

Author, historian and teacher James T. Watt presents:

LOST IN WAR

- The Brave Life and Mysterious Death of a Canadian Airman

Sunday, October 15, 2006, 2:30 p.m. Scandinavian-Canadian Club 91 Stormont Avenue (Lawrence & Bathurst)

World War II stories are familiar to us - via TV programs, high school Canadian history courses and for some, within our own family memory.

Come and share in this carefully researched story about Hinrik Guttormson, a young and gentle farm boy from Manitoba who joined the RCAF during the war for a cause in which he believed. The author follows Hinrik's life from his Icelandic Canadian prairie roots, to his training and air force barrack life in Britain, dramatic operations over enemy territory and off-base escapades. In the end, he mysteriously disappeared during a bombing raid over Germany in March of 1945.

The author will **read selections** from his book with extracts from Hinrik's letters home from overseas, and also give a **power point slide show** illustrated with family pictures, copies of official war-time documents and archival photographs. There will be opportunity for **questions and answers**.

This personal story grabs ones attention. It's all too real coming from the experience of an impressionable young

man who gave his life for his country during a most critical time in our history. His book was reviewed in the August edition of this newsletter and will be available for sale at the meeting. James Watt earned an M.A. in history from McMaster University before embarking on a teaching career. He currently writes for the Ontario Provincial Police Museum and has published articles in the Canadian Historical



Hinrik Guttormson

Review, Ontario History and the Ontario Provincial Police Review. His book *Lost in War* took four years of dogged research.

Hinrik was James' cousin, and brother to Brigitta Guttormson Gillis, long time member of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto.

Members \$5 Non-members \$6. Coffee and Refreshments to follow.

ICELAND HONOURS VETERANS IN OTTAWA CEREMONY 2:00 p.m.Saturday, October 21 Cartier Drill Hall, 2 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Ottawa

Canadian veterans, including The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, the Royal Canadian Regiment from Toronto and Les Fusiliers Mont Royal went to Iceland as Home Guard in July 1940. They helped to prevent Iceland becoming a base for German submarines and planes, which could

then threaten Canadian convoys. 2005 was the Year of the Veteran, and Ambassador Markús Örn Antonsson want to honour this Canadian role in Iceland's history.

The ceremony is also sponsored by the Ottawa Chapter of INL, Friends of Iceland, and the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa. The Mayor of Reykjavik Vilhjálmur Þ. Vilhjálmsson will be in attendance. For more information, contact: Lou Howard, Pres. Friends of Iceland, tel: 613 523-5543

FÁLKINN-THE FALCON

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

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

NEW MEMBERS

Harold James and Carol Ann Henrikson -- Sarnia, Ont.

Donations

Dr. Thomas and Adrienne Einarson, \$100.

Sugarcubes on Stage Again

One of the most famous band in Icelandic music history, The Sugarcubes (Sykurmolarnir) will re-unite for one concert only, November 17th, at Laugardalshöll, Reykjavík. This concert is held on the 20th anniversary of their debut single "Ammæli" (Birthday), which catapulted the band to worldwide attention and fame, as well as bringing attention to the Icelandic music scene. Their best selling album "Life's too good" followed shortly.

This event has been creating a huge buzz, and is anticipated to be sold out. Though famous in their own right, the Sugarcubes is probably best known as the band that Icelandic singer Björk, sang with before she started her solo carreer with her album "Debut".

For further information look out for news on www.smekkleysa.net and www.icelandair.com. Icelandair will offer a special package for those interested in attending the concert.

INL 2007 HERITAGE CALENDARS ARE IN!

This year's calendar features rare North American historic photos of the settlement areas, and it is a real treasure. This photo is circa 1930, Hekkla, Ontario ... building a new barn for Emil Granke and Jacobina Einarson, whose original barn burned in the fall of 1929. It depicts the townsfolk who gathered to build a new one ... a barn dance was held in the new barn, with over 200 people there. Gas lanterns lit the barn and local musicians, using a variety of instruments - traps, violins and piano, supplied the music. Supper was served at midnight and the dance continued until the early hours of the morning. A part of the barn still stands.

Cost of the calendar is \$10.00, plus \$2 for shipping one, \$3



for two to four, \$5 for five, \$6 for six to eight. (Ideal for sending to your relatives in Iceland for Xmas!) Send your order to Mel Johnson, 2000 Roy Ivor Crescent, Mississauga, ON L5L 3N8



KATRIN MARGRET ARNASON MORGAN (October 25th, 1918 – June 4th, 2006)

by Nancy Morgan, Katrin's daughter

Katrin's life centered on continuous dedication to her family. Born to Stefan Arnason and Gudrun Einarson of Piney, Manitoba, she was the fifth child of twelve and their second daughter. Her childhood was one of study, hard work, and an interest in music and sport. With her brothers she would play hockey and baseball and enjoyed the benefits of farm life, in particular her love of animals. Along with the hard work central to life on the farm, she loved to settle in to her corner in the kitchen and diligently pour over her textbooks. When asked about her fondest

memories of Piney, Katrin remembered putting on skits in the school plays, community gatherings with her uncle playing the fiddle, dancing with her friends and competing at baseball with neighbouring teams.

During the Depression the family migrated from their community and home to establish a new life in Vancouver. In Manitoba, Katrin passed the provincial tests with flying colours and worked for more than a year as a housekeeper. At eighteen years old and with her reputation and experience, Katrin was the first in her family to find employment in Vancouver, as a housemaid for two school teachers and later for Dr. Elvin and his family. Her father collected her pay cheque each week to help support the family. When asked about this time in her life

she said, "I was happy that I could do it...my family means everything to me." Katrin's employers were educated, kind and very supportive as her family pulled together and helped each other through tough times.

A gracious donation of \$100 from the Icelandic Club of Vancouver allowed Katrin the opportunity to attend the Nursing School at the Vancouver General Hospital. The knowledge, skill and experience she gained through her training as a nurse became an invaluable asset she used each day of her life as daughter, sister, wife, mother and grandmother. Her consistent community involvement earned her numerous honours and upon her retirement, at the age of 67, her colleagues at the Toronto East General Hospital gave her a beautiful surprise party. She continues to be remembered with fondness and warmth by the people she met throughout her career.

Katrin met her future husband in Vancouver after the war. They were married on December 21, 1946 after a whirlwind romance. John and Katrin shared many goals and



worked hard together to achieve them. Our father's love of travel, took both Katrin and John to Europe, the Middle East, the Soviet Union, China and South America. At home, Katrin Arnason Morgan was the quintessential pioneer woman. She always rose early each morning to maintain her home, cook delightful meals and treats, and prepare her six children for school and music lessons with words of daily encouragement. She accomplished whatever task she set for herself. This included chopping wood, fixing electrical appliances, refinishing furniture and creating paintings. She used any and all of the resources at her

disposal, as well as some considerable skill and natural talent, to ensure each of us was well-dressed and given encouragement to discover our own talents. She supported and inspired her family to overcome personal barriers through community involvement. Her efforts to teach Sunday school, to sing in the church choir, and participate in the community gave us that strength. On Valentines Day, each of her children attending primary school would bring to their classrooms cookie hearts decorated with every classmates' name in pink icing. Her strong determination and positive attitude allowed her to do anything she felt was important to her and her familv.

To my mother, it was education that provided the foundation to a successful and fulfilling life. Katrin's two youngest brothers both attended the University of British

Columbia providing an example of what she would one day want for her children. I remember how important it was to both of my parents that our eldest sister Mary went on to university. Since we lived in a small village, my parents sold their business in 1971 and we moved to the Beach community in Toronto allowing us greater access to higher education. John and Katrin were proud that each of their six children completed a university degree.

She was always proud of her Icelandic roots, and when she moved to Toronto, she became involved in the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto. For many years, she brought her whole family to Thorrablot and all enjoyed the traditional foods. Her grandchildren were stars in the theatre presentations featuring the children at various events. In 2004, at the Annual Picnic commemorating Iceland's National Day, she was made an Honorary Member of the ICCT.

My mother resided in our home on Balsam Avenue until her death in the summer of 2006.

ASHES AND SNOW - A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

Last fall, while on the Snorri Plus program in Iceland, I discovered a new second cousin, Joan Bergman Waterous ... while we were in Hofsós, genealogist Nelson Gerrard told us that our great-grandmothers were sisters! Joan and I vowed to keep in touch and so in June I made the trek to Brantford, where she lives. I was immediately overwhelmed with the beautiful photographs she has everywhere taken by her son, Gregory Colbert. And he has produced not only photographs, but experiential shows, film, books and CD's.

Gregory's latest show "Ashes and Snow", a travelling exhibit of humans and animals in exotic locales, opened first in 2002 at the Arsenale in Venice, a 13th century 125,000 square-foot shipyard. The show contained 130 images up to 10 feet in length on sheets of hand-made Japanese paper and a one hour film, a multi-media solo exhibition featuring moving and still images of animals and humans

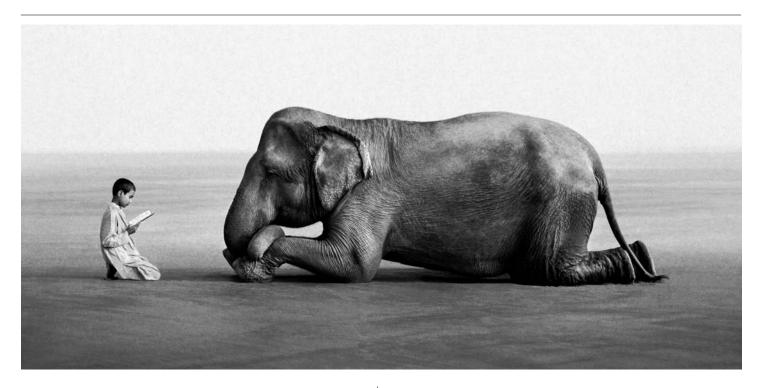
necting in the wild.

communing and con- By Gail Einarson-McCleery

Designed by Japanese architect Shigeru Ban, the Nomadic Museum features 34 foot walls made of 148 shipping containers and pillars of two feet thick paper tubing. The rich visuals are printed in sepia tones and hang between the pillars.. With the subsequent opening in New York in March 2005, attended by 500,000 people, the exhibition began its migration around the world in the firstever Nomadic Museum, followed by Santa Monica in March 2006. "Ashes and Snow" has no final destination and new art will be continually added. Each exhibition is simply a port of call. The entire collection has been bought by Rolex..

This world-famous photographer has made thirty three expeditions over the last thirteen years to such places as India, Burma, Sri Lanka, Egypt, the island of Dominica,





Ethiopia, Kenya, Tonga, Namibia, and Antarctica to film and photograph the interactions between human beings and animals. Elephants, sperm whales and birds are his favourite topics.

Some of my favourites include:

Children crouching in prayer underneath the outstretched trunk of an elephant

A majestic falcon soars inches away from the head of a Burmese monk clothed in flowing white robes Gregory and a sperm whale dance an elegant pas de deux

A ballet dancer with a feather in her hand appears in a temple with a gyrfalcon hovering over her

Gregory was born in Toronto in 1960. His mother Joan was born in Winnipeg, the daughter of Oddney Sigurdson and Guðjón Ingvar Bergman. His parents were Guðmundur Jónasson and Guðrún Jónsson, who both emigrated to Canada. On the maternal side, her grandparents were Sigurmundur Sigurdsson and Svanbjörg Sigfússon. Sigurmundur came to Canada with his mother Oddny Hannesdóttir, who settled in the Arnes district of Manitoba.

At an early age, Gregory exhibited an interest in the arts. By 1983, he was on his own in Paris where he began making documentaries on social issues. Film-making led to fine arts photography, and his first exhibition, "Timewaves", opened in 1992 at the Museum of Elysee in Switzerland and the Parco Galleries in Japan. His evocative work attracted sponsors, which he called his 'guardian elephants', private individuals from around the world, most of whom found him.

His works are in the collections of many famous people, including Donna Karan, Laurence Fisherbourne, Brad Pitt

and Joyce Ma. His pictures have appeared on the cover of publications such as *Interior Design, Stern, Photo, The Book Los Angeles* and articles have appeared in many other prestigious magazines as well as in newspapers around the world. Words which have been used to describe his work include stunning, haunting, dreamlike ... 'you feel like you are in the presence of a dream, a myth, a fairy tale"

Gregory is an avowed animal lover. 'Humans communing with animals' is the way he describes his photos. He calls the animals 'Nature's living masterpieces' and feels our estrangement from nature distances people from ecological degradation and the grave plight of endangered species. So he has now announced the formation of the Animal Copyright Foundation, under which one cent of every media-buy dollar 'will be given to a conservation organization. He calls it "renegotiating our contract with nature". He feels it has the potential to create the world's largest environmental fund.

Family has always been very important to Gregory. Joan always attends his openings, along with other family members, and his film-maker sister Laurie often accompanies him on his photographic journeys, documenting the fact that the images are real, not altered in any way.

When Joan went to Iceland, she was searching for the origin of the genes which inspired Greg's work. She found them in the creative ways in which Icelanders live their lives, many of whom are so active in the arts in various ways. One speculates whether Gregory's title 'Ashes and Snow' unwittingly comes from Iceland's iconic image of 'Fire and Ice'

Gregory's website is www.ashesandsnow.org

Quiet Passion – In Memory of Roy E. Gudmundson (1939-2006)

By John Gudmundson The room was barren,



save for a few stacks of books and CDs here and there, a stained couch he'd rescued from the curbside and various outdated electronics piled in the corner of his small apartment in Vancouver. It was a solitary, secluded place tucked away inside an indifferent city, reminding me of Kristjana Gunnars description of the Icelandic-Canadian's experience as a "form of

Lt. Roy E Gudmundson – 1958

perpetual exile," and of Bill Holm's suggestion that "if you are an Icelander, you are your own man... a group of one," and both writers' comments on the marginality of that existence, which Holm called one of "deliberate de-tachment."

Yet it is the poet Stephan G. Stephansson who best illustrates the kind of man my uncle Roy was. The following passage from Stephansson's poem "On the Train" is familiar in its detached theme and tone:

Out on the platform that couple the cars I drank in the night-air alone For drugg'd in the thick, heavy vapors within Each passenger sat like a stone.

On many occasions Roy would imply as much, preferring to avoid the 'drugg'd stones' outside his door. And yet, as with Stephansson on the train, Roy often grew weary of his deliberate detachment, deciding to join his fellow passengers when the elements turned hostile. But he rarely joined them as a full participant - rather, his was the role of the astutely sensitive, scientific observer.

Out on the steps, I grew weary alone; The pleasure in truth is but slight To wrestle the wind, an importunate mate And stare in the eye of the night. Having found in the past a more excellent way The fullness of travel to ban, I wandered unasked to the car next to mine To study the manners of man.

I like to remember my uncle in this way, sensitive to the elements around him, curious of his fellow 'travelers', but in a detached, quietly passionate way.

May he rest in peace.

Miss Violet Makes Her Debut



July 25, 2006, 2:01 p.m. Milton District Hospital, 8 lbs., 10 ozs.

BARATTO/BRISTOW Diana and Michael Baratto (nee Bristow) take pleasure in announcing that Violet Annalisa Georgia has joined their family. Grandparents Wilfred (Bill) and

Iris Bristow of Campbellville; Colleen and (the late) Elio Baratto of Clarkson. Aunts and Uncles, Cheryl, Leif and Agnes Bristow; Chris, Jason and Glenda, Jeremy and Alexis Baratto. Thank you to the nurses at Milton District Hospital, Dr. Hunter, Heather Whitney (doula), Dr. Heather Jones, Dr. Chung and photographer Nikki Charlton. Special thanks to nurses Jean and Jennifer, and hugs to Great-Aunt Winona and cousin Gail.

Little Jóhanna Arrives

Tómas Gunnarsson, Kristina Pere and her big brother Leifur Enno PereTómasson proudly announce the arrival of Jóhanna Sigrún Sóley Pere Tómasdóttir.

The little girl was born at Mt. Sinay Hospital, Toronto. Born at 10:29 on the 9th of August 2006, weighing 3980g, or just over 10lbs 12ozs, or using the Icelandic standard, just under 16 merkur. She measured 54cm. Named after her Icelandic grandmother, Jóhanna Tómasdóttir and her Estonian great grandfather Johannes, she follows the Icelandic tradition, her last name, Tómasdóttir, is derived from her father's name, as she is daughter of Tómas.



Announcing Ströndin Internet Radio Show #14 **Íslendingadagurinn 2006 – A Special Report**

The show's production team is pleased to bring you this special 'extended' program featuring coverage of the recent 2006 Íslendingadagurinn in Gimli, Manitoba. This major annual Icelandic Celebration is now attended by visitors from all over North America and Iceland. The recent 4-day-long event was organized by teams of energetic volunteers working together as the **Icelandic Festival of Manitoba** Inc.

Audio for the Monday "Traditional Program" was recorded by Tinna Gretarsdóttir. The beautiful pictures were supplied by Linda Sigurdsson Collette and Dilla Narfason. The show's producer thanks these three women for helping to produce this particular program. Thanks also go to the festival organizers for giving their permission to cover the events. So, if you missed the "Celebration", visit the Ströndin Internet Radio site to enjoy this look back at **Islendingadagurinn 2006**.

S.I.R. website visitors can choose to listen to the whole Monday afternoon program (1 hour & 20 minutes), or they can pick and choose from the many speakers and performers - "a la carte" style. You can help promote the show by forwarding the URL link on to family and friends. http://www.inlofna.org/SIR/Pgm_14/

DAYS TO REMEMBER: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday September 28

Opening of Sphere, Finnbogi Pétursson's show, at the **Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art**, 7:00 to 10:00 pm. The show runs until November 25th.

Sunday October 15

Meet the author of "**Lost in War** – The Brave Life and Mysterious Death of a Canadian Airman", James Watt. James will introduce his book about Icelandic-Canadian airman, Henrik Guttormson. Scandinavian-Canadian Club, 91 Stormont Avenue (Lawrence & Bathurst)

Wednesday October 25

Toronto, ON: Movie "**Dark Horse**", an Icelandic/ Danish movie by director Dagur Kári., National Film Board, 150 John St. 7:30 p.m.**Reception starts at 6:30** \$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members *Please note: Only one screening and it is on Wednesday* **Thursday October 26** Opening of Ione Thorkelsson, Ossuary 501 at **Toronto Free Gallery**, 660 Queen Street East. **Saturday November 4** Opening of the second half of Ione Thorkelsson Ossuary 501 at Material Matters, 215 Spadina Avenue. **Sunday November 26**

ICCT Christmas party. More information later.

Ione Thorkelsson Exhibition in Toronto

Working from her studio in Manitoba, far from the main centres of Canadian glass art, and being virtually selftaught, lone Thorkelsson has managed to establish for herself a unique place as a glass artist in Canada.

In 1993, after twenty years of making the vivid blown glass pieces for which she has become well known, she surprised everyone (and perhaps even herself) by producing a series of edgy, pseudoornithological pieces on the theme of a future biotic dystopia. What was remarkable was the fact that to produce these pieces she had to master a whole new medium - cast glass. Since then, she has devised for herself a vitrified world populated by a curious cast of creatures. It is a slowly evolv-



Glass artist lone Thorkelsson

ing world, about forty-five pieces in a dozen years - less than four pieces a year.

This fall lone will be coming to Toronto with a major body of work that will be displayed in two galleries. The show will be called 'Ossuary 501'. The first half will open October 26 at the Toronto Free Gallery, 660 Queen Street

East; and the second, on November 4 at Material Matters, 215 Spadina Avenue. Anyone interested might check out her website later this month where she will have a small section posted to accompany the show (www.thorkelsson.com).

lone is very grateful for all the support she has received from family and friends over the years. This includes the Icelandic-Canadian community. She has had a long-term relationship with Manitoba's Islendingadagurinn festival; and the Canada Iceland Foundation has generously given her financial support for major shows: at the Winnipeg Art Gallery in 1998, and at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, Waterloo, in 2004.

Unfortunately, one of her greatest fan and supporter, her Dad, Edwin Thorkelsson, died in 2003. Edwin was born on Canadian soil at the Narrows in Manitoba shortly after his parents and family arrived from Iceland in 1914. His mother, Gudrun (Arnason), was from Njarvik, and his father, Halldor, from Kkuku in Hjaltsadathinga.

lone will be in Toronto for both openings and would love to see you there

Remember our webpage: http://icct.info

The Annual Gala Icelandic Dinner

The annual **Gala Icelandic Dinner** honouring Icelandic food and film took place on September 9th during the To-



ronto International Film Festival, Ambassador Markús Örn Antonsson gave a humorous and incisive look at his first year as Ambassador, Guðrun Þorhannesdóttir from the Icelandic Film Centre filled us in on the Icelandic films in the Festival, and Ann Helga Denny entertained with Icelandic folk songs as well as her jazz stylings. Angela Olson spoke about the documentary 'Everlasting Past' now in

Consul Gail Einarson-McCleery, Markus Orn Antonsson, Ambassador, and President of ICCT Kara Schuster at the Gala Icelandic Dinner in Toronto Well as her jazz stylings. Angela Olson spoke about the documentary 'Everlasting Past' now in pre-production, inspired

by the Johnson family reunion in Iceland last year, while President Kara Schuster informed us of upcoming events

in the club. Evervone enjoyed the excellent food prepared from recipes provided by Icelandic chef Sigurrós Pálsdóttir as well as the fellowship, especially that of several



ICCT members Dorothy Hatcher, Halla Gunnarsdottir, Ragnheidur Hlynsdóttir and Johanna Diplock at the Gala Icelandic Dinner in Toronto Sept. 9 ... celebrating Icelandic food and film during the Toronto International Film Festival

younger members of the club.

Don't Forget The Reception

We would like to remind everybody of the changes to the movie series, now nordic movies are on every last Wednesday of the month, Icelandic every second month and Finnish the other.

And don't miss the reception that precedes "Dark Horse", the reception starts at 6:30, followed by the movie at 7:30. Special guests will be Ambassador Markús Örn Antonsson and Almar Grímsson, President of INL Iceland, who will tell us about the Snorra and Snorra+ programs.

The reception is co-sponsored by the Danish Conslulate and the Danish Trade Commission. Don't miss out on this one

Film of the Month-October:

National Film Board , Icelandic Canadian Club of

Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center present: "'Dark Horse" (Voksne Mennesker) – Danish Language -English subtitles - Film by Dagur Kári

Wednesday, October 25

7:30 p.m. Preceded by a reception that starts at 6:30, cosponsored by the Danish consulate and the Danish Trade Commission.

The National Film Board 150 John Street, Toronto

Admission: \$6 for NFB members, seniors, students, \$8 others. Director: Dagur Kári; Screenplay: Dagur Kari & Rune Schjøtt Music: Slow Blow. Cast: Jakob Cedergren, Nicolas Bro, Tilly Scott Pedersen, Morten Suurballe. Denmark 2005, 98 min

DARK HORSE

The Icelandic director Dagur Kári got the attention of the cinema world with his debut "Nói albinói" ("Nói" was among other festivals, screened at TIFF in 2003). For his second feature he has chosen a different venue, the film is made in Danmark, in Danish, with Danish cast, and shot in black and white (except for approximately 5 seconds).

The Danish/Icelandic film "Dark Horse is" a comedy drama about the charmingly irresponsible graffiti-artist, Daniel. He lives in Co-

penhagen and earns his living painting declarations of love, on demand, on the walls of the city. He is constantly on the run from parking tickets, overdue bills and – the police. And yet he still manages to lead a carefree life. Until he meets and falls in love with Franc, who is equally irresponsible and charming.



"Dark Horse" is also a film about the ubiquitous triangle. Daniel's best friend, nicknamed Grandad, is a chubby 28 year old nerd, who would rather spy on girls from afar than approach them. He has been in love with Franc since the very first time he laid eyes on her. And now his best friend is dating her...

The characters in "DarkHorse" all deal with issues concerning growing up – or not doing so. Whereas Franc and Daniel try their best to avoid making any commitments or bearing any responsibilities, Granddad tries his utmost to live the ultimate regimented and rational life. So much so, that he almost forgets to enjoy himself.

Finally, there is Franc's and Daniel's present but more than absent parents, who on the surface of things seem to lead the most responsible of lives, but in fact, are both hopelessly confused and lost, hurting their loved ones in the process...

"Dark Horse" is built up as a series of short stories, some connect directly, some don't, some are funny, some not. The plot is loose and the film doesn't judge the characters, but leaves that to the audience.

It is easy to recommend "Dark Horse", it is entertaining, yet demanding, and Dagur Kári manages to stay the course he set with "Nói" by giving the audience a lot of freedom to enjoy the characters, and imagine where they are heading.

The cinematography is great, the actors all give a good, and some excellent performance, the music (by Slow Blow, Dagur Kári's own band) fits and enhances the movie.

So don't hesitate, get yourself a good seat and enjoy "Dark Horse".