



The REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE

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THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO LIFE, TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT IN ICELAND

Issue N° 2 - February 6 - March 5 - 2009

+ COMPLETE CITY LISTINGS - INSIDE!

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OUR VERY OWN MARTYRS

They ruled Iceland for 18 years.
Now they want your sympathy.


Reykjavik
Winter Lights Festival
SCHEDULE INSIDE

COVER STARS GEIR H. HAARDE AND DAVIDÞ ODDSSON are the wealthy, fat middle-aged guys that governed Iceland into the ground during their eighteen year reign.

After being "bullied out of office", they feel awfully sorry for themselves. 



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What is the significance of Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir being the world's first openly gay head of government?

It is very significant. It is interesting to note how much attention it has received from the international media, while their Icelandic colleagues barely mention it. If they do, they try and go around it. They only really mention it when reporting that it has been reported upon internationally, if you can believe that.

Having an openly gay Prime Minister is very important for gay people of all nationalities. This is why it's causing a stir. There seems to be a shyness about it over here, however, even a form of suppression. Either the Icelandic media has a problem using the words "hommi" (homosexual) and "lesbía" (lesbian) or they find the subject matter uncomfortable. I also think heterosexual journalists often don't understand the significance of her appointment. The appointment of the first openly gay PM is about as significant for the gay community as the appointment of Obama in the U.S. was for that nation's African-American community.

And it's strange to note that the Icelandic media has been constantly repeating the fact that we now have our first female PM, while they don't mention a word about us having the *whole world's first openly gay PM* leading our government. There's something off about the fact – they seem to be almost hiding it.

And I am not sure it has anything to do with how "liberal" we are as a nation. I think it has more to do with a specific shyness or suppression – even a suppressing shyness, if you will. It is a fact that Iceland hasn't had many openly gay politicians, and openly gay people have also been mostly absent from leading roles in society, except for in the arts. Even Iceland's academic community, liberal as it is, it's only very recently that its members have become open about their sexuality. This is very unfortunate, because there are a lot of children and teenagers out there that need positive role models, and while the media remains in the closet about these issues, people will, too.

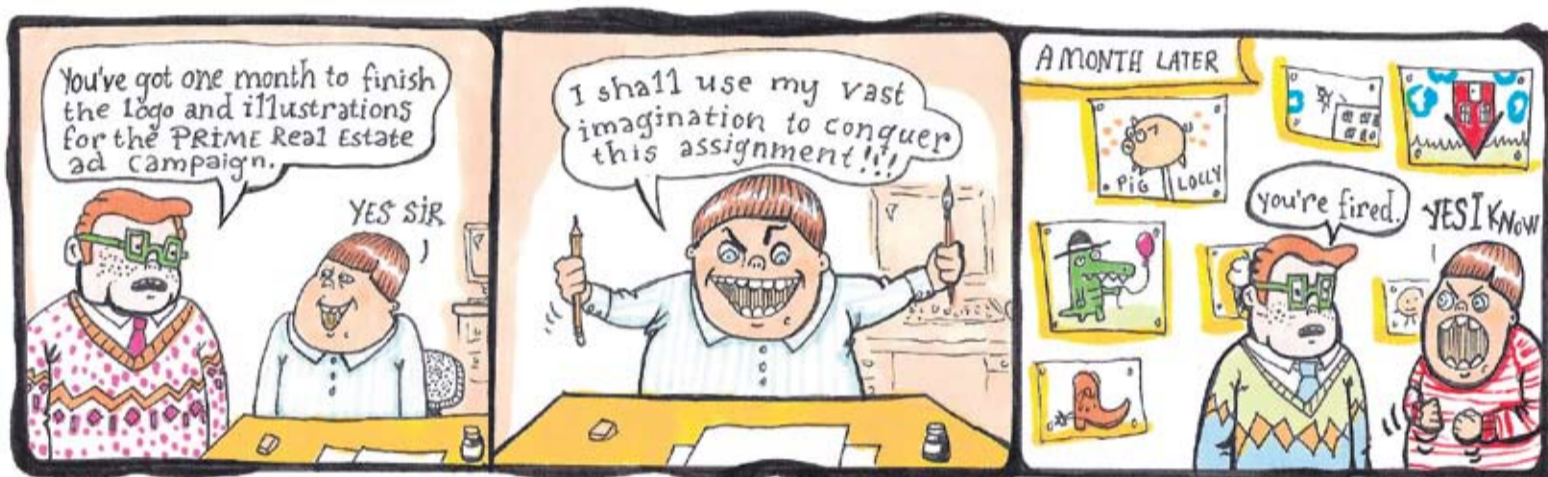
In a way it can be compared to how the Icelandic media didn't really cover the awful position the Icelandic banks had gotten themselves into, unless they were reporting on the coverage of the international media. No reports on the banks, but if the international media reports something, they post reports on those reports? This is absurd. Can't they just deal with matters in an honest, open way?

Baldur Þórhallsson (born 1968) is professor of Political Science at the University of Iceland and holds a Ph.D in the subject from the University of Essex, England. He regularly comments on Icelandic and European politics in the Icelandic media and is a respected voice on matters concerning the EU. Baldur is openly gay.



PM JÓHANNA SIGURÐARDÓTTIR

COMIC STRIP BY LÓA HJÁLMTÝSDÓTTIR



Haukur's 2nd Editorial!

Arrrgh!

Seriously, you guys. I've just about had it. This is enough. Honestly, I don't know if I'm supposed to laugh or cry at this point. Or tear out all my hair. It all seems so dumb and awful. What's a guy to do?

Why the editorial hissy-fit, you ask? Let me tell you.

I was there for the majority of last month's protests. I supported them wholeheartedly, and I still do. They. Were. Necessary.

Here's why:

As we are raised, our parents, our teachers, our community and our institutions instill certain values in us, certain modes of thinking. They are good ones, for the most part; ones that help us function as human beings living in communion with others. We are taught not to lie, we are taught not to cheat and we are taught not to steal. We are taught to take responsibility for ourselves and for our actions.

Plainly put: if we fuck up, we stand to reap some consequences. Thus, if we neglect our chores, we'll get scolded. If we don't study for our tests, we get flunked out of class. If we're caught stealing, we get thrown in jail. If we fuck up royally at work, our ass is fired. It's pretty basic, all in all.

Now, whatever it is that went on here for the 105 days that passed between October's utter economic collapse – that whole royal fuck up theft fail neglect mess – and the first day of protests; it isn't in tune with those values, and it did not reflect them. No one got flunked out of class. Nobody got thrown in jail. No one got fired. Not a single person accepted or claimed any sort of responsibility.

At all.

And what are we, the people, to think when such blatant disregard for our communal values is displayed – by the very people that are supposed to maintain them, no less. While our basic value system is practically being mocked. What?

We wrote letters for publication our newspapers. To Morgunblaðið, to Fréttablaðið. We blogged. We commented on blogs. We made our voices heard. We showed up by the thousands to protest peacefully. Through it all our elected officials, our government and our judicial system failed to respond or even acknowledge that anything was amiss. It was like nobody cared what we, the people thought. Not a one.

Folks were losing their jobs, losing their homes, rushing to the streets in protest. And

for our noble Alþingi's first day in session after their month long Christmas vacation, their chosen topic of discussion was... the availability of alcoholic beverages in grocery stores?

Something had to be done. And something was done, and that something felt pretty awesome to me. Our elected officials needed to be reminded who their employers are, who they're working for. It only took several days of borderline-violent street protesting, some bonfires and a whole lot of pots and pans to stir them into motion.

Finally, our minister of finance resigned, our PM stepped down and the ruling coalition burst. "Ah, someone is finally accepting responsibility," I thought. "Now we only need a bunch of robber barons and bankers to willingly submit their assets to the Icelandic national treasury before locking themselves in jail and swallowing the keys."

It hasn't happened yet. I doubt it ever will. Even worse, it seems that no one, save for that lone minister of finance, has admitted any responsibility for anything. Turns out Geir H. Haarde, our cover star and precious PM, resigned due to a malignant tumour in his oesophagus (and that is of course awful, and we wish him a speedy and full recovery).

He says the coalition government burst and resigned not due their horrendous track record or any act of mass protest, but because his coalition buddies, the Alliance Party, are power hungry (which they very well may be, but still).

Head of Central Bank Davíð Oddsson (the architect of our collapse, and our other cover star) isn't resigning from his post due to his numerous fuck-ups. He is being fired by the new government. And bringing home a nice, taxpayer funded severance pay no less.

Robber baron Jón Ásgeir Jóhannesson's corporation Baugur is going under (another architect of our collapse). Through no fault of his own, of course, or his business practices. No, it's Davíð Oddsson's fault".

Give me a fucking break. A lot of those fuckers even have the gall to claim *they are being bullied*. By protestors, by their political adversaries, by society. Bullied.

Let me reiterate: a bunch of fat and wealthy men, men that have been in power for the past few decades, a bunch of stinking rich, all powerful men that have pretty much reigned over me for my entire 27 years of cognitive existence, a bunch of self-serving hypocrites that had no problems claiming credit for "the economic upswing" that was all the rage last year – THEY CLAIM THEY ARE BEING BULLIED.

Arrrgh!

Covers



Yes! There are TWO covers this month! Collect 'em all.

Cover photos by: Gúndi

Art Direction: Hördur Kristbjörnsson Jóhannes Kjartansson

On Cover Davíð Oddsson and Geir H. Haarde

Masthead

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RE-04 - 09:00

The Golden Circle

All Year

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Don't miss out on the fascinating experience the Icelandic Golden Circle gives you. On this tour we take you to the geysers, the famous Gullfoss waterfall along with a visit to Þingvellir National Park. This tour is a must to make your visit to Iceland complete.

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RE-62 - 21:00*

Northern Lights Tour

Winter

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

On a chilly Icelandic winter night there is nothing more breathtaking than the Northern Lights. Relax on board a bus with us and we will take you to a place where you can enjoy this phenomenon dancing around the sky.

*16 October - 14 March at 21:00 and 15 March - 15 April at 22:00.

Price 4700 ISK

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All Year

Blue Lagoon Express

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RE-05 - 09:00*

Reykjavik Grand Excursion

All Year

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Get to know the capital with an expert by your side. We take you around Reykjavík with a guide and show you the highlights of the city. The tour ends at the National Museum of Iceland where you can see Icelandic culture at its best.

*From 1 January 2009, new operation time: 11:00-14:00.

Price 4600 ISK

Book now on www.re.is



RE-81 - 09:00

Take a Walk on the Ice Side

All Year

SUN WED FRI SAT

Want to see and feel something completely different? Why not take a walk on a glacier and experience a surface that you have never been able to walk on before! Take a tour with us and try something new - a once in a lifetime experience for most.

Price 17000 ISK

Book now on www.re.is



RE-24 - 12:30

Gullfoss - Geysir Direct

All Year

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

If you want to spend your afternoon in the countryside join this tour with us and we will show you two of Iceland's most famous attractions - the queen of Iceland's waterfalls, Gullfoss and the world famous hot spring Geysir. Don't miss out on this one.

Price 8300 ISK

Book now on www.re.is



RE-08 - 09:00

Saga Circle

All Year

SAT

This tour is perfect for all Saga enthusiasts. On this tour we take you around the area where one of the Icelandic Sagas took place - along with enjoying spectacular landscape. Come and follow in the footsteps of the Vikings with us.

Price 17500 ISK

Book now on www.re.is



RE-15 - 09:00

South Shore Adventure

All Year

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

This tour takes you along the sandy coastline of the south with a taste of Icelandic nature. On this tour you breathe in the fresh air on a black beach just before seeing striking waterfalls that mesmerise you while gazing at them.

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Reykjavik Excursions
KYNNISFERÐIR

LETTERS

Sour Grapes

SAY YOUR PIECE, VOICE YOUR OPINION, SEND YOUR LETTERS TO LETTERS@GRAPEVINE.IS

Dear Grapevine,
I am writing to you as a concerned Englishman that, being away from the land of ice and fire, we may not be able to purchase ticket for the Vestmannaeyjar festival this summer, news of which has spread to our shores. Please reassure me that I will be able to turn up on the first weekend of August and be able to buy a ticket or inform me on how we can participate in the frolicks. Thank you and bless, Marky

*Dear Marky,
We hereby reassure you. Hope it helps.*

My Parrots sick - get me a banker
The current situation sucks, understatement of the year - the reality is this event will happen again and again, unless there is a radical restructuring of the financial legislation and regulation and acting on prosecution of breaking these laws. This is the simple over-riding reason for the extent of the current crisis this total lack of sufficient financial regulation and regulation governing companies. Icelandic financial companies and employees have been free to reign in the most loosely financial regulated region in Europe if not the western world.

Everyone is quick to blame the banks and individuals who own these financial companies (clearly under current European financial regulation some actions are clearly questionable) but under Icelandic regulation all fine - in essence to blame them is like blaming football players for playing to the rules enforced by FIFA. Blaming someone that is not really responsible is not a solution and will not prevent it happening again.

The more terrifying fact is to ask does the division of government whose responsibility to regulate understand what they are doing - evidence suggest clearly not - and they are totally out of there depth - who ever gave the green light in government (as the risk lies 100% with the state) to agree to pass porting the Icelandic banking licence under EEA regulations for Icesave is totally bonkers - 100% risk to the state - minor risk to the bank. Having a vet as a finance minister - can someone explain that to me - I find it difficult to believe there is not a better qualified person with more suitable qualifications in Iceland. Its like giving a banker a scalp and asking him to operate on a dying dog - in this situation the banker would buy some time and hope the dog gets better by itself - when people do not understand what they are doing they don't act, they make no decisions - sound familiar...

The other incredible fact is reading about clear financial white collar crime, and then hearing the government state it will begin an investigation - when you have a murderer with a knife in his hand next to a dead body with 1000 witnesses - what is to investigate?

This is the question - the current farce of an investigation - is now like a murderer heading an investigation to a murder indirectly committed by him - clearly it is not in his interest to find evidence suggesting that he may have anything to do with the crime.

In my view it is crystal clear who is responsible for the current crisis it is the government - they created the environment for the banks to act and held the responsibility to police them (like in all other countries) - put simply they reap what they sow! The fact that no government minister wants to be made accountable is a sad and embarrassing. The sad truth - the victims to all this are regular people.
Pete Noosebalm

*Dear Peter,
We are all pretty sad and embarrassed by now. It sucks. But, you know. We're only broke on money, right?*

Hi,
Half a year ago I was in Reykjavik and bought a handknitted woollen sweater at Thorvaldsens Bazar, Reykjavik. I used it as a gift this christmas to my wife. But unfortunately it was too big. Would it be possible to return it to you, and you will send a smaller one?
yours
Arne kjær

*Hi Arne!
Ehrm... yeah. Send it right over!*

Shalom,
As an Israeli living in Iceland, I'm witnessing a lot of anti-Israeli resentments among locals, circulating emails and online anti-Israeli groups flourish and the numbers just grow, even though the war in Gaza already ended. Israel might be winning the war in Gaza but its losing the war on the media, the fight for the public opinion. I find it hard to understand how people from free nations support extremist who are denying others right to live in peace. I wonder if Icelanders ever gave themselves 5 minutes to think, Why Israel fighting in Gaza? When Hamas killed its own people during its Gaza revolt against Fatah administration many Palestinians were killed and the world kept silence, While Hamas targeted Israeli civilians with rockets for over 6 years killing men, women and children, no one protested. I cant help but to ask myself why? Israel, is the only Jewish state in the world and its hoping to remain so, a country of free people living in peace with its neighbors. The past thought us that there is no one else to trust except ourselves, Jews have no where else to go, (Iceland refused to receive Jewish refugees during WW2). Our will to survive in an hostile Arab environment, who for its part doesn't accept Israel right to exist, is what we are being blamed for. Israel as a state as a duty to protect its citizens even in the cost of others life, we paid enough in blood. Not like the America's war in Iraq, Israel has no choice. Hamas, Hezbollah, and their sponsor Iran are openly calling for the destruction of Israel, and for that goal they are sacrificing their own people including their children which they use as human shields. Now, when Jews are being attacked (again) in Europe just because they are Jews the importance of independent and secure Israel is clearer than ever. Unfortunately we can't afford another Holocaust.
Guy Gutraiman
www.9uy.info

*Yeah,
50,000 lost their homes in Gaza.
Hospitals, schools, all infrastructure demolished. Thousands of people killed "in retaliation". I do know that it is a complicated situation. You'll still excuse me if I leave my sympathies elsewhere. Otherwise: good luck and peace be with you.*

I didnt ask for your sympathies, I ask you to publish this letter in the name of journalism objectivity code.
Guy

For the record, your letter reeks of a lot of the talking points the Israeli government has been assigning to bloggers, blog commenters and editorial writers the world around, in order to win the "propaganda war".

As has been revealed as of late. I will still publish it. But of course. In the name of journalistic objectivity. Feel free to submit other stuff for print or publication. We enjoy printing a wide range of ideas and attitudes.

Dear Sir/Madam,
I have just read Mr Ben Frost's letter in reply to a letter received from a German citizen who is protesting against Icelandic whaling. The man's letter obviously touches a nerve for Mr Frost to respond to the German in such a rude and insulting manor. Interestingly, Mr Frost states in his letter, that the way in which a whale is slaughtered is 'barbaric and cruel' and goes on to say, he supports increased whaling catch-quotas. In contrast, the majority of the world's public find this barbarism, cruelty and catch-quotas totally inexcusable, unacceptable and unjustifiable! Irrespective of Mr Frost's feelings, rude vindictive letters, written under a cloud of red mist serve no meaningful purpose but only adds fuel to what is already a volatile and controversial subject and should be consigned to the trash bin. With the threat of a European Boycott of Icelandic products in protest over Icelandic whaling, it would surely be madness and irresponsible of the Icelandic government to ignore such warnings by continuing to support the outdated whaling industry. To do so, in the light of Iceland's economic crisis, would subject the people of Iceland to further unnecessary hardship! In concluding, if Mr Frost cannot express himself without being rude, abusive and insulting, then he should stick to composing, as he has not done your country any favours with his letter writing.
Yours faithfully,
Victor R. Machin. (UK)

*Dear Victor,
Man. I got like... eight million of that spam campaign in my inbox. While I have certain sympathies towards the cause, I still had the urge to reply with a big "FUCK YOU!" In fact, I may have done just that, several times. Seriously, the first rule of protesting is to try and gain public support for your cause. And those dumb German armchair-activist e-mails just annoyed folks. Greatly.*

Thank God for you! Let me introduce myself. I am an American and a distant descendant of some hardy Icelanders that landed in North America about million years ago, more or less. And ironically, I married an Icelander who was born here, but who's folks are still pretty "fresh off the boat". My in-laws are a proud type of Icelander who stand by their "Old-School Iceland". But this has its shortcomings. The barrage of information I receive about Iceland is limited to blueberries and lambs, dancing around Christmas trees with multiple "Santas" with names like Pot Licker, wearing Swiss Miss costumes and eating crepes that I'm supposed to call Pönnukökur (which I still cannot pronounce).

I just discovered YOUR Iceland through this fabulous publication. I have learned more in one reading about my beloved Iceland than I have in the past 10 years of knowing my American/Icelandic family. I have not laughed this much in a long time. It's refreshing and fun and smart and . . . damn it! It's cool! I'm not a writer, so I'm at a loss for an intellectual word here. So I'll stick to my go-to American word - COOL! Thank God for you! R.

Dude, that's awesome. Thank you!



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**REYKJAVÍK
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Iceland's Rainbow Revolution

ARTICLE BY VALUR GUNNARSSON
PHOTOS BY HÖRÐUR SVEINSSON

By early afternoon on January 20th 2009, it was obvious that it was going to be a historic day. Just how the day, and the ones that followed, would unfold was not yet clear. When the dust had settled, a whole generation of Icelanders – and perhaps the country itself – had changed. For the better, and hopefully for good.

For 100 days, for longer than it took Napoleon to get from Elba to Waterloo, people had waited. The economy had collapsed, but so far there was no improvement to be seen, neither in the people guiding us nor the policies they set.

The one decision Parliament had made that would impact the country was when they announced just before Christmas that they would go on a month's long vacation. At the same time, any idea of fresh elections had been written off as too time consuming. The MPs kissed each other on camera and announced that they would not be returning until January 20th. The politicians had set the starting date for a revolution.

DAY 1 JANUARY 20TH: "THE REVOLUTION HAS BEGUN"

It was the 105th day since the collapse of the Icelandic economy. It was the day Obama was sworn in as president of the United States, making his country once again a beacon of hope and of change. As for the people of Iceland, they would wait no longer.

Inside the old building, still bearing the mark of the Danish king, lawmakers were busy discussing how to best serve their people. One of the bills was a proposal whether to allow alcohol sales in supermarkets. Crisis? What crisis? Give them bread and games, give them beer and wine. For once, Icelanders declined a drink.

At 13.30, when Parliament was set to belatedly commence, thousands of people were already standing in front of the building, beating on drums, on pots and on pans, on anything they could find. Sailors brought their foghorns, others beat on wheelbarrows. "We are protesting against the lack of action and useless Ministers," said three elderly ladies as they beat their spoons on teapots. They, like many others, had taken time off from work. "We are taking a long lunch break," they said.

Slogans such as "The USA is getting rid of Bush today, we want to get rid of you" and "Yes, we can!" were inscribed on signs hung on a nearby tree. People surrounded the Parliament building on all sides, beating on every window in reach. A few policemen stood behind the Parliament building in the adjacent garden. Standoffs between protesters and police had by now become commonplace, but patience was wearing thin on both sides. On New Year's Eve, a policeman had his jaw broken by a protestor. Bad blood was in the air.

Riot police soon arrived on the scene, pushing everyone out of their way. They took up positions in front of the building, where they were pelted with eggs, with milk, with occasional trays of pasta and a local delicacy called skyr. Skyr, sometimes translated rather unappetisingly as curd, has long been local protesters' weapon of choice. In 1972, Helgi Hóseasson threw it at MPs exiting the cathedral, to protest that he was not

able to have his baptism annulled. In 2005, members of Saving Iceland threw green coloured skyr at aluminium producers at a local hotel to protest the damming of the highlands.

So far, though, eggs had been the protesters' weapon of choice after the economic collapse. The police chose pepper spray. Before the week was through, both parties had expanded their arsenals.

One man threw a rock in the direction of the police. He missed, and was pulled back by others disapproving of the action. This was the only time anyone witnessed rock throwing in a cop's

THE PROTESTERS MADE NOISE USING POTS AND PANS, WHEELBARROWS AND A DRUM SET. "WE ARE PROTESTING AGAINST THE LACK OF ACTION AND USELESS MINISTERS," SAID THREE ELDERLY LADIES WHO WERE BEATING WITH SPOONS ON TEAPOTS. THEY, LIKE MANY OTHERS, HAD TAKEN TIME OFF FROM WORK. "WE ARE TAKING A LONG LUNCH BREAK," THEY SAID.

direction that day, but was used by police chief Stefán Eiríksson to excuse subsequent actions of the police.

The garden was cleared with bursts of pepper spray, the police in some cases aiming over the wall at protestors who were out of reach. 26 people were arrested. Meanwhile, protesters in front of the building kept banging on anything available. They found their rhythm, and the chant "incompetent government," that was to reverberate for the next days.

Anarchists wearing Red Cross armbands poured milk into the eyes of people who had been pepper sprayed before ambulances arrived. A special and official teargas-station (an ambulance and some buckets) was later set up to nurse

those who were injured. Several cameramen and photographers had to seek aid there, having been sprayed while posing no threat to police. "Got milk!" said a young protester who was seen drinking a carton, the white fluid still pouring from his eyes.

At six o'clock, the Prime Minister made his escape through a tunnel leading into another building. It might have ended there had the police not attempted to move their prisoners into detention. The crowd surged forward, and for the first time since protests started, police used batons on people.

An older man standing by had his arm broken. His son, Þór Jóhannesson, was interviewed on television that evening. "The revolution has started," he said.

The crowd, by that time thinning out, grew larger again. The mood resembled that of a national holiday. Everyone felt that it wouldn't be long now until the government would fall. But we would soon learn that they would not go without a fight.

A bonfire was lit on the middle of the square. The Oslo Christmas tree, an annual gift from forested Norway to barren Iceland, was thrown onto the pyre, as were nearby park benches. The protests went on well into the night, until police eventually put out the fire.

DAY 2 JANUARY 21ST: TEARGAS ATTACK!

Protesters surrounded Geir Haarde's car, as the embattled PM tried to leave the Government Office. People banged on the windows and shouted "resign," before police and bodyguards drove the crowd away with their batons.

After standing in front of the Seat of Government for roughly an hour, the protesters then moved back to the Parliament building. The building was empty, as the session that day had been cancelled.

However, that was not why the crowd now remained deathly silent. A funeral was taking place in the Cathedral next door. For a full hour, not a pot was banged, not a saucepan hit. As soon as

Parts of the crowd moved on to the parliament building. The mood soon turned from celebratory to ugly. Riot police stood in front of the parliament building. When some policemen arrested a protester and tried to get him indoors, things soon took a turn for the worse. Some of the man's friends surrounded the three policemen, kicking at them and impeding their progress along the sidewall of the parliament building. Riot police arrived to aid them. The police were backed up against the wall, while people threw fireworks, eggs, and, according to some reports, bags of fae-

ONE OF THE PEOPLE SURROUNDING THE CAR WAS WRITER HALLGRÍMUR HELGASON, BEST KNOWN FOR THE NOVEL 101 REYKJAVÍK. "THESE MEN BANKRUPTED ICELAND, AND IT'S RIDICULOUS THAT THEY CONTINUE AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED," THE WRITER SAID. "I WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN AND AN EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT TO BE PROCLAIMED, PREFERABLY MADE UP OF WOMEN. THEY CAN'T DO ANY WORSE THAN THE MEN."

ces at them. The police then went on the offensive, using pepper spray and batons to clear the area at the side of the building.

Storming out from their positions, they pushed people back and formed a new defensive wall at the entrance to Vonarstræti ("Hope Street" – fancy that!).

Some anarchists charged the police shields, using their flagpoles as lances. Someone threw a rock, but was stopped by other protesters from doing so. A scuffle ensued. A rumour soon circulated that the police were running low on pepper spray.

The police were by now wearing gasmasks, lend-



the funeral was over, however, the crowd burst into song and then resumed making noise with and on all available implements.

That evening, the Alliance Party's Reykjavik chapter held a meeting in the National Theatre. Thousands of people arrived at the scene, lit a bonfire and chanted outside the meeting place. A red flag with a hammer and sickle was drawn up on a nearby flagpole. This was removed by anarchists and a black flag put up instead. The Red and the Black. The next day, a new colour would appear.

The people resumed their regular chant of "vanhæf ríkisstjórn," – incompetent government. It seemed to grow ever louder, the percussion ever more rhythmic as the protests wore on. When the vice-chairman of the Alliance Party appeared on the steps and said that they were calling for elections next spring and an immediate end to the coalition government, the crowd briefly changed their chant to "Áfram Ísland!" – go Iceland.

Victory, however, was not yet at hand. With the Alliance Party leader, Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, on the operating table in Sweden, the resolution was non-binding.

The mood in front of the theatre had been jovial, with many bringing their whole families. However, as soon as the party meeting was over and most of the crowd started moving on, the occasional drunken skinhead said: "Get them," or "flip their cars," referring to the police. Bad mojo.

ing credence to the rumour. Fireworks had been going off sporadically, but this time a different thunder was heard. Some people had thrown gasoline on to the Parliament doors, and set them on fire. Police responded by deploying teargas.

It was 60 years ago that teargas was last deployed on this field. That time, it dispersed the protesters and the then government tear gassed its way into NATO. This time, the crowd would not be driven away so easily. The police fired teargas rounds again and again, 4 or 5 times, ten canisters in all. But the wind seemed to side with the people, blowing the gas back towards the police.

Eventually, the crowd withdrew back to the Government offices. Some started beating on the windows with hammers. Seven riot policemen arrived, and brave men they were, as they were outnumbered roughly a hundred to one.

Some masked men were reported to be seen tearing up stones from the pavement and piling up, as if to form an arsenal. Rocks started flying again. A policeman was hit, all in all seven policemen were hospitalised that evening, one of them knocked unconscious. Bad mojo.

This time, however, a line of protesters moved up in front of the policemen, to form a human shield. An unprecedented act of solidarity with the public servants. The rock throwing ceased. Peace had been restored. The crowd thinned out and eventually left at 3 am.



THE REVOLUTION

DAY 3

JANUARY 22ND: ENTER THE ORANGE GUARD

The police force had been fought to a standstill. Police were visibly tired after the previous days' events, their uniforms egg-stained and worn. It was said that not only had the entire Reykjavík police force been on duty those past few days, but they had called up reserves from the neighbouring towns of Keflavík, Selfoss and Akranes, over 55 desk-bound officers and even the police academy. They would be hard pressed to endure two more days of fighting.

The previous nights' violence had caused a furor. Some protesters showed up wearing orange armbands, to indicate willingness to try to calm down those who intended to throw rocks. As the day wore on, orange was visible on most of the several hundred people on Austurvöllur. The scene started to look like the Orange revolution in the Ukraine. Or perhaps Serbia, when people handed flowers and hot chocolate to policemen.

At eight pm, protesters wearing orange armbands offered to relieve the police from their duties in guarding the Parliament building. This was accepted, and the policemen in riot gear left the scene. Only two policemen were left outside to patrol the building, while protests continued peacefully into the night.

Everyone was still waiting for the Alliance Party Chairman to return from Sweden. Like a sick king in a Shakespeare play, the future of the country rested on an ill leader. She had already said that she wanted elections that spring, but had no intention of abandoning the government coalition. Her party was dying at the polls, would party members force her to act?

As it turned out, the future of the country was indeed decided by a sickness, but not the one folks expected.

DAY 4

JANUARY 23RD: STRIKE ONE FOR THE REVOLUTION

At 12.30, the Prime Minister called for a surprise press conference, which was broadcast directly on TV and radio. He announced that, due to a malignant throat tumour, he would not run for re-election in his own party before the general elections, which he said would be held on May 9th. The Revolution had won its first major victory.

Protesters had again gathered outside the Parliament building. The anarchists had asked that the protests end at 7 PM, so as to lessen the chances of drunken brawling. No one knew what the weekend had in store. There was still no news on Gísladóttir, now back from Sweden. Would she and Haarde kiss and make up and continue ruling until May 9th? Would that soothe the crowds that have stood outside Parliament for four days?

That evening, the revolution underwent a name change on Channel Two news. So far, it had been called The Fleece Revolution, in reference to the sweaters some of the protesters sported. It would now be known as "Búsáhaldabyltingin." This was soon translated in the international press, a tad inaccurately, as "The saucepan revolution." The Kitchenware Revolution is slightly better, but a part of this revolution will always be lost in translation. You probably had to be there.

DAY 5

JANUARY 24TH: POPULAR SUPPORT.

For 16 weeks, Hörður Torfason had held protest

rallies in front of the Parliament building every Saturday. The crowds had been growing ever since the collapse. During Christmas, the numbers went down a bit, which perhaps played a part in making the governing parties believe that revolution was not imminent. A cabinet reshuffle was called off.

After Christmas, the crowds started growing again. Now, we were in the midst of a revolution. The previous day, however, Torfason made his first gaffe. Hörður is a fighter at heart. A musician and actor, he was the first Icelander to come publicly out of the closet in the 70's. After the economic collapse, people needed a focal point and he provided it.

However, when told the news of Haarde's illness by a Morgunblaðið reporter, Torfason did not offer his sympathies, stating that personal life should be kept out of politics. He had a point. Still, the media outrage led many to believe that people might not show up this Saturday. The violence of



the preceding days had also appalled many. Might people stay at home now, had the revolution lost popular support?

As it were: no. It may have been the largest turnout yet, At least 7,000 citizens showed up.

"I WAS ANGRY WHEN I HEARD THIS. HE SHOULD HAVE APOLOGISED AND RESIGNED. I HAVEN'T STARTED FEELING SORRY FOR HIM YET. I THINK HE'S LUCKY TO BE SICK NOW, SO THAT HE WON'T BE ATTACKED BY PEOPLE. I WANT A NEW CONSTITUTION, AND THEN A COMPETITION FOR WHAT NEW ICELAND SHOULD BE LIKE, JUST LIKE WE DID WHEN WE WERE DECIDING WHAT THE NEW MUSIC HOUSE SHOULD BE LIKE." GUÐRÚN TRYGGVADÓTTIR, WEB-EDITOR.

Newspaper Fréttablaðið published a poll that day said two thirds of the population favoured the protesters. The whole country (well, most of it) had gone orange.

This was a display of mass support that sealed

the deal. Events now moved on under their own weight. As a larger crowd than ever stood outside the parliament building chanting "incompetent government," it became increasingly obvious that the government's days were numbered.

The protests ended just after 19:00, to avoid drunkenness derailing the message. That evening, Spaugstofan, Iceland's weekly and very popular comedy show, featured the protests. Their sympathies were obvious. The revolution had gone mainstream.

One of the protesters main demands had been the resignation of former PM Davíð Oddsson as director of the Central Bank. To emphasise this, that evening's protests were held outside the Nordica Hotel, where the bank was hosting their annual party. Upwards of 100 people showed up, pots and pans en tow. One older gentleman had gone to a hardware store and bought up their whole supply of kitchenware. He drove up in his station wagon, and asked people to choose their weapons, a one-man arsenal of democracy.

The police seemed more interested in keeping the peace than upholding the law. At first, they asked the protesters to not violate private property and stay out of the driveway. When this was ignored, they simply asked them to not break any windows. They even asked those wearing Orange to make sure that windows remained unbroken, yet another indicator that the city's authority had passed on to the people.

By midnight, Oddsson left via a back entrance, escorted home in a police car. Representatives of the protestors were eventually allowed in to confirm that the party was winding down and that everyone had left.

DAY 6

JANUARY 25TH: ON TO THE CENTRAL BANK

The day started eventfully enough, with Björgvin G. Sigurðsson, the Minister of Business, resigning. One of his last acts in office was to fire the Finan-

cial Supervisory Authority.

Even though his apology was somewhat half-hearted, he did admit to bearing "some political responsibility" for the collapse. It was still the first example of any leader taking responsibility.

By noon, protesters started gathering outside the Parliament building. The crowd was small compared to the previous day, but still a reminder that people weren't going anywhere. One of them carried a sign with the demands. He could now tick off two boxes: elections this spring, and a new FSA.

That evening, people left the parliament square and headed for the Central Bank instead. The continued presence of Oddsson was now the major stumbling block for continued co-operation between the two government parties.

The anarchists were first on the scene. There had been an absence of fire in the previous few days, but now a bonfire was lit. Soon after, the Orange Orchestra arrived. The chant now had gone from "incompetent government" to "incompetent bank management."

Some people brought marshmallows, others acoustic guitars and old chestnuts such as "The Times They Are A-Changing" and "Power to the People." There was almost a hint of sadness in the air. We all knew that the next day either the government would fall or Oddsson would be forced out. In either case, the revolution would surely be winding down. But one has to know how to win gracefully.

The fire department showed up well after midnight, when there were only three people left.

"Excuse us, can we put out the fire?" they asked, and then did, when it seemed no one would protest. "Did you have fun?" a policeman asked. He was not being sarcastic. He was being nice. A lone anarchist allegedly broke a security camera outside the bank. Other than that, peace remained.

DAY 7

JANUARY 26TH: THE GOVERNMENT SURRENDERS

"It started like it ended, with a kiss," said Icelandic Prime Minister Geir Haarde when he announced that the present coalition government was at an end. The government had started with a famous kiss between the Prime Minister and Alliance Party Chief Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir in the spring of 2007. The government had a two-thirds Parliamentary majority and would have remained in power until the spring of 2011, but for the country's economic collapse. Some members of the Alliance Party are now referring to it as "The kissing government." More venal tongues might call it the kiss of death, as both party chiefs had been diagnosed with cancer and the government was at an end.

"WE PROTESTED PEACEFULLY FOR 15 WEEKS, BUT IN THIS ONE WEEK WHEN IT BECAME VIOLENT, EVERYTHING CHANGED. IT'S AS IF THE LEADERS ARE SAYING THAT THEY LISTEN TO US IF WE USE VIOLENCE, OTHERWISE NOT," SAID PROTESTER FRÍÐRIK KARL.

The Prime Minister went to meet the President, who is the titular Head of State, to tend his resignation at 16.00. Shortly thereafter, the last remaining protesters left their posts outside the Parliament building. All was quiet on the Northern Front.

A party was called that evening, to celebrate the success of the revolution. No one showed up. Everyone, it seems, was exhausted. The bill for the weeks' riots and protests was assumed by the police to be around 20 million ISK – straight out of taxpayers' pockets. Rarely have so many spent so little to achieve so much.

CODA:

On January 27th, the President of Iceland announced that he would give the mandate to form a new government to the Alliance Party, with the Left-Greens. The day after, NATO held a mid-level meeting in Reykjavík. The hard-core of the protesters, flush with success, gathered outside the Nordica Hotel again, where the meeting was in session. Around 70 were present in all, bearing pots and pans.

This time, the police were in a different mood. Protecting a building full of Admirals and Generals, they needed a show of force. The police virtually outnumbered the protesters. They arrested people with impunity. Some were jailed for throwing snowballs, others for burning the NATO flag which, it later turned out, is not illegal. One person was pepper sprayed. Six were arrested, despite the protest being peaceful in nature. The people had made their voices heard inside parliament, but they had again lost control of the streets. As a further indication of this, no one but the media showed up for a protest planned outside the Central Bank on February 2nd. Then again, was there really anything to protest? That same day, the new PM called the director and asked him to resign. At the time of writing, Oddsson still sits in the Central Bank, everyone but he knowing that his days are numbered. He started his career as an actor, playing the part of deranged despot Ubu Roy. It seems he will end his career the way he started it.

The lead character in Alfred Jarry's play has been described thus: "Ubu inhabits a domain of greedy self-gratification. Jarry's metaphor for the modern man, he is an antihero — fat, ugly, vulgar, gluttonous, grandiose, dishonest, stupid, jejune, voracious, cruel, cowardly and evil."

Such modern men no longer ruled the country. The day before, on February 1st, Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir, Minister of Social Affairs and Alliance Party member, became the new Prime Minister. It was only fitting that the protests which had been organized by the first Icelandic person to come out of the closet should lead to the world's first officially instated gay head of government. The Rainbow Revolution had ended with victory. Iceland finally had something to be proud of again. 🍷

What The Fuck Did I Ever Do To You?!?

ARTICLE & PHOTOS BY PÁLL HILMARSSON

Why "Rainbow revolution"?

Visit grapevine.is for an explanation & exclusive protest-action pictures, videos and words as of Feb 9! Oodles of awesome photographers contributed their work - check it out!



On the eve of Monday January 19, I strolled the fifty metres or so that separate my home from that of my friend (and former Grapevine editor) Sveinn Birkir Björnsson. For quite some time we've had an evening ritual of drinking coffee, smoking cigarettes and shooting the breeze after we've put our kids to bed.

That particular evening was the last of those, as Sveinn Birkir was moving to Sweden the following day with his wife and three children. He'd had



enough. "I can't stay here any longer – it seems like nobody cares about the situation," he told me. On my way home, I thought of his words. I thought of how almost 100 days had passed since Iceland had all but collapsed and no one had claimed any responsibility, no one showed any signs of action. Sveinn Birkir and his wife Vanda are young, educated people. They are an asset to any country that wishes to have them. Their children will be so too. But they can't stay here. They feel as if noth-



ing is being done to ensure that justice prevails, let alone make it possible for them to provide a living for their family. This is saddening and this is expensive for a nation that needs people like them.

The following day I arrived at Austurvöllur in front of parliament around one o'clock. A few protesters were already preparing for an eventual pepper spray attack by the police.



The police had enclosed the parliament building with a yellow banner, but it was soon apparent that no one was going to respect that – people wanted to get closer. A minor scuffle ensued when the protesters tore down the banner, but soon the police retreated up to the parliament building. The noise was deafening as protesters shouted, banged drums, pots and pans. I believe around 2,000 people were at Austurvöllur at that time, and about 20 policemen. The mood was festive. Snowballs were hurled at parliament; the protest-

ers were mainly there to make a noise. Suddenly at 13:16, a large group broke away from the others and headed to the west of the building, on their way to the garden in back. The people knocked on the windows and continued into the garden at the back. When the protesters had arrived into the garden and a corner where the old parliament building and a recent glass addition meet, a few policemen arrived. People were banging on the windows with their palms, not trying to break them.



The police were neutral, asking people to stop banging on the windows, politely pushing them away. There was excitement in the air, but not a hint of violence. People were there to make noise loud enough for the MPs inside to hear. Someone threw dirt at the windows. A few MPs walked by inside, looking out through the glass walls. Minister of transportation, Kristján Möller, smiled and laughed.



At 13:30, a police squad in full riot gear suddenly stormed into the crowd. It was very crowded and the police arrived with some fanfare, pushing people around. At least one protestor fell to ground. The crowd got more agitated and angry. The riot police took position by the house. By now, the mood was explosive.

Somebody set an orange smoke bomb on fire, which the police promptly removed.



At that time, around 13:50, I moved out of the garden and into the "corridor" between the glass house and the wall encircling the garden. The police stood at the end bearing shields and batons. Soon, they directed people to back out and informed the crowd that pepper spray would be employed. People put up their hands, turned away from the police and started to back out. It went slow, it was extremely crowded and the people in the back did not hear the directions from the



police, since the noise was deafening, everybody shouting and banging on pots and pans. A sizeable crowd of photographers stood on the wall to the right. And then the pepper spray came.

Finally, the police took up position at the end of the corridor.

People who had been sprayed sought help from paramedics and other protesters, armed with



milk, to clean away the pepper spray. A few protesters were at that time gathering inside the parliament garden. Somebody told me that arrests had been made, and that those arrested were detained in the corner area that the police had just cleared. I climbed upon the garden wall and took two pictures before a police officer instructed me to step down. I moved closer into the garden, staying near the wall. I shot one photo of a riot-gear policeman



having trouble securing the pouch that holds his gas mask.

I stood by the wall and took photos of the police and the arrested protesters. The wall is at least 40 cm higher than me.

A cameraman from local newspaper Morgunblaðið stood upon the wall and filmed. Some words were exchanged through the fence between protesters and police, but I had no way of



hearing through the noise. A female police officer threatened to use pepper spray, and walked back between the wall and the house.

Suddenly she grabs her can of pepper spray and walks towards the wall without saying a word. She reaches over the fence and sprays. She walks back and puts the spray back in her belt.

A few moments later, she takes it out again and sprays the people to my right.

As this is going on, I am on the phone with my father. I have the phone in my left hand and the camera in my right. My father asks me if I've been sprayed. At that time, I turn to the fence and take a photograph of the female officer. She sees it, takes a few steps in my direction and sprays me with her pepper spray.



I put the camera in front of my face and shout: "What the fuck did I ever do to you?!" It was the first and only thing I spoke to this officer that day. It was an involuntary reaction to the situation; I didn't really expect an answer. Most of the pepper spray landed on my camera, drenching it. Some of it was on my glasses and some of it in my mouth. It burned and burned. I stepped away and tried to clean the camera with my jacket, cursing, mad as hell.



I'm not sure when the vernacular in Iceland changed from speaking about a police officer as a "lögregluþjónn", which literally means police servant, to "lögreglumaður", which means police man. It's a hint to how the public sees the police and also to how the police see their work and their place in society. On that day, as any other day of the protests against the situation in Iceland, the police have stated that their main objective is to make sure that everyone is safe, not least the



protesters themselves. I cannot see how the actions of that particular 'policeman' were in any way aimed at protecting my, or her, safety. Today I do not trust the police. And I'm angry. This is an unbearable situation, both for me and for the police. This trust cannot be regained unless those that misuse their power take responsibility. For that reason I will press charges against this police officer. For that the fuck did I ever do her?





son, was elected to office in 1996. His predecessor is Mrs. Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, in office from 1980 (before her 3 people had manned the post). Each presidential term is 4 years and presidents are elected into office by universal adult electorate. The last presidential elections should have been held in 2008, but the current president was unopposed and thus no elections were held. The President of Iceland is the head of state but unlike many other presidents, say the US President, he or she holds almost no real power. The President can, however, decline to sign new laws passed by Alþingi, in which case the law has to be put to a national referendum. This has happened once since Iceland's independence, that instance being in 2004 (although the government chose to withdraw the law rather than subject it to referendum). The President resides at Bessastaðir, one of the oldest buildings in Iceland, just outside of Reykjavík. *To sum it up: good pay, little responsibility, free housing, lots of travel and socializing.*

Sounds good! Can I run for President of Iceland?

If you're 35 years of age and a resident of Iceland – and have done no dirty deeds that resulted in a four month jail sentence – yes you can! 2012 might be your lucky year.

Parliament Elections (Alþingi Elections)

This is how that stuff works:

What is Alþingi?

Nowadays, Alþingi is a name of the Legislative Branch of government, that is, the Icelandic Parliament. Members of Alþingi are 63 and are elected into office in a general election. Their term is four years.

When are the elections held?

By law, at least every four years. The last elections were held in 2007. The recently formed minority government has announced that elections will be held this spring, late April or early May.

Can I vote?

If you have reached 18 years of age on Election Day, have Icelandic citizenship, and are a resident of Iceland, the answer is yes. You can be bankrupt, in jail, a crackhead, murderer or cannibal (even all of the above) and still vote. It's an important right.

Can I run for office?

If you can vote, you can run for office, unless you've been sentenced to four months or more in jail after reaching the age of eighteen. To run for office, however, you must first join a political party and work your way through the party ranks. If that doesn't suit your needs, you can start your own party.

Can I start my own political party?

Sure. If you want your political party to be eligible in the forthcoming elections, make sure to tell the Election Committee all about it fifteen days before Election Day. By telling them about it, we mean presenting a list of the names and social security numbers of all of your party members who will be running for office in each constituency. There are six constituencies, and your party needs to have at least twenty people running in each of those (twenty-two in one). Also, for every person running, there have to be at least thirty people that support him/her in running for office with their signatures. Simple as that. Remember though, that after a rather recent change in election law, your party has to get at least 5% of the popular vote in order to get any MPs into Alþingi.

The Three Branches of the Icelandic Government

Iceland, like most other republics, has three separate branches of government.

I The Legislative Branch

Called Alþingi. Has been active more or less since 930 A.D. Has 63 members, elected every four years.

II The Executive Branch

The government is headed by a Prime Minister that, together with his or her cabinet, forms the Executive part of government. The Prime Minister is always an elected MP, and most typically the head of the larger political party in a coalition between two or more such parties that join forces to obtain a majority of the 63 seats in Alþingi. Other ministers (Minister of Finance, etc.) are usually members of the coalition parties in question and also retain their MP status.

3. The Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch comes in two levels. The District Courts (eight in all, divided by region) and the Supreme Court. Justices are appointed for life by the Minister of Justice, pending a signature from the President of Iceland.

The Head of State: The President of Iceland

Who is this President and what is his job?

The President of Iceland, Mr. Ólafur Ragnar Gríms-

Whom can I vote for?

BY JÓN TRAUSTI SIGURÐARSON

You can vote for parties not individuals. Here is a list of the current Icelandic political parties with a short description of each one:

The Independence Party (Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn)

Guiding principles: Right wing, conservative, believes in privatization in all areas of society. Mostly anti-EU.

Faces an internal crisis due to some of their recent principles apparently driving Iceland towards bankruptcy.

Party Chairman: Geir H. Haarde

Number of Alþingi seats: 25

Registered members: about 50,000

Ministers: None, as of late.

Overview: Founded in 1929. In office since 1991, holding both Prime Minister and Minister of Finance posts ever since. Current leader has held both positions. Former PM for the party, Davíð Oddsson is current head of Central Bank. Most right leaning of all parties and by far the largest one. The party's ideology has been free market, privatization and de-regulation mixed with conservative values. After eighteen years in office, their coalition since 2007 with Social Democrats collapsed. They leave office with Iceland's economy all but in ruins.

Website: www.xd.is

E-mail: xd@xd.is

Phone: 515-1700

Address: Háaleitisbraut 1, 105 Reykjavík



Registered members: about 20,000

Ministers: Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Industry, Energy and Tourism: Össur Skarphéðinsson, Minister of Social Affairs and Social Security: Ásta Ragnheiður Jóhannesdóttir, Minister of Communications: Kristján Möller.

Overview: Formed in 2000 as an alliance between then four left-wing parties with the goal of making a large left-centre party that could counter the large Independence Party. When finally large enough after the 2007 elections, the party opted for joining its adversary in forming a coalition. The coalition lasted until late January 2009, when The Social Democratic Alliance decided to form a minority coalition with Left-Green Movement after polls showed the party's popularity had all but disappeared. Voters seemed to have lost patience towards the government's slow reaction to economic turmoil. Due to party leader's Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir's health problems, former Minister of Social Affairs, Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir, is current PM of Iceland.

Website: www.samfylking.is

E-mail: samfylking@samfylking.is

Phone: 414-2200

Address: Hallveigarstígur 1 (2nd Floor), Box 160, 101 Reykjavík

Left-Green Movement (Vinstrihreyfingin – Grænt Framboð)

Guiding principles: Far-left, pro-environmental, anti-NATO, feminist. Anti-EU.

Party Chairman:

Steingrímur J. Sigfússon

Number of seats: 9

Registered members: n/a

Ministers: Minister of Finance, Fisheries and Agriculture: Steingrímur J. Sigfússon, Minister of Health: Ögmundur Jónasson, Minister of Education, Science and Culture: Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Minister for the Environment: Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir.

Overview: Founded in 1999, the Left-Greens are a left leaning, socialist party. Had until February 1st 2009 never held office, and therefore hold little blame in the current shit-storm; their popularity has increased extensively since Iceland's economic collapse. According to recent polls, they are now the largest political party in Iceland. Lead current minority coalition with Social Democratic Alliance.

Website: www.vg.is

E-mail: vg@vg.is

Phone: 552-8872

Address: Pósthólf 175, 121 Reykjavík



The Liberal Party (Frjálslyndi Flokkurinn)

Guiding principles: Right wing, emphasis on opposing the fishing quota system.

Party Chairman: Guðjón A. Kristjánsson

Number of seats: 4

Registered members: about 2,000

Ministers: none

Overview: Labelled centre-right, the Liberal Party was originally founded to oppose the Icelandic fishing quota system. In 2007, the party started focusing on immigration issues and is currently the only Icelandic political party that supports heavy restrictions on immigration. Apparently.

Website: www.xf.is

E-mail: xf@xf.is

Phone: 552-2600

Address: Skúlatún 4 9, 101 Reykjavík



The Progressive Party (Framsóknarflokkurinn)

Guiding principles: Right-centrist, believes in sparse economic and environmental regulations.

Is anti/pro EU.

Party Chairman: Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson

Number of seats: 7

Registered members: about 12,000

Ministers: none

Overview: Founded in 1916 as a farmer's party. Currently supports minority government but is not part of it. Was in government with Independence Party from 1995 - 2007. Neck deep in shit pile usually called the Icelandic economic collapse. Hoping for a comeback after recent in-party reforms and a fresh 33-year-old leader.

Website: www.framsokn.is

E-mail: framsokn@framsokn.is

Phone: 540-4300

Address: Hverfisgata 33 (2nd Floor), 101 Reykjavík



The Alliance Party (Samfylkingin)

Guiding principles: Left-centrist, social democrat. Pro-EU

Party Chairman: Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir

Number of seats: 18



Iceland's Movement (Íslandshreyfing)

Guiding principles:

Pro environmental. Liberal.

Party Chairman:

Ómar Ragnarsson

Number of seats: none

Registered members: about 350

Ministers: none

Overview: Partly a fragment of the Liberal Party. Founded in 2007. Focused on environmental issues. Failed to secure a seat in Alþingi in the 2007 elections due to a new election law excluding all parties who fail to get 5% of the popular vote or more.

Website: www.islandshreyfingin.is

E-Mail: islandshreyfingin@islandshreyfingin.is

Phone: 868-8299

Address: Skeljatangi 28, 270 Mosfellsbær



Police Story

How does it feel to be at the wrong end of a raging mob?

ARTICLE BY HAUKUR S MAGNÚSSON
PHOTO BY HAX

I saw police officers pepperspraying innocent journalists just standing around with their cameras. A peace lovin' friend got run over and bashed with a club. Another was forced to lie on his belly in a puddle of mud for twenty minutes for no apparent reason. Fuck, even fragile old me inhaled teargas and got all fucked up while casually strolling through Austurvöllur in the pursuit of some pictures. This is totally uncool, and it got my temper boiling. Who are these people to beat on my friends while they try and exercise their right to peaceful protest? Who are they to fuckin'... douse me in teargas? What are they protecting? *Who are they protecting?*

Then again, I also saw dudes throw heavy bricks at cops' heads. I saw them kick their shields while verbally abusing them for hours on end. I saw unruly rabble-rousers (unsuccessfully) try and incite random acts of violence in hitherto peaceful groups of protestors. I saw a very sparse team of shielded police officers face an angry mob of thousands. I witnessed cops being spat on; low waged public servants pelted with skyr, with eggs, with snowballs, with rocks and pretty much anything that wasn't nailed to the ground. Hell, some reports say folks were throwing bags of faeces at them.

And, I thought, they were just trying to do their jobs. Trying their best to maintain order, to keep our small community from slipping into total chaos.

So. These guys. Keeping in place for dozens of hours, doing their jobs as best they can while a whole lot of angry folks hurl abuse and heavy objects their way. You've got to wonder what it's like. I did, and thus called up a couple of friends in the force and asked them to elaborate on the subject. By their own requests, they will remain incognito. "Policemen received public death threats that week," they told me, "it would be a bad idea to draw attention to ourselves by going public."

Senior Policeman:

We don't have a large police force in Reykjavík. Most of the police's employees were there, and that wasn't enough. We had to call in people from Keflavík and Selfoss – basically anyone that could make it.

I was there the whole time. There was a lot of stress on the police officers. During the Austurvöllur protests, we worked 12-18 hour shifts at a time, we had to do all the usual police work alongside monitoring the protests. These were rough days.

Our main task was ensuring that the protests could happen, that was our purpose and we did our best to uphold it. We did this by designating certain areas for the protestors to stay within, and by closing off certain traffic veins. Again, our main purpose was to ensure that peaceful protests could go on without any risk to public safety.

However, there were people there with the specific purpose of fighting the police and damaging public and private property. It is then that we need to respond in a firmer manner, and follow up our orders with action. Early in the afternoon that Tuesday, when people started beating and kicking the windows of the parliament house with such intensity that they nearly gave in, that's when we needed to use force. We don't give a shit if people shout and bang on their pots and pans to make a point – that's quite all right with us.

Were you afraid for your well-being?

Yes, frequently. Especially when we were being pelted with rocks and glass and other unpleasanties.

HAPPY THOUGHTS

What does go through ones mind while being pelted?

Happy thoughts. You think of your childhood and your family. About your partners. These circumstances bring us together; we become a sort of whole, acting as a single person. You try not to let it get to you.

I'll allow myself an opinion here: those that stood at the front shouting obscenities at us, they



GUARDING THE PREMISES

had no will to protest anything whatsoever. They have no opinion of what's going on, no solutions. These people were there because the circumstances allowed them to act like idiots. Protesting isn't about being at war with the police. You can stand there and bang your pan all you want, shouting in your megaphone – we'll leave you alone. Those days, we saw a lot of usual suspects blending in with regular folks that chose to stand in front of us and call us every bad name in the book. "Your mom must be proud, you loser." It makes you wonder.

In my line of work, you continuously believe you've seen it all in regards to human nature and frailty. But there's always more. There's always more, and it reached new heights that week.

OUR FASCISTIC BEHAVIOUR

How do you respond to claims that the police often overreacted, even escalating the situation?

In such a large and complex turn of events, there's always something that goes differently than you'd like. But the main thing is: when you refuse to abide a police officer's orders, and you continually and purposely ignore them, and I am being as polite as I can – something can snap. You get fed up. When you're being pelted with coin-laced snowballs, you get enough.

Also, carrying a camera doesn't make you a reporter. A lot of the people we've been dealing with since this fall show up bearing these large cameras. Holding a big camera does not give you the right to ignore official police orders.

Some things went wrong, perhaps. We continually practice dealing with large-scale riots – not everyone present had the correct training. We are an extremely small police force. And again, we're only people. People can and will lose their patience at times.

And again, these circumstances were ridiculous. Three hundred people on the steps of the National Theatre, dancing around a bonfire. And that was supposed to be all right? As people were lighting their small fires, we ventured into the crowd and put them out. And were met by these incredible attitudes – they didn't understand our fascistic behaviour, not allowing them to light fires at Austurvöllur. How do you respond to such people – what can you say? You can't converse with people that act this way.

Then you start thinking about the people that were loudest at those protests. It was a group of maybe 2-300 people that was most active. It all starts with a group that connects itself with anarchism, although I don't believe there's much behind that. These were the people that drove on the protests, the people that brought along items to throw at us. Beating on pots and pans, making your voice heard – I think that's great. The violence was restricted to a small group, like I said, and when you looked over that group; you

couldn't really imagine that they were hit hard by any economic collapse. I would have liked to see more people my age there, people that are up to their necks in debt, people that have lost their jobs and have families to support.

I hope this whole course of events illustrates for once how undermanned and underfunded our police force is. There is a limit to how much you can do with the same people, a lot of whom are on their last legs after such an intense experience. I can tell you that not all of them came home to a good night's sleep after manning the riot guards.

Junior Policeman:

We were expecting some action that first day. It's always the same core group that crosses the line – we try and do everything we can to let people express themselves. And then some people cross the line, and as I said, it's always the same core group that instigates that. They provoke and incite the crowd. We all understand the rage. There are a lot of cops that are in the exact same position, but they have to do their jobs. Nobody has any personal issues with the protestors. Most of us actually oppose the government, from what I can tell. But it's a job. And somehow, the group manages to turn it into a war against the police. It always happens.

I kept meeting people – decent, peaceful people - that were infuriated by the police, as they or their friends had been maced or beaten up.

It doesn't take a lot. If there's 200 people facing the cops and two guys show up throwing rocks – stuff is going to happen. And these bricks they were throwing, they can reap some serious consequences. I got hit by a rock, in the head. I did have a helmet on, but it still stunned me. The blow from a thrown brick is tremendous. It's like people don't realize – we aren't really evolved in riot culture, you don't need to be a cop to see that. It's like some folks think that if you're wearing a helmet and a shield, you're somehow fair game.

We stood outside the house of parliament while the people threw bricks and glass at us. It was an absurd experience. It has nothing to do with protesting, nothing to do with government. After a certain time had passed, it was clear that all the MPs had long gone to their homes; all that was left was us policemen guarding the premises.

KEEPING COOL

Things went peacefully, for the most part. There were certain factors - when the police have arrested someone, they need to take them to the station. That's the law. Your right to protest, while important, can never allow you to break the law.

And the scuffling?

No one can claim that everyone present kept their cool the whole time. No one can maintain their cool for so long. Not even trained policemen.

But we're all on the same team, that's what gets me. We arrest some guy this day and the next he calls us for help when his flat gets broken into. It's like people forget that bit when they're screaming at us. We come to their help, no questions asked. No sides taken. We talk, like people do. There's folks out there that have been personifying us policemen. They've publicly encouraged others to note our badge numbers, to find out our names and addresses. Inciting people to act violently towards me for doing my job. Towards my kids. It's disturbing.

How does it feel, being showered with rocks and skyr and eggs by the people you're supposedly working to protect?

It's rather unreal. This is something that's happening in Iceland for the first time in decades. There's not a cop next to you that has experienced anything like it. And nothing in your training can prepare you for it, even though you practice these exact circumstances. You're not afraid – you know what to do – but standing there and seeing it all. It was kind of amazing.

EMPATHY

What went through your mind?

I thought. What's all these people's purpose – why are they here. Are they civilians? Is this a cross section of our society? I don't know. I saw a lot of police "regulars" there. It was also kind of comical to see that there were tourists posing for photos in front of the rioters and the police squads. It underlined the unreality of the situation. And how peaceful everything was, up until a certain point. But one thing's for sure: it wasn't us cops that cast the first stone, so to speak.

I also thought about the nature of crowds. How they stray out of control. How the people can be "at war with the police" one day, and then friendly conversing with us the next.

But all of these events. I think they underline how far the we were willing to go – of course mistakes were made, just like a lot of the protestors crossed the line. But I think these events underline how far the police were willing to go to let people peacefully protest. Fuck, people were allowed to build fires downtown, lighting that Christmas tree from Norway. That's extremely dangerous. Lots of people could have gotten hurt.

Did you learn anything from the experience?

Well. Not really. But it reminded me of the fact that... you have to be empathetic. You need to have the ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes. You need to try to understand whoever you're dealing with, and to place yourself in their shoes. How it feels to lose everything, your job, your savings, your family... how the anger can take over. It made me think about the importance of all that. Of empathy. 🇮🇸



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Stofn. Ingibjörgu Ólafsdóttur

Food PISA

Reviewed by **Sigtryggur Ari Jóhannsson** – Photo by SAJ

In a small-ish cellar by Lækjagata, you'll find newly opened Italian restaurant Pisa. The interior is roughly unaltered from the cellar's previous life as a café. No fancy revamp by the expensive designers. Today, this seems only logical.

For starters we were served seafood soup and a carpaccio. The soup was made of clear broth and had langoustines, prawns and shellfish. It was quite tasty, served with bread and some sort of chili mayo that I could have gone without. It is about time to sway from the creamy seafood soup that has become traditional in Icelandic restaurants. The carpaccio was the usual treat, with parma cheese, rocket leaves and olive oil.

Our main dishes consisted of a slow-roasted shank of lamb, cooked in red wine and herbs and a fillet of plaice with shellfish risotto. Both were exquisite.

The lamb-shank was served perfectly roasted with a mash of normal- and sweet-potatoes, a delicious red-wine sauce and a decoration of rocket leaves and parmesan.

The plaice itself appeared to be roasted in its own juice, sparingly peppered – which was well as the fish was perfectly fresh – served on top of an almost perfect shellfish risotto. Both plates were of much higher quality than anything else we tasted that evening, and in fact better than the place itself suggests, somehow.

For desserts, we had a Tiramisu and a pavlova. Both were nice, maybe not completely authentic, but irresistible in any case. The coffee deserves a special mention.

The price of the food ranges from relatively inexpensive to medium priced. Starters go for between 1,300 to 1,900 ISK and main courses range from 2,500 to 3,300. No alarms and no surprises. One can actually expect to have a two-course meal for around 5,000 ISK. This will be plenty of food. Wine is expensive in Iceland and restaurateurs are helpless in this regard.

Strictly speaking, there are two small complaints: the interior of the place is no

match for the quality of the food, and the plates appear a bit crowded or over-decorated. This is partly due to the lavish portions. Just concentrate on the food and you are likely to enjoy a good experience for a modest price.

Where:
**Lækjargata 6b,
101 Reykjavík**

1 E6

How much:
5.000 ISK

What we think:
**Look no further for
the perfect lamb shank.**



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Café Loki Lokastíg 28
in front of Hallgrímskirkja

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Food & Drink | Venue finder

3 Frakkar
Baldursgata 14 | **F9**
A seriously Icelandic atmosphere and traditional Icelandic dishes prepared in the good old-fashioned way. RSVP and keep your ears pricked for wild whaling tales!

Af lífi og sál
Restaurant
Laugavegi 55b | **H7**
A high street backyard restaurant where the menu changes every night, so who knows what's for dinner? But serving such dishes as grilled dolphin, bacalao and kangaroo, you can't go wrong by dropping by for lunch or dinner.

Aktu Taktu
Skúlugata 15 | **K8**
This drive-in destination in 101 Reykjavík is busy day and night and the burgers are especially tasty. The caramel shakes are a local favorite.

American Style
Tryggvagata 26 | **E5**
With a soft bun and lots of veggies, you can settle into a booth and eat for hours. Big portions for authentic American dining.

Argentína Steak-house
Barónstígur | **I8**
True to its name with tender steaks and flamingly vibrant South American décor. Generous portions, fine wine, liqueurs and cigars make an excellent choice in fine dining.

Austurlanda-hraðlestin
Hverfisgata 64A | **H7**

Though a bit expensive for take-away, it is well worth it for a spicy bite of this Indian cuisine. A few tables to the side for those who choose to dine in.

Á Næstu Grösom
Laugavegur 20B | **G7**
Regarded by many to be the best vegetarian place in town, "First Vegetarian" offers a healthy and tasty menu of vegetarian and vegan dishes. Indian theme on Fridays a hit.

B5
Bankastræti 5 | **F6**
By day a chic little bistro with good food and a prime location for Laugavegur people watching-by night a stylish bar with a "whiskey room" and Manhattanesque clientele.

Babalú
Skólavörðustígur 22A | **G8**
It's tough to miss café Babalú walking up Skólavörðustígur. A cozy place for coffee and cake, the well-worn, homey ambience makes it difficult to leave.

Bæjarins Beztu
Tryggvagata | **E6**
The oldest fast-food in Iceland, it is feasilily the best hot dog stand in Europe. Don't be intimidated by the perpetual line in front – an absolute must and worth the wait.

Brons
Pósthússtræti 9 | **E6**
Called a bistro, but more a restaurant in quality, Brons is

settled in the place of former popular Café Kaffibrennslan. Brons focuses on Mediterranean cuisine and is famous for serving dishes that are as large as they are delicious.

Café Cultura
Hverfisgata 18 | **G6**
Cultura is a café/bar with a party feel. The menu features all sorts of international dishes, alongside the staple salad and sandwich.

Café Loki
Lokastígur 28 | **G9**
With a splendid view of Hallgrímskirkja, Café Loki is the perfect place to take a load off your feet and enjoy some solid homemade Icelandic food.

Café Paris
Austurstræti 14 | **E6**
With an outdoor terrace, this café gets busy on sunny days. With a cosy interior, fine menu and attentive service, it makes a fine spot for evening dining as well.

Café Roma
Rauðarárstígur 8 | **J9**
Roma, an Italian deli and café, offers a variety of breads, soups as well as tempting desserts. For a good bargain, come at lunchtime for the specials.

Balthazar
Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D6/E6**

A hangout for older foreigners, Victor attracts a diverse crowd, both in age and origin, a rule that extends to the musicians that play there.

Domo
Þinghótsstræti 5 | **F7**
The elegantly decorated Domo serves delicious French-Asian cuisine, excellent sushi and has a great wine list. A sure choice.

Eldsmiðjan
Bragagata 38A | **G9**
Totally satisfying oven-baked pizza with a wide choice of toppings-snails an unusual specialty. Well worth the cost. Order, take away or eat comfortably among the paintings.

Fiskmarkaðurinn
Aðalstræti 12 | **D6**
Run and co-owned by the national team of chefs, this establishment specializing in Japanese cuisine has everything planned to the last detail, ensuring a relaxing evening.

Geysir Bar/Bistro
Aðalstræti 2 | **D6**
Situated in the dignified Geysir Building at the corner of Vesturgata and Aðalstræti, this stylish bistro is always a good place to grab a tasty bite for a reasonable price.

Gardurinn
Klappastígur 37 | **G7**
"Ecstasy's Heart" is a simple, friendly, family-run vegetarian restaurant on Klappastígur. Offers an ever-changing menu of specials and soup du jours, alongside a basic menu

Grái Kötturinn
Hverfisgata 16A | **G7**
Legendary for its early opening ours, the Gray Cat serves amazing

breakfasts and coffee that packs a wallop. A splendid way to start you off on your day.

Grillhúsið
Tryggvagata 20 | **E5/E6**
With a menu of reasonably priced home-style food, Grillhúsið has satiated hungry regulars since 1994 with juicy burgers, sandwiches, steaks and fish dishes.

Habibi
Hafnarstræti 20 | **D5**
A reliable source of high quality shawarma and falafel. Important ingredient for successful living.

Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar ("Bullán")
Geirsgata 1 | **D5**
Considered by some to be the best real hamburger in Reykjavík, "Bullán" does serve some mysteriously delicious burgers, guaranteed to take the edge off any hangover.

Hlöllla Batar
Ingólfstorg | **D6**
The first sub sandwich shop in Iceland, Hlöllla Batar has a large selection of creatively named sandwiches with equally imaginative contents. Good for an adventurous bite.

Horníð
Hafnarstræti 15 | **E6**
Since 1979, this Italian restaurant has been a longtime Reykjavík staple. Famous for its pizza and stuffed calzones, it proudly offers an affordable menu of high-quality dishes.

Hótel Holt
Bergstaðarstræti 37 | **F7**
Housing Iceland's most renowned restaurant, The Gallery, an evening here is an unforgettable experience. Delicious French-inspired cuisine and fine wines await.

Humarhúsið
Ammtmanstígur 1 | **E7**
One of the oldest restaurants in the country, The Lobster House is known of course for its lobster and also its impressive cognac lounge. Fine intimate dining.

Hressó
Austurstræti 20 | **E6**
With a spacious neutral interior and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd. Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.

Icelandic Fish & Chips
Tryggvagata 8 | **E5**
Not your average fish'n'chips joint, but a healthy restaurant using only organic vegetables and quality fish products. The spiced skyr side a special treat.

Indian Mango
Frakkarstígur 12 | **H8**
Specializing in delicious dishes from the Goa region of India, honed to perfection in the owner's period as head chef at the Four Seasons. Incredible service as well as food.

Food HÓTEL HOLT

Reviewed by **Paul Nikolov** – Photo from archive

The last time I had the pleasure of dining at Hotel Holt, it was for their classical French cuisine lunch special – three great courses, impeccably served, priced cheap. Certainly no objections there. So when I was asked to try out their dinner fare, I gladly accepted.

For those who haven't been there, Hótel Holt is downtown, but off the beaten track, in a quiet residential area. The interior of the dining room is understated, subdued, and old-fashioned, with plush carpeting, gilded-framed paintings covering the walls, and a wait staff that strikes that perfect balance between attentiveness and distance.

I decided to go for the "Special dinner menu" – three courses for 4,200 ISK – which makes Hótel Holt ideal for dating on a budget while still demonstrating your sophistication. I started off with goose legs wrapped in puff pastry, served on mixed greens with an Icelandic blueberry sauce. As to be expected, the meat was tender, the pastry flaky,

and the greens and blueberries fresh and cool, making a nice contrast. So far, par for the course. It was the entrée that would catch me off guard.

I went with Icelandic reindeer steak in a red wine sauce, served with potatoes and wild mushrooms. This might have been a little unfair of me, as cooking wild game is never easy. No matter the marinade, it will almost always taste like it's been running around in the woods somewhere. Not so with this steak – each piece melted cleanly on the palate, and while certainly very rich, it wasn't at all gamey. I chalked this up to the sauce, perhaps. The mushrooms and potatoes were both fine, smoky compliments to the seared steak. By the time I was finished, I was worried I'd have to force down the dessert I'd ordered.

I had no reason to worry. The crème brûlée, served with strawberry sorbet (made in-house, like everything else), didn't add to the fullness of the previous course. The hot/cold contrast in this

light dessert was really quite refreshing after a formidable steak dinner.

Hótel Holt focuses on the freshness of their ingredients, and bringing out the natural flavour of each one to its full extent. You absolutely cannot go wrong by dining here.

Where:
Bergstaðastræti 37,
101 Reykjavík

2 F10

How much:
5.000 ISK

What we think:
You cannot go wrong
by dining at Hótel Holt.



Jómfrúin
Lækjargata 4 | **E6**
These days, good Smörrebröd can be an elusive delicacy. Lucky for us out in the colonies, it's alive and well at Jómfrúin with fresh eel imported specially from Denmark.

Kaffi Hjómáland
Laugavegur 21 | **G7**
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great lunches and food but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.

Kaffitár
Bankastræti 8 | **F6**
Kaffitár celebrates good coffee, and serves it in abundance, along with sweet treats and tasty if pricy special blends. Eat in or to go, a great way to enjoy your morning boost.

Kaffivagninn
Grandagarður 10 | **D1**
By the harbor, this lunch and coffee place is a gathering place for all sorts of tough folks. If you want traditional Icelandic food, a great place to see another side of Reykjavík.

Kebabhúsið
Austurstræti 2 | **E6**
The name says it all, really.

Kofi Tómasar Frænda
Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Nestled in a basement location, Uncle Tom's Cabin has the feeling of a back-alley London Café. On weekends it becomes a happening and diverse bar.

Krua Thai
Tryggvagata 14 | **D5**
We dare you to find a better meal for the same price anywhere else. Every dish is delicious. Just eat what looks best to you on their colorful menu.

La Primavera
Austurstræti 9 | **E6**
Though it sounds strange, La Primavera serves delicious traditional North Italian cuisine using only local produce. A startlingly tasty combination and a local favorite.

Lystin
Laugavegur 73 | **H7**
Specialising in Icelandic ingredients, cooked in a fusion of Asian and French cuisine.

Mokka
Skólavörðustígur 3A | **F7**
Operating since 1958, Mokka is the city center's oldest coffee joint and founder of Icelandic coffee culture. Regular art exhibits are always worth a look.

Nonnabiti
Hafnarstræti 9 | **E6**
"Nonni" is one of the more popular junk-food places in town, renowned for its greasy sandwiches and its unique Nonni-sauce. Open late for midnight cravings.

O Sushi
Lækjargata 2A | **E6**
Also called "The Train", O Sushi's most intriguing feature is a conveyor belt that runs around the entire restaurant delivering a buffet of authentic sushi straight to your table.

Pizza King
Hafnarstræti 18 | **E6**
This little place serves not only the cheapest but largest slices downtown. A local favorite, and open until 6 on Friday and Saturday nights.

Pizza Pronto
Vallarstræti 4 | **D6**
With a convenient location and late hours, a good place to snack in between bars. Three sizes of pizza with a good selection of toppings. A cheap, if unhealthy, choice.

Pizzaverksmiðjan
Lækjargötu 8 | **E6**
Some say, these guys are making the best in town. You will have to find out yourself. However they have the most original menu written on the wall and the Pesto Pizza is outstanding!

Prikið
Bankastræti 12 | **F6**
Part of the Reykjavík bar scene for decades, this café/bar has a fairly cheap menu and attracts a mix of students and old regulars. Mostly R&B and Hip-Hop on weekends.

Ráðhúskaffi | **D7**
Tjarnargata 11
Located in the City Hall with a great view of the pond, this café has a good selection of pastries and a good place to relax. Regular art exhibits add to the aesthetic.

Santa Maria
Laugavegur 22A, | **F7**
Authentic Mexican food, directly from the stove of the owner's mother, who is an authentic Mexican.

Served with a healthy distaste for anything TexMex. Also the best quality/price ratio in town with every dish under 1000 ISK.

Segafredo
Lækjartorg | **E6**
The Italian coffee chain makes its way to Lækjartorg Square, bringing strong espresso and Italian lunch snacks to grab on the way to work or just to enjoy on the spot.

Shalimar
Austurstræti 4 | **E6**
Shalimar sports the conceit of being the northernmost Indian restaurant in the world and has fine daily specials. We recommend the quite addictive chicken tikka masala.

Silfur
Pósthússtræti 11 | **E6**
Extravagant upscale restaurant situated in the Hotel Borg. The new French style cuisine is brought with professional and friendly service, you get a selection of finest wines and you can choose from an exotic and excellent menu – assuming that you can afford the not less extravagant prices.

Sjávarkjallarinn
Aðalstræti 2 | **D6**
Elegant Seafood Cellar art exhibits add to the aesthetic. Share the exotic menu, courses selected by the chef, with a friend for the most fun.

Sólun
Bankastræti 7a | **F6**
Truly a jack-of-all trades establishment.

By night a decent restaurant, by day a café/bistro and on Friday and Saturday nights a nightclub. Art exhibitions on the walls to top it off.

Sushibarinn
Laugavegur 2 | **F7**
Deceptively ordinary Sushibarinn has recently become the talk of the town among Reykjavík sushi lovers, serving, in our opinion, the very best rolls in city.

Svarta Kaffi
Laugavegur 54 | **H8**
A cosy second floor café, their fame lies partly in their tasty Súpa í Brauði (Soup in Bread) and also in their romantic atmosphere. Good for a few early evening drinks.

Sægreifinn
Verbuð 8, Geirsgata | **D5**
Right next to the harbor, Sægreifinn fish shop is like none other in the country. With a diverse fish selection, exquisite lobster soup and good service, an absolute must-try.

Tapas
Vesturgata 3B | **D5**
For those with a bit of money and time to spare, Tapas serves course after course of delightful miniature dishes. Share the tasty and unusually affordable lobster.

Thorvaldsen
Austurstræti 8 | **E6**
Dress formally for this fancy spot, and come before 12 to avoid a long line. DJs play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Tíu Dropar
Laugavegur 27 | **G7**
An old-fashioned café with warm atmosphere and generous coffee refills. A thoroughly pleasant establishment.

Tivolí
Laugavegur 3 | **F7**
A stylish bistro with a wide variety of selections and positively charming atmosphere.

Tjarnarbakkinn
Vonarstræti 3 | **D7**
Right above the löno theater, an ideal place to go before shows. Nice views of the pond and outdoor dining in the summertime. The lamb comes especially recommended.

Vegamót
Vegamótastígur 4 | **G7**
Vegamót's kitchen is open until 22.00 daily and sports an appealing lunch menu. Come for a tasty brunch on weekends. If you like Óliver, try Vegamót and vice versa.

Við Tjörmina
Templarasund 3 | **E7**
A Reykjavík classic with menu exclusively of traditional cuisine, as frequented by tourists as it is by locals. A perfect opportunity to try Icelandic delicacies.

Vitabar
Bergþórugata 21 | **H9**
Really a bar, but best known for its hamburgers. Burger and fries for 500 one of the best deals in town, but Forget-Me-Not blue cheese and Garlic Extravaganza are also winners.

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Telegrams: 146

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www.is.eurorefund.com

Opening Hours

Bars and clubs: According to regulations bars may be open until 01:00 on weekdays and 05:30 on weekends.

Shops: Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat 10-16, Sun closed. The shopping centres Kringlan and Smáralind as well as most supermarkets and tourist shops have longer opening hours.

Swimming pools: weekdays 06:30-22:30, weekends 08:00-20:30 although some may be open an hour longer.

The State owned ÁTVR liquor stores: Mon-Thu 11-18, Fri 11-19, Sat 11-18. Banks in the centre are open Mon-Fri 09-16.

Tourist Information

Icelandic Travel Market
Bankastræti 2, Tel: 522 4979,

Tourist Information Centre
Aðalstræti 2, Tel: 590 1550,
www.visitreykjavik.is

Both tourist infos offer information for tourists as well as providing internet access, booking service, a phone centre, money exchange service, tax refund and selling the Reykjavík Tourist Card. The Reykjavík Tourist Card gives admission to city busses, various museums, Reykjavík swimming pools, The Family Park and Reykjavík Zoo, The Culture House and the National and University Library.

Getting Around

Public Transport
The only public transport system in Reykjavík is the bus. Most busses run every 20 minutes and price per fare is 280 ISK for adults and 100 ISK for children. Complete route map at: www.bus.is. Tel: 540 2700
Busses run from 07:00-24:00 on weekdays and 10:00-24:00 on weekends

Taxi
Hreyfill-Bæjarleiðir,
Tel: 553 3500 or 588 5522

BSR, Tel: 561 0000
For disabled travellers:
Reykjavík Group Travel Service,
Brunastaðir 3, Tel: 587 8030,
www.randburg.com/is/reykjavik_group_travel_service/

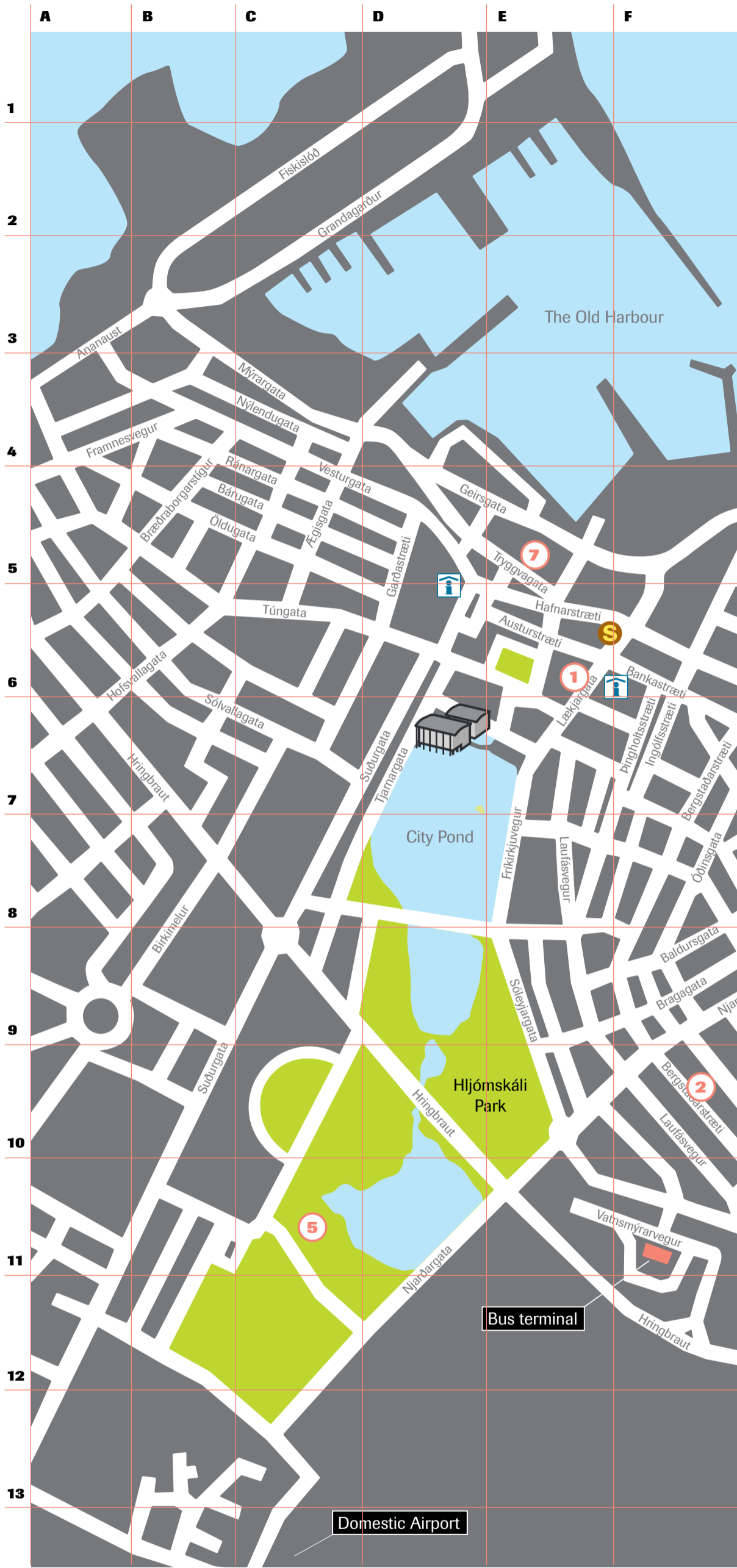
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Air Iceland, Reykjavíkurlugvöllur,
Tel: 570 3030, www.flugfelag.is

Air Vestmannaeyjar,
Tel: 481 3255, www.eyjaflug.is

Bus Terminal
BSÍ, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10,
Tel: 562 1011, www.bsi.is

Flybus
Busses run daily from the BSÍ Bus Terminal to Keflavík International Airport in connection with all departing flights. Departures daily from 04:45 to 15:00/16:30 (every 15 - 60 minutes). For Flybus time schedule see: www.flybus.is

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City of Reykjavík

REYKJAVÍK

WINTER LIGHTS

FESTIVAL

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13

19:00

The Opening of the Winter Lights Festival and Museum Night – Exploring the Past in Grjótaþorpið Neighbourhood

The Mayor of Reykjavík, Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir, launches the Winter Lights Festival in the Sheriff's Garden (Fógetagarðurinn) at the beginning of Museum Night. After the conclusion of the opening ceremony, guests are invited for a journey in time in the Grjótaþorp area. With the dutiful aid of lighting, sounds, films and dramatics the Grjótaþorp returns to the 19th century. Everybody is encouraged to show up in period costumes. On the top floor of Grófarhús, interesting writings on Grjótaþorpið will be on display as well as old photos. The opening is a production of The Art Company "Norðanbál" in collaboration with The Reykjavík City Museum, Energy Supply Relics Museum, The City Theatre and Grjótaþorp inhabitants union. *Fógetagarðurinn by Aðalstræti.*

09:00 – 22:00

Kvosin - The Cradle of Theatrics. A showcase of the old theatres in Kvosin. Kvosin is rightfully called the cradle of Icelandic theatrics, as it hosted the first stage productions in the 19th and the 20th centuries; the first theatres were established there and it's also where Iceland's first stage-celebrities made their names. In this showcase by the Props Museum, a few flashes from this ravishing theatre era will be revealed both orally and visually. *Fógetastofa, Aðalstræti 10.*

10:00 – 18:00

The Listasel Female Artists exhibit their works that are connected with the themes of this year's Winter Lights Festival – light and water. Coffee and chocolates will be served, and all are welcome. Listaselið, Skólavörðustígur 17b.

10:00 – 18:00

Freyja and the Water. Artist Freyja depicts water in her works. Withered taste buds crave a drink while viewing the immersive artwork, so it's ideal to have a cup of coffee or cocoa while you enjoy the art. *Kaffi Loki, Lokastíg 28.*

10:00 – 22:00

Puppet Show in the City Hall. Several examples of Jón E. Guðmundsson's puppets on display. Guðmundsson was a pioneer in Icelandic puppetry during the last century. The exhibition will be launched with live puppet shows. At 13:30 and 14:30 The Helga Steffensen puppet show performs "Númi here and there" at 13:30 and 14:30. The Ten Fingers Puppet Theatre, run by Helga Arnalds, shows "Snow White", directed by Þórhallur Sigurðsson at 15:30. *Reykjavík City Hall, Tjarnargata 11.*

12:00 – 18:00

Poetry-Lamps. Dröfn Guðmundsdóttir exhibits her Poetry-lamps, which light up the darkest months. Enjoy a cosy time sipping on a cup of warm java, reading the lighted poems. *Kaffi Loki, Lokastígur 28.*

13:00 – 19:00

London through Yasmin's Lens. Freelance photographer Yasmin Björnsdóttir exhibits her photos of London's cultural life. *Gallery Lost Horse, Skólastræti 1.*

13:30 – 15:30

Singing by the Grand Piano. Sigurgeir Björgvinsón accompanies group sing-alongs while dance instructor Sigvaldi Þorgeirsson supervises a dance in the main hall. Spectacular refreshment for a decent price. Open for all. *The Community Centre at Vesturgata 7.*

14:00 – 18:00

A Presentation of Northern Iceland. Northerners visit the capital, bringing along ice sculptures, stage productions, food, winter sports, their crazy ways and their warm hearts. We greet them cordially! Schedule continues on Saturday. *Tourist Information Center, Aðalstræti 2.*

14:00

Light and Water, Exhibition Opening. The community centre Kampur launches an exhibition inspired by the Winter Lights Festival themes, light and water. Exhibition will be open until March 23. *The Service Centre of the City Centre and the borough of Hlíðar, Skúlagata 21.*

16:00 – 18:00

Jazz Academy. An assembly of noted Jazz performers takes the stage at *Háskólatorg, University of Iceland.*

17:00 – 18:00

Icelandic Republic's Wordchestra. Poet Kristín Svava Tómasdóttir chose pieces from The City Library's Artótek for an exhibition. She launches the exhibition with a poem installation in which she conducts the recital of the Republic Wordchestra's latest piece. *The Reykjavík City Library, Tryggvagata 15.*

17:00 – 21:00

The Harmony of Light, Water and Colours. A light installation in Hitt Húsið Information Centre. Bakery Korníð offers passers-by coffee and refreshments. *Hitt Húsið, Pósthússtræti 3-5.*

17:00 – 22:00

Hip-hop Cinema Days @ Hitt Húsið. TFA events and hip-hop.is invite you to the cinema! Several classics of hip-hop culture screened alongside more recent films. Infamy at 17:00, Beat Street at 18:30 and Krush Groove at 20:20. This event also boasts a hip-hop boutique and the screening of some Icelandic hip-hop videos. The schedule continues on Saturday. *The Basement of Hitt Húsið, Pósthússtræti 3-5.*

19:00 – 22:00

Tales from the Kreppa (depression). Will you be the subject of future historians? The Centre for Verbal History invites guests to visit their greenhouse, located at the Glasgow square in Grjótaþorp, and recite their experiences of the kreppa now and in the past. How have the Icelandic people worked their way from past misfortunes? Every participant will get a CD with his or her own interview. *The Glasgow square, by Fischersund.*

19:30 – 21:00

Fusion in Bústaðahverfi. The inhabitants of neighbourhood Bústaðahverfi and their guests are given the unique opportunity to participate in the creation of a neighbourhood-artwork, witness lectures, and try out some line dancing and other tomfoolery. The extravaganza ends with a group sing-along. *Bústaðakirkja, Tunguvegur 25.*

19:30 – 21:00

The Vesturbær Swimming Pool: A New Perspective. Hot tub poetry, pool games, a sanity-portrait by high school students, music and several other joyful activities. The schedule is produced in collaboration with several community services in Vesturbær. *The Vesturbær Swimming Pool, Hofsvallagata.*

20:00 – 22:00

New Icelandic Design. Designers Örn Smári Gíslason, Stefán Pétur Sólveigarson and Ingibjörg Hanna Bjarnadóttir present their own designs. Design shop Kraum displays designs from over 100 Icelandic designers. *Kraum, Aðalstræti 10.*

20:00 – 22:00

The Beauty of Birdsong. An opening of a photo exhibition by the Icelandic Bird Preservation Society, where various and beautiful photos of Icelandic birds are on display. The exhibition is brought to life with lively bird sounds from the amusing RÚV program "The bird of the day". *The Dómkirkja Community Centre, next to Iðnó.*

20:00 – 24:00

Amateur Painters open a Joint Exhibition. A number of amateur painters present their work in the first collective exhibition of the Winter Lights Festival. *The Kaaber-building by Sætún. The Museum Night Bus stops at Sætún at 33 – 53 – 13.*

20:30 – 22:00

The Icelandic Sound-Poem-Choir. Nýló Choir performs several sound-poems. Witness some stunning new pieces by Magnús Pálsson and Hörður Bragason. The choir also performs a new piece by Philip Corner. Conducted by Hörður Bragason. *Nýló, The Museum of Modern Art, Laugavegur 26.*

21:00 – 03:00

Tango Marathon. The dance goes on for three days and two nights. Passers-by can pop in at any given time, participate in the dance or simply enjoy observing the event. A special guest is Tango DJ Daniel Carlsson, a tango maestro from Malmö. On Saturday tango classes are offered for beginners as well as advanced dancers. *The National Theatre Basement, Hverfisgata 19. Iceland Express sponsors the Tango marathon.*

21:00

Grapevine Grassroots #1. The Reykjavík Grapevine introduces a new concert series – Grapevine Grassroots – meant to support exciting newcomers to the Icelandic music scene. Performing at the inaugural night will be the lauded Swords of Chaos, Faðir Vor and Bárújárn. *Hemmi & Valdi, Laugarvegi 21.*

21:00

Cuckoos Crow Here! Ólafur Gaukur's sextet performs, accompanied by celebrated singers Svanhildur Jakobsdóttir and KK. The programme includes songs from popular 1960s TV shows, performed by some original cast members. *Fríkirkjan Church by Fríkirkjuvegur.*



23:00

Voces Thules Release Concert:

Sturlunga - Battle of Iceland - Sék eld of þér

Dreams and Omens before the Battle of Örlygsstaðir.

Voces Thules met at the beginning of 2002 with the intention of developing a project based on the dreams and premonitions from Sturlunga's Íslendingabók (Book of Icelanders). After untold hours of research, rehearsal and the acquisition of some custom-made replicas of original 14th century instruments, the project is now finally unveiled in the form of long-player "Sturlunga - Battle of Iceland - Sék eld of þér". This release concert sees Voces Thules performing the piece in full splendour, right in the midst of modern day Sturlunga era. *Iðnó, Vonarstræti 3.*



**Reykjavík
Center
City Map**

**What's this
thing?**



These things are pretty useful, check it out: Every venue that's mentioned in our info section gets a little marker like this, which will help you locate it on our map. Say you want to try out "Basil & Lime" after reading our review - no problem, sir, just look up the corresponding icon on the map!

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Music

GRAPEVINE GRASSROOTS #1

Next Thursday at 21:00, Nýlenduöruverzlun Hemma & Valda on Laugavegur will host the first edition of a new concert series us at the Grapevine are putting together with the good help of young scenester Arnljótur and Gogoyoko.com. It's called Grapevine Grassroots, and is meant to support the many excellent up and coming bands and musician making the rounds in Iceland. The bands that appear in this first edition in are: Swords of Chaos, Bárújárn and Faðirvor. Swords of Chaos are a thrilling four piece that has attracted local attraction for neck breaking performances. Hard as concrete members

include Ragnar, Úlfur small, Úlfur big and Albert. Members Leifur, Sindri and Oddur founded Bárújárn in the fall of 2008, soon joined by Theremin player Hrefna. The band plays gloomy surf rock mixed with death and sufferance. Bárújárn is currently recording an EP that will be released soon. Faðirvor favour an instrumental mix of drone, rock, world music and caramel. They are currently working an album that is scheduled for release soon. Members are Arnljótur, Daníel Friðrik, Kristján Tryggvi, Magnús Trygvason and Snorri Páll. *Photo by Vala S.*

Who: Swords of Chaos, Bárújárn and Faðirvor

Where: Nýlenduöruverzlun Hemma & Valda, Laugavegur 21, 101 Reykjavík

When: February 13

3 G7



UPCOMING CONCERTS

DARK DAYS OF MUSIC | NEW MUSIC FROM ICELAND

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH @ 7.30 pm

Conductor | Daníel Bjarnason
Soloist | Víkingur Heiðar Ólafsson
Soloist | Einar Jóhannsson

Daníel Bjarnason | Piano Concerto
Haukur Tómasson | Dialogo
Jón Ásgeirsson | Clarinet Concerto
Þorkell Sigurbjörnsson | Ríma

THE QUEEN OF VIOLIN CONCERTOS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH @ 7.30 pm

Conductor | Rumon Gamba
Soloist | Leila Josefowicz

Gerald Finzi | Romance
Ludwig van Beethoven | Violin Concerto
Carl Nielsen | Symphony no. 5

ELFA RÚN/BRINGUIER

THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH @ 7.30 pm

Conductor | Lionel Bringuier
Soloist | Elfa Rún Kristinsdóttir

Esa-Pekka Salonen | Helix
Ludwig van Beethoven | Symphony no. 4
Sergei Prokofiev | Violin Concerto no. 2



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Music

SKAKKAMANAGE RELEASE CONCERT

Rural rock band Skakkamanage's long awaited release show will be thrown at Grand Rokk, Friday February the 27th. The show celebrates the band's second album, All Over The Face, which was released late last year. The album received great reviews and the band is a noted live act, so a fun time is to be expected - especially in light of the night's quirky opening acts. First off, Hafnafjörður band A Hansen will pay their tributes to Skakkamanage in their own unique style. This act is followed by sweaty arts teacher Goddur playing his electric guitar (accompanying by Ringo Starr, according to a release). Artists Hugleikur Dagsson and Friðrik Sólnes will perform a stand up routine and the night will be finished off by Skakkamanage's performance of its entire sophomore album.

What: Skakkamanage
A Hansen
Goddur
Ringo Starr
Hugleikur Dagsson
Friðrik Sólnes

Where: Grand Rokk, Smiðjustíg 6, 101 Reykjavík

When: February 27

4 G7

Art

IPSEITY – ABEYANCE

Ipseity – Abeyance is the mysterious title of an exhibition that opens in the Nordic House next Friday. The exhibition is a multimedia one that seeks to capture the fast paced cultural and economic growth in Iceland over the last few years, with an emphasis on the inactivity after the economic collapse. Participating artists are: composer Nico Muhly, painter Alexander Zaklinsky, sculptor Will Schlough and photography based artists Guðmundur Ingólfsson, Erla Haraldsdóttir, Bo Melin, Ingvar Ragnarsson, Julia Staples and Pétur Thomsen. The exhibition stays open 'til February 28 and will end with a closing reception by Swedish performer Malin Ståhl. Her practices embrace a cross-disciplinary approach that includes performance, writing, drawing, photography and video installations.

Where: The Nordic House

When: February 13 – February 28

5 C11



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7. Mundohu t' i kuptosh dhe t' i nxisësh të tjerët përreth teje.
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9. Kërko dhe kultivoi aftësit e tua.
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Listings

THURSDAY FEB 19

- **Cafe Cultura**
21:00 Youtube Night
- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music
- **Kaffibarinn**
21:00 B Ruff Dj's
- **Háskólabíó**
22:00 Queen of the violin concerts. The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra. 3500ISK
- **Hressó**
22:00 Troubadours Böddi & Dabbi play.
- **Oliver**
22:00 Oliver's house band
- **Prikið**
22:00 DJ Moonshine.
- **Q-Bar**
22:00 Dica De La Rosa.
- **Sólon**
22:00 Upstairs: Live music with Ingó.
Ground floor: DJ Fly Carlsberg greenroom party-with special offer on Carlsberg.

FRIDAY FEB 20

- **Apótek**
23:00 DJ Atli Már
- **Café Amsterdam**
01:00 Dark harvest in concert
- **Café Cultura**
23:00 DJ Yamaha.
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music
- **Grand Rökk**
22:00 Grapevine Grand Rock! Singapore Sling, Evil Madness, DJ musician.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Band Napóleon plays followed by DJ Maggi.
- **Kaffibarinn**
21:00 DJ KGB
- **Café Paris**
22:00 Cocktail Night.
- **Oliver**
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már
- **Prikið**
22:00 DJ Addi intro
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 DJ Manny.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Skúli og sökudólgarnir release concert.
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Aki Pain.

SATURDAY FEB 21

- **Apótek**
23:00 DJ Paul Morritz
- **B5**
23:00 DJ Funky Fleivur.
- **Café Amsterdam**
01:00 DJ TBA
- **Café Paris**
22:00 DJ Solid.
- **Cafe Cultura**
22:00 DJ Lazer
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music
- **Grand Rökk**
23:00 Deep Jimi and the Zepp Creams in concert
- **Hressó**
22:00 Dalton in concert followed by DJ Maggi.
- **NASA**
23:00 Partyzone, Stefan Bodzin.
- **Oliver**
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már
- **Prikið**
22:00 Milknight with DJ Danni Deluxe, large beer for 490ISK.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 DJ Kari.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Skúli og Sökudólgarnir in concert.
- **Salurinn**
20:00 Jazz concert in Tíbrá. Sunna Gunnlaugs in concert
- **Sólon**
20:00 Salsa classes
23:00 Ground floor: DJ Rikki G
00:00 Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain.

SUNDAY FEB 22

- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music.
- **Prikið**
22:00 Hangover Cinema.
- **Rósenberg**
16:00 Stórsveit Reykjavíkur plays in concert.
- **Sólon**
20:00 University dance.

MONDAY FEB 23

- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Stórsveit Reykjavíkur in concert.

TUESDAY FEB 24

- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Troubadours Jogvan and Vignir.
- **Oliver**
22:00 Raggi Trubador (Live Karaoke)
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 The Þórunn Pála Trio.
- **Salurinn (Kópavogi)**
20:00 A piano concert played by Nína Margrét Grímsdóttir. 1000ISK

WEDNESDAY FEB 25

- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music.
- **Kaffibarinn**
22:00 DJ Oddur
- **Q Bar**
22:00 Pub quiz night.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Árstíðir.
- **Prikið**
22:00 Milknight with DJ Kári, large beer 490ISK.

THURSDAY FEB 26

- **B5**
22:00 DJ Jay Oh!
- **Cafe Cultura**
21:00 DJ Albino
- **Café Paris**
22:00 Cocktail Night.
- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music
- **Glaumbar**
23:00 DJ Arnór.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Troubadours Böddi and Dabbi.
- **Oliver**
23:00 Salsa class night
- **Prikið**
22:00 DJ Krúsi
- **Q-Bar**
21:00 2 year anniversary performer TBA.
- **Rósenberg**
21:00 Legendary band Fánar in concert.
- **Sólon**
23:00 Ground floor: DJ Rikki G
00:00 Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain.
- **Salurinn (Kópavogi)**
20:30 Af fingrum Fram. Magnús Þór Sigmundsson composer in concert. 2900ISK.

Art | Venue finder

101 Gallery
Hverfisgata 18A | **F6**
Thu-Sat 14-17 and by appointment
www.101hotel.is/101hotel/101gallery/
Located in the 101 Hotel, features a broad selection of international and local contemporary art.

Artótek
Tryggvagata 15 | **D5**
Mon 10-21, Tue-Thu 10-19, Fri 11-19, Sat and Sun 13-17
www.sim.is/index/lsenska/Artotek
An Icelandic art exhibition space and art dealer. Pieces are available for purchase or lease.

ASÍ Art Museum
Freygata 41 | **G10**
Tue-Sun 13-17
Run by the ASÍ labour union, features mostly contemporary Icelandic art. Free entry.

Árbæjarsafn
Kistuhylur 4
An open-air museum featuring arts-and-crafts fairs and exhibitions in the summer.

The Culture House
Hverfisgata 15 | **F6**
Open daily 11-17
www.thjodmenning.is
A Museum of Icelandic cultural history, with an ongoing exhibition of the original manuscripts of the sagas and eddas.

Dwarf Gallery
Grundartígur 21 | **H8**
Opening Hours: Fri and Sat 18-20
www.this.is/birta
An independently run basement Gallery,

Gallery Dwarf hosts exhibitions which speak straight to the hearts of the "cute" generation.

The Einar Jónsson Museum
Eiríksgata | **G9**
Tue-Sun 14-17
www.skulptur.is
Features a permanent exhibition on the sculptor Einar Jónsson as well as temporary exhibits.

Fótógrafi
Skólavörðustígur 4a | **F7**
www.fotografi.is
Features photographic exhibitions by local photographers.

Gallery 100°
Bæjarháls 1
www.or.is/Forsida/Gallery100/
Open weekdays from 08:30-16:00
An art museum run by the Orkuveita Reykjavíkur energy corporation. Features contemporary art by Icelandic and foreign artists.

Gallery Auga fyrir Auga
Hverfisgata 35 | **G7**
Independently run art museum featuring Icelandic art.

Gallery StartArt
Laugavegur 12B | **G7**
Tue-Sat 1-17
www.startart.is
Contemporary Icelandic and foreign art. Admission is free and the gallery is run without any government funding.

Gallery Ágúst
Baldursgata 12 | **F9**

Wed-Sat 12-17
www.galleriagust.is
Galleri Ágúst is a contemporary art gallery in the centre of Reykjavík. With an ambitious programme of exhibitions, it also presents and sells art-work of Icelandic and international artists.

Gallery Fold
Rauðarástígur 14-16 | **J9**
Mon-Fri 10-18 / Sat 11-16 / Sun 14-16
www.myndlist.is
More of an art auction than just a gallery, Fold also evaluates and exhibits art.

Gallery Kling & Bang
Hverfisgata 42 | **G7**
Thurs-Sun from 14-18
this.is/klingogbang/
Exhibits upcoming and established contemporary artists as well as hosting screenings, lectures and performances.

Gallery Turpentine
Ingólfstræti 5 | **F7**
Tue-Fri 12-18 / Sat 11-16
www.turpentine.is
Houses a collection of Icelandic contemporary artwork as well as works from old Icelandic masters both for display and sale.

Gerðuberg Cultural Centre
Gerðuberg 3-5
Mon-Thu 11-17 / Wed 11-21 / Thu-Fri 11-17 / Sat-Sun 13-16
www.gerduberg.is
Located in Breiðholt, the Gerðuberg cultural centre hosts both exhibitions and events.

Hitt Húsið - Gallery Tukt
Pósthússtræti 3-5 | **E6**
www.hitthusid.is
Initially thought of as a hobby centre to keep the youth from drinking, Hitt húsið is still operational and organises events as well as hosting art exhibitions in their Gallery - Gallery Tukt.

i8 Gallery
Klapparstígur 33 | **G7**
Tue-Fri 11-17 / Sat 13-17 and by appointment. www.i8.is
Represents work by an eclectic mix of Icelandic and international contemporary artists.

Living Art Museum
Vatnsstígur 3 - **G7**
Wed, Fri-Sun 13-17 / Thu 13-22. www.nylo.is
A non-profit gallery that organises 8-10 larger exhibitions every year as well as other cultural events.

Lost Horse Gallery
Skólastræti 1 | **F6**
Weekends from 13-19 and by appointment on weekdays.
Located in a renovated stable off Laugavegur, features work by local artists.

The National Film Archive
Hvaleyjarbraut 13
www.kvikmyndasafn.is
The National Film Archive of Iceland screens old movie classics and masterpieces twice a week for 500 ISK per ticket.

The National Gallery of Iceland
Frikirkjuvegur 7 | **E8**
Tue-Sun 11-17
www.listasafn.is
Houses the national art collection and is the centre of research and documentation of Icelandic art.

The National Museum
Suðurgata 41 | **C9**
Open daily 10-17
natmus.is/
Established in 1863, this museum features exhibits on Icelandic cultural heritage.

The Nordic House
Sturlugata 5 | **C11**
Tue-Sun 12-17
www.nordice.is/
Explores and promotes Scandinavian culture with regular lectures, films and exhibitions.

The Numismatic Museum
Einholt 4 | **K9**
Open Mon-Fri 13:30-15:30.
Presents a cultural history of Iceland through analysis of collected coins, medals and books.

Reykjavík 871+/-2
Aðalstræti 17 | **D6**
Open daily 10-17
Museum on the founding of Reykjavík. Located in the oldest house in the city. Tours in English on Mondays and Saturdays at 14.00

Reykjavík Art Gallery
Skólugata 28 | **H6**
Tuesday through Sunday 14-18
The city's public art gallery features works by Icelandic artists.

Reykjavík Art Museum
Open daily 10-16
www.listasafnreykjavikur.is
Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum Sigtún Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17 | **E5**
Kjarvalsstaðir Flókagata | **K11**
Specialising in contemporary art by local and international artists. Free entrance.

Reykjavík City Theatre
Listabraut 3
Presenting Icelandic music and dance performances as well as dramatic theatre, produces six new shows each year.

Reykjavík Maritime Museum
Grandagarður 8 | **C3**
With a fishing trawler-turned-exhibit space, educates on the maritime and fishing traditions of Iceland.

Reykjavík Museum of Photography
Tryggvagata 16 | **D5**
Weekdays 12-19 / Sat-Sun 13-17
www.ljosmyndasafnreykjavikur.is
Features work by local and international photographers, as well as an archive on the history of photography.

Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum
Laugarnestangi 70
Features a permanent exhibition of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson's works.

Art SIRKUSÁR

Sirkusár is a site-specific photography exhibit placed on the derelict remains of Sirkus. Sirkus has in many ways come to visually represent the repercussions of the economic crisis. Closing down to make way for a more profitable shopping mall, forcing the Icelandic art scene out. They collectively mourned and felt like vagrants. In light of the financial situation, it stands static and unused, mocking all attempts to eradicate it from the scene. Sirkus receives relentless support for its return. Artists have endeavored to be fascinated in its nostalgia

in their work. Kling og Bang gallery removed its interior and transported it to the Freeze Art Fair in London. Artist Theresa Himmer decorated neighboring walls with her street art. And now, Sirkus' walls host the photographic work of Grapevine's own Jói Kjartans. The title of the exhibition translates as the Sirkus years, or can be subtly interpreted as "Sirkus wounds". Each picture is printed onto aluminum metal, commonly used for graveside portraits. Ironically, the photographer produced the series six months before Sirkus closed,

symbolizing the bar's melancholic end. Taken over three years, the photographer captured the bar hopping regulars, now immortalized for all to view.

Where:
Sirkus' remains
When:
Until February 21

6 G7



Art SHADOW BOY – THE WORLD OF ALFRED FLÓKI



Reykjavík Art Museum hosts the first exhibition of Alfred Flóki's drawings for a long time. The works are mostly owned by the museum, and for the first time, the artist's early self-portraits are displayed together with his more famed works. Alfred Flóki's status in Icelandic art history is unique. He sought inspiration in the methods of symbolism and surrealism, in the teachings of mystics and poets, and never hesitated to shock his fellow men with daring and aggressive subject matters that sprung from those dark sources. Various events are linked to the exhibition, which the well-known artist Sjón, supervises. Amongst others events there will be a discussion on symbolism in Iceland where the term surrealism will be analyzed and poems connected to the movement will be recited.

Where:
**Reykjavík Art Museum,
Tryggvagata 17**
When:
February 5 – May 10

7 E5

Art RETURN TICKET

Sara Riel's latest exhibition, Return Ticket, will open February 7 at Kling & Bang. Riel is returning home from a long stint abroad, and her exhibition revolves around her experiences making Made in China – an exhibition she put on in Xiamen, China. Sara also addresses subjects such as new experiences and the feeling of being isolated in one of the most populated places on earth, with a bit of influence

from the teachings of Tai chi. Return Ticket consists of instalments, paintings, photographs, video pieces, clip art and drawings. Some pieces from Made in China will be on display and have been developed since when they were last shown (so those of you that made it to the China edition still have a reason to go. Kling and Bang gallery is open Thursdays to Sundays from 14-18. Admittance is free.

Where:
**Kling & Bang,
Hverfisgata 42**
When:
February 7

8 G7

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Read about Icelandic contemporary literature on www.literature.is

Icelandic Literature

Reykjavík City Library. Tel: 563 1717. www.borgarbokasafn.is

Listings

FRIDAY FEB 27

- **Apótek**
23:00 DJ Fly (SWE) aka DJ Jonas
- **Cafe Cultura**
22:00 Karius & Baktus.
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music
- **Grand Rokk**
22:00 Skakkamanage release concert. A Hansen, Goddur and Hugleikur Dagsson perform. 1000ISK
- **Hressó**
22:00 Band Dalton in Concert, followed by DJ Erling.
- **Kaffibarinn**
22:00 DJ Kari
- **Oliver**
23:00 DJ Maggi
- **Prikið**
22:00 DJ Benni and Gestir.
- **Q-Bar**
23:00 DJ Funky Fleivur and suprise guest.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Band Mamas Bag and María in concert.
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Aki Pain.

SATURDAY FEB 28

- **Apótek**
23:00 DJ Fly (SWE) aka DJ Jonas
- **Hressó**
22:00 Troubadours Gotti & Eisi play, followed by DJ Erling.
- **Cafe Cultura**
21:00 Bollywood night
- **Café Paris**
22:00 DJ Solid.
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live Music
- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music
- **Grand Rokk**
22:00 Shogun plays live.
- **Kaffibarinn**
23:00 DJ CasaNova
- **Oliver**
23:00 DJ Maggi
- **Prikið**
22:00 VIP night with DJ Danni Deluxe.
- **Q-Bar**
22:00 DJ Yamaho and DJ Magic
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Mamas Bag and María.
- **Sólon**
22:00 Upstairs: Live music with Ingó. Ground floor: DJ Fly Carlsberg greenroom party-with special offer on Carlsberg.

SUNDAY MAR 1

- **B5**
21:00 DJ Einar.
- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music
- **Hallgrímskirkja**
14:00 An afternoon in the memory of Bishop Sigurbjörn Einarsson.
- **Prikið**
22:00 Hangover Cinema.
- **Sólon**
20:00 University dance.
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 Halli Davíðs troubador in concert.

MONDAY MAR 2

- **B5**
21:00 DJ playing.
- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music
- **Sólon**
20:00 Salsa with salsa Iceland.

TUESDAY MAR 3

- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live Music
- **Oliver**
22:00 Raggi Trubador (Live Karaoke)
- **Q Bar**
22:00 Open mic.
- **Sólon**
21:00 Live music with Ingó Idol. Dj Andres playing.

WEDNESDAY MAR 4

- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live music
- **Kaffibarinn**
22:00 Bedroom Community

- **Prikið**
22:00 Milknight with DJ TBA, large beer 490ISK.
- **Q Bar**
22:00 Pub quiz night.

THURSDAY MAR 5

- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live music
- **Glaubar**
23:00 DJ Valdi.
- **Hressó**
22:00 Troubadours Jógvan and Vignir.
- **Sólon**
23:00 DJ Aki Pain.
- **Q-Bar**
21:00 DJ Svinni
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 The Blues Project in concert
- **Salurinn (Kópavogi)**
20:30 Af fingrum fram. Valgeir Guðjónsson in concert. 2900ISK.

FRIDAY MAR 6

- **Apótek**
23:00 DJ fly (SWE) aka DJ Jonas
- **Cafe Cultura**
21:00 DJ Egner.
- **Celtic Cross**
01:00 Live music
- **Dubliner**
22:30 Live music
- **Hressó**
22:00 Band Ímynd in concert followed by Dj Maggi.
- **Oliver**
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már
- **Prikið**
22:00 Milknight with DJ TBA, large beer 490ISK.
- **Q-Bar**
21:00 DJ Anna Brown and DJ Ási
- **Rósenberg**
22:00 B. Sig. in concert.
- **Salurinn (Kópavogi)**
20:30 Larry Coryell Jazz Concert. 2500ISK.

Art

- **ASÍ Art Museum**
Feb 07- Mar 01
Between the layers: Puríður Sigurðardóttir exhibits paintings, drawings and video. Her work is about man and his connection with nature.
- **The Culture House**
Permanent exhibitions: *Medieval Manuscripts*; The Library Room.
Current exhibitions: *Surtsey - Genesis*
The exhibition traces the emergence and evolution of the island Surtsey until the present day and predicts its geographical and ecological development over the next 120 years.
The Late View - Halldór Laxness' Photographs
Nobel Laureate and cosmopolitan Halldór Laxness was better known for his writing but also proved to be a good photographer. This is an exhibition of his works.
Exhibition Series: Weird and Wonderful Beasts from Icelandic Folklore by Jón Baldur Hlíðberg is an exhibition of illustrations from his book on the magical creatures of Icelandic folklore.
- **The Einar Jónsson Museum**
Permanent exhibition: The work of sculptor Einar Jónsson.
- **Gallery Ágúst**
Feb 06- March 07 (2009)
DRAWINGS AND SKETCHES:
The exhibition consists of artwork which spans the artist's long and successful career. Guests are invited to browse through numerous pieces from different chapters of the artist's career. Steingrímur Eyfjörð has been active on the Icelandic art scene since the 70's and represented Iceland at the Venice Biennale in 2007 with his exhibition *The Golden Plover* has arrived.
- **Gallery Kling & Bang**
Feb 07 - Mar 08
RETURN TICKET: is based on earlier work by Sara Riel, titled **MADE IN CHINA**, shown in Xiamen, China, in 2008. Riel's work is affected by the context of living in new surroundings, including the sense of discovery and the irony of

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Hressingarskálinn

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

Food is served from 10 until 22 every day. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, after the kitchen closes Hressó heats up with live music. Weekends, DJs keep the party going until morning, with no cover charge.







Listings

feeling isolated in the world's most populated country. The influence of Tai Chi, the concept of yin and yang, and the search for balance are emphasised in Riel's new work. This exhibition employs a variety of media and is a continuation of the ideas and memories Riel experienced in China, as seen through the perspective of returning home. RETURN TICKET includes a combination of photography, video, installation, painting, drawing and collage.

- **Gallery StartArt**
Feb 05 - Mar 04
3 solo exhibitions:
Ólöf Nodal, Sigríður Melrós Ólafsdóttir and Kristín pálmadóttir
START ART artists
Gunnar Árnason -Kraninnkraminn
Bubbi - Guðbjörn Gunnarsson
Sigríður Ágústsdóttir - Línur
Friðrika G. Geirsdóttir - Mana
Guðbjörg Ringsted - Finleg
Ása Ólafsdóttir - Þórdís Alda
Sigurðardóttir/Sigrún Sigvaldadóttir
- **Gallery Turpentine**
Feb 06 - Feb 22
EMPTY: JBK Ransu
- **Gerðuberg Cultural Centre**
Jan 18 - Feb 15.
This is what the children like!
Good narrative comes into focus in the interplay between illustration and text. Exhibitions of the illustrations of newly published children's books
Jan 18 - Mar 15. "It sounded as if the harp was weeping": An exhibition of puppets used in a presentation by Leikbrúðuland of some episodes from Völsungasaga
Jan 18 - Mar 01. Boginn gallery: From home and homeland Water Colours by Hugi Jóhannesson in the Boginn Exhibition Area.
4 Feb. Arts and crafts coffee at 8 o'clock. How to make an ash Wednesday costume
5 Feb. Classical Noon. Take a lunch break with famous Icelandic musicians. Art director is Nína Margrét Grímsdóttir piano player.
14 Feb. International Children's Day on The winter light festival. Art workshops from all corners of the world for children and teenagers!
22 Feb. Ash Wednesday bags and "bolluvendi" A course in making Ash Wednesday bags and "bolluvendi" for children and their families.
25 Feb. Ash Wednesday. The traditional cat is beaten out of the barrel, illusionist, a band accompanies the dancing.
Mar 06 - Apr 19 Boginn gallery: The Land in colour. Popular artist Guðrún Jóhannsson exhibition of landscape paintings.
- **Gljúfrasteinn Laxness Museum**
Gljúfrasteinn was the home and workplace of Halldór Laxness (winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1955) and his family for more than half a century. It has now been opened to the public as a museum, unchanged from when Laxness lived there.
- **i8 Gallery**
Jan 15 - Feb 22. Uplift Exhibition by Hrafnkell Sigurdsson a series of sculptures and images incorporating various waste materials.
- **Living Art Museum**
Feb 13. Nylo choir
- **Lost Horse Gallery**
Feb 13 - Feb 20. Yasmin Bjornsdottir - DK - Photographer
An Exhibition of Photography for the Winter Lights Festival
Feb 20 - Mar 14. Bergthor Morthens - IS - Painter
- **The National Gallery of Iceland**
Feb 13 - May 5
SEVERAL FRIENDS: The exhibition sheds light on the period in Icelandic art when formalism, confronted by informal values, retreated and other attitudes started to invade the art scene in the second half of the 20th century. The focus is cast on the arrival in Iceland of the Swiss artist Dieter Roth and the parallel development which took place among several young artists who new each other and met regularly. Their mutual impact and the influence they had on Icelandic art is at the core of the exhibition.

- **The National Museum**
Permanent exhibition:
The Making of a Nation
June 6 - Jan 31. Back Home
Across the Sea: Icelandic 19 century artefacts from Sweden.
- **The Nordic House**
Feb 13 - Feb 28. Ipseity-abeance:
A multimedia exhibition of sound and picture that seeks to capture the fast paced cultural and economic growth in Iceland for teh past few years, especially reflecting on the inactivity after the fall of the economy.
- **The Numismatic Museum**
Permanent exhibition: The Central Bank of Iceland and the National Museum of Iceland jointly operate a numismatic collection consisting of Icelandic notes and coins.
- **Reykjavík 871 +/- 2**
Permanent exhibition:
The Settlement Exhibition
- **Reykjavík Art Gallery**
Current exhibition: Magnús Tómasson, Pétur Már Pétursson and Tólli
- **Reykjavík Art Museum Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum**
Permanent Exhibition. The Shape of Line. A new retrospective of works by Ásmundur Sveinsson. The exhibition focuses on abstract works from 1945 onwards.
- **Reykjavík Art Museum Hafnarhús**
Feb 05 - May 10. SHADOW BOY - THE WORLD OF ALFRED FLÓKI: Reykjavík Art Museum hosts the first exhibition of Alfred Flóki's drawings for a long time. The works are mostly owned by the Museum, and for the first time the artist's early self-portraits are displayed together with his more famed works. Alfred Flóki's status in Icelandic art history is unique. He sought inspiration in the methods of symbolism and surrealism, in the teachings of mystics and poets, and never hesitated to shock his fellow man with daring and aggressive subject matter that sprung from those dark sources.
Jan 5 - May 17. Erró - Point to the east, point to the west
Jan 17 - May 17. The Erró Game-an interactive exhibition, kids can reconstruct paintings by Erró.
Jan 22 - Mar 8. Ásmundur Ásmundsson: individual artist is invited to create an exhibition that underlines connection with life that is happening outside the walls of the museum.
- **Reykjavík Art Museum Kjarvalsstaðir**
Jan 10 - Apr 13. Kjarval Complete: A salon style exhibition displaying the whole collection of Iceland's most beloved painter Kjarval
Jan 24 - Apr 13. The Art of Chess: Fifteen unique chess sets and boards made by internationally renowned artists. each chess set has its own concept reflecting the artists' vivid imagination. Artist including Damien Hirst, Maurizio Cattelan, the Chapman brothers, and Rachel Whiteread exhibit.
Jan 24 - Apr 13. Creative Move: An on going workshop for the whole family where they can create chess sets out of unusual materials.
- **Reykjavík Maritime Museum**
Current Exhibitions: Living Museum by the Sea; Arterial for Country and City; From Poverty to Abundance; The Shark - Light and Life Energy; Hidden Craftsman.
- **The Reykjavík Museum of Photography**
Jan 17 - May 10. Tíra: The art of Bjargey Ólafsdóttir is not confined to a single medium - she picks the medium she feels is most apt for each concept.
- **Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum**
Permanent exhibition: Works of sculptor Sigurjón Ólafsson.
- **101 Projects**
Jan 9 - Feb 8. Sentimental nature and a Dragon: Davíð Örn Halldórsson exhibition
Feb 28 - Mar 22. Exhibition by artist, Susan Hiller (US)

OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

For more information about art outside Reykjavík visit grapevine.is

Listasafn Reykjavíkur
Reykjavík Art Museum



Also on display

at Kjarvalsstaðir:
Salon-style exhibition
from the Kjarval Collection

Also on display

at Hafnarhús:
Erró from the Erró Collection
Hole Ásmundur Ásmundsson
D-11 Pétur Már Gunnarsson
Shadow Boy Alfreð Flóki

Also on display

at Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum:
The Shape of the Line
Ásmundur Sveinsson

Kjarvalsstaðir
Flókagata, daily 10-17

Hafnarhús
Tryggvagata 17 daily 10-17
Thursdays to 22

Ásmundur Sveinsson Sculpture Museum,
Sigtún, daily 13-16

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CD REVIEWS



THE VERDICT
Highly danceable
electro-pop.

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FM BELFAST

How To Make Friends



REVIEWED BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE

FM Belfast definitely will make some friends, and not just because they are such a sympathetic live band and generally awesome people. On "How to make friends", the trio underlines their status as Iceland's electro-pop export #1. The songs kick where they should, are catchy, sometimes sweet, sometimes full of verve and sometimes relaxed. FM Belfast unite the best elements of popular acts like The Knife and add their very own character to the mix, which is also a result of the very adequate vocals of Lóa Hjálmtýsdóttir and her pack. On this point you would also excuse the quite Dadaistic lyrics about designated drivers or daughters of presidents. However, every song on "How to make friends" is entertaining and stays in your mind for a long time. Not to mention that this records offers everyone the chance to dance. Just listen to that Snap cover, "Pump".



THE VERDICT
Hard rock mixed with some
strange concepts and a dose
of comic relief.

LISTEN
www.myspace.com/
doctorspock

DR. SPOCK

Falcon Christ



REVIEWED BY RAGNAR JÓN HRÓLFSSON

Dr. Spock's experimentation and unwillingness to have their music categorised makes them a hard thing catch on to right away. Hard rock mixed with some strange concepts and a dose of comic relief make Falcon Christ seem almost like an autistic hard rocker at times. The band's playing is as tight as it gets, though, and when caught live, the immense energy surging through their stage blows all doubts away. The production is very good and sound delivery excellent, although the band's quirkiness overshadows exactly the parts you would like to hear at times. Downtuning both their guitars and comic relief would make for a good follow up from a metalhead's perspective. Still, the band's image adds a special spice to the mix that helps them transcend the heavy metal tag, and puts them in place as one of the more interesting bands around. A good album with a lot of good runs but a bit too much private humour.



THE VERDICT
A musically pointless,
if effectively atmospheric,
exercise in self-indulgence.

LISTEN
www.johannjohannsson.com

JÓHANN JÓHANSSON

Fordlandia



REVIEWED BY SINDRI ELDON

It's all very nice and atmospheric, but what's the point? An unfair question, to be sure, but somehow one has come to expect more, and somehow Fordlandia feels all too much like undeveloped, if very enticing, musical ideas – like an album waiting to be sampled by someone doing something a bit more expressive, or string arrangements for Madonna or Nick Cave songs. Even the mighty and bombastic The Great God Pan Is Dead and Melodia (Guidelines For A Propulsion Device...), the most pointed tracks on the album, are little more than an interesting premise and theme music for an action movie, respectively. The contrast of lush, beautiful instrumentation with the sparse, slow arrangements seem more directed at producing sound rather than music, and barely warrant a second listen.

CONCERT REVIEW BY ÞÓRIR GEORG JÓNSSON — PHOTO BY JÓI KJARTANS



SOME SERIOUS HEAD BANGING

Hard Rock At Grand Rokk



It seems hardly a month can go by without another of Reykjavík's few suitable live venues going under, so seeing Grand Rokk getting back into the game is a thing to celebrate. Once one of Reykjavík's most popular rock venues, it was sadly transformed into a sports bar a couple of years ago. But now, after a bout of rarely straying away from big screen football, the doors are once again open to those that take sweaty musicians over sweaty athletes.

If finding a venue is becoming a problem in Reykjavík, it's probably downright hellish in Ólafsvík, where Endless Dark hail from. And it shows. They clearly know how to work their instruments and their vocalist is, to say the very least, impressive but they don't look at home on the stage. Their noughties emotional metalcore lacked energy and the long awkward silences between songs got tiresome very quickly. They have potential and a knack for writing hooks, but what they need is more experience.

Next up were Johnny and the Rest and if imitation is really the sincerest form of flattery, the 70s can really be proud. Somewhat the odd men out, Johnny and the Rest played 70s influenced blues

rock with a large dose of cool but completely lacking in soul. They played their parts like pros, but the result was flat and uninspired.

A surprisingly refreshing 50 Cent song later, Shogun took the stage. And what the other bands lacked Shogun brought in spades. It was their party and they made that clear from the get go. Their performance may have been a little sloppy at parts but they more than made up for it with sheer energy, delivering a powerful set that got the crowd moving. Shogun may not be doing anything groundbreaking with their mix of modern hardcore and metal, but what they do they do well. They are loud and they play it like they mean it.

Barely stopping between songs, the only break they took was to inform people that there will be an after party, and at the after party there will be free beer. But no matter how much of that free beer people drank, Shogun's performance surely was one they will remember. But Shogun weren't the only highlight of the night. Being back in Reykjavík's finest hard rock venue was a joy and one can only hope it will be a frequent one.

WHO
Shogun
Johnny and the Rest
Endless Dark

WHERE
Grand Rock

WHEN
Saturday, January 31

CONCERT REVIEW BY BOGI BJARNASON — PHOTO BY BOGI BJARNASON

Shorts, Beer-guts & Blastbeats



Owing to the fact that by some freak accident of nature the promoter managed to stick to the post-ed schedule, I rob myself of the always enjoyable Celestine, whose Cult of Neurosis style post-metal (for lack of a better definition) was probably as devastating in its heaviness and despair as usual. But better than sit through all six bands – a practice in concert promotion I find a bit over the top, if not outright obnoxious.

Last on stage, before the imminent destruction that is The Black Dahlia Murder, are local veterans Severed Crotch. I never tire of likening Severed Crotch to Gorguts and I find myself doing so once again here. As the Crotch – sans one guitarist who is home sick – send the audience spiralling into the depths of unfathomable technicality, I am left with the sad feeling that this band – which reportedly rehearses drunk in order to better emulate the live setting – will probably keep toiling forever in the relative obscurity that is the Icelandic metal scene. This seems to me a bitter fate, as the band could hands down take on any band out there, even the awe-stounding (to coin a word) Psychoptic, whose latest Aussiesome (i.e. something that is simultaneously Australian and awesome) record I'm imbibing at the time of writing.

MEN HANDLING GUITARS

After Severed Crotch sign off with the declaration

that the audience is a bunch of mother bastards, Trevor Strnad – donning only shorts and a beer gut – and his cohorts in the ever revolving line-up of members that is The Black Dahlia Murder take the stage. The newest member comes to them by way of Arsis (which is a good sign) and he manhandles the lead guitar tonight in his debut appearance.

BDM are an exercise in extremes on plastic but not so much on stage. Sure they don't hew to the Death Metal maxim of standing forever still and headbanging, but as Strnad impressively shreds his vocal cords both in a high pitched screech and a rumbling growl, I'm am left wishing that the axemen would join him in pacing the stage and showing some emotion.

As the music rushes forth like At the Gates in the third power, pits start forming like eddies in a river and towards the end of the set Trevor orchestrates a wall of death, which proves suitably violent – and that inspires flourishes of stage dives to crowd surfs. As the drummer – whose blastbeats reign nearly uninterrupted – seems at the end of his tether and in a pool of sweat, the band, who have gone through material from all albums, gear down for the final song, but not after thanking the crowd and asking us to score them some weed; the better to usher the band into sweet sleep.

WHO
Black Dahlia Murder,
Severed Crotch

WHERE
Dillon Sportbar,
Hafnarfjörður

WHEN
Thursday, January 15



MASTER OF PUPPETS?

Little Moods of Norway has been doing the hibbity-dibbety on the international fashion dance floor for barely 4 years now.

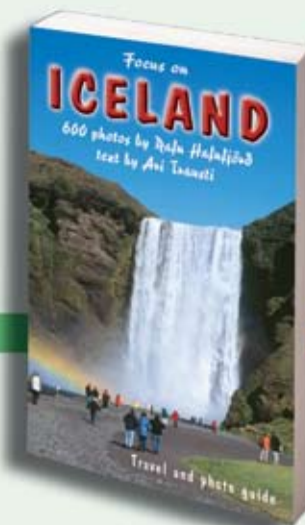
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DESTINATION

Almost Snowboarding In Akureyri

Two days of riding that just weren't meant to be

BY BOGI BJARNASON

My iPod is pink and ancient. Within it resides, among others, Steve Von Till. He is gently crooning at my eardrums as turbulence hits like a line-backer, sending the Fokker into violent spasms affecting a change in altitude and piercing shrieks of terror from a few rows back. Screams that repeat ever more horrified as we enter a series of vacuum pockets and some woman gets scared witless.

We descend through a thick cloud cover and the pilot sets her down as smoothly as I wish I could manoeuvre my snowboard tricks. Budget car rental is cheap, hence the name. Still maybe you should shell out a bit extra not to be stuck with a Hyundai. As I am. The rental clerk asks me what's wrong with a Hyundai, so I ask her what's wrong with the German techno-pop band Scooter. Well, at least they didn't stick me with a Kia.

A LEAD IN TO DISAPPOINTMENT

I chauffeur myself to the Gula Villan Guesthouse and nap briefly before entering the domain of hip-hop that is my adolescent friend Siggí's SUV. We pop out for some excellent pizza at a local bakery and Siggí informs me that the mountain won't open 'til 4 PM. So it's nap time again.

This is my first (of hopefully many) northward bound trips this season, so I'm well stoked. While sporting only one chairlift and three tow-lifts, Hlíðarfjall does have the largest inbound playing field in the country, made up of windlips and chutes. It is often covered in acres of powder. Moreover, the many steep chutes, cornices, bowls and cliffs within a short hiking distance from the top tow-lift are in enormous amount and variety. Alas, once mountainside it's hella windy and fogged the fuck up, so the top lift ain't open. Which means a wasted lift ticket and that it is now time to hit the bottle with a vengeance.

INEBRIATION OVERTAKES

Hitting the bottle is a Thursday trend 'round these parts it seems, and what with Akureyri establishments' apparently lax carding policy, Siggí – not yet twenty years of age – can easily purchase drinks at Kaffi Amor. Which he does. A lot.

As a pathetic troubadour blasts us like a jet engine with timeless Icelandic classics and plays the Radiohead number "Creep" at least thrice, we take refuge outside Amor for smokes – this is after I plead with him to turn down the volume. Not being

of the tobacco persuasion, I delight my northern Iceland friends with the lighting of a meticulously rolled tulip. My newfound friend Helga then sets me up with a rather loose relative of hers. Good times. Better even had I hit successfully on Helga but, sorry to say, she's spoken for.


ANOTHER HIT OF DISAPPOINTMENT

The next day rises slowly, like a bad hangover. Hlíðarfjall, Iceland's Mecca of snowboarding, opens at one o'clock. But it seems the beauty of Iceland's best resort is not meant for my eyes, as the mountain is trapped within the grudging grasp of a crippling whiteout. Again the top lift is closed due to poor visibility, so I do three laidback cruising runs on the more intermediate slopes beneath the high speed quad chair. It isn't very high speed today.

These lower slopes undulate at a slovenly pace and are wide enough to absorb endless amounts of happy skiing holidaymakers, but they are not the hi-jinxing, double black diamond, airtime filled cup of tea I'm looking for. Which is a shame, 'cuz on a good day this resort caters to all levels of snow seekers. Once the top lift is out, however, it becomes an intermediate area at best.

THE ESCAPE PLAN

All in all, it's a bust. So I phone up the good people at Flugfélag Íslands to make an early break for it. They are most accommodating, even when I manage to miss my flight. While in the process of missing my flight, I soak myself in the hot tub of the local swimming pool, an excellent establishment which I was once banned from and arrested at. Long story.

Hamborgarabúlla Tómasar has gone belly up in Akureyri – most likely due to their insistence on sesame seed free buns – but DJ Grill took over the location and I am happy to report that they make quite an enjoyable bacon cheeseburger. So I leave you on that high note. Trip done, with the least possible amount of actual snowboarding and the most amount of alcohol imbibed. I'm proud of myself. 

Trip provided by: Air Iceland - www.airiceland.is
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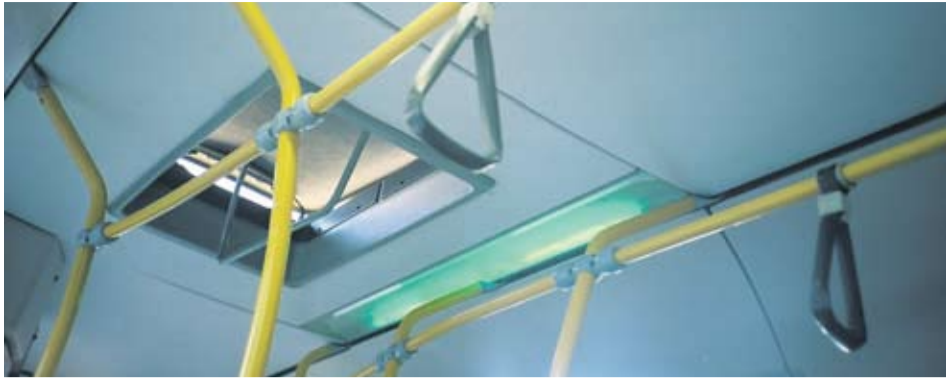
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DESTINATION — PHOTO BY JÓI KJARTANS



Bus 51 to Hveragerði

An Exciting New Option in Travel

BY RICHARD P. FOLEY

Since the 2nd of January, the city bus company Strætó has provided the towns of Hveragerði and Selfoss with a regular bus service to Reykjavík. The bus service costs 840 ISK for adult single, but if you buy an 11 ticket pass it costs 2.500 ISK, reducing a single fare to 682 ISK.

In the past, if tourists or townspeople wanted to travel to and from Hveragerði, they needed to drive or use the BSÍ terminal whose service is not as regular and more expensive. Thus, this new service will hopefully save travellers money and bring greater access to this very intriguing region. The bus services have been divided into 4 zones and priced according to the distance of each destination from Reykjavík. Hveragerði, which is situated 45 km southeast of Reykjavík, will be in the 3rd zone travelling on bus number 51. If you were planning on commuting it would be advisable to buy a monthly green pass or a 3 monthly red pass to reduce expenses.

Granted, the prospect of a new bus route does not seem to stimulate over joy in the vast population. However, the town is notably one of the must see destinations whilst visiting the country if interested in geothermal activity.

The geothermal hot springs within the steam valley powers a substantial amount of greenhouses, which helps in sustaining a major proportion of the food produced in Iceland. In the summer months the productivity of the greenhouses increases, cultivating a fantastic range of summer flowers. It is a somewhat of an Icelandic tradition to visit Hveragerði to buy a bouquet in the season.

HIKING REYKJAFJALL

Hiking tours to Reykjafjall Mountain are also offered in the peak season of tourism. Those bring

you to the hot springs in the mountainous area. Off-season it is still possible to visit the walks and encounter the hot springs. One word of warning, though, is that if you are inexperienced plan the walk in advance, noting where you can bathe, what to wear and which provisions to take. As we learned, off-season can be far more dangerous.

We took the red stick guide path to Reykjadalur (smoke valley) just north of Hveragerði. At the end of the path is the only part of the river permitted to bathe in, for the cold and warm mountain streams cross at this point, allowing for the cooling of the volcanic water.

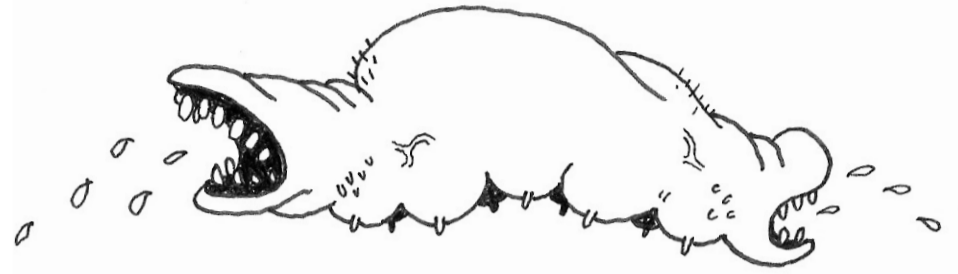
If not informed or experienced, you might expect to be able to bathe in any large spring. The warning signs are very sparingly placed and there were no directional arrows to guide you correctly to the next one. We only saw one sign warning of 100 degree water temperature while on the mountain path, which makes it difficult to predict the position of the next one and finding one's way around in general. Overall there was a feeling that these paths should be more efficiently marked.

With no experience of hiking, and with little anticipation of jumping over streams and venturing in mud on a hike path, we were ill prepared and underestimated the duration of the trip. When we began to walk back it was becoming dark and we could no longer see any of the red sticks. Slowly, we found our way back but knowing there were hot springs hidden in the darkness, it was just plain fortunate that nothing terrible happened.

A new 51-bus route to the southern towns is exciting news, so take advantage of the service and if you plan on hiking unsupervised, remember to be safe and plan ahead. [T](#)

ILLUSTRATION BY HUGLEIKUR DAGSSON

Monsters and Mythical Beings



Tilberi

Learn how to make your very own!

BY HAUKUR S MAGNÚSSON

This eleventh instalment in our Hugleikur Dagsson illustrated series of Iceland's monsters and mythical beings (or are they?) tells of the Tilberi. And boy, is that one fucked up being.

Listen: Tilberi are magical creatures, made exclusively by women out of dead men's ribs and a bunch of wool, no less. They can be used to steal milk and wool, so as to save the household some much needed resources. Tilberi are usually associated with the isolated, witchcraft-heavy region of Strandir in the Westfjords, and tales of them are rampant in the area's folklore. If you are female struck by a bad case of Kreppa and want to learn how to make your very own, read on.

To make a Tilberi, you must steal a dead man's rib-bone out of the cemetery, at the morning of Pentecost. You wrap a bunch of grey wool around that rib and place it firmly between your breasts. You must then approach the altar at church three Sundays in a row, and spit some of that tasty mass wine in the being's mouth. The second time you do it, the Tilberi will stir a little. The third time, it'll spring to life so energetic that you'll have to hold it back so you won't get noticed and burnt at the stake.

Once Tilberi is alive, you can't keep it between your breasts any longer. You must draw blood from your thigh and make a little teat out of the sore. From now on, Tilberi will enjoy sucking on that faux teat, feeding off your blood whenever he's at home. You will eventually develop a limp, as well as a third nipple on your inner thigh, but you'll hardly notice what with all the flow of tasty, free milk.

Now to put Tilberi to use. Once you let him loose, he will seek out any cow and sheep in the area and suck out their milk. Once full, he will return home and shout: "Full belly, momma," to which you must reply, "vomit in the churn, boy!" Tilberi will vomit the day's loot into your butter-churner, and you can in turn churn out as much Tilberi-butter as you like. Those in the know say it's quite rich in flavour.

Your Tilberi, versatile as it is, can also steal some wool for you. It'll jump on a sheep and wrap its coat around its bony self, skipping home in delight.

Now, as you grow older you will grow tired of Tilberi sucking on your thigh. Older women aren't built to handle that stuff. So you'll need to get rid of him, and the best way to do so is to send him to the mountains and tell him to collect all the sheep droppings within a certain range. Tilberi is eager to serve his momma, so the unfortunate chap will fill up on the dried faeces until he bursts. According to legend, folks often stumble upon human ribs surrounded by sheep droppings on mountaintops, which lends some credit to the stories. [T](#)

We got most of our Tilberi info from the Museum of Icelandic Sorcery and Witchcraft. Check out their web site, www.galdrasýning.is



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OPINION

Questions From The Tourists

BY "SIKA"

Last summer a British tourist asked me how a country with only 300,000 and some inhabitants can maintain an economy so strong that it holds up Europe's highest standard of living – a nation that has no large scale industry and no natural resources like oil or gas that could be exported. That was before the breakdown, and what can I say; I am a tourist guide and not an economist. So I did what every guide does when he or she does not know the exact answer: I pulled something out of my hat.

Tourist guides are story tellers, that's what the guests expect from us. Stories about the country, stories about the hidden people, stories about a past, about things that have happened or not.

I answered this tourist's questions as a Viking tactic. It started in the very year of 793, when some Vikings attacked the monastery of Lindisfarne on a British isle, and started what was later known as the Viking age. Easily navigated ships that could be used in open waters as well as in rivers, a crew that was quick, merciless and had nothing to lose than their lives (for in their home country things weren't all too good), and the instability of the raided countries gave them the opportunity. When the instability ceased, the opportunities diminished and, if you believe in karma (meaning "what you give is what you get"), the Viking countries paid for it in the centuries to come. Norway and Iceland lost their king and independence, and both suffered from the cooling climate in the 13th century, today known as the little ice age, and not the least from the one thing that Iceland is all about: volcanoes.

When I asked an Icelandic friend about the current financial crises, she answered me that Iceland had survived worse things than this. Indeed: cold climate, volcanic eruptions, Danish trade monopoly. Not even Laki, a volcanic fissure that erupted in 1783 with devastating consequences, could bring the people to desert their island. Even the Danish king, at the time in charge of Iceland, wanted to evacuate, but the heirs of Vikings didn't give in. It took another volcano in 1845, Askja in the north of Iceland, and the opportunity of the new world in the west, to make Icelanders leave their beloved homes. Even still, their grandchildren and great-grandchildren come back to find out all about the mystery of that treeless, wind-swept, ice-covered lava-field that their ancestors left with heavy hearts.

And also people from all over the world come to this island in the north Atlantic, trying to find out if it is the mythical Thule of Pytheas, or if the stories about the so-called hidden people are true and if they can find them, or why this treeless, windswept, ice-covered lava-field with its huge unpopulated areas and endless skies keeps so many spellbound.

And this is how it works. I tell a colourful story and you forget the question that was asked. When Iceland went bankrupt, I was lucky enough that I didn't have many guest who dared to touch this delicate matter.

And when the next season starts, I will find another rabbit in my hat. 🐰

INTERVIEW BY SIGURÐUR KJARTAN KRISTINSSON — PHOTOS BY JÓI KJARTANS



CLIMBING UP THE LADDER



COMPOSER SIGTRYGGUR BALDURSSON



CHOREOGRAPHER PETER ANDERSEN

What does "Welcome Home" signify?

The Icelandic Dance Company contemplates the economic crisis

The Icelandic Dance Company premieres its February production, *Welcome Home*, today. The show is intriguing in many ways. Most dance productions have a single choreographer calling the shots: this piece boasts three leaders – Peter Anderson, Cameron Corbett and Katrín Hall. In tune with this, the group has joined forces with three composers with the ultimate goal of creating a complex piece where the music, dancing, and external appearances harmonize. When Grapevine dropped by at a rehearsal in Borgarleikhúsið last month, their goal seemed distant at best; a flock of dancers climbing on or wrapped around gigantic metal-clockworks on wheels, shifting sluggishly around the stage. A closer look revealed that this chaos was in fact an organised one. They looked like they were pulling it off nicely.

THE NEVER ENDING CREATION

Celebrated drummer and Sugarcubes dandy Sigtryggur Baldursson composes the piece's music along with Pétur Ben (an equally accomplished musician who boasts of collaborations with such big-wigs Mugison and Nick Cave), and Frank Hall, the uncrowned music king of Borgarleikhúsið. When I quizzed Baldursson whether the collaboration was a success, he diligently explained that they are of course working under the choreographers' instructions, but they had always assumed that to be the case. "It's one thing to compose music meant to accompany a dance piece when everything has been choreographed in advance, but creating a

piece in collaboration with the choreographers is a completely different task, and a much more difficult one. Somebody has to be in charge," he illustrated, "we constantly have to write new riffs and shorten and lengthen others. The experience is all in all extremely giving". Sigtryggur expects them to be tweaking the score until the premiere, and goes as far as calling it "a work in indefinitely progress".

THE PATTERNS OF LIFE

Choreographer Peter Andersen depicts the process as a unique experience, "There has been a certain pattern within the group, where you have to listen to everybody. You could say there has been a learning curve. There is always a feeling that there needs to be one leader, and questions such as "if I take the lead, will it disperse the energy of the group?" arise, so this has also been a journey in itself, this process of creation." The piece itself has taken a completely different direction since it was kicked off. "We decided to do this production in February of 2008, long before any inkling of a financial crisis. And a lot of things have changed since," Peter explains. He says the group emphasized common questions that arise in the aftermath of such a collapse, placing a special focus on the patterns that we live within. "The pattern of the seasons, the patterns of life and finally the economic pattern are cornerstones of this work. Crises happen all the time. You build things up again. It's this constant build-crash-build-crash process." Peter says he hopes that when somebody watches the work, they'll draw connec-

tions not only to the crisis, but also to the cycle of feelings they delineate in the piece.

THE FRAGILE IDEA OF "HOME"

The show's title, *Welcome Home*, isn't exactly lucid. We asked Peter to elaborate: "We came up with the title *Welcome Home*, which leaves us quite open to interpretation." He then explained that the idea of home varies, to some it's a nice and secure place, while to others it... isn't. Some retain even dearer feelings than others for their home, and Peter emphasizes that this has been case with Icelanders. But is it still? "Icelanders are greeted with a special "welcome home" plaque when they land in Keflavík, which is unheard of elsewhere on the globe. Now their home is a bit rocky – how does that affect their psyche?" 🐰

ICELANDERS ARE GREETED WITH A SPECIAL "WELCOME HOME" PLAQUE WHEN THEY LAND IN KEFLAVÍK, WHICH IS UNHEARD OF ELSEWHERE ON THE GLOBE. NOW THEIR HOME IS A BIT ROCKY – HOW DOES THAT AFFECT THEIR PSYCHE?



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OPINION



I Am Not An Icelander

BY SINDRI ELDON

I am an Icelandic person, living in New York. I don't much care for the term 'Icelander'. Not for any moral reason or ideological distinction, I just don't like the word. It sounds forced and unnatural, the sort of thing someone who speaks English as a second language might say in order to sound educated. Anyway, I'm living in New York and predictably enough, every time someone finds out where I'm from, it's time for twenty questions and an opportunity for some random asshole to show off how well he can read. "So what's goin' on over there? I heard the whole place ran out of money." "Hey, don't your banks owe so much money to the British that they declared war on you?" and so on and so forth.

It would seem that the standard queries on hidden people and Greenland being icy & Iceland being green have been replaced by subjects I abhor with equal fervour: economics, politics and the assumption I'm some sort of spokesperson for every featherbrained donkeyfucking lunatic in public office in my home country. "It's complicated," I respond. "I really can't say either way, Henry" – which then gets me into the ironic position of being labelled a refugee. People both here and in Reykjavík have assumed that I just got the hell out of dodge because of the situation there, which isn't drastically wrong, just inaccurate. I left

because of the way it was before our economic crisis set in.

Wasn't there reason enough to leave? I'm amazed that it only seems to have occurred to our much-pitied prime minister recently to start panicking over losing the youngest productive population. Maybe it's just me, but I didn't need much added incentive to leave an expensive, isolated bastion of conservative capitalist values with limited educational diversity, a nation that was losing so much of its identity to the United States anyway that if I would have waited another year or two, I may not have needed a passport or a visa to get here.

So you'll excuse me for saying that there wasn't really anything there for me. It's not meant to be an insult to our country. In fact, I feel national pride in general is a pretty bad idea. If two culprits were to be placed on trial and found guilty of causing all the wars, all the conflicts and all the strife in human history, it would probably be greed and national pride.

I mean, a flag is a pretty cool thing. It's colourful and makes for great scenery, but so is a lightsabre fight, and you don't find many people tearfully swearing allegiance to Darth Maul... although, on second thoughts, you might be able to find said people. In fact, they might number over 300,000.

What is really harmed when a flag is torched? Aren't you just offering your enemies more ways to harm you by getting upset when they burn some cloth? It's a bit like going up to a school bully as a kid and saying, "Excuse me, but I've just wet myself. Making fun of that would be a good idea."


I'm not saying we shouldn't work for the betterment of the community we live in, but is it that important to be grouped with 300,000 other idiots and expend energy of any kind competing with other groups of people who were born in the same general area of the world?

I hate the idea that people are actually vilified for leaving Iceland in a time of crisis. If you're an AIDS researcher and you aren't getting paid enough money in Iceland, and you go research somewhere else, aren't you saving just as many lives? Are Icelandic lives worth more than lives in this hypothetical other country (we'll call it Mordor)? Shouldn't we all be striving to improve the lives of all people, rather than just people from Iceland, which by the way, already has one of the highest standards of living in the whole world? I'm sure the Icelandic people could stand to drop a few places down the list, and still not be put off.

If you're something completely useless, like a musician or a fashion designer, and you for some reason decide to move to Mordor and do the same thing, is there any loss for anyone involved? Can't you prance around showing off your useless talents somewhere else and not be a burden to society? And if you are like me a student, is there any difference at all who I give money to for teaching me stuff? Aren't teachers from Mordor just as noble and capable as ones from Iceland? Can I not simply walk into Mordor?

It seems to be that the people we have to hang on to the most, according to government statements, are the ones with industrial and heavy labour occupations. Why? Don't we have enough houses and decent plumbing in them? I don't have the exact figures for how many people were left homeless after the Chinese earthquakes, but I'm fairly certain they outnumber Iceland's entire population. And if a bunch of people leave Iceland, won't we need even fewer houses?

Could it be that politicians know that without a steady supply of hardworking new citizens fuelling their nation's economy, they themselves would be rendered totally irrelevant? What good is ruling a country if no-one lives there? Could it be politicians are just jealous because they can't pick up, leave, and come to power in other countries? That would actually be pretty amusing. I can picture Ingibjörg Sólrún running for office in rural Thailand, or Davíð Oddsson advising Robert Mugabe on financial matters.

I'm fully aware that the situation is 'more complicated than that', but that's exactly what pisses me off the most. It seems unfortunate to me that we live in a world where logic and truth are irrelevant in the face of abstract concepts like money, debt, national pride, selfishness and jealousy, and that instead of doing what is best for ourselves and our families, be it staying in Iceland or simply walking into Mordor, we have to be mouthpieces and standard-bearers for the system that failed us in the first place. 

OPINION



Community Without Authority

An anarchist explains his ideals

BY SIGURÐUR HARDARSON


I am an anarchist and I know that the individuals who have placed themselves in power are dangerous to my community and me; therefore I consider them my enemies and I feel it is my duty to push them away and use violence if needed, because love does not imply pacifism. The nature of power tells that it will not be given back voluntarily, that's why it needs to be removed. This is not necessarily a call for bloodshed. There are other ways (like drumming government out of its wits).

I am an anarchist because I recognise my own fallibility and the fact that I make mistakes. Because of my human frailty I should never have power over others. I should never make decisions for others; only participate in consensus-based decision-making.

The anarchist is not a utopian. There is no perfect society, no one truth and no utopia but we know that social engineering based on oppression is unacceptable, even though the system that oppresses is called democracy. The majority vote can be just as wrong as anything else. Ask the slaves, the women, the gays, the immigrants. There is always power struggle in all communities. That is natural. We now have built-in hierarchies that allow power greedy individuals to place themselves above others.

All human systems collapse at some point. Systems that are based on the responsibility of a few individuals collapse faster. The bigger the units are, the more people depend upon them and the more disastrous the consequences. The smaller units we organise and the more flat we keep our systems, the lesser risk there is of disaster; this applies both to politics and economy. The longer people are stuck with being only voters and consumers, more stand to die helpless when there is scarcity. The more individuals in a community that think like anarchists – that our community is safer when organised without authority – the less chance manipulators can have their way with us. That's what the words "an-" and "archy" mean in the old Greek: "Without authority."

Originally anarchism rebelled against capitalism. It appeared around the same time as capitalism and as capitalism's war on community grew, so did anarchism. The philosophy it is based on is much older, but as a political movement it is a product of the changes communities went through with the appearance of capitalism and the nation-state. The power of governments and other hierarchies is based on the agreement of the ruled. Fear of authority is not the only reason but the fact that the ruled have the same values as the rulers. Both take for granted the principle that some few should rule and others should obey. The oppressive power of the modern state is not only based on political and economic power. The real horror is its ability to establish a certain understanding of the world.

The anarchist critique is about finding power structures and hierarchies in all parts of life and work against them, because they are unjust and should be dismantled (there are examples of justifiable use of force). This applies to politics, property and managing, the sexes, children and the future (defending the ecosystems). This includes participating in and encouraging direct action against what oppresses as well as benefiting and supporting social factors that already exist and are anarchist in nature. This is not everything, but it's a start. 

The author is an activist, an anarchist, a musician and a nurse

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The appointment of the first openly gay PM is about as significant for the gay community as the appointment of Obama in the U.S. was for that nation's African-American community.

Political scientist Baldur Þórhallsson reflects on JóBama Sigurðardóttir.

PAGE 2

To make a Tilberi, you must steal a dead man's rib-bone out of the cemetery, at the morning of Pentecost. You wrap a bunch of grey wool around that rib and place it firmly between your breasts.

Icelandic witchcraft is fascinating, and illustrated by Hugleikur Dagsson.

PAGE 29

After a bout of rarely straying away from big screen football, [Grand Rokk's] doors are once again open to those that take sweaty musicians over sweaty athletes.

Concert reviewer Þórir likes him some sweaty guitarists

PAGE 26

One of the bills was a proposal whether to allow alcohol sales in supermarkets. Crisis? What crisis? Give them bread and games, give them beer and wine. For once, Icelanders declined a drink.

Check out Valur Gunnarson's awesome protest feature.

PAGE 6

I got hit by a rock, in the head. I did have a helmet on, but it still stunned me. The blow from a thrown brick is tremendous. It's like people don't realize – some folks think that if you're wearing a helmet and a shield, you're somehow fair game.

Reykjavík's finest interviewed incognito.

PAGE 10

*You're fired.
YES I KNOW!*

Lóa's comic is brilliant as always.

PAGE 2



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// RELEASE CONCERT**

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// The Nordic House**


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// Friday 13th of February
// Kl. 23:30 // 23:30**

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www.vetrarhatid.is**

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