

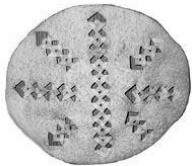


FÁLKINN

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO

November 2005

ICCT FÁLKINN 46th Year Number 3



ICELANDIC CHRISTMAS AT SPADINA MUSEUM



Old home-made Icelandic Christmas tree.

You are invited to enjoy Christmas as it was in Iceland 100 years ago. See a baðstofa at Christmas time, just as the family was preparing to embark for Canada, as well as Spadina Museum's showcase of an Edwardian Christmas of 100 years ago with festive decorations and period details showing how the Austin Family celebrated the holiday season at home.

OPENING RECEPTION:

Wed. November 23rd

(see invite enclosed)

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Markús Örn Antonsson, our new Ambassador, will speak. **Margret Björgvinsdóttir**, Curator, speaks also.. Music by **Quartetto Constanze**, Ingunn Benediktsson on cello.

PRE-CHRISTMAS SUNDAYS:

December 4, 11, 18

12 noon to 5 p.m.

Entertainment – Christmas carols in Icelandic and English

- The story of the 13 Christmas lads (jólasveinar) and Edwardian traditions
- Dancing around the Christmas tree
- Watch the experts make Icelandic laufabrauð and other treats and taste the results
- Learn Icelandic and Edwardian crafts and take them home with you
- Share Icelandic Christmas baking
- See displays of Icelandic costumes
- Find out all about Icelandic Christmas in ancient and modern times.

This great project has been put together by Margret Björgvinsdóttir, with help from Brenda Bjarnason, Terril Calder, Gail Einarson-McCleery, Halla Gunnarsdóttir, Ragnheiður Hlynsdóttir, Darryl Hogg, Meredith MacFarquhar, Kara Schuster, and Margaret Van Hamme, along with the staff of Spadina Museum.



© 1999 Ólafur Pétursson

Pvörusleikir (Ladle Licker)
drawing by
Ólafur Pétursson

ENTERTAINMENT:

Dec. 4 Maja Ardal and Sigga Friðriksdóttir sing Icelandic carols, children dance around the Xmas tree
Storytelling by **Hildy Stollery** about the 13 Christmas lads (jólasveinar)

Taffanel Wind Ensemble play Edwardian music

Dec.11 Ann Helga Denny sings Icelandic carols, plus dancing around the Xmas tree

Storytelling by **Carol McGirr** - the 13 Christmas lads

Taffanel Wind Ensemble plays Edwardian Music

Dec. 18 The story of the 13 Christmas lads (jólasveinar) as interpreted by **Brenda Bjarnason's Bifröst Theatre Ensemble**, plus children dance around the Xmas tree

Ingunn Benediktsson plays cello

Dec. 21 Carol McGirr, storyteller, with the tells the Saga of Odin & the Bear

SPADINA MUSEUM HISTORIC HOUSE is located at **285 Spadina Road at Austin Terrace (north of Dav-enport and south of St. Clair)** Public parking is at **Casa Loma (will be free for the reception)**

Entrance fee on Sundays Dec. 4, 11, 18 is \$8.00 for adults, \$7.00 for seniors and Youths and \$6.00 for children. Children under 5 years are free. Reception Nov. 23rd is free



FÁLKINN-THE FALCON

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

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

Webpage: <http://icct.info>

2006 Is Just Around The Corner

Order Your Calendars Today

Our beautiful Icelandic calendar, produced by our Calgary club, is now available. This year it features beautiful pictures of Iceland, with participants in the Snorri program in the foreground. Order it through Pay Pal on the website (<http://icct.info>) or from our treasurer, Mel Johnson via the order form enclosed. Make out your cheque to Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto and send it to Mel at 2000 Roy Ivor Drive, Mississauga, ON L5L 3N8 \$12 each, \$2.50 for mailing 1 to 3 and \$8 for 4 to 6.



New Members

Ron and Dorothy Smith -Oakville,
Tom Sigurdson -Fort Frances,
Earl Lambert -Orillia,
Brenda Johnson -Feversham.

Donations

Ron and Dorothy Smith -- Oakville
Stanley Shortt -- Toronto

THORRABLÓT IS COMING IN MARCH!

Our annual celebration of Icelandic food and customs is always well attended, but we do need more help with organizing it. Most especially we would like someone to help organize our Silent Auction. Please contact Gail Einarson-McCleery at 416 762-8627

PASSINGS

Our condolences to Helga Bartholomew and her family on the recent passing of her husband Ron.

Guðrún Sigursteinsdóttir Girgis was recently in Iceland at the funeral of her father Sigursteinn Guðsteinsson.

The executive and members of the club extend their condolences to Guðrún and her family.

Our condolences also to Ragnheiður Hlynisdóttir, her husband Georg Bjarnasson and their family on the loss of Ragnheidur's father Hlynur Sigtryggsson ...he passed away on July 14 at the age of 83. Before his retirement he was the head of the Icelandic Meteorological Services for close to 25 years.

GRETTIR, AN ICELANDIC SAGA IN OPERA FORM, COMES TO TORONTO IN JANUARY

Produced for the Young Artists Festival in Bayreuth last August (2004), the opera *Grettir* is based on the medieval



*Composer
Þorkell Sigurbjörnsson*

Icelandic Saga of Grettir the Strong, poet-warrior and outlaw. The backbone of the story takes place in Iceland around 1000 AD and brings the audience to the outlaw's remarkable places of refuge. Iceland's natural wonders are constantly in the background, visually and aurally and literally through recent sound recordings - soundscapes. Volcanoes, glaciers, mysterious caves, lava fields, hot-springs and waterfalls and the high winds of the North-Atlantic all play an important dramatic role.

Grettir and his family were international figures. Their epic begins in Norway, moves to Iceland - from where America was discovered in 1000 AD - and is brought to a dramatic climax in Istanbul, Turkey. The work thus encompasses the entire world as known by the Vikings of old and is a timeless, universal drama; a work fully comparable to those of Dante and Shakespeare.

Þorkell Sigurbjörnsson is one of Iceland's most important composers. A number of Sigurbjörnsson's works have been composed for Robert Aitken and New Music Concerts first performed his music during a European tour back in 1976, giving the premiere of *Solstice* at the Nordic Music Days Festival in Reykjavik.

Grettir is being hosted in Toronto by New Music Concerts on January 8th, at the Betty Oliphant Theater (National Ballet School), 404



From the production in Bayreuth

Jarvis St. (at Maitland)

Two performances - 2:30 and 8:00 p.m

For ticket details contact New Music Concerts
www.newmusicconcerts.com or call 416 961-9594
The email address for tickets is: nmc@interlog.com

ICCT MEMBERS INVADED ICELAND THIS SUMMER

Here are pictures sent to us by ICCT member Merrill Albert taken by her during her highly successful trip. Merrill was previously our Youth Co-ordinator, and now lives in Atlanta. Her parents George and Joan Albert live in Burlington. Other ICCT



Þingvellir

members who make the trip this year include some of 16 members of the Johnson family, who were there for a family reunion, sisters Marion and Nancy from London, brother Bill from Ottawa, cousins Norma and Doug from Sudbury and Joyce from Waterloo, and many more. Another member who was there with ten

members of his family was Donald K. Johnson, who visited Egilstaðir as well as Reykjavik and went round the Golden Circle.

Irene and Jim Gibson were treated to personal treatment by Icelandic Canadian Kent Björnsson, their cousin, who has now

become a tourist guide in Iceland. Their trip included time at Hofsós and Akureyri, as well as the sights around Reykjavik. Meredith MacFarquhar and her husband Bob Davis concentrated on visiting friends and exploring the capital city. Our Icelandic teachers Margret Björgvinsdóttir and Haraldur Bessason and daughter Sigrun Stella spent two months renewing acquaintances in Akureyri and Reykjavik. Gail Einarson-McCleery and Joan (Bergman) Waterbury of Brantford were part of the Snorri Plus group (see pic and article P.4)



Ingolfur Arnarson, first settler

By the time you read this newsletter, our editor Tomas Gunnarsson will also be in Iceland ...

Who else went? Send us your pictures...

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

SNORRI PLUS PROGRAM ANOTHER SUCCESS

(by Steinór Guðbjartsson, reprinted with permission from Lögberg-Heimskringla)

REYKJAVIK – ‘Everything was very good,’ said Gail Einarson-McCleery from Toronto, after participating in the Snorri Plus Program in Iceland. The other seven participants echoed her sentiments. ‘My wife and I really had a great time,’ said Chris Byron, who is from Minneapolis.

The first Snorri Plus Program was held in August 2003 with eight participants. Last year, ten people attended the program, and in 2005 there were eight again.

They arrived in Reykjavík August 19 and had a busy schedule until they graduated August 31. They took part in the Reykjavík Marathon, visited museums and went to see historical places. ‘There was a lot of diversity,’ says Gail Einarson-McCleery. ‘We visited many interesting places, attended informative lectures, enjoyed

horseback riding and other activities. We were kept so busy that we hardly had time to sleep.’

The participants met a few of their relatives and even found out that there were relatives within the group. ‘The great-grandmother of Joan Waterous, for example, was the sister of my great-grandmother,’ said Gail.

This was Gail’s fifth visit to Iceland, but the others in the group were enjoying their first visits to the land of their forefathers. When they were introduced to things she knew, Gail said that because of her previous knowledge she could concentrate on other things she did not know yet. ‘Other things that were a little bit unclear to me be-

came clear through the lectures and visits to the museums. This was my first guided tour and it did make a difference.’

The participants were Billie Ann and Brian Howard from Vernon, B.C., Vicky (Billie Ann’s sister) and George Teather from Orleans, ON; Joan Waterous from Brantford, ON; Gail Einarson-McCleery from Toronto, ON; and Chris and Cecilia Byron from Coon Rapids, Minnesota.



Joan Waterous, Cecelia Byron, Vicky Teather, Billie Ann, Brian Howard, Gail Einarson-McCleery having a mud bath in The Blue Lagoon

Chris Byron said that he had been interested in his Icelandic heritage for many years. He had planned a trip to Iceland but because of a family emergency had had to cancel it. ‘All of a sudden a lot of people I know, who had been through the Snorri Plus Program, started saying I needed to do it this way, so I and my wife decided to come. It was a retirement gift I gave to myself, and well worth it. I’ll be back.’

Editor’s note: The Snorri Plus program is open to people of Icelandic descent in North America who are 30 and over. It is organized by Ásta Sól Kristjansdóttir, who has been organizing the Snorri program for young people since 2000. The deadline for the next program will probably be in February or March of next year. See www.snorri.is for more info. For those who are interested, we recommend sending an email to Ásta Sól, (info@snorri.is), and ask to be put on the postlist, so then you will get all the information about the schedule (when it is ready), next year’s dates (which will be published shortly) and everything else that matters.

ICCT Icelandic Gala Dinner in Toronto

The ICCT Icelandic Gala Dinner was held at the Delta Chelsea, as the previous years, this time on Sunday 11th of September. As before the attendance was good, and over 60 ICCT members, their guests, and Icelandic visitors enjoyed good food and each other’s company.

This year’s menu was put together by an Icelandic chef, Sigurrós Pálsdóttir, who is currently working in Denmark,



Director Sturla Gunnarsson, pictured here between Þóra and Laufey from The Icelandic Film Center

and was administered by Delta Executive Chef Ragnar Pedersen. As far as the Falkinn could hear everybody really enjoyed the food, which was excellent, and served in a very visual way, being a treat for both one’s eyes and one’s taste buds.

Whether it was smoked

salmon, scallops, lamb, monkfish, mushrooms or the skyr sorbet, everybody had nothing but praise, both for the menu, and the chefs. The Icelandic—Canadian jazz band Cold front entertained both before and under dinner, and got an excellent reception. They played both Icelandic and international standards.

Director Sturla Gunnarsson told the assembly a little bit about his film, “Beowulf & Grendel”, which was screened at the Toronto Film Festival, and the director of “Eleven Men Out”, Róbert Douglas was also in attendance.

Altogether it made a perfectly lovely evening.



Halla Gunnarsdóttir, Dorothy Hatcher, Sveinn Valgeirsson, Þorsteinn Gunnarsson, Georg Bjarnason

OVER 100 PARTICIPANTS IN THE SNORRI PROGRAM

(reprinted with permission from *Lögberg-Heimskringla*) Katherine Jonsson from Spruce Grove, Alberta, was the 100th participant in the Snorri Program, which has been held yearly in Iceland since 1999.

Fourteen young people from North America participated in the 2005 Snorri Program, bringing the total number of participants to 104. This summer four were from the United States and 10 from Canada—four boys and ten girls.

According to Ásta Sól Kristjansdóttir, Project Manager since 2000, the program is an amazing success every year and this summer was no different. 'The participants got along with each other really well, although they were all very different and from all over North America, said Ásta Sól. 'They have created everlasting friendships, not only with each other, but with their Icelandic relatives. I think that the presence of young people within the INL and other Icelandic clubs will really start to show.'

Matthew Hobson of St. Norbert, MB, sent the following email to all the 2005 participants and Ásta Sól said that he



ICCT member Kara Schuster, a picture taken while she was participating in the Snorri Program.

describes an experience that a lot of the participants can identify with: 'Today I was sitting in a trailer attached to the back of a tractor (holding) a piece of wood. Okay, so I'm a farm boy now, 'when in Rome'. This piece of wood was a letter from a sign that hangs above the entrance to part of the farm that has been set aside as a tribute to my family's grandmother. There I am sitting there on this trailer, this piece of wood in my hand, the first person in my family to travel back to Iceland since my great-grandfather emigrated to Canada. Sitting repairing a sign in memory of his sister, and *then it hit me!* This is why I'm here, to visit this country that, not so long ago, was home to my family, this is my history, my blood. I feel a part of this land, although I have never before set eyes upon its fjords, geysers or glaciers.'

Editor's Note: THE DEADLINE FOR SNORRI 2006 IS JANUARY 16, 2006. The sooner people send in their applications, the better.

IT IS OPEN TO NORTH AMERICANS OF ICELANDIC DESCENT BETWEEN 18 AND 25 PLUS

Visit www.snorri.is or, for a brochure, contact:

Kara Schuster, 905 828-1984 Karaschuster@ica.net

New Icelandic Ambassador in Ottawa

Markús Örn Antonsson, former head of RUV (state TV and radio) in Iceland is our new Ambassador and took over his official duties in Ottawa on October 4th. Welcome to Markús, who is well known to many of us from his previous post as Chairman of the Icelandic National League of Iceland and a frequent visitor to *Íslendingadagurinn*.

Before taking on the post of Ambassador of Iceland in Canada, Markús worked in various fields, though the biggest part of his working life has been spent in the media. Among the highlights of his career, are being the Mayor of Reykjavík, and the Director General of the Icelandic Broadcasting service.

Born in Reykjavík on 25 May 1943. Married to Steinunn Ármannsdóttir, MA, school principal at *Álftamýrarskóli* in Reykjavík. They have two grown-up children and two grandchildren.

Graduate Reykjavík College 1965. Exchange student in the USA. Part-time journalist and photographer at the daily *Morgunblaðið* 1961-65. Trained in broadcasting journalism and television production in the UK and Sweden. Reporter, news presenter and programme producer at RUV TV 1965-70. City councillor in Reykjavík 1970-85. Member of the Executive Committee of the Reykjavík City Council and chairman of several other

committees. President of the City Council 1983-1985. Member of the Broadcasting Council 1979-1985. Chairman 1983-1985. Director General of the National Broadcasting Service, RUV TV and Radio, 1985-1991. Mayor of Reykjavík 1991-1994. Chairman of the City Council Executive Committee and leader of the Independence Party councillors' group. Director of RUV Radio Division 1995-1998. Director General of RUV TV and Radio 1998-2005.

Other activities: Board member Atlantic Alliance Association of Young Political Leaders 1971-1975. Editor of business and travel magazines with *Friðst* *framtak* publishing house 1972-1983. Member of the Board of Management of Eurimages, the European Film Fund 1994-1999. Board member Icelandic Symphony Orchestra 1995-1998. Board member Icelandic National League, promoting relations between Iceland and people of Icelandic ancestry in Canada and the USA, 1997-2003. President 1998-2003. Member of Rotary since 1983. Co-editor of Rotary Norden, the regional magazine for Rotary in the five Nordic countries, since 1996. Member of the Executive Committee and Advisory Council of the European Cultural Foundation, Amsterdam, since 1994.



Markús' first day at work, from left to right, Kristín Halldórsdóttir, attaché, Ólöf Dögg Sigvaldadóttir, intern/advisor, Gilles Thivierge, assistant and chauffeur, Markús' wife, Steinunn Ármannsdóttir, and Markús.

Member of the Executive Committee and Advisory Council of the European Cultural Foundation, Amsterdam, since 1994.

News from Iceland

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

Business Is Easy in Iceland

In an announcement from the World Bank, the environment for business is good and friendly in Iceland. The bank says the business environment is best in New Zealand, Singapore and in the United States. After that come Canada, Norway, Australia, Hong Kong, Denmark, UK, Japan, Ireland and Iceland, followed by Finland, Sweden, Lithuania and Estonia.

The announcement states that in all those countries, the business environment is regulated and controlled, but the supervision is cheaper and simpler than in the rest of the world.

It is also stated that only 8% of the economy of the Nordic countries is "underground", because the business laws are easy to follow, and the companies get good service for their tax money.

Icelandic Food in The New York Times

The New York Times had a good article about Icelandic food, and the newest marketing campaign, in September.

The article mentions the Icelandic chefs who were cooking in Washington's better restaurants, and at Whole Foods Markets.



Can you pronounce Skyr?

The story begins by mentioning some of the Icelandic foods, and ingredients that might not go well with the Americans, such as fermented shark, whale meat or dung smoked lamb. They keep on, and mention that smoked puffin is not likely to be a huge success, in a country that has stuffed toy puffins in most children's rooms, but there is still a lot to offer. Icelandic seamen fish cod in the North Atlantic, and sell it fresh or salted, and then there are Icelandic lambs, which have never tasted corn or seen an antibiotic syringe. The Icelandic butter is yellow from fat and the milk is produced by cows which are descendants of the cows of the Vikings.

The problem is, the article says, to sell

those products in America. Now the Icelandic marketers have found a way, and advertise the products under the slogan "Sustainable Iceland – since 874"

"People want to know more and more about where these products come from", the article quotes Baldvin Jónsson, the manager of the marketing campaign. He says that the campaign is based on the belief that American consumers responds well to the concept "self contained". This concept is not legally regulated, but describes food that is grown in a way that preserves the land for future use and incorporates aspects of social responsibility.

Finally the article mentions the so called "IKEA problem". Americans probably are getting used to finding their way around furniture stores with strange Swedish words, but could a nation that hardly has learned to say Ray-kya-veek, find out what the words "skyr" and "smjör" mean? Then to add further complications the Icelandic cheeses will be sold under names as "Höfðingi" and "Stóri-Dímon" ("Chieftain" and Big-Dímon).

Icelandic "DVD-kids" in the Finals in UN Multimedia Competiton

The judging committee for the World Summit Awards, announced recently their choices for the 40 finalists. Among the 6 that are chosen in e-entertainment category, is DVD-kids from the Icelandic company 3-Plus. It is a great honour, being chosen from 1000 nominations from 168 countries, and 3-Plus is the only company from the Nordic countries among the finalists, although 3 finalists are from Canada.

The 40 projects in the finals will be shown in a grand multimedia festival in Tunis, in November, which will be held simultaneously with the UN World Summit for multimedia technology. DVD-kids won the Icelandic competition, and got the comment from the Icelandic judges, "DVD-Kids is entertainment which is aimed at the youngest generation and offers interactive, educational experience by combining games and education."

3-Plus produces and sell console and games under the DVD-kids logo, the console is a wireless unit that converts a normal DVD player into a game machine for interactive and creative games for kids; among their marketing partners are Fisher Price and Disney.

DVD-kids are marketed in North America by Fisher-Price, under the name InteracTV, and should be available in most stores that sell toys.

Check out:

<http://www.wsis-award.org/>

<http://www.dvd-kids.com/>

<http://www.fisher-price.com>

Starring in Hollywood: Icelandic Lamb

Icelandic lamb was in one of the lead roles at EMA-Awards in Hollywood, late October. The award show, which honours movies, TV shows and documentaries which are thought to have shown environmental issues in the best light, was a star-studded event; the main speaker was Al Gore, the former vice-president of the US. Among other star attendants were Darryl Hannah and Woody Harrelson. Ten well know chefs from the Los Angeles took care of the dinner, and chose Icelandic lamb for the main course. Only organic and natural food was served.

"In California the demand for our products is phenomenal, we could sell double what we do now in the Whole Food stores. We had to cut down the stores that get the products, because we simply don't have enough", said Baldvin Jónsson, chef of the Icelandic marketing effort

Iceland On Top in Britain

Iceland came out on top again in the yearly poll conducted by the British newspaper Guardian and Observer, when they asked their readers to name their favourite European country. Iceland was also number one, two years ago, but last year it was number two, after Slovakia, which moved to number two this year.

Icelandair also got a very favourable review from the British; it moved from the 14th spot to the 4th, when the readers were asked to name the best airline on shorter routes serving Britain. Reykjavík is in 34th place of the favourite cities, down from number 12 in 2004.

Atwood at Icelandic Literary Festival

A little bit more than a full house welcomed Margaret Atwood when she discussed her work at the Icelandic Literary Festival, at the Nordic House in Reykjavík, in the middle of September. Many known Icelandic writers attended and so did former President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir. The Icelandic writer Árni Bergmann discussed her work with Atwood who charmed the audience with her witty answers, strong presence and polite manner.

DAYS TO REMEMBER: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday November 24

Toronto, ON: Movie **Atomic Station (Atómstöðin)**, by director Þorsteinn Jónsson . NFB, 150 John St. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. \$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members

Meet the new Icelandic Ambassador at dinner at 8:15

Thursday December 29

Toronto, ON: Movie **Katie, The Lost Caterpillar**, an Icelandic computer animated movie by director Gunnar Karlsson. National Film Board, 150 John St. 2:00 and 4:00 pm, with Animation Workshop 12:00 and 2:00 pm

Sundays 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.

Sunday January 8

Toronto, ON: Opera **Grettir**, an Icelandic opera by Þorkell Sigurbjörnsson, hosted by **New Music Concerts**. Betty Oliphant Theater (National Ballet School), 404 Jarvis St. (at Maitland)

Two performances - 2:30 and 8:00 p.m

Thursday January 26

Toronto, ON: Movie **A Man Like Me**, an Icelandic movie by director Róbert Douglas .

National Film Board, 150 John St. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. \$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members

March, date to be announced

The yearly ICCT THORRABLOT, A n event not to be missed ...

COMING SOON... *Beowulf & Grendel*

IT IS RENEWAL TIME

It's that time of year when we ask you to renew your membership in our club. We have decided not to increase fees this year, actually they have been the same for many years. A real bargain!

Amongst the things which the club brings you are

- * this newsletter, with information on Icelandic happenings
- * our excellent website, with links to many other websites of interest to Icelanders
- * Icelandic movies (English subtitles) last Thursday of each month at the NFB
- * our library (books in Icelandic and English),
- * Icelandic classes,
- * our annual celebration of old Icelandic food, Þorrablót
- * membership in our North American umbrella group, Icelandic National League of North America
- * Visiting choirs and speakers from Iceland
- * Fellowship with fellow Icelanders at our many events
- * Annual gourmet dinner during the Toronto International Film Festival

You can pay us on our website via Pay Pal (<http://icct.info>) or fill out the form enclosed, enclose a cheque made out to Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto and mail it to our treasurer, Mel Johnson, at 2000 Roy Ivor Drive, Mississauga, ON L5L 3N8
Single \$20; Family \$25; Senior Single \$15; Senior Couple \$20

Donations to help us bring you our various programs are also appreciated.

Film of the Month - January:

National Film Board , Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center present:

"A Man Like ME" (Maður eins og ÉG) – English subtitles - A film by Róbert Douglas

Thursday, January 26 ; 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.

Story of a Neurotic Romantic

Director: Róbert Douglas; **Screenplay:** Róbert I. Douglas & Arni Oli Asgeirsson **Cast:** Jón Gnarr, Stephanie Che, Þorsteinn Guðmundsson, Sigurður Sigurjónsson, Katla Margrét Þorgeirsdóttir.
Iceland 2002, 87 Min

A Man Like Me is the second feature film made by Robert Douglas, before he had made "The Icelandic Dream", and his third and latest film is "Eleven Man Out", which just as "The Icelandic Dream" and his documentary "Small Mall" were screened at The Toronto Film Festival. We are therefore happy to fill the gap, and bring "A Man like ME" to Toronto.

Like the other Robert Douglas movies, "A Man Like ME", could be classified as a social satire dealing with everyday life. It features Júlí, a young man restricted by loneliness and habit. By chance, he meets a young Chinese woman immigrant who brings much needed stability to his life. He falls in love only to see the relationship disintegrate in dramatic fashion, thanks to his insecurity, hyper-nervous state and lack of experience. However, once he manages to put disillusion and disappointment of the breakup behind him, Júlí is determined to do everything in his power to get a second chance.

This is really an excellent, low-keyed romantic comedy, actor Jón Gnarr really shines in his role as Júlí, and other actors, such as Stephanie Che, Þorsteinn Guðmundsson and Sigurður Sigurjónsson all have a wonderful "day".

This is probably the first Icelandic romantic comedy, and is a good start for that genre, and those who have seen other movies by Róbert Douglas, know that this one should not be missed.



Stephanie Che and
Jón Gnarr

Film of the Month - November:

National Film Board , Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center present: "Atomic Station" (Atómstöðin) – English subtitles - A film by Þorsteinn Jónsson

Thursday, November 24

6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

The National Film Board

150 John Street, Toronto

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

Director: Þorsteinn Jónsson; **Screenplay:** Þorsteinn Jónsson, Örnólfur Árnason, Þórhallur Sigurðsson; based on a novel by Halldór Laxness.

Cast: Tinna Gunnlaugsdóttir , Gunnar Eyjólfsson, Arnar Jónsson, Sigrún Edda Björnsdóttir
Iceland 1984, 98 Min

Icelandic Atomic Station?

The movie for October, is the second in a row, made from a story by the Icelandic Nobel laureate Halldór Laxness. The



From *The Atomic Station*

Atomic Station is adapted from a novel with the same name, which was published in Iceland in 1948. Written in the shadow of the fierce friction of the time, when the cold war was beginning, and Icelanders were split into two factions, arguing whether a foreign army should be allowed in the

country or not. The book was published to a lot of controversy, and still manages to get Icelanders into arguments. The story is very symbolic, and tells the story of a young woman, in the post war days in Iceland. who is working as a maid in the household of a prominent politician. She finds herself falling in love with the son of the household, and is torn between him and her boyfriend, an idealistic activist opposed to nuclear missiles being stationed in Iceland. This unassuming adaptation strikes the tone and period feel of the novel well, and shows the contrast that was so prominent in the post war society in Iceland, the struggle for independence ended, but foreign influences flowing into the country as never before.

For all those who like Icelandic cinema and/or are familiar with Halldór Laxness, this is a film which should not be missed.

Atomic Station was the second of three feature films by director Þorsteinn Jónsson, but in later years he has been focusing on documentaries.

As so many novels of Halldór Laxness, the movie Atomic Station raised a huge interest outside of Iceland and was the first Icelandic film to be selected in an official programme in Cannes.

DINNER WITH THE NEW AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Markús Örn Antonsson will be joining us to see the "Atomic Station" at 6:30 Thurs. Nov. 24th and then coming out for a light dinner with us.

This is a great chance to chat with Markús and find out what his plans for his new post are. Contact Gail if you would like to join the party! 416 726-8627 icegem20@cs.com

Film of the Month - December:

National Film Board , Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center present: "Katie, The Lost Caterpillar" (Littla lifran ljóta) – Dubbed in English - A computer animation by Gunnar Karlsson

Thursday, December 29

2:00 and 4:00 p.m. (**Note separate time for the workshop.**)

The National Film Board

150 John Street, Toronto

Admission: Free with a donation to the Food Bank.

Director : Gunnar Karlsson **Story:** Friðrik Erlingsson

Cast (voices): Íris Gunnarsdóttir, Benedikt Erlingsson, Þórhallur (Laddi) Sigurðsson, Stefán Karl Stefánsson, Steinnunn Ólína Þorsteinsdóttir, Ólafía Hrönn Jónsdóttir, Björgvin Halldórsson, Svala Björgvinsdóttir.
Iceland 2002, 28 Min

A Lost Caterpillar, and Animation Workshops

Like last year, the Christmas offering in the film series, will be in co-operation with an animation workshop offered by the National Film Board. In this workshop children (6 to 13) will explore the history and technology of animation. Using professional tools and techniques and led by highly skilled facilitators, children learn to create their own exciting animated movie in just 2 hours!

Thursday, Dec 29 Workshop theme: Game on!

Lace up your skates and take your best shot at the Media-theque hockey rink.

This workshop will use the technique of Clay animation. Workshops begin at 12 noon and 2 pm.

Capacity for this workshop is 30 participants, parents are welcome

to participate with their children. Bring a VHS tape and you can take your exciting production home with you.

Admission: bring an item to donate to the Daily Bread Food Bank and get in Free! An adult must accompany children.

Be sure to reserve your space by registering for the workshop at 416 973-3012 (1 for English and 1 for Workshops)

Workshop hours are: 12 – 2pm or 2 to 4pm; each workshop will be followed by the award-winning Icelandic short movie

Katie, the Lost Caterpillar, a wonderful story about a caterpillar, her growing up, other animals she meets and dangers she faces.

Katie, the Lost Caterpillar won the Edda award as the best Icelandic short film in the year 2002. A charming story told in a charming film.



From the computer animated film "Katie, the Lost Caterpillar"