos, but there is no message behind that in itself," he explains. "I only try to follow the energy I feel inside me and around me. Good music is good music."

Signs from nature

Kuldaboli favours no genres over others but finds electronic music to be the purest form. "I personally believe that the existence of music is a message from above," he says. "The fact that we perceive pitch and rhythm seems to be a hint from nature telling us that patterns, repetition, cycles and symmetry are of great significance."

But the artist feels that nowadays, being an underground musician in Iceland is pretty much impossible. "Here on the mainland I am doing pretty well," he says. "I just played two banging club nights earlier this month, I have upcoming releases on at least seven labels, I started recording a rock album and plan to play a bunch of shows and release a bunch of music this year. Stay tuned." **👉**

Insanity And Madness

Kuldaboli zeroes in on mental instability with 'Geðveiki og brjálæði'

Without a doubt, Kuldaboli is currently one of Iceland's most prolific music projects. Before leaving the country a couple of years ago, the musician—he chose not to appear under his own name here—was involved in projects that fall outside of the spectrum of electronic music. Now he spends his time in Berlin making powerful electronic tracks that satisfy thirsty clubbers and music enthusiasts. Demand for his

music from dance clubs and labels is at an all-time high.

Geðveiki og brjálæði

Kuldaboli's latest release, 'Geðveiki og brjálæði' ('Insanity And Madness') is out now on Berlin-based Icelandic label Sweaty Records. "I am very happy about it; five songs that together form quite a journey," he says. "The theme of this EP is mental instabil-

Words: **Alexander Le Sage de Fontenay**



Keto makes Hlemmur look all summery. This photo was shot yesterday.

Become A Keto Kardashian

We would never eat bread, are you serious?

Words: The Grapevine's Carb-Hating Department Photo: Art Bicnick, Skjaldbakan

Over the past year, Keto has become a full-blown fad in Iceland. Well over 3% of the population has joined the Keto Iceland group on Facebook, and restaurants and grocery stores are jumping on the bandwagon.

The diet is quite complicated, as it revolves around eating less than 20 grams of net carbohydrates per day, which is supposed to bump the body into a state of ketosis, causing it to start burning fat for energy instead of carbs and protein. Google it before you go nuts. Please.



Pizza pizzazz (hold the crust)

The Grandi Mathöll pizza joint Skjaldbakan offered the first keto pizza in Iceland and it is still considered by many to be the best. They

offer quite a few toppings combinations, so you're not likely to get bored anytime soon. Pizzan also changed the game last year when they started offering keto pies, in two versions, and keto breadsticks, which is a real lifesaver for those that are starting out and haven't quite figured out the grocery shopping. Not to mention, they deliver. Pizzan also offers a keto ice cream, although we're not sure if eating the whole tub by yourself will benefit your health. You decide.



Café life (pastries forbidden)

The keto chicken salad at Kaffi Laugalækur is kind of perfect, in a keto way. It's a green salad concoction with chicken, eggs, and bacon shreds, topped with garlic

sauce. Simple, but the raw materials are top-notch. The place is great too. They serve great coffee from a small roaster (if you don't like black coffee or espresso go for the cortado with coconut milk), and they have a lovely kids corner. An all-rounder. For a downtown newly reopened classic, there's also the Laundromat Café. They offer keto versions of all the burgers, their baked salmon and their bournaise steak.



A fancy night (no bread, only butter)

A pioneer, Kröst were among the first to offer a keto burger, which still holds its own, and most of their menu has keto options, although you do have to ask the staff. Other than that, the simplest op-

tions for keto fine dining are the steakhouses such as MEAT and Hereford. Matarkjallarinn and Sjávargrillið also offer keto modifications to their menu.



Fast fast fast food

Culiacan, the tex-mex fast food joint, offers three keto-friendly options, and noodle joint Wok On offers a zucchini noodle base to keep your carbs in check. Salad spot Local offers three ready keto bowls, and Black Box Pizza does a couple of pizza options and a keto bowl, which we quite liked. Bike Cave's keto burger gets a mention too. If you venture far out in the suburbs, Gullnesti in Grafarvogur offers a keto burger. Hyper-cheerful family-oriented burger joint Fabrikkan (think TGI Fridays but a bit better and the burgers are square) offer a keto bowl, no word on the burgers though. Subway offers some salad options that are keto, ask the staff. Health food joint Saffran's keto chicken also deserves a mention.



For the vegetarians

This category is unfortunately very slim, especially since the carbon footprint on mostly meat-based dishes is not great. Gló has the only veg/keto option we know of, although their veggie keto bowl is more low-carb than keto, clocking in at around 25 g. of carbs. They also offer a keto chicken salad and a keto burger, which is quite popular. Kröst can custom-make a vegetarian keto burger, with their Beyond Meat patty. It works without bacon, but if you skip the egg, it's quite sparse. Here's hoping that in the future more of the vegan restaurant biz will try to get the low-carb crowd in. One can only dream. 🍷

BEST OF REYKJAVÍK

Best Sushi



Fish Market

Aðalstræti 12

One of a handful of places serving fresh Icelandic wasabi—the others being ÓX and Grillmarket—Fish Market was also one of the first Icelandic restaurants to serve sushi. While the maki rolls are popular, we recommend the roe gunkan rolls—seaweed colored beauties generously topped with lightly cured fish eggs. The sashimi platter is an assortment of fresh seafood with a mound of crunchy wakame. Get a seat at the sushi bar, pair your food with the wasabi cocktail, and let Keto be damned.

Runners Up:



Fiskfélagið

Vesturgata 2a

Fish Company's lunchtime-only sushi is perfect for crummy days when only an elegant meal will cure workday blues. FC cleverly packages our pet peeve—pysu sushi (read below)—as a Lobster Maki Roll, with deep-fried langoustine insides, cuddling dates and peppers for a true Icelandic style sushi.

Sushi Social

Pinghóltsstræti 5

Sushi Social is a no-holds barred ode to the evolution of sushi on this island—aka 'pysu sushi.' Embrace the joys of island sushi, and assuage any guilt via the cocktail menu. Check out the surf and turf rolls, and keep an eye out for their Tuna festival.



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In Your Pocket



Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

Perfect Day

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



Photo: Art Bienick

“Before I go for dinner I attend a screening of my favourite movie at the best cinema in Europe, **Bió Paradís**.”

Logi Leó Gunnarsson

Logi Leó Gunnarsson is also the musician *Hjalti Kaftu*, which is part of the charming *Post-dreifing* grassroots collective.

First thing in the morning

My radio alarm wakes me up at 06:40 and Rás 1 wishes me a good morning. It is a Thursday. I put the kettle on and make coffee and a simple porridge with raisins and coconut flakes. I put a Best of Gheorghe Zamfir album on the record player and relax. After breakfast, I head for **Vesturbæjarlaug** for a swim, sauna and a dip in the cold and hot tubs.

Mid-morning

I walk over to the Reykjavík art mu-

seum, **Hafnarhús**, check out the cool exhibitions they have on and grab a free cup of coffee. I continue my walk and head for the city pond. I pass through the **‘Perlufesti’** sculpture garden on my way to the **National Gallery of Iceland**. After experiencing the architecture and interesting exhibitions I enjoy a free cup of coffee. Afterwards, I come by the **Ásgrímur Jónsson collection** on Bergstaðarstræti for a quick down to earth moment.

In the afternoon

Before lunch, I like to go record digging at my favourite record shop: **Reykjavík Record Shop**. I usually look through their 100kr selection and usually find some surprising gems. I eat lunch at **Kjarvalsstaðir** and afterwards soak my senses in stunning art.

Early evening

I go by **Ásmundarsafn** for a bit of sculptural relief and then walk back into town for a quick viewing session at the **Einar Jónsson Museum**, completing my sculptural reinforcement.

Dinner

Before dinner I attend a screening of my favourite movie at the best cinema in Europe, **Bió Paradís**. I eat dinner at **Ramen Momo**: Vegan Gyoza, Kimchi and Vegan Tantamen.

I head for a big opening at the **Marshall House**. Three different exhibitions are opening at **Nýlistasafnið**, **Kling & Bang** and **Stúdíó Ólafur Elíasson**. I meet all my friends and have interesting conversations about life, art and music. ☺



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Venue Finder

Venues	Museums & Galleries
ART67 Laugavegur 67 F7 Open daily 9-21	The Penis Museum Laugavegur 116 F8 Open daily 10-17
Austur Austurstræti 7 D3	Ásmundarsafn Sigtún Open daily 10-17
American Bar Austurstræti 8 D3	Kirsuþjón Vesturgata 4 D3 M-F 10-18, Sat-Sun 10-17
Andrými Bergþorugata 20 G6	Kling & Bang Grandagarður 20 A4 W-Sun 14-18, Th 12-21
B5 Bankastræti 5 E4	Listastofan Hringbraut 119 Open Wed-Sat 13-17
Bar Ananas Klappargtígur 28 E5	Living Art Museum Grandagarður 20 A4 T-Sun 12-18, Th 12-21
Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54 E5	Mokka Kaffi Skólavörðustígur 3A E5 Open daily 9-18:30
Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20 E4	Museum of Design and Applied Art Garðatorg 1 Open Tu-Sun 12-17
Bravó Laugavegur 22 E5	The National Gallery of Iceland Frikirkjuvegur 7 Open daily 10-17
Boston Laugavegur 28b E5	The National Museum Sudurgata 41 G2 Open daily 10-17
Dillon Laugavegur 30 E5	The Nordic House Sturluggata 5 H2 Th-Fri 11-17, W 11-20
Dubliner Naustin 1-3 D3	Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17 D3 Open 10-17, Thu 10-22
English Pub Lækjargata 12 D3	Kjarvalsstaðir Flókagata 24 H8 Open daily 10-17
Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22 D3	
Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a D3	
Hressó Austurstræti 20 D3	
Húrra Naustin D3	
Iónó Vonarstræti 3 E3	
Kex Hostel Skúlagata 28 E7	
Kaffibarinn Bergstaðastræti 1 E4	
Kiki Queer Bar Laugavegur 22 E5	
Loft Bankastræti 7 E4	
Mengi Óðinsgata 2 F5	
Nordic House Sturlagata 5 H2	
Paloma Naustin D3	
Prikió Bankastræti 12 E4	
R6013 Ingólfsstræti 20 E4	
Reykjavík Roasters Kárastrígur 1 F5	
Stofan Café Vesturgata 3 D3	
Ölsmíðjan Lækjargata 10 E3	
Curious Hafnarstræti 4 D3	
Tjarnarbió Tjarnargata 12 E3	
Ásmundarsalur Freyjugata 41 Open Tue-Sun 8-17	
Aurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2 Open 09-21	
Ásgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74 G4 July 8-Sep 1, Mon-Fri	
Berg Contemporary Klappargtígur 16 E5 Tu-F 11-17, Sat 13-17	
The Culture House Hverfisgata 15 E5 Open daily 10-17	
The Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksgata G5 Open Tue-Sun 10-17	
Ekkisens Bergstaðast. 25b F4	
Galleri List Skipholt 50A H10 M-F 11-18, Sat 11-16	
Hafnarborg Strandgata 34, 220 Open Wed-Mon 12-17	
Hitt Húsið Pósthússtræti 3-5 D4	
Hverfisgalleri Hverfisgata 4 D4 Tu-Fri 13-17, Sat 14-17	
i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16 Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17	

Vital Info



Useful Numbers

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

Post Office

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

Pharmacies

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

Opening Hours - Bars & Clubs

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

Opening Hours - Shops & Banks

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

Swimming Pools

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

Public Toilets

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

Public Transport

Most buses run every 20-30 minutes
Fare: 470 ISK adults, 220 ISK children.
Buses run from 07-24:00, and 10-04:30 on weekends. More info: www.bus.is.

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The Map

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

Dining

1. Fjallkonan

Hafnarstræti 1-3

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

2. Block Burger

Skólavörðustígur 8

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

3. Matur og Drykkur

Grandagarður 2

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

4. Sandholt

Laugavegur 36

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

5. Le Kock 2.0

Tryggvagata 14

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

6. Ramen Momo

Tryggvagata 16

Iceland's first Ramen bar has upped their broth game with a silky slick Tonkotsu. They have a choice of noodles and broths catering to food intolerances and fads, and a popular 'Ramen of the Month'. We suggest getting the Ramen Tonkotsu with their perfectly cooked soy cured eggs.

7. Public House Gastropub

Laugavegur 28

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

8. Messinn

Lækjargata 6b

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

9. Sea Baron

Geirsgata 4a

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

10. Pylsuhúsið

Ingólfstorg

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

Drinking

11. Curious

Hafnarstræti 4

Watch out, henny—there's a new

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

12. Bravó

Laugavegur 22

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

13. Loft Hostel

Bankastræti 7a

Loft stands many heads and shoulders above most of the al 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 like-minded peeps to drink with, here you go.

16. Session Bar

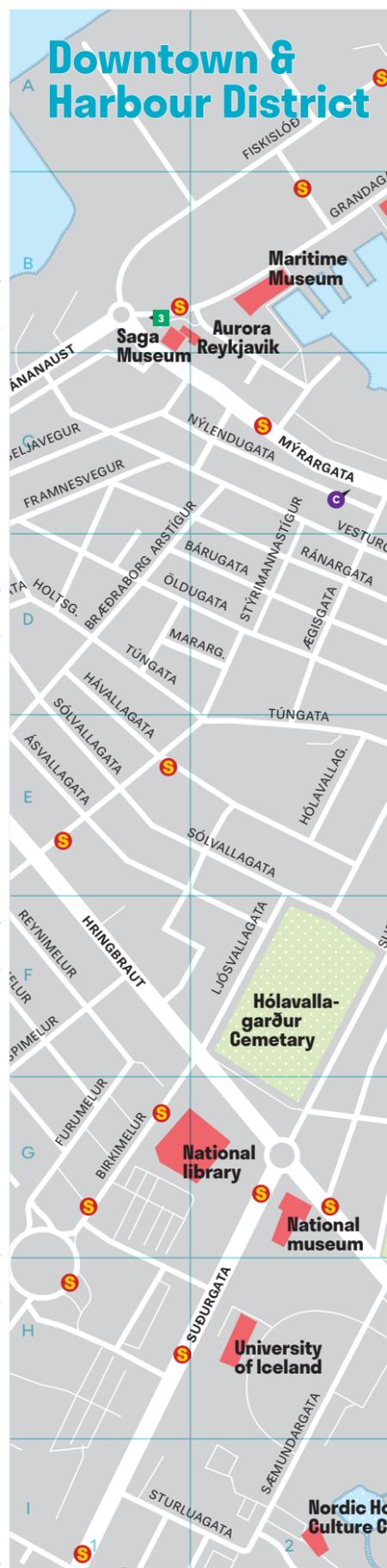
Fógetagarður

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

17. Papaku Reykjavík

Klappastígur 38

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



18. American Bar

Austurstræti 8

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

Shopping

19. Kvartýra №49

Laugavegur 49

This minimalistic, Bauhaus-esque spot took the Icelandic fashion

E

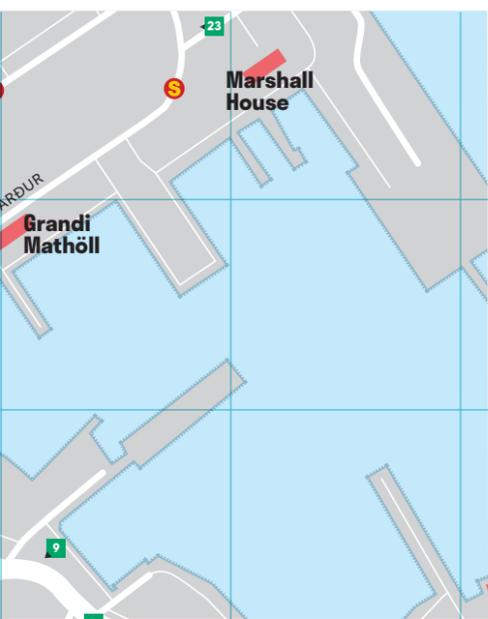
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New In Town



Mandi Pizza
 Hafnarstræti 9

Feeling down and desolate about the closure of Nonnabiti in September? Good news! There is a new place to get your late-night spice fix. Mandi Pizza is the answer to the question: what can I eat if I've had Mandi shawarma six days in a row, and I want something different? Try the kebab pizza, and make sure to cover it in sauce. **SPO**

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

20. Fischer

Fischersund

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

21. ÞA Zimsen

Vesturgata 2a

This peaceful spot is equal parts

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

22. 12 Tónar

Skólavörðustígur 15

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

23. Farmers And Friends

Hólmaslóð 2 & Laugavegur 37

If you want to pick up an Icelandic

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

24. CNTMP

Laugavegur 12b

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

25. Spúútnik

Laugavegur 28b

This well-curated clothing emporium

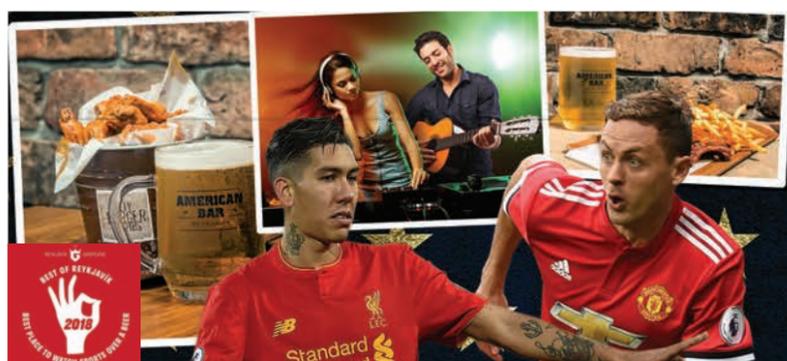
is more like a secondhand clothing boutique than a charity shop. It's expensive but it's all imported stuff you won't find anywhere else. They're also very particular with their selection: after sorting through maybe six shirts, they'll determine that just one is truly good enough.

26. Lucky Records

Rauðarárstígur 10

Lucky Records is probably the biggest record shop in Iceland, with shelves upon shelves of new and used vinyl and CDs on offer. They have a small stage where local and visiting bands sometimes perform, and expert staff that can always help you find what you're looking for. Dig, dig, dig!

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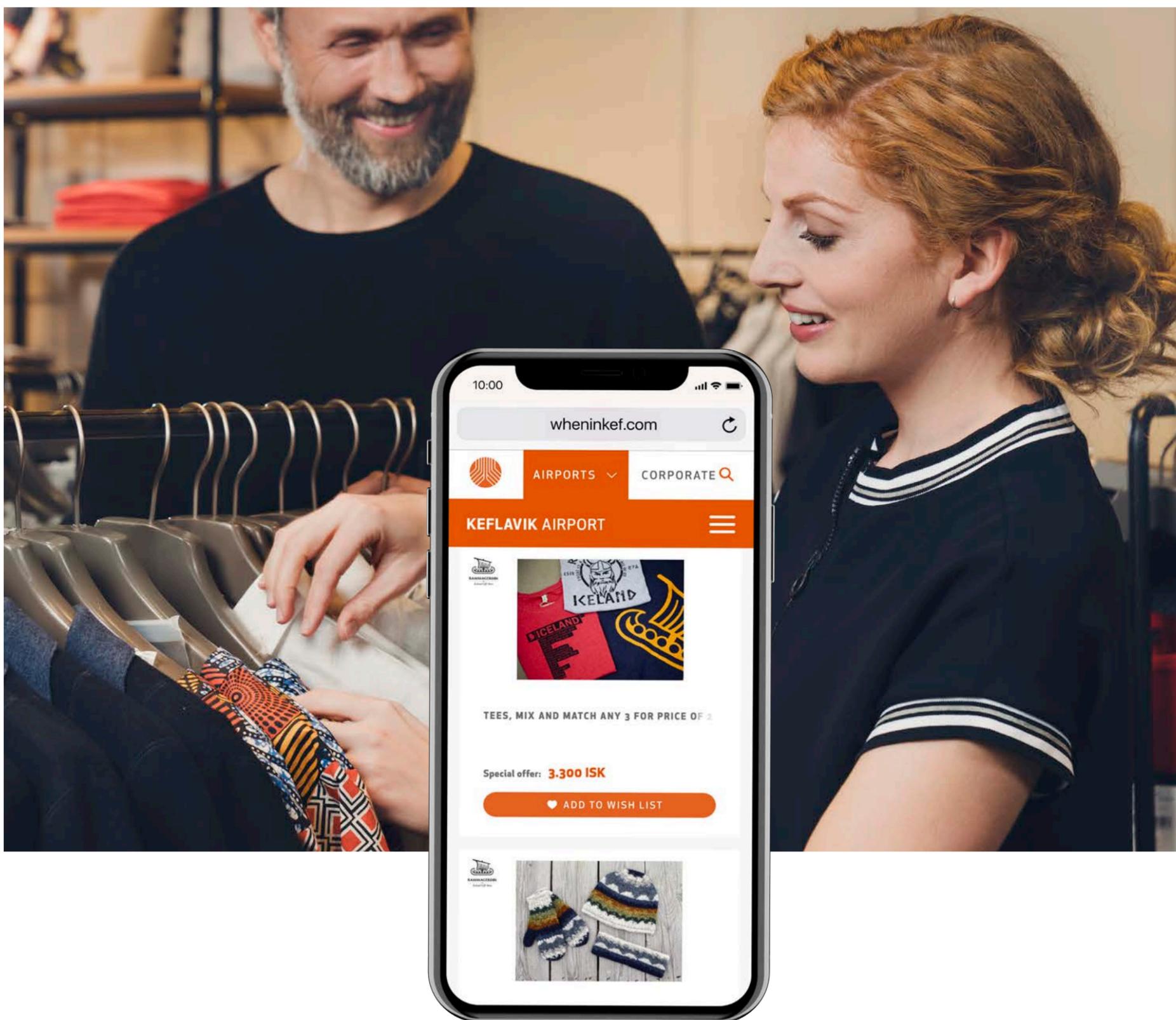
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**KEFLAVIK
AIRPORT**



"I like love songs where you can't tell the gender of the person narrating."

TRACK BY TRACK

'Ending Friendships'

By Laura Secord

The band, not the chocolate

Words: **Andie Fontaine** Photo: **Patrik Ontkovic**



Album

Stream 'Ending Friendships' on Spotify.

'Ending Friendships' is a deeply personal, almost confessional album from Laura Secord. In this edition of Track By Track, songwriter Alison McNeil explains the impetus behind each song.

Embrace

This song is about how we intentionally ignore the problems at the start of a relationship in order to feel close to other people. The warm embrace of optimism. I like wrapping a difficult thing in a cosy, familiar blanket and this song is a blanket-y sort of thing.

I Thought, I Thought

When you're a kid, everybody talks about making friends, but no one teaches you how to end a friendship properly and so we all end up ghosting each other in ways that are sometimes more painful than

when it happens on Tinder or whatever.

Aeroplanes

I like love songs where you can't tell the gender of the person narrating or the person they are talking to. This one is about a robot who falls in love and feels miserable and instead of crying, light comes out of their eyes, and people misunderstand and use the lights to search for things they've lost.

Sweat

Another love song, this time with someone who is very lost and really bad for you. And how we love people who are super bad for us when we are feeling lost and super bad ourselves. Super bad.

Rock Star Suicide

This is about our tendency to conflate mental illness with artistic creativity. And the curation of our culture through idolatry. I feel like I avoided being the person I am today for many years because I lost myself in the idea of an unattainable ideal.

Crop Circles

Sometimes I wish I could just be in a field at one with nature, but I think there would always be a big part of me that would feel like I couldn't believe my own nonsense. That's what I am singing about here. Dancing in a field, trying not to let me ruin it for myself.

All Night Long

I spent a lot of time with those albums a few years ago when my kids were the perfect age for them. I am starting to really like this song, but sometimes it feels like I've jumped into an alternate reality when we play it.

This Place Is The Answer To A Question I'm Not Asking

This one is about transition from one state to another, shifting your relationship to the people around you, switching your attention from one message that society gives you to another equally nonsensical message.

Pornography For The Socially Aware

There's something very voyeuristic about the way we curate our lives and publish our "stories" and then keep track of all these other people to the point that we ignore the people in front of us. The internet isn't going to visit you when you get old. Sad.

We Woke Up

This one talks about how it feels when a relationship ends. It feels like everything that happened in the relationship happened while you were asleep and you've only now woken up to reality. After a while, reality shifts again and the nightmare is what feels unreal. ♡

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Hverfisgata 12



Happy hour / 3–7pm
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Music



Elin Ey: Reborn again

Never Gone

Elin Ey is back with a new voice and a new style

Words: **Josie Gaitens** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

EP

'Gone' is available on streaming services.

Elin Ey is hesitant as she attempts to explain the origins of her new EP, 'Gone.' Granted, it's been 11 years since the songstress last released an album, and it's clear that the interlude has been a time of growth and development. To distill a decade down to a few words seems, well, impossible.

Gone and reborn

"I was originally going to make an Icelandic album actually," Elin says, referring to her hiatus. "Something that was a combination of singer-songwriter music and more electronic vibes. I have a lot of songs and was going to release an album, but it just didn't sound right."

Eventually, she explains, she put the stalled Icelandic songs aside and joined up with her brother. Together, they were eventually able to find a soundscape and atmosphere that she was happy with, and, in January, the long-awaited 'Gone' was released.

The title is appropriate. Gone, indeed, is the singer-songwriter, folksy tones of Elin's past work. Instead, the soulful and bluesy elements of her style are paired with a sleek, electronic sound. The overall expression comes across as polished, mature and deliberate.

But Elin is reluctant to pigeon-hole herself into any particular style.

"When I was doing more folksy stuff, that's definitely what I wanted to do at the time. But also just being me with the guitar—there came a point where I felt kind of stuck in that genre," she admits. "Sometimes I feel like you have to kind of sell yourself as one genre, as a particular kind of artist—but I'm trying to tell myself that I can just do whatever I want to do."

Finding the space

Releasing 'Gone' seems to have cleared a space for Elin to explore these different styles and ideas. In her voice, there seems to be a palpable sense of relief that the music is finally released. Elin has very high standards for herself and her work. 'Gone' was originally meant

"I'm trying to tell myself that I can just do whatever I want to do."

to be a full album, she explains, but just before it was released she stripped it back to the five track EP, saying she just, "wasn't happy with all of it."

"I have something in my mind and it just takes time to find what it is I'm looking for—and maybe that is perfectionism, I don't know," Elin says of her process. "I felt like my mind was so set on an album, but now that I've put ['Gone'] out, I feel more free to revisit this other music and release it individually."

In addition to the upcoming release of new singles, Elin is putting together a band and planning live shows this summer. It seems like Elin Ey is truly back, and this time, she intends to stick around. ♡



MUSIC NEWS

Rock and rollers **Kaleo** just released their first song in years. The band has been incredibly busy and popular in the American market, which is notoriously hard for European acts to break in to. The band has over five million monthly listeners on Spotify. To put that into context, our one and only, Björk, has just over 1.5 million monthly listeners. Then again, she doesn't have Kaleo frontman Jökull Júlíusson's abs. Jökull said in a recent interview that they were finishing a new album that will be released soon. **VG**



Everything that **Hildur Guðnadóttir** touches seems to turn into a music award. Hildur had an incredible run in 2019, with her scores for the hit HBO miniseries 'Chernobyl,' and blockbuster film 'Joker' winning multiple trophies. She won a **Bafta** at the end of January and is said to be likely to win the **Oscar** for her music. This is written before the Oscar ceremony, but we all know how that's gonna go. Go Hildur! **VG**



Yeah, it's that time of the year. When we get half mashed-up pop weirdness and glimmer TV. **Eurovision** is upon us. It will be hard to follow up on the success of Hatari that literally blew the world away at the 2019 song contest with their softspoken-tender-unite-the-world-message ballad, "Hatrið Mun Sigra." RÚV announced the songs that will vie to represent Iceland in the Netherlands in May. Ten songs are in the running, ranging from dull cliches to a blind feminist to punk-metal. That's Eurovision for you alright. **VG**



The summer concert schedule is slowly filling out. This week, big gigs were announced for **Big Thief** in Keflavik's Music Museum venue Hljómahöll for June 24th, while **Explosions in the Sky** will host a unique retrospective concert series in Harpa in early August, where they'll go through their 20 year career over the course of three nights. It's at the tail end of a tour, but the three night retrospective is a one off. **SP**

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- 8/2 RVK WINTER FESTIVAL: RAVE AFTER-PARTY WITH PLÚTÓ DJ-CREW
- 9/2 BÚKALÚ VARIETY SHOW
DEBAUCHERY, BURLESQUE, VARIETY, COMEDY
- 13/2 OPEN JAM SESSION
- 14/2 DRAG-SÚGUR QUEER VARIETY SHOW
MONTHLY DRAG EXTRAVAGANZA
- 15/2 KISIMJA & GUESTS
- 16/2 BOARD-GAME NIGHT
- 20/2 BOY (PARTY COVER BAND)
- 21/2 AXEL DIEGO & GUESTS
- 23/2 SONGWRITER NIGHT
- 26/2 VIDEO-GAME PUB QUIZ
- 27/2 DRAG-SÚGUR DRAG LAB
MONTHLY EXPERIMENTAL DRAG SHOW
- 28/2 CAPTAIN SYRUP & GUESTS
- 29/2 DEVINE DEFILEMENT (EP RELEASE SHOW)
WITH: HEMÚLLINN, VOLCANOVA & ELLI GRILL
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HAPPY HOUR
14-21

VÍKING
BRUGGHÚS

Our Picks



VETRARBLOT Club Night ★

February 8th - 21:00 - Harpa - 2,900 ISK

The darkness is enveloping. The snow slowly spreading. All over Reykjavik, morale is low, spirits are fading, and seasonal

depression is spreading its dark wings. We need happiness, and we need it now. What better way to up our mood than with a

good ole' fashioned rave in Harpa? Hosted by Plútó—Iceland's premiere DJ collective—VETRARBLOT promises to be a thumping free-for-all around the Harpa stages, with international DJs, local favourites, and also light installations on the side of the building for you stinky losers who don't want to pay the 2,900 ISK entry fee. For those functional alcoholics in the house, there will be an afterparty at Gaukurinn. **HJC**



Daði Freyr ★

Feb. 21st - 22:00 - Hard Rock Café

Get in the party mood and dance the night away to Eurovision hits with Daði Freyr. **SPO**



Krassasig ★

Feb. 7th - 21:00 - Kjarvalsstaðir - Free!

As part of Museum Night for the Winter Lights Festival, Krassasig will bring some bright, breezy, and amiable pop tunes to Kjarvalsstaðir. With a clattering rhythm, bassy pulses, chill guitar strums, and catchy vocals, it'll bring you back to the sunshine of summer. **HJC**



Sycamore Tree ★

Feb. 21st - 20:30 - Frikirkjan

Watch our other favourite Eurovision star Ágústa Eva perform lovely songs in a beautiful church. **SPO**



Evita ★

Feb. 28th - 19:30 - Harpa - 7,990-14,990 ISK

What's new, Buenos Aires? Celebrate politics—the art of the possible—with your fav dictator Juan Perón and his beautiful descamisado-loving wife Eva, “the greatest social climber since Cinderella.” Cue the tears from Argentina. **HJC**

February 7th—March 5th

Concerts & Nightlife

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

Friday February 7th

★ **Krassasig**
21:00 Kjarvalsstaðir
Tindersticks
20:00 Hljómahöll
Sólstafr
22:00 Hard Rock Café
Karaoke Night
20:00 Loft

Saturday February 8th

★ **VETRARBLOT: Plútó & More**
21:00 Harpa
Plútó After Party!
01:00 Gaukurinn
Söngvakeppnin 2020: Semi-Finals
19:30 Háskólabíó
Andartak
21:00 Mengi
Trausti Video Screening / DJ Ófull & Logi Pedro
19:00 Prikíð
The Trials Of Jeremiah
16:00 Hallgrímskirkja

Sunday February 9th

lowercase night
21:00 Prikíð
Sunday Jazz: Silva & Steingrímur
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
Sunday Classics: Stiri Ensemble
16:00 Harpa
DJ Krystal Garma
23:00 Kaffibarinn

Monday February 10th

Monday Night Jazz
20:00 Röntgen
DJ Z
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Tuesday February 11th

Heibba Ha\$\$
22:00 Prikíð
Karaoke Party!
21:00 Gaukurinn
DJ Tank Police
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Wednesday February 12th

Múlinn Jazz Club: Arctic Swing

Quintet Ft. Adrian Cunningham
20:00 Harpa
Don Lockwood Band
21:00 Slippbarinn
Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét
21:00 Sæta Svinið
Beatmakin Troopa
22:00 Prikíð
Teitur Magnússon & Æðisgengið
20:00 Röntgen
DJ Sigrún Skafta
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Thursday February 13th

Teenage Songbook Of Love & Sex
21:00 Tjarnarbió
Roaring 20s Dance Party
20:00 Hard Rock Café
Benedikt Andrason
22:00 Prikíð
Kalmarsambandið
23:00 Kaffibarinn
Open Jam Session
22:00 Gaukurinn

Friday February 14th

Bubbi Morthens: Valentine's Show
20:30 Bæjarbió
Ágústa Eva: Prince Cover Concert
20:00 Hard Rock Café
DJ Kocoon / DJ Vala & Æðisgengið
21:00 Prikíð
DJ Ewok x Ozy
23:00 Kaffibarinn
DJ Hexía
00:00 Hressó

Saturday February 15th

★ **101 Festival**
19:00 Austurbær
Teenage Songbook Of Love & Sex
21:00 Tjarnarbió
Stuðmenn 50
17:00, 21:00 Harpa
Friða Dis
20:00 Hljómahöll
Adele Tribute Night
21:00 Hard Rock Café
DJ KGB x Jamie Clarke
23:00 Kaffibarinn
DJ Karítas
23:00 Prikíð
Kisimja & Guests

22:00 Gaukurinn

Sunday February 16th

Sunday Jazz: Rekka Blöndal Trio
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
Sunday Classics: Hulda Jonsdóttir & Guðrún Dalía
16:00 Harpa
Anna Sóley Ásmundsdóttir: Compass
20:00 Harpa
DJ Silja Glommi
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Monday February 17th

DJ Pabbi
22:00 Kaffibarinn
Monday Night Jazz
20:00 Röntgen

Tuesday February 18th

Karaoke Party!
21:00 Gaukurinn
DJ Fusion Groove
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Wednesday February 19th

Múlinn Jazz Club: Maria Baptist & Sigurður Flosason Quartet
20:00 Harpa
Dovi Wednesday Special
21:00 Prikíð
Don Lockwood Band
21:00 Slippbarinn
Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét
21:00 Sæta Svinið
GÓSS
20:00 Röntgen

Thursday February 20th

DJ Tetriz x Kronik
22:00 Prikíð
DJ Þorsteinn Eyfjörð
22:00 Kaffibarinn
BOY: Party Cover Band
22:00 Gaukurinn

Friday February 21st

★ **Daði Freyr**
22:30 Hard Rock Café
★ **Sycamore Tree**
20:30 Frikirkjan
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Mahler & Debussy
19:30 Harpa
Skvísulestin & DJ Snorri Ástráðsson
21:00 Prikíð
Axel Diego & Guests
22:00 Gaukurinn
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Open Rehearsal
9:30 Harpa

Saturday February 22nd

★ **Hatari: Neyslutrans Release Show**
21:00 Austurbær

Forgarður Helvitis / Grafnár & Horrible Youth

20:30 Dillon
Huginn
14:00 Harpa
Magga Stína Sings Megas
20:00 Harpa
DJ Vala
00:00 Hressó
DJ Sonur Sæll
23:00 Kaffibarinn

Sunday February 23rd

★ **Hatari: Neyslutrans Release Show**
19:00 Austurbær
Sunday Classics: Suites & Waltez From West & East
16:00 Harpa
Sunday Jazz: Kristján & Co.
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
KrBear Sunday Mass
21:00 Prikíð
DJ Mama Gunz
22:00 Kaffibarinn
The Reykjavik Big Band: Maria Baptist
20:00 Harpa
Songwriter Night
21:00 Gaukurinn

Monday February 24th

Monday Night Jazz
20:00 Röntgen
DJ Baron
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Tuesday February 25th

Hania Rani & Jelena Ćirić
19:30 IDNÓ
Lunchtime Concert: Wagner Arias
12:15 Harpa
Karaoke Party!
21:00 Gaukurinn
DJ Árni Svins
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Wednesday February 26th

Múlinn Jazz Club: The Roaring Twenties
20:00 Harpa
Don Lockwood Band
21:00 Slippbarinn
Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét
21:00 Sæta Svinið
DJ Ewok Vinyl Wednesday
22:00 Prikíð
DJ Silja Glommi
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Thursday February 27th

We Will Rock You
20:00 Harpa
Thugs Need Hugs 2
21:00 Prikíð
DJ KGB
22:00 Kaffibarinn

Friday February 28th

★ **Evita**
19:30 Harpa
Múlinn Jazz Club: Unnur Birna & Bjóssi Thor Band
20:00 Harpa
Singer/Songwriter Open Mic Night
20:00 Loft
Ty of Geimfarar / DJ Thaison & lamLoggi
21:00 Prikíð
Milljón DJ Set
00:00 Hressó
Captain Syrup & Guests
22:00 Gaukurinn

Saturday February 29th

Russian Souvenir: Alexander Pushkin
15:00 Harpa
DJ Young Nazareth & 101 Savage
23:00 Prikíð
DJ Katla
23:00 Kaffibarinn
Devine Defilmenet: EP Release Show
21:30 Gaukurinn
Söngvakeppnin 2020: Finals
19:30 Háskólabíó
DJ Motherfunker
00:00 Hressó

Sunday March 1st

Sunday Classics: Cauda Collective
16:00 Harpa
Sunday Jazz: The Brazilian Band
20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús
Vilhjálmur Vilhjálmsson Tribute Show
17:00 Harpa

Monday March 2nd

Monday Night Jazz
20:00 Röntgen

Tuesday March 3rd

Karaoke Party!
21:00 Gaukurinn

Wednesday March 4th

Múlinn Jazz Club: HóBiT Release Concert
20:00 Harpa
Don Lockwood Band
21:00 Slippbarinn
Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét
21:00 Sæta Svinið
J.S. Bach's St. John Passion
20:00 Hallgrímskirkja

Thursday March 5th

Iceland Symphony Orchestra: 70th Anniversary Concert
19:30 Harpa
Iceland Symphony Orchestra: Open Rehearsal
9:30 Harpa

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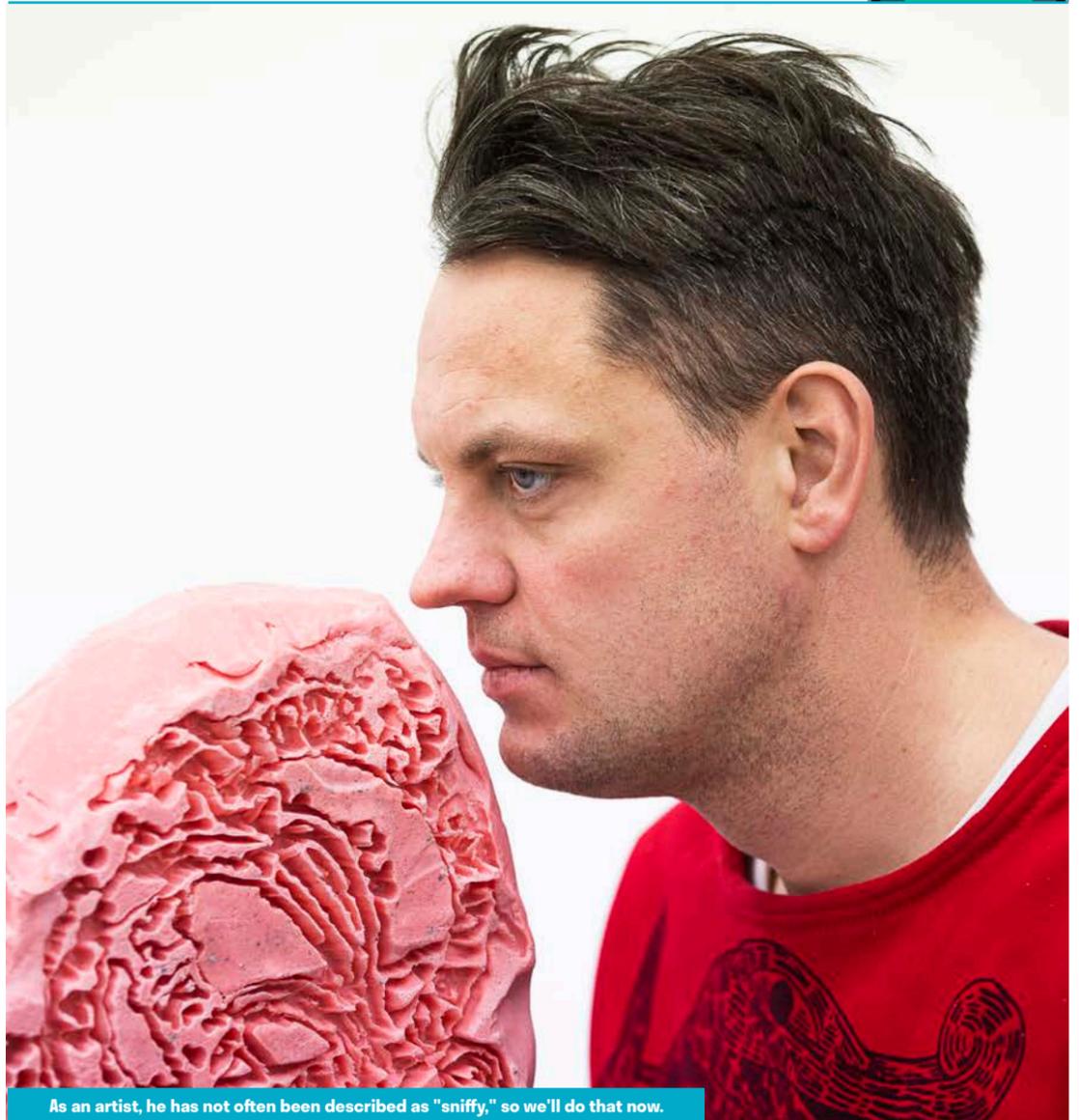
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Art

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As an artist, he has not often been described as "sniffy," so we'll do that now.

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The Bell Curve Of Emotions

'Transmutants and Emotional Curves' plays with
feelings

Words: Sam O'Donnell Photo: Art Bicnick

Art Book

'Transmutants and Emotional Curves' is available for purchase at Reykjavik Art Museum, Galleri Port on Laugavegur, and Books in the Back on Freyjugata.

Arnar Ásgeirsson and I meet in his studio to talk about his new book of illustrations. On a table is something else he poured his soul into: carvings on giant bars of soap. I can see he has a distinct style—angular, intricate, and ancient-looking. There is also a level of absurdity to it. Carving a complex design into something as impermanent and fragile as a bar of soap has a very dadaist feel. This style is magnified in his book, wherein he explores the absurdity of how nature plays with our feelings.

Chronic drawing

"I've always been a chronic drawer," Arnar says, explaining he would draw so much in school, his teachers would take all of his paper away, so he would draw on the table. "This project started like that," he says. "The first one I drew from this series were these two entangled snakes," he says, showing me a print that reminds me of Ourob-

oros. He says he remembers trying to draw how he felt when he drew the snakes. It was such a success that he kept doing it.

Capturing a mood

Every time Arnar would begin drawing, he would try to capture a mood or emotion. "But when you're drawing so much, you're also taking from something you see that day," he smiles and shows me a print of another pair of snakes, tangled up together in what looks like a Celtic knot. "I remember I saw something similar to this on an Irish pub. So I tried to memorise it and draw it the way I remembered it."

Indeed, the artists draw inspiration from many things he encounters in his daily life: Signs on pubs, tattoos at the pool, nature, animals. Arnar would take these influences and his mood that day and combine them on paper. Then he put the drawings in an order that fit a curve of emotions, starting low, going high, then back down low again.

"There is a word
for this feel-
ing in Icelandic:
'lægð.'"

The Lægð

Anyone who has spent a winter in Iceland knows that there are days of low energy and mood, where even leaving the house can feel like a chore. There is a word for this feeling in Icelandic: "lægð," which literally means "slump." It's a mood that affects thousands of people throughout the country. "A lot of people ask me if I'm depressed when I show them this," he says, laughing. "Which, I'm not." Arnar has played with this seasonal emotion in his book by drawing ancient-looking snakes, birds, flies, and crabs in a style that is almost Lovecraftian, and juxtaposing them with chopsticks, cigarettes and smiley faces.

In this way, the prints are often dark and scary, but they also have a humorous undertone. One is a snake tangled up in itself with the caption "but chill out." Another print is someone trying to hold onto a runaway noodle with chopsticks. Another is an ancient magic symbol with a smiley face on it. "I probably drew it wrong, which is fine," he says with a smile.

Moving along the curve

The images also relate to one another in some ways. Some will look similar, or have the same caption. Arnar says it's another way the book follows a curve. "You hit one point here and on the way back you hit the same point in the curve.

It repeats itself. Sometimes you're on your way up, and sometimes you're on your way down, but you always hit the same point." ♡

Our Picks



★ List í Ljósi

February 14th-15th - Seyðisfjörður

If you thought the days were short in Reykjavík, Seyðisfjörður only just celebrated the arrival of the

sun after months of long, dark nights. The List í Ljósi Festival, which translates to 'art by light,' will thus rejoice. At this annual event, displays, art installations and sculptures illuminate the town as all party with the sun (and hopefully some Northern Lights.) The festival represents an opportunity for artists and onlookers to experiment with forms and interpret the beloved hub of creativity that is Seyðisfjörður in their unique way. Through the light of installations and sculptures—both interactive and traditional—artists come from everywhere to transform Seyðisfjörður into a hive that buzzes with life. **RG**



★ Erró: Cyborg

Until Dec. 31st - Hafnarhús

Erró is back—well, he never left—with an A.I. extravaganza of tera proportions. In this collage exhibit, the pop-artist explores

the relationship between technology, science, the human, and the mechanic. We imagine Grimes' "We Appreciate Power" will soundtrack it. **HJC**



★ Atli Bollason

Feb. 7th-16th - Gallery Port

Remember that time your sister hit the TV antenna with her Sky Dancer and the Fonz disintegrated into static? This new

exhibit by Atli Bollason will be just like that, except in the form of oil paintings, and probably with no shark jumping. **HJC**



★ Janúar / January

Until Feb. 25th - The Wind & Weather Window Gallery

Una Margrét Arnadóttir's newest mixed-medium site-specific installation 'Janúar / January' turns

this Hverfisgata window into an homage to fabric, draping, and the figure itself. Beguiling, imaginative, calming, and a bit spooky, it's a not-to-miss view. **HJC**

February 7th—March 5th

Art Listings

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

Opening

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS Sol LeWitt

This exhibition spans 30 years of the great American conceptual artist Sol LeWitt's career. In LeWitt's works, all the planning and decision-making for the execution of an artwork is made beforehand, and with that, as he said, "the idea becomes a machine that makes the art."
• Opens on February 13th, 2020
• Runs until May 24th, 2020

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

Ásgerður Búadóttir: Facets Of Life
2020 is the one hundredth birth anniversary of Ásgerður Búadóttir. The artist was a pioneer of woven art in Iceland, using Icelandic wool to create magnificent tapestries. Come see her iconic works at this special retrospective.
• Opens on February 22nd, 2020
• Runs until May 3rd, 2020

Jóhannes S. Kjarval: From Abroad

Jóhannes Sveinsson Kjarval is one of Iceland's most beloved artists—the museum was actually named after him. This exhibit shows only works he created abroad in London, Rome, Copenhagen and more.
• Opens on February 22nd, 2020
• Runs until May 3rd, 2020

Ongoing

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND Treasures Of A Nation

A selection of over 80 works chosen from the national gallery's collection displays the evolution of art since the 19th century.
• Runs until September 30th, 2020
The Icelandic Love Corporation: Water And Blood
In preparation for this video work, the Icelandic Love Corporation brought in a psychic to make contact with deceased artist Ásgrímur Jónsson. He probably said "Go away, I'm trying to rest."
• Runs until March 1st, 2020

EINAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM

Permanent Exhibition

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

REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM Settlement Exhibition

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

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - ÁSMUNDARSAFN

Ásmundur Sveinsson: Under the Same Sky - Art In Public Space
Ásmundarsafn is named after sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson. This new permanent exhibition presents the artist in a new light. What dialogue does his works provoke?
• Runs until March 3rd, 2020

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Yes, the exhibition is really called "...". In it, photographer Valdimar Thorlacius turned his lens on Icelandic towns with under 500 inhabitants, documenting the small moments of this country oft ignored.
• Runs until May 3rd, 2020

REYKJAVÍK MARITIME MUSEUM Fish & Folk

Name a better duo than fish and Iceland. You can't. So come learn about the history of Icelandic fisheries from row boats to monstrous trawlers.
Melckmeyt 1659
Melckmeyt was a Dutch merchant ship that crashed near Flatey Island in 1659. Explore the wreck here, with two images of different origins against each other.

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART Anna María Pitt Workshop

Silversmith Anna María Pitt has taken over the studio of the Museum of Design and Applied Art. Come watch her make her nature-inspired jewelry live, then buy some in the store.
• Runs until February 23rd, 2020

Sveinn Kjarval

This exhibition focuses on the pioneering work of Sveinn Kjarval, one of the most pioneering furniture makers and interior designers in the country. While many pieces have been lost in time, there will be photographs showing never-before-seen designs.
• Runs until August 30th, 2020

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

Jóhannes S. Kjarval: Can't Draw a Harebell

Here, explore the floral works of Jóhannes S. Kjarval, after whom the museum is named. Be it ornamental plants, potted plants, or wildflowers, you'll find it all.
• Runs until February 16th, 2020
Ólöf Nordal: Úngl
In this mid-career retrospective, Ólöf Nordal dissects the structural material of mythical tales—taking old events and folktales and putting them into a modern context. Enter her preoccupation with nature and connect yourself to the land.
• Runs until February 9th, 2020

HVERFISGALLERÍ

Súper Lókal

Loji Höskuldsson's visual art primarily explores new and traditional ways of embroidery, a technique he inherited from his mother who is a professional seamstress and embroidery expert. In his embroidery, Loji most often depicts a sort of still life with focus on everyday objects, plants and fruits. The subtle poetic situations in our domestic lives are elevated in his works.
• Runs until February 15th, 2020

18

Kiss The Day Goodbye

Charles Atlas is a video artist and film director who was a pioneer in developing media dance, or as they call it, dance for camera. While the text has not been released for this exhibition yet, we assume it'll be spectacular.
• Runs until March 1st, 2020

LIVING ART MUSEUM

Some Favourites

In this exhibition, the Living Art Museum presents pieces from its collection without attempting to fit them into any elaborate curatorial concept. Check out some of Iceland's best or most provocative contemporary art on its own terms.
• Runs until February 23rd, 2020

REYKJAVÍK ROASTERS

Í kring 06

Artists Almar Atlason, Dadi Guðbjörnsson and Kristín Gunnlaugsdóttir present a series of works from their recent print workshop at each Reykjavík Roasters location. There will be a special Walk & Talk on January 10th at 17:00 starting at Brautarholt 2.
• Runs until February 23rd, 2020

GERÐARSAFN KÓPAVOGUR ART MUSEUM Imprint

'Imprint' comprises works by seven contemporary artists who deconstruct the ideas of the photograph as a window on reality. Come explore

the ambiguous nature of the photograph, while also playing with the potential of the medium and pushing the boundaries of it.
• Runs until March 15th, 2020

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS Structure and Order: Draft of Contemporary Art History in Iceland [IV]

The exhibition is the fourth in a series of drafts of Icelandic contemporary art history, based on works from the Reykjavík Art Museum's collection. Works are selected and juxtaposed in a thematic context in an experiment to reflect art history in real time. This one takes on the style of minimalism.
• Runs until May 17th, 2020

D40 Una Björg Magnúsdóttir: Vanishing Crowd

The D-Gallery series invites up-and-coming local artists to host their first solo exhibition. This iteration features sculptor Una Björg Magnúsdóttir, whose works are notorious for emitting sound.
• Runs until March 15th, 2020

Hrafnhildur Arnadóttir/Shoplifter: Chromo Sapiens

Shoplifter is known for her psychedelically colourful "hairsapes," is back in Reykjavík. For this new installation, journey through three multi-sensory cave-like spaces full of neon stalactites, ethereal lights, and overgrown plant-like hair extension organisms. If that's not enough, Icelandic cult metal mavericks HAM created a soundscape for the exhibition.
• Runs until March 22nd, 2020

Erró: Cyborg

This series of the great Erró was inspired by technology, science and the combination of the human and the mechanic. In particular, it examines how technology invades

the body and how the human body adapts to the machine. The images offer questions concerning the borderlines between human beings and technology.
• Runs until December 31st, 2020

HAFNARBORG

Silent Spring

Lilja Birgisdóttir, Hertta Kiiski, and Katrín Elvarsdóttir explore neglected environments at the brink of loss due to climate change. It's a full sensory experience designed to remind you of the beauty we still have on this Earth.
• Runs until March 15th, 2020

Far

Pórdís Jóhannesdóttir and Ralph Hannam came to photography by unconventional routes. One focused fully on the technological manipulation of digital images, the other used the medium purely for self-expression. Here, both are placed in dialogue.
• Runs until March 15th, 2020

NORDIC HOUSE

Silent Spring

Say "Tervetuloa" to your sauna-loving artists to the east. In this exhibition, five Finnish artists explore the boundaries of art and fantasy in their dialogue on Finnish wanderlust. We can't confirm, but the Moomins might be in attendance.
• Runs until April 5th, 2020

WIND & WEATHER WINDOW GALLERY

Janúar / January

Una Margrét Arnadóttir's mixed-medium site specific installation brings to life a figure that is both decidedly there but also decidedly absent. The window is visible all day and night, so stop by at your leisure.
• Runs until February 25th, 2020

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Opening 2nd November

Anna María Pitt
Silversmith
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Film

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A creepshot, but for a good cause

Still Hope For The Only Arthouse Cinema

Cinephiles of Iceland unite, one of the city's biggest cultural landmarks needs you

Words: Inês Pereira Photo: Art Bienick

Culture Crisis

Iceland's only art-house (and 80s blockbuster) cinema is set to close in late spring.

The year is off to a worrisome start for culture in Reykjavík. At the end of January, it was announced that the only arthouse cinema in Reykjavík, *Bió Paradís*, would be closing in three months. The future remains uncertain for one of the city's major cultural hubs, but film aficionados and *Bió Paradís* lovers are mobilizing to save the cinema.

It all started 10-years ago, the previous commercial cinema that operated in the building went down with the Icelandic economy in the 2008 financial crash. As the commercial, blockbuster-centric cinemas moved to suburban shopping malls, *Bió Paradís* was born in the heart of Reykjavík, pumping culture through the city's veins.

ever, in 2015 the building was bought. The new owners planned on immediately doubling the rent, but they weren't allowed. "Luckily, we had just renewed the old rent agreement with the previous owners," discloses the managing director, Hrönn Sveinsdóttir. "I don't know if this was something they realized before they bought it but the agreement is for five years, it's quite clear".

They are looking to negotiate with the city and the state, with whom they've been partnered since the beginning, but who currently represent less than 20% of the cinema's yearly financing, with the rest being raised by the organization. Hrönn believes there are several ways this partnership can be fruitful, but "the survival of *Bió Paradís* is a question of political will and courage."

Besides the obvious problem with the dramatic increase in rent, *Bió Paradís* has been in need of maintenance since its opening in 2010. The list of problems is long, from the seats to the air condition-

ing to the lack of wheelchair accessibility. In the past three years, the cinema was finally making enough money to cover the debt they incurred purchasing equipment. Money was also finally coming in from all the services the theatre offers besides film screenings.

The Power Of Culture

The closure of this legendary cultural icon would mean a great loss, delivering a blow to the democratization of access to culture. For 10 years, *Bió Paradís* has been the foremost venue to welcome films from all genres from all over the world, and the only theatre in Iceland to import and sell the acclaimed films that are available on Video On Demand services and the National Television Network in Iceland.

In a show of support and shared grief, hundreds of people filled the foyer of *Bió Paradís* on February 4th for an event appropriately called, "Save *Bió Paradís*." In an open-mic format, cultural icons and community members shared ideas, praise, and solutions. The management of *Bió Paradís* was impressed and pleased that such a movement was formed so quickly. "I think it's important that it comes from the grassroots, not something that we are directly involved in," Hrönn emphasizes.

As we learn in Italian film "Cinema Paradiso," which fittingly shares a name with Reykjavík's beloved cinema, life is much harder than the movies, but hopefully, the magic of film will prevail. 🍿

"The survival of *Bió Paradís* is a question of political will and courage."

New owners, new problems

In 2010, *Bió Paradís*' proprietors were able to arrange a great price for the rent of the building. How-

gpu.is/film
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And I couldn't help but wonder...

Various Events

Friday February 7th

Winter Lights Festival Museum Night

17:00 Reykjavík

Bushfire Relief Fundraiser: Comedy, Drag & More!

22:00 Gaukurinn

'Sex And The City 2' Party Screening!

20:00 Bíó Paradís

Saturday February 8th

Saturday Night Comedy Showcase

21:00 The Secret Cellar

Sunday February 9th

Winter Lights Festival Pool Night

17:00 Reykjavík

Búkalú Variety Show

22:00 Gaukurinn

Black Sundays: 'Requiem For A Dream'

20:00 Bíó Paradís

Party Bingo With Sigga Kling

21:00 Sæta Svinið

Monday February 10th

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy

21:00 Gaukurinn

Tuesday February 11th

Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!

21:00 Fjallkonan

My Voices Have Tourettes

21:00 The Secret Cellar

Wednesday February 12th

Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy

21:00 The Secret Cellar

Thursday February 13th

Speed Dating - Speed Friending

20:30 Loft

'Paris Is Burning' Special Screening

20:00 Bíó Paradís

Friday February 14th

Drag-Súgur Valentine's Day Show

21:30 Gaukurinn

'The Notebook' Valentine's Screening!

20:00 Gaukurinn

Saturday February 15th

Pink Party #11: Masquerade

22:30 IÐNÓ

Winter Pride Pool Party

17:00 Sundlaugin Laugaskarði

Saturday Night Comedy Showcase

21:00 The Secret Cellar

Sunday February 16th

Board Game Night

21:00 Gaukurinn

Free Yoga Class

12:00 Loft

Black Sundays: 'Point Blank'

20:00 Bíó Paradís

Party Bingo With Sigga Kling

21:00 Sæta Svinið

Monday February 17th

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy

21:00 Gaukurinn

Tuesday February 18th

Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!

21:00 Fjallkonan

My Voices Have Tourettes

21:00 The Secret Cellar

Wednesday February 19th

Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy

21:00 The Secret Cellar

Thursday February 20th

Thursday Night Comedy Jam

21:00 Secret Cellar

Friday February 21st

'Back To The Future' Screening!

20:00 Bíó Paradís

Saturday February 22nd

Saturday Night Comedy Showcase

21:00 The Secret Cellar

Sunday February 23rd

Party Bingo With Sigga Kling

21:00 Sæta Svinið

Black Sundays: 'Dog Day Afternoon'

20:00 Bíó Paradís

Monday February 24th

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy

21:00 Gaukurinn

Tuesday February 25th

Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!

21:00 Fjallkonan

My Voices Have Tourettes

21:00 The Secret Cellar

Wednesday February 26th

Video Game Pub Quiz

21:00 Gaukurinn

Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy

21:00 The Secret Cellar

Thursday February 27th

Drag-Súgur Drag Lab

21:30 Gaukurinn

Friday February 28th

Not-So-Secret Friday Show

21:00 Secret Cellar

Saturday February 29th

Saturday Night Comedy Showcase

21:00 The Secret Cellar

Sunday March 1st

Free Yoga Class

12:00 Loft

Black Sundays: 'Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas'

20:00 Bíó Paradís

Monday March 2nd

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy

21:00 Gaukurinn

Tuesday March 3rd

Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!

21:00 Fjallkonan

My Voices Have Tourettes

21:00 The Secret Cellar

Wednesday March 4th

Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy

21:00 The Secret Cellar

Thursday March 5th

Thursday Night Comedy Jam

21:00 Secret Cellar



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Grapevine PhotoAI tags this picture as "pickup artists"

Water and Blood

The Icelandic Love Corporation's oracular new work

Words: **Tara Njála Ingvarsdóttir** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

Exhibition

Located in the National Gallery of Iceland, 'Water and Blood' is open until March 1st 2020. Join the ILC, Sigríður Þorgeirsdóttir, and Guðni Tómasson on February 15th at 11:00 for an artist talk on 'Water and Blood' (in Icelandic).

Water and Blood, the Icelandic Love Corporation's (ILC) video-installation in the National Gallery of Iceland is inspired by the life and art of Ásgrímur Jónsson (1876–1958). Eirún Sigurðardóttir and Jóni Jónsdóttir—founding members—pop out of the video and enter into the room dressed in their finest, just as they are on-screen.

"We are mixing together the past and the present in a cocktail which we present as: Water and Blood," Eirún shares. The premise of the work came from a meeting the collective had with a medium, where they contacted the deceased icon Ásgrímur himself. "We wanted to discover what was left out of the history books."

'Medium-medium'

"We work across mediums in our

practice so we thought why not with a medium?" Eirún explains. This is the second time they've engaged the research tool that they refer to as 'medium-medium.' "When we first went to a medium it was very dramatic," Jóni adds. "We won't go into that here but there was no turning back. It gave so much to the process."

Ásgrímur, who was one of the first professional artists in Iceland, was also a pioneer in drawing trolls and hidden people. The video addresses these elements as well. "Ásgrímur told us when we met with him that it was sometimes like something was reaching through his hands and painting through him," Jóni shares matter-of-factly. "He implied that he was not alone in creating all his works... We were certainly not alone in creating this work. We had amazing people with us in this process — Ásgrímur included."

"Once we had spoken to him we started to think about what compels us as artists. What was it that

compelled him?" Jóni explains. "We joke a bit that the work is a collaboration with a deceased artist, because he gave us so much." Eirún adds, "There are scenes in the video that Ásgrímur showed to the medium—the scene where the young boy strokes the grass is a memory he showed her."

Forces of nature

The ILC see water and blood as driving forces. "Water always finds a way," Jóni emphasises. "No matter if you try to block it, it always finds another direction to flow and thrive. It's resourceful. Like the artist and feminism, blood is the creative force—artists are all blood-related through creativity."

The Icelandic Love Corporation are queens of the visual arts in their own right, and the group has been hypnotising and conjuring since they formed the group in 1996. "We often talk about the ILC as a tree," Eirún explains. "We have to water it and tend to it. There are roots, and its wooden crown is gaining rings. It's growing up." Jóni agrees. "If we work hard, we will live for 800-years through our work." 🍷

"Blood is the creative force—artists are all blood-related through creativity."

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A Winning Heart

Larissa Kyzer wins award for her translation of Kristín Eiríksdóttir's 'A Fist in the Heart'

Words: **a rawlings**

Book

Larissa Kyzer wins American-Scandinavian Award for Translation.

"It was a real honour to work on 'A Fist in the Heart,'" beams Larissa Kyzer, English-language translator of Kristín Eiríksdóttir's novel. For Larissa's translation, she won an American-Scandinavian Foundation Award announced last month. "It was exciting for me personally because it's nice to see my work being appreciated and validated. It's also exciting because it was for this particular book."

An emerging translator of Icelandic to English, Larissa focuses on bringing contemporary fiction and poetry to English readers. In Fall 2019, Larissa was translator in residence at Princeton University. She'll return in Fall 2020 to teach a formal translation workshop. In addition to her academic adventures, Larissa is currently translating short stories by Friða Ísberg as well as poetry and fiction by Kári Tulinius.

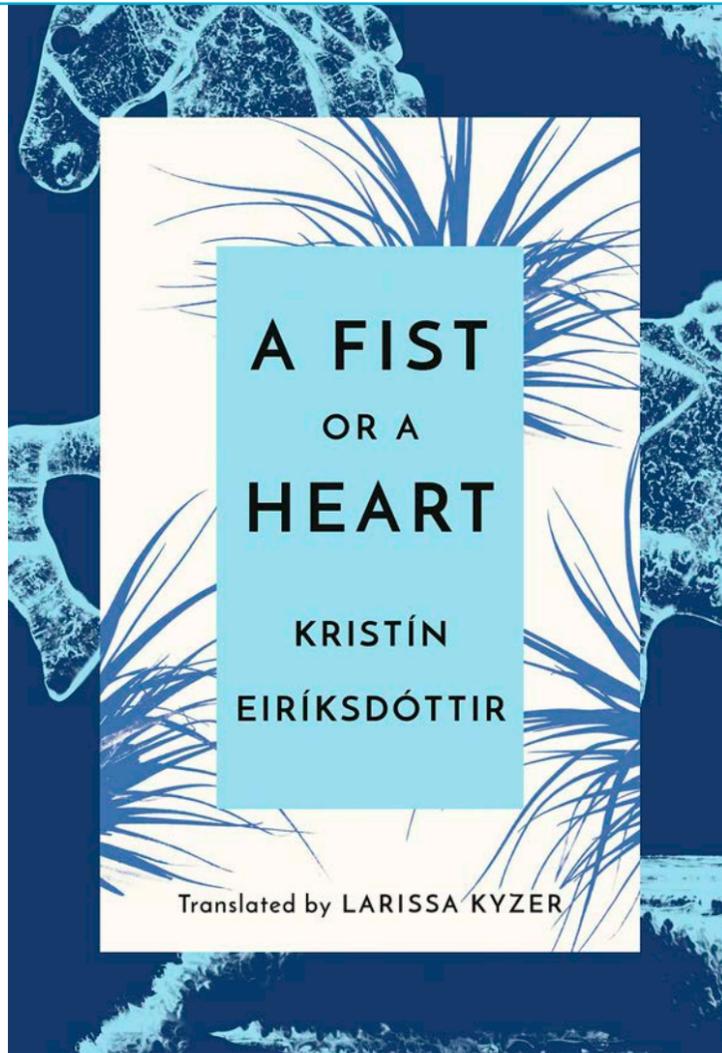
On winning the translation award, Larissa shares, "It's very gratifying because it's something that I put a lot of myself into. I specifically applied this time around because it was a project that I

cared so much about. I wouldn't have applied if I didn't think it was a fantastic translation of a book. It is such a fabulous book."

Intimate with Icelandic

Larissa arrived in Iceland in 2012 to study via a Fulbright scholarship for one year. She extended her stay for an additional four years, which afforded her the opportunity to study a Masters in Translation at the University of Iceland. Though she has returned to the United States, Larissa still works with written Icelandic every day. She confides, "I email in Icelandic. I translate it. The more I do it, the faster I get and the better off my vocabulary is."

While her work as a translator brings her an intimacy with written Icelandic, she jokes about the different relationship she has with spoken Icelandic. "If I went to the countryside and there was no English speaker, I could get by, though I would sound like a deranged child. I sometimes say I speak skrítlensku," she explains, playfully blending the Icelandic word for "weird" (skrítið) and "Íslensku" ("Icelandic"... in Icelandic).



Living inside lit

Larissa's passion for contemporary literature gives her a distinct insight into the life of a text. "Translation brings together all of the things I love: writing, reading, increasing engagement with text," she explains. "It's creative; you get to live inside the literature."

The idea to pursue translation first occurred to Larissa in college during literature classes. She subsequently sought out world literature, and was gifted a short-story collection by Icelandic authors. "I loved it. I read about this country that had such a strong literary history, that valued literature in this

beautiful and active way. There were not as many people translating Icelandic then so I found that there was a niche there."

Translating A Fist

Larissa shares how she landed the translation of Kristín's book. "I was doing samples for Forlagið," Larissa explains, "which the publisher takes to literary festivals to try and sell foreign rights. I was asked to sample A Fist in the Heart. There was a bidding war over the book, which was exciting. Amazon Crossing was really nice because they let me continue as the translator."

Kristín's writing first crossed Larissa's desk when she was a student at the University of Iceland. "I loved her first novel 'Hvítfeld.' There's a short story—"Evelyn Hates Her Name"—from Kristín's short story collection 'Doris Deyr' that I tried to translate before I was capable. It was too hard; I maxed out. I wasn't far enough along in my language acquisition studies."

During Larissa's translation work for A Fist in the Heart, she returned to "Evelyn Hates Her Name." "I had the opportunity to go back to that story and publish it in an online journal," Larissa recalls.

"I'm all in with Kristín's work," Larissa raves. "She is an incredible writer. I love how her writing slices to the heart of observations. She has amazing rhythms and trains of thought that split into grotesque streams. Fresh and unique." 🍷

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Lifestyle

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

Marín Líf Gautadóttir

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen

Photo: Art Bicnick

Marín Líf Gautadóttir (20) works at Wasteland Reykjavík.

Wearing:

- Top from Rick Owens.
- Pants are probably from Rauði Krossinn. I don't remember.
- Jacket from Rauði Krossinn.
- Shoes from Maison Margiela.
- Chain from Wasteland.
- Earrings from Harajuku Chains.
- Bag from Rauði Krossinn.

Describe your style in five words (or more!):

I love to pair vintage/thrifted clothing with designer pieces. I would say I'm comfortable, classy and I love earth/neutral tones.

Favourite stores in Reykjavík:

I usually only shop vintage/thrifted clothes here in Iceland so my go-to shops are Wasteland Reykjavík, Spútnik, and Rauði Krossinn.

Favourite piece:

My Maison Margiela shoes that I got in Paris two weeks ago. I had been wanting them for some time and then I stumbled across them while walking in Paris and I was so happy!

Something you would never wear:

I can't really think of anything I would never wear because fashion changes. I mean, I'm wearing a lot of things right now that I would never have worn two years ago.

Lusting after:

I saw this light green jacket in a Jacquemus fashion show. It's oversized over the shoulders and tight on the waist and I haven't stopped thinking about it, so I know I will be getting myself that jacket someday. I have also been looking for the perfect faux fur jacket all winter and I still haven't found one. Still looking! 🐾

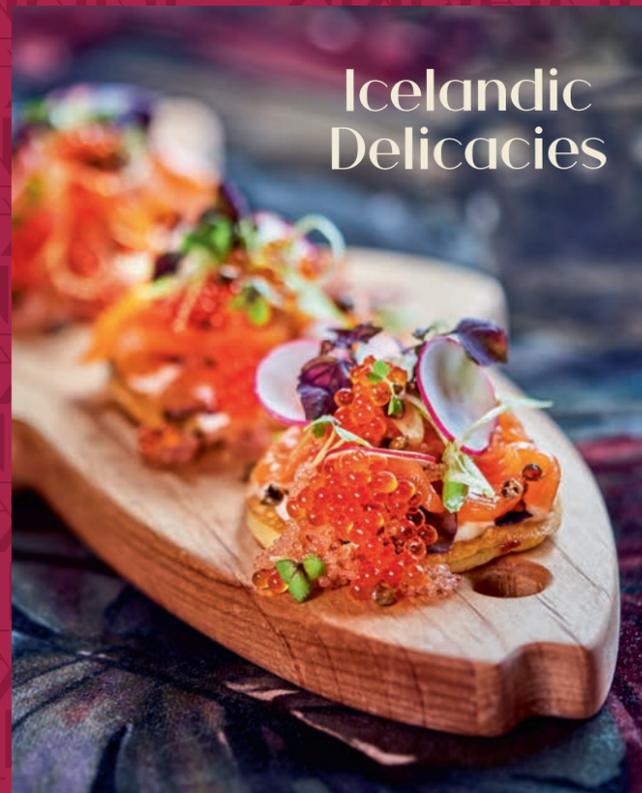


FJALLKONAN

KRÁ & KRÆSINGAR

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ICELANDIC PLATTER

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

THE LAMB BURGER

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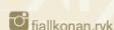
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You asked for pale food??? I'll show you pale food!

Cooking for Gold

The national culinary team is intent on bringing the Culinary Olympics 2020 crown home

Words: Shruthi Basappa Photos: Art Bicnick

Once every four years, kitchen fires burn hotter and brighter in the Icelandic training kitchens as the Culinary Olympics draws closer. With over 2,000 chefs, teams from 59 countries, and 7,000 menus, to say that it is a whopper of a gastronomic event is putting it mildly. It is set to take place in Stuttgart, Germany, from February 15th to 18th.

Chef Sigurjón Bragi Geirsson is at the helm of the 2020 Icelandic National Team and as a coach, he runs a tight ship. With eight professional chefs training around the clock, "The team has been training since early last year," he confirms. This year, they have their sights set on bringing home the gold in as many categories as possible and the titular National Team award.

National Culinary Team aka Kokkalandslíðið

The Icelandic culinary team has been a steady participant bringing home awards. They did so for the first time in 2008—two gold medals and a silver for their first course and cold buffet respectively. They repeated their impressive performance in 2016 with chef Þráinn Freyr Sigfusson as the coach, bringing home gold for pastry and silver for other courses.

Modelled like the Olympic games, the competition is a battlefield of professional chefs measuring their skills against each other across several categories: Chef's Table, Restaurant of Nations and Live Carving.

"We compete in two categories—Chef's Table and Restaurant of the Nations," explains Sigurjón. "At Chef's Table, we cook seven different dishes for twelve people, and in

the latter, we cook a three-course meal for 110." That is an incredible amount of food and in the past, the Icelandic culinary team has reportedly shipped about a whopping tonne of ingredients with them.

Team effort

To best a gruelling competition, you are only as good as your team, as Chef Sigurjón explains. "The chefs apply to be on the team and I go through the applications, and try to pick individuals that will form a strong unity with team values in mind."

Sigurjón admits the training is extremely intense. "At first, the training was four days a month—that was in April, and the closer to the competition we get, the more intensely we train. A few months ago we started training eight days a month and now, in the last month we trained four days a week." He goes on to add, "We're competing against 27 other teams and are judged for various parts, such as

hygiene, food safety, flavour and presentation of the food. And, last but not least, consistency."

Local traditions and skills

Cooking traditions of the home country and individual skills need to be perfectly tempered with the teams' collective values.

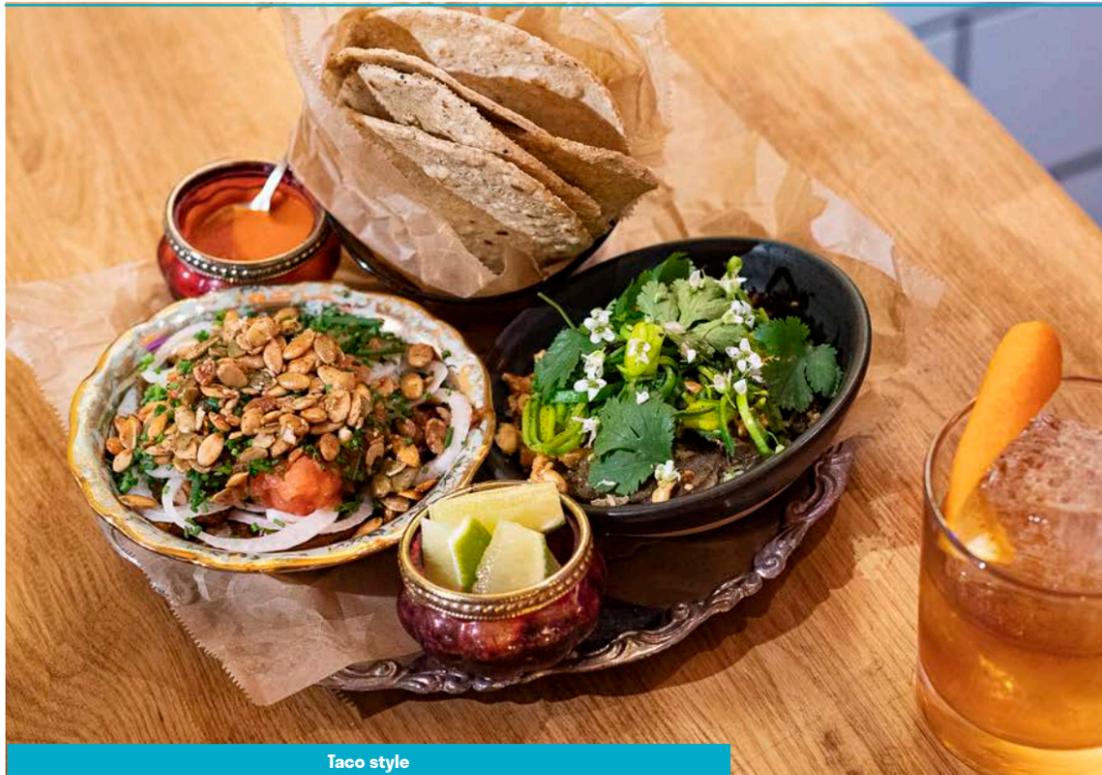
Naturally, the Icelandic team is showcasing local ingredients. Without giving away much, Sigurjón says, "I can tell you that in the restaurant of a nation we use arctic char in our first course, Icelandic lamb in our main course and Icelandic skyr in our dessert."

Besides the judges evaluating the teams, ticketed visitors also get to savour the undoubtedly delicious fare from each of the teams. This is as good a time as any to travel to Stuttgart and cheer the national team on. As Sigurjón signs off, "We have competed many times and achieved good results. However, we are keen on doing better now than ever!"

The national culinary team is comprised of Chefs Björn Bragi Bragason, Fanney Dóra Sigurjónsdóttir, Sigurjón Bragi Geirsson, Ísak Aron Jónsson, Ísak Darri Þorsteinsson, Jakob Zarióh S Baldvinsson, Kristin Gíslí Jónsson, Sindri Guðbrandur Sigurðsson, Snorri Victor Gylfasson and Snæðís Jónsdóttir. ✨



That'd go nice with a Chianti



Taco style

Quite Mexican

Navigating the wonder vessel that is the Icelandic taco with the boys at MB Taqueria

Words: Ragnar Egilsson Photo: Art Bicnick

Taco lovers of Iceland have been on a rollercoaster of emotions over the past 10 years as they've gone from having barely any tacos to being blessed with a spattering of devoted taco spots, albeit blipping in and out of existence.

Annoying questions

One such place is MAT BAR, the beloved neighbourhood bistro. In late 2019, after wowing us with some wonderful vegan tacos, two of the MAT BAR crew capered up the block to open up the offshoot MB Taquería.

"We love tacos, so the taco thing happened pretty organically," co-owner Egill Pietro Gíslason explains. "Based on the success of the tacos at MAT BAR we were looking to spread out and this place was small and perfectly suited for tacos."

Tequila, tequila

His partner, cocktail specialist Siggí Sigurðsson, comes straight out of the Danish high-end cocktail environment. Despite the place not seating more than 25 people in a pinch, Siggí has committed to what is probably the most extensive fixed tequila cocktail menu in the country and makes a vibrant tepache

in-house.

"I just think that if you want to do something, you should do it full-on," Siggí says. "If you're doing a Mexican restaurant you must have a decent selection of tequila. Most of our stuff is specially imported exclusively for us, but we are definitely hoping some of these brands take off."

The 'pylsa' approach

The current menu consists of three types of tacos (fish, veggies, meat) and at the time of our visit, they featured Al pastor pork, ceviche-like prawns and sautéed zucchini. You get a short stack of tortillas, with each filling on a separate plate, along with a generous accent of seeds, nuts and herbs. This way, customers can assemble tacos to their liking and punch them up with a selection of hot sauces that range from reasonable to murderous.

"We wanted different levels of spiciness for people, with at least one real scorcher," says Egill. "Some people take the 'pylsa' approach and put a bit of each sauce but I wouldn't recommend that for most people. But everyone loves The Hot Ones so it's also good entertainment." My dinner companion opted for the hottest sauce and the entertainment value was palpable as his face

alternated between the reds and yellows of the murals behind us.

Red & yellow

The tacos themselves are all made on the spot, based on a special recipe that would seem to owe as much to Gothenburg flatbread as it does to Pueblan maize.

"We experimented with a number of recipes, using combinations of oats, barley masa, and polenta and we definitely try to use local ingredients whenever we can," says Egill. Sourcing those ingredients is no small feat in a place with Iceland's geographic limitations.

"What's been nice to see is the influx of non-Icelandic farmers trying out new varieties," adds Siggí. "There is a lot of energy available in Iceland and it's great to see people build on that. We even have people growing good chillies but it's still not at the scale where we can rely on it completely."

Glances at the tradition

MB Taquería feels in step with the current gastronomic movements of acids, nutty flavours, vegetables and mindful engagement with the food of other cultures. They cast admiring glances at the tradition, and are grounded in research, rather than the exoticizing one sees too often.

"We're not trying to be fully Mexican, as we've never been to Mexico and aren't making traditional Mexican food, says Egill. "Also, it's nice to be able to give it a local twist and make something that's quite Mexican but not quite Mexican."



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AWARDS

JimClaudia2016
Reviewed 1 week ago

Authentic Thai Food

I am surprised at the poor reviews because during our visit in August the service and food were both great. Maybe because we just arrived just before they opened at 6?
Actually, in hindsight, I am glad we did not read the reviews because we were so pleased with our meal and we were able to have lengthy conversations with both the owner and staff.

Show less

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Travel

Sandstone And Reverence

The ancient caves of Hella elicit a sense of awe

Words: Sam O'Donnell Photos: Art Bicnick



Distance from Reykjavik:
95 km

How to get there:
Route One east

Trip provided by:
cavesofhella.is

Car provided by:
gocarrental.is

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View this QR code in your phone camera to visit our tour booking site



The caves of Hella are a wonder to behold. Nobody knows for sure how old they are, but many historians date them back to the early/mid-9th century, right before the Viking Ingólfur Arnarsson cast two carved pillars into the sea off the coast of Iceland, and settled where they landed. That would make the caves the oldest man-made structure in Iceland. But who built them? With an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, I ventured south to explore the halls myself.

Vikings, monks and farmers

“Ægissíða means ‘by the sea’ in Icelandic,” Álfrún, one of the caretakers of the site, tells our group. “But we are nowhere near the sea. In Gaelic, though, Ægissíða means ‘the man-made caves.’”

The Vikings did not dig tunnels or live in caves, and they did not initially follow Christianity. Therefore, it's most likely that Irish monks, the settlers who predated the Vikings, were responsible for carving out these caves and using them for worship. Eventu-

ally, refusing to share their island with pagans, the monks left, abandoning their caves.

Since then, the caves have been privately owned by farmers, and were closed to the public for many years.

Carvings and conservation

In the early part of the 20th century, people began to see the value in understanding and preserving the history of these caves. Starting in the 1960s, caretakers would give tours to Icelandic school groups. The students would tour the caves, and then carve their names and the date they visited into the soft sandstone walls. Only recently the caves have fully opened to the public, guided by a local historian.

The smell of hay clings in my nose as our guide Árni explains that farmers used the caves in the area to house animals for centuries. The first cave we visit was used to house livestock in the early part of the 20th century. Before 1913, no one knew that the cave was there. That year, a horse stepped into one of the chimneys in the field above

the cave, which led to its discovery.

From the mouth of the cave, the walls extend back about 150 meters. A high ceiling in the front, where the chimney is, precedes a lower ceiling and a square alcove, which Árni says was most likely a domicile.

A tight passageway leads to another cave with a ceiling that is only a meter and a half tall. When this cave was discovered, the farmers dug a well in it and used the cave to house their sheep. It is unclear what the purpose of this room was before that.

A chapel and a cowshed

The final cave available to the public was most likely used as a place of worship. We cross a vast field to reach it. Two other caves have collapsed, but wooden supports jut out of the ground, holding them open for restoration. Árni tells us that the location of all of these caves would be ideal for settlers in the Middle Ages. “There is a river not too far from here where you can get fresh water,” he explains. “And from this hill, you can see for a long

“Ægissíða means ‘by the sea’ in Icelandic, but we are nowhere near the sea. In Gaelic, though, Ægissíða means ‘the man-made caves.’”

way into the distance in all directions. Perfect for a Viking.” However, he also emphasises that the Vikings lived in longhouses. Therefore, if they did live in this location, it was probably not in the caves.

Finally, we step inside the third cave. It takes a moment for our eyes to adjust, but what we see when they do is spectacular. Seats are carved into the wall by the entrance, with a torch sconce dug into the sandstone above them. Directly in front of us, stairs lead up to another cave, which has collapsed. A short rail track has been built here, which Árni's grandfather used to transport hay from this cave into the next one, where the cows lived.

On the back wall, a cross is embossed. The cave was carved around this eroded symbol. Around it, intricate patterns are carved into the sandstone, although they are heavily faded. “Catholics come here from all over the world and hold mass,” our guide says. A palpable holy atmosphere lingers from over a thousand years ago, it seems.

A restoration project is currently underway, supervised by the Cultural Heritage Agency of Iceland. The goal of the restoration is to eventually open more of the caves to the public, and all income generated from the tours of the caves that are currently open will go to this end. As more is revealed about the caves, we can only hope to learn more about Iceland's pre-Viking settlers. 🍷



Álfrún and Árni



Old runic carvings. Or maybe some kid carved it in the 1960s.



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WELL, YOU ASKED



Anne Of Cleves, The Icon

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

im 13. im not like other girls who like billie eilish and lil pump i listen to underground real music like queen and lead zeppelin. how can i prove to my college age boyfriend that i'm not some basic bitch??

Wow! You're 13 dating a college-age boy? You must be really mature and an old soul. Impress your totally-not-creepy boytoy by quoting Harley Quinn and sending him memes from the webarchive of 4chan circa 2007. Also—make sure to alert your mom about this true love. She'll be so impressed.

Who was the best of Henry VIII's wives?

Anne of Cleves might be an unusual answer, but it's the correct one. Anyone who amicably parted with ya boi Henry—especially after famously rebuking him upon first meeting when he dressed up like a peasant to seduce her and she merely looked upon his disgusting disease-riddled body in horror—is obviously an astute woman. Post-annulment, Anne was given a generous settlement. She then became the richest woman in England, never remarried, and spent her days playing cards, wearing jewels, and attempting to cook. That, kids, is why you never get a prenu.

They're currently making a 'The Crow' reboot. Who would you cast as Eric Draven?

Pete Davidson. With his skinny, muscle-less body and goofy aloof demeanour, he'd look more like an ICP extra in that facepaint than a goth superhero. What better way to say fuck you to movie studios who want to dance on Brandon Lee's grave (RIP) with another stupid re-make? On that note, let's crowdfund a remake of 'Vertigo' and cast Kathryn Heigl and The Rock. How does it feel, Hollywood? 🍷

HORROR-SCOPES

OH, YOU'RE A YOUTUBER NOW? COOOOOL...

Hey, they make more money than the Grapevine editorial staff

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen, an amateur astrology vlogger**

In HorrorScopes, the Grapevine's dedicated team of amateur vlogger astrologists break down your upcoming weeks based on shit like featured creator badges at TanaCon.

Aries
Lele Pons isn't funny. Lilly Singh is a bisexual woman of colour. Epstein didn't kill himself. Some things are just true. So reflect, Aries, what does it really mean that WatchMojo is consistently in your recommended videos?

Taurus
Quitting your job to become an "edgy" YouTuber in the year 2020 is a bold move. Just know that no matter how many Hair Cakes you cook or beers you brew using vaginal bacteria, you will literally never be monetized. Thanks Susan.

Gemini
Stop vaping. You'll never be a part of the VAPE NAYSH Y'AAAALLLLLLL, but you might die of lung cancer. Still, we appreciate ya. So take the money you save,

buy a mobility scooter, and make sure it's just the right height—no bucket required.

Cancer
STORYTIME: YOUR BOY-FRIEND IS A WHITE NATIONALIST (GETS SEXUAL) 18+

Leo
We know you think your 2020 will be like Shane Dawson's 2018, and maybe it will be. Only way to know? Chug a Diet Coke and call *cue the music* Erika Costell.

Virgo
Follow your intuition and use the month of February to unsubscribe from Keemstar. Do you really care about a guy who flaunts his friendship with FazeBanks? Uhh... no, thank you.

Libra
Look Libra, we're not proud of it, but we encourage your fantasies about Alinity. There's something strangely alluring about a woman who feeds her cat vodka while trying to copy strike Pewdiepie. It's like BDSM, but embarrassing.

Scorpio
If only you videotaped the time you ate the entire McDonald's menu alone in your car, Scorpio, maybe then you could have been the next Nicholas Perry.

So take this February to practise your mukbang depression-meals. You won't die alone.

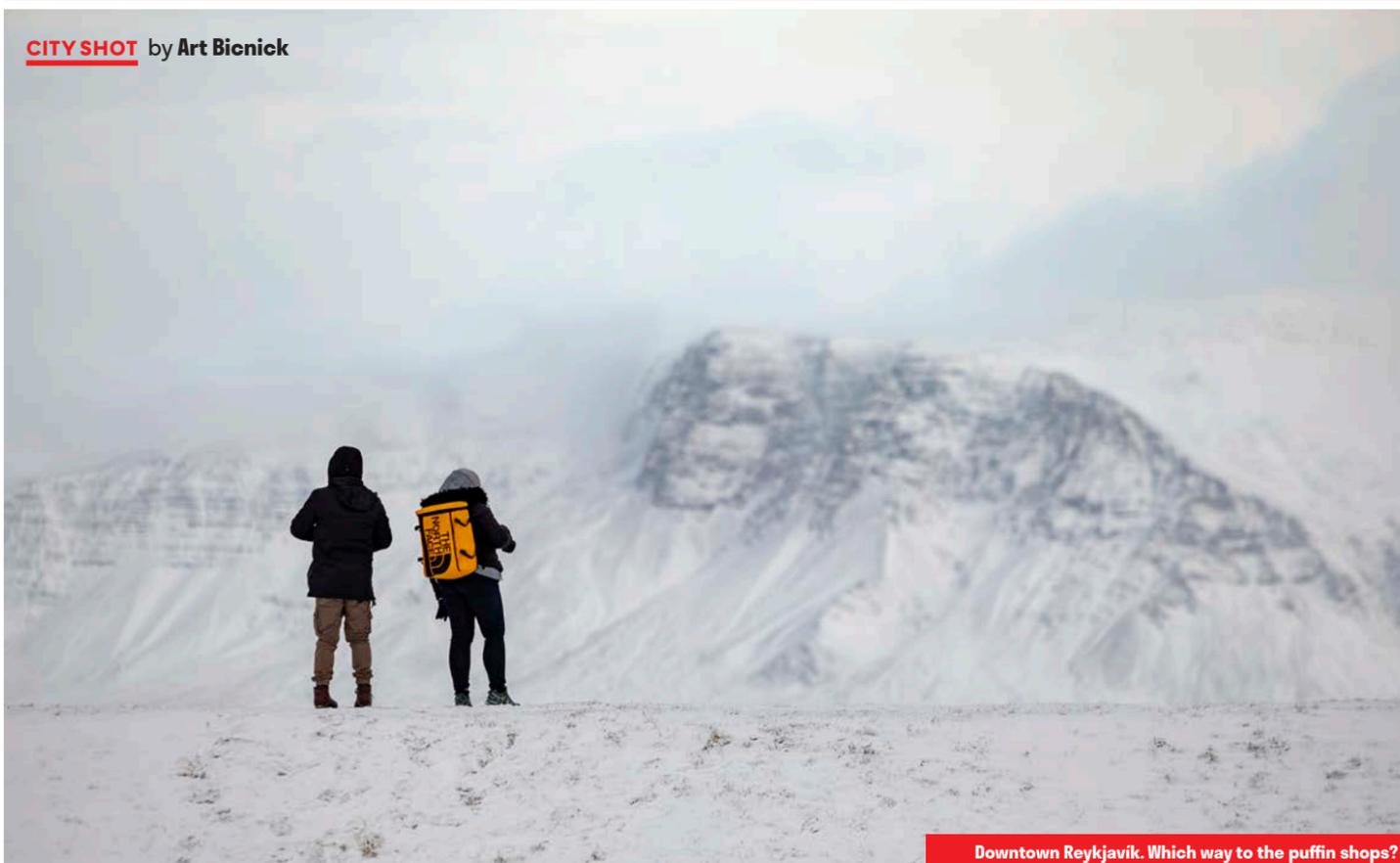
Sagittarius
The hottest drama of 2019 was between Tati Westbrook and James Charles. Sag, stop lying to yourself: You totally got off on watching Charles's subs fall tens of thousands by the second on Socialblade. Hey, someone call Shane Dawson—I think we found a sociopath!

Capricorn
Capricorn, it's natural to be confused about where you stand with Pewdiepie. Are you a 9 year old? A 19-year-old? Part of the bro army? Or just a Vox journalist who likes to take quotes out of context and call people Nazis? Well, it doesn't matter now. Pewdie-bye.

Aquarius
Just accept it: iDubbbz will never come out with a new Content Cop. You'll just have to make due re-watching "Asian Jake Paul" a thousand times and crying. But look on the bright side: At least you've got a chin.

Pisces
Irrelevant. 🍷

CITY SHOT by Art Bicnick



Downtown Reykjavik. Which way to the puffin shops?

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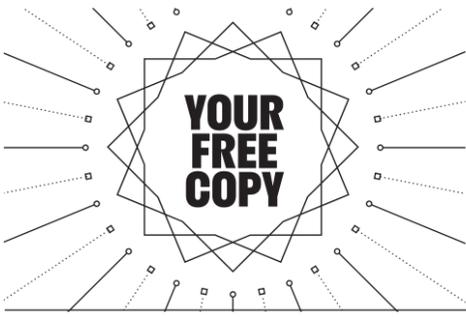
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LAST WORDS

Fury And Ire And The Office Of Immigration

Words: Sam O'Donnell

In 2017, legislation was passed requiring immigrants to provide further proof of identity at the discretion of the agent processing their case. In 2018, I moved to Iceland with my wife, who is Icelandic. Last week, I received a request from Útlendingastofnun (ÚTL) demanding photos of us together taken during holidays, travelling, and in everyday life in order to determine that we are actually married. I say this with the utmost sincerity, from the bottom of my heart: What a crock.

Like every hopeful immigrant, I already gave ÚTL a bunch of legal documentation when I applied for residency. Why should I have to provide more documentation proving my wife and I are truly married? And what constitutes a valid photo? If one of us is smiling and the other is not, could the agent decide that our marriage is not valid and deny my residency?

Anyway, if someone were to fake an entire marriage, wouldn't such a person have fake photos ready to show government officials? How many pictures does it take to validate a marriage with the Directorate of Immigration? We sent them over 40 images, but our agent could decide that this is not enough and demand more. Could they ask for more than photos? Could they ask to see private messages between us? I'm not comfortable with that.

At this time, I am nervous to travel. If I have to fly back to the States for any reason, I worry about returning home to Iceland. My residence permit has expired in the time ÚTL has dragged their feet on processing my renewal. This new photo stipulation has only delayed the process further.

Someone should sit the people in this office down and force them to watch '90 Day Fiancée.' The fact is, people who get married just for a visa don't last long. Big surprise, I know. But people who are in a healthy, committed relationship stay together through good times and bad. Dealing with ÚTL is one of the bad times. The fact that we remain together after this mess should be proof enough for that office full of silly people. 🍷

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