

THE **G**

Issue 07

2020

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REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

COVID-19

News: English footballers breaking quarantine

Wither Iceland?

Books: Bergur Ebby, philosopher of the future

Making Waves

Music: Hekla creates horror atmosphere by bending it

Troll Hunting

Travel: In search of the stone giants of Siglufjörður

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



THE EVOLUTION OF GYDA



COVER PHOTO:
Gyða Valtýsdóttir is on our cover this time. Viðar Logi took the pictures in Reykjavík with live snails.

Photographer: **Viðar Logi**
Makeup: **Sunna Björk**
Assistant: **Jón Albert**

First



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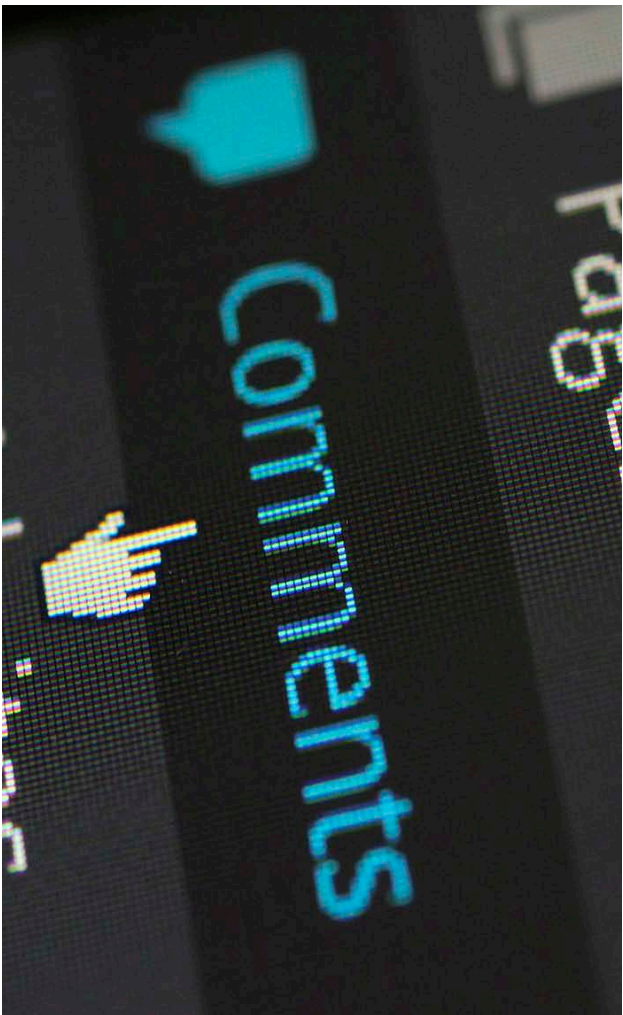
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EDITORIAL

Outdated Comment Sections



When I began working as an editor-in-chief at The Reykjavík Grapevine in 2017, my news editor asked me a simple question: What's my opinion of news article comment sections?

My answer was not simple. But the most simple answer I could give her was, it's complicated. I hate them, but in some odd way, I like the freedom they give the readers. An active comment section can keep the media on its toes. Reader comments have even helped me before, when working as a journalist, to add more information to the story.

We had a simple discussion about it, where we weighed the importance of the comment section on Grapevine. And our considerations centred around two questions: Do the comments add something to the stories we are publishing? And, more importantly,

are we able to actively moderate the comment section? The answer to both questions was 'no.' So, we decided to close the comment section as an experiment and see what would happen. In short, nothing happened. Readers were still free to comment on articles on the Grapevine's Facebook page, but the distinction was that we were not the hosts of the party in the same way as if the comments were directly on Grapevine.is. We do moderate Facebook comments, though; we do not allow racism or hate speech. It's a simple rule to follow.

The reason I bring this up is because of two women who were flung into the British and Icelandic media recently when two England footballers invited them to their Reykjavík hotel room, breaking Icelandic quarantine laws. The players were fined 250,000 ISK (around 1,300 GBP) and, though they weren't breaking any rules, the women were viciously slut-shamed in the comment

sections of Icelandic and British media. This was revealing. Sexism is still very much alive, if anyone was wondering. But it also revealed, at least in Iceland, that the Icelandic comment sections are largely unregulated. This turned out to be the hardest part for the Icelandic women.

We have seen instances of public shaming again and again, as well as all other kinds of bullying. And a lot of it is hosted by respectable media organisations. The comment section, perhaps, had its use in the beginning, but things have changed. There is no one left in these comment sections that has anything remotely intelligent to say. Although we value some of the opinions, they are largely outnumbered by hate, over-hasty judgment and often, just basic stupidity.

It's easy to tell people to ignore it, but it's still the inflammatory comments that stand out even after reading what could well be an intelligent and balanced article. It drags everything down. I'm not saying we should abolish the comment sections, but if the media wants to be taken seriously, it needs to put more stock into closely moderating comments and, more importantly, follow their own guidelines. ♥

Valur Grettisson
Editor-in-chief



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



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



Catherine Magnúsdóttir studies social sciences and came to the Grapevine for the internship her studies mandate. And for fun of course. When she's not reconnecting with her Icelandic roots, she's either watching video essays or attempting to finally come up with a good story idea that she can actually finish writing.



Nico Borbely is an American-Italian language and geography nerd from Michigan and Viadana, Lombardy with stints in several other countries. He can usually be found brewing espresso, hoarding books, singing along to multilingual Disney videos, or cooking experimental noodle dishes.



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 Funkþátturinn 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.



Jess Distill intern, is a musician, artist and wannabe writer from St. Albans, England. As a long time lover of Iceland, and recent copywriting diploma graduate, Jess came to the Grapevine to expand her writing portfolio whilst seeing if she could hack it as an Icelandic resident.



Valur Grettisson is an award-winning journalist, author and playwright. He has been writing for Icelandic media since 2005. He was also a theatre critic and one of the hosts of the cultural program, 'Djöflaeyjan' at RÚV. Valur is not to be confused with the dreadful football club that bears the same name.

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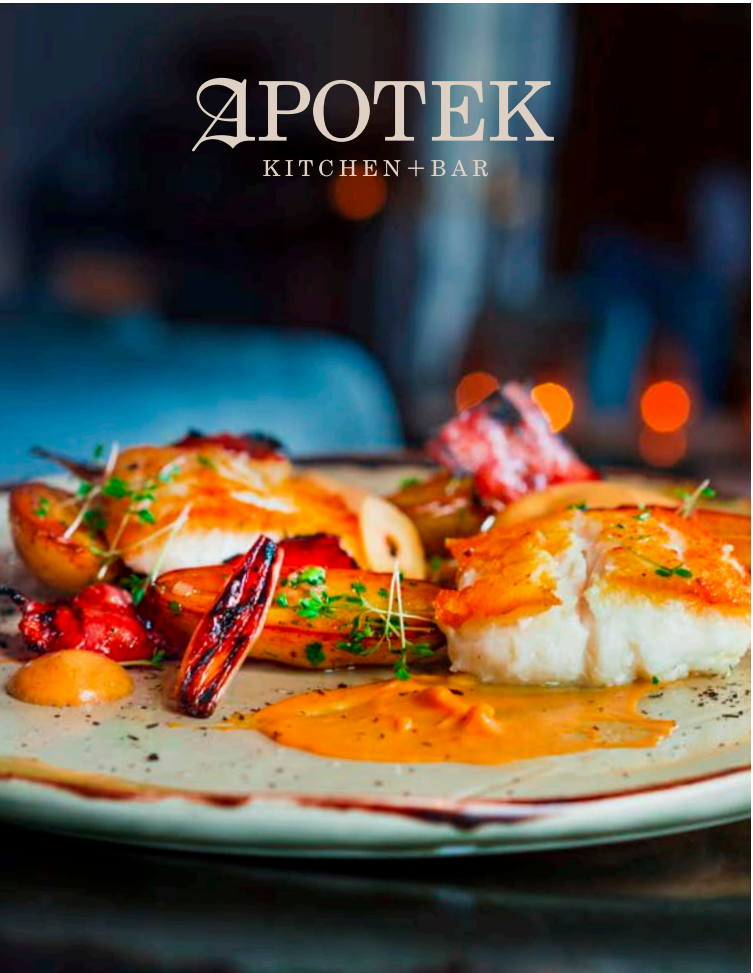
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First

The Reykjavík Grapevine 4
Issue 07—2020



Nuanced & relateable photoillustration courtesy of trusty Adobe Stock

What Are Icelanders Talking About?

The stories blowing up the comments sections

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

The hottest topic right now is the same one that has been holding headlines hostage for months: **NEWS the coronavirus** and Iceland's response to it. Earlier this month, chief epidemiologist Þórólfur Guðnason announced that there would be some **relaxation of the domestic restrictions** that are currently in place, but border restrictions will remain unchanged for now. Meanwhile, a new poll conducted by the Social Sciences Department of the University of Iceland shed light on Icelandic attitudes to the social restrictions, both domestically and at the border. Turns out, most Icelanders are either satisfied with the current restrictions or want to see them tightened further. Bear in mind this poll was taken before the domestic restrictions were relaxed.

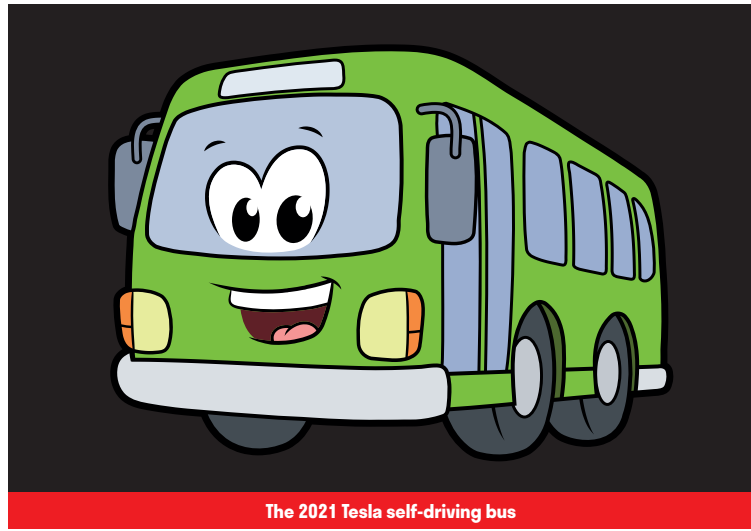
Popular Instagrammer and sheep farmer Pálína Axelsdóttir Njarðvík awoke one morning to find she had lost an inordinate amount of followers. The cause was not some problematic post about race or politics. Instead, the **drop in followers** came on the heels of a lovely photo of **her and her girlfriend snuggling**, with the caption indicating they were celebrating two years together. Granted, correlation isn't causation, but the correlation in this case strongly suggests causation. As hard as it

may be to believe, yes, homophobia exists, even here in Queer Paradise Iceland™.

Iceland is on Greenwich Mean Time (see Ask An Historian on page 6 to learn why), but if you consult a time zone map, it's pretty obvious that Iceland belongs in GMT -1; perhaps even GMT -2 in the most western areas

chance of disease, worse schooling results, increased depression and tiredness. Nonetheless, the Prime Minister's office decided early this month that **we are staying put in GMT**. This has prompted all kinds of speculation, with many Icelanders attributing the decision to pressure from Icelandair, the tourism industry and other forces of capital.

Conservatives in Reykjavík City Council have proposed **bringing self-driving buses** to Iceland's capital. Their reasoning basically boils down to two points: 1. Other cities are doing it, and 2. it would be cool. The first point is uncontroversial and the second is a matter of opinion. What hasn't been answered however is what Reykjavík area bus drivers would do for a



The 2021 Tesla self-driving bus

of the country. For years, Icelanders have debated whether or not to change the clocks and the Ministry of Health concluded in 2018 that Iceland's strange position on the time zone map actually affected peoples' health—most notably, these effects include the increased

living instead, especially as tourism isn't exactly booming right now. Maybe they can all collect unemployment insurance—the bane of conservatives across Iceland. 🍷



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The two rookies that broke quarantine rules, Mason Greenwood and Phil Foden

Double Standard In Scandal

Women blamed for young UK footballers' mistakes

NEWS

Words:
Andie Sophia
Fontaine

Photo:
Wikimedia
Commons

On September 6th, two Icelandic women—Nadía Sif Línal and Lára Clausen—paid a visit to English footballers Mason Greenwood and Phil Foden at Hótel Saga. This in itself should not be newsworthy, but one wrinkle in this story has set the international press ablaze: the footballers in question were in quarantine at the time. As such, they have each been fined 250,000 ISK and will not get to compete for a match in Denmark.

The two women involved, who initially did not want to talk to the press, have since felt compelled to defend themselves on social media—despite the fact that while the footballers were well aware they were in quarantine, Nadía Sif and Lára were not.

The name-calling begins

Since the story broke, the two women have had to endure all kinds of vicious name-calling on social media. Commenters have accused them of being groupies, of trying to sell their story and other assorted ugliness.

The matter got so ugly that two other Icelandic women, Social Democrat MP Helga Vala Helgadóttir and consultant Þórey Vilhjálmisdóttir, issued statements defending Nadía Sif and Lára, calling upon people to stop the wild accusations and show some sympathy.

Compelled to answer for themselves

Lára has written extensively about the

experience on Instagram, admitting that she had posted videos of their visit on social media. However, she said that not only was she unaware that the two men were in quarantine—a sentiment that Nadía Sif has also expressed—but that she didn't even know these two men were famous in any way, as she does not follow football.

In the midst of all this, Foden issued an apology on Twitter. He apologised to virtually everyone—his team, team manager Gareth Southgate, his fans, his club and his family—but not to the two women in question, nor Iceland at all.

The Guardian pointed out that Southgate has gone too easy on Foden and Greenwood, pointing out that “Foden and Greenwood are 20 and 18, respectively, but their youth does not excuse them. They know the rules. They are not difficult to understand or follow.”

FOOD OF ICELAND

AB Mjólk



If you're new to the island, chances are, you've come across a number of milk offerings in the dairy section of your favourite grocery store. Among

the most deceptive of these offerings is AB Mjólk. There are logged accounts of poor fools unwittingly pouring this thick, sour liquid in their coffee (RIP) and cereal (honestly, that might not be so bad). Don't get us wrong, we love AB Mjólk, but it's more like yoghurt than milk.

AB Mjólk derives its name from the two types of bacteria that are most

active in the thick liquid, Lactobacillus acidophilus (A) and Bifidobacterium bifidum (B). These probiotics are said to survive the journey through the stomach and aid in digestion. So if like most Icelanders, your diet consists mainly of pizza, burgers and hot dogs, this is the stuff for you.

The traditional way to consume this healthy, tasty dairy product is to

pour the contents into a bowl and eat it with a spoon. If you can't wait to get those healthy bacteria down your gullet, you can also simply drink it straight from the carton. If you go this route, we recommend opening the carton right outside the place you purchased it and chugging it down at once. You know, like a person.

It comes in a

variety of flavours, including strawberry, vanilla, pear, and blueberry. Pear is objectively the best, but if you're adventurous and want to try the other flavours, that's your prerogative.

SPD

ASK A Historian
Q: Why Is Iceland On Greenwich Mean Time?



Earlier this month, the Prime Minister's office decided that, despite popular support and scientific health data supporting the move, Iceland would not be moving from GMT to GMT -1. Iceland does indeed have a peculiar placement on the time zone map, which naturally raised the question: what are we doing in GMT? We asked historian Stefán Pálsson for answers:

“Around 1900, municipalities around Iceland were allowed to determine for themselves what time it was. In theory this meant that the time in Reykjavík could be completely different from the time in Seyðisfjörður. This didn't make much difference, as there was little need for a precise, standardised clock at the time. Landsíminn, the national telegraph company, was founded in 1906 and for the first time, standardised time was needed. The following year, a law was passed putting Iceland in GMT -1. Later, summer time was introduced, with Icelanders setting their clocks one hour forward in the spring and one hour back in the autumn. Changing the clocks was unpopular, and in 1968 it was decided to do away with summer time and have one set time—but should Iceland be placed in GMT -1, as the position of the country on the planet would dictate, or in GMT 0? Specialists at the University of Iceland came to the conclusion that GMT 0 would be a better choice, as then Iceland would be in sync with Europe. The winter mornings would certainly be darker, but on the plus side, the later part of the day would be brighter. Parliament decided to follow this recommendation.”

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Big Morrissey fan, our Freyr (Illustration: The Lovesickness of Frey by W. G. Collingwood, 1908)

Freyr, The Lovesick Golden Boy

The original teen drama

DEITIES OF ICELAND

Words:
Andie Sophia
Fontaine
Illustrations:
Wikimedia
Commons

Freyr was a very popular god back in the day, and not for nothing. He was a god of fertility, both amongst human beings and other living things, and was reportedly a pretty good looking guy. He also had some cool accessories, such as Skíðblaðnir, a sword that you only needed to hold in your hand and would do the fighting for you, and a pet boar named Gullinbursti, which had a glow-in-the-dark mane.

Freyr had it all, it would seem, and he probably thought he was hot stuff—that is, until one day he snuck onto Óðinn's throne and changed his life forever. You see, from Óðinn's throne, one could view the entire world at once. But the only thing that caught Freyr's eye was Gerður, the daughter of a troll and a giant, who was reportedly so gorgeous that she radiated a light

that could be seen all over the world. Small wonder then that Freyr was immediately sprung at the sight of her. However, giants and gods were bitter enemies in those days, so Freyr was convinced they would never be. As such, he sank into a deep depression, locking himself in his room, crying a lot, listening to Elliott Smith and My Chemical Romance, and feeling sorry for himself instead of, you know, just approaching her and asking her out. Unfortunately, being a fertility god, his little pity party was causing plants and animals to wither and die, and his friends got pretty concerned. Unable to take it any longer, Freyr worked out a deal with the giants: let me shoot my shot with Gerður, and you can have my magic sword. The giants thought this was a pretty sweet deal, and accepted. Freyr and Gerður would have a happy relationship together, and all it cost was a magic sword, the loss of which would come back to bite Freyr at the end of the world. But that's another story. 🍷

Superpowers:

Fertility, magic sword, glowing boar

Weaknesses:

Glowing giant girls

Modern Analogue:

Your weepy softboy ex-boyfriend



JUST SAYINGS



„Hollari er húsbruni en hvalreki á fyrsta ári“

How to explain this? The idiom goes like this in English: “It’s healthier that your house burns to the ground than to find a beached whale in your first year.” And now you might ask, what the fuck? Well, this seems to mean that if you find a beached whale (a

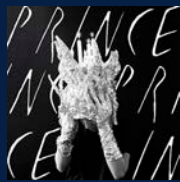
windfall for Icelanders of yore), you will be convinced that you will be lucky forever, living like a filthy king, convinced of your eternal blind luck. This can only end badly, obviously. So, I guess it’s healthier that your house just burns down. I guess. **VG** 🍷

COMIC



instagram.com/hallicivelek

GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST



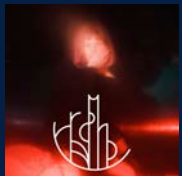
MAMMÚT - Prince

This single from MAMMÚT's upcoming new album is a dreamy, slow pop ballad that is really easy to listen to ten times in a row. Musically, it is a deviation from the rawness of 2017's 'Kinder Versions.' The video is an homage to the 80s, with an ancient tube television and host that talks directly to singer Katrína Mogensen, telling her to go to bed. It's dreamy, poppy, and I can't stop playing it. **SPO**



Inga Björk - Anddyri

This song does something interesting with fingerstyle guitar, which is something I never thought I would say. There is a phrase on the guitar that is repeated throughout the song. The effect is a haunting song that stays with you. **SPO**



Iris Arins - Moon Skin

Some readers might know Iris Arins through the curious experimental band, Grúska Babúska. Now she is going solo. Moon Skin is a slow trip-hop-ish song with the good old “krútt” Icelandic accent. But Iris' excellent voice holds the delicate balance together. It's a good start. **VG**



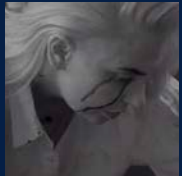
Jökull Logi - Blue Mountains

Do you like jazz? Even if you don't, this soothing saxophone-synth combo is sure to get your fingers snapping. Either that, or it will completely stress you out. Depends on how you feel about saxophones, I guess. **SPO**



Kristín Sesselja - Fuckboys

There are a lot of emotions going on in this cheerful sounding song. The lyrics are angry, confused, and sad. But the music is cheerful, crisp and makes me want to dance. Dear Kristín, I know you're mad at all the boys, but I'm going to dance to your song about it anyway. **SPO**



Eivør - Let It Come

Eivør is, well, evolving, to say the least. In her new single, Eivør breaks all ties with the strong artsy Faroe Islands folk sound and goes full pop/electro on her fans. Her songs are quite disciplined pop and follow the rules faithfully. Is it good? It's intriguing. Is it weird? A little bit, yeah. But an evolving artist is a good artist. So we'll allow it. **VG**

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.



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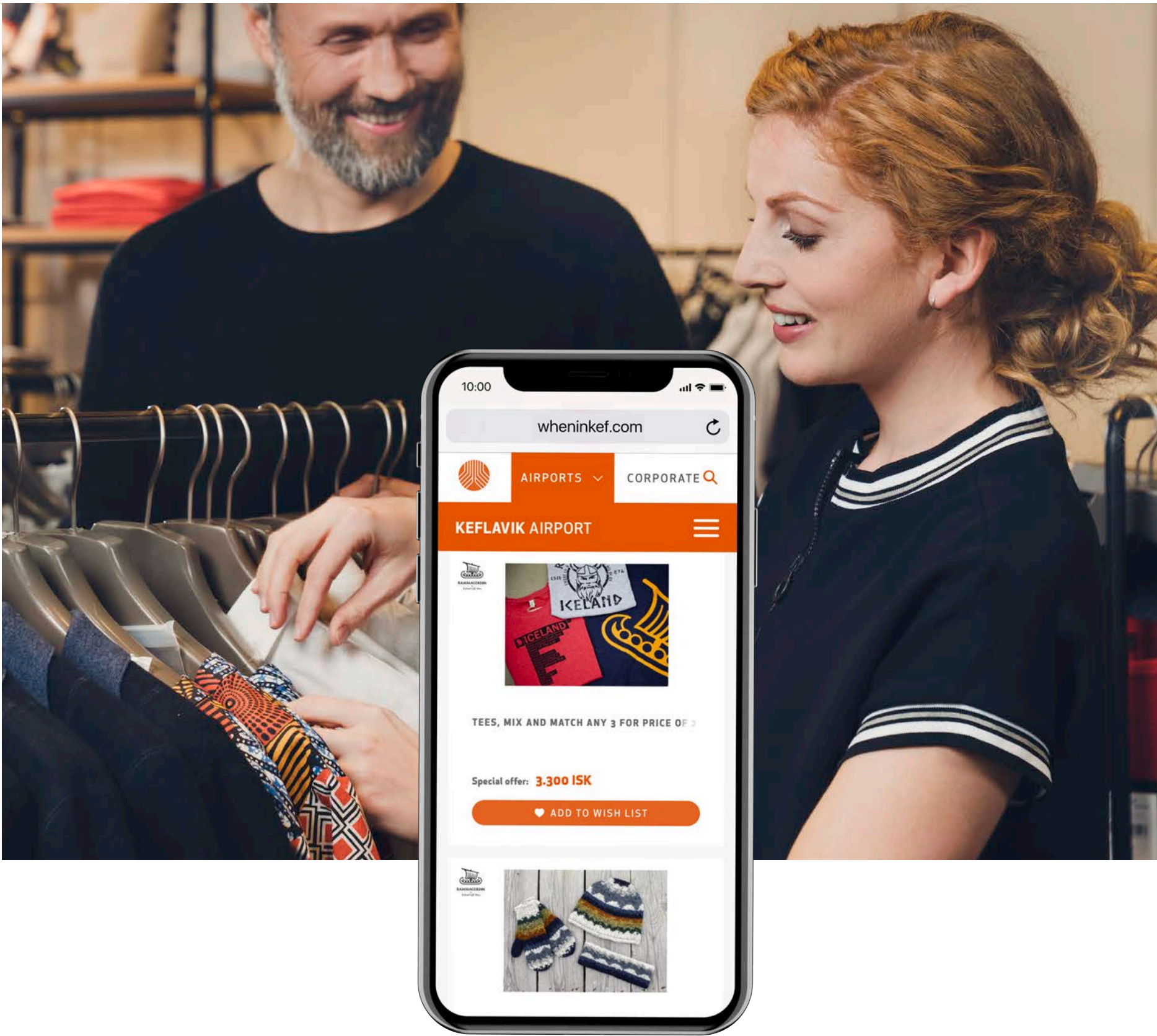
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THE EVOLUTION OF GYÐA

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine
Photos: Viðar Logi

DEFYING CATEGORIES, GYÐA TALKS ABOUT
MUSIC, MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF LOVE
AND OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE



Horse: Mosart
Makeup: Sunna Björk
Áðstoð: Jón Albert



Gyða Valtýsdóttir could be at once described as a cellist, composer, artist and mystic, but categories are something she feels are divisive. Over the course of our conversation, this is a recurring theme: not only has she evolved a great deal since her musical career began in the iconic Icelandic indie band múm, but the world as she sees it is evolving to a point where old barriers are disappearing.

"The idea of division of anything, categorising in any field, is something that I feel that we as a collective are dissolving," Gyða says. "It's just a pattern I see through everything, dissolving these boxes. I think the change is happening in our brains. It's making more neurological connections to all the rooms in our brains and then you see it expressed in reality."

Good vibrations

Those who are familiar with Gyða's oeuvre are likely familiar with her ever-present cello, her mastery of which she describes in terms of magic.

"I didn't really know the instrument before I picked it," she says. "My older sister told me that the cello was deep and mysterious and that resonated with my seven-year-old self. It didn't just come naturally; I wasn't super gifted or anything. I had a love/hate relationship with it, and I did quit for a while, but mastering any instrument is so much a conversation with yourself as well. For me, at least, it was that way. I thought it was highly spiritual, like an esoteric magic school. But that came from my connection to my teacher, Gunnar Kvaran."

Gunnar's tutelage would prove to have a deeply positive impact on Gyða, in some ways changing her outlook on music itself.

"He really understood me and he took me right away into the world of vibrations. I was very sensitive to energies and this was the first time

someone was giving them names, talking about them as a true thing—something tangible. He talked about how you put energy into the notes and how you shape it; it was like learning how to navigate reality."

Gyða is very sensitive to energies, to the point where "when people talk, there's a certain energy that fills the words. A lie to me is like a void of energy and it's so obvious but as a child you just get very confused because there are so many empty words."

Getting "a master's in self-destruction"

After Gyða departed múm, life would take her to many places, from Russia to Switzerland. It was a transformative period in Gyða's life and not always an easy one.

"The next years in my life were a labyrinth, to be honest, I was often completely lost," she recalls. "For some reason I kept putting myself in these odd places that I didn't feel I belonged to. I did not find a teacher again that understood me—at all—and it was nothing like a mystery school. To study classical music is a bit like getting a Masters degree in self-destruction, because you train your brain to be incredibly critical to the point where it's damaging. I wasn't going to be a classical musician; I just wanted to be fluid on the instrument."

"Music is my mother language, I used to get so frustrated with words and I couldn't understand why we aren't using telepathy more."

Alchemy

The times that followed were difficult ones for Gyða; even if in retrospect they proved positive for her, it was not a perspective she held at the time.

"I see it as an alchemical process," she says. "You undo yourself, into pieces and burn it, vapourise it and solidify it again, put them back together but everything has changed. Today there is no discipline in my life to be honest. You don't really need it if you are truly invested, curious and loving what you do. It is called 'blissipline'. I find it kind of difficult to talk about the past, because in different times in your life, you view it in different ways. I wasn't seeing this as an alchemical process at the time."

"At one point I even just wanted to

ing boundaries, the artists she chose to interpret are incredibly varied and wide-ranging.

"What I'm doing on that album is taking a lot of freedom of interpretation," Gyða says. "It's a very personal approach." This shows, as she covers artists ranging from Schuman, Schubert Prokofiev and Hildegard von Bingen—"a 12th century witch-nun who downloaded her music from God," as Gyða describes her. "Creating the Epicycle records is about giving myself freedom to approach any music the way I want. Freely, but with respect."

"The eight musicians on Epicycle II have all been in my life to some extent for the past 20 years. They have inspired me and shaped me as a human and artist."

The easy birth of Evolution

The album that followed, 2018's 'Evolution', saw Gyða not only bringing original compositions to the fore, with such haunting songs as "Moonchild" and "Í annarri vidd"—a song she describes as "the mother potato of the record"—but also marked a new stage in her development as an artist.

"This record was a very easy birth in a way, but only after years of not finding how to do it in an easy way," Gyða says. "I think it's because I was coming from these 10 years of classical training, I had to have the opposite. Being very much in flow, so that I wouldn't be using this perfectionistic, critical part of myself. The process was very intuitive. I let everything come to me, even the name or the album art. It didn't make sense to look for a name because I knew it would come ... when it did, I found it took me by surprise but I knew not to argue and I started to love it."

Following 'Evolution', she would return again to interpretation with 'Epicycle II'—an album she has described as "genre-fluid"—only this time with the added magic of collaboration. Once again, we see Gyða emphasising the need to dissolve boundaries, as evidenced by the artists she chose to collaborate with.

Collaborations and a syncretic horizon

"Epicycle II is an ode to collaboration and interconnection," she says of this work. "I wouldn't be who I am without the people I've met along the way. The eight musicians on Epicycle II have all been in my life to some extent for the past 20 years. They have inspired

give up. I was 33 and I felt as if I had jumped so often off some sort of a 'train of fate,' avoided my calling in a way. I was sure I had just completely failed at life and I just wanted out, I couldn't see any other way. But I chose life and I stopped everything, forever, if that is what I needed. I took all expectations of myself and had only one dream: to have good human connections, starting with myself."

"It was the most precious, painful and beautiful time in my life," she continues. "Even though I did almost nothing but learn how to be a human for a whole year, in the five years since then, everything has been flowing faster and with more ease than I could ever have imagined."

The magic of interpretation

Part of the problem with classical music, from Gyða's perspective, again goes back to divisions; "between composer and a performer, the division of the classical world as opposed to 'pop-music,' between intellect and creativity. We need the whole spectrum for a healthy balance." In the spirit of dissolving boundaries, Gyða would stretch her wings and begin a new phase in her life, one marked by the magic of collaboration.

"You have to be very open and sense the other person's approach, which are all very different," she says of collaboration. "But you also get to expand yourself; others can pull out a side of you that you cannot reach by yourself. For example with [composer] Úlfur Hansson, we go to a place that feels so right, so strong and actually so much myself, but it is a place unique to our connection, I can't go there myself."

Likewise, in a way turning the classical concept of interpretation on its head, or inside out, is 'Epicycle I', a collection of Gyða's interpretations of compositions from the past. Consistent with her vision of dissolv-



me and shaped me as a human and an artist. I also choose them because they have all created their own unique musical language that doesn't fall easily into any existing category. "This album is so dear to me

appearance is Ólöf Arnalds, a multi-instrumentalist who has been moving listeners for years, both on her own and through her numerous collaborations. Many readers are also familiar with "Evol Lamina," Jónsi's contribution to the album done in collaboration with Gyða, the video for which—like so many others from Gyða—invites the viewer to experience joy and mystery.

The magic doesn't end there, either, as she then went into a new album. This album will reflect a more syncretic approach, drawing from past experiences to form a work born from harmony, or allowance of dissonance.

"I think for the first time I've reached home in a way," she explains. "I can now use my whole experience. [Evolution] was done in a way to bypass my left-brain, critical aspect but now I feel like I can use all of it with a kind of harmony with all the different individuals who make me. I'll allow them to do their thing. I'm at the very beginning but I can sense it; it is kind of floral and can be both dark and incredibly pretty."

Dissolving the walls

Gyða has a lot to say about evolution, in many respects. It extends through her vision on a wide range of subjects, informing her approach to her art.

"I think it's everywhere, from a

to the old life," Gyða tells us. "It feels like reality is in a liquid form now and we can use that to re-shape it. Right now there's a huge opportunity to evolve as a species. I just see it like a pattern in your own life, when you have a breakdown and how incredibly powerful it can be for the expansion of your own consciousness. I think it's the same for humanity in a way. The polarities right now are so extreme. Maybe we need to really feel that to build a more interconnected world."

"It's a gift but it feels like a hell when you're in it, it is really a death of the ego. So it's like, 'do I want to pick up that old ego, or move forwards?' I think we are at that moment as a collective and the ego of society is our social construct."

Beyond the binary

This vision of hers also informs her thoughts about the nonbinary gender identity and children growing up in these interesting times.

"I've thought about these things a lot in terms of identity," she says. "We have to change society faster than we are helping trans children. Thankfully society has started to become more acceptant of trans people, but it is still an acceptance based on an old way of looking at things. We have more options in some countries, but you still have to choose. It's related to everything else in terms of dissolving the boxes and having a more open mind about reality. Nonbinary is becoming a concept that we're understanding and embracing. That is so important; to feel like you live in a society that allows all of it to exist. These are the ones, along with anyone else who doesn't fit in, who are fighting for a better world for all of us."

"Authenticity is something I felt I had to work towards for a long time," Gyða continues. "I see that for the young generation growing up now, authenticity is so much more a present thing. I wish I would have grown up in that. I guess my complexity with it also has something to do with growing up as a twin [her sister, Kristín Anna, is also a musician in her own right]. You're sharing your identity with someone who might be completely different from you. You are not just discovering who you are, but also getting rid of your twin in the whole soup of identity."

The spiritual path of polyamory

At this point in the conversation, we turned to a subject that also reflects the importance Gyða places on dissolving boundaries: polyamory. Her perspective on this subject demonstrates her drive to embrace the dissipation of categorisation. And the journey there began early in her life.

"There were obviously so many different levels of love, physicality and connection and it didn't have anything to do with gender," Gyða explains. "I didn't even identify with bisexuality because that wasn't it; I felt like there was no closet to come out of. However, when I actually started a relationship with a woman, we both had partners. Polyamory or ethical non-monogamy were new concepts for me and I felt like it was still such a taboo. And all of the sudden I built this closet. It felt so contradictory to myself. Even if it is much more common in the queer community but people are still kind of quiet about it."

The discovery and realisation

of polyamory would prove to be an epiphany for her.

"It truly exploded my preconception of a relationship and it finally started to make sense," she says. "There are no rules, it didn't make sense to just move the rules a little bit further out—they all had to go to find the ultimate trust and honesty."

"For me, polyamory is a spiritual path, it goes so far beyond sex. It is about full dedication to trust and honesty, also towards yourself. You can really start to share every aspect of yourself with your partner(s). And allow the person you love to blossom in their utmost way, even if that blossom is sparked by another person. Those who have entered our relationship have enriched it and left us with precious gifts, but to be honest it was sort of a disaster in the beginning. While you're peeling the layers off, that is painful but very worth it. And don't get me wrong, 'conscious monogamy' is beautiful—it is like a diamond—but we can learn a lot from polyamory to reach that."

For Gyða, polyamory is not only in keeping with the evolution of society; it may also heal the way we currently do relationships.

"If we are to build a new world, the fastest way is breaking down the social construct," she says. "Let's admit it, we are failing miserably at love and relationships! We can do so much better. It is sort of approaching everything with an open curiosity; to ask 'who are you and what is this relationship?' instead of 'oh, this is a relationship; this is how that should go.' Get rid of the recipes. We can have so many nurturing relationships and we really need that. I think connection is what we humans are needing the most."

To watch humanity blossom

As we began to conclude our conversation, I realised I had completely forgotten to ask about her winning the prestigious Nordic Council Music Prize last year.

"It caught me by surprise. I actually tried to give the nomination back," she says, laughing. "I felt like it was too early, that I should have reached some point in my career, which I didn't feel I had reached. I've gone into so many different directions and each time I felt as if I'm starting at the beginning. It has been such a winding road that I tend to forget all the things that I've done."

Gyða considers this thought for a moment, and then adds: "It sounds like a very complex thing for me to be a musician. It is like that because I only know how to be too personal, combined with this urge to be private. You are always exposing your heart. It took a breakdown to come to terms with that, but it also wasn't really a choice."

Gyða's philosophy informs all of her work and even in the midst of these tumultuous times, her optimism shines through.

"I feel like that's what we're working on right now, on a global scale," Gyða says. "We have to open up our minds. You know how you can make a melon grow into a square? It's like to stop doing that, with everything. If we didn't have all these forms and criticism, all these beliefs in how things should be; if we just watch humanity blossom, what would it look like? How would it feel to be human?" 🍷

"I see it as an alchemical process. You undo yourself, into pieces and burn it, vapourise it and solidify it again, put them back together but everything has changed."

because of how much I love everyone on it. Some are not in my life anymore, but it was still a beautiful postcard to the past, to rekindle the connection. Daniel Bjarnason's piece is the only one that pre-existed, so there was no collaboration in the recording process, but then he joined me for the creation of the video. I think that was the first time we really looked into each other's eyes since we said goodbye almost 15 years ago. We were partners during the years that shape you the most; learning, sharing, arguing and influencing one another, then departing after six years to become almost strangers again. So there is a bit of a nod to the past, also acceptance."

Epicycle II does indeed blossom with numerous voices. Therein lies such luminaries as Anna Þorvaldsdóttir, a Grammy-nominated composer whose haunting symphony, "Metacosmos," has been performed by the New York Philharmonic and the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra. Also making an

big scale to a small scale, in politics or even within the body," she says. "The division of the human body and the human soul; of who you are, of personalities; of societies, race and gender. I just think that's all dissolving and I think that art can help with that."

"Even in architecture, how things have moved from narrow, boxy spaces into roomier spaces with fewer divisions. But in some ways, the step we are taking, especially in terms of identification, is to add more boxes, triangular boxes, circular boxes, but still always dividing things and labelling them. But it seems inevitable that we are moving to dissolving them completely."

While the coronavirus pandemic kiboshed many of her initial plans, effectively sequestering her in New York for three months—"I haven't been three months in one place for over eight years"—she nonetheless saw the moment as net positive for her.

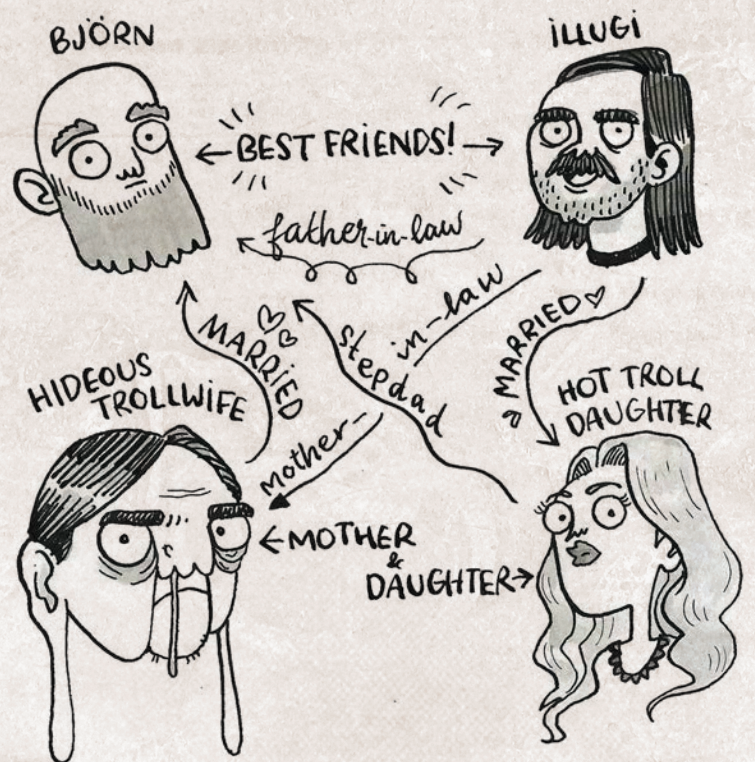
"I'm not excited about going back

THE SAGAS AND SHIT

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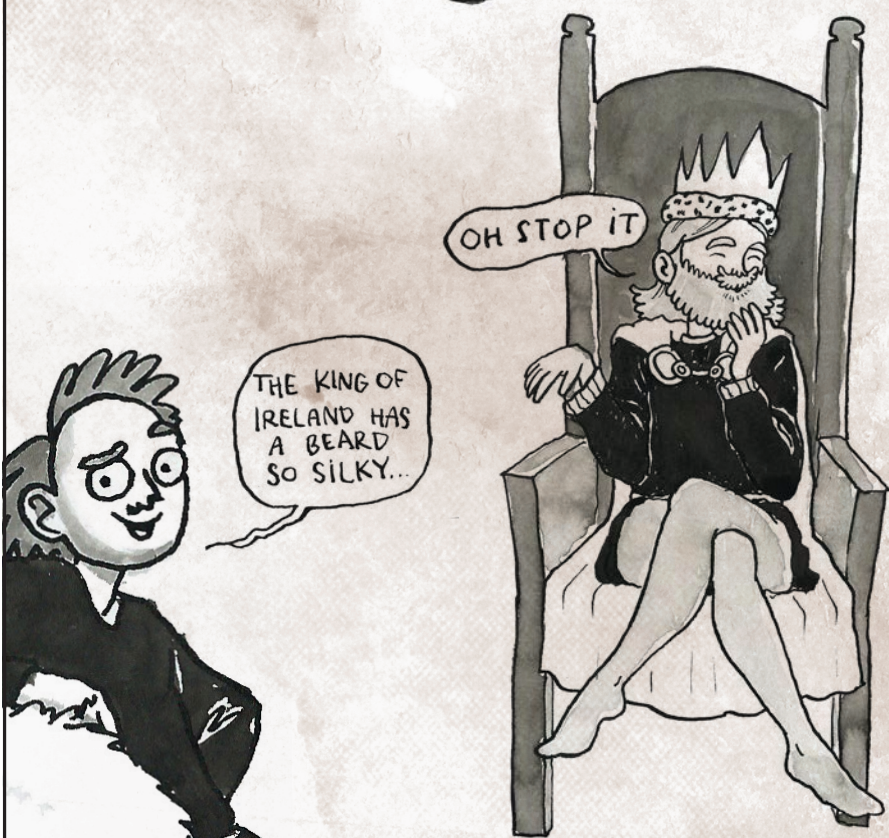
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Bió Paradís Is Back, Baby!

Screening of the British National Theatre Production CYRANO DE BERGERAC

September 19th & September 21st

Bió Paradís is a proud partner of the British National Theatre and regularly screens selected stage theatre productions that have been recorded LIVE with an audience and specially prepared for screenings in cinemas across the world. Starting out with Jamie Lloyd's new update on the play CYRANO DE BERGERAC featuring James McAvaoy. Experience British theatre like you're there in person at the newly reopened Bió Paradís. **CM**



Blistering Death Metal And Grindcore!

Death Metal Concert And Party

September 12th - 19:00 - Gaukurinn - 2000 ISK at the Door

Three of Iceland's torchbearers of death—Devine Defilement, Cult of Lilith and Kookaveen—are joining forces for one night to blend various death-metal subgenres and mix some grooves, slams and blastbeats. Devine Defilement promises to bring some brutal sonic punishment, while Cult of Lilith just unleashed their debut album and Kookaveen play their own special mix of grindcore, death metal, punk and d-beat. **CM**



Soundtracks At Their Full Potential

Film Music Orchestra: Morricone and Williams

October 1st - 19:30 - Eldborg - 2,600-8,100 ISK

Film music in all its glory, performed by an orchestra conducted by Richard Kaufman. Musical film gems from two giants of 20th-century film music, Ennio Morricone and John Williams, will be played in all their epicness. Selections include pieces from The Untouchables, The Mission, Cinema Paradiso, Lawrence of Arabia, Harry Potter, Star Wars, Superman, and E.T. The perfect concert for movie lovers and orchestra fans. **CM**

CULTURE NEWS

einnota eyrnapiinni úr plasti



margnota eyrnapiinni

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PLASTLAUS SEPTEMBER

Detailing the swabs you should use

Info

Take part in the symposium on September 30th at 17:00. The event will also be live on Facebook.

Peeling Off The Plastic Wrap

“Plastic Free September” encourages us to quit our toxic relationship with disposable plastic.

Words: Catherine Magnúsdóttir

Photos: Sigrún Hreins & Salbjörg Rita Jónsdóttir

Breaking a habit is hard. No one becomes an environmentalist overnight. Where would you even start? “It’s easy to get gloomy,” says Kolbrún Haraldsdóttir, an educator and co-organiser of the campaign “Plastlaus September” (Plastic Free September, in English). But despair isn’t going to change much. Which is why Kolbrún and Natalie Ouellette, marketing and PR specialist, emphasise staying positive. “They say it takes 30 days to break a habit,” Kolbrún points out and September might just be the right time frame to get started.

Humble Beginnings

Three years ago, Plastic Free September came to Iceland. According to Kolbrún and Natalie, the goal of the month-long initiative is to raise awareness about the amount of single-use plastic people use in their daily lives and to present them with alternatives. “I’ve tried to explore ways of working with some kind of environmental cause in my professional life and I hadn’t really found that outlet,” Natalie recalls. “So, when I noticed a picture of Kolla in Plastlaus September—she was the kindergarten teacher for one of my kids—I kind of cornered her one day and said: “Hey! Plastlaus September. How can I join?” And I was welcomed with open arms by the other members.” The idea goes back to the Australian initiative, Plastic Free July, which started in 2011. But seeing as most Icelanders are on holiday in July, the local

organizers figured that September was perhaps a better time to encourage Icelanders to rethink their plastic usage.

Breaking The Habit

Even though we know that plastic is bad for us, it’s still the predominant form of packaging. It’s light, it’s clean, it’s familiar. But it’s harming the environment because it will not decompose at a reasonable rate. So, how do we start quitting this comfy, yet literally toxic relationship? According to Kolbrún and Natalie it’s important to celebrate small victories like, “Hey, I made my last three shopping trips with my

own bags!” and not shaming anyone who may fall back on old habits once in a while. “I think a lot of people are intimidated by the idea of making changes, a lot of times people think it’s so big,” Natalie says. “I think people don’t often give themselves the benefit of the doubt. Every small change can really make a difference and everyone is capable of making this small change.”

Networking

“In the beginning it was just a few friends that had potluck dinners together,” Kolbrún says when talking about the origin of the campaign. “And they would be annoyed, like ‘Why isn’t anyone doing something about this plastic pollution problem?’ and then they thought to themselves, ‘We should just do it’”. Learn more about “Plastlaus September” and get pointers and support for ditching single-use plastics on the initiative’s Facebook group, Instagram and Snapchat. Their website also has information available in Icelandic, English and soon Polish as well. ♡



???

EXPLORE UNSEEN ICELAND

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Creating Context In The Cloud

Poet, essayist and former comedian Bergur Ebbi explores ideas of technology, identity and the future.

Words: Catherine Magnúsdóttir Photos: Art Bicnick

How to sum up a conversation with Bergur Ebbi?

It would seem the man has done it all. Study law, become a stand-up comedian, write for TV, radio and the stage and he has even published his own books. Two of them—'Room Temperature' (2017) and 'Screenshot' (2019)—have been translated to English and are the beginning of a series, delving into our lives and identity with technology. Screenshot takes very current global events into account and asks the question: Where do we go from here?

Bergur has become a philosopher of the future. Not just in the sense that he might be a part of a big new generation of philosophers—although we wish him the best of luck with that. Bergur takes a closer look at the entire concept of a future. The idea of it, apart from self-driving cars. What is it we're really moving and building towards? Do we approach the future as a collective or individually? Are the words of the prophets no longer written on the subway wall but drowning among other status updates on a message board, hanging in a digital cloud devoid of context? Have screens become our new altars? Are we who we present to be on our latest profile update?

Perhaps there should be a risk warning for existential crisis on Bergur's book covers.

Dazed And Confused

When asked about the idea behind Screenshot Bergur admits, "I am confused myself about a lot of things, trying to get to the core of all these tech advancements and their purpose and impact, because

they changed a lot around us without us realizing it. A lot was happening below the surface and all of a sudden it was in our brains."

The roughly 200-page long essay certainly covers a lot of ground in terms of questioning our relationship to technology and what that might mean for our future sense of identity. Heavy stuff. Thankfully, Bergur also makes an effort to not get too abstract in his writing, using a lot of examples from his own experience. Which includes memories of using "three-way calling" for the first time and almost driving into Paul Revere's house in Boston. Funny and educational. But where does that leave us?

Trust Fall

We probably need some kind of foundation to start from, on our quest to enlightenment. But can the blue light of our smartphones illuminate the dark unknown around us? Maybe. Partially at least.

"Our relationship with technology is based on trust," Bergur posits. "We have no idea where we're going, blindfolded and holding hands with technology, moving into the darkness and nobody really knows [where to], not even these big tech gurus, all these guys that were talking about the future a lot. I think they're still all just making it up as they go."

Although he also points out

that there's at least some kind of vision of a social network connecting people. A core belief, a virtue that has grown more powerful than anyone probably could have imagined. But there's a flipside to everything. Nobody likely could have predicted the sheer overflow of stimuli or this paradox of connecting without connecting we seem to often find ourselves in.

Connection

According to Bergur Ebbi, there are still things that presence can give us that social media cannot. Namely so called "parameters of communication".

"What's lacking a bit in IT and technology is that we don't only connect on intellectual levels, we connect on emotional levels and physical levels, which technology hasn't really been able to fence itself around. Although AI is getting more and more intelligent, which makes it more possible to become emotionally connected via technology, I think there's a lot missing. The need for aesthetic and the feeling of space. I don't think we'll be able to exist only in the cloud environment, we will always need a physical space of some sort."

But what if we literally can't do that because of, oh I don't know, something like a pandemic? COVID-19, quarantine and home offices have very likely advanced our foray into the

"I am confused myself about a lot of things, trying to get to the core of all these tech advancements and their purpose and impact."



Peak dapper

cloud, the realm of digital connection and communication, where small talk dies and directness and productivity booms. But Bergur believes that we still have some power over the situation.

“Tech doesn’t have an intrinsic value of only going forward. It’s a tool that we can even use to go backwards in this case. It’s never been this easy to cancel stuff for example. The pandemic won’t really shatter your worldview, we’ve had pandemics before ... I wasn’t very fond of Skype meetings, Zoom calls, etc. But now I see that in order to communicate I have to be more understanding of that and it kind of put me in my place. It has persuaded me that it can be a possibility for future meetings and I think this will be part of the new normal.”

Context Matters

But who decides what’s normal? Well, we do apparently. Just by existing in any sort of shared space, we are constantly creating context, Bergur argues. When we meet up at work, for example, chat a bit about the Eurovision Song Contest and thereby poke each other a bit for reactions that in turn determine our actions and build common ground. That’s something technology can’t really do for us.

“Software isn’t really aware of us building context and sees this phase as a waste of time, which it’s obviously not, it’s a very vital part of communication,” Bergur says. Values and experiences are still ours to share, even if we immortalize them online, which might lead to a new digital kind of legacy, but we’ll always need a type of framework, a connection in our minds

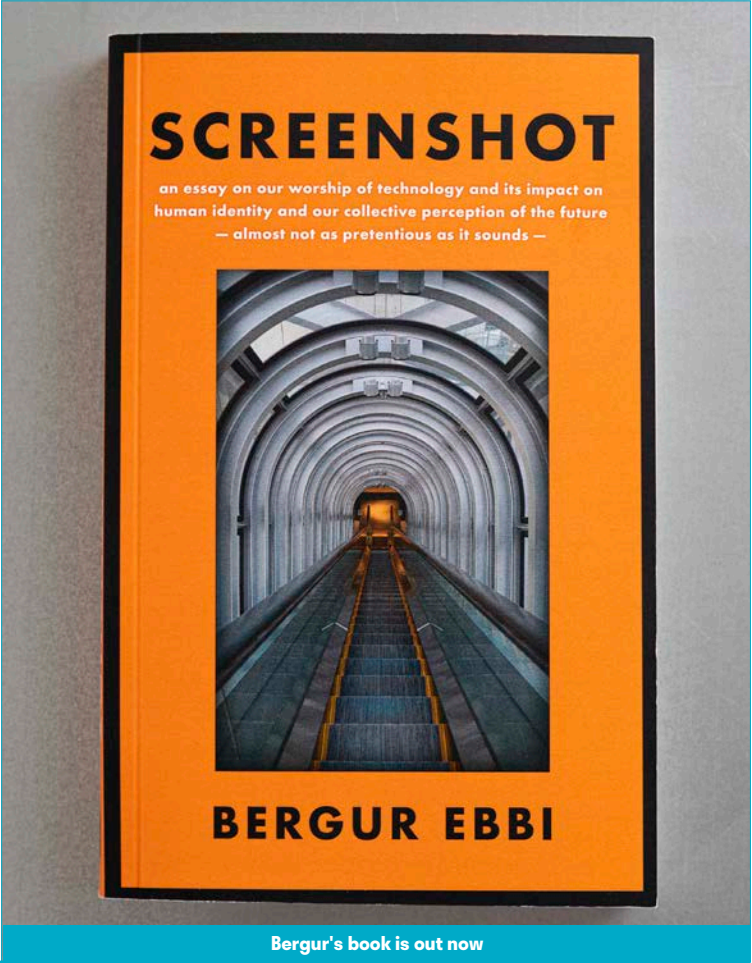
for things to have meaning.

“I think most people relate to the idea of context being missing,” says Bergur. “I think it might be the reason we’ve become somewhat apathetic to politics, for example. We don’t feel that it relates to us anymore. We might be individually fighting for different causes in different geographical areas. We’re lacking these systems of thoughts.”

The cloud, ever expanding like the universe itself, looms over us, but it’s not all doom and gloom, ac-

cording to Bergur. It’s never been easier to point out social issues and connect them, for example and the physical world isn’t disappearing. We’re just adding a new layer. Sometimes things aren’t strictly good or bad. They just are.

Bergur Ebbs’ latest book ‘Screenshot’ has been translated into English by Grapevine alumnus and award-winning translator Larissa Kyzer. Grab your copy of ‘Screenshot’ in the Grapevine’s online shop. 📖



Bergur's book is out now

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Autumn Activity Guide

Psych! There Is Nothing Called Autumn In Iceland!

Words: Valur Grettilsson Photos: Jón Trausti Sigurðarson

Before we enter the pitless dark and windy nightmare of winter, we have...well, the pitless dark and windy nightmare of pre-winter? Anyways, here is your early autumn activity guide.



Go pick berries

The weather might be getting colder...well, shittier if you don't want

to sugarcoat it, but it's still time to go out and pick something to turn into jam. Icelandic nature is brimming with black crow- and blueberries. If you are timely enough, you can go to Heiðmörk and pick a ton of them. But the secret places are in Hvalfjörður. Just turn right basically anywhere in the fjord. Then just Google some jam recipes or just call your mother for once. And don't skimp on the sugar.

Chase sheep

We mean that literally. You can take your kid, or just go on your first date, chasing some sheep in the yearly sheep round-ups all over the country. You can find ads about the round-ups in the Icelandic papers, or just Google it like the modern

person you are. But, keep in mind, there is something called COVID-19 spreading around the world, so there could always be some unexpected complications. The good news is that the sheep haven't contracted the virus. Yet.

Visit Þingvellir

Here is a pro tip for travellers: Þingvellir, a national park and the site of Iceland's oldest parliament, is never more beautiful than in the autumn. The reason is simple. The area is covered in shrubbery that transforms into a goddamn otherworldly colourfulness that can best be described as a natural acid trip. Take a fishing rod with you and try to catch one of those colossal sea trout. But don't

eat it if you're pregnant, it used to have a notoriously high amount of mercury in it some few years ago.



Hunt for Aurora Borealis

They are always there; you just have to wait for a clear night. Fill a thermos with coffee—take tea with you if you want to be fancy about it—and go back to Hvalfjörður... you know, where you found those delicious berries. There you'll find complete darkness. Find a nice spot to park, drink your coffee and enjoy the show. If you want to be on the safe side, visit vedur.is for surprisingly accurate aurora forecasts. If you don't see any, well, I hope you enjoyed your tea, you pompous bastard.



Art House cinema

Remember, when society had something called culture? Vaguely? Same here. But there is no better way to shake off that idiotic happy summer mood but to visit the cinema and watch something so bleak that it will leave you rattled for the rest of the winter. And no, we're not talking about some overblown Hollywood crap disguised as something remotely intelligent, but real arthouse cinema with a depth that mercilessly tests your patience for the next four hours of the screening time. Of course, we recommend Bíó Paradís, that will reopen this month, hopefully, but also keep in mind that the Reykjavík International Film Festival (RIFF) kicks off at the end of September and you will be able to watch all those arthouse movies from the comfort of your home. It's forbidden to fall asleep, though! You can read more about RIFF on page 28. 🍷

BEST OF REYKJAVÍK

Best Pool



Vesturbæjarlaug

Hofsvallagata, 107 Reykjavík
Vesturbær is one of Reykjavík's most bustling areas, and probably the only locale where you could bump into Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir, renowned artist Ragnar Kjartansson, and member of Sigur Rós in the same day. Vesturbæjarlaug is smack in the middle of the hubbub and serves up a wonderful selection of hot tubs chock full of chattering artists, students, and other 107 locals. The pool is unique in the sense that it offers up pretty much anything you'd need—a shiny outdoor pool, big hotpots, a large steam room, and a particularly lovely outdoor changing area, which you should take advantage of in the summer. And remember, don't hesitate to converse about the state of things in the hot water—Icelanders love to debate politics, philosophise about art, and make fun of, well, everything.

RUNNERS UP

Laugardalslaug


Sundlaugavegur 30,
105 Reykjavík

Here we've got the biggest pool of Reykjavík, which—get ready for this—has the tallest slide in the city. So if you've got kids, get ready for a wild ride. For adults though, the panel praised the hot seawater tub, which is filled with a hot mixture of salt and fresh water. They described the feeling as odd but fun. You'll step out smelling of salt. Yum.

Árbæjarlaug

Fylkisvegur 9, 110 Reykjavík

The main reason the panel chose Árbæjarlaug was for its stunning view of the city. It's an impressive view of the east of Reykjavík, showcasing a huge forest, Elliðaárdalur, and below that you have an extraordinary view of the city's skyline. Also—you have to give it up for the pool's fun 90s architecture. 🍷



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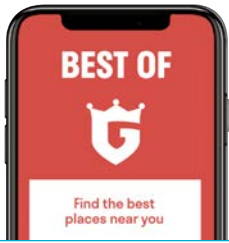
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In Your Pocket



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Photo: Art Bienick

Snjólaug Lúðviksdóttir

Snjólaug Lúðviksdóttir is a comedian and screenwriter. For foreigners, her name is pronounced Snow-Leg, though it directly translates to Snow-Pool.

I want to start off by saying that this article will make it sound like I'm very on-it, but my Perfect Day is usually ordering pizza from my sofa and watching Netflix. That would be a boring article though, so here we go.

Morning

I would start the day by going swimming in Hafnarfjörður. They have a pool there called **Suðurbæjarlaug**, which is very—if this is an adjective—honest, meaning there's no fluff or hoity-toity-ness. It's been the same for 30 years. I used to go there when I was a teenager and they had a scale there and I used to suck in my stomach and weigh myself and I had so many complexes about my

body. So I want to go there now and be like, BOOM! This is me! Here is my cellulite and all the rest of it and I don't give a shit! That would be fun.

After that, it's time for the best hot dogs in the entire country—even the world, I would say—which are at **Pylsubarinn** in Hafnarfjörður. They grill the bread and everything is just immaculate. I have a hot dog for breakfast.

Mid-Day

I have two nieces; they are one and two. So post-hot dog, I'd take them to do something fun. Maybe we'd go to **Ægisíða** and walk by the oceans so they could pick up shells and poke at the fish. Then we'd head to **Ísbúð Vesturbæjar** so I can pump them full of sugary ice cream before returning them to their parents.

Afternoon

Now it's around 14:00—time to start drinking. Is that allowed? I'm saying

it is. I'd see myself sitting outside at Austurvöllur, maybe at **Apotek** or **Duck & Rose**, with my group of girlfriends. There, we sip rosé and gossip. Yes, this day started off very healthy, but now it's going to go rapidly downhill.

Dinner

Next we'd need some carbs, so it's off to **Sumac**, one of my favourite restaurants in the city. This would be in non-COVID times of course because you have to share your food and eat with your fingers there so it all gets a bit sloppy.

In the heat of the night

Afterwards, we must find a karaoke place. I have two karaoke standards: "You're So Vain" and anything by Dolly Parton, maybe "9 to 5" or "Jolene." We end up shitfaced at Röntgen.

The next day it's sofa and pizza. A two-day-perfect-day combo. 🍕



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Austur Austurstræti 7	D3		Kaffibarinn Bergstaðastræti 1	E4	
American Bar Austurstræti 8	D3		Kiki Queer Bar Laugavegur 22	E5	
Andrými Bergþórugata 20	G6		Loft Bankastræti 7	E4	
B5 Bankastræti 5	E4		Mengi Öðinsgata 2	F5	
Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54	E5		Nordic House Sturlagata 5	H2	
Bravó Laugavegur 22	E5		Ölsmíðjan Lækjargata 10	E3	
Curious Hafnarstræti 4	D3		Paloma Naustin	D3	
Dillon Laugavegur 30	E5		Papaku Reykjavík Klapparstígur 28	E5	
Dubliner Naustin 1-3	D3		Prikið Bankastræti 12	E4	
English Pub Austurstræti 12	D3		R6013 Ingólfsstræti 20	E4	
Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22	D3		Röntgen Hverfisgata 12	E5	
Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a	D3		Reykjavík Roasters Karástígur 1	F5	
Hressó Austurstræti 20	D3		Stofan Café Vesturgata 3	D3	
Íðnó Vonarstræti 3	E3		Tjarnarbió Tjarnargata 12	E3	
Kex Hostel Skúlagata 28	E7				
			Áamundarsalur Freyjugata 41	G6	
			Aurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2	B1	
			Ásgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74	G4	
			Berg Contemporary Klapparstígur 16	E5	
			The Culture House Hverfisgata 15	E5	
			The Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksgrata	G5	
			Existenz Bergstaðast. 25b	F4	
			Galleri List Skipholt 50A	H10	
			Hafnarborg Strandgata 34, 220		
			Hverfisgalleri Hverfisgata 4	D4	
			i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16	D3	
			The Penis Museum Laugavegur 116	F8	
			Kirsuberjatræð Vesturgata 4	D3	
			Kling & Bang Grandagarður 20	A4	
			Listastofan Hringbraut 119		
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			Mokka Kaffi Skólavörðustig. 3A	E5	
			Museum of Design and Applied Art Gardatorg 1		
			The National Gallery of Iceland Frikirkjuvegur 7	F3	
			The National Museum Sudurgata 41	G2	
			The Nordic House Sturlugata 5	H2	
			Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17	D3	
			Kjarvalsstaðir Flokagata 24	H8	
			Áamundarsafn Sigtún		
			Reykjavík City Library Tryggvagata 15	D3	
			Árbæjarsafn Kistuhylur 4		
			The Settlement Exhibition Adalsstræti 16	D3	
			Reykjavík Museum of Photography Tryggvagata 15	D3	
			Saga Museum Grandagarður 2	B2	
			Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum Leugarnestangi 70		
			SÍM Hafnarstræti 16	D3	
			Tveir Hrafnar Baldursgata 12	G4	
			Wind & Weather Window Gallery Hverfisgata 37	E5	

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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. Austur-Indíafjélagið

Hverfisgata 56

Still going strong 20 years on, Austur-Indíafjélagið is an institution. Make a meal out of the delicate salmon pollichathu, kozhi mappas and kulchas and share it family style. Keep your eyes peeled for the vegetarian and vegan dishes as well.

2. Gaeta Gelato

Aðalstræti 6 + Hlemmur Mathöll

Gaeta Gelato is owned by recently-arrived Italian transplants with nearly 25 years of experience as gelatai. Their artisanal and authentic flavours, from blueberry to Piedmontese hazelnut, are made with fresh and well-sourced Icelandic ingredients. Though only recently opened, Gaeta Gelato has already won over a crowd of committed regulars.

3. Sæta Svinið

Hafnarstræti 1-3

With big portions and a tasty menu, this hip restaurant offers everything you might desire, from crispy broccoli and big bowls of mussels to a great leg of lamb and a taste of lobster Try and get a seat upstairs: it'll be like dining under a starry sky in the most romantic, dim-lit set-up.

4. Valdís

Grandagarður 21 & Frakkastígur 10

This beloved ice cream parlour—which has a Grandi and downtown location—makes everything in-house each morning, and you can tell. If you like liquorice, try Tyrkisk Peber. While it looks like liquid cement, it tastes more heavenly. The spot doesn't have a large seating area, so take your cone on a stroll along the harbourside or enjoy it in a parked car, Icelandic style.

5. Bastard Brew & Food

Vegamótastígur 4

This downtown drinking hole is something of a beer and bar-food palace. It's an English pub style environment, without the sense of history—everything from the tables to the plush leather seating are catalogue-fresh—but with eleven beers on tap, a great happy hour, and the phenomenally good 'Fat Bastard' burger on offer, it's a firm Grapevine favourite. Their tacos are pretty notable too.

6. Noodle Station

Laugavegur 103

Billowing clouds of coriander scent are a mouth-watering introduction to Noodle Station. Choose beef, vegetable or chicken, and add an extra spice or flaky chilli sauce until your nose runs, your tongue throbs and your gums howl. It's bar-style stool seating and cheaper prices (for Reykjavík) attract prudent solo travellers.

7. Grandi Mathöll

Grandagarður 16

Grandi Mathöll has an immediately comfortable feel, with various stools, benches and couches scattered through the space. There are nine concessions and a bustling, social feel as people meander between the vendors, who shout out names as their orders are ready. Our tip: Vegan food from Spes and friend chicken from KÖRE. Everyone's happy!

8. Vitabar

Bergþórugata 21

This old-school burger 'n' beer joint is right downtown—near Sundhöllin—but feels like a real neighbourhood bar. Its unassuming exterior hides a cosy, no-frills dining room, where you'll mostly be surrounded by locals. For once.

9. Salka Valka

Skólavörðustígur 23

For a piece of good ol' Icelandic fish, there's no better spot than Salka Valka. The restaurant serves up a steamed fillet in their Fish Of The Day meal, with the fish options depending on what is the freshest available. They also have potentially the best plockfiskur in the city, some stellar soups, and—quite recently—a pizza menu.

10. Bæjarins Beztu

Tryggvagata 1

Icelanders have a weird obsession with hot dogs—trust us, you won't understand until you've been here. It's universally agreed though that the tiny stand Bæjarins Beztu serves the best one. Pro-Tip: When they ask what toppings you want, say "All." This is the only way to eat it.

11. Mama

Laugavegur 2

Nothing tastes better than ethics, which is why we love to try the rainbow salad and "nicecream" bowls at Mama, a plant-based restaurant with big dreams. The company is

proudly environmentalist—they hope to use their profits to invest into land so that the kitchen can become self-sufficient. The restaurant also doubles as a wellness space offering a whole host of yoga sessions and breathing workshops. Have your plant-based prayers been answered?

Drinking

12. Röntgen

Hverfisgata 12

Röntgen is a party bar in the purest sense, with a rowdy dance floor, delicious cocktails and a fanbase that's just growing and growing. Run by the legends behind Húrra (RIP), Röntgen unexpectedly grabbed the runner-up for the Best Goddamn Bar category at the 2020 Best Of Reykjavík awards. We stan.

13. Lebowski Bar

Laugavegur 20a

This fully carpeted bar honouring the "Lebowski" Lebowski (not The Dude, man), is a nice place that offers two vibes: start the night nice and cosy with an artisinal White Russian, and end it on one of the rowdiest and most underrated dance floors in the city. Yup, Lebowski is a great place to hang at, but that could just be, like, our opinion man.

14. Jungle Cocktail Bar

Austurstræti 9

The verdant Jungle Cocktail Bar came in like a tropical storm this winter. Devoted to the elevation of all things cocktail culture, some of Jungle's stranger offerings over the past months have included a kale cocktail, but there's no shortage of level-headed concoctions like the signature "The Bombshell" (tequila, rhubarb & vermouth) along with any classic you can name.

15. Port 9

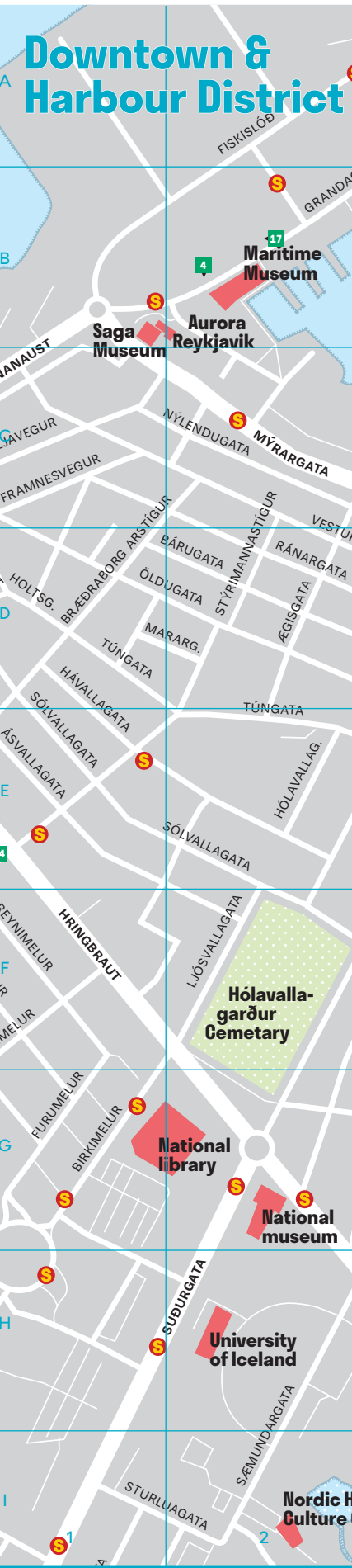
Veghúsastígur 9

Cosy and tucked away with a secretive vibe, Port 9 is a true hidden gem, hosting a delicious wine list as well as potentially the most intimate atmosphere in Reykjavík. It also has a nice balcony—the ideal locale for sipping some Pino in the summer sun.

16. Mengi

Óðinsgata 2

Mengi's concert room is more white cube than dive bar. The programme encourages new collaborations and experimental performances, so even if you know and love the work of the musicians you're seeing, you might be treated to something brand new on any given night.



17. Luna Flórens

Grandagarður 25

Luna Flórens is Iceland's only "gypsy bar." Part flower-child, part spiritual and with a whole lot of whimsy thrown into the mix, this cosy and hand-crafted bar is so intimate it makes you wanna spend the day musing about geodes, lunar cycles and tarot card readings. You can do all this and more while sipping on their excellent house cocktails and an excellent slice of vegan cake.

18. RVK Brewing Company

Skipholt 31

Yes, there is a bar on Skipholt, and yes, it is one that you need to check out. The RVK Brewing Company has slid

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New In Town ☆



Vietnam Market

Bankastræti 11
Previously only located at Suðurlandsbraut 6, downtowners watched all summer with bated breath as the shop's new location at Bankastræti 11 began to stock up and freshen up. In case you missed it, the new Vietnam Market is open now and you should definitely pay it a visit. You can get all your essential condiments and noodles, of course, as well as a lot of canned and dried goods. There is also quite a variety of snacks to choose from. It's a great place to stop for when you want to try something new in the kitchen, or just add more variety to your diet than what Icelandic supermarkets have to offer. **ASF** 🇻🇳

under the radar since it opened, but now, we're here to bring it out of the shadows. The brewery and beer hall offers a varied list of brews, most of which they make themselves locally. Come and experience your new beer addiction.

19. English Pub

Austurstræti 12

True to its name, the English Pub offers many different kinds of lager on tap and a whiff of that genuine UK feel. Try the famous "wheel of fortune" where one can win up to a metre of beer with a single spin while a steady team of troubadours engage the crowd in classic sing-alongs every night. The only thing missing is the salt & vinegar crisps.

Shopping

20. Hildur Yeoman

Skólavörðustígur 22b

As well as selling her own designs—womenswear characterised by flowing shapes made from fine fabrics with colourful, distinctive, busy prints—Hildur Yeoman's boutique also features sunglasses by Le Specs, jewelry by Vanessa Mooney, French tea, and other interesting trinkets.

21. nomad.

Frakkastígur 8f

A relative newbie to the Laugavegur

scene, nomad. was a surprise runner-up for the Best Design Store at the 2020 Best of Reykjavik awards. They have a fantastically curated selection of books, lamps, candles and more. Plus, the owner is a photographer and often has exhibitions on the lower floor.

22. Wasteland Reykjavik

Ingólfsstræti 5

For super á la mode downtown Reykjavik looks—i.e. cheerleader uniforms, Guy Fieri t-shirts, and astronaut-esque jumpsuits—this second-hand store is the go-to.

23. Lucky Records

Rauðarárstígur 10

Lucky Records is the punky, underground horse of the Reykjavik record scene. It's one of those shops that is easy to get lost in—expect to easily spend an entire afternoon perusing their selection.

24. Melabúðin

Hagamel 39, 107

For foodies looking for artisanal deli meats, fresh figs, rare cheeses and all sorts of unexpected, hard-to-find treats, Vesturbær's beloved Melabúðin should satiate your desires.

25. Pastel Flower Studio

Baldursgata 36

Pastel Flower Studio is only open

on Fridays from 13:00 to 18:00—so plan accordingly. The studio uses cut, dried, and fresh flowers to create unique arrangements that reference classic Icelandic nature in an unexpected and innovative way. Trust us: You won't find a florist in the city that's in any way comparable.

26. Street Rats Tattoo

Hverfisgata 37

Kristófer, a.k.a. Sleepofer Tattoo, has proven himself to be a fresh, experimental artist whose works have become a somewhat coveted symbol in the city. So if you're looking to get your travel tattoo, go there. It's way more interesting than a Vegvisir.



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TRACK BY TRACK

‘Undir bláu tungli’ By Logi Pedro

An ode to African heritage, late nights
and 101 Reykjavík

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



Two years after his debut solo album, Logi Pedro is back with his second effort ‘Undir bláu tungli’ (‘Under The Blue Moon’). We sat down with the artist to learn more about the release, track by track.

Sól

“Sól” is the oldest track on the album. I actually started working on it in 2017 and it’s gone through revisions, remixes and reedits. But when I was in Sierra Leone in the spring of 2019, it finally clicked. The lyrics are centered around a girl named Sól. It’s not a love story, it’s a fling.

Ef Grettisgata gæti talað

I’ve actually been trying to use this title or line for a while now. At the same time as I was writing this song, I had just watched ‘If Beale Street Could Talk’ and from there, I got acquainted with James Bald-

win. I then watched this great documentary about him called ‘I Am Not Your Negro.’ I was thinking about all of that and what came out is a retrospective about all these scenes from my life—those late nights filled with weird energy. Clubs. Drugs. In the chorus, I say, “If Grettisgata (the street) could talk, it could tell you stories about me.” It’s an homage to 101.

Mama

“Mama” is essentially about my Mother. It’s straightforward. But at the same time, it’s also a song for foreign women. There’s this quote by John Lennon that Björk also said—it is not a good quote—but it says, “Woman is the n****r of the world.” I think the most preyed upon being in the world is the black woman, the foreign woman. So in the song I say, “I will be there.” It’s about standing up.

Spaðar

There’s a great track by Juice WRLD called “Lucid Dreams” where he samples the Sting song “Shape Of My Heart.” It made me really sit down and listen to Sting’s lyrics and there’s one part when he says, “Spades are the swords of a soldier.” I wanted to do something similar with the deck of cards metaphor. In Icelandic, ‘spáðar’ or ‘spade’ is

slang for jocks, so I say, “Spades go to the club and they leave their hearts behind.” It’s about going to a club and fucking yourself up in a melancholic way.

Mann setur hljóðan

My friend Siggí Odds once tweeted, “Someone needs to do an Icelandic grime song with the saying ‘Maður

setur hljóðan.” The saying means being lost for words. So that’s how it started and in the song, I quote some famous Icelandic songs like “Hættu að hringja í mig” and “Þannig týnist tíminn.” Even though the instrumentals on this album are a bit jolly, the lyrics are very melancholic and this continues the same theme as “Spáðar.” It’s when the party is over.

Um Da Tímann ’N Da Vatnið

In this song I’m quoting one of the most famous poems in Iceland, ‘Tímann og vatnið’ (‘Time & Water’). The track is just about the struggle, about forcing things that aren’t going to work and battling with your own origins. Originally, it was just going to be titled the same as the poem, but then I watched a Spike Lee marathon and was inspired by ‘Da 5 Bloods.’ This album merges my African background with my Icelandic background and I was inspired by how Lee’s work mixes them theoretically and visually, so I wanted to do that too.

Reykjavík

“Reykjavík” was a B-side on a single I did two years ago. It’s very different from the rest of the album. This album is heavily influenced by African pop music but this one is very much influenced by “Redemption Song” by Bob Marley—a folk song. It’s written to my son. 🐦

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“I think the most preyed upon being in the world is the black woman, the foreign woman.”

Music



Hekla Magnúsdóttir, making waves

Celebrating A Spooky Sound

Hekla Magnúsdóttir harnesses the power of a unique instrument

Words: Sam O'Donnell Photo: Art Bicnick

Album

'Sprungur' is available now on Spotify and Bandcamp

In a small garage on Öldugata, a humble studio houses the equipment that Hekla Magnúsdóttir uses to create the type of music that gets under your skin, crawls around, lays eggs and then hatches into spiders that bite you until you listen to it again. It's good stuff.

Eerie equipment

Hekla plays the theremin, an electronic instrument controlled without any physical contact by the performer. It's a box with two antennas, one controlling the pitch of the note and one controlling the volume. The effect is an eerie sound that would be right at home in a horror movie.

Hekla released her new EP 'Sprungur' on August 27th and she says it's more conceptual than the album she released in 2018. "I was thinking more of entering some kind of alternate horror dimension or something," she says with a smile. The first track is called Velkominn, and it features growling voices of horrific beasts welcoming the listener to the show. The rest of the album is a haunting, atmospheric experience. "I wanted it to be...like an imaginary horror movie soundtrack."

Bending the rules

Hekla has a musical background. "I started playing cello around 9," she says. "I was always making my own songs." She got her first theremin

when she was 18 and lost interest in the cello. She says she likes how much more approachable the theremin is. "You don't have to be formal. You can, if you want, but it's not restrictive. It doesn't have a rule book, which kind of also makes it more difficult to approach," she says and laughs.

There may not be a rule book, but there are legitimate techniques that performers have illustrated in the instrument's 100-year history. "I have gone to a couple of these theremin academies," she says. "They're people who meet in different cities of Europe and play together," she says.

"There are also classes and stuff, like there are proper techniques, but I like to kind of take things that I like or are useful to me and also [take] my own approach," she shrugs.

Hekla is currently making graphic notations of her personal approach to the theremin. "I'm planning to do a little book with an introduction to theremin graphic notation that's easy to understand."

"I wanted it to be... like an imaginary horror movie soundtrack."

Surf symphony

Beyond taking full advantage of the spooky sound the theremin produces, Hekla is also working with a group of musicians to produce a surf rock symphony. Think Dick Dale meets Johann Sebastian Bach. "There's a rondeau, a minuet, allegro and adagio," she says.

While it's unclear when the surf symphony will be available, but 'Sprungur' is available now on Spotify and Bandcamp. It's a perfectly eerie experience, just in time for autumn and celebrating the theremin's centennial. 🎻



MUSIC NEWS

Ólafur Arnalds announced in late August that he was releasing a new album on November 6th. This is particularly exciting news because we hear one of the Grapevine's favourites, JFDR, will appear on the album, as will one of this writer's favourite artists, Bonobo. The German singer Josin is also adding her talents to the mix. Ólafur Arnalds is, of course, one of Europe's top leading electro musicians and he has a BAFTA win an Emmy nomination to prove it. His last album, 're:member', was widely praised and Ólafur followed it up with playing on 150 concerts all over the world. VG



Up and coming singer Laufey Lin Jónsdóttir has been inundated by a flurry of new Instagram followers after a video of her singing Billie Eilish song "My Future" was shared by Billie herself. Some readers may already be aware of Laufey, as a contestant on both Ísland Got Talent and The Voice Iceland. Among those who have expressed admiration for the young musician is Auður, who says that she is one of the most talented musicians he's worked with. Laufey is currently in London, where she's recording an album and launching her music career in earnest. Her future is looking bright, so watch this space! JD



Icelandic composer Hildur Guðnadóttir has added another prestigious award to her impressive list of wins from the past year, with an Ópus Klassik nod for Most Innovative Concert of the Year for a live performance of her compositions for the HBO miniseries 'Chernobyl'. The German prize for classical music sits proudly alongside her Academy Award and her Golden Globe for Best Original Score (Joker), her Grammy for Best Score Soundtrack (Chernobyl) and her World Soundtrack Award for Television Composer of the Year (Chernobyl). Also honoured at the Ópus Klassik awards was pianist Víkingur Heiðar Ólafsson, who won the award for Best Solo Pianist for his album of reinterpreted works by Debussy and Rameau. JD



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Skjaldborg - Icelandic Documentary Festival ★

September 18th-20th - Bió Paradís

This year's Skjaldborg, the Icelandic Documentary Festival, will finally take place at Bió Paradís, after its initial postponement from July. Thirteen films will be premiered at the festival and seven works in progress will be presented. Skjaldborg's guest of honour this year is Hrafnhildur Gunnarsdóttir. The program offered at Bió Paradís is almost

unchanged from the initially planned Skjaldborg, which explores international documentary filmmaking and serves as an important discourse for works in progress. The Icelandic documentaries premiering at the festival compete for the coveted audience award Einarinn and the Ljósastarinn grand jury award. The award winning films have been known to later be nominated for an Edda (Iceland's answer to the Oscars). **CM**



Queer Classical Music Concert ★

Sep. 26th - 16:00 - Harpa - 1,000 ISK

The concert features and celebrates many of the world's leading queer composers and their achievements. Including works by Tchaikovsky, Poulenc, Britten and Sondheim, as well as the French baroque composer Jean-Baptiste Lully and the rarely performed English composer Ethel Smyth. **CM**



Epicycle II: Gyða Valtýsdóttir ★

Sep. 23rd - 21:00 - Harpa - 4,500 ISK

Along with a group of renowned musicians, composer Gyða Valtýsdóttir promises a unique concert, intertwining the ancient and the new through varying musical arrangements of composers like Hildegard von Bingen and French mystic Olivier Messiaen meet contemporary Icelandic music artists. **CM**



Vikingur Ólafsson

October 9th, 10th & 11th - 20:00 - Harpa - 4,900-9,900 ISK

The renowned pianist will take the stage at the Reykjavik Arts Festival, performing the works of Claude Debussy and Jean-Philippe Rameau. Vikingur's forthcoming solo album will be released by Deutsche Grammophon in the spring. **CM**

September11th—October 9th

Concerts & Nightlife

Events listed are all live performances, shows 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 September 11th

Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Karaoke Party
19:30 Gaukurinn
Sumartónleikar í garðinum #13 Brött Brekka
17:00 12 Tónar
VHS biðst forláts - Stand-Up
19:00 Tjarnarbió
Ævi - Iceland Dance Company
20:00 Borgarleikhúsið

Saturday September 12th

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
DJ Marbendill
20:00 12 Tónar
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Saturday Night Comedy Show
21:00 Secret Cellar
Harpa Guided Tour With Live Music
15:30 Harpa
Devine Defiliment, Cult of Lilith, Kookaveen
20:00 - Gaukurinn 2000 entry fee
Valdimar - 10 year anniversary
20:30 Harpa

Sunday September 13th

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Stand-Up Comedy Classes (Beginner)
18:00 Secret Cellar
Creative Garden
15:00 Brekkustígur 14B
Ævi - Iceland Dance Company
20:00 Borgarleikhúsið

Monday September 14th

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Souflow Comedy
20:00 Gaukurinn

Tuesday September 15th

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Karaoke Party
19:30 Gaukurinn
Open My Heart/Cacao Ceremony
20:00 Mama
Dart Night
19:00 Den Danske Kro

Wednesday September 16th

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Champagne Tasting
17:45 Vox Home
A night at the Louvre: Leonardo Da Vinci
21:00 Háskólabíó

Thursday September 17th

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Dumpling Night!
17:00 Makake Restaurant
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Miami Karaoke Party!
19:00 Miami, Hverfisgata
A night at the Louvre: Leonardo Da Vinci
21:00 Háskólabíó
Pub Quiz - Boybands!
20:00 Gaukurinn
A Beethoven Anniversary Feast
20:0 Harpa

FridaySeptember 18th

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
★ Skjaldborg
Bió Paradís
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
A night at the Louvre: Leonardo Da Vinci
21:00 Háskólabíó
Breaking Sound
19:00 Hard Rock Cafe Reykjavik

Saturday September 19th

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
★ Skjaldborg
Bió Paradís
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Reykjavik Goth Night: ESA
20:00 Gaukurinn
Jónas Sig
18:30/21:00 Bæjarbíói 4990 entry fee
Eternal Roots in Session
17:00 Prikið

Sunday September 20th

★ Skjaldborg
Bió Paradís
Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Creative Garden
15:00 Brekkustígur 14B
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Stand-Up Comedy Classes (Beginner)
18:00 Secret Cellar
Wardruna
20:00 Harpa

Monday September 21st

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar

Tuesday September 22nd

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Dart Night
19:00 Den Danske Kro
Karaoke Party
19:30 Gaukurinn
Open My Heart/Cacao Ceremony
20:00 Mama

Wednesday September 23rd

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
All You Can Eat Wings Wednesday
All Day, BrewDog Reykjavik
★ Gyða Valtýsdóttir
21:00 Harpa/Listahátið Reykjavíkur

ThursdaySeptember 24th

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Museum Free Thursdays!
17:00 Hafnarhús
Dumplings Night!
17:00 Makake Restaurant
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Miami Karaoke Party!
19:00 Miami, Hverfisgata

DRAG-LAB
20:00 Gaukurinn
Ástin, naglalakk og Spilaborgir
21:00 Mengi

Friday September 25th

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Sumartónleikar í garðinum #9
Glerakur
17:00 12 Tónar
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
The Greatest Showman - Singalong!
20:00 Bió Paradís

Saturday September 26th

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Devine Defiliment, The Moronic.
Holdris
20:00 Gaukurinn
Moses Hightower
Græni Hatturinn, Akureyri
★ Queer Classical Concert
16:00 Harpa

Sunday September 27th

Bókamarkaður í Hörpu
12:00 Harpa
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Stand-Up Comedy Classes (Beginner)
18:00 Secret Cellar
Songwriter Night
20:00 Gaukurinn



Monday September 28th

Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Souflow Comedy
20:00 Gaukurinn
David Attenbourough: A Life On Our Planet
19:30 Háskólabíó

Tuesday September 29th

Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Dart Night
19:00 Den Danske Kro
Karaoke Party
19:30 Gaukurinn
David Attenbourough: A Life On Our Planet
22:00 Háskólabíó

Wednesday September 30th

All You Can Eat Wings Wednesday
All Day, BrewDog Reykjavik
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar

Thursday October 1st

Dumplings Night!
17:00 Makake Restaurant
Miami Karaoke Party!
19:00 Miami, Hverfisgata
Hafnarhús Free Thursdays!
17:00 Hafnarhús
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Film Music: Morricone and John Williams - Icelandic Sypmphony Orchestra
19:30 Harpa, 2600/8100 entry fee

Friday October 2nd

Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Icelandic Theater: Níu Líf
20:00 Borgarleikhúsið
Hipsumhaps
21:00 Gamla bíó

Saturday October 3rdth

Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Herra Hnetusmjör
17:00/20:00 Háskólabíó

Sunday October 4th

Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Stand-Up Comedy Classes (Beginner)
18:00 Secret Cellar

Monday October 5th

Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Dart Night
19:00 Den Danske Kro

Tuesday October 6th

Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Karaoke Party
19:30 Gaukurinn

Wednesday October 7th

All You Can Eat Wings Wednesday
All Day, BrewDog Reykjavik

Thursday October 8th

Dumplings Night!
17:00 Makake Restaurant
Show and Karaoke
17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar



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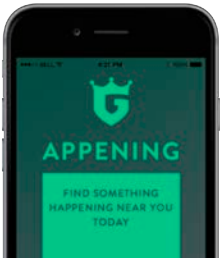
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Davíð Örn gives his all

One Thousand Ideas & One Million Actions

The dizzying cacophonic beauty
of Davíð Örn Halldórsson

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

Arranged on stark white walls, Davíð Örn Halldórsson's newest exhibition "Ókei, Au pair" at Hverfisgallerí is a blur of poisonous, neon colours that wind themselves into symbols, splashes and dizzying designs. On the surface, you could say that the collection is a retrospective of his two and a half years living in Stuttgart, Germany. "I tried to gather most of the paintings that I made in that period, almost like a museum show: 'The Stuttgart Years,'" the artist says, laughing. "But if I say 'The Stuttgart Years' it sounds like 20, right? But it's only two." He smiles.

Labyrinthine wallpaper

But upon first viewing, it's obvious that Davíð's paintings do tell a story of the past, not only of Stuttgart but of the labyrinthine way each painting is made. Each detail of each piece—and there are many, many details—viscerally carries you to the physical action that forged it. "That's an invisible theme of the show," he nods. "[Being in a] certain time and certain place."

This is particularly evident in a piece called 'Balaclava.' Davíð points to a small smudge in it. "They are layered. There is a whole painting that I sanded away to get these small elements that I

built the new painting on, so it's like three paintings in one," he explains. In truth, 'Balaclava' is a hypnotising experience, covered in a series of nearly-alike purple and green symbols, brightly coloured geometrics, primitive spirals and sickly-sweet contradictions. It feels more like 50 paintings in one, to be honest. That said, with every stroke and speck, you can deftly imagine Davíð making each one of those fifty over those two and a half years.

Another example of Davíð's material storytelling comes in the form of a large painting on the first wall of the exhibition entitled 'Waffen und Gerat.' "This is from the walls of my studio. I took down the wallpaper and put it on wooden paints and covered it with a new kind of epoxy," he says nonchalantly.

But, he emphasises, he never had any intention while painting this work to ever cut it off the wall and put it in a gallery. In fact, it was never even intended to be a "work." "[This wallpaper was] where I'd test cans or clean brushes," he says. "That's why I decided to take it down. It was sort of to empha-

size that I'm bringing all of the paintings from this time and place back to Iceland."

A horrible/awesome au pair

But, as the title of the exhibition indicates, where does the au pair come in? To whom are we saying "ok" to? Davíð smiles somewhat cheekily when asked about the origins of the peculiar name.

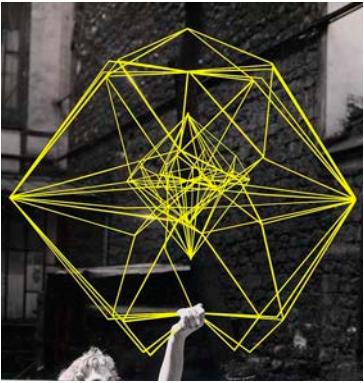
"Every piece has a title but they aren't really that important. They are important to me though," he says. "[Titles] are out of necessity so that makes them kind of nonsensical. But they fit—same with the titles of the show."

"I've never heard someone describe an au pair as 'ok.' They are either horrible or awesome," he continues. "I'm sort of demanding that you find the paintings good or bad, not just ok. And that's why I did 'Ókei,' because there are so many reflections on how you can say it." He smiles, looking down. "I just thought it was a bit funny to walk into an [exhibition] and just say 'ok' in whatever tone."

For Davíð, it seems he desires his viewers to garner their full impression of his works simply through the visual impact of the works themselves—no title or description to clue them in. "What I'm putting forward is one thousand ideas and one million actions," he concludes. "I'm sort of letting people into my visual thought process."

Everything is on display but some things are a little more hidden, some are a little more important. One thousand ideas and... he pauses, trailing off. "Well, one thousand ideas and a few more actions." 🐦

"I've never
heard someone
describe an
au pair as 'ok.'
They are either
horrible or
awesome."



★ **Gerður Helgadóttir | GERÐUR**

September 23rd-June 21st - Listasafn Kopavogur

The exhibition will focus on Gerður Helgadóttir's iron sculptures from

the 50s. As the first Icelandic artist to use iron in her artwork, Gerður was a pioneer of three-dimensional abstract art in Iceland. The exhibition is an extension of the exhibition GERÐUR: retrospective. Gerður's creativity and experimental nature is a motif within the museum and reflects its unique position of being the only museum founded in honour of a female artist. Using iron plates or steel wires, the artist created delicate compositions in space, often with a cosmic reference. The artist's work evolved continuously throughout her career and was often shaped by her various interests. Gerður is considered among the most important 20th Century sculptors in Icelandic art history. **CM**



★ **Gilbert & George: THE GREAT EXHIBITION**

Until January 3rd, 2021 - Hafnarhús

pioneering performance pieces, bold photo-based graphics and anti-elitist "Art for All" ethos. Their style is constantly evolving and pushing creative boundaries. **PA**

Perhaps two of the most influential contemporary artists of the last five decades, Gilbert & George are known for their



★ **Hvammstangi International Puppet Festival**

October 9th-11th - Hvammstangi

The brand new puppet festival celebrates live action contemporary puppetry in theatre and film. 12 productions will be featured, representing artists from nine nationalities, alongside a selection of workshops and masterclasses for all ages, and live action puppetry films. **CM**



★ **Hljóðakletta by Arngunnur Ýr**

September 4th-October 27th - Wind And Weather Window Gallery

The window gallery connects art in Reykjavik's urban setting with the people on the street, exhibiting local art, this time by Arngunnur Ýr, who likens painting to geology. Things get added, taken away and sometimes happy accidents occur. **CM**

September 11th—October 9th

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

GERÐASAFN

GERÐUR Exhibition

The exhibition GERÐUR will focus on Gerður Helgadóttir's iron sculptures from the '50s. Gerður was the first Icelandic artist to use iron in her artwork and was a pioneer of three-dimensional abstract art in Iceland. The exhibition is an extension of the exhibition GERÐUR: a retrospective, held in 2018. Gerður's creativity and experimental nature is a motif within the museum and reflects it's the unique position of being the only museum founded in honour of a female artist.

Her early ironworks she makes with thin iron plates, lacquered in black in geometric forms that build into the space of her sculptures. A couple of years later she created works out of fine steel wires, composing delicate compositions in space often with cosmic reference.

Opens September 23rd
Running until June 21st, 2021

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

THREADS OF ART

The centenary of the birth of textile artist Ásgerður Búadóttir provides a welcome opportunity to explore weaving and textiles in contemporary Icelandic art and how artists have used the versatile medium of fibres: spinning, dyeing, weaving and shaping them in countless ways. Textile is an extensive art form with a long history and a multitude of specialised techniques that generally demand great skill and expertise. Today, textile art is a flourishing field both in Iceland and abroad, with younger generations of artists taking a keen interest in the medium of fibre and yarn, partly reflecting the blurring of boundaries between different artistic media in recent decades.

Opens September 12th
Running until January 24th, 2021

ONGOING

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

Solastalgia

In this immersive installation, explore a mix of augmented reality with contemporary art, multisensorial effects and cutting edge sound design. Enter a mysterious future in a post-human Earth where only a mysterious digital cloud has survived. Do you still have faith in technology? (No.)

Runs until January 10th, 2021

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 October 4th, 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

Electromagnetic Objects

The "Electromagnetic Objects" are a collection of works by Woody Vasulka and 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 [Vasulka]." 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

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 September 30th, 2020

Ásmundur For Families

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

Runs until September 30th, 2020

REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Distance and Propinquity: Contemporary Icelandic Photography

In the exhibition Distance and Propinquity: Contemporary Icelandic Photography, we hear the voices of some of those who have made their mark on contemporary Icelandic photography over the past two decades.

Currated by Æsa Sigurjónsdóttir, the exhibition features the works of Agnieszka Sosonowska, Bára Kristinsdóttir, Bjargey Ólafsdóttir, Bragi Þór Jósefsson, Claudia Hausfeld, Daniel Porkell Magnússon, Einar Falur Ingólfsson, Guðmundur Ingólfsson, Gunnhildur Hauksdóttir, Hallgerður Hallgrímsdóttir, Katrín Elvarsdóttir, Kristinn Ingvarsson, Kristleifur Björnsson, Orri, Pétur Thomsen and Spessi.

Opens September 20th
Running until December

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.

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS

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

Gilbert & George: The Great Exhibition

For over five decades, British artist duo Gilbert & George have shaped contemporary art. At this special exhibition, come challenge the prevailing bourgeois ideas of taste and decorum while empowering gays and other minority groups. What else could you want?

Runs until January 3rd, 2021

GALLERY PORT

Teikn á Lofti

The exhibition includes works by Arnar Ásgeirsson, Styrmir Örn Guðmundsson and Þorvaldur Jónsson, who all work with drawing in various forms and media. The drawings are colourful and playful but also far-fetched and deal with the nightmarish reality of today. In an obsessive way, all sorts of confusing forms freeze out of me. Icons, graffiti, wildlife and figures.

Running until September 17th

WIND & WEATHER WINDOW GALLERY

Hljóðaklettur

Arngunnur Ýr shows a painting, oil on wood and painted rocks in the unique gallery, of Wind and Weather which is located at Hverfisgata 37. The aim of the window gallery is to connect art in the urban setting of Reykjavik with the people on the street.

Running until October 1st

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

Jóhannes S. Kjarval: At Home

Jóhannes Sveinsson Kjarval (1885-1972) was one of the pioneers of Icelandic art (the museum is literally named after him) and is one of the country's most beloved artists. His connection to and interpretation of Iceland's natural environment is thought to have taught Icelanders to appreciate it anew, and to have encouraged pride in the country's uniqueness and the world of adventure to be discovered within it.

Runs until December 31st, 2020

What It Seems – Reality on Canvas 1970-2020

Many painters seek to achieve an impression of realism in their works. But is everything what it seems in paintings made in a realistic style? We don't know, that's why they made an exhibit about it.

Runs until October 4th, 2020

NÝLÓ

Heartbeat

The exhibition Hjartsláttur (heartbeat) brings together works from Ásta Ólafsdóttir's more than 40-year career, from her years of study to the present day. They all reflect in their own way the tireless pursuit of Ásta in various dimensions of reality, especially what we can not touch and have to ignore in today's semester and bustle. The silence, the emptiness, the sound and the emotions, but also the power, balance and other cultures. Power supplies that leave traces. Then the fact becomes clear that man is part of a larger whole and nature is never far away. It is stable and ever-changing at the same time, a reliable travel companion. Like art.

Running until October 4th

MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

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"Now we can bring films to people in old folks homes, people at sea and those who are maybe too worried to go out right now."

María Ólafsdóttir

RIFF & Chill

For 2020, the Reykjavík International Film Festival goes digital-hybrid

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

Make sure your connection is strong and electricity stays running because the Reykjavík International Film Festival is back and this time can be enjoyed from the comfort of your new IKEA sofa. Yes, for its 2020 iteration, the annual cinematic lollapalooza is going online, meaning tickets grant you access to special screenings that can be viewed from any internet connection in Iceland.

film to those outside of Reykjavík. "Now we can bring films to people in old folks homes, people at sea and those who are maybe too worried to go out right now," she says. "We will still have some in-person screenings according to the current rules at Bió Paradís and the Nordic House, but having it online means everyone can still have entertainment."

Viking positive

"When we got the news that we were back to [gathering] restrictions, we thought, ok, we can't fight this, but we're Vikings so we will just pull up our sleeves and make the best of it!" said RIFF team member María Ólafsdóttir, smiling. The group, she emphasises, firmly decided not to frame the changes to their formatting as "Due to COVID."

"No, we said, ok, this time we are online. We were very positive about it," she laughs. "Not COVID-positive, of course. Just positive."

The RIFF organisers, María relays, saw this as an opportunity to spread their reach in Iceland and offer the joys of international

Buses & kilometres

This year's programme is just as diverse as it always is, featuring documentaries, dramas, comedies, horror flicks and short films from all over the globe.

María particularly recommends Ameen Nayfeh's '200 Metres.' The movie tells the story of a Palestinian man living in the West Bank whose son is in a hospital just over the wall. While they are only 200 metres apart, getting to him becomes a 200 kilometre journey.

"Our selection is always varied," María says, referencing a host of other films about everything from a Michelin chef in Taiwan to a portrait of Alvar Aalto. "We aim for something that's enjoyable to

watch, something surprising and something that's maybe controversial. We have many films about people that live on the edge of society, like refugees and more."

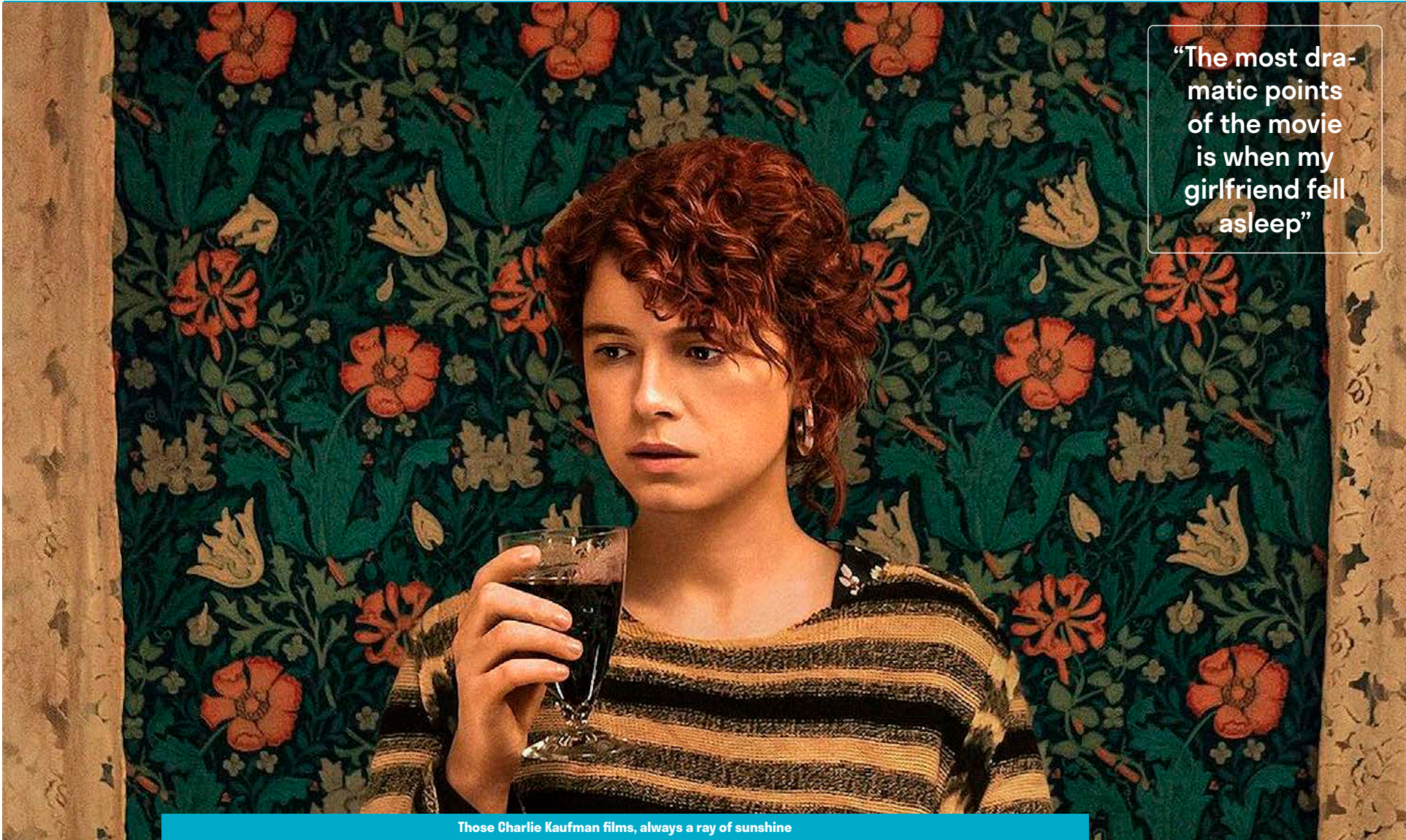
All the classic RIFF events will be happening, albeit altered to fit the new format. So you can expect to catch a half in-person, half online Industry Days, digital Q&As and more.

As we've come to expect, RIFF is always pushing the bar and this year is no different. New on the roster this year is a cinema bus, which will prowl the countryside showcasing RIFF's offerings to those outside of the capital. "During the day, we will screen films for children in the bus or in nearby schools," María explains. "In the evenings, we'll show a film from the programme—project it on a wall somewhere so it can be a drive-in screening." The bus will begin its ride on September 17th—one week before the start of the festival.

The ideal RIFF night

But how does one best enjoy an online RIFF flick? Luckily, María sets the scene for us.

"A RIFF movie night is a good opportunity to come together with your inner circle or family. Maybe you could even make a movie quiz," she says. "Just have a cosy night with a blanket, a cup of tea, lots of chocolate and perhaps a little red wine!" 🍷



“The most dramatic points of the movie is when my girlfriend fell asleep”

Those Charlie Kaufman films, always a ray of sunshine

I’m Thinking Of Ending Things

A Movie Review With A Voice-Over

Words:
Valur Grettison
(or is it?)

Photos:
Film stills

This article has spoilers. I think. Not that it matters.

God, another existential navel-gazing movie from Charlie Kaufman. How should I start?

Perhaps explaining the storyline. It feels like it’s not gonna help anyone. I felt simultaneously confused and intrigued while watching the film; not a pleasant feeling, but I’ve felt worse.

The film centres around two characters, Lucy, (which is probably not her name) played by Jessie Buckley—I’m fairly sure that’s her real name. I know that because I looked it up, and it was disappointing in a way. It doesn’t feel important for the plot, the character’s name that is.

Lucy has a boyfriend, and his name is Jake, played by Jesse Plemons. They drive through a snowstorm to visit Jake’s parents, but Lucy is thinking of ending things. They have dated for around six weeks. Or was it seven? There is a snowstorm. And then there are the parents, brilliantly portrayed by Toni Collette and David Thewlis. And their ages shift as the evening progresses. It probably means something; it doesn’t feel important, either. Perhaps I shouldn’t mention that I didn’t really understand the importance of it.

This is how desperate we have become

The movie is an adaptation of Canadian writer Iain Reid’s 2016 novel ‘I’m Thinking of Ending Things’. That’s basically why I’m writing this review; because Iain is the brother of Iceland’s First Lady and former Grapevine staff writer Eliza Reid. This is what Icelanders do; we claim talented people, even if they’re just innocent bystanders, or

siblings with no other connection to Iceland. But, in our defence, Iain mentions Iceland in the book. This is how desperate we have become. I should definitely not mention that.

Misconceptions

I read the novel some years ago (in Icelandic) and I re-read it after I watched the film (in English). The novel is still great and surprisingly deep and powerful. The strongest point is the elaborated dialogue, the weak point is the weird marketing scheme around the book, where the publisher tried to sell it as a thriller. It’s not. Not really. That misconception still bothers me.

Superficial dialogues

Kaufman swaps out a lot of smart dialogue from the book with his own. Some of it is completely unbearable. Conversations are so strained and superficial that it occurred to me at one point that maybe that was supposed to be a joke in itself (it probably is). It also occurred to me that these characters were hollow idiots who have locked themselves in some tormenting intellectual mind-prison of loneliness (which they have).

Too Cynical

The most dramatic point of the movie is when my girlfriend fell asleep, right before the end. Just minutes before the odd dream-dance scene broke out with some Oklahoma reference, in Jake’s old high school. Her sleeping felt like a judgemental comment about my taste in movies. At the same time, I was glad that she missed the dance scene. She’s

too cynical for stuff like that.

Strike this out

The plot twist is clear in the book, even quite mind-blowing. In the movie, it’s confusing. I have never seen Oklahoma. I’m not even sure if anyone outside of the US has any cultural understanding of that play and the odd underlying

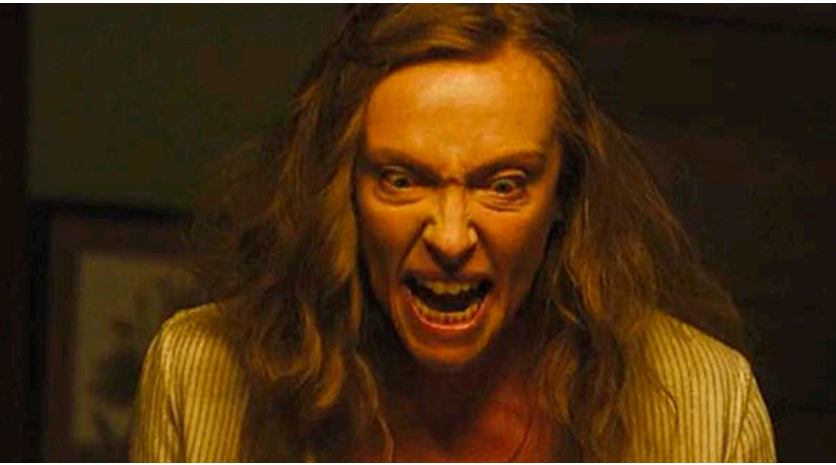
American myth it entails. Or if anybody outside the US really cares.

This sounds too harsh and generalizing. I should strike that out.

Better than 95%

In a way, it’s useless to compare the movie to the book. I don’t know why I keep doing it. Probably because the ending of the book and the film are so unlike. The movie doesn’t really work because of its absurd ending, although there are scenes in the movie that suggest the ending of the book and therefore the plot of it all.

Jesus, how confusing does this have to be? This is an awful review. I should just tell people that I like the film, it’s probably better than 95% of the stuff I’ve seen this year. Then again, why am I saying anything, I’m only a lucid dream in Hannah Jane Cohen’s mind. 🍷



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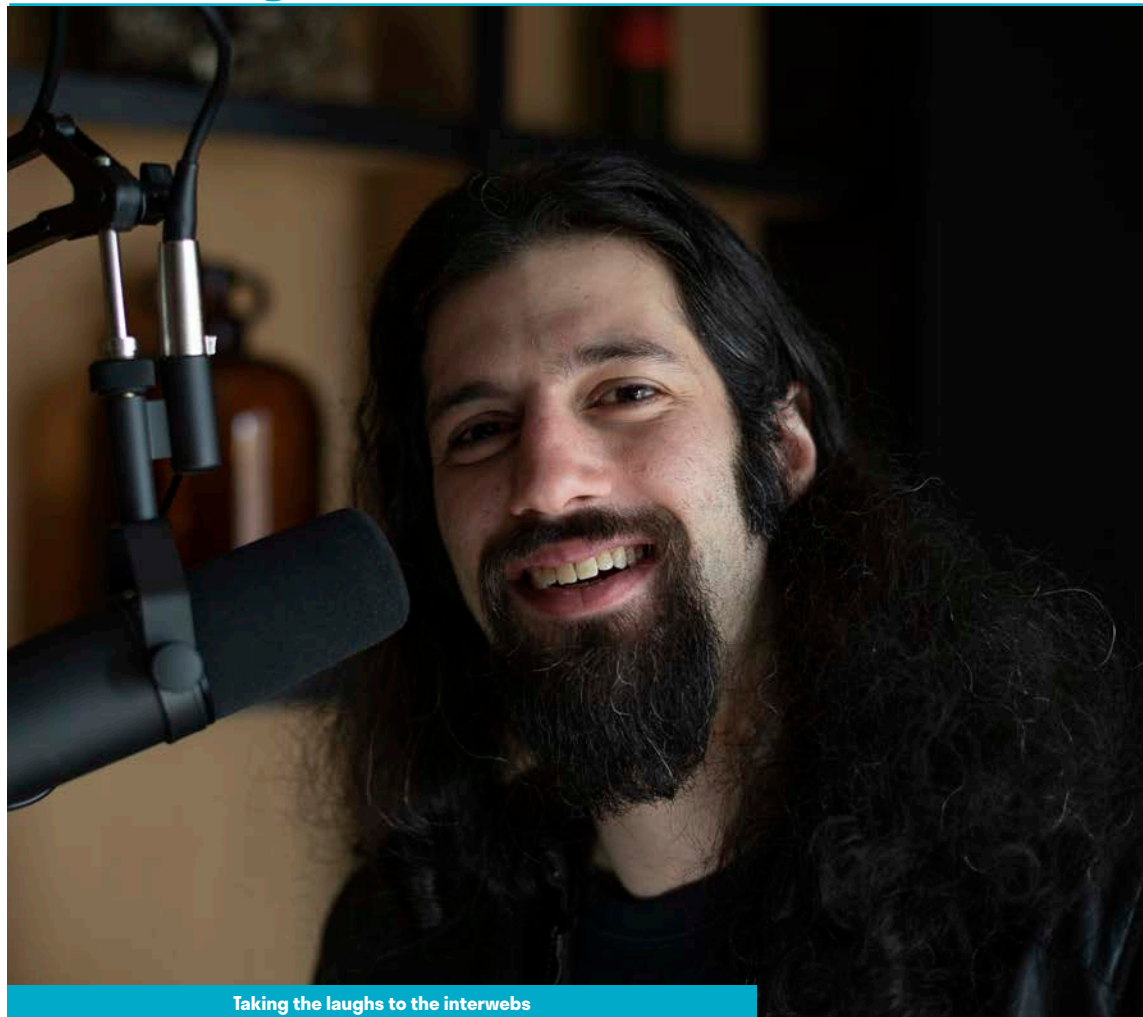


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Comedy

The Reykjavik Grapevine 30
Issue 07—2020



Taking the laughs to the interwebs

Making Light Of Madness

‘My Voices Have Tourettes’ goes digital

Words: **Sam O’Donnell** Photos: **Art Bicnick**

“So the show actually started out of frustration of me not getting gigs,” explains Dan Zerín, the man who conceptualised ‘My Voices Have Tourettes.’ The award-winning weekly event at the Secret Cellar showcases comedy by those who have tourettes, schizophrenia, and other disorders. His voice shifts and squeaks at the end of the sentence—a vocal tic, he relays. Living with Tourettes, Dan has many of them. “I wanted to create my own opportunity.”

The comedian has now turned the hit show into a podcast. “We’ve actually been talking about it for like a year and a half,” he says. “But because a bunch of us have ADD, we never got around to it.” COVID, he explains, was the big push to get the ball rolling.

Raising awareness

‘My Voices Have Tourettes’ started as a standup comedy show created by Dan, Hannah Bryndís Proppé Bailey, who has schizophrenia, and Elva Dögg Hafberg Gunnarsdóttir, who also has Tourettes, for the 2018 Reykjavik Fringe Festival.

The idea was to break the stigma around mental illness in a comedic way. “The first time I saw Elva perform on stage, she made me realise that I wasn’t the only person with Tourettes...and that’s something that I want everyone to experience; that feeling of knowing that you aren’t alone,” Dan says, smiling.

No holds barred

The ongoing gathering ban means the show hasn’t been able to reach the audiences it once did, a problem the new podcast fixes. The primary difference between the two formats is the general tone. “The live show is geared strictly toward the comedy aspect of things,” he

says. “Whereas in the podcast, we try to keep that humour, but we also talk about the serious side of things.” In a way, the podcast can be more therapeutic, he emphasises, because it’s a way to get everything out, no holds barred.

The podcast will feature guests from all walks of life—not just comedians. “[It] could have people who are working in music or a company or something like that who want to spread awareness about what it’s like to work in those industries [with mental illnesses] as opposed to just comedy.”

Even after the tourism industry recovers and the Secret Cellar begins hosting the standup show again regularly, Dan says he still plans on making the podcast. It’s grown beyond a means to perform without an audience in a time of global pandemic. “We wanted to keep something going while we couldn’t perform on stage, but it’s been an absolute blast,” he says. “I definitely think we’re going to continue and see how far we can go with it.”

Never alone

Dan’s ultimate goal in all of this has always been to make people feel better about themselves, especially those that have historically been disenfranchised or stigmatised due to their conditions. Others feel similarly; he mentions a group that is currently trying to change the way people think about mental illness by removing the word “suffering” from the lexicon and instead, simply saying they are “living” with a disorder or disorders.

Dan recognises the goal here, but he doesn’t necessarily agree with it. “I think it’s important to recognise both,” he explains. In fact, that ethos is a big part of what he does with the show. He says he spent such a long time suffering from Tourettes, so much so that suffering began to feel normal. “I would call it [suffering] because I had so many years where my depression and suicidal thoughts were so powerful...I just thought that’s how I felt,” he says.

But since starting the show, he says that pushing others to overcome their own struggles and suffering has put him in a different place. “I would say I’m living with it now,” he smiles. With the show and the podcast, he aims to help others learn to live with whatever they have as well—squeaks and all. 🐾



A reflective moment

A GUIDE THAT
FUCKS YOU UP

A selection from

Every Happy Hour

in 101 Reykjavík

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Android stores



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Wine 900 ISK.

APOTEK
Every day from
15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK.

BASTARD BREW
Every day from
16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 500 ISK,
Wine 700 ISK.

BEER GARDEN
Every day from
15:00 to 19:00.
Beer 500 ISK off
draft beer!

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

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

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

FJALLKONAN
Every day from
15:00 to 17:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK.

FORRÉTTABARINN
Every day from
16:00 to 19:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

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

IDA ZIMSEN
Every day from
8:00 to 10:00.
Coffee 400 ISK.

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

**JUNGLE COCKTAIL
BAR**
Every day from

17:00 to 20:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

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

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

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

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

LAUNDROMAT
Every day from
20:00 to 22:00.
Beer 650 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK.

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

MIAMI
Every day from
15:00 to 19:00.
Beer 700 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK,
Cocktails 1,200
ISK.

**PAPAKU
REYKJAVÍK**
Every day from
16:00 to 22:00.
Beer 690 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

PRIKIÐ
Every day from
16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 600 ISK.

PUBLIC HOUSE
Every day from
15:00 to 18:00 &
23:00 to 1:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 890 ISK.

PUNK
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 890 ISK,

Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

PETERSEN SVÍTAN
Every day from
16:00 to 20:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

ROSENBERG
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 950 ISK.

RÖNTGEN
Every day from
15:00 to 20:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 1,000 ISK.

SÆTA SVÍNID
Every day from
16:00 to 18:00.
Beer 890 ISK,
Wine 990 ISK,
Cocktails 1,500
ISK.

SECRET CELLAR
Every day from
19:00 to 21:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

**SESSION CRAFT
BAR**
Every day from
12:00 to 19:00.
Beer 790 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.

SKÚLI CRAFT BAR
Every day from
12:00 to 19:00.
Beer 900 ISK,
Wine 900 ISK.



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hours in Iceland
left you missing
home? Grab
a stool, some
wings, and watch
a "soccer" game
at American Bar.

SLIPPBARINN
Every day from
15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 500 ISK,
Wine 750 ISK,
Cocktails 1,200
ISK

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

SÓLON
Everyday from
15:00 to 18:00.
Beer 800 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

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

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

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

ÖLSTOFAN
Every day from
15:00 to 20:00.
Beer 750 ISK,
Wine 800 ISK.

Happy hour there
serves up beer
from 800 ISK,
Guinness and
Somersby for 900
ISK, house red
and white for 900
ISK, and 2 for 1 on
cocktails from
2,000 to 2,500
ISK. Yahoo! 🍷

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Ceasar salad -
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Lemon
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16:00 - 21:00
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sandwich

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Vegan option

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and cafe**
Every day 11-14
Burger & fries -
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Vegan option

2,000 ISK And Under

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

Matarkjallarinn
Monday - Friday
11:30 - 15:00
Fisherman's fish
soup -1,990 ISK

5,000 ISK And Under

Apótek
Every day
11:30 - 16:00
Two-course
lunch -3,390 ISK
Three course
lunch - 4,390 ISK

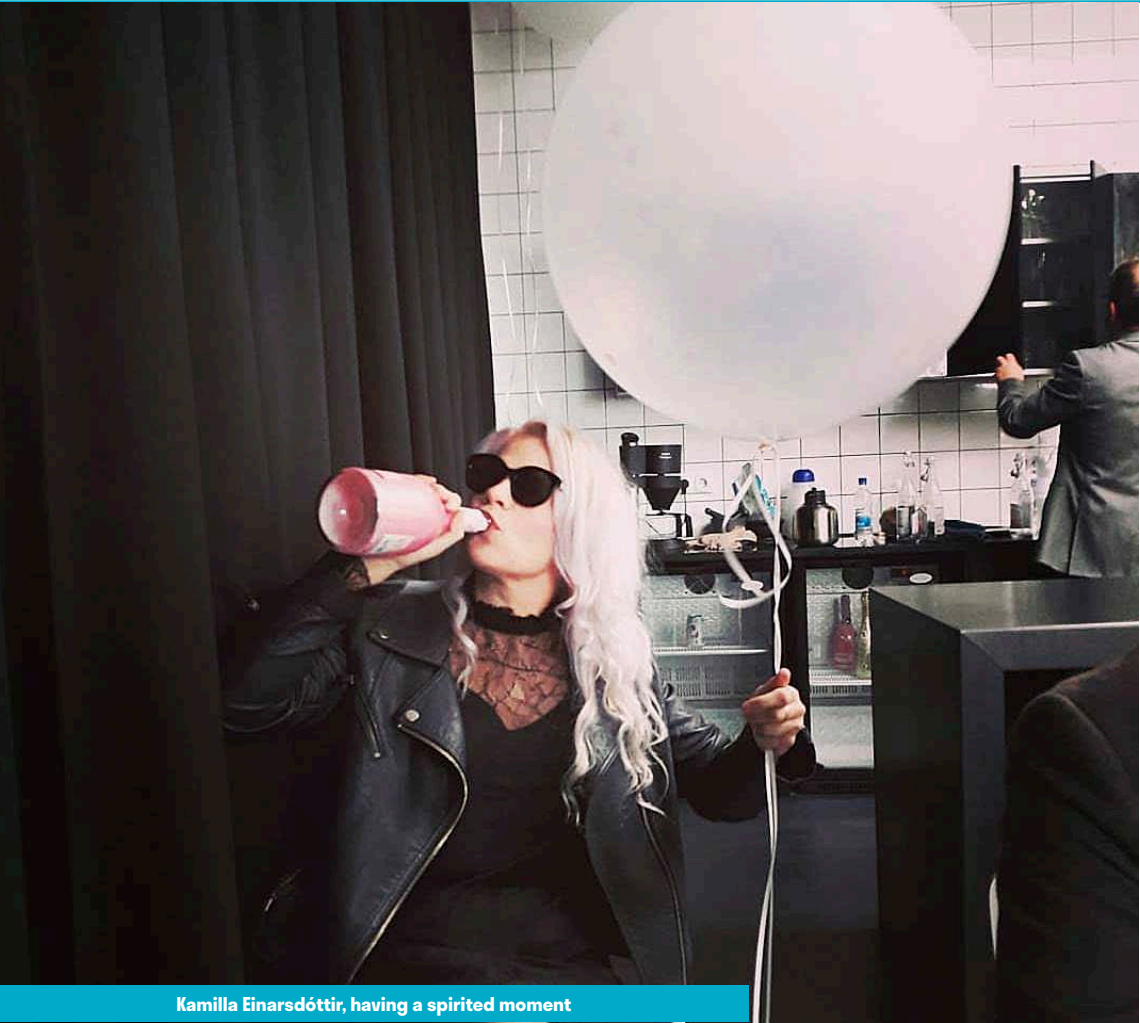
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At Prikið
if you order two
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the buffet is
free for kids





Kamilla Einarsdóttir, having a spirited moment

The Strong Icelandic Female Spirit Through 3½ Books

If your not ready for a hand grenade, castrating sarcasm, and vengeful mastermind girlfriends, you're not ready for Icelandic women

Words: **Valur Grettisson** Images: **Subject's Own**

In the wake of two Icelandic women being slut-shamed over the idiocy of some poorly-quarantining English football halfwits, the Grapevine has put together this selection of recommended stories to help you better understand Icelandic women as a whole.

Konan við þúsund gráður/ Woman at a thousand degrees

Hallgrímur Helgason

This is, to say the least, a controversial pick. Hallgrímur Helgason was criticized heavily for this book, as it was largely based on real people that lived in Iceland. Those kinds of things seem to spark controversy and bickering within small bourgeois societies like ours, even if the story itself is fiction... well, more or less. There is a small ground for that bourgeois bickering. The main character of the book is called Herra—which actually translates to “sir” in English, but is short for Herbjörg—and she’s a stand-in for the very real Brynhildur Björns-son. The story revolves around old lady waiting for her death, telling the readers about her colourful past, which entails a Nazi father, the Russian invasion of Berlin in WWII, the insane harshness of Icelandic women in early 1900 and how messed up life is was for a grandchild of a president. Oh, did I mention that she’s holding a hand grenade the whole time? Trust me, this novel is about the great Icelandic feminine spirit.

Kópavogskrónikan/The

Chronicles of Kópavogur

Kamilla Einarsdóttir

The idea of a fucked up life takes on a whole new meaning when reading this novel about an absolutely lost woman trying to explain to her kids why she is so utterly messed up. To start with, she lives in Kópavogur.

What Kamilla captures here is the brutal sarcasm of Icelandic women that can castrate a man with a few words. At the same time, she doesn’t really want that, so she just drinks vodka at Catalina and explains why she let that miserable stockbroker cum all over her. Hm...perhaps I’m not explaining this very well. The essence here is that Icelandic women are hilariously funny, witty and, well, dangerously sarcastic on top of being weirdly straight forward. This book is a must-read for everyone that has had a failed relationship and suffers from low self-esteem. Or anyone who just wants to have a good laugh.

Ósjálfrátt / Absentmindedly

Auður Jónsdóttir

‘Ósjálfrátt’ by Auður Jónsdóttir is one of those books that can change your life. It will definitely linger with you, slowly changing your soul the more you think about it. Auður is the grandchild of Halldór Laxness, Iceland’s only Nobel Prize winner, but more importantly, she’s also the granddaughter of Auður Laxness, the wife of Halldór. She also appears as a

character at the beginning of the book, which is a fiction, although Auður always writes close to her own reality.

Auður doesn’t shield herself in any way in this story, going through her own failed marriage and the terrible ordeal when she experienced the 1995 avalanche in Flateyri, in which 20 people died. The story also dives deep into the

writer’s relationship with her alcoholic mother.

Besides all of this, Auður has publicly defended the poor Icelandic girls that have been slut-shamed in Iceland and the UK for visiting the aforementioned English halfwits and she wrote a detailed article about all of the stupid things she did before we invented the smartphone. And I am not exaggerating when I say, it’s insane what she was up to. You can find her account at Kjarninn and run it through Google Translate. Even a bad translation can’t damage that article.

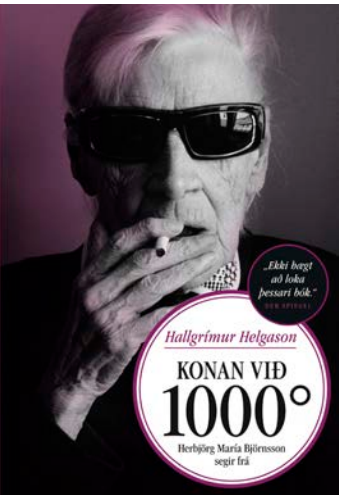
Brennu-Njáls saga/ Njal’s Saga

Well, obviously not all of Njal’s Saga only the part with Hallgerður and Bergþóra.

Women in Iceland have always been strong and powerful—even the Vikings understood this.

Two of the best female characters in Icelandic literature are Hallgerður Langbrók and Bergþóra Skarphéðinsdóttir. Despite how epic they are in their own rights, they are complete side characters in this Icelandic classic. These women were nothing less than badasses and while the thick Vikings were hammering each other with rusty swords like idiots, the women were playing the political game.

This is such a big dramatic story, so, for the sake of concision, I am simplifying things here. What matters here, is that all of



the women that appear in Njáls Saga end up convincing men to kill for them and being responsible for their own husbands’ deaths in one way or another.

Hallgerður plays a particularly big part in the death of her husband, Gunnar á Hliðaren-da. He slaps her around earlier

in the book. Instead of whimpering and falling into silence, she threatens him, telling Gunnar that she would have her revenge sooner or later. He doesn’t think much of it, being the most skilled Viking of them all, mostly because of his spear and his bow, which is notably strung with Hallgerður’s hair.

Fast forward to the end of the tale, when Gunnar is fighting dozens of men and his bowstring snaps. He asks his beloved Hallgerður for a strand of hair to save his life and she gives him only a cold stare, saying “now I will have my revenge.” Of course, Gunnar dies. Some ages ago, this was perhaps perceived as an example of how deceitful and vengeful women are. The common perception of this is pretty simple: the fucker had it coming. 🍷



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

Ástrós Erla Benediktsdóttir

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen
Photo: Art Bicnick

Ástrós Erla Benediktsdóttir (29) is a hair and makeup artist, reiki practitioner, soon-to-be yoga teacher, and counsellor at Samtökin '78.

Wearing:

- Jumpsuit from Reserved
- I have no idea where these shoes are from. I don't really think about brands!

Describe your style in 5 words:
Comfortable. Out-of-the-box. Unexpected. Colourful. Varied. My style is never the same. Of course I have the same clothes, but my state and my being are never the same so I never wear the same clothing in the same way. I also like to blend a lot—both colours and time periods. I'll put something that's very, for example, 1800s with something quite modern. Everything varies.

Favourite stores in Reykjavik: All the thrift shops. I think my favourite one is Wasteland, but I also love Spútnik, Fata-markaðurinn, all the Red Cross stores and Hertex.

Favourite piece: I love jumpsuits. I actually couldn't choose between this one and another jumpsuit from Wasteland for this column. The other one is dark blue denim and really oversized. I wear a lot of oversized pieces—I use a belt to take it in at the waistline. I have some pieces from Icelandic designers that I've worked with on photoshoots, like MYRKA, Yeoman and Another Creation. Another Creation once designed an outfit for me for a movie premiere that I was working on, that's one of my favourites, as well. It's a silk jumpsuit with an open back and a tie around the neck. It also has a huge, flowing skirt over the top. It's black with green on it—just like the Northern Lights.

Something you would never wear: There's nothing. If I think about my closet, I really have everything from crazy clothes to very normal ones.

Lusting after: The right piece will come to me. It always does. 🐾

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.

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



Must try dishes

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

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

ICELANDIC PLATTER
➢ Puffin, crowberry gel
➢ Minke whale, malt glaze
➢ Lamb tartar, chive mayo

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

SKYR ETON MESS CHEESECAKE
White chocolate "Skyr" mousse, meringue, raspberries, raspberry sauce

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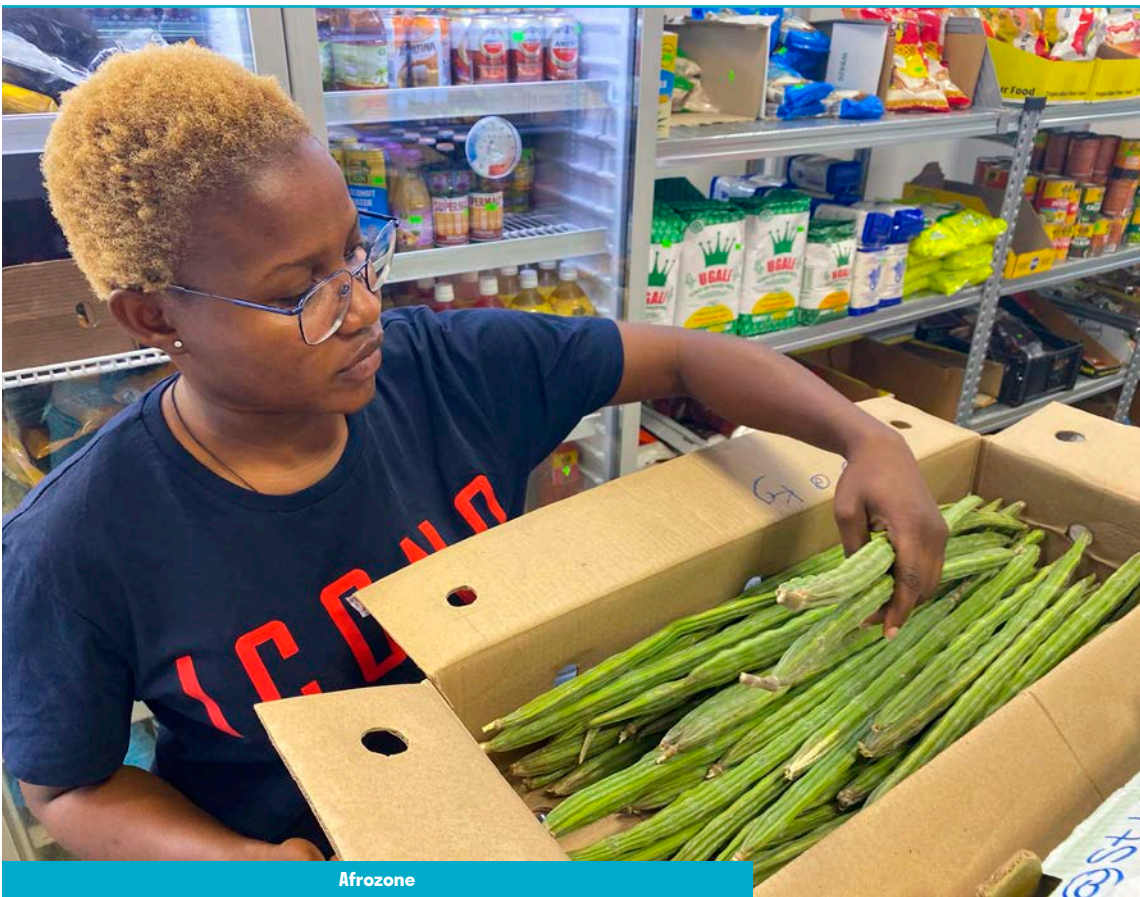


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SKÓLAVÖRDUSTÍGUR 23 • 101 REYKJAVÍK

Food



Afrozone

Global But Make It Local

A comprehensive guide to independent, international grocery stores in Reykjavik

Words: Shruthi Basappa Photos: Art Bicnick

way to shattered notions. Yes, fresh coriander really is that citrusy fragrant. Yes, the roots and stems are to be devoured. Sawtooth coriander is a thing. Shimeji and enoki mushrooms do not cost your kidney. Taro mochi exists and it will change your life.

And regulars, relax. As you can see, I haven't spilled all the beans.

Fiska

Mon-Sat: 11-18, Sun: 12-17
Nýbýlavegur 6 and Lóuhólar 2-6

The grand daddy of all things Thai, Fiska has long been importing the whole spectrum of Thai curry pastes, sauces and condiments alongside an equally abundant selection of frozen seafood. They were definitely one of the pioneers in addressing the lacuna in the limited grocery selections.

A firm favourite with both restaurateurs and home cooks, what makes Fiska tick are their rotation of inventory and hard to beat pricing. Their initial Thai selection has expanded to a decent Indian, Japanese and Korean pantry. In their original Kolaportið outpost circa 2013, they even sold handmade fresh Vietnamese noodles!

From chapati flour, to fresh Thai basil, Fiska's coolers, freezers and shelves beckon.

What I wouldn't leave without are Thai condiments, tamarind paste, good quality fish sauce, bags of aged and new rice (pick from jasmine, sticky, glutinous, long grain, Thai and Indian varieties) and tins of desi sweets and dried fish snacks that can elevate mundane weekday meals. I'd also keep an eye out for fresh Durian, a veritable treat even for the faint-hearted.

Heilsuval

Heilsuval, Mon to Sat: 10-16,
Laugavegur 178

Given the local popularity of Mexican cuisine, you'd be forgiven for thinking there was a taqueria at every corner and that 'Mexican cheese' and Santa Maria seasoning existed only in the dark alleys of a feverish nightmare.

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If you are a new Icelander craving a taste of home, chances are mainstream stores don't quite cut it. But fear not, as Reykjavik's local supermarkets bring the world to your doorstep. The produce is fresh, varied and seasonal, all year around. And if you've lived here long enough, you know this is manna from heaven.

Afrozone

Mon to Sat: 10-18.30
Lóuhólar 4

Catering to a diverse clientele with overlapping interests, Afrozone is both a supermarket purveying West African food products as well as a hair care one-stop shop for Afro-textured hair. Patience Karlsson is the vivacious proprietor and a superb Ghanaian cook herself.

Here you can pick up all the ingredients for fufu with Ghanaian peanut soup. From the cassava flour, to red palm oil (please read Yewande Komolofe's excellent piece, 'The problems with palm oil don't start with my recipes' before you @ me) and peanuts in all its avatars—shelled, whole and roasted are all jostling for space with spice mixes and pastes.

A small but fresh selection of fruits and vegetables arrive like clockwork and if you aren't fast, they'll run out of fresh okra and the juiciest sweet summer mangoes, as I've learnt the hard way. Oblong egg-shell like aubergines, smooth bottle gourd, bright orange scotch bonnets and habaneros, long brown cassava roots, plantains by the dozen (once you've tried fried sweet plantains, there's no going back), tender coconut and whole jackfruit all regularly make an ap-

pearance at Afrozone. I'd also factor in extra time in your shopping trip for a chat with Patience; it's always a good idea.

Dai Phat Asian Supermarket

Mon-Sat: 11-20, Sun: 12-19.30
Faxafen 14

If there was one jealously guarded supermarket, it'd be Dai Phat. Newcomers are intimidated and regulars comforted by the sheer range of wares here.

The observant shopper will notice that the aisles are loosely arranged by cuisine, with Korean at one end, Thai at the other, and Chinese, Vietnamese and a smattering of Indian in between. Chances are you will invariably leave with an ingredient or product you didn't know existed and will come to love.

It's best to build a pantry of soy sauces (dark, light, sweet and sticky), black vinegar and coconut vinegar for dumplings and fiery vindaloo. Be sure to pick up at least two jars of Lao Gan Ma crispy chilli oil, as old Chinese legend has it that failing to do so will invite bad luck—with 2020 going the way it has, well, you've been warned. There's also a universe of instant noodles, fermented Korean chilli pastes and a wonderful selection of dried foods, from papery white teeny shrimp to cloves of dried lily buds (both add a delightful crunch).

From the freezer, choose from chive pancakes, dumplings that surpass your feeble attempts at home (wrappers for the masochistic home cook are also available) and tropical fruit and veggies to free you from the horrors of Bónus' melons.

The coolers are another door-



Istanbul Market

Heilsuval offers a wide variety of products from across Latin America. From Peruvian aji to Mexican ancho chilies, and from Brazilian Sazon to Argentinian Yerba Maté, Heilsuval has you covered and some.

What's impressive is in its showcasing of distinct Latin American cuisines and cultures, Heilsuval does not peddle the 'any chilli will do' trope, nor does it consider special requests for products they don't yet stock cumbersome. Such is their dedication that discussions about tamales led him to sourcing speciality tamale flour!

When in Heilsuval, I strongly recommend you abandon restraint and pile your cart with chocolate de mesa (unconched chocolate roundels that are proof that hot chocolate is indeed food of the Gods), El Yucateco salsas, fresh tortillas and sodas from seemingly all of South America.

Burn your recipes for Mexikósk kjúklingasúpa and let Heilsuval show you the way.

Istanbul Market

Istanbul Market, Mon to Sat: 10-19, Grensásvegur 10

Long before MS was caught with its feet in feta nee feti, Istanbul Market has been broadening our palates, one saline block of sheep's milk feta at a time. For everything Turkish and a slice of the Levant, this is your one-stop spot.

There are assorted peppers all year around—pale yellow wax peppers, their bellies waiting to be

stuffed or fried, and green bell peppers that bear no hint of bitterness, perfect with grilled meats. Fall sees the arrival of fragrant quince, each one larger than my fist, perfect for poaching. There are chestnuts to be roasted and whole walnuts for languorous coffee come winter. Summers are for sweet, sandy grained watermelon. If sad, past their prime Bónus melons are all you've ever had, better prepare to be blown away.

Linger at the cooler and kaymak, gossamer thin filo and various sausages wink at you. Turn around for a variety of pickles, lentils and Turkish delight. There are silvery Turkish tea sets, and long flat swords to grill late summer kebabs. Do not leave without a bag of barberries, (essential for polov) and tubs of halva.

Mið austurlanda Markaðurinn

Lóuhólar 2

Two years ago, I walked into a nameless store after my usual haul at Fiska, drawn in by the bags of rice lined up against the wall. On asking what the name of the store would be, the young man behind the counter shook his head in dismay and wondered aloud what a mouthful 'Mið austurlanda Markaður' would be. Looks like his sibling vetoed him after all. The straightforward name lends to its wares well.

The no-frills store stocks dates, olives, steamed rice (for long grained pulavs and tahdig), dried fragrant herbs and entire shelves

dedicated to tea. And chillies. Think gentle heat of the pul biber, smoky chocolatey notes of dark Urfa rubbed with oil and the now hard to find Aleppo pepper. A simple bowl of yoghurt, humble eggs and chopped salad become more than the sum of their parts with a sprinkle of this magic dust.

Vietnamese Supermarket

Mon to Fri: 11-18, Sat-Sun: 12-18 Suðurlandsbraut 6 and Bankastræti 11

This supermarket has consistently offered fresh produce and I often run there to assuage the déjà-vú that plagues Icelandic mainstream chains (ever noticed that regardless of the season the cucumbers, bell peppers and mushrooms don't even budge from their shelf locations?).

Yard long beans are almost always available. Fresh leafy greens are more than just kale. There are bags of moringa leaves, slender stalks of morning glory, red and green amaranth, winged beans, aubergines purple and long, round and white, fresh mustard leaves, raw papaya and fiery chillies waiting to be braised, stir-fried or pickled.

There are multiple shelves dedicated to the wonder that is rice and various types of rice paper and rice flours for every occasion (sticky, glutinous; for Banh Xeo to Banh Cuon and everything in between), plus canned goods and various noodles for every cuisine. 🍵



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AWARDS

JimClaudia2016
Reviewed 1 week ago
Authentic Thai Food
I am surprised at the poor reviews because during our visit in August the service and food were both great. Maybe because we just arrived just before they opened at 6?
Actually, in hindsight, I am glad we did not read the reviews because we were so pleased with our meal and we were able to have lengthy conversations with both the owner and staff.
Show less
Date of visit: August 2019

Value **Service**
Food

Travel

Okay, Is This A Rock Or A Troll?

Hunting For Mythical Creatures In The Furthest North

Words: Catherine Magnúsdóttir Photos: Art Bicnick



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Hat? Check. Parka? Check. Gloves? Check. Some people might tell you that September is still technically summer. Some people would be wrong—at least when talking about Iceland. So, what can we do instead of sunbathing? How about some troll hunting?

North Of The Wall

The flow of tourists is already starting to ebb in Iceland, not that it was ever more than a trickle this summer. The wind and drizzle are also doing their best to make the indoors look more enticing, promising comfort, safety from the elements and maybe a hot beverage to warm up with, while snuggling on a couch with a cozy blanket. If you're a wuss.

How about a trip to the northernmost town in Iceland instead? Luckily, I still have the opportunity to travel to the furthest regions of the island, thanks to it being sort of a part of my job. But what to do so far up north? Sure, the view from the car seat will be great, through mountains and along the sides of cliffs, but how much entertainment can there be in the little fishing villages we're set to visit? Depends on what you're looking for I'd say. And what I'm searching for is

famous for avoiding the sun. That's right, I'm about to hunt some trolls.

Trollus Rockeronis

A typical Icelandic troll tends to be quite a grumpy fellow, sometimes suffering from noise sensitivity and having the occasional craving for human flesh. They also have a pretty severe allergy to sunlight. Our skin problems are nothing compared to the constant threat of turning to solid stone as soon as they're hit with the slightest dose of vitamin D. Iceland has a lot of folklore surrounding these guys, with some trolls coming off more benevolent than others. I've made it my mission to find at least some remnants of the tales, while also enjoying the breathtaking landscapes of the wild north.

Over The Misty Mountains

The journey starts out early, as the Grapevine's faithful cameraman Art Bicnick and I drive from Reykjavik through the never-ending Hvalfjörður, to Borganes for some much-needed coffee and stopping occasionally for a particularly nice shot of a mountain. The weather starts out fine enough, with some sunshine

making the strong winds more tolerable as we get closer and closer to our destination. Soon we're headed into the grey mist, not knowing what awaits us on the other side.

Our first major stop is at Húnafljörður, along a windy coastline, down a cliff until we're standing right in front of what is supposed to be the remnants of a troll. The big rock, just a few meters into the sea is known as Hvítserkur, which roughly translates to "white coat." Fitting as it's coated in white bird poo. That's apparently what you get for trying to smash a monastery for ringing its bell and then getting hit by the morning sun.

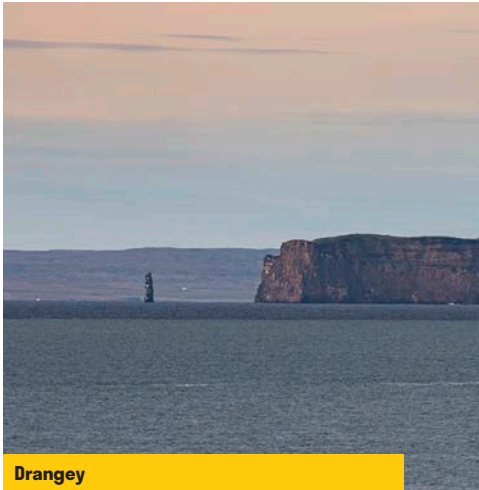
It's To Die For

The northern coastline offers an impressive view over the North Atlantic despite the drizzle. If anything, the gloomy weather adds more atmosphere. The part I'm probably the least fond of is the mountain tunnel we have to travel on our way in to Siglufjörður. It's a single lane for nearly a kilometer. A car coming up in front of us has to drive into one of the spaces carved into the shoulder every few meters. I hate every second of it. And I don't even consider myself claustrophobic.

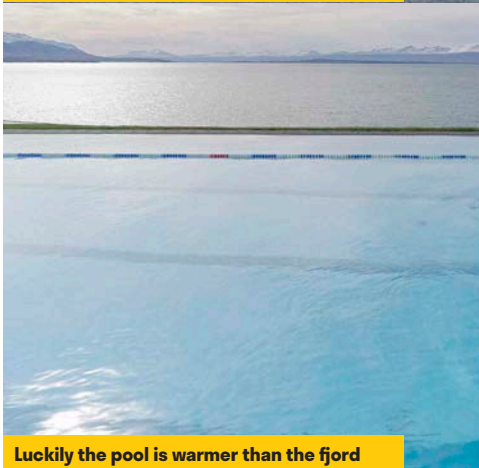
Once that ordeal has passed, we enter the historic village that started out as a hub for fishing sharks, then enjoyed an era of herring and became the show place for some more modern dark tales. In the shadow of the mountains and surrounded by cute wooden fishing houses, fictional murder has also made its home. Author Ragnar Jónasson made Siglufjörður the setting for his literary Dark Iceland series and a lot of the crime series "Trapped" ("Ófærð") was filmed here.

Pool With A View

As remote as the little fishing village is, it sure has its charm. The Siglunes Guesthouse we're staying at not only offers coziness but also Moroccan cuisine by master-chef, Jaouad Hbib, who built the reputation of the restaurant and changes up the menu daily. I honestly doubt that I'll find such a



Drangey



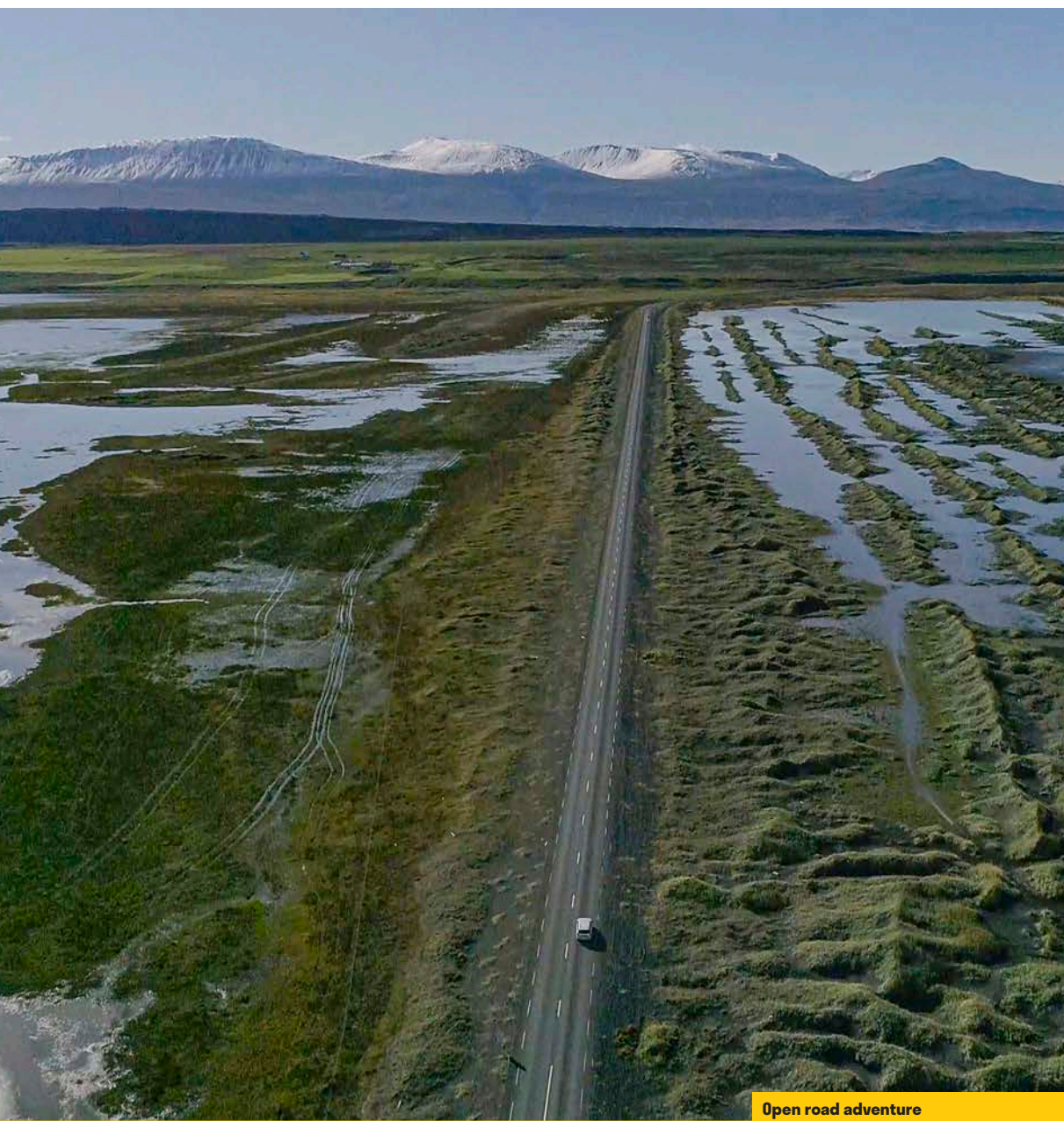
Luckily the pool is warmer than the fjord

symphony of spices again in Iceland anytime soon. Our second day in the north is thankfully sunnier and we can watch the sun slowly rise over the mountains. We head out—back through the cursed tunnel—and stop at Hofsós for a dip in a swimming pool overlooking Skagafjörður. In the fjord, I can also spot the small islands Drangey and Málmei, which both have troll stories connected to them.

Drangey is said to have been a big cow that was led by trolls when they all got hit by the morning sun. Málmei is even said to be cursed! Apparently married couples should not live on the island for more than 20 years, lest the wife mysteriously disappear and possibly turn into a troll. Though perhaps you should simply not isolate your spouse on a rock in the ocean. It might lead to some marital friction... even if the northern landscape of Iceland is breathtakingly gorgeous. 🍷



Early morning autumn walk in Siglufjörður



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WELL, YOU ASKED



Holy B., Spitting And The Best Generation

Words: Valur Grettisson

What was the best ever music happening in Iceland?

The answer is simple, the “Krútt” (cute) generation. But don’t call them that to their face, they might spit in your face. Just call them the indie scene. We have brilliant bands from that generation, like Sigur Rós, Múm, FM Belfast and of course, our Oscar-winning musician, Hildur Guðnadóttir. Other generations suck.

Is spitting in someone’s face now akin to attempted murder?

Well, it depends. Do you have COVID-19 and you knew about it when you spit in another person’s face? Then the answer would be, not really. But it’s probably a felony. And you would be the asshole of the week. And good luck living with that guilt for the rest of your life. But if it was the Krútt generation that did the spitting, you probably had it coming.

Who was the last famous person that you met in Downtown Reykjavík

It’s actually Helgi Björns, or Holy B as we call him at the office. He’s a legendary Icelandic musician and actor and one of the key cultural figures in the COVID-19 pandemic that kept bringing live music straight to people’s homes through his hit show, Home With Helgi Björns. But before that, I actually crossed paths with Björk, but you didn’t really ask about that, now did you? 🍷

HORROR-SCOPES

We Get It, Scorpio, You Love Halloween

What to do when the world is upside-down? Turn to the stars, of course.

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine

In Horror-Scopes, the Grapevine’s dedicated team of amateur astrologists give you their mystical insights on how to live a long and fulfilling life. Think of us as psychic grandmas. We love you.



Aries

Your TikTok game is perfect, but maybe wait til you get home to make them. Your co-workers are getting increasingly uncomfortable watching you recording yourself silently point-



Taurus

We know it’s embarrassing that you once clogged someone’s toilet and then tried to cover it up by putting your poo in their cat’s litter box, but take heart: it’s also pretty hilarious.



Gemini

It’s OK to block a family member sharing QAnon content. NB: Applies to all signs.



Cancer

Autumn is in the air and you know what that means, Cancer? That’s right: time to make a list of things you are totally going to do to get the most out of the season and then promptly forget about it.



Leo

Never. Stop. Posting. Photos. Of. Your. Cat. Your chonky floof is adorable and anyone annoyed by photos of them doesn’t belong in your life.



Virgo

Have you festooned your home with gourds, put out the cinnamon-heavy potpourri and bought yourself litres of apple cider? What are you waiting for??



Libra

Yes, you do deserve to buy yourself a new pair of tights. Maybe even five pairs. And why not? You earned it.



Scorpio

“Woooo, it’s almost Spooky Season!!” you post on Facebook “Time to get spooooooky!” You share memes about how no one can handle how much you love Halloween. You make it a point to mention your love of Halloween to your friends, every day, tickling your little pumpkin earrings coyly. You remind your co-workers that you, in fact, think

Halloween is the best holiday of all, wondering why they don’t act shocked and scandalised by this totally innocuous opinion. Dial it back a bit, babe.



Sagittarius

Hey, you know, you can actually enjoy the autumn. You’re not a little kid anymore, when the approach of autumn meant having to go back to the grind of school. You grind 365 days a year at your job, now. Cheer up!



Capricorn

This is totally going to be your year, Capricorn. Let no one tell you different.



Aquarius

Yes, you totally should write down on a piece of paper all the shows you intend to marathon on your favourite streaming sites. If not, you’re going to forget them.



Pisces

Has anyone told you that you have great taste in music? No? Well their opinion doesn’t count. They don’t appreciate 100 Gecs the way you do, you supreme connoisseur of music you. 🍷



CITY SHOT by Art Bicnick

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LAST WORDS

Iceland v. England

Words: **Jess Distill**


When the world first started to take Covid-19 seriously, the British Government was notoriously slow to react. Mandatory lockdown was implemented a few weeks after most other countries had been put into quarantine and eased much earlier than everyone thought was safe. All the while, much of the British public has been very vocal about their anger towards the Government's lack of urgency surrounding the pandemic.

Iceland, on the other hand, managed to get a grasp on the situation pretty quickly. And the public didn't need to be forced into their homes. Nor did they need to be told what they should do and when they should do it. They simply did it, knowing that quarantine would slow the rate of infection.

In fact, one could be forgiven for forgetting that Covid-19 is even a thing whilst in Iceland (please don't forget—it is still very much a thing). With no mandatory mask wearing in public buildings; no shops, pubs, restaurants or schools shut; and no sense of panic, confusion or anger, everyone quietly gets on with life, doing their bit to help and doing their best to adhere to what they know to be best practice.

The way in which the Icelandic public has reacted to the pandemic and how well the country has coped with it as a whole is testament to the power of common sense. Before the Government even began to put guidelines in place, people already understood what they had to do. They didn't need to be told that if you can work from home. They just did. They didn't need to be told to stay at home if they might have been exposed to the virus. They just did it. Because that's common sense.

The English public, for the most part, have needed their hands held by the government every step of the way, being told what to do and when to do it and not taking vital steps to help before being explicitly told to. And it's been the blind leading the blind, with confusing, ever changing instructions making the public second guess their individual actions and making common sense...well...not that common. ❤️





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