

# HALLÓ!

ISSUE Nº 3 - MARCH 6 - APRIL 2 - 2009



The  
REYKJAVÍK  
GRAPEVINE

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## PARTYING LIKE IT'S 2007

THEIR LAVISH TRIP  
TO NORWAY  
EXPOSED!

WILL SUCCESS LEAD THESE  
YOUNG MUSICIANS TO BEHAVE  
LIKE COMMON BANKSTERS?

# FREE!



**THE BOHEMIAN**  
HJALTALÍN'S Högni (24)  
goes unwashed for weeks  
on end, still rouses  
the ladies!

**THE LADIES MAN**  
ÓLAFUR ARNALDS (22) is  
THE hot young bachelor  
of 2009!



**THE ANGRY YOUNG MAN**  
Logi (17) of RETRO STEFSON's hush-hush  
steroid treatment!



IF YOU LOOK LIKE A MICK JAGGER, ACT LIKE ONE.



WHY ARE THEY CALLED WEIRD GIRLS AGAIN?

**Haukur's 3rd Editorial!**

Lately, I find myself having to wait in line to get into popular bars and clubs – and paying the full price for drinks once I finally get in there. I get the feeling a lot of you doormen and bartender types out there don't realise that I am THE EDITOR OF THE REYKJAVÍK GRAPEVINE, and just how awesomely important that makes me.

To make all of our lives easier, I have decided to forego the usual editorial banter and political frustration in lieu of the helpful visual aid below. Feel free to cut it out and post it in a prominent location of your establishment – this way, we all win.



**Cover**



**Cover photos by:**  
Hörður Sveinsson

**On Cover**  
Hjaltalin, Retro Stefson and Ólafur Arnalds

**Thanks to:**  
Silfur

**In Case You Were Wondering**

No, we haven't given up on our awesome 'Monsters and mythical beings' series. Hugleikur Dagsson just suffered a series of nightlife-related injuries this month that rendered him unable to illustrate it, so we decided to just do two next month. And one of them is Nábuxur ("corpsepants"), so stay tuned!

**"Mistakes, We Made A Few..."**

Two to be exact. Both had to do with math. Go figure.

-A three course meal at Pisa should actually set you back around 3.000 ISK, rather than our estimated 5.000. Unless you only order the really expensive stuff and lots of drinks.

-The fabulous bargain prices at Hótel Holt are only valid on Mondays and Tuesdays. Other days it's not such a bargain, but the food sort of makes up for it.

-That is all.

**Masthead**

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## LETTERS

## Sour Grapes And Stuff We Like

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

After reading your second editorial I felt like sharing a thought or two about the current situation in our countries. So I considered coming to live in Iceland. See, the view that many of us down there have about Northern European countries is that they are... better. Their governments work properly (hold on, I'll come back to that), the bureaucracy is not narrow-minded and idiotic, people are respectful and highly civilised, infrastructures are impeccable, equality is achieved by all, rights are respected and fought for, etc. Wonderland. I speak as an un-informed person, I am sure. I recognise I am pretty naive and for a second I thought Iceland was a sort of fairie-filled Sigur Ros-singing country were all is well and fine. No, okay, I am not that naïve.

One thing gives me hope though. I quote from your article: "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 chose topic of discussion was... the availability of alcohol beverages in grocery stores?" I can't help but notice how familiar this is. Our PM is has rushed a judiciary reform so he could save his arse and the ones of his own buddies from guaranteed jail sentences. He has been accused to have paid some guy to lie in court for one of his trials but they can't arrest him because the law he just pushed in the Constitution won't let them prosecute the four highest political authorities of the Republic. Oh, and a law on biological testament. And, uhm, a law encouraging doctor to report immigrants without visas.

Anything being done about the crisis. No. Well.. a 'Social Card'. It was some sort of a debit card, topped up with 40 euros every month (mindblowing!) to give disadvantaged people. Needless to say, the bureaucracy behind was impossible to follow. The point is that I feel you Icelanders still have hope. By hope I mean this: You do truly expect your Government to do something about the crisis. You do genuinely get horrified when availability of alcoholic beverages in groceries is being taken care of instead of something else. And you do believe in protesting, because why shouldn't you if it led your administrators to pack their bags and leave? In Italy we wouldn't have that. I don't expect them to do anything. Wanting and expecting could have never been more apart. Of course I want them to fix it, but I simply know they won't. And after screwing things up, I know nobody will pay, while you get reasonably angry because they don't. They do everything else but discuss the crisis, and I am not at all surprised. Of course there are protests, but I know they will stay just where they are. So what I am saying is, at least you should feel a little bit lucky you have high expectations for your Government, and that still equals to fairie land to me. Because I guarantee you you wouldn't want to live in a country that has never given you reason to build such high expectations in the first plac

Thanks for your time,  
Valentina

Dear Valentina,  
you make some good points. Speaking of political apathy, I am actually quite apathetic here, as are most of my friends. We don't really expect our government to be able to take care of anything, to tell you the truth, but we'll be damned if we allow them an existence as incompetent fuck-ups without letting them know our feelings.

This morning, when I was drinking my coffee and eating my breakfast it hit me. The reality. I am foreigner. I work as a cleaner lady and get my monthly salary from cleaning the toilets of rich Icelandic people.

You could argue if they are still rich but at least they used to be, until this famous financial crisis. After seeing thousands of people loosing their jobs I started to worry. I was preparing myself to leave this country because I was thinking that now there are going to be all Icelandic people lining up and wanting my job. But what happened? I still keep on working my as off and cleaning. Nobody has come to me wanting my job.

And I keep on paying taxes. What are these all former bankers and flight attendants doing? They still live in their 50 milj. Krona houses. Drive their 6 milj. Cars and what else? They are getting financial support! Living with unemployment support! The very same money that I am paying as taxes! There they are sitting in they fancy sofas and complaining how poor they are and how they had to get their house loan frozen. They are like big fatty bears. Sleeping over the winter. Waiting for the warmer days and time they can sell they houses and make profit again.

And I am stupid enough to work and pay their food.  
Sour Selma

Dear Selma,  
yeah, it's true. You having to work hard to pay for complaining fatty bear food sucks. Sorry about that. Kinda the nature of capitalism, though, isn't it?

Hi, I have been following your country's recent announcement that it will not only continue whaling, but will increase the kill quota. I see this includes Fin whales which are considered by the international community to be endangered.

I am glad that your caretaker government has decided to reconsider this position, but am dismayed that your unions are still pushing the slaughter of these mammals as the part answer to their members financial problems.

Is anyone in Iceland aware of just how against whaling people in other countries are? Do you have any idea how backward and cruel you come across as, when two thirds of your people polled say that they think it is a good idea to butcher endangered whales? It is bad enough that you still conduct whaling without this extra Fin whale issue.

If the unions think that this will help jobs in the long term, then they are mistaken. Your country will experience worldwide boycotts and might even be barred from joining Europe until you completely give up whaling if you ever decide to formally apply for membership.

I have personally sent a petition to Brussels to ask that Iceland is barred from any future membership until it ceases whaling and MEP's have helped by tabling the question to be debated by the commission in 6 weeks time.

I have taken such strong measures not because i dislike Icelandic people, on the contrary, but because if this world cannot look after the creatures that are easy to love, what hope is there for the rest of our ecosystem and the health of mankind?

If you publish this letter, there will be a rush of hateful rhetoric, calling me a meddling outsider who knows nothing of the needs of Iceland's people. This may be true, but as a young man, I worked in a small town in Australia where the last

remaining whaling operation carried out by a Southern Hemisphere country was still active.

I witnessed the slaughter and processing of Sperm whales, which are now endangered. I remember the whalers telling outsiders that it was none of their business. That was 30 years ago and the income from such activity was soon replaced, even though there were few employment opportunities visible at the time. People adapted and found they were not as tied to whaling as they thought.

One thing is for sure and that is the needs of Iceland's people are firmly tied to a healthy planet. Your collective choice to have embraced the damaging and wasteful lifestyles of the developed West has now left you very exposed. For the world to support you in your time of need, you will have to change and give up whaling. It is your choice.

Marty Wyness, UK

Dear Marty,  
I hope you don't take this as hateful rhetoric, and I sort of agree with you on the whole whaling issue. It's unnecessary, and it certainly won't create lots of jobs. But still, man, why should "being easy to love" entitle one species status over another? Have you looked into the mass-farming of cows, chicken and pigs? There's some seriously uncool stuff going on right in your backyard. Go there. And give up colonialism and war and stuff while you're at it, if you want our support.

## Stuff We Liked In February

- Café D'Haiti.
  - The view from our new office.
  - Going to Norway.
  - The Condé Nast Portfolio profile of Dorrit Moussaieff and her husband.
  - 'All of Them Must Go' – Naomi Klein's recent column for The Nation.
  - Arnljótur Sigurðsson.
  - Scoring free pylsa every now and again.
  - Our February issue. Especially the cover.
  - Double latté in a whisky glass at Hressó.
  - All of the awesome people that contribute to GV.
  - Singapore Sling, DJ Musician and Evil Madness at Grand Rokk.
  - Sam Amidon at Kaffibarinn.
  - Alcohol and cigarettes. (c'mon. It's dark all the time).
  - Trying to figure out why the new Simpsons suck so bad.
  - Composer Steve Reich.
  - The Northern Wave film festival.
  - The revamped Já.is.
  - The hot tub at Sundhöll Reykjavíkur.
  - Sökudólgarnir at Rósenberg. Rósenberg in general.
- Like what we like? Check out an updated list at [www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is)



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Shannon Guihan - Butterfield & Robinson  
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## HISTORY LESSON

## The history of Icelandic Rock Music



### PART 1: The foresighted stewardess

BY DR. GUNNI

Iceland 1956. Only few years have passed since Icelanders lived in mud huts and died young. The Second World War had made (some of) us rich and the modern ways were slowly creeping in. British, and then the much hipper American soldiers, had brought chewing gum and Forties pop music. Youngsters, being only used to old time psalmody and Icelandic country songs, got hip to listening to jazz and pop around the soldiers' barracks.

Cue in pop singer Haukur Morthens who had a weekly radio show at the only radio station (The state radio – Rás 1). One day a foresighted stewardess brought him “Heartbreak Hotel” by Elvis and asked him to play it. “It sounded unworldly and crass. So much beat and volubility. Today it sounds just easy and cosy,” commented Morthens, thirteen years later in 1969. The kids liked what they heard, but legend has it that in Höfn a farmer had a heart attack when Elvis sounded on the radio.

Iceland got its share of the international rock and roll craze. The Icelandic kids went gaga over the flaming hot new music, just like kids everywhere. More and more rock music got played on the only radio station, much to the dislike of many. “This filthy American noise will spoil the youth”, said the cultural elite, adding, “Thankfully rock music is just a bubble that will burst soon enough.”

Early American rock films were shown in theatres and the first rock combo played in Reykjavik in 1957, Tony Crombie & his Rockets, a British former jazzist who had jumped on the rock bandwagon to make some quick cash. The band put on a convincing rock show night after night, playing altogether for around ten thousand Icelanders. Sometimes the police were brought in to calm down rock crazy teens.

Icelandic musicians, most of them being jazz snobs, didn't like this new thing at all. “This is crap music, if you can call it music”, they said, all the while forced to play “the crap” because the kids and the young audience liked it so much and asked for it at the dancehalls.

The record industry's initial attempts with rock fumbled at best. Pop singers were given slightly “rock-ish” songs to sing; sometimes the only indication of them being of the genre was that the word “rock” was mentioned in the song. Skapti Ólafsson was the first to nail the new thing. He sang six rock songs on records that sounded pretty convincing between 1957 and 1958. The most famous song was “Allt á floti” – an Icelandicized version of “Water water” by Tommy Steele (Britain's first rock n roller). The song was banned from the radio, presumably because radio personnel thought it included sexual messages. This was the best publicity possible and the single sold like a motherfucker. Eventually Skapti was to buy a refrigerator for the income. 🇮🇸

By Dr. Gunn, based on his 2000 book *Eru ekki allir í stuði?* (Rock in Iceland). A revised edition of the book is forthcoming in 2010.

## INTERVIEW BY IRINA DOMURATH — PHOTO BY JÓI KJARTANS



## The Immediate Future Looks Pretty Grim

**Economist Gylfi Magnússon warned against the dangers of the Icelandic economy before the crisis. He mans the post of Minister of Business Affairs, courtesy of Iceland's new minority government. He also is a Professor of Economics at the University of Iceland, and holds a Ph.D. from Yale and a Master's degree in Philosophy.**

“There were a lot of mistakes made and warning signs ignored,” he says. “The debts will rise and the banks' size need to be controlled, but Iceland has the resources to surmount the problems.”

**How do you explain to the people that they have to pay the banks' foreign debts?**

First of all, with regard to Kaupthing Edge in Germany, I have been told that it seems almost certain that there are sufficient assets within the bank to pay off depositors. There is a much bigger problem with Landsbanki's Icesave accounts in the U.K. and the Netherlands. It seems inevitable that when all accounts have been settled, some part of these Icelandic debts will be paid by the Icelandic government and then, of course, by the Icelandic taxpayers.

**Are the Icelandic banks doomed to remain domestic because Iceland is such a small country and the banks shouldn't exceed the GDP?**

You can say that for now. The banks over-extended very dramatically. Our main concern now is to get the New Banks fully functional in order to be able to serve the domestic economy. Basically, all their foreign operations have either been seized or are waiting to be sold off. At some point their finances and reputation may recover, and then they may be able to expand a little bit abroad but that won't happen in the immediate future. We have to do everything that it is needed for the domestic business and will not spend resources on expansion. The Icelandic government has to set up a regulatory framework to make sure that nothing similar to what happened in the recent past will be repeated. Obviously a number of things went wrong in Iceland. There were some bad decisions made by the bankers and the owners of the banks, but there was also regulatory failure.

**In what way?**

In many ways. Our regulatory framework puts very little limits on how large the banks could become and there were no serious attempts made to try to reduce their growth. There was domestic and foreign criticism before the banks collapsed. But those voices were not listened to.

**Why not?**

On the surface everything looked extremely rosy. The banks were growing rapidly, generating huge profits. They were hiring people left and right on very high salaries. The stock market was booming. The real estate market was booming. But the banks were relying to an ever-increasing degree on horrendous borrowing. There was a real danger that if there was some disruption in the flow of foreign capital, we could have a very rapid negative spiral where the asset prices could fall and the Króna could depreciate. Which unfortunately is exactly what happened.

**Do you think that the banks should have had the obligation to advise Icelandic customers not to take foreign currency loans?**

They should have done that. Instead, they advertised risky behaviour and risky products. And it's quite clear that when a banker tells a customer, without any foreign currency earnings, to make a huge bet on the Icelandic Króna by taking a foreign loan, the current exchange rate fluctuations can make the customer bankrupt overnight. But one more reason why people were taking foreign loans was the high interest rates in Iceland. This was a policy mistake by the Icelandic Central Bank.

**How highly is Iceland in debt now?**

This is complicated. The government will take on sizable debts as part of the IMF program, the settlement of the Icesave deposits and also some domestic debts due to the refinancing of the banking sector. We will have a sizable budget deficit this year and next year as well. That said, the gross debt will be somewhere around one year's GDP, which means that the situation here is somewhat worse than the situation in Belgium or Italy before the worldwide financial crisis.

**How is Iceland supposed to pay these debts considering the depression, companies going bankrupt, consumption decreasing and interest piling up?**

It's certainly going to be tough. I don't want to say a year or two, because it will take longer than that, but the immediate future looks pretty grim because of all those factors and with government tax receipts falling at the same time. Demands towards the government, like unemployment benefits, are also rising. But we have to keep in mind that the crisis doesn't destroy real assets. We still have a very well educated, hard-working, flexible labour force. We have infrastructure and natural resources. We can use these real assets to regenerate goods and services, including export. And the government is getting a lot of assets as well. For example, it now owns the banks and even if they won't be sold they should become healthy companies that provide revenues. So, the government's net debt should

end up similar to the ones in the Western European countries, maybe 50-60% of the GDP, even if we don't paint a very rosy picture. Also, our weak currency, even though it contributed to the downfall and the big problems, can help to Icelanders recover through exports quicker than countries that have a strong, stable currency.

**Do you think that other countries might face the danger of bankruptcy in the course of the worldwide economic crisis, countries like Greece, Portugal or Ireland?**

I certainly hope not. And what is strikingly different in these countries is the fact that they don't have a small floating currency like we have, and they have the backup of EU Central Bank and maybe even of their fellow governments within the EU.

**Your predecessor said that he regretted not having pushed Iceland more towards EU-membership. Do you think EU-membership would have prevented or reduced the consequences of the crisis for Iceland?**

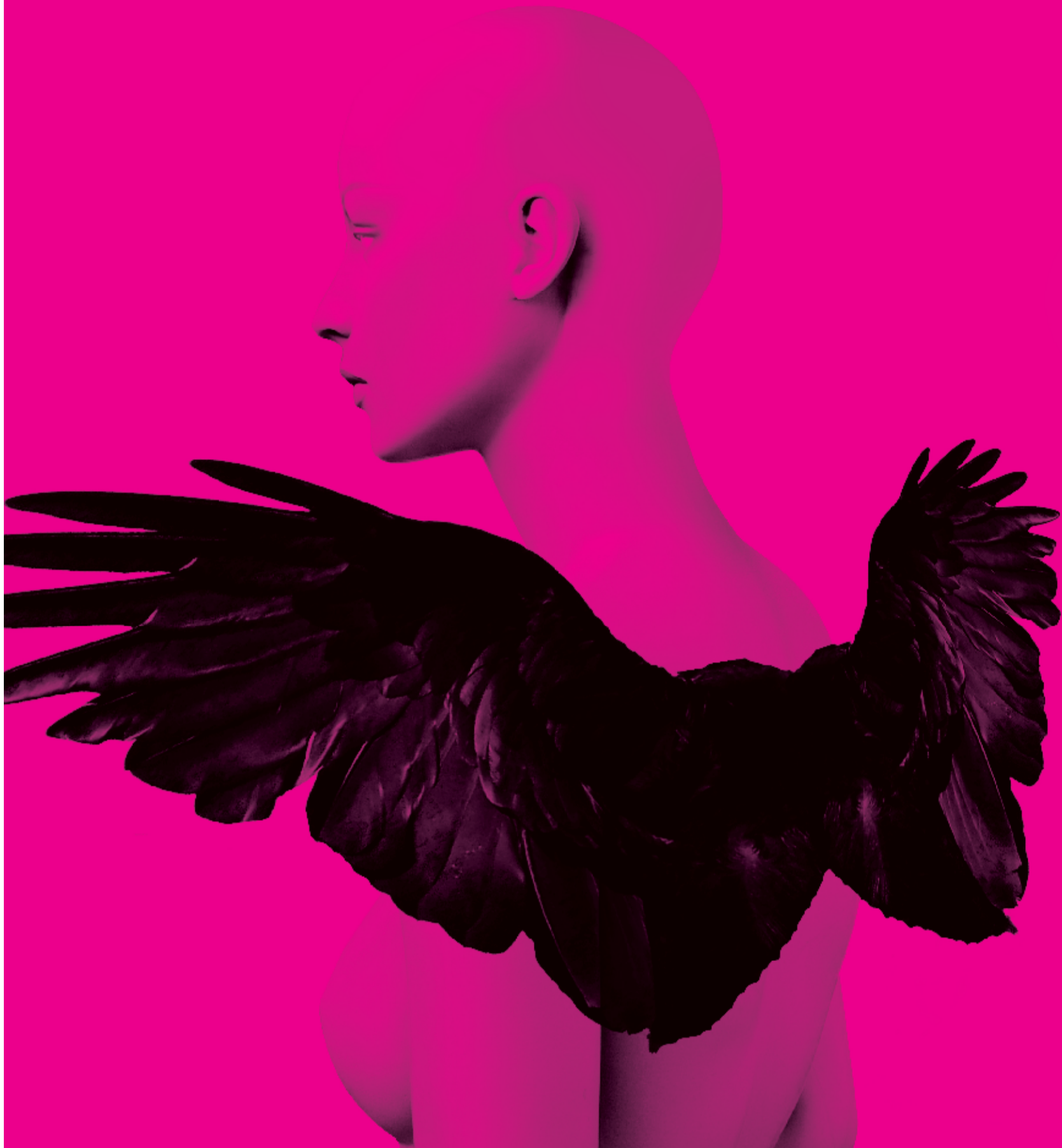
It would not have prevented a crisis but it would have made the dynamics different, especially when it comes to debts and the loans and the crushing exchange rates. But I doubt that Iceland as a EU-member with the Euro would have escaped the financial crisis, if nothing else had changed.

**Are you in favour of EU-membership?**

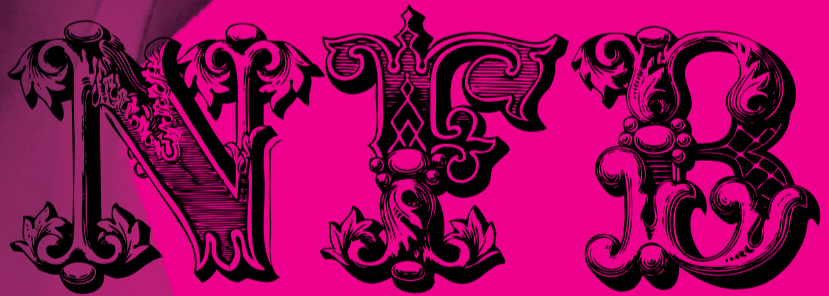
I am in favour of finding out what it would entail. Most economists claim that having its own floating currency, without any ties to another currency, is not a viable long-run option for Iceland. We should start negotiating with the full intention of entering but of course not decide to enter until we know what the framework would look like. Icelandic negotiators would presumably call for some sort of exemption or special treatment with regard to the fishing industry. A deal where we lose all sovereignty over the fishing rights would never be politically viable. Iceland already has almost all other benefits of EU-membership through the EEA: labour mobility, freedom of investment, re-trade etc.. So it really boils down to the fishing rights. But I think that a reasonable plan of entering and adopting the Euro would be very helpful to bringing financial stability to Iceland. 🇮🇸

THE DEBTS WILL RISE AND THE BANKS' SIZE NEED TO BE CONTROLLED, BUT ICELAND HAS THE RESOURCES TO SURMOUNT THE PROBLEMS.





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The highlight of Nordic Fashion Biennale is the DesignMarch, when the Nordic House will be filled with Icelandic fashion design, showrooms and parties.

The Nordic Fashion Biennale website is now open and will be updated regularly with media material as well as information about the event and speakers.

Visit us at: [www.nordicfashionbiennale.com](http://www.nordicfashionbiennale.com)

## GOOD MORNING, NORWAY!

# GRAPEVINE EXPOSES SORDID 'MUSIC TRIP' TO 'SCANDINAVIA'S SODOM'

**A** fortnight ago, the Grapevine hitched a ride with cover stars Retro Stefson, Ólafur Arnalds and Hjaltalín as they made their way to Oslo, Norway. Their mission: to perform at the annual by:Larm Nordic showcase festival and charm the socks off Scandinavian booking agents, talent buyers and journalists. Our mission: to document the acts and their trip as best we could while spending as little money as possible in the most expensive city on earth.

The bands accomplished their task, and then some. And we failed miserably and raised our overdraft, along with our glasses. (Here is a sound piece of advice: If you ever find yourself in Norway's capital post-your nation's total economic collapse, do not under any circumstances offer to get the next round in. In fact, quit drinking altogether and try to bring along bring canned goods for sustenance. Even breathing seems expensive and wasteful in Oslo).



Hjaltalín arrive safely in Norway. They still complained alot, being the primadonnas they are.

## WHAT MAKES A HIT

It's Friday morning, 1 AM, and most of Hjaltalín are busy mixing drinks in their hotel room. Earlier that night, the band performed a triumphant set at a packed venue in downtown Oslo, after a long trip over from Switzerland where they reportedly played some equally triumphant sets at equally packed venues. And spent a day skiing in the Alps. So it's only natural that they need to wind down with a drink or five – they are hard working bunch of musicians and deserve their leisurely moments.

It's still kind of problematic, as in less than five hours they are expected to make their way to TV2's recording studios to perform a song at the stations morning program, God Morgen Norge ("Good morning Norway"). They are a merry bunch and seem to get along quite nicely; in between generous sips of vodka they record parodies of old Icelandic classics on their laptops and trade various stories of mischief. During a lull in the conversation, I ask bassist Guðmundur Óskar what he thinks makes a hit song.

"I believe the content of the lyrics is incredibly important," he tells me. "For a particular song to gain an audience, it needs to speak to people on some level, I think. It doesn't necessarily need to have a deep message or anything, but people have to be able to connect with a song if they are to invest in it. And of course it has to have a nice melody as well. That goes without saying."



Hjaltalín's Hjörtur (far left) is too lazy to stand while he performs.

BY HAUKUR S MAGNÚSSON - PHOTOS BY HAX



Hung-over from the night before, Hjaltalín confusedly mistook this storefront for their venue.

No strangers to hit songs, Hjaltalín's début, Sleepdrunk Seasons, received heavy rotation on Iceland's radio stations upon its 2007 release. Their heartfelt cover of Páll Óskar song 'Þú komst við hjartað í mér', released last June, subsequently cemented the band's status as Iceland's hot young things. Simply put, it was THE popular song of 2008, and was awarded official status as such at the recent Icelandic Music Awards. And true to the bassist's belief, singer Högni was to explain the Icelandic lyrics (that revolve around finding true, life-changing love) at a length each time they played the song in Norway. The strategy seemed to work, as the Norwegian audience seemed deeply engaged in their performance, many of them choosing to take it in with their eyes closed and mouths open.

## NEITHER SPECIAL NOR UNIQUE

"That song scored us a lot of wedding gigs. Still does. We sort of knew we had a hit as soon as we were done recording it. It had that sort of feel," singer Högni tells me through his drink, grinning. We move on to discuss how the band has been received in their international outings, and how "Icelandic music" is perceived internationally. "There seems to be some sort of agreement going that everything coming from Iceland is somehow 'special' or unique. People expect the music to be all dreamy and weird. I don't know what that means, really. Hjaltalín isn't like that. We play rather basic pop music with some additional instruments. If we're in any way special, it's because we create our music with more craftsmanship than many of the outfits going that maybe operate more by feel or instinct. It's more thought out. but there's nothing really 'special' or 'unique' about us. We play basic pop and we like it."

The husky voiced singer/composer (a dedicated student of music, Högni does arrangements for many Icelandic bands in his spare time) laughs and excuses himself from our conversation. There are jokes to be told, hymns to be sung. As I make my way out of Hjaltalín's hotel room at around 2 AM the party shows no signs of letting up.

"That God Morgen show was probably the one of hardest thing any of us have done in our lives," they tell me the day after. Still, they made it through OK and judging by the large crowd at their second show, they seem to have made a fine impression.

## MORE MICKEY MOUSE THAN MÖTLEY CRÜE

Backstage at MONO that night, the youngsters of Retro Stefson are giddy and cheerful after winning over a sardine-can of a crowd with a kick-ass display of powerful showmanship, youthful vigour and some great songs. Drummer Gylfi, sporting long johns and a huge grin, dances around the room while tall, dark and handsome bandleader Unnsteinn Manúel calmly analyzes their per-

formance. Already a fiercely ambitious, disciplined and inventive musician at the tender age of 19, Unnsteinn is very clearly headed for big things. As are the rest of them, for that matter. "I think this was a good one," he says all thoughtful to no one in particular. "We really got into the groove... yeah, it was good." And he is happy.

Retro Stefson is a tight-knit group of friends and seem very comfortable around one another. The core group has been together since forming in 2005, when the members were aged 13 to 15. They quickly gained a reputation through their MySpace and playing shows pretty much anywhere that would host them. Their 2008 debut has received many an accolade and considerable radio play; right now the world seems to lie at their feet.

Back to MONO: the mood backstage is more reminiscent of a summer camp all-nighter than any debaucherous display of rock and roll I can recall – more Mickey Mouse than Mötley Crüe. The kids entertain themselves with games of rock-paper-scissors and the trading of inside jokes; they clearly didn't come to Oslo to party, although they are having fun. "We came here to play," Unnsteinn tells me. "It's a relief to be done with the shows, but it's also kind of a bummer. I would have enjoyed doing one more." His younger brother, cool as ice 17 year old bassist Logi Pedró, nods his head in agreement. They should not fret, however, as the reception they received at the festival seems to guarantee Retro Stefson will be playing quite a few shows in Norway real soon. We get up and make our way out to the snowy streets of Oslo, as Ólafur Arnalds' first by:Larm show is about to commence.

During our walk, the subject of the weekend's scheduled by:Larm shows comes up and it's clear the band have researched the festival's programme heavily. A plan is laid out for the next couple of days, one that entails taking in Ólafur's show as well as sets by Lindström, Whitest Boy Alive, Betasatan and many, many others. by:Larm is an exceptional music festival that somehow manages to remain relevant and exciting while featuring Nordic acts exclusively – no mean feat. Music lovers that they are, Retro Stefson are intent on getting their money's worth.



Retro Stefson caught backstage in underwear shocker!

## HEAVEN SHALL BURN AND HELL'S KITCHEN

At the age of 22, Ólafur Arnalds is already a widely regarded composer in many circles. Operating under a strict DIY work ethic and the M.O. of "Breaking classical music out of the tweed jacket and loafers and putting it into a t-shirt and trainers", Ólafur has built a solid fan-base throughout Europe and the US over the last three years. In 2008 alone, Ólafur performed a total of 121 shows everywhere from Pittsburgh to Porto, selling out impressive venues like London's Barbican Hall. He is very clearly on a roll.

At the age of fourteen, Ólafur – then the drummer of several metal and hardcore outfits – started experimenting with classical composition. "I was initially really into film scores, wanted to do something similar and thus started composing stuff on my computer," Ólafur tells me over a pretty mean pizza at Hell's Kitchen restaurant, a popular media hangout in Oslo. "It wasn't purely classical in the beginning, I had guitars and drums and stuff in there – it was symphonic" ▶



metal. I wound up giving someone a demo tape of my work, and that lead to me being asked to compose an intro to an album by [German hardcore outfit] Heaven Shall Burn. Now, it wouldn't have made sense to have metal guitars and drums as an intro to a metal album, so I cut them out."

The intro piece was to arouse some interest in Ólafur's work, and he was soon offered a record deal on a small German label. "So I made an album and started playing shows. It was all kind of random, but it seems to have worked out OK."

**GLACIER PORN**

Ólafur is cheerful this Saturday afternoon, and he has every reason to be. The previous night's show was deemed a total and complete success by the by:Larm daily newspaper's critic, who waxed ecstatic about it in a gush of near-pornographic adjectives worthy of early Sigur Rós reviews, all glacial this and majestic that. "It's kind of embarrassing reading such reviews," says Ólafur, "but I am of course happy and thankful that people dig my work and like to rave about it."

He reminisces about his beginnings. "I think people were initially interested in me because I was this punk kid trying my hand at classical music, which is usually confined to a different type of crowd and venue and played by different types of people. At least they dress differently. I played small dive bars and clubs and came on wearing jeans and a t-shirt – there was this whole crowd of people that wanted to experience the type of music I make and maybe felt comfortable doing so in their own environment, as opposed to snooty concert halls."

We talk about some of the places he's played. Poland is his all time favourite country to perform thus far. "It's kind of strange and really heart-warming. People there just appreciate the music so much, it's incredible. I got mobbed leaving a venue there. The shows sell out instantly. I don't know, playing there and watching the crowd react made me think that maybe us Westerners have become spoiled by all the music that we're continually exposed to. It's like they appreciate it more in places like Poland. I was kind of envious of that, because I remember how it felt."

We are joined at our table by members of Retro Stefson and Hjaltaín, fresh from an Oslo sightseeing trip. "It's a rather dull and common looking town," Hjaltaín's Högni remarks. "The people are very nice, but I find it hard to get excited about it." Meanwhile, Retro Stefson's Haraldur and Þorbjörg debate whether to go on a sleighing trip the following day. Someone apparently told them that you can take a train to the top of a local mountain, rent a sleigh there and ride to the bottom. Sounds like a sweet deal. Ólafur excuses himself to go do his soundcheck and the rest of us sit around picking at pizza crust, engaging in random conversation.

All is well in Oslo, Norway.



Clowning around with public money.

**POSTSCRIPT: A MINDLESS CHEERLEADER SPEAKS!**

Ólafur Arnalds, Hjaltaín and Retro Stefson are all ridiculously accomplished musicians by any standard. They have all left big marks on Iceland's musical landscape and now seem destined to move on to further successes, be they artistic, commercial or both.

This is awesome in and of itself, not the least since they are all humble, hardworking and down to earth people – the very opposites of the types Icelanders seemed to celebrate during "the dark years". If anyone is going to rebuild the nation's reputation abroad, it's these people and the values they've been upholding all along: values of diversity, camaraderie and friendship that our crop of young musicians seem to honour.

As an avid follower of – and participant in – the Reykjavík music scene over the last few years, what strikes me the most about all of this is the realisation that I could have followed any number of our musicians to Oslo and reached pretty much the same conclusion. There's Skátar, Mammút, Agent Fresco and Hraun. We've got Weapons, For a Minor Reflection, Rökkurró, Celestine Sign and Sólstafr. Forgotten Lores and FM Belfast. Singapore Sling. Deathmetal Supersquad. I could go on all day.

Of course, not all of these will attain Sugarcubes-style worldwide notoriety and chart success. Maybe none of them will make it past their second LP. But that doesn't matter. The fact that these young people have in them the confidence and stamina to carry on their creative endeavours so relentlessly and the breadth of vision to make up such a diverse and vital scene is what matters.

This sounds like a bunch of hype, I'm sure. I'm probably coming off as a sort of indie-rock Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, a mindless cheerleader or lecherous PR person pining to stay relevant by gushing meaningless expletives at a hearty rate. But I know it's not and I know I'm not. I believe in this, and so should you.



**A BRIEF HISTORY OF ICELANDIC HIT-MAKERS**

**MEZZOFORTE**

Founded in 1977 under the influence of Earth, Wind and Fire and Weather Report, jazz-funk fusion pioneers Mezzoforte was the first Icelandic act to reach international success when the single Garden Party from their fourth LP, Surprise, Surprise, reached no 17 on the British singles chart in 1983. In the wake of their success in England, the band garnered considerable following and toured extensively worldwide, playing as many as 150 shows one year. Now, 30 years and eleven albums later, the band still ignites fusion enthusiasts around the world when they reunite for the occasional performance.

*Key recordings:*  
Dreamland/Shooting Star; Surprise, Surprise; Nothing Lasts Forever.

**THE SUGARCUBES**

When members of Icelandic punk/post-punk cult classics K.U.K.L., Þeyr and Þurkur Pílnikk joined hands in 1986 to form the new wave band The Sugarcubes, it was obvious that Iceland wasn't big enough to contain them. After being spotted by influential UK radio DJ John Peel, the band's debut LP, Life's Too Good, reached no 14 on the British Charts, and 54 in the US, following the success of single Birthday. The Sugarcubes went on to tour with U2 and headline shows across the US and Europe. All three Sugarcubes LPs reached the top 20 in the UK and four singles reached the top ten in the US, with the aptly named Hit reaching the top of Billboard's Modern Rock chart. The band parted ways in 1992, paving the way for...

*Key recordings:*  
Life's Too Good, Stick Around for Joy

**BJÖRK**

Following the break-up of the Sugarcubes, their lead singer, a puny woman named Björk who had a habit of blowing everyone away with her vocal chords, decided she wasn't done making music. Her debut album, the cunningly named Debut, exceeded a million copies sold in the US and reached double platinum in the UK. With 13 Grammy nominations, an Oscar nomination, and two Golden Globe nominations to her name, Björk remains one of the most respected and popular artists in the world and her recent tour in support of her latest release Volta saw her fill stadiums worldwide.

*Key recordings:*  
Debut, Post, Vespertine, Volta

**SIGUR RÓS**

Formed in 1994, Sigur Rós did nothing but add to the image of Iceland as the last frontier of the eclectic and eccentric. Their debut album sold sparsely, but the sophomore release Ágætis Byrjun, slowly went on to become a commercial and critical success. The follow up, ( ), was not as accessible, but gathered much attention for its eccentric lyrics (or lack thereof), delivered in a made up language called Hopelandic. In 2005, Takk... became the band's most successful release at the time, debuting at no 27 in the US and reaching double gold sales in the UK. Their latest album, the 2008 Með suð í eyrum við spilum endalaust, saw the band depart from their ethereal and minimalist post-rock sound towards more playful pop melodies. It is the band's most successful album, reaching no 15 on the Billboard Top 200 and 5 on the British Chart list.

*Key Recordings:*  
Ágætis byrjun, Takk..., Með suð í eyrum við spilum endalaust

BY SVEINN BIRKIR BJÖRNSSON

**A WHO'S WHO OF THE NORWAY TRIP!**

PHOTO BY HÖRÐUR SVEINSSON

Jón Ingvi's secret Norwegian roots uncovered!

**THE NORWEGIAN**

Gylfi actually has no eyes - tries to cover up by bogus narcolepsy claims!

**THE FAKE NARCOLEPTIC**

Rhythm-king Haraldur's party animal front a sham!

**THE FAKER**

Rebekka's sultry alter-ego runs amok!

**THE FOXY LADY**

Guðmundur Óskar is sick of being in THE ECONOMIST's shadow

**SHADOW MAN**

Retro Stefson star Þórunn Jör (19) spends untold \$\$\$ on fashion!

**THE DANDY**

Furry Högni's beard is actually an elaborate double-chin cover-up!

**THE BOHEMIAN**

**THE SOCIALITE**

Suave Þorbjörg prefers partying down to homework!

**THE LADIES MAN**

Ólafur Arnalds is obsessed with blondes!

**THE AVIATOR PUNKER**

Axel is hiding his punk-rock past while secretly training to be an aviator!

**THE ANGRY YOUNG MAN**

Hard-man of Hanoi Logi actually real sweet once you get to know him!

**THE DIVA**

Sigga Toll demands extravagant backstage amenities!

**THE ECONOMIST**

Sexy Hjörtur secretly training to wreak havoc on UK economy...!

# Iceland's 1000 Years:

ARTICLE BY VALUR GUNNARSSON  
ILLUSTRATION BY BOBBY BREIDHOLT

*"Those who are considered chieftains in this country are foolishly susceptible to prayer, drink and bribery, but still the simple and poor common people believe them and are duped."*

Sound familiar? No, this is not a comment on the current economic collapse. These words were written by the Danish king's emissary in the 15th Century who was sent here to survey the king's new possession in the North Atlantic.

To any observer of the Icelandic banking crisis, one of the most surprising aspects must be that no one, whether in the financial community or then government, has assumed any responsibility.

"Deny, deny, deny," was the advice President Clinton supposedly gave to Monica Lewinsky when they were caught in the act. It was following his own advice that turned a minor scandal into a major one. Not only had the President cheated on his wife, but he had also lied to the public about it. Now, bankrupting your country while in office is not the same thing as screwing your secretary. Just ask former President Bush, who will fare much worse in the history books than the philandering Clinton.

Both are on the Guardian's list of 25 people responsible for the economic crisis. So is Iceland's former PM Geir Haarde. Like his colleagues, denying the obvious is Haarde's take on history. For most Icelanders, it was shocking to see the former Emperor, like a sketch out of Spaugstofan, with no clothes on in BBC's HardTalk. When asked repeatedly, he would not offer an apology to the people of Iceland who now must suffer so much, neither as former PM nor as a human being. A simple sorry last autumn might have allowed him to keep his job. But Haarde chose denial.

## SORRY SEEMS TO BE THE HARDEST WORD

Did he and his party really think that they would get away with bankrupting the country and not shouldering any blame? So it would seem. But then again, they always have.

Iceland's economic collapse last autumn was spectacular, but in many ways it was just a little bit of history repeating. When Iceland was founded in 930, it was a democratic society (by the standards of the time), with ships of its own, relatively peaceful and with an economy that could easily sustain its people.

After the introduction of Christianity, power came to be consolidated in fewer and fewer hands as chieftains built churches and amassed wealth through them. By the 13th Century, Iceland was a violent and impoverished country. The chieftains, mainly consisting of five families, constantly fought over control of the nation's resources. Meanwhile, the shipstocks had not been maintained and Iceland could not supply itself. Eventually, they had to appeal to another authority. The Norwegian king, the regional IMF of the day, had to be brought in to bring order to the country, and Iceland lost its independence.

## THE END OF INDEPENDENCE, PT. 1

Peace was restored at the price of independence. It seemed that prosperity might follow also.

After the start of the Norwegian period, fish became, for the first time, the most important export. Markets opened up in the Baltic once that area had become Christian. Catholics were not allowed to eat meat on Fridays and hence fish became a popular substitute. The Norwegian port of Bergen, through which much of the Icelandic

trade flowed, became incorporated into the Hanseatic trading system.

This, however, did not lead to an increase in living standards among the Icelandic public. Quite the contrary happened as the climate became harsher and crops could no longer be grown. At the same time, a few families became very wealthy from the fish trade. The rich became richer and the poor poorer.

## NO FISH, NO FREEDOM

When the bubonic plague devastated Norway in the mid-14th Century, shipping to and from Iceland virtually ceased. Both Norway and Iceland came under the control of the king of Denmark. In 1490, new laws were set stipulating that those who did not own livestock must become tenants for someone who did. Hence, the poorer labourers were from then on forced to work for the wealthier landowners. Most Icelanders became virtual serfs and were not allowed to make a living out of the one thing Iceland had in abundance, namely fish. Fishing was only practiced during time off from farmhand duties, and the catch belonged to the landowner.

This system prevailed to a large extent in Iceland into the 19th Century. Free trade was one of the main goals of Jón Sigurðsson and those struggling for Icelandic independence. New laws were set that prevented traders from owning more than one store in each town, thus preventing monopolies. Living conditions improved considerably as the 19th century wore on, fishing became ever more important, and boats became both bigger and more numerous.

## THE OCTOPUS SPREADS ITS TENTACLES

In 1914, a shipping company, Eimskip, was formed. Its founders were well aware that Iceland had lost its independence centuries earlier because it did not have control of its shipping and were determined not to let history repeat itself. The company became known as the "dream child of the nation," and everyone, rich and poor, bought stocks so that it might prosper. At the time, its owners totalled 13,000 in all, at a time when the population had not yet reached 100,000. But ownership was not distributed evenly. This fact was well hidden, as ownership of major corporations was kept secret.

When the ownership of Eimskip was finally made public, it turned out that 40% of the stock was owned by 15 individuals who controlled the board. The board had been buying up stock sold by shareholders without putting these on the market, something that in most other countries is considered insider trading and is illegal. The board had also been buying stock in other companies, notably about a third of Icelandair shares, and some people sat on the board in both companies. In the 80's, Eimskip had also gobbled up its biggest competitor, Hafskep.

## THE OCTOPUS AND THE SQUID

Some people wondered whether Eimskip's considerable proceeds should not be spent on lowering prices on traffic rather than taking over other companies. This would lead to more purchasing power among the general public and benefit the population and economy as a whole. But those who owned the nation's dream child had other interests. Iceland was no longer a part of Denmark, but it had a new set of lords.

The 15 families controlled virtually all traffic to and from the country. These were later nicknamed "The Octopus," as its many arms all

seemed to be feeding the same mouth.

Its other two main pillars were the Shell oil company and the Sjóvá-Almennar insurance company.

Its main rival was another conglomerate, Sambandið, often called the "Small Octopus" or "the Squid." The Octopus was tied to the Independence Party, and the Squid to the Progressive Party, the two parties who have divided Iceland between them for most of the 20th Century.

Virtually all fishing distilleries belonged to one or the other, and an understanding was reached regarding spheres of influence. By the late 80's the Squid was falling apart, leaving the field to the bigger player.

## MEET THE NEW BOSS...

In 1991, the Independence Party, along with the Social Democrats, formed a government headed by Prime Minister Davíð Oddsson. Oddsson's grand plan was to open up the economy, privatise most government run companies and encourage competition. No doubt most of the companies were intended to go to the old guard of the Octopus, most of who were loyal party members. But somewhere down the line, Oddsson lost control of the privatisation. A new, hungry class of oligarchs emerged, who were swifter and more fierce than the old elite had been. They also had liquid cash, some from ventures in Russia, others from control of the lucrative supermarket chains in Iceland. The old elite had less capital, and had relied on co-ownership in most of the major companies. The Octopus was eaten up by these new sharks.

## TRAGEDY AND FARCE

By the first decade of the 21st Century, a group of between five and 25 men owned virtually all the country's wealth. The gold rolling into their coffers came from the Icelandic people, who had to pay the highest prices in the world for necessities such as groceries, as well as the highest interest rates in the world. The combined wealth of Iceland was such that those who controlled it managed to become major players on the international stage.

But as their assets continued to grow, no one really understood where the money was coming from. It seems the answer, in the end, was simple. It didn't exist. They had taken out loan after loan, mortgaged everything they bought time and time again, and in every case the Icelandic government was responsible for these loans. Now that the bubble has burst, it seems the Icelandic people will yet again have to foot the bill. Our independence passed from the banks to the IMF.

## ...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Icelanders are hardworking people in a harsh land. Through sheer grit, they managed to turn it into one of the most prosperous countries in the world. But time and again, they have been robbed blind while a select few got most of the proceeds from their work. Currently, our money is to be found in the Cayman Islands while, through yet more hard work, we must rebuild the country yet again.

Iceland managed to prosper in spite of, not because of, the Independence Party that kept prices high and competition limited. Imagine what a paradise hard-working people could create if they were allowed to keep the fruit of their labours themselves rather than surrender it to the wealthy few. Let us hope this time they will. Let us hope they will be duped no more. 🇮🇸



**Fös. 6.**  
**Absolut**  
**Disco Frisco**

**Lau. 7.**  
**Hyper**  
**Island**  
 episode one  
 Jacobsen resident DJ  
**Yamaho**  
 Hyper Hyper resident DJ  
**Dandy**  
**Digital**  
**Damien Eie**

**Fös. 13.**  
**voodoo**  
**take2**  
 Yamaho vs  
 Karius og Bactus

**Lau. 14.**  
**Sexy Lazer**  
**Hunk of a man**

**Fös. 20.**  
**PartyZone**  
**Már og Niels**

**Lau. 21.**  
**Margeir**  
**og Sinfó**

**Fös. 27.**  
 Maggi Lego aka  
**Hunk of a man**

**Lau. 28.**  
**Club**  
 Red Square  
**Kiddaz.FM**  
**Night**  
 Rompecabeza/  
 Kiddaz.FM Berlin  
**HOLGI**  
**STAR**  
 Jacobsen presents  
**Yamaho**

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## POETRY



BY EIRÍKUR ÖRN NORÐDAHL

Not much is known about 17th century poet Þorbjörn Þórðarsson or his life, even his identity and name are up for debate. His early poetry is more or less forgotten, although it is said to have been rather plain—uneventful yet skilful—and his art occasional and his subject matter being (as was common) everyday life. Through an unusual act of divine intervention, this all would change.

But this we do know: one day Þorbjörn was minding his blacksmithing business in Skógarnes at Löngufjörur, when a group of travellers approached, looking for a safe way to cross Haffjarðará River. The travellers greeted Þorbjörn heartily, seeing as here they'd found a local man who could advise them on their journey through terrain they knew very little of. Þorbjörn was by all accounts having a bad day. His blacksmithing was tiresome and not moving along with the expediency he would have wished. Perhaps he was, like many contemporary poets, fed up with his day job and wishing to have the time necessary to hone his poetic skills.

When the travellers asked where they should cross the river, he answered (as was poets' wont in his time) with a poem. More precisely, a quatrain:

Though with hammer to iron I cater  
'tis all for naught I slammer.  
Take the course for Eldborg-crater,  
and cross at Þóris-hammer.

This would all have been well and good, had the advice Þorbjörn gave to the travellers, in his mindless irritation toiling away with the iron, not been a bit inaccurate. Or to put it plainly (we do strive to make it simple): his advice was dead-wrong, erroneous, false, reprehensible and vicious—put it how you will: Þorbjörn sent the travellers towards an impassable part of the river, straight into the rapids of hell. The travellers, however, being sufficiently naïve to believe a poet's pretty words, tried to cross where they were told. Needless to say, they all drowned.

In those years God was not the forgiving fellow we've come to admire in later years, and he did not at all enjoy having to receive the all-too early travellers (perhaps he wanted time to work on his poetry). So he smote Þorbjörn with a curse: He bereaved him of the 'gift of poetry'. But Þorbjörn, being of stubborn stock, wouldn't take no-poetry for an answer, and kept at it, poesying like a madman, quite literally. No matter how he toiled away at his quatrains and tercets, they all turned out nonsensical, full of words that weren't words, sentences that alluded meaning, leaning on nothing but the verse-framework:

Loppu hroppu lyppu ver  
lastra klastra styður,  
Hoppu goppu hippu ver.  
hann datt þarna niður.

Some of the words in the first three lines can be seen as having 'meaning', while some are 'meaningless'—the context is complete nonsense, beautiful nonsense, soundbouts in rounds galore—less literati than alliterati, or even illiterati, and yet it *sounds* like something a fisherman-blacksmith would write; it *sounds* like a fisherman-blacksmith's vocabulary, never mind you that the words don't mean anything—they SOUND.

The final line was all Þorbjörn had left of more traditional poetry, word-by-word: *he fell there down*. From the moment his curse became reality, more often than not, only Þorbjörn's last lines would be 'readable'. As his poetic career continued, Þorbjörn got to be known as 'Æri-Tobbi', Tobbi being a nickname for Þorbjörn and 'æri' meaning 'crazy' or 'insane'—and so he's known today.

Little did God know on the day he smote his curse on Þorbjörn that he'd be giving birth to Iceland's first avant-garde poet—a sound poet, no less, whose control of Zaum is first-class, putting him in a category with such 20th century greats as F.T. Marinetti and Hugo Ball. 🐼

## DESTINATION BY SIGURÐUR KJARTAN KRISTINSSON — PHOTOS BY GAS



## An Oasis in the Snow

The 2nd Annual Northern Wave Film Festival

**The second Northern Wave Film Festival was launched flamboyantly last Friday with champagne, caviar and speeches; the whole nine yards. Or so I've heard. The truth is that while the last attendants of the opening ceremony were being dragged up to their hotel rooms by twitchy better halves, several-too-many drinks in, I was stuck mid-blizzard in the wastelands near Grundarfjörður**

As I squinted my eyes behind the wheel, trying to see further than the five metres allotted by the blizzard, several gigantic trucks rushed by and almost thrust us off the road. So although we missed the champagne we obtained a genuine buzz of our own: narrowly escaping death on an Icelandic highway.

Eventually we arrived in the sleepy hollow and after settling in at the cosy and small hotel we hit the sleazy, but homey, diner we'd dreamed of on our travels along the peninsula. And it sure looked like the whole town was there. Once we'd gotten a few beers into our system we woke up, sort of. And quite a way to wake up it was, for DLX ATX had just begun their set at the bar. Describing them as dynamic would be an understatement, really. Once they had basically ejaculated all over the crowd, dance trio Sykur appeared to swab the residue off the stage. Sykur aroused the local ladies intensely—they now have loyal pack of Grundarfjörður groupies following their every move on MySpace.

## EXPERIMENTAL, ANIMATED AND WEIRD

Surely ridding oneself of a hearty hangover via freezing shower is a good idea. However, the managers of our Grundarfjörður hotel should bear in mind that most people prefer their cold showers

optional, not mandatory. When the shivers stopped we headed off to the stables right outside the town where the Weird Girls, an Icelandic all-female art group, had set up their camp. We didn't stop for long, but the whole instalment seemed colourful and energetic while a small crew of photographers and cinematographers captured the flock on film as they skipped around splashing homemade paint over their bizarre, one-eyed costumes.



We finally arrived at the screening centre as the animations were to begin. They were as many as they were different, all foreign. All in all it was a fulfilling run of amusing as well as intriguing shorts. Next in line were the experimental shorts, but the most conspicuous one was by a German-American woman who amusingly mocked Guantanamo Bay and other facilities of the sort with a looping clip. Her thorough explanations of her intent and ideas after the show felt patronizing, however.

## 90S FRENZY AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

That Saturday night the main fête was thrown in the screening hall, but when we entered it seemed as the 1500 ISK entry fee had thwarted some of the festival's attendants from appearing. The hall was half-empty. Anonymous blasted gorilla techno that was defiantly enjoyed by the few on the dance-floor, but the rest seemed fulfilled by observing the Weird Girls, still bizarrely uniformed, moving and dancing in mysterious ways on the floor. As the night passed, the horde grew and at the peak you could even pass it off as crowded. This was most likely due to the super-spunky 90's hits that filled the room courtesy of DJs Kitty von Sometime and Mokki. When the lights were lit people seemed a bit drowsy and moseyed home to prepare for the main screening the day after. We found out when we got back that our next-door neighbour seemed intent on keeping us awake by shouting "I love you" and "I'm coming" in an incredibly loud manner, repeatedly. Finally, though, she came. And we fell asleep.

The Icelandic shorts screened at the festival were of incredibly good quality and made you realise that this is somewhat of an underestimated field here in Iceland. Those I cherished most were *The Nail* by Benedikt Erlingsson, a hysteric telling of the Icelandic PM falling on a nail causing him to act barbaric (he even gives raping a fellow minister a whirl), as well as Gunnur Þórhalls depiction of a bulimic wonder-family. The *crème de la crème*, though, was Rúnar Rúnarsson's "Little Birds", which told a tragicomic story of puppy love in a rural village, adding a dash of substance and physical abuse. So it was no wonder that Rúnarsson received the first prize. The festival certainly gives some much needed attention to the under-represented side of Icelandic cinema, and hopefully we'll be able to frequent the festival in coming years. 🐼



WE FOUND OUT WHEN WE GOT BACK THAT OUR NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOUR SEEMED INTENT ON KEEPING US AWAKE BY SHOUTING "I LOVE YOU" AND "I'M COMING" IN AN INCREDIBLY LOUD MANNER, REPEATEDLY. FINALLY, THOUGH, SHE CAME. AND WE FELL ASLEEP.





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## Food

### NORDIC HOUSE, NORDIC FOOD

Reviewed by Sari Peltonen — Photo by Jói Kjartans

Gunnar Karl Gíslason, chef and vocal advocate for Nordic food, and Ólafur Örn Ólafsson, president of the sommelier association—both colleagues from previous employer VOX—set out to reinvent the Nordic House eating area, from dingy cafeteria to sophisticated venue for seasonal, local and modern Nordic food—an Icelandic take on slow food, if you please.

There are two faces to Dill. During the day they serve a simple, affordable lunch. In the evening, they serve a fine dining dinner.

We tried the lunch. The short menu consists of a soup (850 ISK), a salad (950 ISK) and a main dish (1700 ISK), plus dessert, coffee and cake—everything you need.

My lunch date had the main course of the day: pork shoulder with vegetables and herbs. The pork, braised for 20 hours, was tender, juicy and sticky, complemented by aromatic warmth from the herbs. I stole as many as I could of the sweet celery roots from his plate, “al dente” to give a perfect contrast to the melt-in-the-mouth meat.

I chose the salad with fennel julienne, beetroot leaves, dill (appropriately enough) and a light rapeseed oil and apple vinegar dressing—no olive oil used here, as it is Nordic cuisine through and through. With subtle flavours and fresh ingredients, it was the perfect winter salad, the kind that is hard to come by in this town.

The food was excellent. As for the service, it did not quite match that high standard. The attitude was positive and pleasantly laid-back, yet the action slightly shaky at times. Lunch has a time frame and everything must run smoothly. We waited for the menus and water to place our order and for coffee to be suggested—in short everything except the food—and I'm afraid we weren't the only ones. Having said that, there are plenty of worse places to wait than in front of the amazing view of the town surrounded by Alvar Aalto's timeless design.

The place seats up to 30 people and has been packed for lunch since they opened bravely on Friday the 13th last month. The official grand opening is on the 13th this month; again, a Friday.

+ 1 C11

Where:

Restaurant Dill,  
The Nordic House.  
Sturlugata 5, 101 Reykjavík

How much:

1.000 - 9.000 ISK

What we think:

Amazing food,  
beautiful setting,  
bargain price.



## 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!

**Aktu Taktu**  
Skúlagata 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.

**Basil & Lime**  
Klapparstígur 38 | **G7**  
Basil & Lime located at Klapparstígur 38 serves authentic Italian cuisine and dishes. Fresh pasta made at location and an exquisite Tiramisu dessert make this one of the best Italian restaurants in Reykjavík.

**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.

**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.

**Bæjarins Beztu**  
Tryggvagata | **E6**  
The oldest fast-food in Iceland, it is feasibly 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.

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

**Einar Ben**  
Veltusundi | **E6**  
The restaurant Einar Ben is named after one of Iceland's national heroes, the early 20th century poet and entrepreneur Einar Benediktsson, who once lived in the house where the restaurant is now located. In many ways, the restaurant Einar Ben pays homage to the historic relations coupled with the house and the person who lived there.

**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.

**Garðurinn**  
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.

**Hílla Batar**  
Ingólfstorg | **D6**  
The first sub sandwich

shop in Iceland, Hílla Batar has a large selection of creatively named sandwiches with equally imaginative contents. Good for an adventurous bite.

**Homið**  
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

## Café Press

# START AT THE TOP: KAFFISMIÐJA ÍSLANDS

Reviewed by **Sari Peltonen** — Photo by Jói Kjartans

I like coffee and Reykjavík is a nice place to drink it. For a town of its size, there are plenty of coffee shops, and the quality of coffee is generally good. You rarely get the really nasty stuff: espresso that you can surface a road with, cappuccino that makes you think of frog spawn, latte that burns your tongue off. And given that we are in the country with the 3rd highest coffee consumption per capita in the world, the coffee had better be good. For the next few Grapevines, I will review some select Reykjavík cafés for your convenience. The recently opened Kaffismiðja Islands serves the best coffee in town. For other aspects of coffee culture there may be better places to go, but if you are in it for the coffee, this is the place.

“You could have the combination of the best machines and the best beans and it would not be enough,” says co-owner Sonja Björk Grant. “It takes a skilled barista to deliver the goods.” Here the equipment is best in the world (La Marzocco and Mazzer), the staff the best in the country and the beans are freshly roasted on site.

There are two bean options for espresso drinks. I love the luxury of choice, but the difference is not quite clear. I want to know more than “this one is a little bit stronger”. Who wants weak coffee anyway?

The “little bit stronger” Indonesian espresso has thick, dark crema and is just the right length, far from the watery full cup that is a sadly frequent offering in the local coffee shops. The latte made from Brazilian beans has a good balance between coffee and milk flavours and is silky in texture. It is served with a perfect rosetta on the surface.

The coffee making is excellent but the customer service has a less than professional feel to it. The service is charmingly sincere, however, and friendly with a real enthusiasm for coffee—a rare treat these days. No bored-to-death teenagers



or hung-over hipsters here.

This may not be the fastest place for a coffee-to-go, though. I would rather wait a little to get good coffee than drink hastily prepared slop, yet it is not the coffee making that takes time here, top baristas that they are, but rather the organising of it all. This will hopefully develop over time.

Finally, there is one reason I go to Kaffismiðja regularly and two reasons I don't stay and sit around. I go for the great coffee. I don't stay because, first, the place seats less than 20 people and it is almost always full. Second, as lovely as window shelves for seats and an old sewing machine desk for a table look, they are not comfortable to my sensitive coffeehouse hangout muscles. And due to the fact I always get the bloody sewing machine table.

**+ 2 G8**

### Where:

**Kaffismiðja Islands, Kárástigur 1, 101 Reykjavík**

### People:

**Coffee geeks, barista champions, regulars, FM Belfast.**

### Place:

**Cosy and cute, but not for extensive lounging.**

### Price:

**Espresso 250 ISK; Latte 350 ISK; Filter coffee 250 ISK; Beans 750 ISK/300 g, 50 ISK reduction if you bring back the bag for reuse.**

### Play:

**Barista magazines, coffee books. Customers are also free to operate the vinyl record player.**

### Provender:

**Porridge and Cornflakes (350 ISK each) in the morning; cinnamon buns, savoury rolls.**

### Come here for:

**The best coffee in town and beans for home.**

using only organic vegetables and quality fish products. The spiced skyr side a special treat.

### 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 Hjómaland

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.

### Pisa

Lækjargötu 6b | **E6** In a small-ish cellar by Lækjagata, you'll find newly opened Italian restaurant Pisa.

### 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 Pizza 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 Tjarmargata 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 focuses on gourmet seafood and tanzal-

ing Asian-fusion dishes. 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. Also serves tasty and unusually af-

fordable 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.

### Tívoli

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

### 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.

**Have a wonderful night**

Einar Ben is a beautiful restaurant located in the heart of Reykjavík, a great place to start of a wonderful night.. Our Chef Nicolas Vergnaud and Stefán Guðjónsson our Matr'D will make your visit an occasion to remember.

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**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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.randburg.com/is/reykjavik_group_travel_service/)

**Airlines**

**Air Iceland,** Reykjavíkflugvöllur,  
 Tel: 570 3030, [www.flugfelag.is](http://www.flugfelag.is)

**Air Vestmannaeyjar,**  
 Tel: 481 3255, [www.eyjaflug.is](http://www.eyjaflug.is)

**Bus Terminal**

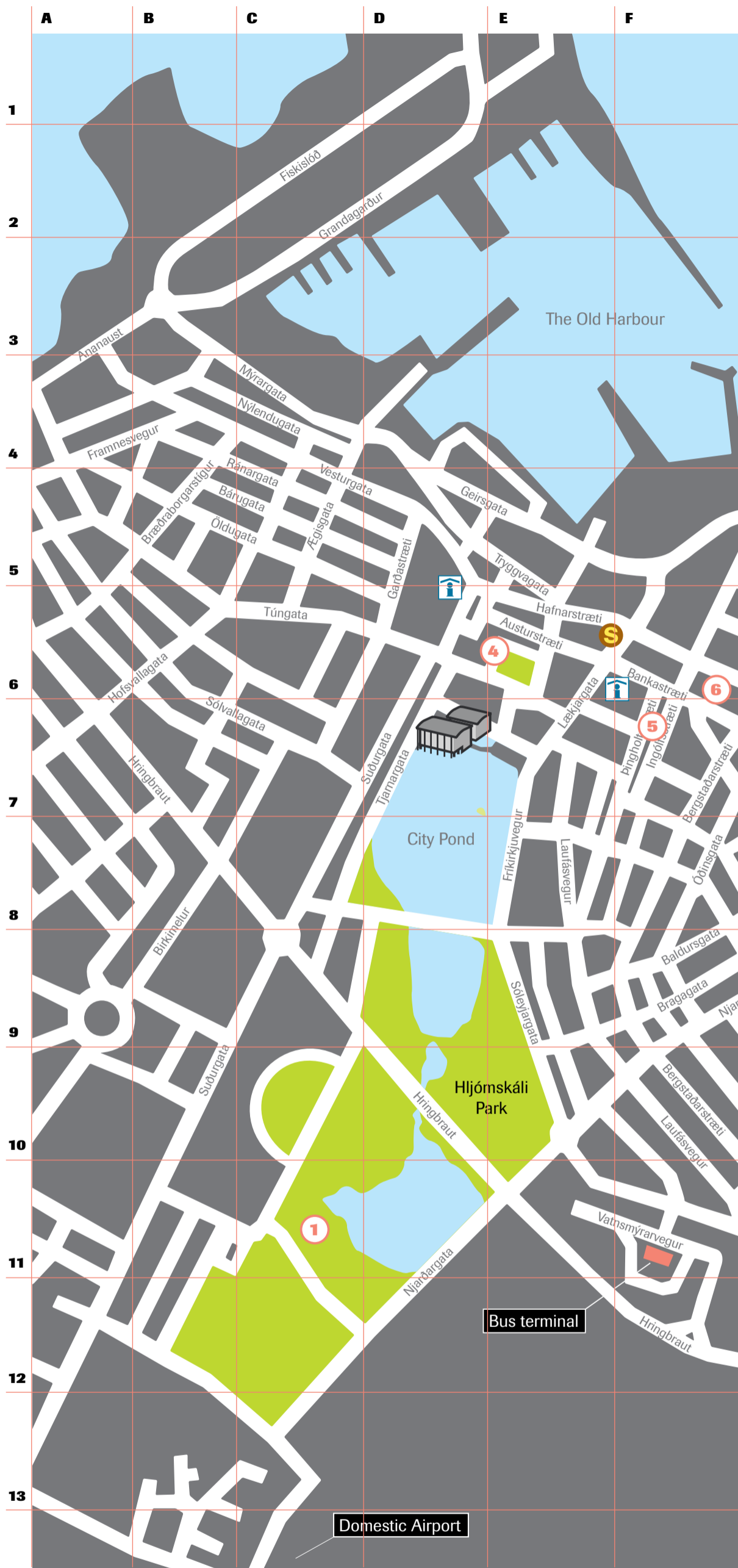
BSÍ, Vatnsmýrarvegur 10,  
 Tel: 562 1011, [www.bsi.is](http://www.bsi.is)

**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](http://www.flybus.is)

**Samferda.net**

A reasonable choice for the budget traveller. You log on to the website [www.samferda.net](http://www.samferda.net), choose your destination and hopefully find a travel buddy to share the cost.



[www.grapevine.is](http://www.grapevine.is)

Go to Grapevine.is for daily news, opinions, event listings and exclusive articles.







**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 "Kaffismiðjan" after reading our review - no problem, sir, just look up the corresponding icon on the map!

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# Not as cute as you thought!!!



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**Stop! Handgrenade in the name of Crib  
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**Skakkamanage** | **All Over The Face**  
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**Morðingjarnir** | **Áfram Ísland!**  
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## Music

### GRAPEVINE GRASSROOTS #2

Just when the good people of Nýlenduvörverzlun Hemma & Valda have finally finished wiping up the sweat from our decidedly awesome and totally engorging Grapevine Grassroots night #1 – we up and announce another one. Sorry guys, but the fun we had last time was too good to pass on another go. So there you go: We hereby prompt you to show up to the second edition of Grapevine Grassroots, a series of shows meant to promote and support the many excellent up and coming bands and musicians currently making their names in Iceland. As before, the show is hosted by young scene maestro

Arnljótur Sigurðsson and supported by Gogoyoko.com.

The bands lined up for the second edition are Skelkur í bringu, Me, the Slumbering Napoleon and Kid Twist. Skelkur í bringu have been playing for two years and do a strange sort of experimental rock with a lyrical twist. Me, the Slumbering Napoleon describe themselves as a four piece complex rock band gone simple. They are releasing their first album, *The Bloody Core Of It*, this summer, a purported ode to violence: mental, physical, sexual and spiritual. Kid Twist on the other hand is a feedbacking garage/psych/rock band.

They clame their influences are surf rock and psychedelia and have been creating a big buzz at Reykjavík's bars over the last few months. Stay tuned.

**Who:**  
**Skelkur í bringu, Me, the Slumbering Napoleon, Kid Twist**

**Where:**

**Nýlenduvörverzlun  
Hemma & Valda,  
Laugavegur 21,  
101 Reykjavík**

**When:**

**March 20th at 9 PM**

**3** G7



### Music GUSGUS ARE BACK

Shine your shoes, comb your hair, tuck in your shirt: GusGus are back! Friday March 20th, the local legends will return to the stage at NASA, and as anyone can tell you their parties at the club have gained legendary status in Reykjavík's nightlife as jam-packed orgies of sweat, destruction and slinky disco beats. The band has just finished its sixth long player, *24/7*, due out in June. GusGus last played Reykjavík at the Airwaves festival and have since then kept busy playing such places as Moscow, Tokyo and Berlin, ringing in full houses and five star reviews wherever they set foot. And seeing that GusGus have packed NASA to the brims without fail every single time they've played there, their return to the stage should be a rock solid guarantee for fun. So head to Nasa on the 20th and dance your ass off – be sure to score a ticket at [www.midi.is](http://www.midi.is) or any of the Skifan stores in advance.

**What:**

**GusGus**

**Where:**

**Nasa, Austurvöllur,  
Porvaldsenstræti 2,  
101 Reykjavík**

**When:**

**Friday, March 20.**

**4** E6

### Music THE ICELANDIC MUSIC EXPERIMENTS

Músíktíraunir ("music experiments") are a milestone in the grassroots music scene in Iceland. This Icelandic equivalent of Battle of the Bands has stayed strong for 27 years, and has helped many of Iceland's most important artists gain their footing. Allowing young musicians to step forth and perform on a semi-professional level and expose themselves to others makes this one of the most important events in the music year for the grassroots scene and pretty much anyone interested in fresh new music. The festival will be held for the 27th time this year and will consist of four semi-final nights from March 27 to March 30 and a final night on April 4. The registration of bands will end on March 13 and a 6000 ISK entry fee is required. The event will be held at the Icelandic Opera except for the final night, which will be held at Hafnarhúsið

**What:**

**Battle of the Bands**

**Where:**

**The Icelandic Opera  
Ingólfsstræti 2a, 101 Reykjavík  
Final night at Hafnarhúsið**

**When:**

**March 27 – March 30  
Finals at April 4**

**5** F7

### Art THE LAST SILENT MOVIE

An exhibition by renowned artist Susan Hiller is currently on display at Gallery 101 located at until the 5th of April. The exhibition is composed of a video installation, with sound and 24 etchings. The video/sound piece is composed of sound recordings of 24 individuals, who each speak in their native tongue. All of their languages are now extinct or in great danger of extinction, with less than ten people speaking them. Born in Tallahassee Florida, Hiller now lives and works out of London and Berlin. Working with everything from drawing and photography to installation and video art. Susan is also known for her critical writing, with up to ten publications of her own writing on various topics such as cultural politics, gender, feminism, psychoanalysis, post-colonialism, the paranormal and dreams. Susan Hiller's works have been described as an 'investigation of the cultural unconsciousness' because of its focus on the 'in-between', the overlooked and the unexplored. The Gallery is open from Wednesday to Saturday from 14-17.

**Where:**

**Gallery 101,  
Hverfisgata 18a,  
101 Reykjavík**

**When:**

**February 28 – April 5**

**6** F6

If you would like to be included in the Grapevine listings, free of charge, contact the Grapevine by email at [listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is).

## Music & Entertainment

### FRIDAY MAR 6

- Bar 11**  
00:00 DJ Biggi.
- Café Amsterdam**  
22:00 Bárurjárn, Kid Twist, Skelkur í Bringu and Jökul in a live concert. 500ISK.
- Café Cultura**  
22:00 Cultura Student Party.
- Café Paris**  
22:00 Cocktail Night.
- Celtic Cross**  
01:00 Live Music.
- Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- English Pub**  
22:00 Live music
- Grand Rokk**  
21:00 Man, Gjöll, Krakkbot, AMFJ, Fist Fokkers and DLX ATX together in an all out rock festival.
- Hressó**  
22:00 Blues-funk band B3 in concert followed by DJ Maggi.
- Jacobsen**  
22:00 Absolutte Disco Frisco. Various DJ's playing.
- The Icelandic Opera**  
16:00 A concert where singing and piano pieces by Wagner will be performed. Possible entry fee.
- Kaffibarinn**  
23:45 Terrordisco & Don Balli Funk.
- NASA**  
00:00 FLASS 104.5 & Cult introduce Chris Lake -over 20's. 2000 ISK.
- Oliver**  
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- Prikið**  
22:00 DJ Gísli Galdur, with Addi Tromm and Guðni Bassi.
- Q-Bar**  
23:00 DJ Svenni.
- Rósenberg**  
22:00 Drama company "Vanir Menn" will be performing a play.
- Salurinn (Kópavogi)**  
21:00 Jazz concert in Tíbrá. Larry Coryell with Björn Thoroddsen and Jón Rafnsson. 2500ISK.
- Sódóma Reykjavík**  
21:00 Sódóma opening night. Sign, Esja, Deep jimi and the Zep Creams, Dr Spock and Langi Seli & Nýju Skuggarnir in concert. Free entrance.
- Sólon**  
23:00 DJ Áki Pain with Lucky Friday Session.

### SATURDAY MAR 7

- Bar 11**  
00:00 DJ Ómar.
  - Café Amsterdam**  
01:00 surprise concert with punk band Fræblarur concert followed by DJ Sesar.
- Amsterdam**  
Hafnarstræti 5 | **E6**  
Kaffi Amsterdam seems to have been around forever, though recently it's been reinvented as a live venue. Good music, cheap beer, and colorful characters to be found.
- Apótek**  
Austurstræti 16 | **E5**  
Sporting a chic and pristine interior with a healthy club atmosphere.
- 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.
- Bar 11**  
Laugavegur 11 | **G6**  
The sweatiest Rock joint on the northern hemisphere. Mötley Crüe would have played this bar 25 years ago and still be talking about it.
- Bjarni Fel**  
Austurstræti 20 | **E5**  
Named after the Iceland's most legendary sports commentator, this is the place for the three Bs: ball, burger and beer.
- Boston**  
Laugavegur 28b | **H6**  
A fresh addition to the Reykjavík bar scene.
- Roomy bar floor, nice sofas and stylish interior make this a comfy café as well as a tavern with good, unintrusive music.
- 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 Paris**  
Austurstræti 14 | **E5**  
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.
- Balthazar**  
Hafnarstræti 1-3 | **D4**  
Victor attracts a diverse crowd, both in age and origin, a rule that extends to the musicians that play there.
- Celtic Cross**  
Hverfisgata 26 | **H6**  
Arguably the most authentic Irish pub outside Ireland, a very lively space where you'll often find live music, sometimes two bands playing at once.
- Dillon**  
Laugavegur 30 | **H7**  
The quintessential rock pub Dillon serves moderately priced drinks, and

- Celtic Cross**  
01:00 Live Music.
- Café Cultura**  
22:00 Maggi Lego Dj's.
- Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- English Pub**  
22:00 Live Music.
- Hressó**  
22:00 Band Menn Ársins in concert followed by DJ Maggi.
- Jacobsen**  
22:00 Hyper Island Episode, DJ Yamaho, Danny Digital and Damien Eie.
- Kaffibarinn**  
23:45 Gísli Galdur.
- NASA**  
20:00 U2 Tribute Band - over 20's. 1500ISK.  
23:00 Sáliu Hans Jóns Mins - over 20's.
- Oliver**  
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- Prikið**  
22:00 DJ Danni Delux.
- Q-Bar**  
23:00 K.G.B.
- Salurinn (Kópavogi)**  
13:00 Carnival of the animals. Teachers from the musical academy of Kópavogur in concert. 1500ISK.
- Salurinn (Kópavogi)**  
17:00 Passions of the ages. Songs of the young people in concert. 2500ISK.
- SAMBíóin (kringlunni)**  
18:00 A Live feed via satellite from the Metropolitan Opera. Puccini's Madame Butterfly. 1900ISK.
- Sódóma Reykjavík**  
21:00 Dust, Nögl and Sign in concert. 800ISK.
- Sólon**  
23:00 Ground floor: Guest DJ. Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain with Dance festival Sólon.

### SUNDAY MAR 8

- Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- Jacobsen**  
22:00 Waffle Cineman: Movies by director Ingmar Bergman will be on display.
- Leikfélag Akureyrar**  
16:00 North Iceland Symphony Orchestra in concert. "Ad Lucem" by composer Óliver Kentish will be premiered. 1500ISK.
- Prikið**  
22:00 Hangover cinema with popcorn and Coke.
- Q-Bar**  
23:00 Every Fancied DJ at Q-Bar- Open Deck Night with cheap beers all night.
- Rósenberg**  
22:00 Rökkurró in Concert.
- Sólon**  
20:00 University Dance.

### MONDAY MAR 9

- Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- Rósenberg**  
20:00 Hilmar Garðarsson will be performing.
- SAMBíóin (kringlunni)**  
19:00 A Live feed via satellite from the Metropolitan Opera. Puccini's Madame Butterfly. 1900ISK.

- Sólon**  
23:00 DJ Áki Pain with Lucky Friday Session.
- ### TUESDAY MAR 10
- Borgarleikhúsið**  
20:00 Hörður Torfason's Candlelight concert. Story telling and music with one of Iceland's most beloved musician. 4500ISK.
  - Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
  - Oliver**  
22:00 Raggi Trubador (Live Karaoke). Guests can sing songs accompanied by Oliver's trubador Raggi.
  - Q-Bar**  
23:00 Open mic night with Elín Ey & Myrra.
  - Rósenberg**  
20:00 The Andrés Þórs Trio in concert.
  - Salurinn (Kópavogi)**  
20:00 "At the harpsichord" with Jónas Ingimundarson. 0ISK

### WEDNESDAY MAR 11

- Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music
- Café Cultura**  
21:00 Female Frequenzies: Session 1: Isabella Magnúsdóttir, Elín Ey and Brutal Princess in concert.
- Kaffibarinn**  
22:00 FKNHNSM Djs.
- Prikið**  
22:00 Milknight with DJ K-Man, large beer for 490ISK.
- Q-Bar**  
22:00 Pub Quiz.
- Rósenberg**  
22:00 Joenne and band will be performing irish folk music.

### THURSDAY MAR 12

- Bar 11**  
22:00 Upstairs: Crisis Night X-977 with Bárurjárn and Reykjavík! Downstairs: DJ Ómar from radio X-977.
- Café Cultura**  
21:00 Electro band Anonymous in concert.
- Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- English Pub**  
22:00 Live Music.
- Fifan (Kópavogi)**  
19:30 Queen tribute concert with Magni Ásgeirsson, Eiríkur Hauksson, Hera Björk and the choir of Fjölbrautaskóli Suðurlands which counts 50 members. 3900ISK.
- Háskólabíó**  
19:30 The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra in concert. 3500ISK.
- Hressó**  
22:00 Troubadours Jógvan and Vignir play.
- Jacobsen**  
22:00 Monitor - launch party (invitation only).
- Kaffibarinn**  
23:45 Benni B Ruff (TBC).
- Oliver**  
22:00 Oliver Funk band in concert. Burger or nachos for 500 ISK and a large beer for 500 ISK.

## Music & Entertainment | Venue finder

- place to sneak off to and chat with friends over a beer. Frequented also by the literary and acting elite.
- Óliver**  
Laugavegur 20A | **H7**  
This nightclub attracts a crowd of crazy dancers that may not be for everyone. In which case, air conditioning and fine food make Oliver a good lunch spot.
- Ólstofan**  
Vegamótastígur | **G6**  
No tricks here. You'll want just simple beer in this simple pub. Also the hangout for Reykjavík intellectual circles
- Prikið**  
Bankastræti | **F5**  
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. R&B and Hip-Hop plays on weekends.
- Q-Bar**  
Ingólfstræti 3 | **F6**  
A roomy gay/straight bar. Some of the best DJs in town play regularly, making it an especially lively space on weekends.
- Rósenberg**  
Klappastígur 25 | **G7**  
Live music venue that has something to offer every single night, ranging from rock to jazz to poetry. You name it, they got it.
- Sódóma Reykjavík**  
Tryggvagata 22 | **E5**  
Sódóma Reykjavík is a brand new venue for live music in Reykjavík. It is located on the upper floor on the old Gaukur on Stöng and was build up for people to really enjoy live music.
- Sólon**  
Bankastræti 7A | **F5**  
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.
- Thorvaldson**  
Austurstræti 8 | **E5**  
Dress formally for this fancy spot, and come before 12 to avoid a long line. DJs play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.
- Vegamót**  
Vegamótastígur 4 | **G6**  
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 Oliver, try Vegamót and vice versa. The party goes on late.
- has pretty good music, too. The mix of students and tattooed tough guys always creates a fun atmosphere.
- Dubliner**  
Hafnarstræti 4 | **E5**  
The city's main Irish pub attracts quite a lot of foreigners, though there's an influx of locals on weekends. Good if you're looking for the darker stuff on tap.
- Glaumbar**  
Tryggvagata 20 | **E4**  
The premier sports bar in town, though after the final whistle, DJs take the floor and begin a night of feverish dancing.
- Grand Rokk**  
Smíðjustígur | **G6**  
As its Viking theme accurately displays, this hardcore chess hangout is no place for the lily livered. Take the pub quiz on Fridays at 17:30, the winner gets a free case of beer!
- Highlander**  
Lækjargata 10 | **E7**  
If you prefer Scottish to Irish, this might be the place for a single malt.
- Hressó**  
Austurstræti 20 | **E5**  
With a spacious neutral interior, pleasant courtyard and a varied lunch menu, Hressó attracts no specific type of crowd.
- Tap beer and music makes a fair hangout on weekends.
- Hverfisbarinn**  
Hverfisgata 20 | **G6**  
After a long line, you'll get in and wonder what all the fuss was about. You may end up here if you're still going at 4 on a Sunday morning, in which case it's just as good as any.
- Kaffi Hjómáland**  
Laugavegur 23 | **G6**  
This organic, free-trade café prides itself not only on great food and coffee but being a strong cultural center, hosting live music as well as lectures and poetry nights.
- Kaffibarinn**  
Bergstraðastræti 1 | **F6**  
A popular place to grab a drink after work, this daytime coffee joint roils with nighttime activity on weekends with live DJs. Parties often pound until dawn.
- NASA**  
Þorvaldsonstræti 2 | **E6**  
The main live venue in town. If you are looking for a decent band, chances are you'll find it at NASA.
- Næsti Bar**  
Ingólfstræti 1A | **F6**  
On nights where queues snake down Laugavegur, Næsti Bar can be great

# UPCOMING CONCERTS

**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

**AHS70 – AN ANNIVERSARY CONCERT**  
THURSDAY MARCH 19TH @ 7.30 pm  
Conductor | Baldur Brönnimann  
Soloist | Melkorka Ólafsdóttir  
Atli Heimir Sveinsson | Flute Concerto  
Atli Heimir Sveinsson | Hreinn Gallery SÚM  
Atli Heimir Sveinsson | Symphony nr. 6

**PETER AND THE WOLF – A FAMILY CONCERT**  
SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST @ 2 pm  
Conductor | Kurt Kopecky  
Host | Halldór Gylfason  
Sergei Prokofiev | Peter and the Wolf  
Tryggvi M. Baldvinsson | The Maiden in the Tower

**NEW YORK – PARIS – NEW YORK**  
THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH @ 7.30 pm  
Conductor | Benjamin Shwartz  
Soloist | Karin Lechner  
Darius Milhaud | La Création du Monde  
George Gershwin | An American in Paris  
George Gershwin | Piano Concerto in F  
Leonard Bernstein | Symphonic Dances from West Side Story

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# Live Music

FRIDAY, 6th MARCH  
»» Físfokkers, DLX ATX, AMFJ, Krakkbot, Cjöll.

SATURDAY, 7th MARCH  
»» Modd and others.

FRIDAY, 13th MARCH  
»» Grapevine concert.

SATURDAY, 14th MARCH  
»» Deep Jimi & The Zep Creams.

FRIDAY, 20th MARCH  
»» Lame Dudes and a Serbian band.

SATURDAY, 4th APRIL  
»» Punknight.

WEDNESDAY, 8th APRIL  
»» Jan Mayen and others.

FRIDAY, 10th APRIL  
»» Grapevine concert.

»» The Champions League live

**Grand Rokk**  
Reykjavík

Grand Rokk »» Smíðjustígur 6 »» IOI Reykjavík

## Listings

- **Prikid**  
22:00 DJ Gauti.
- **Q-Bar**  
22:00 YouTube night with Unnar Andrea.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Janis Joplin tribute. Actors and musicians from recent Janis Joplin musical will be performing.
- **Sólon**  
23:00 Ground floor: DJ Áki Pain. Upstairs: Ingó Idol with green thursday session.

## FRIDAY MAR 13

- **Bar 11**  
00:00 DJ Ómar.
- **Café Cultura**  
21:00 DJ Gísli Galdur.
- **Café Paris**  
22:00 Cocktail Night.
- **Celtic Cross**  
01:00 Live Music.
- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **English Pub**  
22:00 Live Music.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Band Góðir Landsmenn in concert followed by DJ Erling.
- **Jacobsen**  
22:00 Voodoo Take 2. Yamaho vs Karius & Baktus.
- **Kaffibarinn**  
23:45 Maggi Lego.
- **NASA**  
00:00 Óstaðfest- over 20's.
- **Oliver**  
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Trans Kvintett followed by DJ Danni Deluxe.
- **Q-Bar**  
22:00 DJ Anna Rakel.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Bjarki Sigurðsson, better known as B Sig, in concert.
- **Sódóma Reykjavík**  
21:00 Dr Spock and special guests playing a live concert. 1000ISK.
- **Sólon**  
23:00 DJ Áki Pain with Lucky Friday Session.

## SATURDAY MAR 14

- **Bar 11**  
00:00 DJ Gulli.
- **Café Amsterdam**  
01:00 DJ Fúsi.
- **Café Cultura**  
21:00 Karius & Baktus.
- **Celtic Cross**  
01:00 Live Music.
- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **English Pub**  
22:00 Live Music.

- **Hressó**  
22:00 Band Napoleon in concert followed by DJ Erling.
- **Jacobsen**  
22:00 DJ Sexy Lazer and Hunk of a Man on the lower level.
- **Kaffibarinn**  
23:00 Fancy Dress Party.
- **The Icelandic Opera**  
20:00 The Primadonnas. Four Icelandic opera singers in concert. Auður Gunnarsdóttir, Elin Ósk Óskarsdóttir, Hulda Björk Garðarsdóttir og Þóra Einarsdóttir. 4200ISK
- **NASA**  
00:00 Techno.is - over 20's.
- **Græni hatturinn(Akureyri)**  
20:00 Af fingrum fram concert series, now with Magnús Eiríksson Icelandic composer in concert. 2500ISK.
- **Oliver**  
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 DJ Addi Intro.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Steed Lord, Who's The Black Private Dicks, That's A Sex machine To All The Chicks, SHAFT.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Bjarki Sigurðsson, better known as B Sig, in concert.
- **Sódóma Reykjavík**  
21:00 Ingi, The Giant Viking Show and cult hero Bjartmar Guðlaugsson in concert. 500ISK.
- **Sólon**  
23:00 Ground floor: Guest DJ. Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain with Dance festival Sólon.

## SUNDAY MAR 15

- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **Græni hatturinn(Akureyri)**  
20:00 Af fingrum fram concert series, now with Magnús Eiríksson Icelandic composer in concert. 2500ISK.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Hangover Cinema with Popcorn & Coke.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Every Fancied DJ at Q-Bar- Open Deck Night with cheap beers all night.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Halli Davíðs Troubador in concert.
- **Sólon**  
20:00 University Dance.

## MONDAY MAR 16

- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Anna María and an an FÍH based Jazz band in concert.
- **Sólon**  
20:00 Salsa with Salsa Iceland.

## TUESDAY MAR 17

- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **Oliver**  
22:00 Raggi Trubador (Live Karaoke). Guests can sing songs accompanied by Oliver's troubador Raggi.
- **Q-Bar**  
22:00 Seth Sharpe.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Trúbatríxur. Ten female Troubadors will be performing.

## WEDNESDAY MAR 18

- **Café Cultura**  
21:00 Female Frequenzies: Session 2: DJ Flugvél og Geimskip and Kira Kira in concert.
- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Milknight with House DJ. large beer for 490ISK.
- **Q-Bar**  
22:00 Pub Quiz Night.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Band Árstíðir in concert.

## THURSDAY MAR 19

- **Café Cultura**  
21:00 Cultura Pop Quiz.
- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **Háskólabíó**  
19:30 In celebration of Atli Heimir composer's seventieth birthday the Icelandic Symphonie Orchestra will be playing. 3500ISK.
- **English Pub**  
22:00 Live Music
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Troubadours Böddi & Dabbi play.
- **Jacobsen**  
22:00 Live Music Venue. Solo artists will be performing.
- **Oliver**  
22:00 Trans Quintett in concert. Burger or nachos for 500 ISK and a large beer for 500 ISK.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 DJ Árni Kocoon.
- **Q-Bar**  
22:00 Diva De La Rosa.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Robin Nolan Trio in concert.
- **Sólon**  
23:00 Ground floor: DJ Áki Pain. Upstairs: Ingó Idol with green thursday session.

## FRIDAY MAR 20

- **Bar 11**  
00:00 DJ Biggi.
- **Café Cultura**  
23:00 DJ Margeir.

## 10 SAVETA ZA DOBRO DUŠEVNO ZDRAVLJE

1. Razmišljajmo pozitivno, lakše je
2. Vodimo računa o onome što nam je drago
3. Učimo dok god živimo
4. Učimo na vlastitim greškama
5. Krećimo se svakodnevno, to popravljia raspoloženje
6. Ne komplikujmo život bez razloga
7. Trudimo se da razumemo i podržavamo ljude oko nas
8. Ne odustajmo, uspeh u životu je trka na duge daljine
9. Pronađimo i negujmo vlastite talente
10. Postavimo si cilj i ispunimo svoje snove



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## Art | Venue finder

**101 Gallery**  
Hverfisgata 18A | **F6**  
Thu-Sat 14-17 and by appointment  
www.101hotel.is/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/Islandska/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 Auga**  
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 free without any government funding.

**Gallery Ágúst**  
Baldursgata 12 | **F9**

Wed-Sat 12-17  
www.galleriagusti.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.

**Hafnarborg**  
Strandgötu 34, Hafnarfjörður  
Hafnarborg is a museum and venue in the center of Hafnarfjörður. There are three exhibition galleries in the museum and there is also a café gallery and an entrance installation space.

**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**  
Skúlagata 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.ijosmyndasafnreykjavikur.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

# Music PICK NOISE FOR FREE!



Some of the most innovative upcoming bands in Reykjavík have joined forces to present an awesome mixture of rock and noise music experience. DLX ATX, Fist Fokkers, AMFJ, Krakkbot, Gjöll and newcomers Man will rock the stage at Grand Rock, TONIGHT, starting promptly at 9pm (if you don't read this on March 6th, you've missed out. Sorry). It isn't every day that Reykjavík concertgoers are treated with an event so action packed with noisy goodness that is also totally free of charge – in fact it's just today.

**Who:**  
DLX ATX, Fist Fokkers, AMFJ, Krakkbot, Gjöll and Man

**Where:**  
Grand Rökk, Smiðjustíg 6, 101 Reykjavík

**When:**  
Friday, March 6.

**7** G7

# Art THE NORDIC FASHION BIENNALE

Iceland has been chosen to host the first ever Nordic Fashion Biennale. Focusing on the Western Scandinavian Haute couture from the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Iceland. All the countries seldom collaborate in design, even though strong links remain outside this field. The premier show "In Front of Creativity" is expected to be a glamorous spectacle of originality and inspirational design. The exhibition is a selection of work by curator Matthias Wagner K who selected designers influenced by their native surroundings and society. Other events will consist of a discussion on sustainability in design, especially in the fashion industry. Talks by up-and-coming designers, Nickie Isaksen, STEINUNN, Gudrun & Gudrun from Greenland, Iceland and Faroe Islands. Preparing for the grand-finale on April 4th the organizers have prepared an fantastic event of live music and DJ sets, with a special one-off design. The band Sigur Ros will produce signature "Sigur-fokking Rós", T-Shirts conceived when making the latest album. Selling at the Biennale Bar and giving all proceeds to charity. Unconventionally, the designers Alex and Lukka will be making the last set of T-shirts on the night as the DJ's amuse the audience.

**Where:**  
Nordic House, Sturlugata 5, 101 Reykjavík

**When:**  
March 19 – April 05

**1** C11

- **Celtic Cross**  
01:00 Live Music.
- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **English Pub**  
22:00 Live Music.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Band Dalton in concert followed by DJ Bjarni.
- **Jacobsen**  
22:00 Party Zone. Már & Niels Dj-ing.
- **Kaffibarinn**  
23:45 Gísli Galdur.
- **Café Paris**  
22:00 Cocktail Night.
- **NASA**  
23:00 Gus Gus- Further Info Later.
- **Oliver**  
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikió**  
22:00 DJ Danni Boy.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Sexual Chocolate and Lingur.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Robin Nolan Trio in concert.
- **Sódoma Reykjavík**  
21:00 Sing for me Sandra and Dikta in concert. 1000ISK.
- **Sólón**  
23:00 DJ Áki Pain with Lucky Friday Session.

## SATURDAY MAR 21

- **Bar 11**  
00:00 DJ Matti.
- **Café Paris**  
22:00 DJ Solid.
- **Café Cultura**  
22:00 Cocktail Vomit DJ set.
- **Celtic Cross**  
01:00 Live Music.
- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **English Pub**  
22:00 Live Music.
- **Háskólabíó**  
14:00 Peter and the Wolf played by the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra. 1500ISK.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Band Ímynd in concert Followed by DJ Bjarni.
- **Jacobsen**  
22:00 DJ Margeir and symphony.
- **NASA**  
23:00 Spaðar - Futher Info Later.
- **Oliver**  
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikió**  
12:00 Paris Hilton Slutty Clothes Market.  
18:00 B- Ruff.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Karíus and Baktus.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Robin Nolan Trio in concert.
- **Salurinn**  
17:00 Guðrún Dálía. The songs of the young in Tíbrá. 2500ISK.
- **SAMBíóin (Kringlunni)**  
18:00 A Live feed via satellite from the Metropolitan Opera. Bellini's La Sonnambula. 1900ISK.
- **Sódoma Reykjavík**  
21:00 Rock and roll extravaganza! Thingtak, What About?, Bad Carbura-tor, Skorpulífur, Reykjavík! and Agent Fresco. 1000ISK.
- **Sólón**  
23:00 Ground floor: Guest DJ. Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain with Dance festival Sólón.

## SUNDAY MAR 22

- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **Jacobsen**  
22:00 Waffle Cinema: Modern Swedish films will be on display.
- **Prikió**  
22:00 Hangover Cinema. large beer for 490ISK.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Every Fancied DJ at Q-Bar- Open Deck Night with cheap beers all night.
- **Sólón**  
20:00 University Dance.

## MONDAY MAR 23

- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 ATHDH. Óskar Guðjónsson saxophone player and his brothers in arms in concert.
- **Sólón**  
20:00 Salsa with Salsa Iceland.

## TUESDAY MAR 24

- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Troubadours Jogvan and Vignir.
- **Oliver**  
22:00 Raggi Trubador (Live Karaoke). Guests can sing songs accompanied by Oliver's troubador Raggi.

- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Open mic night with Elín Ey & Myrra.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Swedish Trio in concert.
- **Sólón**  
23:00 Ground floor: Guest DJ. Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain with Dance festival Sólón.

## WEDNESDAY MAR 25

- **Café Cultura**  
21:00 Female Frequenzys: Session 3: Unnur Andrea, Myrra Leifsdóttir og Mr. Silla in concert.
- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **Q Bar**  
22:00 Pub Quiz Night.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Geirfluglarnir in concert.
- **Prikió**  
22:00 House DJ, large beer 490ISK.

## THURSDAY MAR 26

- **Cafe Cultura**  
21:00 Cultura student party.
- **Café Paris**  
22:00 Cocktail Night.
- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **English Pub**  
22:00 Live Music.
- **Háskólabíó**  
19:30 New Yourk - Paris - New Yourk. The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra in concert. 3500ISK.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Troubadours Böddi and Dabbi.
- **Jacobsen**  
22:00 Live Music Venue: Solo artists.
- **Oliver**  
21:00 Salsa night. Salsa Iceland will offering lessons. Burger or Nachos for 500ISK and a large beer for 500ISK.
- **Prikió**  
22:00 Milknight with DJ Gauti.
- **Q-Bar**  
22:00 YouTube night with Unnur Andrea.
- **Rósenberg**  
21:00 Pálmi Sigurhjártarson piano player for the pop band Sniglabandið in concert.
- **Sólón**  
23:00 Ground floor: DJ Áki Pain. Upstairs: Ingó Idol with Green Thursday Session.
- **Salurinn (Kópavogi)**  
20:30 Af fingrum Fram. Magnús Þór Sigmundsson composer in concert. 2900ISK.

## FRIDAY MAR 27

- **Bar 11**  
00:00 DJ Gulli.
- **Café Cultura**  
22:00 Weird Girls Party, Cocktail Vomit DJ set.
- **Celtic Cross**  
01:00 Live Music.
- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **English Pub**  
22:00 Live Music.
- **Háskólabíó**  
21:00 Hear me now! New Yourk - New Yourk. The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra in concert. 1000ISK.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Band Ímynd in concert followed by DJ Maggi.
- **Jacobsen**  
22:00 DJ Maggi Lego aka Hunk of a Man.
- **NASA**  
23:00 Art School Fashion Show - Futher Info Later.
- **Oliver**  
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikió**  
22:00 DJ Danni Deluxe.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Manny.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 South River Band plays Balkan Music.
- **Sódoma Reykjavík**  
21:00 Newcomers Cosmic Call and veterans Mammút in concert.
- **Sólón**  
23:00 DJ Áki Pain with Lucky Friday Session.

## SATURDAY MAR 28

- **Bar 11**  
00:00 DJ Biggi.
- **Café Cultura**  
22:00 DJ Árni Sveins.
- **Celtic Cross**  
01:00 Live Music.
- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **English Pub**  
22:00 Live Music.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Troubadours Gotti & Eisi play, followed by DJ Maggi.



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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**

- **Jacobsen**  
22:00 Club Red Square: Kiddaz.FM Night, Holgi Star and DJ Yamaha.
- **Kaffibarinn**  
23:00 Kasper Björke & Special Guest (TBC)
- **NASA**  
23:00 Skítamóráll- over 20's.
- **Oliver**  
23:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikið**  
22:00Addi Intro, 32 C and Forgotten Lores.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Karí and Anna Brown- You Give Me Fever.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 South River Band plays Balkan music.
- **Sólón**  
23:00 Ground floor: Guest DJ. Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain with Dance festival Sólón.

- **Rósenberg**  
16:00 The Reykjavík Blues Festiva begins. Blues from 16:00 to 02:00 in the night.
- **Sólón**  
23:00 Ground floor: Guest DJ. Upstairs: DJ Áki Pain with Dance festival Sólón.

**SUNDAY APR 5**

- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Troubadors Jógvan and Vignir.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:30 Every Fancied DJ at Q-Bar- Open Deck Night with cheap beers all night.
- **Salurinn (Kópavogi)**  
20:30 Af fingrum fram. Valgeir Guðjónsson in concert. 2900ISK.
- **Sólón**  
20:00 University Dance.

**SUNDAY MAR 29**

- **Prikið**  
22:00 Hangover Cinema. with Popcorn & Coke.
- **Q-Bar**  
23:00 Every Fancied DJ at Q-Bar- Open Deck Night with cheap beers all night.
- **Sólón**  
20:00 University Dance.

**FRIDAY APR 6**

- **Celtic Cross**  
01:00 Live Music.
- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **English Pub**  
22:00 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.
- **Salurinn (Kópavogi)**  
20:30 Larry Coryell Jazz Concert. 2500ISK.
- **Sólón**  
23:00 DJ Áki Pain with Lucky Friday Session.

**MONDAY MAR 30**

- **Sólón**  
20:00 Salsa with Salsa Iceland.

**TUESDAY MAR 31**

- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Trúbatrixur. Ten Female Troubadors will be performing.
- **Oliver**  
22:00 Raggi Trubador (Live Karaoke). Guests can sing songs accompanied by Oliver's troubador Raggi.

**WEDNESDAY APR 1**

- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Grímur Jazz band in concert.

**THURSDAY APR 2**

- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **English Pub**  
22:00 Live Music.
- **Háskólabíó**  
19:30 The creation - easter concert. The Icelandic Symphony Orchestra in concert. 3500ISK.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Troubadours Jógvan and Vignir play.
- **Kaffibarinn**  
23:45 B Ruff (TBC)
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Þórunn Pálína and her trio plays old school jazz music.
- **Sólón**  
23:00 Ground floor: DJ Áki Pain. Upstairs: Ingó Idol with green thursday session.

**FRIDAY APR 3**

- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **English Pub**  
22:00 Live Music.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Band Dalton in concert followed by DJ Maggi.
- **Oliver**  
22:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Nasa**  
22:00 Eivör Pálsdóttir with band in concert. 2500ISK.
- **Sódóma Reykjavík**  
22:00 Nokia on Ice concert festival. Mammút, Sudden Weather Change, Cosmic Ball, Bárujárn and DJ Matti in concert. 2500ISK.
- **Rósenberg**  
22:00 Halli Reynis troubador release concert.
- **Sólón**  
23:00 DJ Áki Pain with Lucky Friday Session.

**SATURDAY APR 4**

- **Dubliner**  
22:30 Live Music.
- **English Pub**  
22:00 Live Music.
- **Hressó**  
22:00 Band Trans Quintett in concert followed by DJ Bjarni.
- **Kaffibarinn**  
22:00 Bedroom Community.
- **Oliver**  
22:00 DJ Brynjar Már.
- **Prikið**  
22:00 Milknight with DJ TBA, large beer 490ISK.

**Art**

- **ASÍ Art Museum**  
March 03 - March 29  
Rings, optimal size. The main theme of the exhibition is a research into the transference an artist feels when alone.
- **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**  
March 08- March 31 (2009)  
Gallery Ágúst will be selling modern art and giving advice on buying art.
- **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.
- **Gallery StartArt**  
Feb 05- Mar 04  
3 solo exhibitions: Arnar Herbertsson - The world of Arnar Herbertsson, Guðrún Óyahals - Trackless Terrain. Björk Viggósdóttir - Snowblind, START ART artists. Anna Eyjólfssdóttir, Ragnhildur Stefánsdóttir, Þuríður Sigurðardóttir
- **Gallery Turpentine**  
Feb 22 - Mar 31  
Gallery Turpentine will be displaying and selling works by mixed artists
- **Gerðuberg Cultural Centre**  
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.  
Mar 06 - Apr 19  
Boginn gallery: The Land in colour. Popular artist Guðráður Jóhannsson exhibition of landscape paintings.  
Mar 21  
A children's books conference on young people's literature
- **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.
- **Hafnarborg**  
Exhibition: Essence - Helgi Gislaon
- **i8 Gallery**  
Jan 15 - Mar 22. Uplift Exhibition by

**Listings**

- Hrafnkell Sigurdsson a series of sculptures and images incorporating various waste materials.
- **Living Art Museum**  
Mar 5 - Show and See Series- Performance by Dr Gunna at 20.00.
  - **Lost Horse Gallery**  
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 National Museum**  
Permanent exhibition:  
The Making of a Nation-Heritage and History in Iceland is intended to provide insight into the history of the Icelandic nation from the Settlement to the present day.  
Mar 7: 15:00 - 17:00. The Icelandic National Costume. Guests who are wearing traditional costumes, Icelandic or from other Nations, get Free Admission. Others: 600ISK  
Mar 8: 14:00 - 16:00. Do you have a historic object? Bring along old objects Jan 31 - Nov 30. Encounters. Archaeological excavations at many locations around Iceland have been funded by Kristnihátíðarsjóður (the Millennium Fund). Finds from some of these excavations are on display in an exhibition suitable for the whole family.  
Sep 6 - Feb 25. Child Labour or Training for Life? Photographs of young children at work, on land or at sea, during the period 1930-50. From the National Museum's Collection of Photographs and Prints.
  - **The Nordic House**  
Feb 13 - Mar 9. Ipseity-abeyance.  
Mar 19 - Apr 5. The Nordic Fashion Biennale - Focusing on Fashion and Jewellery from West-Nordic Nations: Faroe Islands, Greenland and Iceland.  
Feb 16- Mar 13. Sugar sweet snow-houses built on a roman foundation: Students will be looking at the building history and wonder about the 2009 possibilities of construction material from the perspective of an engineer.  
Feb 13. - Mar 8. The Icelandic Society for the Preservation of Birds is now displaying photographs of the Icelandic birdlife.
  - **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 Hafnarhúsið**  
Feb 05 - May 10. SHADOW BOY - THE WORLD OF ALFRED FLÓKI.  
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 15 - Mar 10. The photographs by Thomas Graics, also a pilot, are all taken from air. The artist has been in Iceland many times in his search for material for his photos  
Jan 17 - May 10. Tíra: The art of Bjargey Ólafsdóttir.  
Mar 27 12:00. Humor & Amor - Unexpected lunch Event & Love Drink.
  - **101 Projects**  
Feb 28 - Mar 22. Exhibition by artist, Susan Hiller (US)

## Shopping Venue finder

- 12 Tónar**  
Skólavörðust. 15 | **G8**  
A record label as well as a store, all the best new Icelandic music on CDs or live on Fridays at 5 PM.
- 66°North**  
Bankastræti 5 | **F6**  
One of the most recognised Icelandic products 66gráður North provides world class arctic clothing.
- Aftur**  
Laugavegur 23 | **G7**  
Aftur's internationally acclaimed label is proudly displayed here in their shop/studio.
- Belleville**  
Laugavegur 25 | **G7**  
Stuffed with trendy streetwear designs as well as funky magazines and media.
- Blue Lagoon Store**  
Laugavegur 15 | **G7**  
All the natural skincare products from the famous geothermal spa at their outlet here.
- Brim**  
Laugavegur 71 | **H7**  
Big surf wear, skate wear, and snowboard shop.
- Börn Náttúrunnar**  
Skólavörðustigur 17a | **G8**  
The basement children's toy store sells clothes and toys only made of organic products as well as books about childcare and parenthood.
- Cintamani**  
Laugavegur 11 | **F7**  
Featuring quality Icelandic outdoor gear, you can even book an excursion on the spot.
- Dead**  
Laugavegur 29 | **G7**  
Artist Jón Sæmundur Auðarson's own hand-printed Rock and Roll label, Dead, plus others.
- Dogma**  
Laugavegur 32 | **H7**  
Dogma offers street clothing with interesting prints. Hooded sweaters and T-shirts made by both Icelandic and foreign designers can be found.
- Einvera**  
Laugavegur 35 | **H7**  
A cosy little shop with a great selection of hand-picked second hand clothing for girls who like to dress differently. Also available is the Icelandic designer label Kalda.
- Frída Frænka**  
Vesturgata 3 | **D5**  
A real treasure chest of antique furniture and vintage accoutrements to perk up your apartment.
- G-Star Raw**  
Laugavegur 86 | **I8**  
A store for the Dutch jeans brand, an edgy collection with innovative details and washes.
- Galleri Sautján**  
Laugavegur 91 | **I8**  
Stocking many hip labels, a unisex store offering casual business wear to evening dress wear.
- Gilbert**  
Laugavegur 62 | **H8**  
Watchmaker Gilbert Guðjónsson has sold watches and clocks on Laugavegur for over 40 years. Recently, Gilbert designed his own line of wristwatches.
- Glamúr**  
Laugavegur 41 | **H7**  
A flashy vintage clothing shop with everything from necklaces to fur coats to kimonos.
- Green Apple**  
Laugavegur 20 | **G7**  
The tiny shop combines massage and other relaxation products with organic products.
- Gylti Kötturrinn**  
Austurstræti 8 | **E6**  
One of a few second hand shops that have popped up in recent year. Gylti Kötturrinn also offers some pieces by locals.
- Handþróna-sambandið**  
Skólavörðustigur 19A | **G7**  
All sorts of hand knit woollen clothing as well as fine yarns and knitting supplies.
- lða**  
Lækjargata 2A | **E6**  
A great source for all kinds of reading material, with restaurants on the second floor.
- Kísan**  
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**  
An interesting mix of items from all around the world you won't find anywhere else.
- Kisuberjatréð**  
Vesturgata 4 | **D5**  
A lovely gallery/gift shop run by ten artists and designers where they sell their products.
- Kolaportíð**  
Tryggvagata 19 | **E5**  
Open on weekends, you can get a bargain on almost anything at this indoor flea market.
- Kraum**  
Aðalstræti 10 | **D6**  
Featuring the best in contemporary Icelandic design of everyday items of any kind.
- Kronkron**  
Laugavegi 63B | **I8**  
This hip new shop stocks the latest trends in everything from socks to sweaters.
- KVK**  
Laugavegur 27 | **G7**  
Small yet stuffed designer shop KVK, which stocks a nice selection of local designs.
- Marimekko**  
Laugavegur 56 | **H8**  
Finnish designer brand Marimekko has found its spot on Laugavegur. The Marimekko concept store stocks a wide selection of the colourfully printed designer products.
- Mál og Menning**  
Laugavegur 18 | **G7**  
A multi-level store with games, books, souvenirs and a bustling café on the top floor.
- Moods of Norway**  
Laugavegur 11 | **H8**  
The new clothing shop on Laugavegur closes the gap between the clothes you wear on Saturday for your night off and those you wear the following Sunday at church. From casual shirts and pants to the eye-catching tux: they have it.
- Nakti Apinn**  
Bankastræti 14 | **F7**  
Offers an amazing array of colourful designer wear as well as contemporary media.
- Nexus**  
Hverfisgata 103 | **I8**  
The biggest comic book and gaming store in Reykjavík has something for everyone.
- Rökk og Rósir**  
Laugavegur 17 | **G7**  
Second-hand clothing for the fairer sex at a reasonable price.
- Skarthúsið**  
Laugavegur 12 | **F7**  
Glittery accessory shop stuffed with cheap jewelry, bags or other small items.
- Skífan**  
Laugavegur 26 | **G7**  
Selection of CDs, DVDs and computer games as well as some Icelandic films with English subtitles.
- Spíútínk**  
Laugavegur 32 | **G7**  
One of the best second-hand shops in the country, with recycled clothes at a range of prices.
- Systur**  
Laugavegur 70 | **H7**  
For whatever women's lingerie needs you might have, this is the store to satisfy them.
- Trilogía**  
Laugavegur 7 | **F7**  
A collection of trendy designer wear fills the shop, summery dresses, sweaters and skirts.
- The Viking**  
Hafnarstræti 3 | **E5**  
This large tourist shop sells all sorts of smart souvenirs to bring back home.
- Þorsteinn Bergmann**  
Skólavörðustigur 36 | **G8**  
Since the 1940s this small store has offered a huge selection of household supplies for a laughable low price.
- Anatomie**  
Skólavörðustigur | **G8**  
A great little shop with an excellent selection of sportswear.
- Hanna Design Shop**  
Laugavegur 20B | **G7**  
Hanna Design Shop provides elegant Icelandic design, made exclusively out of Icelandic wool.

## OUTSIDE REYKJAVÍK

For more information about art outside Reykjavík visit [grapevine.is](http://grapevine.is)

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## CD REVIEWS



**THE VERDICT**  
*Enter Sindri Már Sigfússon's musical laboratory.*

**LISTEN**  
[www.myspace.com/sinfangbous](http://www.myspace.com/sinfangbous)

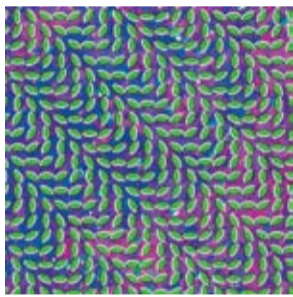
## SIN FANG BOUS

Clangour



REVIEWED BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE

As Sin Fang Bous is the solo-project of Sindri from Seabear, you will quickly notice the comfortable voice and welcoming little melodies that make his main band one of my favourite young Icelandic indie acts. The differences between the projects are not that big, only that Sin Fang Bous tries to broaden the sound of Seabear by adding electronic gadgets. This means Clangour follows a more experimental approach, instead of Seabear's catchy pop-tunes. This is sometimes exciting as in *Catch the Light*, sometimes beautiful (*Sunken Ship*), but sometimes also quite unspectacular – as in the flat *Clangour* and *Flutes* – or even downright annoying because of apparently random electronic effects. *Clangour* leaves a mixed impression as a record. However, it also is an interesting documentation of the talented Sindri's musical experiments as seen from a different angle. Taken in this way, it does not matter that not all the experiments are a success.



**THE VERDICT**  
*It rules beyond what profanity can express.*

**LISTEN**  
[www.myspace.com/animalcollectivetheband](http://www.myspace.com/animalcollectivetheband)

## ANIMAL COLLECTIVE

Meerriweather Post Pavilion



REVIEWED BY SINDRI ELDON

In addition to sporting one of the best titles in recent music history, *Meerriweather Post Pavilion* may just be the best balance between inventive, well-furnished musicianship and catchy, pop-tastic joygasmic electro for a decade. While some fashionable techno bands struggle to be relevant (*Scissor Sisters*, *MGMT*) and Icelandic ones just struggle in general (*FM Belfast*, *Bloodgroup*), *Animal Collective* perfectly encapsulate everything great about 2000's techno: it's minimal without being harsh, danceable without being loud, languid without being boring, grandiose without being pretentious and psychedelic without being dated. Its dreamy, gently lilting melodies go everywhere and nowhere at the same time, the barely-there drum beats almost unnecessary as softly-urgent vocals and no-holds-barred synth frolicking take centre stage. It's over-the-top and intensely public, but at the same time very private, very direct... it's hard to talk about an album like this without getting a little poetic, but simply put, it is beyond compare, a little more than excellent and a little less than perfect.



**THE VERDICT**  
*Sad songs that unfortunately get monotonous quite fast.*

**LISTEN**  
[www.myspace.com/elineyj](http://www.myspace.com/elineyj)

## ELÍN EY

See You In Dreamland



REVIEWED BY FLORIAN ZÜHLKE

On her debut album, Elín Ey presents her energetic voice very fittingly to the sounds of her fragile guitar play. The sad tone and lyrics make this record perfect for getting drunk over love lost. This is also the point where "See you in dreamland" gets monotonous in a way – the songs seldom change their tune. "See you in dreamland" catches the sadness of being left and alone but does not stray from that theme and therefore gets boring on a full-length album: the songs have the same shuffled tempo and the same chords. However, Elín Ey manages to break that circle in some of her songs – "Coming to get you" or "Why don't we do it in the road", for example, both ass-kicking blues tunes that bring some verve. Some more of those would have done the record good.

## CONCERT REVIEW BY ÞÓRIR GEORG JÓNSSON — PHOTO BY SIGURÐUR GUNNARSSON



BURSTING WITH FUN

## The Noises of the Underground



Nýlenduöruverslun Hemma og Valda may not look like much of a concert venue to the untrained eye. But to those in the know, it's a completely different story. The tiny old wooden house has been the host of some of the city's most legendary concerts, both in the previous incarnation of Kaffi Hljómalind and even earlier than that the legendary record store Hljómalind. So to my mind there wasn't a better place to start this series of concerts dedicated to the Reykjavík underground scene.

First band on was the magnificent Swords of Chaos, whose punk-tinged noise rock fit the place perfectly. There are many things you can say about Swords of Chaos, but boring is definitely not one of them. Singer Úlfur leapt and bounced around the room while the band created some of the loudest, most abrasive rock music you'll find in Reykjavík these days. Hopefully they'll have a release of some sort out soon.

Following Swords of Chaos was going to make almost any band look tame, but Faðir Vor probably more so than most. Their calm, meditative jazz rock was interesting, if a little dull at parts. At a dif-

ferent place, under different circumstances, they might have been easier to enjoy but they seemed out of their element. After playing for almost an hour, it wasn't until the last twenty minutes or so that they broke out of their groove and really gave their two drummers a chance to shine.

The final band of the night was Bárújárn. And it was obvious from the moment they started setting up their equipment that they wanted to put on a show; even if they didn't quite deliver what they promised, they still were pretty close. Musically, Bárújárn are among the more exciting bands around. Mixing heavy rock, punk, psychedelia and surf rock into a cocktail may not be unique, but they certainly have a fair amount of originality. The addition of theremin certainly made them a bit more interesting. Not to mention the go go dancers, flashing lights and disco uniforms.

I don't think anyone has had any doubt about the quality of the Reykjavík underground music scene for a long time. But it is certainly nice to get a reminder like this every once in a while.

**WHAT**  
Grapevine Grassroots number 1

**WHO**  
Swords of Chaos  
Faðir Vor  
Bárújárn

**WHERE**  
Hemmi & Valdi

**WHEN**  
Friday, February 13

## SHOPPING BY RICHARD PAUL FOLEY

## Seething Kraum

The popular Icelandic design shop, Kraum, was opened in 2007, a collaborative effort of some 30 designers to produce a communal designer store. The shop initially bought and sold work from up to 60 to 70 designers and has grown to sell the works of over 100. In 2008, Kraum was awarded by the Icelandic retailer council, "Tourist Shop of the Year".

## ABOUT KRAUM

The main focus of the store is to make a vibrant crafts community by facilitating new and local designers from Iceland. This is done through a close partnership with the craft and design centre that occupies and exhibits next door, in the oldest house in Reykjavík. The owners' collective knowledge as designers places them in good stead for opening such an enterprise. One radical change of the traditional designer boutique was to buy direct from the maker rather than working on commission. This subsequently assists crafts-folk in evolving new work, creating diversity and support for a variety of designs and designers within the shop.

## WHO SHOPS THERE AND WHAT DO THEY SELL?

Initially one presumes the shop is specifically marketed to tourists, but upon closer scrutiny it turns out the mainstays are mature Icelandic women

interested in distinctive, one-off designs. Explains one of the sales assistants: "I see three generations of women shopping together here, from the mothers and daughters to the grandmothers and grand-daughters. All of them seem to be able to find something for themselves." Commenting further, she demonstrated that the varied price range reflects different age groups. "Younger customers tend to buy jewellery by Helga Ósk Einarsdóttir. She draws inspiration from traditional Icelandic patterns, and sells some of the cheaper products – they go for around 2.000 ISK". When asked about the most expensive product on offer, she points to the tailored lamb coats by Sunneva, worth around 300.000 ISK. "That's our most expensive item, I believe."

Browsing through the shop it becomes apparent that an underlying theme in the variety of designs is the distinct utilization of native Icelandic resources. For instance, shoemaker Maria K Magnúsdóttir makes unconventional ankle boots from horse manes and fish skins that look uncannily similar to crocodile. Fanney Antonsdóttir and Dögg Guðmundsdóttir skin a whole cod and place its fragile remains as a lampshade. Farmer/designer Guðrún Steingrimsdóttir produces obscure brooches from the whale teeth. Overall, it seems the designers are willing to challenge ideas of beauty and functionality.



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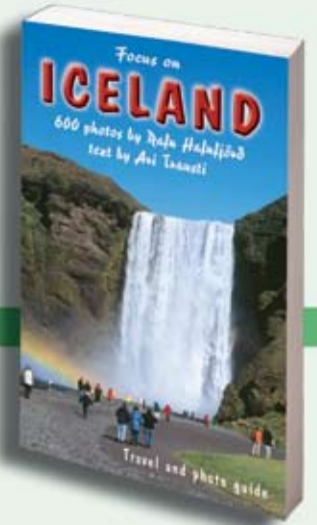
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## DESTINATIONS

## Top 5 Ski Areas in Iceland

BY BOGI BJARNASON



### 1. HLÍÐARFJALL, AKUREYRI.

With a high-speed quad and three tow lifts Hlíðarfjall may not be the biggest, but it's certainly the best. The top lift accesses a lot of off-piste and offers endless hiking possibilities to various chutes, cornices and cliffs. The quad has high turn around and seldom gets queued up but the slope is intermediate at best. The snowpark features a multitude of rails and is shaped by a graduate from a Swedish snowboarding high school. The area is unique in the meagre flora of Icelandic ski areas in that it year after year offers 140+ operating days.



### 2. ODDSSKARÐ, ESKIFJÖRÐUR.

Boasting a mere two tows and a beginners lift, Oddsskarð is small but has great backcountry access. Take the two tows to the top and ride down the backside through off-piste galore and find yourself in another fjörd where you can drive back up the mountain pass through a tunnel that opens up back at the lifts. The powder is plentiful, the scenery magnificent and the town tiny. For accommodation you can't do better than Mjóeyri, a guesthouse run by an awesome individual called Sævar who will go to any length to make your stay comfortable. Just tell him I sent you.



### 3. BLÁFJÖLL, REYKAVÍK.

With 9 tows, two double-seater chairs and a detachable high-speed quad, Bláfjöll is certainly the biggest, but the area is only open when the Norse god of weather is in a good mood. And that guy's one moody bastard. A benefit of his whims are however nice wind formations such as cornices, in particular the "Framhengja", which is a short hike away and often offers up a lot of hangtime. Man-made kickers are scarce as the weather doesn't take lightly to such constructions, but the ISA (Icelandic Snowboard Association) tries to keep jumps available. The terrain is suitable to all levels of riders/skiers.



### 4. SNÆFELLSJÖKULL.

The Snæfellsjökull glacier is where you want to be in spring and early summer. Here you can partake in some midnight riding under the never setting sun, if you rent a snowmobile that is. A good surf break is nearby and a mini-ramp for skating was left behind by the Iceland Park Project, which used to run a summer camp a few years back. Pitch your tent at the Arnarstapi camp ground, near the small restaurant and bar. The scenery is breathtaking and the fowl is loud and menacing.



### 5. SIGLUFJÖRÐUR.

Have never been but a northerner friend of mine says it's easily his favourite as far as backcountry goes, and if it's not to your liking, Hlíðarfjall and the small areas of Dalvík and Húsavík are all within about an hour's drive.

Honourable Mention: Skálafell, Reykjavík. R.I.P

## SNOWBOARDING BY BOGI BJARNASON — PHOTO BY INGÓLFUR BRAGI GUNNARSSON



HOUSEGRINDING

## The Eiríkur Helgason Interview

You might not know him, but he's kinda famous

### BEGINNINGS

Eiríkur "Eiki" Helgason first drew the attention of the snowboarding community in 2003 with the release of the snowboard movie "Óreiða" ("Chaos"), where he and his fellow rippers in Team Divine (Viktor Helgi Hjartarson, Gulli Guðmundsson and Eiki's little brother Halldór) first set the standard for Icelandic snowboarding. The film attracted some international praise, mainly for Eiki's attempt at a triple backflip—a trick never before seen, nor seen since.

It's now six years down the road and Eiki has experienced most, if not all, that it entails to be a pro snowboarder: magazine covers, countless competition wins, tireless travel, and the "Snowboarder Magazine" Rookie of the Year award. I caught up with Eiki where he was in Aspen, Colorado, at the top of the waiting list to participate in the X-Games Slopestyle.

First off, I was curious to know about Eiki's emphasis on jibbing (a form of urban snowboarding). "I get a lot of inspiration from skateboarding and jibbing rails was the only way to do what my idols were doing because Hlíðarfjall (Eiki's home mountain) never built jumps or anything like that, nor does it offer many days for building backcountry jumps, so we chose this way, and it worked out", Eiki tells me.

All of Team Divine have studied at a Swedish snowboarding highschool. I ask him how that came about: "We somehow heard about this school and after that nothing else mattered, we just had to get admitted." Obviously they were. They thus continued to grow and progress off of each other, as Eiki freely admits. "I would never have gotten to where I am today where it not for all

of us continually pushing each other to do better".

### PRO-LIFE

Last winter was Eiki's first season as a fully-fledged globetrotting pro, which means his travels are more or less dictated by the whims of his team manager at Rome Snowboards, so paths seldom converge with his friends anymore. What's it like to spend most of the season without your old team? "We rode together from October to January, so it's not that bad, but you always miss not being with all of your buddies riding Hlíðarfjall," says Eiki.

Nabbing the last part of the snowboard movies you appear in each season is always prestigious, like headlining a concert. Sure enough Eiki landed—and I'm talking a lot of clean landings—the end part of Rome's "No Correct Way" movie this year: a feat that might singlehandedly have gotten a slew of nominations for the '08 rider awards circuit. So I had him tell me a bit about his recent "Rookie of the Year" award.

"I was nominated for Transworld Snowboarding magazine's Rookie of the year reader's choice and for the top 10 trick of the year list. Then I won the Snowboarder Magazine and Snowboard MBM "Rookie of the Year" awards. So the season couldn't have played out much better."

### COMP KID VS. POWDER HOUND

In the world of professional snowboarding there are two more or less prevalent schools of thought. There are media babies—your Shaun Whites and Shaun Palmers—who crave the spotlight and the huge cash (and occasional) SUV prizes that come with a successful competitive career, and the

more laidback filming/photographing types that supplement their already sizeable salaries and pro model royalties with the photo bonus—your Travis Rices and Johan Olofsons.

Up to this point, during his latter school years, Eiki received much acclaim for being nearly unbeatable on the Scandinavian, urban jib competition scene; but with this year's release of not one but three films with an "Eiki Helgason" part in them begs the question: competing or filming, which is more fun? "I don't like competing. Filming is a 100 times more fun because you're so free. You don't need to know the day or the time. You can just do what you like, when you like. Hehe, couldn't be better!"

I WAS NOMINATED FOR TRANSWORLD SNOWBOARDING MAGAZINE'S ROOKIE OF THE YEAR READER'S CHOICE AND FOR THE TOP 10 TRICK OF THE YEAR LIST. THEN I WON THE SNOWBOARDER MAGAZINE AND SNOWBOARD MBM "ROOKIE OF THE YEAR" AWARDS. SO THE SEASON COULDN'T HAVE PLAYED OUT MUCH BETTER.





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MUGISON AND HIS LONELY MOUNTAIN VIEW

## Never Let Down: Aldrei Fór Ég Suður

*Gearing up for its fifth year, Europe's biggest little music festival just plain refuses to quit*

For a free two-day event that involves airlifting the better part (in every sense of the word) of Iceland's musicians to a remote part of the country and keeping them stocked on beer, food and blankets for two days, during the economically ravaged 2009 shouldn't bode too well. The days of cash-bloated corporations throwing money at anything that moves in an artful manner are behind us, and most corporate sponsored events are now forced to dramatically scale down—lest they shut down completely.

Not Ísafjörður's Aldrei fór ég suður.

"The first time we did the festival, we just enthusiastically asked a bunch of bands we liked to come," AFS honcho Mugison tells me over tea and scones in his Súðavík flat. It's a beautiful day in the

northwest corner of Iceland and the burning sun sparkles off the ocean through his windows. "We didn't have any idea how we'd pull it off; no money for airfares or lodging. But we managed to hustle in some sponsors and it somehow worked. Since then, we've been doing that, pretty much. Making it happen, for better or worse—it always winds up working like a miracle. Right now we're in the process of securing financial sponsors for the upcoming bash, and things seem to be coming together nicely."

Every Easter since 2004, the cream of Iceland's musical crop has collectively made its way to the Westfjords town of Ísafjörður (pop. 3,000), where they join local artists to revel in the pure, unabashed joy of music. A celebration of local tal-

ent and rural heritage along with the best of what's happening in the capital, the 'Aldrei fór ég suður' festival is the brainchild of Ísafjörður's own Mugison and his father, local harbourmaster Guðmundur M. Kristjánsson (Muggi or PapaMug).


Mugison waxes on, emphasising the nature of AFS as one big group effort of modern-day barn raising. "A lot of people pitch in and help out, and that's what's important. AFS really wouldn't be anything were it not for the awesome folks that put in tremendous work each year to ensure we have a festival. Some of them, like Ísafjörður's son-in-law Jón Þór Þorleifsson, reel in sponsors and funding relentlessly and creatively, while others build our stage or man the soundboards."

### Socialist fun for the whole family

"This festival has always been like some weird Biblical fable of folks coming together to make a good thing," he continues, "and I think that reflects in the event itself, all the good spirit that goes into creating it makes up the joyful and celebratory atmosphere that guests and performers alike revel in. People sometimes call it 'Mugison's party', and that is one misconception I'd like to correct. AFS and the ideals behind it are much bigger than myself: it's a socialist endeavour that consists of everyone who lends a hand, the bands that come to have a good time and play their 20 minute sets for free and every single audience member that shows up and contributes to the spirit."

Putting together each festival's line up is always a feat. In booking acts, festival organisers put tremendous effort to bring together a carefully proportioned mix of veteran pop superstars, local Westfjords talent and eclectic indie darlings; it's probably the only festival in the world where troubadours and bar-bands play alongside experimental ambient techno artists and growling deathrockers. The crowd cheers on every single act equally. "This really contributes to the spirit of the whole thing—people stay and take in artists they've maybe never heard of playing music they wouldn't normally give five seconds. Grandmothers get in the groove of Kippi Kanínus and hipsters rock out to Siggí Björns and Villi Valli. It breaks barriers and brings people together."

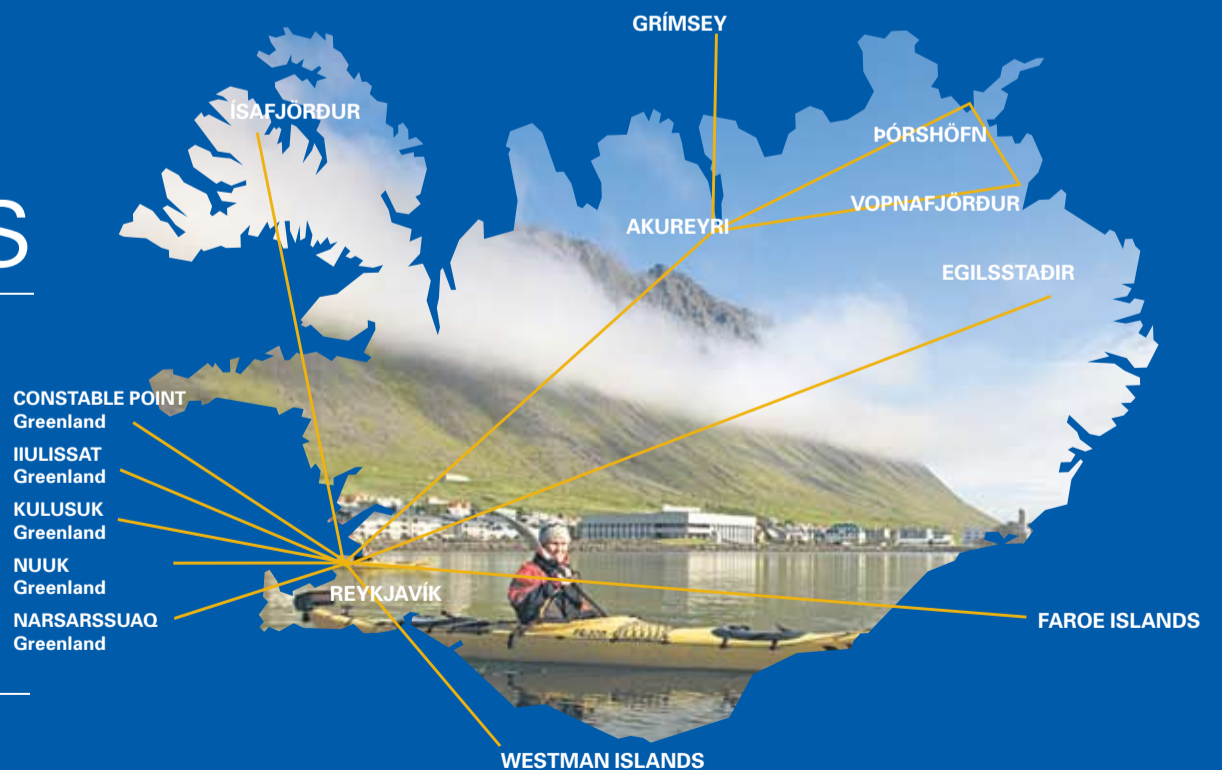
"I guess our biggest problem has always been saying no," Mugison continues. "Almost every good band in Iceland approaches us to play. Even after expanding AFS to a two-day event we still can't fit in everyone. But we try our darnedest." The festival's track record of featuring everyone from Kira Kira and Sigur Rós (in country mode) to Megas to SSSól to everyone in between supports that indeed almost every musician in Iceland has played there at some point.

The Aldrei Fór Ég Suður Festival will take place in an undisclosed Ísafjörður location on April 10th and 11th, from around 2pm 'til late. At the time of writing, the following acts were confirmed to appear: múm, Dr. Spock, Reykjavík!, Kraftlyfting, Hemmi Gunn, Sin Fang Bous, Agent Fresco, Sökudólgarnir, Sudden Weather Change, Stórsveit Vestfjarða, Klikkhausarnir and Fjallabæður. Close to 30 acts will perform at the festival in all, so stay tuned to [www.aldrei.is](http://www.aldrei.is) for up to date info. 

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DESTINATION BY HAUKUR S MAGNÚSSON — PHOTOS BY JÓI KJARTANS

## Your Grapevine Guide to AFS and Ísafjörður



### Rockmaster Hálfán Bjarki Hálfánsson — aka Háli Slick

Veteran AFS Rockmaster Háli Slick is in charge of the festival, especially when it comes to rockin' out and partyin' down. This gentle giant is an approachable, friendly fellow, so don't hesitate to ask him for help should you need it. However, keep in mind that AFS is an extremely busy time for him, so your plights better be warranted.



### Hamraborg

Ísafjörður's one-stop shop for damn near everything, town staple Hamraborg will keep you stocked in pizza, cigarettes, candy, canned goods, pantyhose, DVDs, musical instruments and pretty much everything else you might need. You'll of course have to fork over a hefty sum for most of the items, but this is supplemented by their excellent service.



### Tjöruhúsið

Tjöruhúsið is the site of a legendary seafood restaurant of the same name in the summertime. Sadly closed during winter, this is where the performers usually meet up for fish stew and beer. Stay clear if you're not one of them, but do come back in the summer. You shan't regret it.



### The Suðureyri Swimming pool

A mere 20-minute drive from Ísafjörður the hamlet of Suðureyri is a charming place to visit. Their outdoor swimming pool also kicks all kinds of ass: the surrounding scenery is awe inspiring, the hot pots are superb and they actually serve you coffee and popsicles if you are thus inclined (the coffee is free and the pops are modestly priced). Go there.



### Gamla bakaríð

Gamla bakaríð is one of the oldest operating bakeries in Iceland - and it is certainly among the best. Try the yummy snúðar if you've a sweet tooth - settle for a sandwich if you're of that inclination. In any case, go there. It's more than worth the visit.



### Krúsin

If David Lynch were to design a bar, chances are it would look, feel and smell a lot like basement hangout Krúsin. Notorious for some crazy and surreal nightlife action, this is where you'll want to be after curtain call at AFS.



### The Tungu- & Seljalandsdalur skiing facilities

Easter used to be all about skiing in Ísafjörður. And it still is, as when conditions allow them to operate, the ski slopes provide some excellent rides in majestic sceneries. You'll definitely want to bring along your skis or snowboards.



### The Ísafjörður Airport

While driving to Ísafjörður during winter is an adventure of its own, most prefer to fly. Thus, this will likely be your first sight as you arrive for AFS. Located five minutes from the city centre, you can grab a flybus or a cab to get to town, or even hitch a ride with locals.



### Kaffi Edinborg

Getting service at this bistro/bar can be a real nightmare, but it has a nice interior, friendly regulars and the occasional art exhibit. You'll likely find yourself spending a bit of time there.



### Thai Koon

The absurd location of this Thai restaurant—stowed away in the corner of a Ísafjörður's very own mini mall disaster—doesn't take away from the fact that they serve up huge portions of excellent, authentic Thai food at reasonable prices.



### Sundhöll Ísafjarðar

The Ísafjörður swimming pool is one of the oldest ones in the country—and it shows. The indoor pool is good for cleaning up and doing some laps, and the interior design is fascinating to some, but for extended pool hangouts you'll want to go to the Suðureyri one.



### Vínbúð ÁTVR

This is where you stock up on alcohol once you're in Ísafjörður. Be sure to do so—you have a long weekend ahead of you. Bear in mind that they're closed on Good Friday, but you can stock up on Thursday and then re-up on Saturday (before 2 PM). 🍷



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## DESIGN

# DesignMarch

## Our Very Own

### Design Extravaganza

BY SIGURDUR KJARTAN KRISTINSSON

Although Iceland is currently bankrupt, the bombastic local art festivals that are still peaking, such as Iceland Airwaves, Culture Night and Reykjavik International Film Festival, have shown that we're undeniably only broke on money. This March the missing link to the otherwise bulletproof festival chain will be introduced: a grassroots design festival.

**A LONG-WEEKEND DESIGN PARTY**

When Grapevine heard of this we immediately caught up with the alleged operator of the festival, Greipur Gíslason, down at the Icelandic Design Centre. Gíslason emphasized from the very beginning that he was in no understanding of a "front" of the festival, but a humble servant behind the curtains. "From March 26th the 29th there will be a gigantic design party all around town, and every empty window in the midtown area will be filled with design goods," Gíslason explained. He stressed that although the festival consists mostly of unknown designers showing their work in small boutiques, there will also be a few bigger names attending and commercial malls Kringlan and Smáralind participate.

**DEBUNKING THE COMMERCIAL FACTOR**

But where did the idea come from? Grapevine found out that in previous years a similar festival bearing the name "Design Days" had been thrown a few times, but with a totally different format. The venue wasn't various boutiques and cafés around the city, but instead the gigantic sport hall Laugardalshöll. So you could say they're debunking the commercial factor this time and the festival's morphing into a replica of Iceland Airwaves and Culture Night. And if it's being categorised with festivals such as the aforementioned, the foreign press must follow. Gíslason cleared that up: "We're expecting about 30 foreign journalists and photographers, so it sure will be crowded!". And who knows, maybe DesignMarch will obtain a status as the coolest long-weekend design festival on the annual calendar?

**CUSTOM MADE PAVILION**

There are a few Icelandic expats returning home for the event, one of those is Arnaldur Schram, an accomplished architect stationed in New York City. His plan is to build a pavilion in Reykjavik Sheriff's Garden, solely made of aluminum plates, cut using laser technique. At first sight this seems to be quite an expensive project but Arnaldur explained that both Geislatækni and SindraStál, who produce and cut the aluminum, donated their work and products, "I was simply flabbergasted when it went through, and without their generous donations this wouldn't have been possible."

The building itself will be completely custom made, i.e. no piece will be identical. So it really is a mixture between a gazebo and a sculpture." Arnaldur is looking for volunteers; so whether you're a student or unemployed, contact the Icelandic Design Centre if you want to lend a hand.

The festival's schedule will be diverse and it offers events such as lectures on design and architecture, graphic and industrial design exhibition, movie screenings and guided tours. [G](#)

More info at [www.icelandicdesign.is](http://www.icelandicdesign.is)

## CULTURE BY RICHARD PAUL FOLEY — PHOTO BY JÓI KJARTANS



NOBODY PUTS JULIA STAPLES IN THE CORNER

# Iipseity-Abeyance

## A Look Through The Lenses And Into The Crisis

As part of the Northern Lights Festival, the Nordic House has been hosting the group exhibition "Iipseity- Abeyance". The exhibition is one of the first artistic ventures to express the crisis. The exhibition's curator and photographer, Julia Staples, chose to focus on photography, stating that the "illustrative qualities of photography go together well with representing the crisis." One recurring theme throughout the show is the choice of portraying the real estate industry so as to reflect upon what has occurred from the economic crisis, as real estate is always a strong indicator of the financial situation in any country.

As I walked through the space and browsed the pamphlet provided, I noticed an article espousing photographer Guðmundur Ingólfsson's feelings about photography. He told of how the art-form had received a lowered status throughout his career and the struggle for employment that photographers encounter. It became apparent that the choice of photography was possibly the most appropriate for expressing the crisis. For me, the show truly engaged itself in demonstrating aspects of the situation with realism, subtlety and pathos. Hence, I wanted to try to articulate a few of the artist's works that conveyed these feelings.

**GUÐMUNDUR INGÓLFSSON**

Upon entering the exhibition, the first artist's work on view was that of the aforementioned Guðmundur Ingólfsson, a renowned photographer of Iceland. Ingólfsson presented a contrast of two photographic series. Firstly, was a modern day reflection on the harbour area in Reykjavik, where a lot of ambitious

building plans have been undertaken and sadly halted. The photographs depict large industrial cranes in the skyline, said to symbolise the economic landscape of the depression. The work remained bright and optimistic in its summer setting, compared to the second series "Stories From the Last War".

This older set of black and white imagery shows the demolition of old, unused buildings that existed in Reykjavik, such as the Pravda Club bar. Today, all buildings seem to hold question marks over their heads. As the title implies, these are "Stories From the Last War", but we are already anticipating the next battle.

**NICO MUHLY**

An American composer, who by chance became involved in the exhibition, was invited after his video collaboration with the DVD magazine, Rafskinna. The live performance was composed specifically for the incomplete city Music Hall. Muhly asked Helgi Hrafn Jónsson to perform on the trombone for its acoustical quality in testing a space—even though the roof was still missing, as he points out. The music seemed to produce an unnerving reiteration of the first verse, creating a stuttering tension that constantly began again and again, with short stints of other compositions but never building to a crescendo. In this way it managed to convey something of the emotions of the building. Nico Muhly's comment that this "might be the first and only performance" performed in the Music Hall made the moment even more sentimental.

**INGVAR HÖGNI RAGNARSSON**

A side room holds Ingvar Högni Ragnarsson's photographic installation series "Waiting". The emptiness of the work appears to be a stern realisation that all has been deserted in pursuit of better days. The presence of people is suggested throughout each picture but never seen: car tracks in the snow, tyre marks on a vacant road. The curious aspect of the work is the concept of static time, a moment caught in anticipation. "Waiting" evokes the sense that something is about to happen or just has, reflecting the tense atmosphere of the crisis. The images are motionless, in wonder of what is to come: who will fill the empty car parks and occupy houses? What will happen if left un-built and docile? From an aesthetic viewpoint the photographer has captured a sense of the melancholic beauty of the Icelandic landscape, reflected in the dull greys and silence. His symmetrical angles in the work convey a dramatic impression on the viewer's natural sense of composition, placing the work as one of the more technically ambitious.

**JULIA STAPLES**

Photographer Julia Staples works directly with the issues imposed on people throughout the crisis. Two intriguing works produced for the exhibition are a smaller series, entitled "Breiðholt, Iceland" and "Looking Through An Unfinished House in Norðlingaholt". "Breiðholt, Iceland" depicts the housing blocks of Breiðholt – which legend has it is a notoriously deprived part of Reykjavik with a high concentration of immigrants.

What struck me regarding this series were its vibrant colours, instinctively drawing me to view them. Inspecting the images further, I noticed they were small entrance doors to a housing block, placed in numerical order. The systematic order seemed to express ideas of populace statistics and the categorization of people into a number; in this context, it almost appeared like a list of unemployed families receiving benefits in each apartment. I began to wonder what the impact of the crisis would have here. Would the people of Breiðholt be the first to experience the repercussions of the economic change? If most immigrants emigrate home, will these apartments become barren or be over filled because the housing crash? Just how bad could it get? All these questions posed by the work were inevitably unanswerable. "Looking Through An Unfinished House in Norðlingaholt" seems to portray more hope. The images were printed so that the frame mimicked the windows of the house. Most of the window views were set onto a picturesque landscape, contrasting the pathos between the tragic financial restrictions preventing a family for living there, and the hope that one day they will enjoy these views when the economic crisis will be over.

On the most part the exhibition was a conflict between anxiety and optimistic aspirations both connecting to the current atmosphere of the crisis, which makes the work a successful re-enactment of what has been felt throughout this historical period. [G](#)

*The Nordic House*

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*The exhibition will be open till March 9.*



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*The kids liked what they heard, but legend has it that in Höfn a farmer had a heart attack when Elvis sounded on the radio.*

Dr. Gunnir brings the history of Icelandic rock music.

**PAGE 6**

*The days of cash-bloated corporations throwing money at anything that moves in an artful manner are behind us...*

Aldrei fór ég suður will still kick ass.

**PAGE 28**

*Little did God know on the day he smote his curse on Þorbjörn that he'd be giving birth to Iceland's first avant-garde poet—a sound poet, no less, whose control of Zaum is first-class.*

Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl explains the 17th century poetry of Æri-Tobbi.

**PAGE 12**

*Those who are considered chieftains in this country are foolishly susceptible to prayer, drink and bribery, but still the simple and poor common people believe them and are duped.*

Vanity Fair ain't the first to make broad colonialist generalisations about Icelanders.

**PAGE 10**

*Finally, though, she came. And we fell asleep.*

Grapevine had some fun times at the Northern Wave festival.

**PAGE 12**

*They are like big fatty bears. Sleeping over the winter. Waiting for the warmer days and time they can sell their houses and make profit again. And I am stupid enough to work and pay their food.*

Sour Selma isn't exactly pleased with the big fatty bears.

**PAGE 4**



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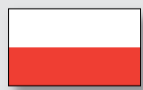
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