

WEIRDO CANYON DISPATCH!



Roadburn Festival Daily Fanzine ~ Sunday 22nd April 2018

Alda, Bell Witch, Big Brave, Godspeed You! Black Emperor, GosT, Hail Spirit Noir, Hell, Spotlights, Vampillia, Vánagandr: Sól án Varma, VMO, Watter, Wiedood, Wolfbrigade, Wrekmeister Harmonies, Zonal ft. Moor Mother, Zuriaake

Review: Roadburn Saturday 21st April 2018

By José Carlos Santos

Two huge concerts to start the day, as Bell Witch took the stage for the first of two times (the second takes place today – hurry!), performing their latest album, *Mirror Reaper*, in full. Augmenting even further the transcendental darkness and misery of that instant classic, it was quite a slap awake to begin things.



Hugsjá (Paul Verhagen)

No rest for the wicked, or for the Norse, as we dived straight into Hugsjá afterwards. Total change of mood, but the same emotional intensity. Our Walter Hoeijmakers himself described this piece, when he first saw it in Norway at the Grieghallen, as, “Channelling the spirit of Norse coastal history by way of pastoral (acid) folk meets *Led Zeppelin III* meets Wardruna,” and sometimes you have to recognise that some things cannot be improved upon. After being hypnotised by Ivar, Einar and company, one thing remains to be said: nailed it, Walter!

The heat is still taking no prisoners, so the breezy air of the Main Stage was highly beckoning. Well, that and Panopticon, too. A substantially different set from the day before, harder and more metallic, but not by any means

less fascinating. Felt bad to leave a bit early, but a little walk under the sun had to be undertaken to dive into the oblique horror of *Yodh*, Mizmor’s 2016 album that was being unleashed at the Koepelhal. The songs, as performed by this live version of the band, seemed to become more concise, more direct and hard-hitting, while maintaining that sinister, uneasy feeling of the record.



Boris (Paul Verhagen)

Boris & Stephen O’Malley up next after a tough decision (sorry, Icelandic lads!). My eardrums surely regretted the decision, as they were assaulted by a veritable feast of surreal volume and sonic density. Afterwards, a little stumble to the next room and into yet another pit of chaos. A different, more colourful, tripped-out acid chaos, but still chaos. The Heads! Already a Roadburn classic, and they played like one. At this point, the weight of three days and the heavy emotions of the day’s beginning (I’ll get to that in a minute) started to be slightly overwhelming. As music and Roadburn often do, a haven was provided in the form of Aerial Ruin.

Erik Moggridge's gentle, confessional, soothing and often barely-there otherworldly odes were like a healing balm. Of course, it was also a chance to relearn that humanity has the capability to ruin every good thing, and I was risen from my blissful slumber by disrespectful, loud inane chatter and the jokey crackle of plastic glasses.



Thou x The Body (Paul Verhagen)

Properly pissed off and needing to vent, Roadburn again provided an occasion tailored to the current mood. All Pigs Must Die were simply savage, creating yet another sweaty Roadburn moshpit (the spacious Koepelhal is good for those; take note Walter!) for the record books. Gutted that I didn't make it to Greenmachine, but the Thou x The Body collaboration was awesome enough to dry those tears. Attaining a final result much bigger than the sum of its already considerable parts, these seven people on stage create a cesspool of sound where you inevitably drown. We were introduced to the "heaviest riff ever written," and treated, among other dirty delights, to a cover of Shellac's "Prayer to God," which gains an even more menacing and creepy vibe in this format.

After that, a quick visit to the early Celtic Frost-isms of Occulta, and a much-needed rest. The beginning of the day had been too intense, and only now I'll talk about it, because it was something that deserved being left to the end. It deserves to be the final memory not only of this day, but perhaps of Roadburn 2018. Do not get me wrong – every bit of forward-thinking, predictive awesomeness, every second of retro nostalgic excitement, every beat, scream, noise or riff of Roadburn deserves to be treasured and remembered. But the immensity of the communion that took place before the day's planned schedule unfolded was something else.

The tribute paid to Caleb Scofield by his best friends and bandmates Stephen Brodsky and Adam McGrath was something that will forever remain engraved in the hearts and minds of all those who filled the Het Patronaat. Stephen and Adam performed several Cave In songs in semi-acoustic format (and the way they not only hold up, but actually grow from their original versions, says everything about the genius behind their composition), and remarkable versions of a couple of Caleb's favourite songs, namely Neil Young's "Harvest Moon" and Townes Van Zandt's "Nothing," and at the end there wasn't a dry eye left in the house. But there were also smiles all over. Love and light and healing through music – that's Roadburn. Thank you, Walter and Jacob, Stephen and Adam. Here's to you, Caleb. – José Carlos Santos

Hail Icelandic Black Metal (Hagl Íslenskt Svart Málmur)

It's been truly astonishing watching Iceland's black metal scene grow from a small clan of close-knit outliers into one of the most dynamic and intriguing in the world.



Seeing them catapult from the basements and abandoned factories of home onto the most revered stages in all of metaldom on the pure strength of their wild, ambitious music has been incredible, and has no doubt instilled fresh hope in other bands and collectives operating in remote locales.

At this point, "Icelandic black metal" has lost some of its initial glitz, which is a good thing; now that the novelty has faded, the bands themselves can be judged solely on their work, and perhaps even more so, on their inhuman work ethic. There are always a handful of diehards who constitute the beating heart of any regional music scene, but in Iceland, a smaller population necessitates a smaller circle—and the blond, genial figure of

Tómas Ísdal holds court at its very center. The cult cassette label, Vanagandr, that he runs with his bandmate multiple times over, Dagur Gonzales, serves as the blackened nexus around which most of the current scene revolves; there's little choice in that, really, given that the label is run by two of Reykjavik's most prolific black metallers. It's entirely typical for an Icelandic black metal musician to be involved in at least a few bands; with so many ideas and so few bodies, it's an act of necessity as well as of community.



Ísdal plays guitar, bass, or drums in scene leaders Naðra, Misþyrming, Carpe Noctem, 0, Grafir, Nornahetta, and probably at least three more projects he's formed since we printed this 'zine, while Dagur takes a more international approach, cycling through vocals, bass, and guitar in Martröð, Naðra, Skáphe, and 0. Another section of the scene revolves around Irish expat Stephen Lockhart's Studio Emissary, which serves as a sort of a Sunlight Studios for the

Reykjavik crew; Lockheart himself is tied up in Sinmara, Slidhr, and his long-running solo project, Rebirth of Nefast, and also helps the yearly Oration festival.



These post-2010 efforts are predated by bands like Svartíðauði and Myrk who bathed the early 2000s with blood, and followed soon after by Wormlust, who injected psychedelic psychosis into the darkness. Those who have been flying the flag for Icelandic black metal since the current crop were young sprouts still play nice with the newer bloods, though, and the scene itself continues to be infused with new and emerging talent like Almyrkvi, Mannveira, Draugsól, Abominor, and Auðn. On top of all that, the sheer youth of most of these players is staggering; considering how much they've accomplished already, with most of them still in their early to mid-20s, it boggles the mind to think of what kind of black magic they'll work their way up to in the next decade. I first clapped eyes on NYIP, Naðra, Misþyrming, and Carpe Noctem in 2014, during a gloriously destructive performance at Iceland's own Eistnaflug festival; four years later, they've all made serious

waves far outside their island's borders, with Naðra and Misþyrming in particular finding resounding success, and have formed a special bond with Roadburn. In 2016, Misþyrming served as the festival's Artist in Residence, and introduced the faithful to the ritualistic fury of the Ulfsmessa; in 2017, Naðra sallied forth to hex Het Patronaat.



In 2018, members of both will join forces with various Icelandic compatriots in summoning forth a festival first: an entirely original, specially commissioned piece of music dubbed *Sól án varma* — a primal roar of black metal, doom, and electronics that promises to continue the cell's tradition of absolute dominance. Langir mega ríkja. — Kim Kelly

Thinking Ahead at Roadburn

Head hurt? Feel overwhelmed? I get it. It's been a lot to take in. Roadburn shoots in many different directions, and most lead to uncharted territories. There's been darkness and light, brutality and sensitivity, traditionalism and wild experimentation, sometimes all at once. But hey, if you don't leave just a little bit disoriented, it's not Roadburn, right?

Wild all of this might be, but it's not random. Pay attention, and you'll realise that while you're enjoying this year's Roadburn, 2019's is already unfolding. Each year usually holds some of the seeds for the next. Take 2017 – when we were all crushed under Kevin Martin AKA The Bug's electronic boot (with Dylan Carlson making us look at the stars during the whole process), or when our necks threatened to snap under dālek's bone-rattling beats, or even during the pure euphoria of Perturbator's dancefloor-levelling brutal party, the road to Roadburn 2018 was already visible stretching into the distance.



The future was right there. Several groundbreaking artists playing Roadburn today would have been unlikely years ago. If The Bug and Justin K. Broadrick together on stage as Zonal, unleashing the best industrial,

electronic, dub and hip-hop mix while the incredible Moor Mother lays down razor-sharp and possibly hard-to-face words on top of it fills you with giddy excitement, that's because heavy music has been leading up to this, and Roadburn was wise enough to realise it and brave enough to act on it.



What about Roadburn 2019? What can serve as a harbinger of awesomeness to be? First of all, it seems that the growing importance of the more "electronic" genres like the aforementioned is not a passing fad. More and more of that music will be "Frankensteined" into our scene(s). What else?

Will Vánagandr close out the commissioned pieces collection in style and encourage more? Have Diamanda Galás in 2016 and Zola Jesus this year paved the way for further detours of that kind? Is the future really the past, and timeless psych rock will still reign supreme? Probably a bit of all of them, and a lot more besides.

Keep your ear to the ground and let's meet back here in 2019 to find out! –

José Carlos Santos

The Icelanders Cometh: Vánagandr & New Realms of Darkness

Musicians from Iceland have turned Roadburn into an enclave since year after year they come back to Tilburg to bring us their wares. Knowing their exceptional music, we wouldn't have it any other way.



From their island of fire and snow, they've consistently been playing at several editions, and this year they bring something very special to the table: Vánagandr: Sól án varma, a collaboration between musicians from Mispyrming, Naðra, Svartidauði, and Wormlust.

Delivering a collaborative piece is not a new effort for these artists. In 2016, the Úlfsmessa performance instantly formed a highlight of the festival. In joining forces, the bands managed to push even further than their single entities were able to and create an otherworldly event. This time, a small army of musicians comes down to completely consume all the light and life with the blistering, all-engrossing roar that is Sól án varma. The title roughly translates as 'sun without radiance,' which already evokes the image of a black hole or vortex in the sky that ends all. A piece that is delivered in one flow, as one growing, complex entity created in celebration. Whether you're aware of what these musicians can do on their own or not, we're expecting their coming together to be a landmark for Roadburn 2018.

This piece is one hell of an exciting element in the program as one of the commissioned pieces, specially created for and delivered at Roadburn 2018. Here the might and magic of black metal innovators will be combined to create a one-time experience that will definitely not disappoint. In fact, this might just be your best Roadburn memory for 2018! This performance will be held on the Main Stage, starting up the Sunday with a kick that even the blackest cup of coffee couldn't bring you. – Guido Segers

Roadburn 2018 Wish Lists

Dom Lawson

1. Drug Honkey
2. Boss Keloid
3. Atari Teenage Riot
4. Clipping
5. Paul Catten

Jamie Ludwig

1. More collaborations!
2. CloudRat
3. Circle - Artist-In-Residence
4. Vile Creature
5. YOB

Guido Segers

1. Downfall of Nur
2. Sume (Greenland)
3. Vulture Industries
4. Kiss (playing *Music from "The Elder"*)
5. Mike Oldfield

José Carlos Santos

1. Darkthrone
2. William Elliott Whitmore
3. Autopsy
4. Planes Mistaken for Stars
5. Solitude Aeternus

Sander van den Driesche

1. Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs
2. Ommadon
3. Sunwølf
4. Rolo Tomassi
5. Astrodome

Daniel Pietersen

1. Emperor
2. The Orb
3. Blanck Mass
4. Myrkur (vocals-only set)
5. Eivor

Paul Verhagen

1. Thy Catafalque (*Meta* in its entirety)
2. Pentacle
3. Deathspell Omega
4. Nidingr
5. Mirror

Cheryl Carter

1. Ancst
2. Bohren & der Club of Gore
3. Darkspace
4. Dimmu Borgir (*Enthroned Darkness Triumphant* in full)
5. Have a Nice Life

Ben Handleman

1. Spectrum/Sonic Boom
2. Blot & Bod
3. Eye of Nix
4. Lingua Ignota
5. Fleurety

Niels Vinck

1. Albino Rhinö *Upholder* 2/3 set
2. Deadcross with Mike as curator
3. 24h drone side-programme
4. Fire!
5. YOB (always!)



Artwork by Richard "Robotmonster" Schouten

Take Time Out With Sunday's Side Programme:

Discussions:

1pm, V39 - Andreas Kohl – Vinyl Manufacture Presentation

2pm, V39 - Walter Hoeijmakers Q&A

Listening Sessions:

8pm, 013 Basement: Soft Kill - *Savior*

Cinema:

Revolver Films: 4pm-6pm daily

A selection of short films including the world premiere of Full Bleed 002: Jef Whitehead, plus shorts featuring Scott Kelly, Melvins, John Baizley & more.

Evening Programme:

7.30pm - Cocks and Crosses

9pm - The Doom Doc

10.30pm - San Diego Takeover: Through the Lens of Just Some Dude by Lannie Rhoades

Holy Crap! You've Just Been To Roadburn!

We're fortunate here at the *Weirdo Canyon Dispatch*, and I think I speak for everyone on staff in saying we can't possibly give thanks enough to Walter, to Becky, to the Roadburn and 013 crews, to the entire city of Tilburg, and to everyone here for making this Roadburn as gargantuan and special as it has been.

Every year I keep my fingers crossed we'll get to do the *Weirdo Canyon Dispatch* again, and the suspense kills because I know how unbelievable this weekend will be. Is. Has just been.

But it's almost time to go back to real life.

Wherever you're heading, carry the spirit of this weekend with you.

Whatever you experienced, whatever you saw, whatever you heard: Hold onto it for as long as you can. I'll hope to see you next year, and thanks for reading. – *JJ Koczan*



Maggot Heart (Niels Vinck)

Editorial

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ROADBURN 2018 SUNDAY, APRIL 22

	MAIN STAGE	HET PATRONAAT	GREEN ROOM	CUL DE SAC	
14.00					14.00
14.30					14.30
15.00		WREKMEISTER HARMONIES 14.30 - 15.30		DYSTOPIA 14.30 - 15.20	15.00
15.30	VÁNAGANDR: SÓL AN VARMA MEMBERS OF MISPYRMING, NADRA, SVARTIDAURI & WORMLUST 15.10 - 16.25		IRON CHIN OEDS BEYDALS 15.00 - 16.00		15.30
16.00					16.00
16.30		BELL WITCH 16.15 - 17.15		HIDDEN TRAILS 16.10 - 17.00	16.30
17.00			WATTER 16.40 - 17.40		17.00
17.30	WIEGEDOOD 17.10 - 18.10				17.30
18.00				SYK 17.50 - 18.40	18.00
18.30		HELL 'HELL' 18.00 - 19.00			18.30
19.00			SPOTLIGHTS 18.30 - 19.30		19.00
19.30	ZONAL FT. MOOR MOTHER 19.00 - 20.00			PROJECT NEFAST 19.20 - 20.10	19.30
20.00		BIG BRAVE 19.50 - 20.50			20.00
20.30			ALDA 20.10 - 21.10		20.30
21.00				LLNH 20.50 - 21.40	21.00
21.30	GODSPEED YOU! BLACK EMPEROR 20.50 - 22.50	WOLFBIGADE 21.30 - 22.20			21.30
22.00			HAIL SPIRIT NOIR 21.50 - 22.50		22.00
22.30					22.30
23.00		VAMPILLIA 22.50 - 23.35		JOY FT. DR. SPACE 22.30 - 23.30	23.00
23.30					23.30
00.00	ZURIAAKE 23.30 - 00.30		GOST 23.30 - 00.30		00.00
00.30		VMO 00.10 - 00.40			00.30
01.00				BISON 00.45 - 01.45	01.00
01.30					01.30
02.00					02.00