COVID-19
News: English footballers breaking quarantine

Wither Iceland?
Books: Bergur Ebbi, philosopher of the future

Making Waves
Music: Hekla creates horror atmosphere by bending it

Troll Hunting
Travel: In search of the stone giants of Sílffjörður

THE EVOLUTION OF CYDA

GIG GUIDE × CITY MAP × TRAVEL IDEAS × FOOD
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 centered 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 £1,700 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, is the 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

When you get sick you have a name.

Andie Sophia Fontaine has lived in Iceland since 1999 and has been reporting since 2003. She was the first foreign-born member of the Icelandic Parliament. She’s 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.

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Editor-in-chief

Editorial

Outdated Comment Sections

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In the Westfjords of Iceland, what we call "downtown" others might refer to as "the Arctic." Call it what you will, we just live here.

Keeping Iceland warm since 1926
What Are Icelanders Talking About?

The stories blowing up the comments sections

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine
Photos: Adobe Stock & Art Bićnick

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 Þorvaldur Gudjohnson 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.

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’s strange position on the map may be to believe, yes, homophobia exists, even here in Queer Paradise Iceland™. Iceland’s response to it.

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 city bus drivers would do for a 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.

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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www.icelandiclamb.is
Double Standard In Scandal
Women blamed for young UK footballers’ mistakes

On September 6th, two Icelandic women—Nadia Sif Lindal and Lára Clausen—paid a visit to English footballers Mason Greenwood and Phil Foden at Hotel 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, Nadia 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 asserted ugliness.

The Guardian pointed out that Southgate has gone too easy on Foden and Greenwood, pointing out that “Foden and Greenwood are 20 and 22, respectively, but their youth does not excuse them. They know the rules. They are not difficult to understand or follow.”

Compelled to answer for themselves
Lára has written extensively about the experiences of Icelandic women, Social Democrat MP, Saintórey Vilhjálmsdóttir, issued statements defending Nadia Sif and Lára, calling upon people to stop the wild vengeance being directed at the 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 22, respectively, but their youth does not excuse them. They know the rules. They are not difficult to understand or follow.”

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 favorite 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 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. Fear is objectively the best, but if you’re adventurous and want to try the other flavours, that’s your prerogative. SPD

FOOD OF ICELAND

AB Mjólk

First

Getting Grapevine Merch!

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 initially raised the question of why we do anything at all in GMT. Can asked historian Stefan Palsdottir for answers:

“Around 1900, municipalities across Iceland were allowed to determine for themselves what time it was. In theory, this meant that the time in Reykjavik could be completely different from the time in Reydarfjorur. This didn’t make much difference, as there was little need for a precise, standardised clock at the time. Landsinsdóttir, 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 so in 1958, it was decided to do away with summer time and have one set time—but should Iceland be placed in GMT? 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.

The Reykjavík Grapevine

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Freyr, The Lovesick Golden Boy

The original teen drama

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 Sköll and Hati, a wolf and a dwarf that were 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. Smaller 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 Freyr at the end of the world. But that’s another story.

DEITIES OF ICELAND

Words: Andie Sophia
Illustrations: Wikimedia Commons

JUST SAYINGS

“Hollari or hvalreki en hvalreki á fyrsta ár“

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 rich 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.

Barflies Reykjavík

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

Available at Kaffibírin Bergstobústaði 1, 101 Reykjavík

GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST

IGOR ABRAHAMS

This song does something interesting with fingerpicking guitar, which is something I personally would say. There is a physicality to the guitar that is repeated throughout the song. The effect is a haunting song that stays with you.

BIG MORRISY

This single from BIG MORRIS’ upcoming new album is a dreamy, slow pop ballad that is really easy to listen to. It’s a deviation from the restlessness of 2017’s “Home.” The video is an homage to the 80s with an ancient tube television and a host that talks directly to singer Katrín Kollermagnus, telling her to go to bed. It’s dreamy, poppy, and I can’t stop playing it.

BIG MORRISY

Iris Arins

Now she is going solo. How is that? I see a slow trip-hop song that could be seen all over the world. But that's another story.

BIG MORRISY

Kristín Sesselja

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justdanced.com

There are a lot of emotions going on in this beautiful, soothing song. The lyrics are spooky,或在, and sad. But the music is beautiful, or in the case of this song, haunting. I know you’re mad at all the boys, but I’m going to dance to your song about it anyway.

endlesspiano.com

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THE EVOLUTION OF GYDA

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

Words: Andie Sophia Fontaine
Photos: Vidar Logi

Horse: Mosart
Makeup: Sunna Björk
Astro: Jón Albert
Gyda 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 saw it is evolving to a point where old barriers are disappearing.

"The idea of division of anything, categorising in any field, is something..."

"...that feels that we as a collective are dissolving," Gyda 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 Gyda's oeuvre are likely familiar with her present cello, her mastery of which she evolved a great deal since her musical course of our conversation, this is a recurring theme: not only has she dissolved these boxes. I think the energies and this was the first time..."

"...the next years in my life were a period in Gyda's life and not always an easy one."

"...the next years in my life were a labyrinth and, 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 Gyda; 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 'blissipple.' 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 give up. I was 17 and I felt as if I had jumped so often off some sort of '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 Gyda's perspective, again goes back to divisions: "between composer and performer, the division of the classical world as opposed to 'pop-music,' between intellect and creativity. We need the whole spectrum..."

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"...of Evolution..."

The album that followed, 2018's 'Evolu-..."

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appearance is Ölfur 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 “Evo Lamina,” Jónsi’s contribution to the album done in collaboration with Gýta—the video for which—like so many of the deeper moments in Gýta—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 syncratic 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.”

Gýta 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 to the old life,” Gýta 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. And 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 death of the ego. So it’s like, ‘do I want to pick up that old ego, or move forwards?’ I think it’s at that moment as a collector. 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 things very fast but we are helping trans children. Thankfully society has started to become more accepting of nonbinary identity and 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.” Gýta 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 twin is Kristín Anna, 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.”

As we began to conclude our conversation, I realised I had completely forgotten to ask about her winning the 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 the same level of 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.”

Gýta 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 being very 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. “Authenticity is something I felt I had to work towards for a long time.” Gýta 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 twin is Kristín Anna, 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 discovery and realisation of polyamory would prove to be an epithany for her. “I’ve exploded my preconception of a relationship and it finally started to make sense,” she says. “There are no rules, it’s just common sense to just move the rules a little bit further out—they all had to go to find the ultimate trust and freedom. ...” Polyamory is spiritual...
THE SAGAS AND SHIT

ICELANDIC LITERATURE CRUDELY ABRIDGED

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### Peeling Off The Plastic Wrap

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

**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, yes, 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 too 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 detailed the smacks you should use and pointers and support for ditching single-use plastics on the initiative’s Facebook group, Instagram and Snapchat. Their website also has a list of things you should use and pointers and support for ditching single-use plastics.

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### Soundtracks At Their Full Potential

Film music Orchestras: Morricone and Williams

October 1st - 19:30 - Búðir 
2,000 ISK at the Door

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

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### Blistering Death Metal And Grindcore!

Death Metal Concert And Party

September 12th - 19:30 - Gaukurinn - 2,000 ISK at the Door

Three of Iceland’s torchbearers of death—Devinyl Slaughter, Cult of Lith and Kookaveen—are joining forces for one night to blend various death-metal subgenres and mix some grooves, slams and blastbeats. Vooms Defilament promises to bring some brutal sonic punishment, while Cult of Lith just unleashed their debut album and Kookaveen play their own special mix of grindcore, death metal, punk and a beat. CM

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### Big Paradis Is Back, Baby!

Screening of the British National Theatre Production CYRANO DE BERGERAC

September 19th & 21st

Big Paradis is a proud partner of the British National Theatre and regularly screens selected stage productions that have been recorded live with an audience and specially prepared for screenings in cinemas across the world.

Starting out with James Lloyd’s new update on the play Cyrano de Bergerac, featuring James McAvoy. Experience British theatre like you’re there in person at the newly reopened Big Paradis. CM

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### Blast From The Past: Superman

Violin and clarinet with a blast from the past: Superman, and E.T. The perfect concert for movie lovers and orchestra fans.

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### October 1st - 19:30 - Eldborg - 2,000 ISK

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

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### October 3rd - 19:00 - Gaukurinn - 2,000 ISK

“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.
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 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, hanged in a digital cloud devoid of context? Have screens become our new altars? Are we who we are? Have screens become our altar?

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, blinded-folded 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
The 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. “Techno 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, according 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 Ebbi’s 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.
Best of Reykjavík

The weather might be getting cold—Go pick berries activity guide. Anyways, here is your early autumn windy nightmare of pre-winter?

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 cold—well, shitter if you don't want to sugarcane 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 Hósmörk 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 round-ups in the Icelandic papers, yearly sheep round-ups all over the date, chasing some sheep in the evening as odd but fun. You’ll step out water. They described the feel of seawater tub, which is filled with though, the panel praised the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love the hot water—Icelanders love

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 Pompeii bastard.

Art House cinema

Remember, when society had something called culture! Vagadu! Same here. But there is no better way to shake off that idicly happy summer mood but to visit the cinema and watch something so bleak it will leave you nattled 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 Bli Paradis, which will reopen this month, hopefully, but also keep in mind that the Reykjavik 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.

Autumn Activity Guide

Psych! There is Nothing Called Autumn In Iceland!

Words: Valur Grettisson Photos: Jón Trausti Sigurðarson

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 the stunning view of the city. It’s an impressive view of the east of Reykjavik, showcasing a huge mountain, Elljabraut, 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.

Best Pool

Hofudhúsið

Hofudhúsið is one of Reykjavík’s most bustling areas, and probably the only place 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 chartering artists, students, and other locals.

The pool is unique in the sense that it offers up pretty much anything pool 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, philosophies about art, and make fun of, well, everything.

Best of Reykjavík

Best of Reykjavík

Vesturbæjarlaug

Hofudhúsið is one of Reykjavík’s most bustling areas, and probably the only place 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 chartering artists, students, and other locals. The pool is unique in the sense that it offers up pretty much anything pool 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, philosophies about art, and make fun of, well, everything.
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 Hafnarfirður. They have a pool there called Urbæjarlaug, which is very— if this is an adjective— honest, meaning there’s no fluff or hot-toty-ness. It’s been the same for 30 years. I used to go there and I used to suck in the same for 30 years. I used to go there two-day-perfect-day combo. The next day it’s sofa and pizza. A two-day-perfect-day combo.

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 Ágúshá and walk by the oceans so they could pick up shells and poke at the fish. Then we’d head to Isafjordurbær and so I can pump them full of sugary ice cream before returning 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 Sumur, 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 sat 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 shifted at Röntgen.

The next day it’s sofa and pizza. A two-day-perfect-day combo. And Lágmúli 5, tel: 533 2300

Opening Hours - Bars & Clubs
Bars can stay open until 23:00 on weekdays and weekends until further notice.

Opening Hours - Shops & Banks
Most shops: Mon–Fri 10–18, Sat 10–16, Sun closed. Banks: Mon–Fri 09:00–17:00.

Swimming Pools
Sunčíll in the downtown pool at Bæjarinsæt is an indoor swimming pool with hot tubs and a diving board. More pools: www.pool.is

Public Toilets
Public toilets in the centre can be found inside the green-poster covered towers located at Hamreppi, Ingólfsstíg, by Hálfdanarskóla, by Reykjavík Art Museum, Lækjargata and by Eyjafloðsdóttir. Toilets can also be found inside the Reykjavík City Hall and the Reykjavik Library.

Public Transport
G The Map

1. Austur-Indiafjélalagið
Hverfisgata 56

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

2. Gaeta Gelato
Alafraðstíg B & Hilmurmið Mathíló
Gaeta Gelato is owned by recently-arrived Italian transplants with nearly 25 years of experience as gelatisti. Their artisanal and authentic flavours, from blueberry to Puddingmonte 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. Óðinnð
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-light set-up.

4. Valdís
Grandagarður 21 B & Frakkastígur 10
This beloved ice cream parlour—among who has a brand and downtown location—makes everything in-house each morning, and you can tell. If you like licorice, try Turkish Fish. 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.

5. Bastard Brew & Food
Vegamótstigur 4
This downtown drinking hole is something of a bear 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
Billingowy clouds of cordon cordon any month-waiting 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 Matðall
Grandagarður 16
Brandi Mathiðl has an immediately comfortable feel, with various stools, benches and couches scattered throughout 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: Geno food from Spis and friend chicken from KOKI. Everyone’s happy!

8. Vitabar
Bergþórsgata 21
This old-school burger 'n' beer joint is right downtown—near Sandhöll—but feels like a real neighbourhood bar. Its unassuming exterior hides a cozy, no-frills dining room, where you'll mostly be surrounded by locals for once.

9. Salka Valka
Skólabíóstrætur 23
For a piece of good of Icelandic fish, there's no better spot than Salka Valka. The restaurant serves up a steamed fillet in their fish of The Day menu, with the fish options depending on what is the freshest available. They also have potentially the best plokkfiskur in the city, some stellar soups, and quite recently—a pizza menu.

10. Bojarins 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 Bojarins Beztu serves the best one. Pro-Tip: When they ask you what topings you want, say ‘ALL!’ This is the only way to eat it.

11. Mama
Laugavegur 2
to a great leg of lamb and a taste of
There's no better spot than
eat it.

12. Rönggen
Hverfisgata 12
Rönggen 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 Húrða (KRP), Rönggen unexpectedly grabbed the runner-up for the Best Damn Bar category at the 2020 Best of Reykjavík awards. We stan.

13. Lebowski Bar
Austurstræti 9
This fully carpeted bar honouring the “Lebowski” Lebowski (not The Dude), is a nice place that offers two vibes; start the night nice and costs with an artisanal White Russian, and end it on one of the roundest 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 wizz 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 Bimbeshi’ (tequila, rhubarb & vermouth) along with any classic you can name.

15. Port 9
Ygjastraða 9
Though only recently opened, Gaeta Gelato has already won over a crowd of committed regulars.

16. Mengi
Öðinnagata 2
Mengi’s concert room is more white cube than live bar. The programme encourages new collaborations and experimental performances, so even if you’re not a fan 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 cozy and hand-crafted bar is so intimate it makes you wanna spend the day musing on any given night.

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
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-
drinking 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 “ale of the
day” where one can win up to a
tune or a pint of beer with a single spin
while a steady team of troubadours
gather 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—
women’s wear characterised by
flowing shapes made from fine
fabrics with colourful, distinctive,
buzzy prints—Hildur Yeoman’s
boutique also features sunglasses
by Le Specs, jewellery 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 Reykjavík
awards. They have a fantastically
curated selection of books, lamps,
candies and more. Plus, the owner
is a photographer and often has
exhibitions on the lower floor.

22. Wasteland Reykjavík
Ingólfstræti 5
For super à la mode downtown
Reykjavík 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 Reykjavík
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
Núgamel 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
Núprufuglsgata
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 Vegvísir.

Party Every Night. Cocktails!
Live Music. Live Sports Coverage
50 different kinds of beer.
Kitchen open from 11.00.
Ribs - Burgers. Chicken Wings!
WHALE HELLO THERE
DAILY TOURS - EXPERIENCE WHALE WATCHING WITH THE PROS
Music

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 ef-
fort ‘Undir bláu tungli’ (‘Under The Blue Moon’). We sat down with the
artist to learn more about the re-
lease, track by track.

Sól

“Sól” is the oldest track on the al-
bum. I actually started working on
it in 2017 and it’s gone through re-
visions, 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 doc-
umentary 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 you.

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*****
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, ‘spaðar’ 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 Siggi Odds once tweeted,
“Someone needs to do an Icelandic
grime song with the saying ‘Máður
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
“Hattu að hringa í mig” and “Dan-
ing týnist tíman.” Even though
the instrumentals on this album
are a bit jolly, the lyrics are very
melancholic and this continues the
same theme as “Spaðar.” 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 Ice-
lund, ‘Tímann og vatnið’ (’Time
& Water’). The track is just about
the struggle, about forcing things
that aren’t going to work and bat-
ting with your own origins. Origi-
nally, 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 back-
ground and I was inspired by how
Lee’s work mixes them theoreti-
cally and visually, so I wanted to
do that too.

Reykjavík

“Reykjavík” was a B-side on a sin-
gle I did two years ago. It’s very dif-
ferent from the rest of the album.
This album is heavily influenced
by African pop music but this one
is very much influenced by “Re-
demption Song” by Bob Marley—a
folk song. It’s written to my son.
In a small garage on Oldugata, 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.

Hekla is currently making graphic notation to the theremin’s 100-year history. “I wanted it to be...like an imaginary horror movie soundtrack.” 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.

“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 the show. The rest of the album is a fluffy 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 Iceland’s 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!”

Celebrating A Spooky Sound
Hekla Magnúsdóttir harnesses the power of a unique instrument
Words: Sam O’Donnell
Photo: Art Bicnick

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

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Aurélien Robert

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Gaukurinn Live Music and Events
Live events are back!
Now open 17 - 23 every day
Tryggvagata 22, 101 Reykjavík
Kараке Party every Tuesday
Soulfoo Comedy every other Monday
Fri 11/9: КАРАОКЕ PARTY
Sat 12/9: Devine Defilement, Cult of Lilith, Koolkaveen
Thu 17/9: Pub Quiz – Boybands!
Sat 19/9: Reykjavik Goth Night: ESA (Electronic Substance Abuse)
Thu 24/9: DRAG-LAB (experimental drag show)
Sat 26/9: Devine Defilement, The Moronic, Holdris
Sun 27/9: Songwriter Night
Fri 9/10: DRAG–SÚGÚR (drag show)

for more visit www.gaukurinn.is

Music

Gaukurinn Live Music & Events
**Our Picks**

On September 10th: 

**Skjaldborg - Icelandic Documentary Festival**

This year's Skjaldborg, the Icelandic Documentary Festival, will finally take place at Bíó 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 Hreinhildur Gunnarsdóttir, whose program offered at Bíó 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 Ljókastarrin grand jury award. The award winning films have been known to later be nominated for an Edda (Iceland's answer to the Oscars).

**Queer Classical Music Concert**

Sep. 26th - 18:00 - Harpa - 1,000 ISK

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

**Eplýsleyja II: Þykkvibjöðutíki**

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

Along with a group of renowned musicians, composer Þykkvibjöðutíki promises a unique concert, intertwining the ancient and the new through varying musical arrangements of composers like Holberg, von Birgen and French mystic Olivier Messiaen meet contemporary Icelandic music artists.

**Vikingur Ólafsson**

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

The renowned pianist will take the stage at the Reykjavík 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.

**Our Events**

**Concerts & Nightlife**

Events listed are all live performances, shows and Dj’s. 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

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Karaoké Party 18:30 Baskorrur

Saturday September 12th

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Dj Marberndill 20:00 - 12:00

Show and Karaoke 17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar

Saturday Night Comedy Show 21:00 Secret Cellar

Harpa Guided Tour Wlth Live Music 15:30 Harpa

Orkuleifinn, Cult of Lúlið, Konekone

20:00 - Baskorrur 2000 entry fee

Vandard - 10 year anniversary 20:30 Harpa

Sunday September 13th

Bíókamarkaður 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 Brekkustíður 14B

All - Iceland Dance Company 20:00 Bókamarkaður í Hörpu

Monday September 14th

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Show and Karaoke 18:30 Baskorrur

Talvelfari 19:00 Hard Rock Cafe Reykjavik

Tuesday September 15th

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Show and Karaoke 17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar

Harpa - 4,500-9,900 ISK

Wednesday September 16th

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Show and Karaoke 17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar

Champagne Tasting 17:00 Your Home

A night at the Louvere: Leonardo Da Vinci 21:00 MakoKlóðulóð

Thursday September 17th

Bíókamarkaður 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 Louvere: Leonardo Da Vinci 21:00 MakoKlóðulóð

Pub Quiz - Boybands! 20:00 Baskorrur

A Bohemian Anniversary Feast 20:00 Harpa

Friday September 18th

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Skjaldborg Bíó Paradís

Show and Karaoke 17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar

A night at the Louvere: Leonardo Da Vinci 21:00 MakoKlóðulóð

Breaking Sound 19:00 Hard Rock Cafe Reykjavik

Saturday September 19th

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Bíó Paradís

Show and Karaoke 12:00 Harpa

Ryumjokk Goðh. ESD 20:00 Baskorrur

Jónas Sigurðsson 18:30/21:00 Bæjarbólíd 4990 entry fee Eternal Roots in Session 17:00 Priðkók

Sunday September 20th

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Show and Karaoke 12:00 Harpa

Creative Garden 18:00 Bókabíó 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

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Show and Karaoke 12:00 Harpa

Champagne Tasting 17:00 Your Home

A night at the Louvere: Leonardo Da Vinci 21:00 MakoKlóðulóð

Tuesday September 22nd

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Show and Karaoke 17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar

Dart Right 19:00 Den Danske Kro

Karaoké Party 19:30 Baskorrur

Open My Heart/Cacao Ceremony 20:00 MakoKlóðulóð

Wednesday September 23rd

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Show and Karaoke 12:00 Harpa

All You Can Eat Wings Wednesday All Day, BrewDog Reykjavik

Syðra Valtýsdóttir 21:00 Harpa/Listahátið Reykjavík

Thursday September 24th

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Museum Free Thursdays! 17:00 Harpafræði

Dumpling Night 17:00 Makake Restaurant

Show and Karaoke 17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar

Miami Karaoke Party! 19:00 Miami, Hverfisgata

DDB-LÍB 20:00 Baskorrur

Astríð, Naglaklók og Spilaðurborg 21:00 Mängi

Friday September 25th

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Sumartónleikar í gærnum #9 Gleruzick 17:00 12 Tónar

Show and Karaoke 17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar

The Greatest Showman - Singalong! 20:00 Bíó Paradís

Saturday September 26th

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Show and Karaoke 12:00 Harpa

Creative Garden 15:00 Bókabíó 14B

Show and Karaoke 17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar

Stand-Up Comedy Classes (Beginner) 18:00 Secret Cellar

Songwriter Night 20:00 Baskorrur

Sunday September 27th

Bíókamarkaður í Hörpu 12:00 Harpa

Show and Karaoke 12:00 Harpa

Freem Defilement, The Moronic, Holduris 20:00 Baskorrur

Moses Hightower Ýr beautiful, Akureyri

On: Classical Concert 16:00 Harpa

Wednesday September 30th

All You Can Eat Wings Wednesday All Day, BrewDog Reykjavík 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 Symphony Orchestra 18:30 Harpa, 2600/8100 entry fee

Friday October 2nd

Show and Karaoke 17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar

Saturday October 3rd

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 Right 19:00 Den Danske Kro

Tuesday October 6th

Show and Karaoke 17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar

Karaoke Party 19:30 Baskorrur

Wednesday October 7th

All You Can Eat Wings Wednesday All Day, BrewDog Reykjavík

Thursday October 8th

Dumplings Night! 17:00 Makake Restaurant

Show and Karaoke 17:00 - 23:00 Secret Cellar
Arranged on stark white walls, David Örn Haldorsson’s newest exhibition “Ókei, Au pair” at Hverfisgallerí is a blur of poisonous, neon colours that wish 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, 20½, 2½. I just thought it was a bit funny to 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 put it in a gallery. In fact, it was never even intended to be a “work.”" "[This wallpaper was] where I’d put it down. It was sort of to emphasize 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? David 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 David, it seems he desires his viewers to garner his 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.”
The exhibition GERDUR 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 GERDUR: 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, but grew in black in geometric forms that build into the space of her sculptures. A couple of years later she moved out of steel wires, composing delicate compositions in space often with cosmic references.

Opens September 23rd
Running until June 21st, 2021

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

THREADS OF ART

The centenary of the birth of textile artist Gerður Búadóttir provides a unique opportunity to celebrate 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 spreading of the meaning of fibres between different artist media in recent decades.

Opens September 12th
Running until January 24th, 2021

REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM

Settlement Exhibition
As Viking raids meet digital technology, this exhibition provides insight into Rayjákvík’s farms at the time of the first settlers.

REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - ASMÚDARSAK

Propinquity: Contemporary Icelandic Photography
The exhibition Propinquity: Contemporary Icelandic Photography explores the different ways that photographers have used the medium of photography as the past two centuries. Curated by Ása Sigurjónsdóttir, the exhibition features the works of well-known photographers such as Bara Kristinsdóttir, Björg Þórarinsdóttir, Bragi Pétur Jóhannesson, Dóra Aðalsteinsdóttir, Elfar Fáfnir Ingjólfsen, Súlurur Þorfinnsson Súlur, Hallgrímur Hallgrímsson, Katrin Eiriksdóttir, Kristín Ingvarsdóttir, Kristján Björnsson, Örður Pétur Thomsen and Ásgrímur. Opens September 20th
Running until December 2020

HAFNARHÚS

Children get free entry to learn about Ásmundur Sveinsson, after whom the museum is named. Opens September 20th
Running until September 30th, 2020

REYKJAVIK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Primary exhibition space for all contemporary Icelandic photography.

EXHIBITIONS

September 10th—October 9th

Hljómskeið 27Á
Wind And Weather Window Gallery
The window gallery connects art in Rayjákvík’s urban setting with the people on the street, exhibiting.

September 4th—October 27th

Bird Artist in Residence
Opening 17th September

Johannes 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 adven- ture 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 reality in their work. But is everything what it seems in paintings made in a realistic style? Don’t we know, that’s why they made an exhibit about it.

Runs until October 4th, 2020

OPENING

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

GEBORF Exhibition
The exhibition GEBORF 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 GEBORF: 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.

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Opens September 23rd
Running until June 21st, 2021

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

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

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen  Photo: Art Bicnick

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.

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 format as “Due to COVID.”

“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 Bíó Paradís and the Nordic House, but having it online means everyone can still have entertainment.”

The RIFF organisers, María relays, saw this as an opportunity to spread their reach in Iceland and offer the joys of international 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 Bíó Paradís and the Nordic House, but having it online means everyone can still have entertainment.”

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.

Maria particularly recommends Ameen Nayfeh’s ‘200 Meters.’ 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 prow 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 cozy night with a blanket, a cup of tea, lots of chocolate and perhaps a little red wine!”

THE SWEETEST CENTURY
Since opening our bakery in 1920, we have constantly pushed the boundaries of traditional Icelandic baking methods. Find us in the heart of Reykjavík serving piping hot, fresh pastries made from scratch, every morning from seven-thirty AM.

Not a sweet tooth? That’s OK. Come by for a savory brunch or taste one of our homemade sodas or craft beers.

EST. 1920
SANDHOLT
REYKJAVÍK
Laugavegur 36, 101 Reykjavík  www.sandholt.is

“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
I’m Thinking Of Ending Things

A Movie Review With A Voice-Over

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. 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.
Making Light Of Madness

‘My Voices Have Tourettes’ goes digital

Words: Sam O’Donnell Photos: Art Biencik

“So the show actually started out of frustration of me not getting gigs,” explains Dan Zerin, 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 Halberg Gunnarsdóttir, who also has Tourettes, for the 2018 Reykjavík Fringe Festival. The idea was to break the stigma around mental illnesses 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 industries [with mental illnesses] have recovered 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.”

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 it 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.
Here are some deals that'll keep your wallet feeling happy and full.

1,000 ISK And Under

AMERICAN BAR
Every day from 16:00 to 19:00. Beer 650 ISK, Wine 750 ISK.

KAFFIBARINN
Every day from 15:00 to 20:00. Beer 750 ISK, Wine 850 ISK.

CAFE BABA LU

A GUIDE THAT FUCKS YOU UP

A selection from Every Happy Hour in 101 Reykjavík

Get the complete Happy Hour listings!

Download our free app Appy Hour in the Apple and Android stores

Cheap food

Here are some deals that'll keep your wallet feeling happy and full.

1,000 ISK And Under

Hard Rock Cafe
Every day 15-18
Nachos, wings & onion rings - 990 ISK

Sushi Social
Every day 17:00 - 18:00
Soup of the day - 990 ISK

Tapas Barinn
Every day 17:00 - 18:00
Half off of selected tapas

Various prices

Shalimar
Monday – Friday 12:00 - 14:30
Curry - 1,290 ISK

Vegan option

Salsa Social
Every day 15-18
Chicken wings - 1,190 ISK

“Dirty” fries - 1,390 ISK

Sóló
Monday - Friday 11:00 - 14:30
Cassar salad - 1,490 ISK

Lemon
Every day 16:00 - 21:00
215 Extra + sandwich

1,095 ISK

Vegan option

Uppsalur - Bar and cafe
Every day 11-14
Burger & fries - 1,390 ISK

Vegan option

2,000 ISK And Under

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

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

5,000 ISK And Under

Aptik
Every day 11:30 - 16:00
Two-course lunch - 3,390 ISK

Three course lunch - 4,390 ISK

Kids Eat Free

All Iceländar Hotel restaurants

At Prikid if you order two adult meals

At House the buffet is free for kids

Download our free app Appy Hour in the Apple and Android stores

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A selection from Every Happy Hour in 101 Reykjavík

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Get the complete Happy Hour listings!
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 Gretislsson Images: Subject’s Own

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

Konan við þúsund gráður/ Woman at a thousand degrees
Hallgrímur Helgason

This is, to say the least, a contro-versial pick. Hallgrímur Helgas-on 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 Herra—which actually translates to “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 2000 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.

Köpavogskrónikan/The Chronicles of Köpavogur
Kamilla Einarsdóttir

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

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 Cataлина and explains why she let that miserable stockbroker cum all over her. Hmm...perhaps I’m not explaining this very well. The es-sence 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 ev-eryone that has had a failed relation-ship and suffers from low self-esteem. Or anyone who just wants to have a good laugh.

Ósjálftrátt/ Absentmindedly
Auður Jónsdóttir

‘Ósjálftrátt’ 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 Hall-đó Laxness, Iceland’s only Nobel Prize winner, but more impor-tantly, she’s also the granddaugh-ter of Auður Laxness, the wife of Halldór. She also appears as a writer’s relationship with her alco-holic mother.

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

Brennu-Njáls saga/ Njál’s Saga
Well, obviously not all of Njál’s Saga only the part with Hallgerður and Bergþór. Women in Iceland have always been strong and powerful—even the Vi-kings understood this.

Two of the best female char-ac ters in Icelandic literature are Hallgerður Langbrok and Bergþór 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 ha-dasses 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 Njál’s Saga end up being responsible for their own hus-bands’ deaths in one way or another. Hallgerður plays a particu-larly big part in the death of her husband, Gun-nar á Hlídbren-đa. He slaps her around earlier in the book. Instead of whimper-ing 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 strong 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 Hall-gerður 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 per-haps perceived as an example of how deceitful and vengeful wom-en are. The common perception of this is pretty simple: the fucker had it coming.

Images:

Icelandic Journeys
7 course tasting menu

WE START WITH A REFRESHING SHOT OF ICELANDIC “BRENNIVÍN”
SMOKED PUFFIN with a 64° Reykjavík Distillery crabberry liqueur sauce
MINKE WHALE, smoky celeriac purée, “malt” sauce
TRADITIONAL ICELANDIC “FLATKAKA”, lightly cured arctic char, cream cheese, dill, lemon oil
HORSE CARPACCIO dates, ruco-la-mayo, crispy Jerusalem artichokes, parmesan
LING, mashed potatoes, caper flowers, Dijon-butter sauce
ICELANDIC LAMB RUMP STEAK, parma ham & herb crumble, mashed potatoes
SKYR PAVLOVA, merengue, skyr cream, blackberry jam, raspberry coulis, red velvet short cake

7990 kr.
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 Samtökín ’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 Reykjavík: All the thrift shops. I think my favourite one is Wasteland, but I also love Spútnik, Fatamarkaðurinn, 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 waist line. I have some pieces from Icelandic designers that I’ve worked with on photoshoots, like MYRSA, 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.

Lifestyle

Fjallkonan is a new lively restaurant & pub in the heart of Reykjavik offering a selection of Icelandic and international dishes from local ingredients. Casual and cozy atmosphere yet still fun and festive. Stop by for snacks & drinks, lunch or dinner.

Icelandic Delicacies

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

ARCTIC CHARR & BLINI
Lightly cured arctic char, 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

SKIR ETON MESS CHEESECAKE
White chocolate “Skýr” mousse, meringue, raspberries, raspberry sauce

Must try dishes

Fjallkonan welcomes you!

Happy Hour 15-17 every day
Global But Make It Local

A comprehensive guide to independent, international grocery stores in Reykjavík

Words: Shruthi Basappa Photos: Art Bieniek

If you are a new Icelander craving a taste of home, chances are mainstream stores don’t quite cut it. But fear not, as Reykjavík’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 mana 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 dishes 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—sheffed, 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 tomatoes. I’ve learnt the hard way. Ohlong egg-shell like aubergines, smooth bottle gourd, bright orange scotch bonnets and bananas, long brown cassava roots, plantains by the dozen (once you’ve tried fried plantains, there’s no going back), tender coconut and whole jackfruit all regularly make an appearance 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
Faxafón 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 stir-fry 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 noodle pastes, sauces and condiments that can elevate mundane weekday meals. I’d also keep an eye out for fresh Durian, a veritable treat even for the faint-hearted.

Fiska
Mon-Sat: 11-18, Sun: 12-17
Mývatnselv 14

The grandaddy 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 adding the lacuna in the limited grocery selections.

A firm favourite with both restaurateurs and home cooks, what makes Fiska tick are their quality and hard to beat pricing. Their initial Thai selection has expanded to a decent Indian, Japanese and Korean pantry. In their original Kolaporti 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 desserts 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
Mon-Sat: 10-16,
Laugavegur 17B

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 salsa existed only in the dark alleys of a feverish nightmare.
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! 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 their dedication that discussions about tamales led him to sourcing speciality tamale flour! 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 their dedication that discussions about tamales led him to sourcing speciality tamale flour! 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 the young man behind the counter shook his head in dismay and wondered aloud what a mouthful the young man behind the counter shook his head in dismay and wondered aloud what a mouthful...
Okay, Is This A Rock Or A Troll?

Hunting For Mythical Creatures In The Furthest North

Words: Catherine Magnúsdóttir
Photos: Art Bicnick

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 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 mountain tunnel we have to travel on our way into 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” (“Ófær”) 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 exquisite food but also Moroccan cuisine by master-chef, Jauoud Hbib, who built the reputation of the restaurant and changes up the menu daily. I honestly doubt that I’ll find such a symphony of spices again in Iceland anytime soon. Our second day in the northern landscape of Iceland is thankfully sunnier and we can watch the sun slowly rise over the mountains. We head out—back through the cursing 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 Máløy, which both have troll stories connected to them.

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.

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Drangey

Drangey is said to have been a big cow that was led by trolls when they all got hit by the morning sun. Máløy is even said to be cursed! Apparently married couples should not live on the island for more than 20 years, lest the wife hideously 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.

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?
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 to their face, they might spit in your face. Just call them the indie scene. We have brilliant hands from that generation, like Sigur Rós, Múm, FM Belfast and of course, our Oscar-winning musician, Hildur Guðnadóttir. Other generations sucked.

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 Bjórns, 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 Bjórns. But before that, he actually crossed paths with Björk, but you didn’t really ask about that, now did you?

We Get It, Scorpio, You Love Halloween

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

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 pointing at invisible things in the air.

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. NR. 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

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 spookyosity!” 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 ears oofly. 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 site. 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.
A CENTURY OF BREAKING BREAD

Sandholt is a homegrown family bakery built upon decades of tradition and priding four generations of innovative, artisan bakers.

Our mission since opening our bakery in 1920, has been to perfect the art of a lovingly crafted loaf of bread. Everything is baked by hand with fresh, natural ingredients. Our famed scrumptious pastries are variable by the season and are made with fresh homemade fillings. We are ordinary people striving to create an extraordinary delicacy.

Come by our time-honoured bakery for intensely delicious baked goods, a savory brunch or one of our homemade sodas or craft beers. Find us in the heart of Reykjavik, every morning from seven-thirty AM.

EST. 1920

SANDHOLT REYKJAVÍK
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.