



## Icelandic Authors in Frankfurt



### Ragnar Axelsson

Born in 1958. Ragnar Axelsson (RAX) began his career in 1976 with the newspaper *Morgunblaðið*. Alongside his work as a photojournalist, he also produces photo essays for LIFE, TIME, Stern, National Geographic and others. He has received international prizes and has won the Icelandic Photo Award several times. His volume of photos *Veidimenn norðursins (Die letzten Jäger der Arktis. Inuit auf Grönland)* was published in Germany in 2010.



### Kristín Marja Baldursdóttir

Born in 1949. Kristín Marja Baldursdóttir studied Icelandic and German, and lived for a time in Bremen. She has worked as a teacher and a journalist. The translations of her novels *Mávahlátur (Möwengelächter)*, *Karitas án titils (Die Eismalerin)* and *Óreida á striga (Die Farben der Insel)* have made her one of the most successful Icelandic authors in the German-speaking countries. Her latest novel *Karlsvagninn (Sterneneis)* will appear in German in autumn 2011.



### Runa Bergmann

Runa Bergmann is the best known ecological activist in Iceland. For more than 20 years she has been committed to environmental protection. Among other things, she founded Iceland's first certified eco-hotel. Her book *Konur geta breytt heiminum (Shoppen und die Welt retten)* was released in Iceland on 22 April 2009 – the international Earth Day. In autumn 2011, it will also be published in Germany. In 2007, ARTE broadcast a portrait of Runa Bergmann as part of its Faces of Europe series.



### Thráinn Bertelsson

Born in 1944. Thráinn Bertelsson has achieved great success as a writer, director and columnist. Outside Iceland he is best known for his film *Magnús* and his autobiography *Einhvers konar ég*, which is now appearing in German in time for the Frankfurt Book Fair, under the title *Bertels Sohn. Ein Leben in Island*. His crime novels *Valkyrjur (Walküren)* and *Englar dauðans (Höllengel)* occupied Iceland's bestseller lists for months on end.



### Bergsveinn Birgisson

Born in 1971. Bergsveinn Birgisson studied Old Nordic literature and completed his doctorate on medieval skaldic poetry. He currently works at the University of Bergen in Norway. He has been publishing poems and novels since the early 1990s and has been nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize on several occasions. One such nomination was for the novel *Svar við bréfi Helgu (Paarungszeit)*, which is now being issued in German ready for the Frankfurt Book Fair.

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#### Press Contact

Mirjam Flender, c/o projekt2508, +49 228 184967-24, [presse@sagenhaftes-island.de](mailto:presse@sagenhaftes-island.de)

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### **Bjarni Bjarnason**

Born in 1965. Since 1989, Bjarni Bjarnason has written volumes of poetry and short stories, as well as novels and a collection of one-act plays. He has won many awards, including the Halldór Laxness Literature Prize for his book *Mannætukonan og maður hennar*. His second novel *Endurkoma Maríu (Die Rückkehr der Jungfrau Maria)* was nominated for the Icelandic Literary Prize in 1996 and will be published in German in 2012.



### **Thórdís Björnsdóttir**

Born in 1978. Thórdís Björnsdóttir studied Literature and is now a poet and novelist. Her works include two books published in collaboration with the poet Jesse Ball. Her novel *Sónata fyrir Svefninn (Schlafsonate)*, which some Icelandic literary critics have compared to the films of David Lynch, was recently published in German.



### **Steinar Bragi**

Born in 1975. Steinar Bragi studied comparative Literature and Philosophy. He published his first volume of poetry *Svarthol* and his first novel *Turninn* at the age of 23. His fifth novel *Konur (Frauen)* was a tremendous success and was recently published in Germany. It was highly praised by the critics and nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize.



### **Vilborg Daviðsdóttir**

Born in 1965. Vilborg Daviðsdóttir was employed as a journalist for many years; since 2000 she has worked mainly as a writer and translator. In the 1990s she published two children's books for which she was awarded a number of prizes. In addition, she has written several historical novels. She is currently promoting her book *Hrafninn (Winterfrau)*, a story set in Greenland in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.



### **Thórarinn Eldjárn**

Born in 1949. Thórarinn Eldjárn is one of the most popular of contemporary Icelandic authors. His multiple award-winning output includes novels, short stories, poetry, aphorisms and children's books. His book *Brotahöfuð (Der blaue Turm)* was nominated for the European Literature Prize, among other honours. His anthology of short stories *Die glücklichste Nation unter der Sonne. Geschichten aus Island* was recently published in German.

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#### **Press Contact**

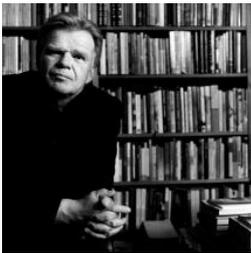
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### **Gyrðir Elíasson**

Born in 1961. Gyrðir Elíasson has published novels, short stories and collections of poetry, with which he has earned various Icelandic literature prizes. His 1987 novel *Gangandi íkorni (Ein Eichhörnchen auf Wanderschaft)*, which was also released in German earlier this year, enjoys cult status. It is seen as a turning point in Icelandic literature. Elíasson is the holder of the Nordic Council's Literature Prize 2011. Most recently he has published a novel, *Sandárþókin – pastoralsónata (Am Sandfluss)*, and a volume of poems entitled *Nokkur almenn orð um kulnun sólar (Einige allgemeine Worte über die Erkaltung der Sonne)*.



### **Einar Már Guðmundsson**

Born in 1954. Einar Már Guðmundsson studied Literature and History in Reykjavík and Copenhagen. His novels have been translated into many languages and were showered with awards. In 1995 he won the Nordic Council's Literature Prize for *Englar alheimsins (Engel des Universums)*. This novel was turned into a successful film by the Icelandic director Friðrik Þór Friðriksson. This autumn he is releasing his autobiographical novel, *Rimlar hugans-ástarsaga (Vorübergehend nicht erreichbar)*, in German translation.



### **Óskar Guðmundsson**

Born in 1950. A trained historian, Óskar Guðmundsson worked for some years as a journalist and editor-in-chief, but for the last 15 years has been an independent academic. In 2011 he published a biography of the important medieval scholar and politician, Snorri Sturluson, under the German title *Snorri Sturluson – Homer des Nordens*. This was one of the most widely read books in Iceland in 2009.



### **Pétur Gunnarsson**

Born in 1947. Following his studies of Literature and Philosophy in France, Pétur Gunnarsson established himself as a writer and translator in Iceland. His 1976 debut novel *Punktur punktur komma strik (punkt punkt komma strich)*, which was published in German earlier this year, is a modern classic of Icelandic literature. It is the first book in a trilogy about a boy called Andri. The third volume in the set was nominated for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize in 1987. Gunnarsson's literary travel guide *Reykjavík – Borgin sem tók á rás (Reykjavík)* was written especially for a German readership and presents the literature and history of the Icelandic capital.



### **Hallgrímur Helgason**

Born in 1959. Hallgrímur Helgason studied at the Icelandic College of Art and Crafts in Reykjavík and at the Kunstakademie in Munich. He is one of the most widely read authors in Iceland. Since 1982, he has worked as an author, a comic illustrator and a visual artist. His international success came in 1996 with the novel *101 Reykjavík*, which has also been made into a film. His book *Konan vid 1000°C (Eine Frau bei 1000°)* goes on sale in German in 2011.

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### **Ingibjörg Hjartardóttir**

Born in 1952. Storyteller, dramatist and translator, Ingibjörg Hjartardóttir first began writing in 1984. She founded the theatre group *Hugleikur* in Reykjavík, and has written plays for the National Theatre in Reykjavík and the Akureyri Drama Society, as well as radio plays for the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service (RUV). Two of her novels – *Priðja bónin* (*Die dritte Bitte*) and her latest book *Hlustarinn* (*Der Zuhörer*) – have been published in Germany.



### **Arnaldur Inðridason**

Born in 1961. Following his history degree, Arnaldur Inðridason worked as a journalist and film critic with the newspaper *Morgunblaðið*. His crime novels are international bestsellers, and they have proved to be especially successful in Germany. For *Mýrin* (*Nordermoor*) and *Grafarhögn* (*Todeshauch*), he received the Scandinavian Glass Key Prize for crime fiction, while *Harðskafi* (*Kälteschlaf*) won him the Icelandic Crime Fiction Award.



### **Viktor Arnar Ingólfsson**

Born in 1955. Viktor Arnar Ingólfsson is a structural engineer and has also studied PR, publishing and computer graphics at George Washington University in the USA. His first novel appeared in 1978, since then he has published a number of crime stories. His novel *Flateyjargáta* (*Das Rätsel von Flatey*) was nominated for the Scandinavian Glass Key Prize.



### **Auður Jónsdóttir**

Born in 1973. The granddaughter of Nobel Laureate Halldór Laxness, Auður Jónsdóttir is among the best known of the younger generation of Icelandic writers. Her books have won many awards and have been translated into numerous languages. She also works as a freelance journalist. *Vetrarsól* (*Jenseits des Meeres liegt die ganze Welt*) is the first of her books to be published in German.



### **Ævar Örn Jóseppsson**

Born in 1963. Ævar Örn Jóseppsson studied Journalism, Political science and Philosophy in Stirling in Scotland, and English Literature in Freiburg, Germany. Since 1994 he has been working as a freelance translator and is also active as a journalist for many Icelandic newspapers and magazines. Three of his four crime novels are available in Germany, including *Sá yðar sem syndlaus er* (*Wer ohne Sünde ist*).

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### **Einar Kárason**

Born in 1955. Einar Kárason studied the History of literature and became famous for his trilogy *Par sem djöflaeyjan rís* (*Die Teufelsinsel*), *Gulleyjan* (*Die Goldinsel*) and *Fyrirheitna landið* (*Das Gelobte Land*). His novel *Stormur* (*Sturmerprobt*) was short-listed for the Nordic Literature Prize as well as the Icelandic Literary Prize. He won the latter prize for *Ofsi* (*Versöhnung und Groll*). In April 2011, he began a year-long residence as a grant holder at the Villa Concordia in Bamberg.



### **Gerður Kristný**

Born in 1970. Gerður Kristný studied French and Literature. After working as editor-in-chief of the magazine *Mannlíf* (1998 to 2004), she began her career as a full-time writer. Gerður Kristný has received numerous prizes and much recognition. Her poems and short stories have appeared in Icelandic school books and anthologies. Her children's book *Garðurinn* (*Die letzte Nacht des Jahres*) will appear in German in time for the Book Fair.



### **Jónína Leósdóttir**

Born in 1954. Jónína Leósdóttir studied English and Literature at the University of Iceland and at Essex University in the UK. From 1985 to 2005 she worked as a journalist and editor. She is the author of biographies, theatre plays, novels and short stories. In 2008 she won the Jón úr Vör Poetry Prize. Her latest novel *Allt fint ... en pu?* (*Am liebsten gut*) has just been published in German translation.



### **Andri Snær Magnason**

Born in 1973. Magnason's published works include an audio recording of Icelandic folk poems, the children's book *Sagan af bláa hnettinum* (*Die Geschichte vom blauen Planeten*), and the novel *LoveStar*. His book *Draumalandið* (*Traumland. Was bleibt, wenn alles verkauft ist?*) won the Icelandic Literature Prize for non-fiction. For his commitment to artistic-political causes, he was awarded the 2010 Kairo Prize by the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung. Ready for the Book Fair, a German edition of *Bónusljóð: 33% meira* (*Bónus*) has been printed. This is Iceland's biggest-selling poetry volume of all time.



### **Kristof Magnússon**

Born in 1976. Kristof Magnússon is a German-Icelandic writer, playwright and translator. He trained as a church musician and then studied at the German Creative Writing Programme Leipzig as well as the University of Reykjavík. He has written several theatre plays that have met with great success. His first novel *Zuhause* received the Rauriser Literature Prize in 2006. Magnússon's second book *Das war ich nicht* was nominated for the German Book Prize.

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### **Guðrún Eva Mínervudóttir**

Born in 1976. Philosophy graduate Guðrún Eva Mínervudóttir is one of the country's best known young authors and has already received many literary prizes. To date, Guðrún Eva Mínervudóttir has published five novels, one volume of poetry and a collection of philosophical stories for children. She made a name for herself internationally with her novel *Skaparinn (Der Schöpfer)*, which will be released this autumn in German.



### **Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl**

Born in 1978. Eiríkur Örn Norðdahl is a poet, writer and translator. His main interest is avant-garde poetry and he has experimented with different poetic forms, including sound, video and pictorial poetry. His memorable poetry performances have made Norðdahl well known. In 2010, his novel *Eitur fyrir byrjendur (Gift für Anfänger)* was released in German. At the Book Fair he will present his book of poems *IWF! IWF! OMG! OMG!*, which has just been published in German.



### **Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir**

Born in 1958. Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir studied Art history in Paris and is now a lecturer in the subject at the University of Iceland. Her literary debut came in 1998, and in 2007 she published the novel *Afleggjarinn (Weiß ich wann es Liebe ist?)*, which was published earlier this year in German. This book won several of Iceland's most important literary prizes. The French translation also received the *Prix des Libraires du Québec* in Canada and the *Prix de Page* in France.



### **Hallfríður Ólafsdóttir**

Born in 1964. Hallfríður Ólafsdóttir is lead flautist with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra, as well as the author of a series of children's books about a mouse, Maximus Musicus. This introduces children to the world of classical music in a playful way. So far, two of the books in this internationally recognised music education project have been translated into German: *Maximus Musikus heimsaekir hljómsveitina (Maximus Musikus besucht das Orchester)* und *Maxímús Músíkús trítlar í tónlistarskólann (Maximus Musikus besucht die Musikschule)*.



### **Guðmundur Óskarsson**

Born in 1978. Guðmundur Óskarsson was working for the Landsbankinn when the Iceland's financial crisis erupted in 2008, and he witnessed the developments at close quarters. With his novel *Bankster* he lends a literary voice to the international financial disaster. For this he received the 2009 Icelandic Literary Prize.

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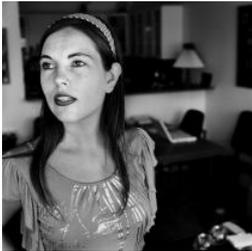
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### Árni Thórarinnsson

Born in 1950. Árni Thórarinnsson studied Comparative literature at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. He has worked for many years as a journalist and he was one of the authors who launched the genre of modern Icelandic crime fiction in the 1990s. So far he has published seven novels. The latest of these, *Dauði Trudisins (Ein Herz so kalt)*, was recently published in German translation.



### Sigurbjörg Thrastardóttir

Born in 1973. Sigurbjörg Thrastardóttir studied Literature and Applied media science and has since worked as a journalist. She has published poems, theatre plays and a prize-winning novel *Sólar sögu*. At the Frankfurt Book Fair she will be presenting her poetry volume *Blysfarir (Fackelzüge)*. Sigurbjörg Thrastardóttir is currently residing as a grant holder at the Villa Concordia in Bamberg for the year starting April 2011.



### Steinunn Sigurðardóttir

Born in 1950. Steinunn Sigurðardóttir is one of Iceland's most prominent authors. She studied Psychology and Philosophy at University College in Dublin and has worked for radio and television. In 1995 she won the Icelandic Literature Prize. She achieved recognition internationally for her novels *Timathjófurinn (Zeitdieb)* and *Hjartastaður (Herzort)*, and more recently in Germany for *Góði elskhuginn (Der gute Liebhaber)*.



### Yrsa Sigurðardóttir

Born in 1963. Yrsa Sigurðardóttir is an engineer as well as a writer. She is a graduate of the University of Iceland and Concordia University in Montreal. She began writing children's books in 1998 and since 2005 has also written successful crime novels. These have so far appeared in 30 different languages. The book *Ég man thig (Geisterfjord)*, which is published this autumn in German, won her the Drop of Blood Icelandic Crime Fiction Award in 2011.



### Sjón

Born in 1962. Sjón writes poems, song lyrics (e.g. for Lars von Trier's film *Dancer in the Dark*), children's literature, novels and screenplays. From 2007 to 2008 he was the Samuel Fischer Visiting Professor for Literature at the Freie Universität in Berlin, and he received a DAAD grant from 2010 to 2011. He was awarded the Nordic Council's Literature Prize in 2005 for his novel *Skugga-Baldur (Schattenfuchs)*. His most recent novel *Rökkurbýsnir (Das Gleißer der Nacht)* was published in German earlier this year.

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### Hermann Stefánsson

Born in 1968. Hermann Stefánsson studied Icelandic philology and Comparative literature. He writes short stories, novels, newspaper articles and academic essays. He is also a translator from Spanish and other languages, and is a musician. According to Icelandic critics his books are post-modern and avant-garde. This autumn will see the German publication of his novel *Algleymi (Guðjón Ólafssons Zeitreise als Laborratte)*, which establishes a connection between the Icelandic sagas and the CERN project to create black holes.



### Jón Kalman Stefánsson

Born in 1963. Jón Kalman Stefánsson is one of the most important writers in Iceland. His award-winning works have been translated into many languages. He received the Icelandic Literary Prize for the book *Sumarljós, og svo kemur nóttin (Sommerlicht, und dann kommt die Nacht)*. Internationally, success came with *Himnaríki og helvíti (Himmel und Hölle)*. His novel *Harmur Englanna (Der Schmerz der Engel)* has been published this year in Germany. Also in 2011, Stefánsson was awarded the Per Olov Enquist Prize at the Göteborg Book Fair.



### Kristín Steinsdóttir

Born in 1946. Kristín Steinsdóttir has been a writer since 1988. She is the current chairperson of the Writer's Union of Iceland. She is one of the country's most popular children's book authors and has won many awards. She received the Icelandic Women's Literature Prize for each of her two adult novels, *Á eigin vegum (Eigene Wege)* and *Ljósa (Im Schatten des Vogels)*. The second of these is being published this autumn in German translation. Likewise in time for the Book Fair, her childhood memoirs are about to be released as an audio book entitled *Leben im Fisch*.



### Óttar Sveinsson

Born in 1958. Óttar Sveinsson worked until 2003 as a journalist with the daily paper *Vísir*. This period laid the foundations for his later series of books in which he relates historical events, mainly disasters and accidents, using eyewitness accounts. He comments between Hamburg und Reykjavík, working as a writer and publisher. In 2011 he is publishing *Árás á Goðafoss (Goðafoss)* \_180about the "Icelandic Titanic" which was sunk by a German U-boat.

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