



# FÁLKINN

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO

August 2005

ICCT FÁLKINN 46th Year Number 2

**If You Are What You Eat:**

## **Why Not Be A Little More Icelandic?**

**ICCT Icelandic Gala Dinner in Toronto the 11th of September at the Delta Chelsea**

As in recent years, the Icelandic Canadian Club of To-

ronto, will host an Icelandic Gala Dinner. This years event will be held on Sunday, September 11th, at the Delta Chelsea Hotel, and coincide with the Toronto Film Festival which will feature no less than 4 films, with relation to Iceland or the Icelandic community here in Canada.

The evening starts with an opening reception at 18:00, and the dinner starts at 19:00. The menu, which is featured here on the front page, includes such well known Icelandic delicacies, as smoked salmon, monkfish, skyr and lamb, though only a small part of the ingredients will be Icelandic, due to restriction on imports to Canada.

The menu is put together by an Icelandic chef, Sigurrós Pálsdóttir, who is currently working in Denmark, and will be administered by Delta Executive Chef Ragnar Pedersen, so there is a reason to keep one's gastronomic glands ready for a treat.

The outgoing Icelandic Ambassador to Canada, Guðmundur Eiríksson, will be attending the dinner; this is probably his last visit to Toronto for a while, as in a short time he will be moving to Costa Rica. The Icelandic directors that will be in Toronto for the film festival could possibly be enticed to tell us about their movies. And let us not forget the directors that live here in Toronto, Sturla Gunnarsson, whose "Beowulf & Grendel" will premiere at the festival, and Guy Maddin, whose

"Years Old", a short film with Isabella Rosselini, will also be featured at the film festival.

Entertainment will come in the form of the Icelandic jazz band "Cold Front", which is a trio made of musicians and music from North America and Northern Europe. The ensemble was formed in February, 2004 when Björn Thoroddsen, Richard Gillis, and Steve Kirby got together for a performance tour. Since then the group has recorded a CD, and has performed at the Reykjavik Jazz Festival.

This is a unique opportunity for those who long to get a little taste of Iceland, to enjoy good food and let the mind wander to Iceland and all things Icelandic. Those who wish to attend the dinner, should fill out the reservation slip which accompanies the newsletter, and mail it to the ICCT treasurer as soon as possible, as due to unforeseen circumstances the time until deadline is not very long. Deadline to mail reservations is September 2nd. There should be an addressed envelope supplied as well, but if not, mail reservations with cheque to: Mel Johnson, Treasurer ICCT, 2000 Roy Ivor Cr., Mississauga, ON, L5L 3N8. Remember to make the choice of appetizer and main course. Please note, that the tickets will

### **Menu:**

#### **Appetizers:**

*Scallops with red pepper  
escabeche and herb salad  
or*

*Smoked salmon mousse wrapped in  
smoked salmon, served with apple-lime  
salad and lemon oil*

#### **Main course:**

*Fried monkfish with monkfish mousse,  
served with pomegranate and apple bacon  
sauce  
or*

*Lamb fillet (New Zealand) fried, served  
with herb potato mash glazed pearl on-  
ions, rhubarb compote, lamb shank ril-  
lettes and lamb reduce  
or*

*Wild mushroom rillettes, served with  
mango and caramelized pecan salad,  
fresh herbs, garlic confit and ricotta-  
coriander sauce*

#### **Dessert:**

*White chocolate and vanilla parfait served  
with skyr sorbet and caramelized milk.*

not be mailed, but will be waiting at the restaurant.



# FÁLKINN-THE FALCON

*Fálkinn is the newsletter of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto and is published 6—8 times a year.*

*Editors: G. Tómas Gunnarsson email: tommigunnars@hotmail.com  
Gail Einarson McCleery  
Email: falkinn@hotmail.com*

## *ICCT Executive:*

*President: Leah Salt  
email: cpkexpress@rogers.com*

*Past President: Darla McKay  
email: demckay@pathcom.com*

*Treasurer: Mel Johnson  
2000 Roy Ivor Crescent  
Mississauga L5L 3N8  
email: mljohnson@rogers.com*

*Secretary: Tracy Morrison  
email: tmorr@sympatico.ca*

*Mailing Director: Ellen Gilmore  
email: jgilmore.@sympatico.ca*

*Assistant Librarian: Jon Thordarson  
Email: thorco@aol.com*

*Membership: Barry Stinson  
email: barry.stinson@sympatico.ca*

*Librarian: Margret Bjorgvinsdottir  
email: maggab@sympatico.ca*

*Youth Committee & Social:  
Kara Schuster  
email: karaschuster@ica.net*

*Phone Committee: Irene Gibson  
Email: stamps@sprint.ca*

*Program Director: Heather Prinsloo*

*Membership Outreach: Don Gislason  
416-489-7737  
email: ericgislason@rogers.com*

*Kinmount ICE FEST Chair: Gudrun  
Girgis Email: gudrun@on.aibn.com*

*Thorrablot Convenor:  
Kristin Olafson-Jenkyns email:  
markrisart@hotmail.com*

*Webmaster: Darla McKay  
email: demckay@pathcom.com*

*Directors at Large: Heidi Kinnon, email:  
hkinnon915@rogers.com,  
Lorna Day, email: lday@toronto.ca,  
Jim Gibson, email: stamps@sprint.ca*

*INL Reg. Director & Honorary  
Consul of Iceland in Toronto: Gail  
Einarson-McCleery.  
email: icegem20@cs.com*

**Webpage: <http://icct.info>**

*Membership information: Single  
\$20, Family \$25, Senior Couple \$20,  
Senior Single \$15.*

## New Members

It is always a pleasure to be able to announce that the ICCT is growing and new members have joined. Here is a list of our newest members. We welcome them all and hope to see them on many happy occasions. Sheryl Hoshizaki, Toronto; Hildy Stollery & Peter Cronin, Toronto; Raina Stebelsky, Toronto; Lisa Gibson, Toronto; Gregory & Joann Einarson, Bracebridge, Ont.; A. Rodney & Kathleen Thorfinnson, Owen Sound, Ont.; Herbert & Sharon Fredrickson, Kemble, Ont.; Grimur Ardal & Charlotte B. Wood, Toronto; Joyce (Johnson) Dietrich, Waterloo, Ont; Bonnie A. Russell, Toronto; Carol-Lynn Burns, Toronto; Diane Babos, Grimsby, Ont.; Hershel Zvi Slotki, Toronto; Terrance Einarson & Pat Briggs, Bowling, Ont.; Ray & Margaret Crawford, Rosseau, Ont.; Karen Wallington & Bo Mosley, Toronto; Carol Baines, Toronto.

## "We Felt Like Home"

"I and Sigurjóna feel like we are at home", said Halldór Ásgrímsson, the Icelandic Prime Minister about his recent, and third, visit to Winnipeg.



*Halldór and Sigurjóna in the Icelandic Day Parade*

Halldór visited and met a lot of people, among them, Prime Minister Paul Martin and Manitoba Premier Gary Doer. Together they visited an exhibition about the ice hockey team, The Falcons. Halldór and Gary Doer discussed among other things, direct flights between Winnipeg and Iceland, cargo shipping through Churchill, and central distribution for Canadian goods going to Europe in Iceland. Mr. Doer accepted Halldór's offer of visiting Iceland again; previously he went there about four years ago.

## Donations to the ICCT

The ICCT has through the years received very generous donations from its members, and will hopefully continue to do so, as it helps enormously with the running of the club and organizing events.

Here is the list of people who have recently sent donations to the ICCT. Joseph Martin, Blair Laxdal, David & Elizabeth York, W & D Lawler, Wenonah Finkbeiner, Diane Babos, Ray & Margaret Craw-

ford, Gail McCleery, Unknown Donor, Darla E. McKay, \$150.00, (Darla who is the webmaster for ICCT pays the monthly website fee and the domain fees which amount to \$150.00 per year. Rather than charging the Club with these fees she has very generously donated these costs to the Club.)

The ICCT send its sincerest and warmest thanks to all of those above.

# Beowulf and Grendel, A Little Trip to Heaven, Eleven Men Out, and My Dad is 100 Years Old

## Four movies for those with interest in Iceland and Icelandic Cinema

Those interested in Icelandic cinema and Iceland in general have at least 4 films that is worth checking out, coming up on the Toronto Film Festival.

As Fálkinn went to print, the final program, time and places for the films were not finalized but we thought we would still draw your attention to these films mentioned here.



First we would like to mention *Beowulf and Grendel*, Icelandic/Canadian/British film made by ICCT member **Director Sturla Gunnarsson**. This epic film, based on the Anglo-Saxon poem *Beowulf* and features magnificent Icelandic landscape, suited to the story. The biggest roles are played by Canadian Sarah Polley, who plays Selma, Icelander Ingvar E. Sigurðsson, who plays Grendel, Brit Gerald Butler, who plays Beowulf and Swede Stellan Skarsgard, who plays Hrothgar.

If you are not able to get tickets, *Beowulf* will soon find its way to public cinemas, but this one is definitely one not to be missed. The screenings on Toronto Film Festival includes the world premiere.



*Grendel is played by Ingvar E. Sigurðsson*

*Eleven Men Out* (*Strákarnir okkar*), is the newest film from Icelandic director Robert Douglas. His films *The Icelandic Dream* and *Small Mall* have been shown on previous festivals, and *Small Mall* was part of ICCT film series last winter. The film tells the story of a gay major league soccer player, playing for Icelandic team KR. He causes a stir, when he comes "out of the closet" in a magazine. He soon finds himself on the bench for most matches, and decides to quit, and joins an amateur team, mostly made up of gay players. The plot thickens as the director of KR, who is also the player's father, persuades him to return, but promises instead that KR will play a game against the gay team, not realizing that the match will take place on Gay Pride Day. Star-



*Eleven Men Out is about a gay soccer player*

ring, Björn Hlynur Hallsson, Lilja Nótt Þórarinsdóttir, Arnaldur Ernst and Helgi Björnsson. This is a brand new film, and will premiere in Iceland in the beginning of September. Some have described the film as what would have happened, if Ken Loach would have shot *Priscilla, the Queen of the Desert*, in Iceland. Another Icelandic film is *A Little Trip To Heaven*, which is the first film that Icelandic director Baltasar Kormákur (*101 Reykjavík*, *The Sea*) has made in English. Produced by Iceland's Hollywood producer Sigurjón "Joni" Sighvatsson. Starring Julia Stiles (*The Bourne Supremacy*), Forest Whitaker (*The Crying Game*) and Jeremy Renner (*S.W.A.T.* and *Lord of Dogtown*), *A Little Trip To Heaven* tells us about a dead con man with a million-dollar life insurance policy. His sister (Stiles), her husband (Renner) and an insurance investigator (Whitaker) all become embroiled in the case. The film is a psychological thriller, and according to rumors has a very surprising end. This is also a brand new film, has not yet been showed in Iceland and is just out of post production. The fourth film is a short film by Guy Madden, certainly no stranger to the Icelandic community, written by and featuring Isabella Rossellini. Isabella takes viewers on a highly personal, poignant and quirky reminiscence of her father, the great Italian Neo-realist film director Roberto Rossellini, whose centennial comes up in 2006. The film was made possible by Michael Burns and The Documentary Channel. You can find the dates, timing and venues, where they were available as Fálkinn went to print at page 7, in the calendar section, but please take notice, that these informations can change, so make your plans when the festival program is out and finalized.

ring, Björn Hlynur Hallsson, Lilja Nótt Þórarinsdóttir, Arnaldur Ernst and Helgi Björnsson.

This is a brand new film, and will premiere in Iceland in the beginning of September. Some have described the film as what would have happened, if Ken Loach would have shot *Priscilla, the Queen of the Desert*, in Iceland.



*A Little Trip To Heaven*

Another Icelandic film is *A Little Trip To Heaven*, which is the first film that Icelandic director Baltasar Kormákur (*101 Reykjavík*, *The Sea*) has made in English. Produced by Iceland's Hollywood producer Sigurjón "Joni" Sighvatsson. Starring Julia Stiles (*The Bourne Supremacy*), Forest Whitaker (*The Crying Game*) and Jeremy Renner (*S.W.A.T.* and *Lord of Dogtown*), *A Little Trip To Heaven* tells us about a dead con man with a million-dollar life insurance policy. His sister (Stiles), her husband (Renner) and an insurance investigator (Whitaker) all become embroiled in the case. The film is a psychological thriller, and according to rumors has a very surprising end.

This is also a brand new film, has not yet been showed in Iceland and is just out of post production. The fourth film is a short film by Guy Madden, certainly no stranger to the Icelandic community, written by and featuring Isabella Rossellini. Isabella takes viewers on a highly personal, poignant and quirky reminiscence of her father, the great Italian Neo-realist film director Roberto Rossellini, whose centennial comes up in 2006. The film was made possible by Michael Burns and The Documentary Channel. You can find the dates, timing and venues, where they were available as Fálkinn went to print at page 7, in the calendar section, but please take notice, that these informations can change, so make your plans when the festival program is out and finalized.



*Julia Stiles stars in A Little Trip To Heaven*

This is also a brand new film, has not yet been showed in Iceland and is just out of post production.

The fourth film is a short film by Guy Madden, certainly no stranger to the Icelandic community, written by and featuring Isabella Rossellini. Isabella takes viewers on a highly personal, poignant and quirky reminiscence of her father, the great Italian Neo-realist film director Roberto Rossellini, whose centennial comes up in 2006. The film was made possible by Michael Burns and The Documentary Channel.

You can find the dates, timing and venues, where they were available as Fálkinn went to print at page 7, in the calendar section, but please take

notice, that these informations can change, so make your plans when the festival program is out and finalized.

Remember our webpage: <http://icct.info>



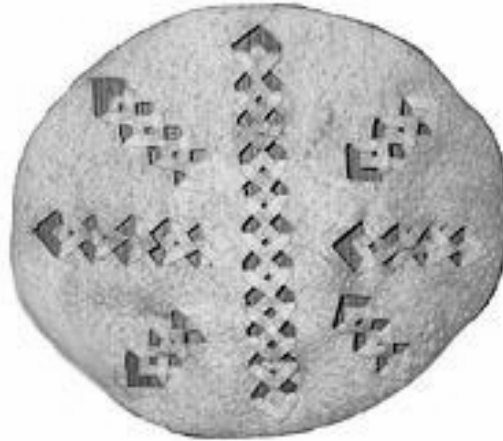
# Icelandic Christmas at Spadina Museum

By Margrét Björgvinsdóttir

This year the Spadina Museum has invited The Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto to share Icelandic Christmas customs and traditions with the larger community. **Sharing Our Traditions** - the official label of the program - includes the participation of the ICCT whereby a special room in the museum will be used to represent Icelandic customs at Christmas time. To give an example of our involvement, ICCT people will show how traditional Icelandic Christmas food is prepared and make it available for sampling by museum visitors. In addition to this, the creation of Icelandic Christmas crafts will be explained and displayed, and performances by musicians, story tellers and young actors will serve to

instill an awareness and understanding of Icelandic Christmas traditions. All this is expected to blend into the museum's celebration of the Edwardian Christmas.

The Spadina Museum Christmas celebrations for the public will take place in the afternoons of the last four Sundays before Christmas. During weekdays in December schoolchildren will be visiting the Museum.



*Laufabrauð is a important part of Icelandic Christmas*

**Sharing Our Traditions** provides a great opportunity to reach the Icelandic people in the Toronto area and new audiences with whom we can share our heritage and traditions. **Sharing Our Traditions** also provides an excellent opportunity to promote our

organization's programs and activities.

More information in the next issues of Fálkinn



## 240 Years of Icelandic — Canadians

It may be hard to believe, but these lovely ladies, are just that old; together they have logged 240 years, as they all turned 80 in June this summer. They are from left to right: Irene Gibson born on the 9th of June, Gigi Fridriksson, born on the 13th and Stella Hansen born on June 19th. These lovely ladies are of course all members of the ICCT, and in fact made each other's acquaintance through the club. Fálkinn, on behalf of its readers, sends them our best greetings, and we hope to see them at as many ICCT events in the future, as we have in the past. We would also like to use this opportunity to thank them for their contribution to the club through the years.

## Is Something Happening?

A newsletter like Fálkinn has always depended on the member of the ICCT to contribute to the publication. It is very important for the newsletter to be in good contact with the members of the club.

We appreciate if you let us know about milestones in the life of you and your family. Let us know if you come across something that you would think that would be interesting to the Icelandic community, whether it is a book, a play or a good website, that you think other Icelander, or Icelandic—Canadians would benefit knowing about. Send us a picture you have taken where friends of Iceland come together or from your latest trip to Iceland.

Send us a line if there is something that you think should get noticed by the Icelandic community in Toronto. Together we can make Fálkinn even more interesting, and serve the Icelandic community better.

# The Path Lead to Gimli

*The Path to Gimli* celebrated the Canadian/Icelandic connection. A conversation between Karl Ágúst Andrússon of Iceland and Declan O'Driscoll of Canada gave rise to

this novel plan to mark the 130th anniversary of official Icelandic settlement in Canada. A pilgrimage on horseback, it began in Eyrarbakki, on the south coast of Iceland on Canada Day, July 1st. Its conclusion coincided with the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba in Gimli, on July 30th. Icelandic horses were shipped to Canada to be ridden from Kinmount, Ontario to Gimli. The Canadian leg of the journey began on July 16th as a feature of IceFest, in Kinmount, the location of Canada's first major Icelandic settlement. (We hope to be able to print pictures from IceFest in the next issue of Fálkinn)

In Ontario, *The Path to Gimli* proceeded through Gravenhurst, Bracebridge, Rosseau and Hekkla, towns associated with the history of Icelandic settlement. A memorial plaque was unveiled in Hekkla.

*Project manager for The Path To Gimli, Declan O'Driscoll*

A bound volume of Icelandic Sagas was presented to the Bracebridge Library, to commemorate the library's serialized collection of Icelandic letters. These letters date back to the 1890's, when immigration was at its peak. The Ontario ride complete, horses and riders were then transported to Manitoba, to reach their final destination in a triumphant ride into Gimli, where they were welcomed by the Prime Minister of Iceland, Halldór Ásgrímsson.

A Truly unique and remarkable tribute to the Icelandic pioneer settlers in Canada. (Based and borrowed from an article on the website: [www.thepathtogimli.com](http://www.thepathtogimli.com))



*The lead rider, and who the idea originated with, Karl Ágúst Andrússon*



## Hamrahlíð Choir Visited Ontario

The Hamrahlíð choir visited Toronto in June, and gave well attended concerts both at the Northern Voices Choral festival in Toronto, and at a ICCT sponsored performance in Hamilton.

The choir, a 70 voice strong, was well received and gave strong performances.



## Kvennahlaup in Toronto

Kvennahlaup was held in Toronto's High Park on June the 11th. This Icelandic custom is spreading to Icelandic communities all over the world. Often it starts out in small numbers (just like in Iceland) but often grows considerably as the years passes. Here we see this years runners.

**Subscribe to Lögberg-Heimskringla, the Icelandic paper in North-America. Check out their website: <http://www.logberg.com>**



# Nordic Day At The Sunnyside Pavilion

It was not exactly the sunny side that was on the front at the start of the



*Icelandic—Canadian trubadour Lindy performed*

others.

Nordic Day at Sunnyside Pavillion, the rain as had not been seen for a long time, greeted visitors, vendors and performers as the set up to entertain and educate, both themselves and

However, descending from the Nordic countries, poeple just acted like this was part of the show, and as the day developed the sun started to shine and the attendance



*The "Grand Finale"*

to increase.

This co-operation between the Nordic communities, the

Icelandic, Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian and Danish, worked well, and showed diverse culture with roots in the same background.

Whether this will be a yearly event, is not clear as of now, but the foundation is laid.



*Ann Helga Denny and friend entertained the crowd at Nordic Day*

## News from Iceland

Based on and edited from mbl.is, visir.is, ruv.is and icelandreview.com

### The Highest Mountain

The highest point of Iceland, Hvan-nadalshnjúkur, is not as high as previously measured. The glacier covered mountain (part of Vatnajökull) had been considered to be 2119 meters. The new measurement shows it to be 2109.6 meters, so it has shrunk about 10 meters.

It will now be measured every 10 years, to have its accurate height available, as the situation can change on the glacier.

### Europe's Biggest Desert

The BBC news web published recently an article about Icelandic vegetation, or shortage of it. A BBC radio station also broadcast a program called, "The Biggest Desert in Europe".



*Sprengisandur is a part of the Icelandic desert*

The article tells about the Soil Conservation Of Iceland, which was founded almost 100 years ago, the first of its

kind in the world. The article mentions how necessary it was for Iceland, as one third of Iceland is considered a desert, the biggest one in Europe. The only difference between the Icelandic desert and the Sahara, is that the Icelandic sand is black.

The article tells about how the country was when the settlers arrived, and how the Icelandic sheep has put its mark on the vegetation.

Finally the article mentions that almost everyone participates in tree cultivation in Iceland, but the trees grow slowly in the cold climate.

The BBC article can be found at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4737743.stm>

### The Fourth Most Expensive City In The World

The name of the fourth most expensive city to live in, is Reykjavík. At least that is the result in a list made by Economist Intelligence Unit, but on it are 130 cities all over the world.. Number one is Tokyo, followed by Oslo and Osaka tied for number 2. Reykjavík, as mentioned before is number four, followed by Paris, Copenhagen, Zurich, London, Geneva and Helsinki. Reykjavik moves up four places, from number

8 last year.

Well, maybe not the news we want



*Reykjavík, Hallgrímskirkja prominent in the middle*

to hear, but at least a lot of the readers of Falkinn know that she is still worth it.

### Finally They Will Be Making Snow in Iceland

Recently the realization of the first snow making system in Iceland started. The snow making system will be positioned in Hlíðarfjall, just above Akureyri. The system consist of 2.6 kilometers of pipe, which can pump out 80 liters of water per second, and a pond of 18.500 cubic meters. The system should be up and running in the middle of October, and will start producing snow, as soon as possible thereafter. For the system to produce snow the temperature needs to be at least - 2°C, but the colder the better.

# DAYS TO REMEMBER: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Sunday September 11

Toronto, ON: **ICCT Gala Icelandic Dinner** at the Delta Chelsea. Food prepared from Icelandic recipes, including smoked salmon, monkfish, lamb and skyr. (See front page and order slip that accompanies the Fálkinn)

## September 10 to 16

Toronto, ON: Toronto Film Festival, featuring several films related and interesting to the Icelandic community.

**Eleven Men Out**, the newest film of Icelandic director Robert Douglas, screening Friday September 9, place and venue to be announced, and Monday the 12th, 3 p.m. at Cumberland 2.

**A Little Trip To Heaven**, Baltasar Kormákur newest film, Monday September 12, 9 p.m. at Bader, and Wednesday 14th, 12 noon, at Cumberland 2.

**Beowulf and Grendel**, Icelandic—Canadian director Sturla Gunnarsson's newest film, Wednesday September 14, 9 p.m. at Elgin and the 16th, at noon at Paramount 3.

**My Dad is 100 Years Old**, a short film by Guy Madden, written and starred by Isabella Rossellini, on September 12, time and venue not sure, when Fálkinn went to print.

**Important notice: These times and days are correct when the Fálkinn went to print. That may however**

*change when the festival schedule is finalized.*

**Make sure to check the festivals program if you are interested in purchasing tickets.**

## Thursday September 29

Toronto, ON: Movie **Dis**, an Icelandic movie by director Silja Hauksdóttir .

National Film Board, 150 John St. 8:30 p.m.

\$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members

**Please notice that on this occasion there is only one screening.**

## Thursday October 27

Toronto, ON: Movie **Honour Of The House**, an Icelandic movie by director Guðný Halldórsdóttir, made after short story by her father, the Icelandic Nobel laureate, Halldór Laxness .

National Film Board, 150 John St. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

\$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members

## Sundays November 27, December 4, 11 and 18

Icelandic Christmas at Spadina house. Icelandic Christmas traditions and Icelandic food. Excellent opportunity to show your children and grandchildren how Christmas was and is in Iceland.

## Icelandic and Finnish Film During Winter

As last winter both Icelandic and Finnish film will be shown each month in co-operation with the National Film Board.

The Finnish film will be, just as last winter, shown on each Wednesday of the month, and the Icelandic ones the day after, the last Thursday of the month. These screenings are an important window for those that are interested in Nordic cinema and have been increasing in popularity.

In September:

## Gold Fever in Lapland

The Finnish film in September is Gold Fever in Lapland, or Lapin kullan kimallus. The movie is directed by Åke Lindman, and was made in

1999.

The movie tells the story of Jakob Ervast and Nils Lepistö, two former sailors turned prospectors have a map where X marks the spot. They have learned how to pan for gold in America and hit lucky in Lapland of the late 1800's. News travels fast and gold fever starts spreading...

The screenings are on September 28 at the National Film

Board in John Street, at 6:30 and 8:30. Finnish language, English subtitles. Admission is free.

For more information please call 416 964 0066 or e-mail [tonto@finland.ca](mailto:tonto@finland.ca)



*Gold fever  
hits  
Lapland*

2006 ICELANDIC CALENDAR 2006

SNORRI EDITION



## 2006 Is Just Around The Corner Order Your Calendars Today

The INL calendar is here once again, ready for you to order. The price is, just as last year, just \$12 + postage, \$2.50 per copy for 1 to 3, and \$ 8 for 4 to 6.

This year calendar focus on the Snorri program and features Snorri participants in Icelandic landscape. Excellent Christmas present for friends and relatives. See order form in your envelope.

## Film of the Month - September:

National Film Board , Icelandic Canadian Club of  
Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center present:  
"Dís" – English subtitles - A film by *Silja Hauksdóttir*  
Thursday, September 29  
8:30 p.m.

**Please notice that due to uncontrollable  
circumstances there will only be one screening on  
this occasion.**

The National Film Board  
150 John Street, Toronto

Admission: \$6 for NFB members, seniors, students, \$8 for  
others.

## Dís

Directed by Silja Hauksdóttir  
Starring Álfrún Helga Örnólfssdóttir, Ilmur Kristjánsdóttir, Árni  
Tryggvason, Ylfa Edelstein  
Written by Birna Anna Björnsdóttir, Oddný Sturludóttir, Silja  
Hauksdóttir  
Iceland 2004, 80 minutes  
Icelandic with English subtitles

Dís, is a comedy based on a novel, written by the same  
team as wrote the script for the movie. The novel was a  
big bestseller in Iceland, sold over 10.000 copies. To fol-  
low a highly successful book is no small task, but the



Álfrún Helga as Dís

movie manages to catch  
the spirit of the book, is  
funny and witty, but it must  
be said that it would have  
benefited from a little  
tighter script. This is Silja  
Hauksdóttir's first and only  
feature film so far. The  
movie catches pretty well  
the life of Icelandic 20  
something generation, and  
is highly entertaining.  
The beautiful blonde  
twenty three year old Reyk-  
javik nymph; Dís, is at  
crossroads. She lives with her friend Blær in down town  
Reykjavik and works in the reception at Hotel Borg where  
she dreams about fame and success in foreign countries,  
while trying to figure out what to do about her education  
and that handsome chef who works in the hotel restau-  
rant. It's an entertaining and modern Reykjavik story that  
even includes the big earthquake of June 17TH 2000, and  
cameos by well known Icelanders like Former President  
Vigdís Finnbogadóttir.

The young Icelandic actors turn in a good performance,  
and a large selection of Icelandic musicians of the  
younger generation are featured in the soundtrack.  
Dís is an excellent opportunity to take a peek at the  
thoughts of the younger generation in Iceland and see the  
work of one of the younger Icelandic directors.

## Film of the Month - October:

National Film Board , Icelandic Canadian Club of  
Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center present:  
"Honour Of The House" (*Ungfrúin góða og húsið*) – English  
subtitles - A film by *Guðný Halldórsdóttir*  
Thursday, October 27  
6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

The National Film Board  
150 John Street, Toronto

Admission: \$6 for NFB members, seniors, students, \$8 for  
others.

## Honour Of The House

Director and script: Guðný Halldórsdóttir.  
Starring: Tinna Gunnlaugsdóttir, Ragnhildur Gísladóttir, Agnete  
Ekmanner, Rúrik Haraldsson, Egill Ólafsson, Reine Brynolfsson,,  
Björn Floberg, Ghita Nørby, Helgi Björnsson. Original music  
score: Hilmar Örn Hilmarsson  
110 min. Iceland/Sweden/Denmark 1999  
Icelandic with English subtitles.

This movie from 1999, is based on a short story by Halldór  
Laxness, the father of Guðný Halldórsdóttir, who writes  
the script and directs the movie. Halldór is probably the  
best known Icelandic writer, was awarded the Nobel prize  
in literature in 1955.

The story was first published in  
1933 and is believed to be based  
on real events, though it is not  
considered a true story. In the  
same spirit Guðný has abandoned  
or added parts to the story, to  
make it a movie.



Actresses Tinna  
Gunnlaugsdóttir and  
Ragnhildur Gísladóttir

One could argue that the movie is  
about contrast, good sister vs bad sister, rich upperclass  
vs poor workers and Iceland vs Denmark.

In the center of the story, are two sisters, daughters of a  
Dean of the church and the most prosperous man in the  
village as well, and we watch their lifes tragedies, love and  
sorrows, and the honour of the family which is above and  
over all other things. The younger sister, still unmarried at  
30, is sent to Denmark, and returns from there pregnant.  
Of course the honour of the family has to be preserved, a  
story is invented, and when the baby is born, the older  
sister kidnaps the baby, and takes it to Denmark, where  
she leaves it at an orphanage. The younger sister gets  
pregnant again, but this time nothing less then a wedding  
will do. And life goes on.

The movie was very well received in Iceland, thought to  
portray the life in that period in realistic and gentle  
manner, the movie was choosen The Movie of the Year in  
Iceland 1999, Guðný Halldórsdóttir The Director of the  
Year, and Tinna Gunnlaugsdóttir The Actress of the Year.  
The movie has a gentle ambiance, supported by excellent  
cinetography, fine music and accurate editing.

A must see for all those who love Icelandic cinema and  
enjoy the works of Laxness.