



Descended from rustic vikings and abhorrent peasants, many Icelanders delight in putrid food, and take particular delight in stuffing the material down innocent foreigner's throats. It was on one such occasion involving rotten shark, dried fish and cod-liver oil, that A&R at Skipping Stones Records had no other alternative than to release Dýrðin's self-titled debut album, mostly to save their lives.

Out of a total population of 300,000 inhabitants in Iceland, 80% believe in elves. True to their roots, **Dýrðin delights in bringing mythology and childlike fantasies to life**, from comic book heroes to storybook romance. The songs most often follow the tales of a young woman's pursuit of perfect love; **to kiss an enchanted frog ("Prins í álögum/Frog Prince")**, **be whisked away to far away galaxies by an alien ("Brottnumin")** or to obtain the devotions of Mr. Spock. **17. júní celebrates the Icelandic folk hero Jón Sigurðsson**, although most people believe that the day is set aside to eat can-dyfloss, or cotton candy. **Dýrðin brings a child's imagination together with mature craftsmanship to create songs with clockwork precision and twee undertones.**

street date:

October 3, 2006

cd#: SKIP007

file under:

indie pop

track listing:

01. Popp & Co.*
02. Brottnumin
03. Hunangsdropar
04. 17. júní
05. Prins í álögum
06. Mr. Spock
07. Snjófólk
08. Wake up
09. Bubble Girl*
10. Hvert í Hoppandi
11. Meistari á skíðum
- * focus tracks

riyl:

Talulah Gosh, Heavenly, Blondie, The Ramones, The Shermans, All Girl Summer Fun Band, The Icicles, Tullycraft, The Maybellines, The Swirlies, early Magnetic Fields and Japanese pop.

The band was formed in Reykjavik in 1994. **Einar and Maggi**, having both played in various underground rock groups for a few years, teamed up with Þorvaldur Gröndal to produce **silly little pop songs, with a twist**, in Maggi's bedroom. They got hold of a Dr. Rhythm drum machine and an old saggy keyboard and started churning out tunes on a Tascam 4-track Portastudio. Soon they needed female vocals, and **Einar's sister, Hafdis**, was hastily recruited and forced to record "Hunangsdropar" in a studio without proper rehearsal, a task which she carried out admirably. Soon she proved that she could take the lead and wildly rock out at their live shows, too. Rather than translating their name directly as **"The Glory,"** they've decided to stick with their Icelandic name, which can, if you stretch your imagination, be pronounced not entirely unlike "deerthin." Likened to **Talulah Gosh** and **Stereolab**, neither of which they'd listened to before, Dýrðin derives some influence from such diverse sources as **Motorhead, ABBA, The Cardigans, The Ramones** and **All Girl Summer Fun Band**.

They played a few concerts, and had two songs on a compilation cd in 1995, after which they took a long break. **In 2002 they decided their songmaking talents had to be tapped and got together again** to record their old songs and write new ones. Various keyboardists were recruited and the drum machine soon gave way to a real drummer, **Tóti**, who had previously played with legendary punk rock band **Vonbrigði**, as well as **Bad Taste** band **Risaeðlan**. Tóti brought immense energy to the band and now they've reached new heights with a full, five-member line up, both in live performances and recording.

Dýrðin has begun a little pop revolution in their native Iceland, opening up for The Raveonettes and Blonde Redhead at the **Innipúkinn** festival, and for epo-555 and Junior Senior at the **Iceland Airwaves** festival. The group made a pilgrimage to America in Fall, 2005, opening for Trembling Blue Stars at **Popfest! New England** as well as playing concerts in NYC and Boston.

Dýrðin will return to the United States for a Fall tour, including the CD release party at Popfest! New England on Saturday, October 7 and dates throughout the Northeast.

>>For a full description of Dýrðin's songs, access the file DýrðinSongs.pdf on the Skipping Stones website.

reviews:

"a little bit like 3 am Japanese karaoke" /Bart Cameron, "Reykjavik Grapevine"

"17 juni just captures some of the spirit and laughter music is so desperately missing these days." /Tom, indie-mp3.co.uk

"Dýrðin had it all: simplicity, energy, heart and precocious, precious honesty." /Sindri Eldon, Reykjavik Grapevine - Iceland Airwaves Live Review

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