

CORONAVIRUS IS HERE

News: Nobody panic, you probably won't die

Trash City

News: City workers strike with smelly consequences

JFDR Returns

Music: Jófríður releases ethereal new album

Rhythm Of Poison

Dance: Primal libido, dogs, garlic and more... seriously

“HERE’S LOOKING AT YOU, PARADISE”

THE UNCERTAIN FATE OF

Bíó Paradís

HRÖNN SVEINSDÓTTIR, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE BÍÓ PARADÍS CINEMA, IS FACING THE FIGHT OF HER CAREER AS SHE LEADS THE CRUSADE TO SAVE THIS REYKJAVÍK CULTURAL LANDMARK.

Plus!

GIG GUIDE × CITY MAP × TRAVEL IDEAS × FOOD



COVER PHOTO:
Rut Sigurðardóttir

ART DIRECTION:
Sveinbjörn Pálsson

ABOUT THE COVER:
Hrónn Sveinsdóttir, the managing director of Bió Paradís, is facing the fight of her career as she

leads the crusade to save this Reykjavik cultural landmark.

The cover is based on a faint, faded recollection of the Casablanca movie poster, and the effects of time and light on printed objects, such as movie posters.

First



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EDITORIAL

The True Impact Of Coronavirus



So, here we are in history, with another global health crisis on our hands. It's not the first time we have faced a quickly-spreading new virus, and it's not the worst that the world has seen. Well, hopefully.

The bubonic plague is believed to have killed up to 200 million people in the 14th century. HIV has killed 36 million since 1981. You have to go back to the Spanish flu in 1918 to find a higher death rate from a 20th century pandemic. The death toll then was from 20 to 50 million over a two year period. What's alarming is that COVID-19, is eerily similar to the Spanish flu. Both were Coronaviruses, and in both cases the resulting pneumonia was often the killer.

Then again, that's speculation. For there is one thing that separates historic pandemics from the Wuhan coronavirus: we have never had so much science on our side. Technically, we are always as good as we can be in science when a new outbreak pops up. So that alone is not gonna save the day. Far from it. We also have to rely on responsible politicians, and count on other members of the general public to do the right thing and heed the latest warnings from the Directorate of Health and the World Health Organisation.

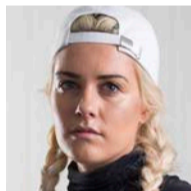
The global spread of COVID-19 is made even more frightening by the misinformation circulating as fake news on social media. Leaders, like in the USA as well as in Iceland, are trying to use the virus as a political weapon. They will not be the only ones. And the saddest thing

is that it will be utilised at the cost of human lives.

What's more, outbreaks like this unveil a country's shortcomings, like their broken health care system and the true state of their democracy. Or does anyone truly believe that only six individuals have contracted COVID-19 in Russia, which shares a not insignificant lang border with China? Does anybody truly believe that citizens of the US, or other countries with a privatised health care system, will go to a doctor to confirm if they have the virus at the cost of thousands of dollars? Will those infected get paid to be home on sick leave? These are simple yet significant questions and an important moment for people to self-reflect. Because the answer could determine just how long this virus is able to spread. It's time for responsible politics again. **VG** 🇻🇮



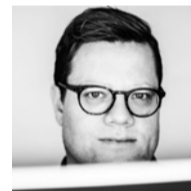
Elin Elisabet is an illustrator and cartoonist born and raised in Borgarnes. At the tender age of 15, Elin moved to Reykjavik and hasn't looked back, except for the annual springtime impulse to move someplace quiet and keep chickens. Elin likes folk music, stationery, seal videos, the country of Ireland,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



Hannah Jane Cohen is based out of Iceland by way of New York. 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.



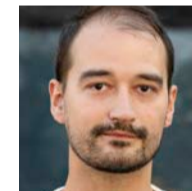
Alexander Jean **Edvard Le Sage de Fontenay** is a Reykjavik-born part-time DJ (under the pseudonym Bervit), event-planner and lover of art, creation and aesthetics. Most recent endeavors include co-producing The Grapevine's own Grassroots concerts at Húrra and LungA Art Festival's busy event schedule.



Ragnar Egilsson is a writer, translator and massive foodie. He's been reviewing for the Grapevine for many years. Ragnar is from Hafnarfjörður but is currently studying food science in an Italian town with the exact same number of inhabitants.



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.



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.



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



Rex Beckett has been a fixture in the Reykjavik culture scene for over a decade. A longtime music/art journalist for the Grapevine, she's also known for her music project, Rex Pistols, as well as her generally cool hair, cat photos, and aging goth realness. She's also weirdly into glitter.



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.

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Wash your hands for 30 seconds, you dirty boy

What Are Icelanders Talking About?

News and views in the Icelandic discourse

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photos: **Adobe Stock & Art Bicnick**

NEWS One of the more concerning news stories of late has been the **arrival of the coronavirus to Iceland**. An Icelandic man in his forties was diagnosed on February 28th and was quarantined at the Landspítali Infectious Disease Department in Fossvogur. In the days following that first confirmed case of COVID-19, 34 more Icelanders were diagnosed with the virus, which first emerged in China in late 2019 and has since spread to 70 countries, with roughly 90,000 cases and 3,000 deaths being reported. All of the diagnosed Icelanders are confirmed to have recently returned from Northern Italy, which has become a hub for the virus in Europe, or Austria. Almost 400 Icelanders are currently being quarantined in their homes.

The Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management announced an "Alert Phase" in response to the emergence of COVID-19 in Iceland, and the Directorate of Health is regularly updating information about the virus on their website. Their recommendation for the general public is to focus on good hygiene, washing hands with soap and water, using alcohol-based hand sanitizers, and coughing or sneezing into the crook of your elbow.

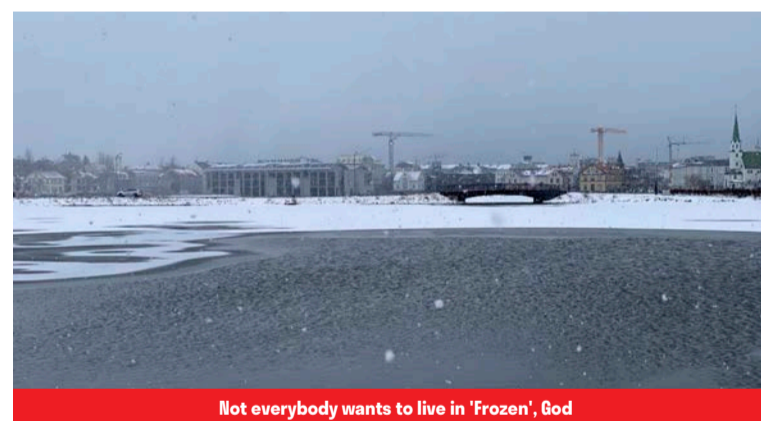
The weather continues to be a hot topic in Iceland, as it seems we're hit with a yellow or orange warning from the Icelandic Met Office one or two times a week

now. There have, in fact been **two cyclones** since late January, with violent storms closing roads, shuttering schools, cancelling air travel, and generally making everyone miserable. This is especially the case in the countryside, where the woefully outdated infrastructure has meant **power outages** for many communities during these storms, sending electrical workers scrambling to get the juice back on. No one is looking forward to summer as much as we are right now.

Strikes have also been a topic of great contention in the news lately, regarding two unions in particular: **Efling**, a union comprised of some

which has affected play schools, elderly care, and even garbage collection. Meanwhile, BSRB workers are slated to begin striking on March 9 if no collective bargaining agreement can be reached. Could be dark times ahead for the city if they can't make a deal with these unions.

Finally, the case of a **trans teen and his family, seeking asylum from Iran** has been hitting many Icelanders hard. The family is slated to be deported to Portugal, their last point of departure within the Schengen area, on the grounds of the Dublin Regulation—a controversial and arguably obsolete agreement that gives the Icelandic government the power to deport people without looking at their cases if they were registered in an EEA country on their way here. Maní, the trans teen in question, has a lot of supporters, ranging from the National Queer Organisation to the Bishop of Iceland herself, and the case has even attracted the attention of international news outlets. The



Not everybody wants to live in 'Frozen', God

of the lowest-paid workers in the country, and **BSRB**, comprised of municipal and state employees. Negotiations between Efling and the **City of Reykjavík** are at an impasse at the time of this writing,

Immigrations Appeals Board is now reviewing the case, and so the deportation has been postponed, for the time being, but the family isn't out of the woods yet. ❄️



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Snapshot from the talks between the city and the union, yesterday

Strike Causes Trash Flood

Bins overflowing while the strike is ongoing

NEWS

You may have noticed that city-owned trash cans in downtown Reykjavik are overflowing, in some cases with trash piling up on top of and around them. People have taken it upon themselves to seal some trash cans with packing tape to prevent others from stuffing them any further.

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine**

Photo: **RÚV & Art Bicnick**

No litter please

The reason for the putrid pile-up isn't because the garbage collection fleet

has broken down, but rather due to the ongoing strike of Reykjavik City workers in the labour union Efling. So if you have an empty bottle or food wrapper on you while you're walking downtown, be a doll and carry it back to your hotel or Airbnb to recycle there.

As previously reported, the strike has overwhelming support amongst union members. There are approximately 1,800 Efling members working for the City of Reykjavik, including some 1,000 playschool workers, 710

caregivers, and numerous sanitation workers. These workers have been without a collective bargaining agreement since March 31st of last year, and the union believes that its workers are long overdue for a wage correction.

Impasse

Efling and representatives of the City of Reykjavik have met to negotiate on numerous occasions, most recently on February 26th, without any progress.

While Mayor Dagur B. Eggertsson has revealed that the city offered a significant pay rise to the striking Efling members, salary increases were not the only matter of concern for the union. In a statement posted to Efling's website, they revealed that their demands also include additional payments to workers depending on "professional responsibilities, workload, work-related costs and other factors," which would be paid on top of base salaries. ♡

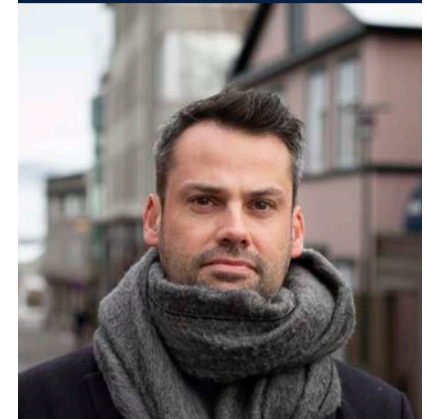


This is all your fault, you dirty boy. Now wash.

ASK AN

Architect

Q: Why Are There No Old Buildings In Iceland?



The observant sightseer may notice when travelling the country that there are no ancient buildings to be found. Iceland was founded in 874, so it won't have as storied an architectural history as, say, Rome, but we can't help but wonder why there isn't some sort of large structure that pre-dates 1700. To get to the bottom of this important issue, we asked architect Hrölfur Karl Gela.

The dearth of ancient structures stems from our building heritage. What settlers used as building materials was pretty much what was already available when they got here. I'm sure you know about our history of turf houses. They are essentially made from a stone foundation, turf walls, and driftwood for the roof and frame. Over time, these buildings simply decomposed into themselves and there's really nothing left except the stone barrier that drew the blueprint of the house. So over the centuries from settlement until the 1700s, most of the buildings that Icelanders built decomposed because they're made of the earth itself. It's sort of cool, and they've been romanticised quite a bit. Some say: Wouldn't it be great to live in a turf house? They're beautiful to look at and it's nice to visit the ones that are still standing or have been rebuilt. But I think it's a bit of an over-romanticisation of that kind of structure. I think life in those buildings was really quite tough. ♡



FOOD OF ICELAND

Kjötsúpa

Kjötsúpa, or Icelandic meat soup, is a meal that Icelanders have been eating for centuries—in fact, it's one of the few traditional dishes still regularly eaten today. And what's more, even all these years later, we still love it.

Centuries ago, in the early days of Iceland, we used fresh lamb meat for the soup, which was then mixed with some

lactic acid to make it richer in flavour. How that works, to be blunt, genuinely beats us.

At the time, there were no vegetables in Iceland, and I mean none, but we'd try to kick the soup up a notch by adding grains, most often barley. Later, we used rice and oats—pretty glamorous, right? If you wanted to get even fancier, you could stir

some sour skyr into it. That was just for fancy folk though.

If farmers didn't have fresh lamb meat, they could also use salted meat, often beef. And if they wanted to go full socio-path, they'd just slaughter a horse and throw that in the bowl. Yum.

In the olden days, kjötsúpa was a fancy meal eaten on Sundays or Christmas.

Nowadays, it's a pretty basic meal, mostly consumed by lonely middle-aged men. Why? It's practical. You cook it up, keep it on the stove, and heat it up again and again for days—weeks even if you truly want to remind yourself just how sad your life has become.

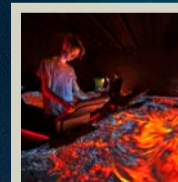
Let's be real though, kjötsúpa is good, hearty, and really gives you not only

the energy you need, but deserve. So sip it up in the darkest days of Iceland. VG ♡



Volcano & Earthquake Exhibition

Photo: Eyjafjallajökull Eruption 2010



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"I looked into your future and I saw traffic."

The Elven Effect

A short revision of Iceland's safest road

ICELANDIC SUPERSTITIONS

Words: **Valur Grettisson**

Photo: **Adobe Stock**

Icelanders don't really believe in elves. It's just a silly myth. That said, we don't mess with them either. Perhaps, for some, this might sound like a contradiction, but in Iceland, we know that only an idiot trifles with the things he doesn't understand. In fact, Icelanders respect elves—which, again, we absolutely don't believe in— so much that oftentimes the road systems have been completely altered for their benefit. Here is one of many examples. Not that it matters of

course. Elves don't exist. Totally.

Don't f'#\$ with the elves

Hegranes is an area in Skagafjörður, in the North of Iceland. There lies the road-Sauðárkróksbraut, or route 75, which meanders through an outcrop called Tröllaskarð—"Troll's Pass" in English.

In the 70s, construction workers were busy laying the road, when a medium called and told them that whatever they

did, they could not bomb the cliffs, as this would anger the elves. Unfortunately, for both the psychic and the elves—not that they exist—the builders needed to do so in order to make progress on the road.

Mysterious malfunctioning

This medium turned out to be Hafsteinn Björnsson, who, at the time, was a psychic superstar in Iceland. What made the phone call even more odd was the fact that the road construction was not widely known about nor considered controversial... so, how did Hafsteinn know about it? Shortly after Hafsteinn's warning, another medium contacted the Icelandic road administration—that's when shit got serious.

As the construction continued near Tröllaskarð, bulldozers began to malfunction in mysterious ways. This was obviously due to the elves (who don't exist) and these spooky setbacks, combined with the medium's warnings, made the contractors decide to halt their work on the pass and completely change the route of the road. Best not anger the obviously not real supernatural creatures, of course.

Safest road in the country

As a result, Sauðárkróksbraut is quite odd. But the elves, which we 100% do not believe in, are thought to protect the strange road in gratitude for our consideration. There has never been an incident recorded on the road (according to the source from 2016), making it one of Iceland's safest. Of course, this has nothing to do with elves either. We are just excellent drivers. 🇮🇸

JUST SAYINGS

„Heimskur er jafnan höfuðstór“



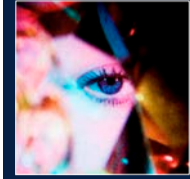
Blessed with a big head? Tough luck. As Icelanders say, "People with big heads are stupid!" Yes, not our most gracious saying, we know. Basically, it means that one should not judge others by their appearances. For instance, one should not make a conclusion on another's intelligence by the size of

their head. That is what the saying is supposed to mean, but it's probably one of the most misunderstood idioms in Iceland. On a personal note, it's excellent news for the journalist that wrote this text, as he has a hideously big head and ridiculously small body. We can't all win the gene-lottery, you know. 🇮🇸 🇻🇬

COMIC



GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST



Elin Ey - Waterloo
This acoustic cover of an ABBA classic lends the tune a whole new tone. While the original is fast and upbeat, this version is slow and melancholy. I honestly prefer this one, and that's no small feat for any cover of an ABBA song. **SP0**

machine. The song is EDM with a cool twist and some basic furry violence. Seint can't really go wrong and is always entertaining and interesting. **VG**



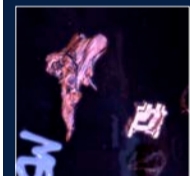
Daði og Gagnamagnið - Think About Things
Daði og Gagnamagnið will be Iceland's contenders at the 2020 Eurovision Song Contest being held in Rotterdam in May. Daði became a superstar in Iceland after he ended up in second place in the same contest some years ago. The song is best described as a combination of disco and nerdiness. That's it. Also, fun fact, Daði is a half-giant. **VG**



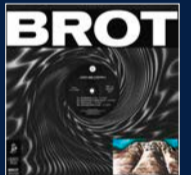
Tómas Welding - Lifeline
Here's one for the ukelele lovers or Kings Of Leon fans looking to expand your musical library to more of the same stuff. This is the music for you. If I'm honest, I'm trying to hate this song, but it's just too catchy and easy to listen to. I'll be humming this one all day. **SP0**



Hrím - Ljómi
An experimental folk band that always strives for the depth which is why they have always interested us. The song Ljómi (Glow) has a heavy beat backing the crystal clear voice of Ösp Eldjárn, combining everything that is great about Hrím. Definitely the most interesting folk band in town right now. **VG**



Dirb - Blow Out (feat. MSEA)
This is good. Electronica with heavy bass and an eerie undertone, making for an unsettling feeling that is undercut by overtly positive lyrics. But then, there is so much going on in this track that it's easy to lose track of the lyrics. **SP0**



Jónbjörn - Brot 04
From the darkest recesses of Berlin's lil' Reykjavik neighbourhood comes Jónbjörn, with an EP of tracks that straddle quirky and fun while still also being gloomy but danceable. JB's storied career, starting Lagaffe Tales and conquering the local house scene is building up to a Teutonic Techno crescendo. **SP**



Seint - Einn Tveir Þrír
Finally, a song for the furrries. Grapevine has been closely watching Seint's evolution over the past two years, and this guy has morphed into a solid pop



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Coronavirus Hits Iceland

34 confirmed cases so far, hundreds in quarantine

Words:

Andie Sophia Fontaine

Photo:

Landspítali.is

The inevitable happened on Friday, February 28th when the first confirmed case of COVID-19, better known as coronavirus, was reported in Iceland.

Two other cases were confirmed over the subsequent weekend. At the time of writing, 34 people have been diagnosed with the virus and are under

home quarantine. In all of these cases, the afflicted are Icelanders who had recently returned from northern Italy, which has been labelled a high risk zone for the virus, or Austria.

The response

Health care workers and civil protection authorities have been very quick to respond. About 300 people have already been placed in home quarantine, and the Directorate of Health has been diligent in dispensing information in many languages on how to prevent infection.

Even amongst those not directly affected, the impact has been felt. Stores have been experiencing a run on hand sanitiser, and are trying hard to keep up with the demand. The labour union Efling has allowed an exception for their city workers strike, enabling sanitation workers to attend to the garbage accumulating around town.

Best practices

It bears emphasising that the best defense against COVID-19 is washing your hands frequently with warm soapy water, especially after touching common surfaces. Avoid touching your face, too. Most of all, don't panic and don't be rude to Chinese or Italian tourists, or tourists of any nationality, really. 🍷

How To Avoid Getting The Coronavirus

According to the Directorate of Health



Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine
Photo: Directorate of Health

While there is still little chance of catching the coronavirus in the wild, you should still take precautions. The Directorate of Health offers the following guide:

The Directorate advises that if you have been to a high-risk area for the virus recently, or been in contact with anyone who has, to monitor your health closely. High risk areas include "China, four provinces in Northern Italy (Lombardy, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna, and Piedmont), South-Korea, and Iran".

If you begin to display symptoms of COVID-19 within 14 days of such contact, you are urged to call 1700 from an Icelandic phone number or +354 544 4113 from any other phone, where a health care professional will give you further information and guidance. The symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, coughing, and aches in the bones.

To prevent transmission or contact with the virus, the cardinal rule is to wash your hands frequently before eating and after touching common surfaces, and avoid touching your face. If you must sneeze or cough, do so into the crook of your elbow or into a tissue. It also naturally follows that you should avoid contact with sick people.

Also importantly, please don't treat visitors from Italy or China poorly. As awful as coronavirus infection is, xenophobia is a far worse disease, but very easy to prevent catching. 🍷



Maní belongs in Iceland

Trans Teen Asylum Seeker Deportation Delayed

Not out of the woods yet

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine

Photo: No Borders

Maní, a trans teen from Iran, was originally slated to be deported along with his parents last month, but, after concerted public outcry the Immigration Appeals Board has agreed to examine the family's case.

Maní and his family fled Iran in February 2019 and went to Portugal. Stundin reports that just two days later, the family received word that they were being sought for arrest by Sepah, also known as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Not wanting to take any chances, they left Portugal for Iceland in March 2019, seeking asylum here.

The Dublin problem

However, because Portuguese authorities gave the family a travel visa, Icelandic

authorities declined to open their case and instead invoked the Dublin Regulation, an international agreement which gives signatory states the right—although not the obligation—to return asylum seekers to their previous point of departure. The regulation is controversial, as it has created bottlenecks at asylum seeker entry points across Europe. Germany, for example, has already agreed to stop evoking the regulation for Syrian refugees.

Furthermore, the decision is in direct contravention of both Icelandic law on the rights of the child, Article 1 of which states "The best interests of the child should always take precedence when making decisions about their issues." It also contravenes the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Iceland is a signatory country. 🍷

City Worker Strikes Affecting Reykjavík

More strikes on the horizon if no deal reached

Representatives of the labour union Efling met with representatives of the City of Reykjavík in February in an effort to reach a collective bargaining agreement, to no avail. As such, Reykjavík City workers in Efling are now on strike.

Mayor Dagur B. Eggertsson spoke about the city's offer on the roundtable news discussion show Kastljósið. Dagur revealed that the city had offered to raise the monthly salaries of untrained playschool workers from 310,000 ISK to 420,000 ISK, with an additional monthly workload payment of 40,000 ISK, with the salary raising to 460,000 ISK at the end of the contract period.

In addition, playschool directors would see their monthly salaries go from 417,000 to 520,000 ISK, going up to 572,000 ISK by the end of the contract period, as well as a shortened work week.

An end in sight?

However, salary increases were not the only matter of concern for Efling. In a statement posted to the union's website, they revealed that their offer also included additional payments to workers depending on "professional responsibilities, workload, work-related costs and other factors", which would be paid on top of the base salary.

That said, Efling and the city are, at the time of this writing, in tentative talks in hopes of ending the strike soon. It remains to be seen what comes of that. Meanwhile, workers for BSRB (The Federation of State and Municipal Employees) have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a strike, which is set to begin on March 9 with a series of stoppages, and a general strike commencing on April 15 if no deal is reached. 🍷



Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine
Photo: Efling

Imagine getting a giant check. Now imagine the opposite. (Mayor Dagur B. on the right)



ICELAND

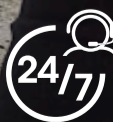


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Here's Looking At You, Paradisc: The Uncertain Fate Of Bíó Paradís

Bíó Paradís, an arthouse cinema and Reykjavík cultural institution since 2010, now faces the very real possibility of shuttering its doors for good. Cinema manager Hrönn Sveinsdóttir explains why Bíó Paradís matters, and how it can be saved.

Words: *Andie Sophia Fontaine*
Photos: *Rut Sigurðardóttir*

“You're there to talk about the film with people, and that's what the work here at Bíó Paradís is based on, this community.”

For a long time, if you wanted to see a film in Iceland, you would be relegated to catching one of five blockbusters rotating through any of the larger cinemas on the outskirts of town. Arthouse and indie flicks could be enjoyed only in the comfort of your own home. There was nowhere to gather with others with the same weird tastes as you to enjoy a good film, least of all downtown.

All that changed in 2010, when Bíó Paradís opened its doors on Hverfisgata. Since then, it has not only served as an arthouse cinema; it has been a cultural centre, hosting such events as Polish Film Night, the French Film Festival, the Stockfish Film Festival, the Reykjavík International Film Festival and more, and has even endeared locals as a place to catch a drink at the start of the night.

So when news broke on January 30th that Bíó Paradís will be closing on May 1st—largely due to the property owners wanting to raise the rent by roughly 300%—it sparked both grief and outrage in the public at large, with everyone asking the same question: how can we save Bíó Paradís?

From short film to Miss Iceland to the US Embassy

"I started making music videos and

short films as a teenager, with my brother," cinema manager Hrönn Sveinsdóttir tell us. "We were a whole scene of teenagers who would compete in short film days. This was such a normal thing to do [in the mid 90s]. I'm from the VHS generation and life was all about video. One of the things that happens in those days is that everything becomes digital."

This led to Hrönn's foray into the national broadcasting network RÚV, running a show on youth culture and the music scene with a DIY approach that would end up setting a trend picked up by the now-defunct television station Skjár1. However, it was the Miss Iceland competition in 2000 that served as the unlikely inspiration for Hrönn to make her first feature-length film.

"I saw this ad [for the competition] that was like 'over 165cm, no more than this many kilos, no child, no husband,'" she recalls. "That's creepy. Yet on their website they had this line about 'we want to emphasise the integrity and ambition of the modern woman' but they have these requirements? Total paradox."

So Hrönn joined the competition, filming every step of the way. The resulting documentary, 'Í skóm dregans' ('In the shoes of the dragon'), co-directed and edited by her brother Árne Sveinsson, kicked off a lawsuit which nearly made it to the Supreme Court—a landmark case that is still taught in law school today.

Shortly thereafter, Hrönn moved to New York, where she met her husband, and studied film and politics at Brooklyn College. In 2007, the couple moved back to Iceland, and Hrönn began working in protocol at the US embassy in 2008.

"My first job was to welcome Condoleezza Rice, and I'm not the most formal person you'll ever meet," Hrönn says. "So I'm still surprised they hired me, but I was able to impress them with my knowledge of American culture and being somewhat familiar with the media environment in Iceland."

The job, however, was not exactly fulfilling. "I began asking myself where I'd gone wrong in life, because I'd always been creative, and suddenly I'm sitting in an office filling out forms and having meetings about absolutely nothing," she recalls. But then, in 2011, she saw an ad for a managing director for Bíó Paradís. There, the adventure began.

A rocky start

The attraction to be a part of a place like Bíó Paradís was informed by Hrönn's time in New York.

"You don't understand what a luxury it is [to have good cinemas] until you move [to New York], and even though Iceland at the time had a vital music scene and interesting visual arts, cinema-wise it was just a complete wasteland," Hrönn recalls. "It was just the same five blockbusters screening at all the cinemas. You were lucky if something was on at Háskólabíó.

I really missed the whole concept of cinema culture, with these festivals, special screenings, the obscure and the cult."

the state and the City of Reykjavík pays into Bíó Paradís only covers about 17% of the total cost. That said, there have been successes, too.

"What we do here, you can't do at home, because it's mostly about the

“For all the problems with this building, you might see these big cinemas with all their fancy gear, but they don't have this.”

As exciting as the prospect was, there were challenges ahead.

"You don't just open a cinema, open your DVD player and press Play," Hrönn explains. In a nutshell: there are three distributors who each run their own cinemas. Each distributor has output contracts with Hollywood studios, and these cinemas trade films with one another. This made getting material very daunting, especially as 50% of ticket sales has to go to distributors.

"It was a lot of work for one person, and it was very hard to figure this out," she says. "We didn't have gear. We only had debt."

It's important to understand that Bíó Paradís is not an institution run by any one person. Rather, it is a non-profit organisation, owned and operated by the Professional Society of Filmmakers; FK, the filmmaker's union; SÍK, the association of Icelandic producers; and the film director's guild.

social experience," she says. "You want to go see a film that you probably can't see anywhere else. You want to be with people—even if it's a film you've seen many times, at [Bíó Paradís] party screenings you want to see [a movie] with people who love the film, and scream at the screen and have a beer with your friends. Same with arthouse or documentary screenings. You're there to talk about the film with people, and that's what the work here at Bíó Paradís is based on, this community. And that's why we're becoming steadily more popular as the existential crisis in the blockbuster cinema is mounting in contrast."

Clouds on the horizon

Despite a run of good years for the cinema, more turbulence lay ahead. "In 2013, we did a 7 year-long lease with the then-owner [of the building] at a reasonable rate," Hrönn says. This helped, as any extra money made went into repairs and paying down debts.

When the property was acquired by new owners, Karl Mikli ehf., shortly thereafter, it was clear that they had their own ideas.

“This is not just about rooms to screen films in. It's much more than that. It's this social space, this community.”

The turn-around

Things began to improve when Hilmar Sigurðsson, now the CEO of SagaFilm, became chair of the board, and began drafting plans for financing gear, acquiring better equipment and securing additional funding. It took some doing, but in the autumn of 2013, it struck Hrönn that, "Finally we're a real cinema. But of course, it's never smooth sailing. The balance of money and what we do has been really hard. As soon as one thing breaks down, we have to cut costs somewhere else to fix it."

In addition to this, the combined total percentage of the subsidies that

"The new owners made it very clear from the first day that they wanted to raise the rent, and they were quite disappointed when they found out that there was a lease agreement in place," Hrönn says. At one point, they suggested leasing out the foyer for some other concept so the owners could make more money and not raise the rent on the cinema. In response, Hrönn made a presentation for the owners on what Bíó Paradís is and what they do. "I ended by saying 'We're a landmark. We intend to be here in 20, 30 years. We're not some pizza place or some fad.'"

"This is not about them, though. They're guys in business, what do we expect them to do? They want to make money. I guess they chose the wrong

thing to make money off of, because a non-profit operation like Bíó Paradís can never generate enough money for anyone to make a profit off of renting them their space."

Once the lease agreement with the building's previous owners had run its course, Karl Mikli ehf. moved forward with their plans to raise the rent, which would endanger the future of the cinema. This sparked the public outcry in recent months to save Bíó Paradís—outcry that apparently even the new landlords have sat up and taken notice of.

"According to what I hear from the city and the ministries, they value this and they want this, and I am in full negotiations with them," Hrönn says. "I'm still waiting to hear which ways they want to go. Even the owners have sensed that it is in their best interests to solve this matter. They've realised they're dealing with a level of public outrage that they didn't expect, and they really don't want to be the bad guy here. We've had friendly talks. They want to solve this."

What solutions are there?

Amongst the ideas that have arisen is the idea that Bíó Paradís could move to a new location. Hrönn is not exactly thrilled with the idea, nor does she think crowdfunding is a permanent solution.

"We've been building this place up, and the concept of being downtown, close to other cultural venues, in the midst of life downtown," she says. "We're in that mix of where people come and gather. Some people start their evenings here. That's a big part about being a cinema. This is not just about rooms to screen films in. It's much more than that. It's this social space, this community. It's gracious of them to offer [a new space for Bíó Paradís], but it's not the kind of thing we've been building here."

"Crowdfunding and such are nice," she continues, "but it is limited. I don't want to take people's money and put it into little plasters here and there. We've been hanging on here for ten years now, and there are so many changes we need to make. We can't even let disabled people into halls 2 and 3, which I find shameful, I cannot stress that enough."

For now, Hrönn's feelings about the situation run the gamut from optimism to despair.

"I have every reason to be hopeful, but the reality is that I have been calling and notifying all our suppliers to stop everything on May 1st and that's our plan still today," she says. "It's really weird, because that date gets closer every day. I go from being extremely hopeful in the morning to lying awake in bed at night and thinking 'oh god, this is it.'"

Ultimately, Hrönn—like a great many Reykjavik residents, and people from around the world—remain committed to the survival of Bíó Paradís, and are hopeful the matter can be resolved.

"I get a lot of international guests, and people gasp over not just the handmade posters on the walls, but also the atmosphere," she says. "Foreign journalists and people in the film industry love it, that they can walk into a cinema like this. So we're not only the only arthouse near the Arctic Circle; we're one of the best arthouses there are. We're the only one in this isolated area of the planet, and we've been able to do that, so it's insane that this would just shut down. For all the problems with this building, you might see these big cinemas with all their fancy gear, but they don't have this." 🍷

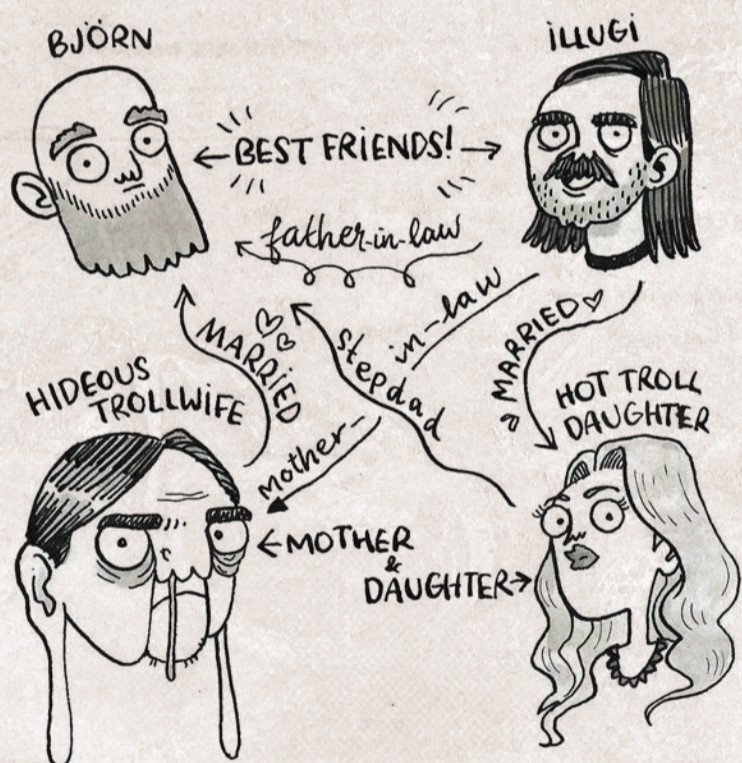


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No Blast Beats, No Stage

Sól Tér Sortna II

March 14th - 19:00 - Hard Rock Café - 1,500 ISK

Sól Tér Sortna returns after a two year slumber to brighten the depressing, sucky Icelandic winter. This time, four black metal bands—Kontinuum, Nexion, Nyrst, and Formán—take the stage to bring doom and destruction with blast beats and tritones. Fun fact: the name comes from The Völuspá, and literally means blacken the sun. It doesn't get much more black metal than that. Or maybe it does. But we in Iceland don't believe in burning down churches. **SPÖ**



We Stan A Bald Queen

Sasha Velour: Smoke & Mirrors

March 16th - 19:00 - Harpa - 5,900-12,300 ISK

"Don't joke about that," the Thinking Queen extraordinaire, Sasha Velour, crowned winner of RuPaul's Drag Race once famously said. We at the Grapevine know that one thing you can never joke about is conceptual drag art—and particularly conceptual drag art unlike anything you've ever seen before. Coincidentally, that is what Miss Velour will be bringing to the Harpa stage on her 'Smoke & Mirrors' tour. Remember: Be the strange you wish to see in the world. **HJC**



Welcome To Flavourtown

Food & Fun 2020

Until March 8th - Various Restaurants (Check online!)

If you've never checked out the Reykjavík Food and Fun Festival, now would be your time to start. The "culinary circus," as the official site describes the event, is ongoing through March 8th, and pairs renowned international chefs with Reykjavík's best restaurants for a culinary competition and edible extravaganza. Each set meal is priced at 8,990 ISK (more with wine tastings)—trust us, that's a deal for the quality of food you'll get during one of our favourite festivals. **HJC**

CULTURE NEWS

Performance

'Polishing Iceland' will play on March 11th, 15th, and 25th at 20:30 at Tjarnarbíó. Tickets are 3,900 ISK.



Cue the fanfare: The Reykjavík Ensemble International Theatre Company is here

An Icelandic Woman & A Polish Woman Walk Into A Theatre...

...and form the first international theatre company in Iceland

Words: Rex Beckett

Photo: Art Bienick

Icelandic theatre has a long and distinguished reputation in its native tongue but, to date, is all but inaccessible for non-Icelandic speakers. The recently established Reykjavík Ensemble International Theatre Company is bringing about change to the status quo with a troupe of artists from a wide variety of countries, backgrounds, languages and disciplines, forming the first international theatre company in Iceland. The ensemble will soon make its theatrical debut with its first play, 'Polishing Iceland.'

The vision begins

Conceived in late 2019, the Reykjavík Ensemble was born from a cosmic meeting between artistic director

Pálína Jónsdóttir and writer Ewa Marcinek. "Ewa was recommended to me by people I had reached out to because I had an idea for a project with Polish artists in Reykjavík," explains Pálína. "I shared with her my vision of establishing an international theatre company in Reykjavík, because it was obvious to me coming back to Iceland after many years of living in New York that the society had changed a lot. I was feeling massive social changes here in terms of becoming a multicultural community. I was shocked when I discovered that that was not translating into participation in the theatrical scene. I thought that I should do something about that."

With a background in literature, Ewa knew that this dream could be made into reality. "I am a writer and I had ex-

perience of that being possible within the writing scene with the likes of Ós Pressan," says Ewa. "So when Pálína said 'I would like to do it in the theatre,' I was like, 'Yeah, I know international artists and writers here.'"

An emotional story

In addition to co-founding the company, Ewa is the writer of 'Polishing Iceland,' which was first developed with the play's dramaturg, angela rawlings. "It's based on a text I started writing in a creative writing workshop she was doing for women immigrants in early 2015," says Ewa. "She dragged this text from me in a way. It's an autobiographical story and I felt those emotions there boiling and she knew how to make me brave enough to write them. It's a very personal story about a breakup in Poland—it's divorce in the piece—and then sexual abuse and then the protagonist comes to Iceland and she's struggling with that."

The story is conveyed through a dream-like translingual physical theatre production, amplifying the emotions in the text through movement and finding the comedy and the dynamics in the difficult, dramatic text. "Straight theatre is very text-based and with a structure that lends itself to that," says Pálína. "Physical theatre allows space for the gestures to be very present and for there to be no hierarchy between physicality and text—finding interesting ways of spelling the words with your vocal cords or your physicality."

For Ewa, seeing her work go from page to stage has been emotional. "I was joking that the auditions were like multiple orgasms for me because it was so funny and touching," she says. "I didn't know if I should laugh or cry at times. Once I just lost it. There is a lot of personal drama but so much comedy in it, so it's a beautiful contrast." 🍷

ELECTRIC DREAMS

EP

Music collective Evil Suburban Kids' next event will be on March 7th at Bravó with their usual line-up. On April 4th, ESK brings Detroit musician DJ Assault to Gaukurinn to perform alongside LaFontaine & RumDrum, Elli Grill, Side Project and DJ Thaison.



Make The Scene Great Again

Local music-collective Evil Suburban Kids brings regular dance events, US ghettech musician DJ Assault and European clubbing culture to Reykjavík

Words: Alexander Le Sage de Fontenay

Photo: Evil Suburban Kids

Evil Suburban Kids (ESK) is an emergent collective hosting regular dance-music events around town that showcase broad-minded DJs and musicians who feel a need to revitalize the city's clubbing culture. After making contact with their headquarters, they declared to me their present state of mind collectively and anonymously.

Not too serious

As a group, ESK takes things seri-

ously, but not too seriously. "We are heavily influenced by Paris Hilton's DJ sets, dank memes, music from the 90s like electro, techno, ghettech and everything above 160 BPM," they say. "We especially love Russia's underground clubbing-culture—a bit of slav-vibes can't go wrong."

The clubbing experience

The collective's main agenda is to freshen-up the Reykjavík clubbing

scene, which to them feels almost non-existent. "Yes, there may be two or three bars where some form of house and techno is played, but Iceland doesn't get to experience clubbing like the rest of Scandinavia and Europe," they lament. "We want people to be able to experience this as close as possible until a proper late-hours CLUB—not bar—opens its doors."

Hope for the scene

ESK are positive and see hope for the local scene. "Great events happen once in a while but a proper venue is the number one thing that's missing," they say. "Right now, the agenda is simply to release some insane tunes, put on crazy parties and make the scene great again. We have three or four releases ready to go and we want to bring foreign artists to play with us as well."

DJ Assault

ESK's next party will be held on March 7th at Bravó with their usual line-up. On April 4th, they will bring the well-known Detroit musician DJ Assault—known for ghettech songs 'Sex On The Beach' and 'Ass-N-Titties'—to Gaukurinn. "The man is a legend, he played in Iceland for the first time in 2018 and wanted to come back," they say. "Free shots for anyone who writes 'Ass-N-Titties' on their neck with a Sharpie!" 🍷



Jófríður (left) pictured with flowers

Dream On

JFDR's latest release 'New Dreams' is a portrait of growing up

Words: Josie Gaitens Photo: Art Bicnick

Jófríður Ákadóttir sits in her house, in the midst of a storm that has shut down Reykjavík completely. “I woke up at seven and it was so loud,” she exclaims, as she hunts for an elusive coffee mug. “The house was singing! It was pretty wild.”

Jófríður, who performs under the stage name JFDR, looks even younger than her 25-years as she curls up in a chair. But despite her youth, the musician has a well-earned reputation as one of the hardest workers on the scene. Jófríður's music career started when she was only 14 as part of Pascal Pinon, a band she formed with her twin sister Ásthildur. Since then, she has gone on to form, and perform with, many different acts, notably electronic groups Samaris and Gangly, as well as produce her own solo work as JFDR.

New dreams & new sounds

Jófríður's latest solo album, 'New Dreams' will be released in March, three years after her last record, 'Brazil' came out. She's already put out three songs from the upcom-

ing effort—“Shimmer,” “My Work,” and “Taking A Part Of Me”—which each reveal a new side of the artist's sound. While her voice has always had a girlish, naive quality to it, these new works showcase a delicate tension between vulnerability and confidence. They are subtle in their presentation but powerful in their lyricism. As Jófríður explains, this album took a long time to make, but she was determined to get it right.

“It's been a year on hold,” she says, staring into space. “I finished the recording around mid-2018 and then I took a year and a half to get everything together. I left New York and settled in Iceland again and I had to sort of reconnect with home—the feeling of home and normal life and what everything meant to me.”

Settling down

Her new songs mirror these themes. “I yearn for the innocence I once think I had, a lack of sense for a fear that grows as I grow older,” she sings with heartbreaking honesty in “My Work.” But as she talks today, Jófríður seems a lot

more settled into the person she has become, and has put some of her worries to bed.

“I think one of the things that scared me was putting a bit of pressure on that album and myself,” she explains. “I wrote the album when I was in a state where I felt that everything was important, that there had to be weight and meaning in everything. And then I came out of that and I was like, no it's not, not everything is a big deal, you don't have to worry about it.”

A different person

Jófríður definitely does not come across as worried. Her conversation, although touching on heavy topics, is light and spacious. Quietly thoughtful and with an easy charm, she seems a world away from the previous, more anxious version of herself—and in fact, this dissonance between the person who she was when she recorded the music and the person she is now irks Jófríður somewhat.

“It's interesting listening to music that you made years ago because that's not who I am right



now—I'm representing a story that happened a while ago. I always get a bit sad about how the music industry works because technically you could write a song and release it the next day—but if you want to do things well you have to work for that. That of course takes time and then you're left disconnected."

Still, Jófríður doesn't seem too concerned. "There's a truth in everything but there's also a bit of fiction and fantasy," she concludes, before emphasising how excited she is to be touring again. Her unplanned hiatus in Reykjavik has left her with itchy feet, it appears.

Forays into film

Despite fewer performances and tours during this period of acclimatization, Jófríður has still been incredibly busy by most people's standards—everybody's but hers, it would appear. Notably she has been making a move into film composition, for which she has drawn from both her classical music training and her experience of creating electronic music. The first full-length score she produced was for 'Agnes Joy,' Silja Hauksdóttir's tale of midlife-burnout and familial relationships that was released last year. "I was very proud of myself for how I did that in the end," Jófríður says of this new area she's exploring. Within the context of Icelandic film composer Hildur Guðnadóttir's recent astronomical

"I had to reconnect with the feeling of home and normal life and what everything meant to me."

success, Jófríður is confident that female composers are beginning to be seen with a new-found respect.

"I think one of the things that is a problem—and I think Hildur has mentioned this in interviews as well—is that people don't expect women to be able to handle these projects. So the fact that she's faced those challenges, and she's made it through..." Jófríðu trails off and throws her hands up with palpable awe. "It's such an inspiration just because the whole world is watching and then there's this incredible woman who's not just an amazing composer—she's also an amazing role model. And of course people will be like, oh okay, well maybe there are other women who could do this."

Empowering others

Being a good role model and offering a leg up to other young women is something Jófríður takes seriously. Alongside her work on score composition, she has also been involved with a project in collaboration with 101erland teaching young women how to use sound production software such as Ableton. She is hesitant to talk about it in a way that might come across as self-congratulatory, and suggests that some of the 'Women In Music' events she has come across have missed the mark. "I think it's important to talk about this situation and to figure out how you can be of help in a way that isn't just self promotion," she says. "I just want to be able to empower

them to make their own recordings and stuff," she says. "But one of the reasons why I wanted to do it is because I didn't have any of that direct contact from a role model telling me about these things."

Fearless Future

Lacking a role model or clear direction in her early days of music was somewhat of a challenge, Jófríður recognises. But that time of confusion fuelled her development into a confident and competent musician. "We were definitely a bit stupid sometimes," she acknowledges. "But that's okay. We definitely made a lot of mistakes—and learned from them. I feel like that's something that you use for the rest of your life."

A decade in the music industry is a long time, no matter how old you are, and it's hard to find a permanent footing on a constantly shifting landscape. But this is something that Jófríður seems to have achieved in the last ten years through her hard work, creativity and dedication. Looking forward, she has a clear idea exactly how she wants to flourish in the future:

"I think I've been in this kind of phase for the last couple of years where I've been questioning—for good reasons, it's quite healthy to do that. But I want to do less of that now and go back into more intuitive movement. I feel like I've had enough of just thinking about things." She smiles. "We'll see. Maybe in ten years I'll be fearless."

JFDR will hold a release concert for 'New Dreams' on March 13th at IDNÓ. Tickets are 2,900 ISK.



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Gógó Starr, thinking about all-you-can-eat buffalo wings

A Productive Drinking Session

Things you can do while drunk, ft. Jerry Seinfeld

Words: Valur Grettisson Photo: Íris Dögg Einarsdóttir

Feel like getting drunk “just because” is not a good enough reason any more? My, my, someone’s a fancy drinker. But we understand. We get you. You are not alone. To help you out, our drinking department spent an entire month drunk to determine what activities you can do to avoid looking like an alcoholic, just a cool guy.

warlocks—draws balls for some prizes that include everything from gift cards to various restaurants around Reykjavík to... insole consultations. If numbers aren’t your thing, she also determines winners by things like moaning competitions and random talent battles. So practice your yodeling and, uh, moaning.

Both are great activities for those competitive drunks; ones that will no doubt cause less ego death than the usual arm wrestling, which inevitably always leads to Kyle punching a wall. Just please, don’t confuse the noble sport of darts with lawn darts—that’s just flat out dangerous.

Party Bingo @ Sæta Svinið

Hafnarstræti 1-3

Sæta Svinið is not only a fine gastropub, but it’s also home to some surprisingly rowdy weekly events. Our favourite is Sigga Kling’s weekly Sunday Party Bingo. There, the only open sorceress of Iceland—don’t worry, we only burn

Darts/Pool @ Papaku Reykjavík

Klapparstígur 38

Ever fancied throwing sharp things around while drunk? Who hasn’t? Lucky for you, Papaku Reykjavík now offers complimentary darts to its drinkers, as well as a pool table to knock heavy things around on.

Karaoke @ Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

Some people like to hijack airplanes. Others like to hijack clubs with their mediocre vocal skills. Gaukurinn is basically the hijacked airplane of karaoke, where every Tuesday, you can jump piss drunk onto the stage and scream out your favourite Taylor Swift song (“You

Belong With Me,” obviously) in front of a massive crowd of people pretending to like it. So just go for it. No one will laugh at you. We promise.

Quizzes & Wine @ Röntgen

Hverfisgata 12

So, you’re one of those “intellectual” hipsters that likes Seinfeld more than Friends. Whatever. Nobody cares. That said, Röntgen recently hosted Reykjavík’s annual Seinfeld pub quiz, and it got pretty competitive, so we’ll stop being a Soup Nazi and admit that drinking a lot while arguing about semantics with your friends for more beer is fun. Check Röntgen’s Facebook for upcoming quizzes. On another note, the bar also hosts natural wine presentations every Tuesday, where you can taste and learn about the hottest vino on the market. The last one is not a quote from Seinfeld, by the way.

Drag Game Night @ Fjallkonan

Hafnarstræti 1-3

Drag Queen Gógó Starr is a sassy, classy, and a bit gassy performer who just started holding Tuesday Drag Game Nights upstairs at Fjallkonan. Show up, sit down, and enjoy a few cocktails while you wow your friends with your dildo golf skills, decimate a lip sync for your life battle, or just answer inane questions about drag for klout. Prizes include gift cards, makeup, skincare products, butt plugs, and vibrators. We’re not joking. Expand your mind.

Wing Binge @ BrewDog

Frakkastígur 8

Let’s stop pretending that this activity thing is anything else other than a lame excuse to drink your beer. So here you go: an honest excuse. The Reykjavík outpost of BrewDog has excellent all-you-can-eat buffalo chicken wings or cauliflower wings on Wednesdays—and everyone knows you can’t eat wings without beer. Look, if you think we’re in the grey area of activities here, just challenge your buddy to an eating contest and call it a tournament. We don’t care, we just like binge eating. And remember what Seinfeld said: Women don’t respect salad eaters. 🍷

BEST OF REYKJAVÍK

Best Burger



Joint winners:

Le Kock

Tryggvagata 14

O burgers, glorious burgers! If there were a national dish, burgers would be it for Iceland. And at Le Kock, their irreverence is thankfully a social media strategy only. When it comes to the food, it is still the ‘gourmet tuck shop’ the founders envisioned. The potato roll game is strong and holds up despite their recent defeat at the hands of the sauce puddle muddle (a beast so savage, hardly a burger in town hasn’t succumbed. Grab those extra napkins, you’ll need them. Better yet, ask for just a smidgen of sauce). Singed with smoke and magic, a classic cheeseburger is still the top dog here.

Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar

Multiple locations

An oldie but a goodie, Búllan slings a solid burger that seals Iceland’s reputation as a worthy burger destination. With multiple locations you are always close to one. A lil’ birdie on our panel whispers that, ‘the Tommi-owned Höfði location is excellent with kids’, and another swore by the Geirsgata location for the ‘Steak Burger’. Also worth trying are the Tuesday 1190 ISK deals.

Newcomer:

Yuzu

Hverfisgata 44

The citrus fruit extract might be a tad too pronounced in their mayo, but the steamed bread burgers at Yuzu have got everyone at the Grapevine offices converted. They arrive in a cane steamer and it’s best to make quick work of the delicious treats, easy if you’ve got the Kimchi burger.



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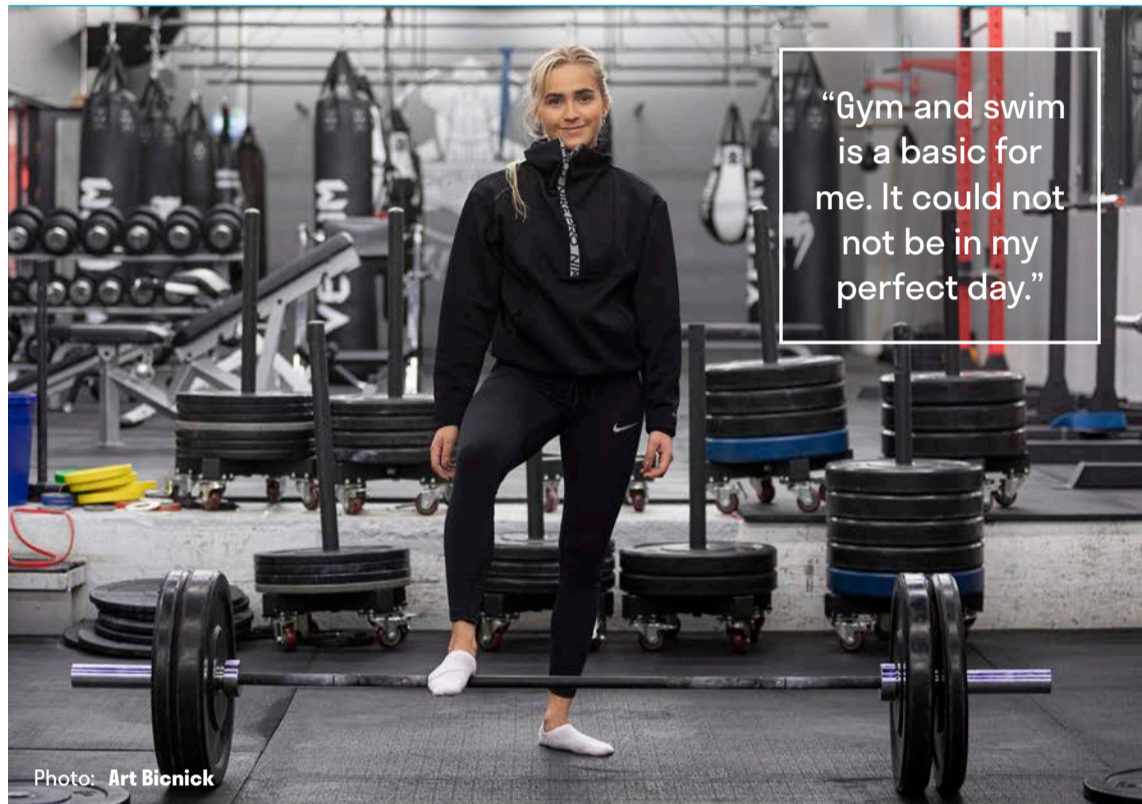
Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

Perfect Day

Dance, jive & have the time of your life



“Gym and swim is a basic for me. It could not be in my perfect day.”

Photo: Art Bienick

Birna María Másdóttir

Birna María Másdóttir, or MC Bibba, is a radio personality at Útvarp 101 and fitness influencer. Here's how her perfect day in Reykjavík would shape up.

First thing in the morning

The first thing I'd do is get a cup of coffee, sit down with my dog and turn on the radio. We do a lot of podcasts at Útvarp 101 so I'd take this time to relax and check them out.

Mid-morning

Of course, my perfect day includes the gym. I'd head to **World Class Kringlan** and do some Olympic lifting. Afterwards, the perfect way to end the gym is with a swim. My favourite swimming pool is **Árbæjarlaug** because you don't have to stand up to move from one hot tub to another if you want. I'm lazy! But a gym-and-swim is so routine for me it could not

not be part of my perfect day. Then it's time to treat myself, maybe with a massage or facial at **Natura Spa**.

Lunch

I eat a lot because I train a lot. For a perfect lunch, I'd head to **SKÁL** at **Hlemmur Mathöll**, where I can mix small plates together and make my own nice meal. I would definitely have the carrots, potatoes, or just the brunch. Of course, I would end my meal with a cinnamon bun from **Brauð** og co.

In the afternoon

On my perfect day, I'd want to be surrounded with the perfect people so I'd take all my friends in a fancy limo to my summerhouse near **Pingvallavatn**. It's basic, I know, but I love driving up to **Pingvellir** and walking in nature, where there is no one else around. Afterwards, we'd maybe head to **Adrenalingarðurinn** to face challenges like climbing and swimming and just get the adrenaline

pumping. You'll feel like a child again!

Evening

Dinner would be at my favourite place, **Sumac**. It's fresh, different and they have great veggie and vegan options. Afterwards, I'd keep it fancy at **Bió Paradís** for one of their 'Mamma Mia!' sing-along screenings. That's the best movie ever and the vibe there is so good.

Once the film ends, I'm dragging everyone to karaoke, maybe at **The Irishman Pub** or **Gummi Ben**. No matter where, if we get the mic, it'll be ok.

In the heat of the night

I recently got into yoga meditation. It's so good to refresh and get ready for the next day. I always go to **Yoga Shala** in Skeifan—they have the best yoga classes there. On my perfect day, they'd have a late-night class and I'd spend some reflecting and relaxing. ♡



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Emergency: 112
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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: gpp.is/swim
Open: Mon-Thu from 06:30-22. Fri from 06:30-20. Sat from 08-16. Sun from 10-18.

Public Toilets

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

Public Transport

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

Venue Finder

Venues	Museums & Galleries
The numbers on the right (i.e. E4) tell you position on the map on the next page	
Austur Austurstræti 7 D3	ART67 Laugavegur 67 F7 Open daily 9-21
American Bar Austurstræti 8 D3	Ásmundarsalur Freyjugata 41 G6 Open Tue-Sun 8-17
Andrými Bergþorugata 20 G6	Aurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2 B1 Open 09-21
B5 Bankastræti 5 E4	Asgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74 G4 July 8-Sep 1, Mon-Fri
Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54 E5	Berg Contemporary Klappartígur 16 E5 Tu-F 11-17, Sat 13-17
Bravó Laugavegur 22 E5	The Culture House Hverfisgata 15 E5 Open daily 10-17
Curious Hafnarstræti 4 D3	The Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksgrata G5 Open Tue-Sun 10-17
Dillan Laugavegur 30 E5	Exxistenz Bergstaðastr. 25b F4
Dublínur Naustin 1-3 D3	Galleri List Skipholt 50A H10 M-F 11-18, Sat 11-16
English Pub Tryggvagata 12 D3	Hafnarborg Strandgata 34, 220 D3 Open Wed-Mon 12-17
Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22 D3	Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17 D2 Open 10-17, Thu 10-22
Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a D3	i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16 D3 Tu-Fri 11-18, Sat 13-17
Hressó Austurstræti 20 D3	Kaffibarinn Bergstaðastræti 1 E4
Íþró Vönarstræti 3 E3	Kírsuberjatræð Vesturgata 4 D3 M-F 10-18, Sat-Sun 10-17
Kex Hostel Skulagata 28 E7	Kling & Bang Grandagarður 20 A4 W-Sun 14-18, Th 12-21
Kaffibarinn Bergstaðastræti 1 E4	Listastofan Hringbraut 119 A4 Open Wed-Sat 13-17
	Living Art Museum Grandagarður 20 A4 T-Sun 12-18, Th 12-21
	Mokka Kaffi Skólavörðustíg. 3A E5 Open daily 9-18:30
	Museum of Design and Applied Art Garðatorg 1 F3 Open Tu-Sun 12-17
	The National Gallery of Iceland Frikirkjuegur 7 F3 Open daily 10-17
	The National Museum Suburgata 41 G2 Open daily 10-17
	The Nordic House Sturlugata 5 H2 Thu-Tu 11-17, W 11-20
	Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17 D2 Open 10-17, Thu 10-22
	Kjarvalsstaðir Flókagata 24 H8 Open daily 10-17
	Ásmundarsafn Sigtún F8 Open daily 10-17
	Reykjavík City Library Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-17
	Árbæjarsafn Ríshlí D3 Open daily 13-17
	The Settlement Exhibition Adalstræti 16 D3 Open daily 9-18
	Reykjavík Museum of Photography Tryggvagata 15 D3 Mon-Thu 10-18, Fri 11-18, Sat-Sun 13-18
	Saga Museum Grandagarður 2 B2 Open daily 10-18
	Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum Laugarnestangi 70 D3 Open Tu-Sun 14-17
	SÍM Hafnarstræti 16 D3 Open Mon-Fri 10-16
	Tveir Hrafnar Baldursgata 12 G4 Open Fri-Sat 13-16
	Wind & Weather Window Gallery Hverfisgata 37 E5

A



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The Map

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

Dining

1. Fjallkonan

Hafnarstræti 1-3

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

2. Block Burger

Skólavörðustígur 8

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

3. Matur og Drykkur

Grandagarður 2

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

4. Sandholt

Laugavegur 36

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

5. Le Kock 2.0

Tryggvagata 14

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

6. Ramen Momo

Tryggvagata 16

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

7. Public House Gastropub

Laugavegur 28

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

8. Messinn

Lækjargata 6b

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

9. Sea Baron

Geirsgata 4a

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

10. Pylsuhúsið

Ingólfstorg

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

Drinking

11. Curious

Hafnarstræti 4

Watch out, henny—there's a new

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

12. Bravó

Laugavegur 22

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

13. Loft Hostel

Bankastræti 7a

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

14. Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

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

15. Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

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

16. Session Bar

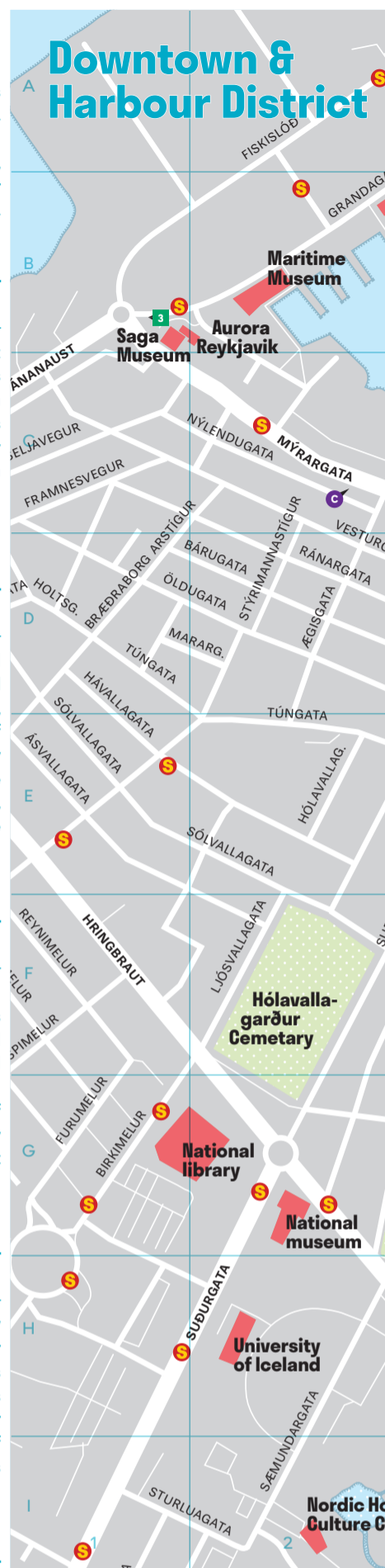
Fógetagarður

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

17. Papaku Reykjavík

Klappastígur 38

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



18. American Bar

Austurstræti 8

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

Shopping

19. Kvartýra №49

Laugavegur 49

This minimalistic, Bauhaus-esque spot took the Icelandic fashion

E

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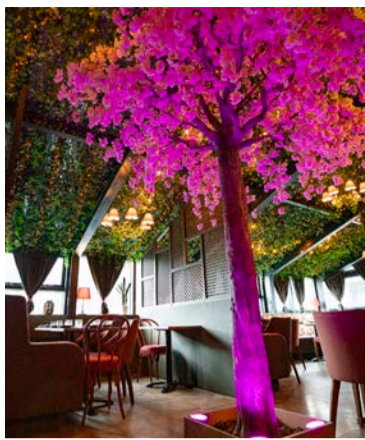
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New In Town ☆



PÜNk Restaurant
Hverfisgata 20

Don't be fooled. Nothing about the interior of this place is punk. The pink plush bar stools, the multicoloured lights in the hanging foliage, the menus of artisan tacos and fruity drinks, the playlist with house pop remixes, all give more of a lounge in Miami vibe than anything punk. Nevertheless, the seating is comfortable, the atmosphere is cool, the food and drinks are delicious, and the music fits the atmosphere nicely. Try the sangria. **SPO** 🍷

K

Wine bar & food

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KVOSIN
DOWNTOWN HOTEL

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. IÐA 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!



F

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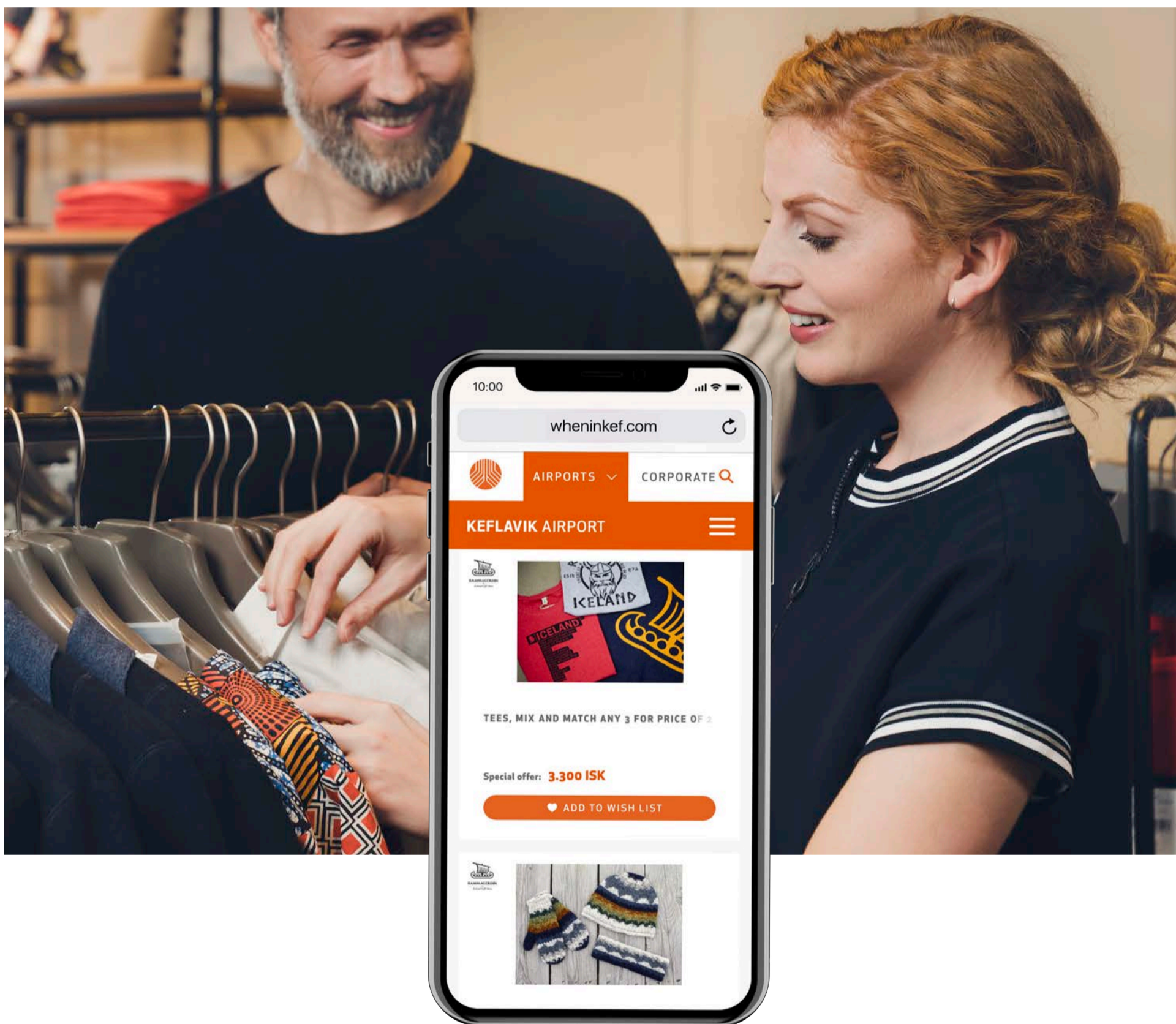
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“Who really has our best interests at heart? And are we those people ourselves?”

TRACK BY TRACK

‘Lovelife’ by Cryptochrome

Trust, vulnerability, polyamory, and imprisonment coalesce

Words: Cryptochrome & Hannah Jane Cohen Photo: Art Bicnick



Album

Listen to ‘Lovelife’ on all streaming platforms.

Electro-psychedelic-post-hip-hop-pop collective Cryptochrome has consistently been pushing the envelope of sound since they debuted in 2013. The eclectic elders of the booming Reykjavik rap scene, the group is now back with a new EP ‘Lovelife’—an effort chock full of dreamy vocals mixed with fresh pop beats and intense flow, perfect for cheering up the last few days of winter. We sat down with the group to get a feel for the release, track by track.

People Come

This song focuses on the strength in sharing your vulnerabilities, and acts as a portal into a feeling of being understood and seen without the shame that is solidified in solitude. There’s also a hint of sexuality, which we see as the ultimate form of trust and vulnerability, and a playful approach to an otherwise very heavy subject. Vibe with the vibraphones.

Who’s

Who do we surround ourselves with? Who do we serve? Who really has our best interests at heart? And are we those people ourselves? We so often spend our lives talking ourselves down to a degree we would never accept someone else doing, time for a little honest, passionate life-long self-loving. Right?!

Part of Me

This song is about the power we give away, the power we unwittingly exude, the power inherited from societal constructs, gender, and background. It’s about ownership, where service distorts into control, where the need for safety shifts into imprisonment, enmeshment, “privilobliviousness,” and the romanticisation of it all. We flip the script and stick it in a disco ball.

Polly

“Polly” is the first song we wrote at the beginning of our journey into polyamory, about the beginning of our journey into polyamory, and the strong impressions it was making. The personification of personal freedom within a committed relationship. The wealth of growth it has offered, continuously, and the deep introspection that ensues.

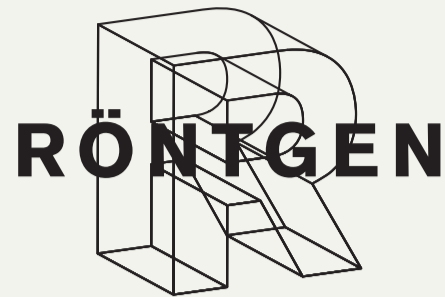
Kali

This whole EP was written in a period of huge realisations in our lives, of cord-cutting on a massive level, and we felt as if it were the energy of Kali sweeping through our existence, beheading the old and ushering in the new. Through beautiful coincidence, we connected our producer Secondson with Halldór Úlfarsson, maker of the now-famous halldorphone, whose eerie drones permeate this song perfectly. Haunting, bass-heavy mantra-music.

Cast it Away

Get rid of it. Dance it away. If it doesn’t serve you, get it as far away as necessary, and do so however you please. This is a kind of ritual song for us, everyday type spell-casting, and it’s in the music, too. Secondson travelled to Carn Menyn in the Welsh Preseli Hills to record the singing stones, at the site from which the Stonehenge bluestones were mined, and transported for hundreds of miles, for their sonic properties. It’s the first time they have ever been put on record, and there’s something magical in that megalithic connection with the past. We bring it into the present, and use it to sculpt the future. ♡

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Hverfisgata 12



Happy hour / 3–7pm
Beer / Wine / Cocktails



Music



A candid shot of Guðrún by her inspiration

GDRN 2.0

The singer is back with a poetic sophomore effort

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

EP

Check out 'GDRN' on every streaming platform.

"I'm doing really good," Guðrún Ýr Eyfjörð Jóhannsdóttir says brightly, smiling as she sits back into a couch at Stofan, delicately sipping an americano. The artist, known under the moniker GDRN, dropped her self-titled sophomore effort just days ago and is currently in preparation for her first big solo debut concert, which will be on April 6th at Háskólabíó.

"This is the first concert I am planning and doing myself and also my first album release show. There will be strings, a full band, everything that is on the album," she exclaims. "I feel like a kid having her first birthday party, sitting there like, is anyone going to come?" She laughs. "But ticket sales are good and I'm excited."

No rush

The artist burst onto the scene in 2018 with her debut effort 'Hvað ef,' which swept through Iceland, turning the RnB singer into the most popular musical artist in the country almost overnight.

It also bagged her the Album Of The Year award at the 2019 Grapevine Music Awards.

"I actually started 'GDRN' the same month that 'Hvað ef' came out," Guðrún explains. While Guðrún

worked with production duo Ra:tio for her debut, for this release, she teamed with Magnús Jóhann and Árnar Ingi—a.k.a. Young Nazareth. "We found this soundscape together, which was a funky pop jazz one. It has

a Motown 70s feel to it, which is a lot different from 'Hvað ef.' We meant to release the album in May 2019 but we kept making new and better songs and pushing it off. So 'GDRN' has been a long time in the making. I wasn't rushing it, which I think is why I'm really proud of this album."

Poetry & imagery

Making the album over such a long period gave Guðrún distance from individual songs—meaning many have become somewhat nostalgic for her. "One song, I wrote it while I was just meeting my boyfriend. It's about being so into someone, you know?" she laughs. "Now we've been together for one and a half years. There are also songs like 'Hugarró' that we made maybe four times, over and over again. I remember working on it and thinking that we were never going to finish this album."

Lyricaly, Guðrún emphasises, the album reveals a new side to her. "On 'Hvað ef,' I was talking about feelings and telling a story, but on this album, I'm talking a lot more about nature, the sea, and the moon," she says. "It's more poetic; I used a lot of imagery."

Overall, 'GDRN' marks a sophisticated new chapter for the still-young artist, showing she's got way more up her sleeve. "When you listen to the album the first time, you'll think, wow, these are good pop songs!" she says, grinning. "But

when you listen again you'll see there are so many tiny details and work in every song. Everything is coherent." She pauses. "All of the puzzle pieces have come together on 'GDRN.'" ☘

"On this album, I'm talking a lot more about nature, the sea, and the moon. It's more poetic."



MUSIC NEWS

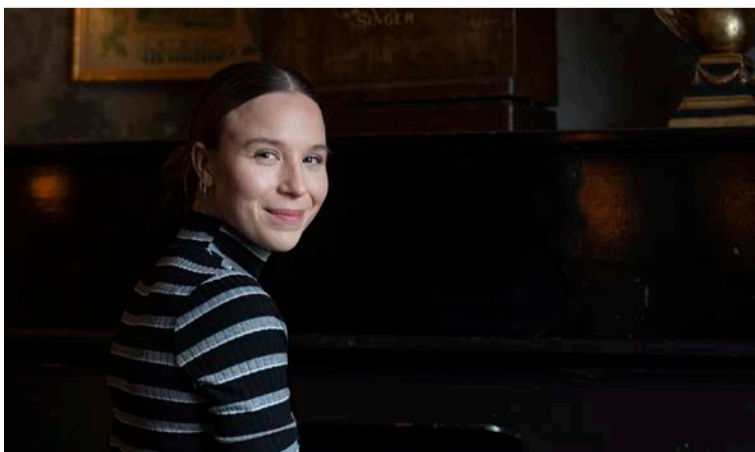
Turns out that **Russell Crowe**, or **Maximus Decimus Meridius**, commander of the Armies of the North, General of the Felix Legions, loyal servant to the true emperor, **Marcus Aurelius**, is not only a dramatic victim of circumstances but also a goddamn prophet. Maximus, sorry, Crowe shared the Icelandic **Eurovision** contest song, "Think About Things," by **Daði & Gagnamagnið** on Twitter in late February—a tweet that was covered extensively by Iceland's national news. **Javert's** message on Twitter was simple, "Song," accompanied by the link. Apparently it takes a **beautiful mind** to recognise that Daði Freyr composed a song—not a good song, not a bad song, but definitely a song. One month later, Daði won Iceland's Eurovision qualifiers a landslide and will now be representing our fair at the 2020 Eurovision Song Contest. Are you not entertained?! **VG/HJC/ASF**



Notable Scientologist/loser **Beck** has departed his home planet to perform for the heathens in Iceland at the beginning of June. He's gonna drop the hydrogen bombs on Icelanders with his oldies but goldies and what's more, he's taking the Northern-Irish band, **Two Door Cinema Club**, known for their Disco rock and pretty cool videos, along with him. Last year, Beck snatched the Grammy from Björk—the seventh of his career, while Björk has won none—so potentially there will be some revenge-drama involved. The price for the ticket is around 10,000 ISK (around 100 dollars) but if you pay 9,000 ISK more, you'll get a **complimentary E-Meter**. **VG**



The Swedish singer **Loljud** is in Iceland working with the Icelandic singer **Rauður**, according to Albumm.is. Loljud is well known in Scandinavia for her artistic and theatrical approach to music and will be performing at **Roskilde**, the biggest music festival in Denmark, this summer. For those that desperately want to categorise musicians, she has been compared to **The Knife** and **Sia** and dubbed the **electro queen of Malmö**. Her first LP is coming out at the end of March, and it will be interesting to see what she and Rauður will produce together. **VG**



Warming up the Icelandic winter with one smile

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7/3 REYKJAVÍK GOTH NIGHT: DJ NIGHT

DJ MOLE IX

DJ FLUFFYCTHULHU

COSMIQUE NOIR

REX PISTOLS DJ SET

8/3 BÚKALÚ VARIETY SHOW

DEBAUCHERY, BURLESQUE, VARIETY, COMEDY

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JELLYBOY THE CLOWN (NYC)

AURORA GALORE (UK)

GÓGÓ STARR (IS)

BIBI BIOUS (IS)

11/3 PUB QUIZ: STUDIO GHIBLI

12/3 LASER LIFE, DAVEETH

13/3 DRAG-SÚGUR QUEER VARIETY SHOW

MONTHLY DRAG EXTRAVAGANZA

DJ-SET BY MIGHTY BEAR AFTERWARDS

14/3 BURLESQUE SHOW BY TÚTTÍFRÚTTURNAR

KARAOKE PARTY AFTERWARDS

15/3 BOARD-GAME NIGHT

18/3 SOULFLOW'S IMPROV NIGHT

19/3 OPEN JAM SESSION

20/3 JEN HARTSWICK & HER BAND OF HEATHENS

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HAPPY HOUR
14-21

VÍKING
BRUGGHÚS

Our Picks



Páll Óskar: 50 Years ★

March 12th, 13th & 14th - 20:00, 21:00, 22:00 - Háskólabíó - 9,900-11,900 ISK

Páll "The Man Who Doesn't Age" Óskar is hitting 50 and celebrating with some glitter-fueled

concerts. Let's be real: Páll's birthday is a monumental moment in Iceland's history, equivalent to

Independence Day or that time we discovered hamburgers in the 40s. At the show, Páll will play all of his legendary songs. That said, if you're some sort of agoraphobe who can't go, RÚV will be broadcasting it live on television. Surprised? Of course not—it's the moon landing of birthdays! From us at the Grapevine, happy birthday Páll and please tell us the secret of looking fabulous all the goddamn time. My email is valur@grapevine.is. VG



Reykjavik Goth Night ★

March 7th - 21:00 - Gaukurinn - Free!

Bust out those JNCOs that have been collecting dust since 2006 and dance! SPO



GARÚN GARÚN ★

March 8th & 14th - 17:00 - Langholtskirkja & Háteigskirkja - Free!

Presenting: a new exciting choral piece on the folk tale "Garún, Garún." According to legend, Guðrún was engaged to a priest who died. His ghost returned on horseback to bring her to the grave with him. Cue the cadence. SPO



Elin Ey ★

March 11th - 20:00 - Röntgen - 3,000 ISK

Elin Ey classifies her sound as sad RnB. We agree, but it's really good sad RnB. SPO



Vök ★

March 14th - 21:00 - Stúdentakjallarinn - Free!

Vök's sound mixes wistful electronics and melodic vocals, distant saxophones and reverberating guitars. Think The xx's hypnotism, The Knife's sexual tension and Poliça's playful overdubbing. Did we mention the show is free? HJC

March 6th—March 19th

Concerts & Nightlife

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

Friday March 6th

Zhrine / Kontinuum / Morpholith

21:00 Gaukurinn

Green Days Party: REGN

19:00 Stúdentakjallarinn

Múlinn Jazz Club:

Kristjana Stefáns Trio

20:00 Harpa

Singer/Songwriter Open Mic Night

20:00 Loft

Night Of Improvised Music

21:00 Mengi

DJ Símon fknhdsm

23:00 Kaffibarinn

DJ Karítas

23:00 Prikið

Eagles Tribute Concert

20:00 Salurinn

Mosi DJ Set

23:30 Hressó

Högni

21:00 Hotel Holt

21:00 Mengi

Gunnar Þórðarson: 75 Years

16:00, 20:00 Harpa

Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

Children's Hour

11:30 Harpa

Organ Show: Bach & Mendelssohn

12:00 Hallgrímskirkja

DJ Sonur Sæll

23:00 Kaffibarinn

Guðrún Gunnars Sings

Cornelis Vreeswijk

20:00 Salurinn

DJ Thaison

23:00 Prikið

Sunday March 8th

★ GARÚN GARÚN

17:00 Langholtskirkja

Sunday Jazz: Sigriður Thorlacius

20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús

Vinyl Sunday

20:00 Röntgen

Devil's Karaoke

21:00 Bravó

DJ Pabbi

23:00 Kaffibarinn

Tuesday March 10th

Karaoke Party!

21:00 Gaukurinn

DJ Árni Sveins

23:00 Kaffibarinn

Los Aurora

20:00 Salurinn

Wednesday March 11th

★ Elin Ey

20:00 Röntgen

DJ Andri Björgvins

23:00 Kaffibarinn

Don Lockwood Band

21:00 Slippbarinn

Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét

21:00 Sæta Svinið

DJ Einar Sonic

22:00 Bravó

Thursday March 12th

★ Páll Óskar: 50 Years!

20:00 Háskólabíó

Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

A Russian Celebration

19:30 Harpa

HarpFusion: Bach To The Future

15:00 Harpa

Laser Life & Daveeth

21:00 Gaukurinn

Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

Open Rehearsal

9:30 Harpa

DJ Jamie Clarke

23:00 Kaffibarinn

Eyfi

21:00 Petersen svítan

Student Jam Session

21:00 Hressó

Salóme Katrín Release Concert

20:30 Röntgen

DJ Kraftgalli

23:00 Prikið

DJ GUYZ

22:00 Bravó

Friday March 13th

★ Páll Óskar: 50 Years!

21:00 Háskólabíó

JFDR & Friends:

'New Dreams' Release Concert

20:00 IÐNÓ

Múlinn Jazz Club:

Leifur Gunnarsson Release Concert

20:00 Harpa

Atali & Dova

22:00 Bravó

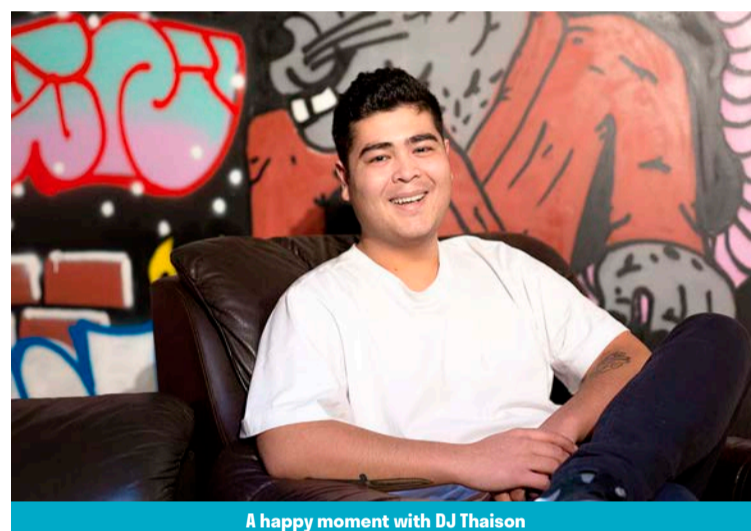
Karaoke!

20:00 Loft

DJ Thaison

23:30 Hressó

DJ Spégill



A happy moment with DJ Thaison

23:00 Prikið

Alive

19:30 Hjómahöll

DJ CasaNova

23:00 Kaffibarinn

Saturday March 14th

★ Vök

21:00 Stúdentakjallarinn

★ Sói Tér Sortna II: Kontinuum /

Nexion / Nyrst / Forsmán

19:00 Hard Rock Café

★ Páll Óskar: 50 Years!

22:00 Háskólabíó

★ GARÚN GARÚN

17:00 Háteigskirkja

Dimma

16:00, 20:30 Bæjarbíó

HarpFusion: Mirage

12:00 Harpa

Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

Dimmalímm & Swan Lake

14:00, 16:00 Harpa

Glæstar Vonir Club Night

22:00 Hressó

DJ Margeir

23:00 Kaffibarinn

DJ B-Ruff & Snorri Ástráðs

23:00 Prikið

Clare College Choir

17:00 Hallgrímskirkja

DJ Eyvi

23:00 Bravó

Sunday March 15th

Sunday Jazz: Halli's Maffaggas

20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús

Requiem By Verdi

17:00 Langholtskirkja

The Chamber Music Society #6:

Weinberg & Shostakovich

16:00 Harpa

DJ Krystal Carma

23:00 Kaffibarinn

Vinyl Sunday

21:00 Bravó

Monday March 16th

Monday Night Jazz

20:00 Röntgen

DJ Sonur Sæll

23:00 Kaffibarinn

Tuesday March 17th

Örlogapræðir

20:00 Harpa

Karaoke Party!

21:00 Gaukurinn

DJ Alfons X

23:00 Kaffibarinn

Wednesday March 18th

Steingrímur Teague

20:00 Röntgen

Múlinn Jazz Club:

Asa Trio With Jóel Pálsson

20:00 Harpa

Don Lockwood Band

21:00 Slippbarinn

Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét

21:00 Sæta Svinið

DJ Mama Gunz

23:00 Kaffibarinn

DJ Lamp Vader

22:00 Bravó

Thursday March 19th

Between Mountains

20:00 Röntgen

Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

Mozart & Kurt Weill

19:30 Harpa

Weirdcore

21:00 Bravó

Margrét Eir & Andrés Þór

21:00 Petersen svítan

Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

Open Rehearsal

9:30 Harpa

Skúraleiðingar:

Stálnaglar / Gertrude / Blúsbrot

21:00 Hard Rock Café

DJ Óli Dóri

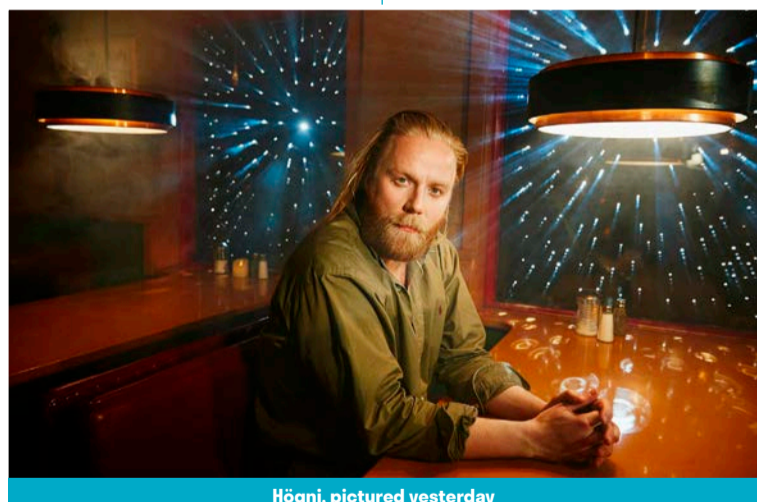
23:00 Kaffibarinn

DJ Benedikt Andrason

23:00 Prikið

Open Jam Session

21:30 Gaukurinn



Högni, pictured yesterday

Huldumenn

21:00 Hlégarður

Saturday March 7th

★ Reykjavik Goth Night: DJ Night!

22:00 Gaukurinn

Evil Suburban Kids Vol. 3:

LaFontaine, Elli Grill & More

22:00 Bravó

Óregla

21:00 Hressó

Futuregrapher

14:00 Lucky Records

The Ghost Choir

21:00 Bravó

The Ghost Choir

21:00 Mengi

The Chamber Music Society #5:

Siggi String Quartet

16:00 Harpa

DJ KrBear: Weekend Extender

21:00 Prikið

DJ Hannes

23:00 Kaffibarinn

Monday March 9th

Monday Night Jazz

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Art

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You could wash a load of laundry on those

Satisfy Your Lust For Life

Elina Pirinen's 'Rhythm Of Poison' will reawaken your primal libido

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

For dancer Saga Sigurðardóttir, Elina's work, with its lack of stage, focus on audience interaction, and pure sensuality, has allowed a certain amount of delightful freedom in her movements. "You are bringing your own sensuality into the space," Saga explains, a bright smile taking over her face. "I am fascinated by how Elina deals with intimacy. What does it mean when you are in a space full of strangers?"

VISIT KÓPAVOGUR CULTURE HOUSES AND EXPERIENCE

Info

'Rhythm Of Poison' will play on March 7th and 15th at 20:00 at Borgarleikhúsið. Tickets are 4,900 ISK.

these areas, in fact, intensely so. In truth, while watching 'Rhythm Of Poison,' the viewer often gets the feeling that they're in the midst of a physical breakdown, manic episode, or, perhaps, a debauched orgy.

Chimes jingle. A dancer flexes his foot, clutching desperately onto a red scarf. In your lap lands another dancer's head. She twitches and pets your hair. On the other side of the floor—there is no stage—guttural growls emerge from a singer's snarling mouth as a dog scurries around her feet. The smell of garlic overwhelms your senses, no doubt due to the cloves currently being stuffed into the mouth of a dancer in the centre. It's a chaotic smörgåsbord of images—in every direction a new spectacle—and at many times, you don't even know where to look.

It's an apt experience, though, as 'Rhythm Of Poison,' Elina describes, is based on the larger need to show the libidinal movements in dance art, or as she refers to it, the lust for life. "The lust for life is shared between all people, and it's good to remind oneself that we are existentially people with despair, intimacy, desires and obsessions, not bourgeois and reasonable by heart. For me, I try to do work that is transgressive in the way that beauty comes from the unheimlich core rather than the imagery of person," she says.

Five year plan

And though it's but a small moment in the production, one cannot help but fixate on the fact that the performance involves dogs, which join the dancers and audience on the floor for a few minutes, running about the room, allowing pets and cuddles at their leisure. "They bring such wonderful energy to the space," Saga laughs. "Liveliness. Pure liveliness!"

"Our bodies are charged with many fantastic and peculiar processes."

Elina has long been known for her transgressive choreography. For the artist though, 'Rhythm Of Poison' is just one step in her progression.

"The older I get the wilder my stage becomes," she says. Elina's still young, though, so one can only dream about what she'll be up to in five years. When asked, the artist smirks. "Jail." 🐾

This is no fever dream or bad trip; it's the eclectic, sensual, primal work of Finnish choreographer Elina Pirinen's new show with the Iceland Dance Company, 'Rhythm Of Poison.'

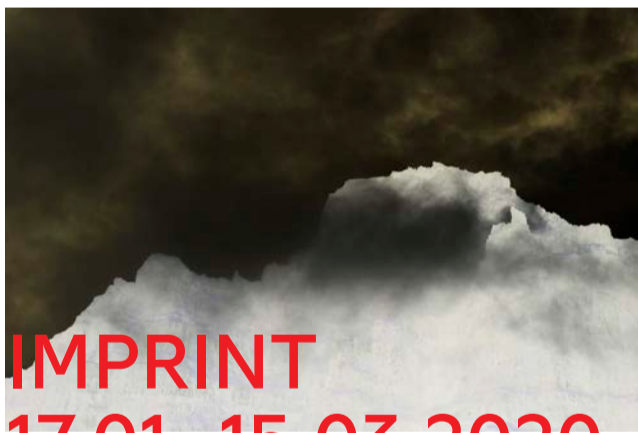
Sensual transgression

"The essentials of the work are based on my own personal experience dealing with the artistic body, but also related to the feminist body and the deeply shared one," Elina explains. "Our bodies are charged with many fantastic and peculiar processes and [the dancers and I] practise many weeks to make and enjoy the connections between those affectionate processes and the anatomy itself—the vulvic area, eyeballs, hair, tongue, saliva, teeth and nails."

The movement of the show is subsequently heavily based around



Choreographer Elina Pirinen (left) with dancer Saga Sigurðardóttir (right)



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Our Picks

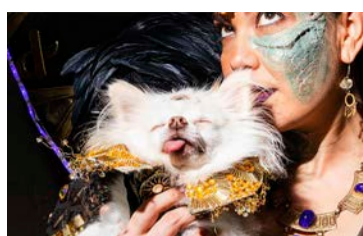


★ Stockfish 2020

March 12th-22nd - Bió Paradís

The Stockfish Film Festival consists of 24 handpicked films from all over shown just in your backyard

at Bió Paradís. The festival aims to create a platform in Reykjavík to encourage collaboration between domestic and international film communities and gives the general audience an opportunity to see some of the most up-and-coming art-house films in the world. Among guests, Dome Karukoski, the director of 'Tolkien' will hold a special screening and Q&A—in English, not Elvish. Combined with that is a competition only involving Icelandic short films, so if you love Iceland and have no attention span, you'll be fine. Done with the clichés of the Marvel universe? See you at Stockfish. **RG**



★ Kári Björn: Pooches

Until March 27th - Studio Sol
the best and most fabulous doggie fashion of NYC. Kári Björn was raised by poodles, so it makes sense that his newest photography exhibition documents the best and most fabulous doggie fashion of NYC. Missed the New York Pet Fashion Show? Your fav lost Westminster? This'll cheer you up. **HJC**



★ Ásgerður Búadóttir: Facets of Life

Until May 3rd - Kjarvalsstaðir
Ásgerður Búadóttir was a pioneer of Icelandic woven art, known for combining ancient techniques with modern art, all in the name of Icelandic wool. Come celebrate what would have been her 100th birthday at this exhibit. **HJC**



★ Una Björg Magnúsdóttir: Vanishing Crowd

Until March 15th - Hafnarhús
Her work is often kinetic or emits sound, which makes for an interactive exhibit. But please don't touch. Or do. Jail sounds fun. **SPO**

March 6th—March 19th

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 D41 Andreas Brunner

Photographer Andreas Brunner's works display things like burning cigarettes. He'll be the 41st to exhibit as part of the D-series, which focuses on up-and-coming Icelandic artists.

- Opens on March 19th, 2020
- Runs until May 24th, 2020

REYKJAVÍK ROASTERS

Í kring 07 X RÝMD: Session 3/3

This iteration of Í kring presents the works of Arianda Garriga Ballarin, Shannon Calcott, Patricia Carolina, Sophie Durand, and Þórunn Dís Halldorsdóttir. The three parts of the exhibition are located at each of the Reykjavík Roasters cafés. Stop by the Brautarholt 2 location on March 13th for an artist talk and walk between each exhibition.

- Opens on March 13th, 2020
- Runs until March 24th, 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

High Plane VI

Katrín Sigurðardóttir has for some years been exploring the effects of perception in her installations and works. Here, she dismantles a classic theme of Icelandic paintings: mountains, the blue of distant vistas, and the obsession with Icelandic nature.

- Runs until January 3rd, 2021

Mats Gustafson

Swedish artist Mats Gustafson has always held a special feeling for the transient nature of watercolour. This exhibition contains all his best-known works, including ones made with fashion houses Dior, Yohji Yamamoto, Comme des Garçons, and more.

- Runs until May 3rd, 2020

Electromagnetic Objects

The "Electromagnetic Objects" are a collection of works by Woody Vasulka and the audio artist Brian O'Reilly. According to O'Reilly, "the works use sources excavated directly from

the output of the Electromagnetic Objects, as well as further manipulations using Tom Demeyer's ImX software, developed with input from Steina." Sounds complicated, but we still stan.

- Runs until December 31st, 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 May 3rd, 2020

Ásmundur For Families

Children get free entry to learn about Ásmundur Sveinsson, after whom the museum is named.

- Runs until May 10th, 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

Ásthildur Magnúsdóttir Workshop

From the finest damask to rough rya rugs, Ásthildur Magnúsdóttir is a master of weaving. She works with mainly Icelandic wool, and if you stop by the museum, you can see her create textiles right in front of your eyes.

- Runs until June 6th, 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

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.

- 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.

- Runs until May 3rd, 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 Arnardóttir/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

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."

- Runs until May 24th, 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

Þórdís 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

HVERFISGALLERÍ

Transit

Dániel Magnússon, for his exhibition, was inspired by rhythm, figure, and sound. "The images could be likened to a percussion din which has come to an end," he wrote in the accompanying text. "Not that I have any particular knowledge of such instruments, other than as a music listener."

- Runs until March 28th, 2020

WIND & WEATHER WINDOW GALLERY

Hjáleið / Detour

Helgi Már Kristinsson's site-specific mixed-medium installation presents bright, geometric shapes that blur the line between pop-art and street construction. Remember: The window is open all day, everyday, so stop by.

- Runs until April 25th, 2020

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

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Chromo Sapiens

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Writer/director Ragnar Bragason... in a garden

The Outsiders: Ragnar Bragason Tackles Xenophobia

In 'Gullregn' (The Garden),
Iceland confronts itself

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

Ragnar Bragason's name will be familiar to many Icelanders, and to a wider international audience as well. While his first feature film, 'Fiasco' (Fíaskó), broke ground in 2000, he is perhaps most lauded for his television trilogy "Night Shift" (Næturvaktin), "Day Shift" (Dagvaktin) and "Prison Shift" (Fangavaktin), all featuring Jón Gnarr's iconic character Georg Bjarnfreðarson.

His latest work, 'The Garden' (Gullregn), is a feature film based on a play of the same play that he wrote. Like the Shift series, it employs dark comedy, but it also addresses particularly delicate subject matter: xenophobia.

The view from the La-Z-Boy

In 'The Garden', the main character, Indíana Jónsdóttir, lives her life by gaming the social welfare system. At the same time, the neighbourhood where her council estate is located houses a lot of immigrants—whom she believes

unfairly game the system and are taking over the country.

"Everything revolves around that La-Z-Boy chair that Indíana has, controlling her kingdom," Ragnar explains. "Indíana is afraid of everything, she's afraid of life, she's afraid of the world outside. She controls her immediate surroundings, the people close to her, in a very calculated manner, but she has no control of the outside world. And that's the story—when this outside world comes in."

The outside world comes in the form of Daniella, a Polish woman who is the new girlfriend of Indíana's son Orri. Daniella's perspective sheds light on the toxic environment that Indíana has created.

When you live in an unhealthy environment, you're so co-dependent that you don't see it or realise it," Ragnar tells us. "You're enmeshed in it. So I decided when writing that I needed an outsider to come in, and that person needs to be someone who is not rooted in the Icelandic way of thinking. A guest who would see things clear-

ly. So she's the only kind of healthy person in the story."

All too human

"Most of my work tends to tell stories about people on the outskirts of society," Ragnar says. "Not necessarily outsiders, but people on the fringes, and very often women, because personally I find their stories are often more interesting. Their emotional life is more detailed, and they have more challenges to face. The theme, for me, is the repercussions of violence, the sins of our fathers and mothers. How we still live with that generation after generation. How it is up to us to break that chain."

With 'The Garden', Ragnar seeks to raise uncomfortable questions about Iceland's self-image.

"Icelanders tend to see ourselves as a nation in a very romantic light," he says. "We have this image of being an almost perfect country. Which for me is far from the truth. Every society has problems. Xenophobia is very deep-rooted here. Even though we don't have neo-Nazis marching the streets in large groups, but that's just because we're so few. There are as many neo-Nazis per capita in Iceland as there are anywhere else. We need to tell stories about social injustice, but I'm not preaching. Often my main characters are very bad people, or people that appear bad in the beginning, but little by little we realise that there's always a root to everything. Nobody is an island." 🇮🇸

'Gullregn' can be seen at Smárabíó and Laugarásbíó.

gpu.is/film
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Now that's a sexy quiz ;)

Various Events

Friday March 6th

★ Food & Fun 2020

Various Times, Various Restaurants
'Stella í Orlofi' Party Screening!
 20:00 Bíó Paradís

Saturday March 7th

★ Food & Fun 2020

Various Times, Various Restaurants
Rhythm Of Poison
 20:00 Borgarleikhúsið
The Brogan Davison Show
 20:00 Tjarnarbió
Out Of Control: 20s Drag Show
 22:00 Kiki Queer Bar
Pop Quiz
 21:00 Stúdentakjallarinn
Art Market
 14:00 Loft
Hacking_Hekla Pub Quiz
 19:30 Loft
Saturday Night Comedy Showcase
 21:00 The Secret Cellar
How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes
 19:00 Harpa

Sunday March 8th

★ Food & Fun 2020

Various Times, Various Restaurants
Búkalú Variety Show
 22:00 Gaukurinn
Ingó Geirdal: Magic Show
 16:00 Salurinn
Black Sundays: Fellini's 'Satyricon'
 20:00 Bíó Paradís
'Chasing The Present' Screening
 20:00 Bíó Paradís
Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
 21:00 Sæta Svinið
Party With Faye Knús Drag Show
 21:30 Kiki Queer Bar

Monday March 9th

Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy
 21:00 Gaukurinn
Vegan Potluck
 19:00 Loft

Tuesday March 10th

Speed Dating - Speed Friending
 20:30 Loft
Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!
 21:00 Fjallkonan
My Voices Have Tourettes
 21:00 The Secret Cellar
Natural Wine Night
 20:00 Röntgen

Wednesday March 11th

Polishing Iceland
 20:30 Tjarnarbió
Party With Faye Knús Drag Show
 21:30 Kiki Queer Bar
Pub Quiz: Studio Ghibli
 21:00 Gaukurinn
Board Game Night
 20:00 Prikið
Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy
 21:00 The Secret Cellar
Pub Quiz
 20:00 Loft

Thursday March 12th

★ **Stockfish Film Festival**
 Various Times, Bíó Paradís

Sexy Pub Quiz ;)

20:00 Loft
Towards Sustainable Growth In A Competitive World Conference
 8:30 Harpa
Thursday Night Comedy Jam
 21:00 Secret Cellar

Friday March 13th

★ **Stockfish Film Festival**
 Various Times, Bíó Paradís
Drag-Súgur Space Day Show
 21:30 Gaukurinn

Saturday March 14th

★ **Stockfish Film Festival**
 Various Times, Bíó Paradís
Burlesque Show: Túttigrútturarn
 21:30 Gaukurinn
Saturday Night Comedy Showcase
 21:00 The Secret Cellar

Sunday March 15th

★ **Stockfish Film Festival**
 Various Times, Bíó Paradís
Rhythm Of Poison
 20:00 Borgarleikhúsið
Bring Your Own Board Game Night
 21:00 Gaukurinn
Polishing Iceland
 20:30 Tjarnarbió
Party Bingo With Sigga Kling
 21:00 Sæta Svinið
Party With Faye Knús Drag Show
 21:30 Kiki Queer Bar

Monday March 16th
 ★ **Stockfish Film Festival**
 Various Times, Bíó Paradís
 ★ **Sasha Velour: Smoke & Mirrors**
 20:00 Borgarleikhúsið
Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy
 21:00 Gaukurinn
'Rams' Screening
 20:00 Loft

Tuesday March 17th

★ **Stockfish Film Festival**
 Various Times, Bíó Paradís
Gógó Starr: Drag Pub Quiz!
 21:00 Fjallkonan
My Voices Have Tourettes
 21:00 The Secret Cellar
Watercolour Night
 20:00 Loft
Pub Quiz
 20:00 Röntgen

Wednesday March 18th

★ **Stockfish Film Festival**
 Various Times, Bíó Paradís
Improv Comedy Night
 21:00 Gaukurinn
Golden Mic Stand-Up Comedy
 21:00 The Secret Cellar
Board Game Night
 20:00 Prikið
'Arracht' Premiere & Q&A
 18:00 Bíó Paradís

Thursday March 19th

★ **Stockfish Film Festival**
 Various Times, Bíó Paradís
Thursday Night Comedy Jam
 21:00 Secret Cellar



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Ólöf Birna: "I want to take the power back and own it."

'Klassa Drusla' premieres on April 3rd at Smárabíó and Háskólabíó as well as Borgarbíó in Akureyri.

Reclaiming The Power Of Tramp: Klassa Drusla

Ólöf Birna Torfadóttir talks about her first feature-length film

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine** Photo: **Aleksandra Wierzbowska**

Iceland has not made a lot of female buddy comedies; something that filmmaker Ólöf Birna Torfadóttir has been very aware of. She means to change that with her first feature-length film, 'Klassa Drusla' ('Classy Tramp').

"The idea came to me in 2015, the concept being how you wish you were versus how you actually are," she tells us. "For example, you're going to a party and you're going to be smooth, hot and confident, but then when you get there you're basically wallpaper. That's how these two main characters of the film came about."

Gals being pals

'Klassa Drusla' tells the story of Tanja, a young woman who's tired

of being lovesick and turns to her best friend, Karen, for help being a "classy tramp." The two get a summer job in the countryside and end up having many hilarious misadventures.

"In 'Klassa Drusla' we have two very strong female leads. I can't remember another Icelandic female buddy comedy, which is a shame cause women and their stories are so very often hilarious and relatable and I really felt that throughout the process of shooting," Ólöf says. "There were a lot of women in the crew who worked with me on set and every one of them had a story that was similar to what we were shooting. And so that's why I wanted to tell this story, I feel like people are ready and wanting more genres and different films in theatre."

Taking the power back

The story draws from Ólöf's personal life in many ways, as it has been split between living in the countryside—specifically, the Westfjords and East Iceland—and Reykjavik. Although she likes to stay close to Reykjavik for work, Ólöf describes herself as "a farm girl through and through".

In reference to the film title, it should be noted that the word "drusla" has two meanings: it can mean both "slut" and "tramp," as in someone who wears shabby, worn-out clothes. Ólöf's family didn't have a lot of money, so she didn't have the finest clothes growing up, prompting bullying from her peers.

"This word has always followed me and been said to me in a negative way as if that makes me less important than anyone else so I want to take the power back and own it," she says. "I am who I am, I dress as I dress and it's really none of anyone's business. So that title comes with a little attitude, putting the word klassa (classy) in front of tramp or slut says it all."

Ólöf has numerous irons in the fire, and is especially excited about the television projects she has in development, amongst them, "...a horror-comedy about a women's sewing circle, a time travel/historical series about Icelandic women through time, and a teenage ghost drama." 🍷



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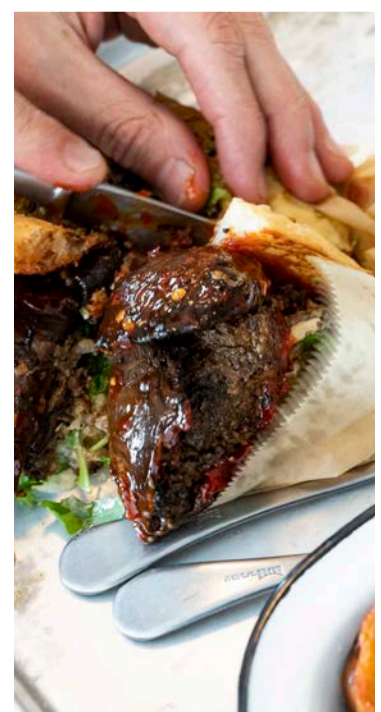
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Learning Icelandic Through Literature

'Árstíðir' sets the standard for learning Icelandic

Words: Sam O'Donnell Photo: Art Bienick

For many languages, there are standards of literature that help ease the intrepid polyglot into the new dialect. When I studied French in college, the standard

was 'Les Jeux Sont Faits,' Sartre's staple of existentialist French Literature. It accomplished the task of being easy to read and understand while simultaneously growing my

French vocabulary. While more recently studying Icelandic, however, I ran into some difficulty finding a book to read that would similarly augment my vocabulary, while not being too difficult to understand. That was until I found 'Árstíðir' by Karítas Hrundar Pálsdóttir.

Karítas is a scholar of languages. She studied languages extensively in secondary school, and earned a Bachelor's degree in Icelandic from the University of Iceland, where she also minored in Japanese. In June last year, she achieved her Master's in creative writing. 'Árstíðir' was based on her Master's project, but the idea came to her long before she began her graduate studies.

Making it happen

"I got the idea when I was studying Japanese for one year in Tokyo as part of my Bachelor's degree," she says. Easy reading material had been a cornerstone in her quest to learn new languages, and she wanted to bring more variety to people learning Icelandic as a second language.

After what seemed like an eternity spent researching and consulting other scholars, 'Árstíðir' was finally ready. The book is entirely in Icelandic, so anyone in the world can pick it up and learn from it. Everything about the book, from the friendly yellow binding to the basic language on every page, seems to urge the reader to explore for themselves.

That is exactly what I did when I picked it up. The text is split up into more than one hundred pieces of flash fiction that illustrate a mo-

ment in time. The stories are also categorised by seasons, which is what "árstíðir" means.

Perfect for teaching and learning Icelandic

While navigating the book, I noticed that each story has a number of symbols printed above their respective titles. Instinctively turning to the back of the book for an explanation, I discovered that the symbols represent the level of difficulty of each story. One symbol is the easiest, while five is the hardest.

While 'Árstíðir' is designed to facilitate learning Icelandic, it doesn't baby the reader. Some stories are simply more difficult than others, and they are often in close proximity with another story that was easy to read. Karítas explains that that was intentional. "You should be able to read whatever you like. If something more difficult than your ability level interests you, then you're gonna try harder, right?"

But it's also literature

In the future, Karítas hopes to make a workbook to accompany 'Árstíðir'. As she was writing the stories, she had always hoped that they could be used as teaching materials. "But I really wanted to have this book just as literature," she says. "So my hope is that I'll have time to write a separate book on how to use the book in learning settings."

It is Karítas' hope that 'Árstíðir' will not only be used in a direct learning and teaching environ-

ment, but also that people will enjoy reading it. "Part of the learning process of any language is to try to enjoy the language and also just read for pleasure and enjoy it," she says.

Indeed, there is a lot to enjoy about the book. Many of the stories showcase diversity. There are a number of characters of different ages, genders, sexualities, and nationalities. For example, in the Winter section, there is one story that has a main character who is non-binary and prefers to use the gender-neutral pronoun, hán. At the same time, 'Árstíðir' gives insight into Icelandic values, traditions, and everyday life, with stories about such traditions as Þorrablót, dancing around the Christmas tree, allowing babies to sleep outside in strollers, and going to 'réttir' to see the sheep roundup. There is even a recipe for plokkið fiskur, President Guðni Th.'s favourite.

Parting advice: Have fun!

Karítas' advice to anyone who wants to learn Icelandic is simple: be patient and have fun. "There's this myth that it's either easy or difficult to learn a language, that one language is more difficult than others," she says. "And maybe to some extent, that's true, but it's always hard learning a language. You have to put in the effort, and it takes a lot of time. So my advice is to be patient and have fun with it. You get a key to the society with the language, whatever language it is." 🍷

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

Milo de Mix & Chardonnay Bublée

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen Photo: Art Bicnick

Milo de Mix & Chardonnay Bublée are Reykjavík's premiere drag couple. Engaged in real life and married on the drag stage, the two bring drama, romance and, of course, glitter.

Milo is wearing:

- 70% of a vintage tux
- My favourite boots
- Other random pieces of clothing
- Pocketsquare is made of leftover fabric from Chardonnay's outfit—we love being matchy-matchy.

Chardonnay is wearing:

- Hand-sewn detachable skirt with maybe 120 hand-made roses on it.
- Mini-dress from Milo's closet.
- Headpiece I made from the leftover material of this skirt.

Describe your style in 5 words (or more!):

Milo: Glittery, random, sharp, donated, and androgynous.

Chardonnay: Cool-mom, homemade, bubbly, see-through, and reveal-ready.

Favourite stores in Reykjavík:

Milo: Fatamarkaðurinn, Wasteland Reykjavík, Kola-portið, the Red Cross, Gyllti Kötturinn, and the closets of my dear friends who give me things.

Chardonnay: Any place that has lingerie.

Favourite piece:

Milo: My six-pack, obviously. But otherwise my bright blue Bowie-esque jumpsuit from

Wasteland Reykjavík, which I can just throw on and look fabulous in exactly one minute.

Chardonnay: My hot piece of husband! Also the red skirt I'm wearing because these roses took forever to make.

Something you would never wear:

Milo: Sandals. Specifically not with tennis socks. Or cargo pants. You just cannot save that look, not even with glitter.

Chardonnay: Something I can't take off quickly. I'm always prepared... to strip!

Lusting after:

Milo: The dream is to acquire a custom-made suit with flamingos on it. I can't stop thinking about flamingos right now.

Chardonnay: Tights that don't rip after one wear and a bunch of flannel for a gown I am working on. 🐧



FJALLKONAN

KRÁ & KRÆSINGAR

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

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Icelandic Delicacies



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- > Minke whale, malt glaze
- > Lamb tartar, chive mayo

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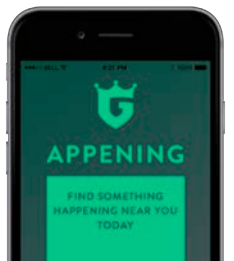
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Food

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Bears, beets, Battlestar Galactica.

Six Unmissable RVK Bites

The places our food reviewer dreams about...

Words: Ragnar Egilsson Photos: Art Bicnick

We've told you where to eat, now we'll tell you what to eat. And don't worry—we've forgone the usual sheep heads and twisted donuts and are instead serving up six Reykjavík bites we keep coming back to.

The Pretzel Croissant at Brauð og Co.



You don't need to be in love with pretzels or croissants to love this hybrid, found at one of Reykjavík's stand-out bakeries. Here, elements of Germany's shiny, knotted invention have been merged with France's national pastry to produce something wholly different. First, you get hit with the almost-bitter malt flavour of the pretzel before being embraced by the buttery goodness of the croissant. You'll thank us later.

An Ice Cream Sandwich at Skúbb



The Grapevine's love for Skúbb is no secret and it's no big conspiracy; they simply make the best ice cream in the country. Vibrant flavours, natural colours, creamy texture—they are consistently wonderful. The parlour rotates their flavours quickly so it's difficult to guarantee the availability of a specific flavour (also: don't make me Sophie's Choice this thing). All we ask is you

slap your flavour of choice between two of their rich, freshly-baked chocolate chip cookies.

The Lemon Poppy Seed Doughnut at Deig



Like at Skúbb, it's hard to make any promises about availability due to Deig's love of innovation and surprising flavours. The good news is that you'll rarely see a misstep there as all of their stuff is amazing. Stop by, and Deig'll fix you up with a chocolate cake cruller, crème brûlée doughnut or some other fried delight. But if you get a chance to taste their glazed, almost cakey, lemon poppy seed doughnut—leap on it like a werewolf.

Beetroot and Feta at Fjallkonan



It's worth mentioning again that, at the time of writing, Fjallkonan is serving up one of Reykjavík's most pleasant wholesomely, vegetarian, Ottolenghi-fied dishes in town. Roasted beets are decked with whipped feta and a sprinkling of pomegranates, chunks of crispy Parmigiano and toasted pistachios before getting a drizzle of elderflower vinaigrette. Earthy, nutty, creamy, tart, salty, umami—this one has it all.

The Slow-cooked Cod at Matarkjallarinn



Matarkjallarinn has a range of more inventive dishes and on the face of it, the slow-cooked cod may not seem that exciting. But although it may not be shattering culinary conventions, it's the mouth-watering execution that keeps us coming back. The cod is given a short cure before being cooked painstakingly slow until the texture becomes lobsterlike. This is then bathed in a langoustine hollandaise and shipped with crispy green asparagus and near-transparent slices of smoked-lamb "parm."

Aunt Rosie Cocktail at Luna Flórens



Luna Flórens is where Stevie Nicks would go for a dignified cocktail before slamming down a shipping container's worth of disco powder. It's got that cool aunty vibe complete with magic crystals and "healthy" cocktails—and as an added bonus, said cocktails are among the best in town. Go with your gut on this one but we have a real soft spot for the Aunt Rosie: a pink basil and citrus-infused gin boosted with pomegranate and topped with prosecco. It doesn't hurt that none of their cocktails break the 2,000 ISK mark (which in Iceland counts as very affordable). 🍷



Pro-tip: Try the food

The Belle Époque Meets Charcoal Flatbread

Chef Friðgeir Ingi Eiríksson introduces us to his uninhibited brasserie

Words: Ragnar Egilsson Photo: Art Bicnick

The classic Belle Époque brasserie is basically the la-di-da cousin to the American diner. It welcomes you from your first omelette jambon in the morning 'til you quaff your last boisson in the evening. You can sit down at any time to nurse a simple cup of coffee or attack a full menu of pan-fried fish, soft cheeses and grilled meats.

Iceland's relatively new Eiriksson Brasserie mutates the classic brasserie concept, taking on some of the heft of a place like New York's Balthazar, but expanding the formula into some unexpected arenas and cultural mélanges.

Cutting his teeth

Chef Friðgeir Ingi Eiríksson does not seem the type to pull a Gordon Ramsey on his crew (although Instagram tells me that Ramsey atet at Eiriksson during his latest trout run in Iceland). Slender and softly spoken, it's hard to believe that Friðgeir cut his teeth in the cut-throat environment of French Michelin restaurants like Domaine de Clairefontaine, where he was the chef de cuisine.

Following his stint there, Friðgeir returned to Iceland, where he and his father took over Hótel Holt, one of Iceland's oldest culinary institutions. In 2017, after an extensive and celebrated revamp of the hotel menu, Friðgeir refocused his energy on what would eventually become Eiriksson Brasserie.

"People here knew us through fine dining after our stint at Hótel Holt," Friðgeir explains. "And we wanted to signal to them through the name and atmosphere [of Eiriksson Brasserie] that we weren't just doing another version of that."

A divergent menu

The lofty space and reflective brass railings of Eiriksson certainly harken back to the Belle Époque roots of the brasserie, but those historical accents are broken up with Scandinavian minimalist furniture and, somewhat oddly, waiters with string bow ties. Add to that the 4,000 bottle wine cellar encased in a former bank vault and you got yourself one odd duck.

The menu also reflects this divergent style. On it, crème brûlées

sit cheek-to-cheek with tonka bean ganache. You can pick out classics like duck breast orange or wander into the hinterlands of langoustine tempura and enoki over charcoal flatbread.

Italy is also well represented in several ways, including a selection of pizzas decked with truffles, goat cheese, and other umami-boosting toppings. "We liked having pizza because I've never been abroad wining and dining, even just for a weekend, where people didn't at some point say 'Let's go grab a pizza!' because we're not just the sheep generation—we're the pizza generation—like it or not," explains Friðgeir. "We wanted to keep that loose, family-style atmosphere we know from Italy."

"Opening a new place keeps you on your toes," concludes the chef. "Personally, I've only managed to go out to eat at my restaurant once and that was for my birthday. But I'm not complaining. Seeing this dream come true and getting such a warm welcome has been an amazing blessing."



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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

Date of visit: August 2019

Value: ★★★★★ Service: ★★★★★ Food: ★★★★★

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Top Ten of Best restaurants in Iceland (DV. 17.06.11)

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Travel

Road Trip For Your Health

A visit to Reykjanes is just what the doctor ordered

Words: Sam O'Donnell Photos: Art Bienick



Travel distance from Reykjavik:
150 km

Roads travelled:
Routes 41, 42, 427, 425, 44 and 41 again to close the circle

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It's flu season, which means that you or someone you know is likely to come down with some form or another of the plague. And I'm talking about the normal kind of flu—let's not even broach the topic of coronavirus.

I, too, caught some sort of bug and had to spend a few days cooped up. I had the works—aches, congestion, dizziness, general fatigue, you get it. But after a few days inside, I was getting restless. It was time for a road trip to set me to rights. So I set out with our photographer, Art, to explore the oft-ignored area south of Reykjavik: Reykjanes.

That's a lot of fish

Just 30 minutes outside of Reykjavik was our first stop. In an open field off Highway 42 were racks of fish hung out to dry. The stench bypassed any sort of congestion that I had been experiencing as crows perched on the wooden beams, screaming into the cold air. I couldn't help but wonder if they even bothered to eat these fish. There didn't seem to be anything to stop them from picking the bones clean, although maybe the edible parts of the fish had already been sold.

There was no time to figure it out, though, as daylight was limited and the peninsula large, so we set back out on the highway. As we rolled away, mossy rocks, rolling hills, and barren trees flew past us, set to a backdrop of majestic mountains, covered in snow and bathed in misty sunshine. Bright blue skies hung above us, as storm clouds whirled in the far distance—perfect travel weather. In front of us, cars whipped up clouds of snow behind them, while ribbons of icy powder snaked across the path behind us.

Cold therapy and sinus-clearing

At Kleifarvatn, we took a quick breather on a ridge to take in the view. Below us, a group of people exercised in nothing but their bathing suits. It was -2° C.

We ventured down to learn more, finding out that it was a private workshop. The leader of the group explained that they were using cold therapy, breathwork, and mindfulness to overcome pain and sickness. "Two weeks ago, they couldn't put their pinky in the cold water. Now they are relaxing in it. It's very good for your health," he said.

Cold might be the answer for some people, but I was personally fed up with the cold. We made our way to our next destination, the hot springs at Krýsuvík.

These hot springs are unlike any other place on earth. Layers of earth tones, shades of brown and grey, contrasted with the brilliant white snow and deep azure sky. Slate coloured clouds hung in the distance, promising snow. The smell of sulfur invaded my nostrils like the fish from earlier, and I grimaced. "In time, you will come to love it," Art said, smiling as he noticed my discomfort. "It clears your sinuses." I thought my sinuses had already cleared until I walked through a thick cloud of steam. "Wow, you're right," I replied, tears running down my cheek.

Save a horse, feed a cold

In Grindavík—Iceland's happiest town—we popped by Hjú Höllu for lunch. Entering the town, the ocean came into view. It was the same colour as the sky, this deep greenish bluish-grey, except for where the horizon touched the water, where it was a deep blue. Mt. Þorbjörn, the newly infamous volcano, loomed over us all the while.

The café was busy when we walked in. We both ordered brunch, a plate full of pancakes, bacon, eggs benedict, and skýr. "Are you worried about the volcano erupting?" Art asked Halla, after whom the café was named. "No," she said, a joking tone overtaking her voice. "All that ash would be good for everyone's complexion, and the tourism would boom."

Legends and lore

Our stomachs full, we took our time back on the road, stopping only to greet some horses. They were unusually friendly, sniffing my coat, searching for snacks. I didn't have any, but they let me pet them anyway. "You guys are healthy, right?" I asked. "What's your secret?"

Unfortunately, they refused to tell me. I was probably already pushing my limits by not bringing apples or carrots and expecting free pets.

"Mossy rocks, rolling hills, and barren trees flew past us, set to a backdrop of majestic mountains, covered in snow and bathed in misty sunshine."

We had but two more destinations. The first was Gunnhver, a massive mud field with geothermal gas emissions. The area is named after Gunna, an old woman who lived nearby in the 18th century. People suspected she was a witch, and largely gave her a wide berth. In those days, if you knew something about health or had a cauldron, people assumed you were a witch, and Gunna had a cauldron.

One day her landlord, Vilhjálmur Jónsson, paid her a visit to collect rent money. When she didn't have the money, he took her cauldron. Furious, she cursed her landlord's name. When Gunna later died, Vilhjálmur attended her funeral. He was found dead the next day.

Her ghost was said to have haunted the area until a sorcerer broke the spell and banished Gunna to this mudfield around 300 years ago. Nowadays, her ghost can be heard from the massive pit where thick clouds of steam pour out. On the day we visited, it was one of the only places around that didn't have any snow.

Our final stop brought us to the edge of Reykjanes. There, black cliffs rose steeply into the sky as waves crashed into them. A large copper bird statue stood by the edge of the cliffs, supposedly marking the spot where the last great auk was hunted to extinction. The sky had turned completely grey, and the snow fell slowly all around us.

As the cold, fresh air infiltrated my lungs, I realised that I was feeling much better than when the day started. Maybe it was the horses, maybe it was the pancakes, maybe the sulfur, or maybe it was the spirit of Gunna. Whatever it was, I found it in Reykjanes.



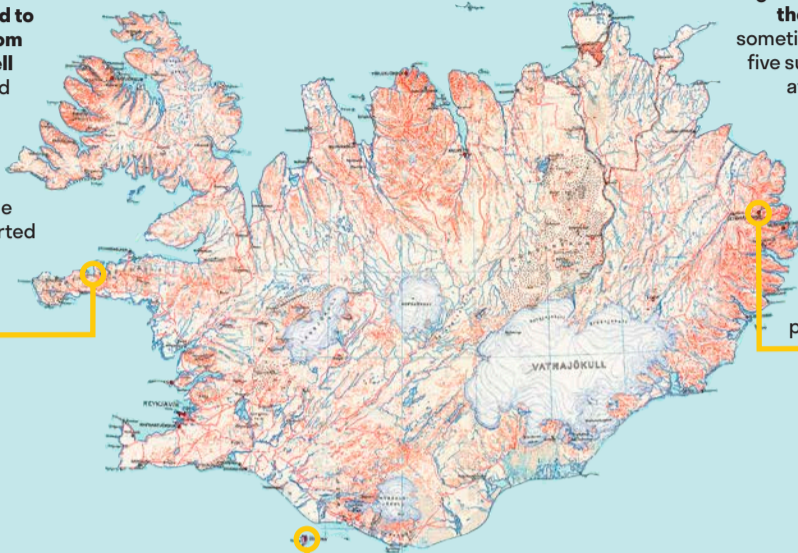
Coffee and fish, breakfast of champions

Island Life

Hot news from the cold Icelandic countryside

Words: **Andie Sophia Fontaine**

A man broke his leg in Grundarfjörður when he attempted to paraglide from atop Kirkjufell mountain and required rescue. A helicopter was deployed and he was transported to hospital without incident.



Numerous residents of Seyðisfjörður complained that they were woken up at midnight or later by SMS messages warning about the coronavirus, sometimes receiving five such messages at a time. These texts were intended for tourists arriving on the Norræna ferry, but were sent by area; not by individual phone number.

Over the past few weeks, numerous reports have come in of seabirds dripping with oil coming ashore in the Westman Islands and along Iceland's south-central coast. The source of the oil is unknown, but authorities are investigating.

Best Of South Iceland

A selection of winners from our Best Of Iceland travel magazine



Best Accommodation: **Skálakot, Hvalsöllum**

Ideally located in the heart of South Iceland, Skálakot is our favourite from a considerable crop of recently-opened hotels. It's a new building, but you'd never know from the comfortable country manor vibe; every detail of the rooms is perfect, from the tasteful patterned wallpaper to the modernist kettles, slender coffee makers, cloud-like beds and deep bathtubs. The in-house restaurant is also excellent. "It's like an Icelandic version of the Twin Peaks Great Northern Lodge," said the panel.



Best Meal: **Slippurinn, Westman Islands**

The undisputed heavyweight of South Iceland restaurants is the exquisite family-run Slippurinn eatery. Located on the wild and picturesque Westman Islands, it alone is worth the trip. Head chef Gísli Matthías Auðunsson is a famed New Nordic innovator whose team lovingly harvests wild ingredients, and works with local farmers and suppliers—you can be certain that everything on your plate has been thoroughly considered. The result? A stunningly fresh and vibrant taste of Iceland that you'll never forget.



Best Museum/Gallery: **Lava Centre, Hvalsöllum**

There's a huge range of museums in South Iceland, from old-time folksy town museums, to exciting technology museums. The Lava Centre is one of the latter, boasting engaging interactive displays and ingenious visualisations of Iceland's volatile geography. "The museum displays exciting and interactive scientific information from knowledgeable Icelandic volcanologists," said the panel. A memorable highlight is a huge model of the glowing tectonic rift below the country, which really puts things in perspective.



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BARFLIES REYKJAVÍK 2

As the name of this book suggests, it is a follow-up to an earlier book by the same name. Again, the people portrayed are the Kaffibarinn regulars. Some of the faces you will recognize from the first book, just a quarter of a century older. Others were not born when the bar served its first drink.

Available at Kaffibarinn
Bergstaðastræti 1, 101 Rvk



WELL, YOU ASKED



Should We Say Something?

Words: Inês Pereira

My roots are growing out. Should I go over my roots again, let them grow out, and eventually do my hair like ombre or should I dye it a completely new colour?

Listen here: 2020 is the year of the abrupt ombre, so let your roots grow until your hair is two distinct colours. If that goes wrong—but really, how could it?—opt for the classic Sinead O'Connor look. Both of these options are fool-proof ways to ensure that your friends make a separate group chat called “Should we say something?” Don’t worry, they won’t!

Should I sleep with my ex? I feel like they’ve finally changed and this time it will really work out.

You know what, you should. Self-sabotage is an important part of character development. Also, it will give the world more of your great and soulful Twitter poetry. (We miss Tumblr too btw.)

At a dinner party where everyone brings an item of food, who’s supposed to do the dishes?

Here’s an idea: Bring your own dishes and cutlery to eat off of. Then, at the end of the meal, take it back with you. No dish, no go. “Oh Jón you forgot a plate? Good luck eating that lamb soup directly from your hand, you fucking loser.”

How do I get a vegan chick, that only dates vegan dudes, to date me—a carnivore—without becoming some loser vegan snowflake?

If you really want to honour your lust for this vegan queen and simultaneously celebrate your unbendable carnivorousness, you should offer your body as a sacrifice for her witches group to share under a full moon. It’s the only way you’ll be inside her. 🍷

HORROR-SCOPES

REAL TALK

The hard truths from a magazine that cares

Words: **Hannah Jane Cohen, astrologer/life coach**
Photo: **Art Bicnick**

In Horror-Scopes, the Grapevine’s dedicated amateur astrologist/life coach breaks down your upcoming weeks based on shit like “moons,” as if they even exist.

Aries We didn’t want to be the one to tell you, but your boyfriend’s fetish is actually hanging out with pathetic losers.

Taurus The truth, Taurus, is that that moustache you’re growing is not working for you and everyone is just too polite to say anything. You’re not attractive enough to pull off the 70s porn star aesthetic. You’re a systems analyst.

Gemini Gemini, let’s not beat around the bush. 2020 is your year. We’d recommend just buying your wedding dress now ‘cause there’s no way your latest

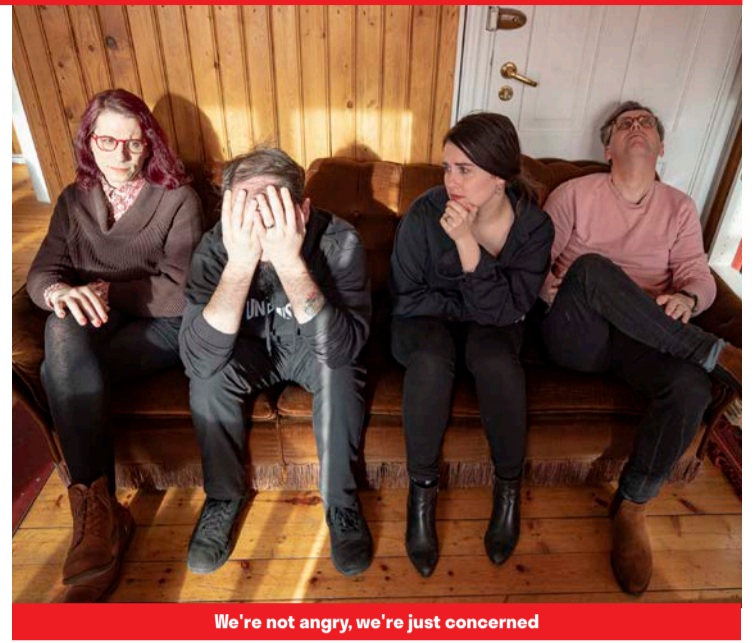
drug-addled fuckbuddy isn’t going to pop the question soon.

Cancer Don’t be embarrassed about your weekly chugging Merlot and crying to Kelly Clarkson’s “Breakaway” sessions, Cancer. Spread your wings and fly, bby.

Leo Leave her before she loves you, Leo.

Virgo You can say you’re “not a bronny” all you want, but we know the truth. You disgust me.

Libra Do you have your passport? Did you get your shots? Libra, get ready, ‘cause you’ll have a great time in America.



We’re not angry, we’re just concerned

Scorpio Your dedication to the art of influencing is admirable, Scorpio, that said, there are only so many variations when taking pictures of your butt. Maybe it’s time for a boob job—you need new material.

Sagittarius If you don’t file your taxes on time, all of your loved ones will die before you. Oh, just kidding, nobody loves you.

Capricorn Your Mom knows about your Pornhub premium. Also your incest fetish.

Aquarius What are you doing? Seriously, what are you doing? At this very moment. While you’re reading this. Stop that. Stop thinking about that. Gross.

Pisces You know you’re flawless, and we know you’re flawless, but does the rest of the world? Time to show everyone what you’ve got in the form of maracas. 🍷



CITY SHOT by Art Bicnick

Fuck the system

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

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LAST WORDS

Everything's Not Awesome

Words: **Catharine Fulton**

"The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part" has been on heavy rotation in my home in recent months. (If you haven't seen it, please go do so now. I'll wait.) The kids and I practice our brooding while I read them the news over breakfast. The apples haven't fallen far from the tree; "brood" is my default state.

In a wonderfully mature spin to the first Lego flick, wherein the theme song espoused that "everything is awesome," the characters in the sequel find themselves in the "Bin of Storajj" and break into a nihilistic little ditty declaring that "everything's *not* awesome." Truth.

Living in Reykjavík, that line cuts particularly deep these days.

Parents of preschool-aged children are juggling work and caring for their own spawn as the Efling union strike drags on. Even in the cold, Laugavegur reeks of rotting garbage and dog shit, as the City's outdoor workers are also on strike. The aforementioned dog shit may or may not be in the overflowing garbage bins... Icelanders haven't shown themselves to be particularly diligent in picking up after their pets.

Meanwhile, Bíó Paradís' closure draws nearer by the day and I still haven't seen 'Parasite'. To top it off, it looks like rolling strikes are soon hitting the liquor stores. I'm pretty sure I read I need to drink 60% alcohol at regular intervals throughout the day to fend off the coronavirus that has been taking the local news by storm, so I'm screwed if the ATVR locks up.

As a loveable bunch of Danish figurines so eloquently sing when the going gets tough: everything's not awesome; things can't be awesome all of the time; so pressure Reykjavíkurborg to pay their workers a decent wage, go see a movie, and wash your fucking hands... I may be paraphrasing that last part. 🍷

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