

ICELAND REVISITED

Have you ever tried writing a long delightful text, then changed the name of the document only to find that the file can't be opened cause you changed the title? Well I have, it just happened to me _ So this will be short! With all that Microsoft Word can do you'd think that was the least of it???



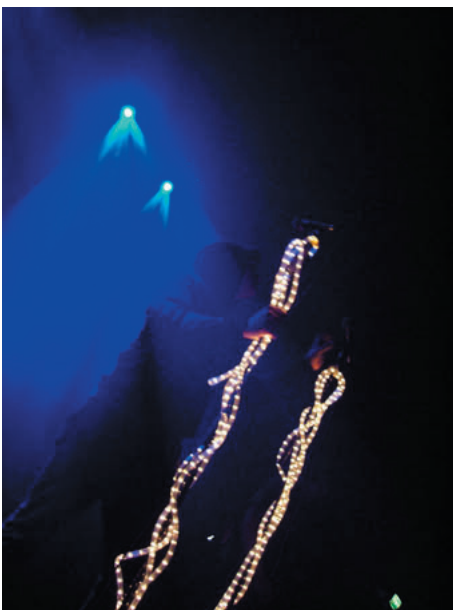
Anyways Makrel have just been in Iceland and I wanted to write a few words about the trip. We played three shows in Reykjavík, two in a small place called Grandrock, and one at the Faroese showcase called Atlantic Music Event, or AME.

First show at Grandrock: Most of us were a bit wasted from the plane ride and plane beer, but in the end we played a great show that a lot of the people at the show complimented us for. Høgni Lisberg, Marius and Déja Vu were also performing.

Second show at Nasa: The big venue on the tour and the venue where AME was held. Performing acts were: Dikta (IS) and Faroese bands Marius,

Déja vu, Høgni Lisberg, Gestir, Lena and Makrel. Høgni Lisberg became a star in the Icelandic medias the week before we came to Iceland and was playing fifth. So by the time Gestir were done and we came onstage as the closing act, most of the people had left because they were tired and they had already seen what they came to see. But oh, we had a splendid time and those who saw us liked it a lot. What often happens on a big venue, if it's half or almost empty, is that the connection between musicians and audience isn't optimal. That was not the case in Grandrock and although we played tight and well in Nasa, I think that the intensity and enthusiasm in our play wasn't the same throughout the show as the night before.

Third show and second show at Grandrock: I think that all of the members in Makrel would agree that this was the night when it all came together and in my mind one of the best concerts we've played so far. Probable everybody there was hung over from the night before and most likely didn't even want to be there but rather home in bed.



But what happened?

All of a sudden Lena steps onstage with Niclas on guitar and the most wonderful singer/songwriter songs start filling the venue. Right away it was like, "oh....this feels nice". Everybody was just hanging out while having a few cold beers and then Déja vu came on with their dreamy acid-like rock, which was perfect.

By the time we came on people had started getting a bit drunk and many came closer to the stage and even sat on the floor in front of it. The sound onstage, the people there, the bands before us, the room, the soundman, the members in the band, everything just seemed to melt together into a some wonderful entity at that moment, it was fantastic! We gave one encore and started packing our things together, but people just hadn't had enough and we had to unpack and do another one, which probable is a first Makrel history.



After the show the owners of Grandrock decided to get drunk with us and let us stay a few hours after closing. Some of the

musicians gave intimate after-show performances and people were in ski-high spirits, hugging and complimenting each other and amazed of what an evening it turned out to be. I guess it was thanks to the situation we all were in, to the fact that we didn't expect anything, to all the wonderful musicians and performances, and the venue and something else that I can't put into words right now.

Oh.... Guess I didn't keep it short after all. In short, our trip to Iceland had everything. I wish everyday could be like that last gig at Grandrock but I guess that magical moments wouldn't be magical if they happened all the time. I think it's the same with music. Stay safe and well.

-Rasmus/Makrel