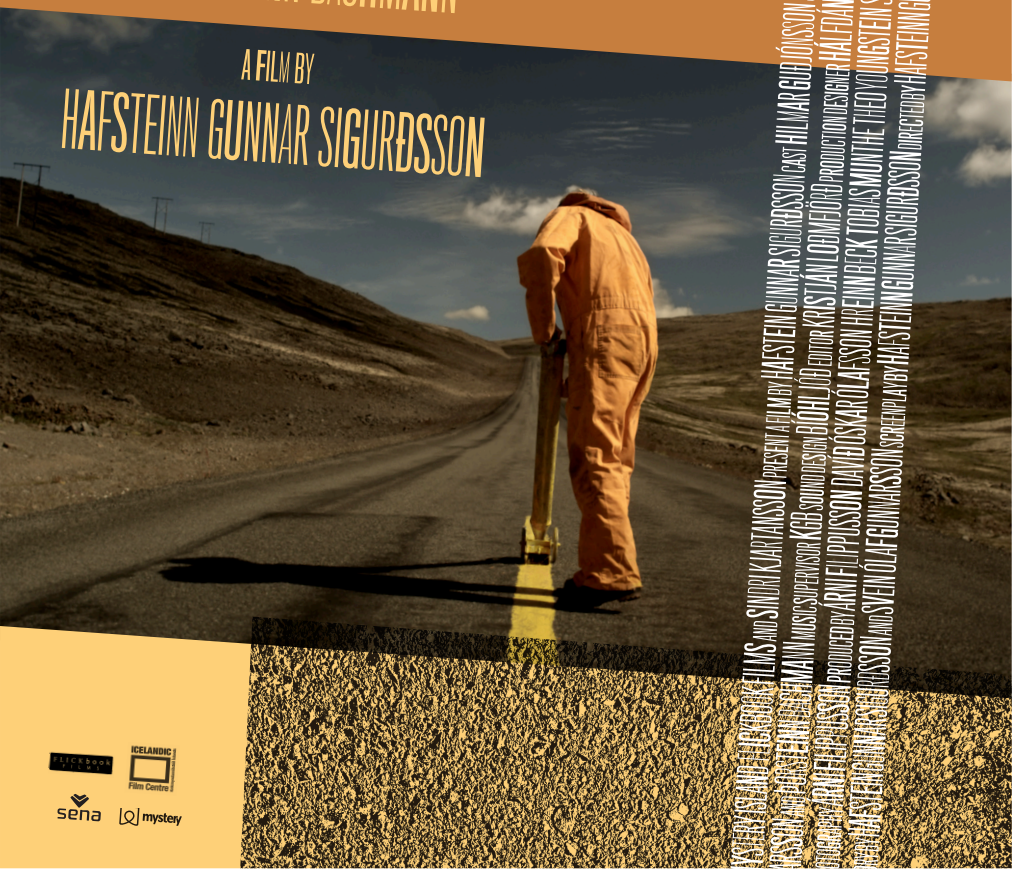


HILMAR GUÐJÓNSSON
SVEINN ÓLAFUR GUNNARSSON
AND ÞORSTEINN BACHMANN

A FILM BY
HAFSTEINN GUNNAR SIGURÐSSON

EITHER WAY



ICELANDIC
Film Centre
sena | mystery

PRESENTED BY HAFSTEINN GUNNAR SIGURÐSSON CAST HILMAR GUÐJÓNSSON SVEINN ÓLAFUR GUNNARSSON
SCREENPLAY BY HAFSTEINN GUNNAR SIGURÐSSON DIRECTED BY HAFSTEINN GUNNAR SIGURÐSSON
EDITED BY ÞORSTEINN BACHMANN MUSIC SUPERVISOR KGB SOUND DESIGNER HILMAR GUÐJÓNSSON
PRODUCTION DESIGNER HILMAR GUÐJÓNSSON PRODUCED BY ARNAR GUÐJÓNSSON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ARNAR GUÐJÓNSSON AND SVEINN ÓLAFUR GUNNARSSON

Á annan veg (*Either Way*)

"The future of Icelandic cinema is safe in the hands of Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurðsson" ★★★★★ - Morgunbladid (Iceland)

"Hafsteinn Gunnar shows incredible maturity with his debut film."
★★★★ - Frettabladid (Iceland)

A film by
Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurðsson



Synopsis: *Á annan veg* [*Either Way*] is a subtle and playful dramatic comedy. In the remote north of Iceland, in the mid 1980s, two employees of the Icelandic Road Administration, Finnbogi and Alfred, spend the summer painting lines on the winding roads that stretch out to the horizon. With no-one but each other for company, the barren wilderness becomes a place of adventure, disaster and discovery as both men reach difficult crossroads in their lives.

Logline: When Finnbogi takes his girlfriend's spoilt, young brother Alfred to work on Iceland's roads for the summer a reluctant friendship evolves as both men reach a crossroads in their lives.

Tagline: There are two sides to every road.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

My intention with *Either Way* was to create a subtle and humane character-driven comedy with dramatic undertones. As a filmmaker my interest is first and foremost in the relationships between people, the struggle for identity and the confrontation with universal hardships.

Given the conditions in which we shot the film (the humblest end of micro-budget) I imposed certain restrictions on myself in order to maintain focus on the relationship between two very different men as they find themselves, each in their own way, at complex crossroads. I decided to use a single location (a desolate road in the bleak Icelandic highlands), a minimal cast (two principals and two incidental characters) and a skeleton crew. This allowed us to work quickly and efficiently while maintaining high production values.

The barren landscape in which the action takes place functions as a third principal character in the film and expresses both isolation and change, as well as depicting man's vulnerability to nature. The road itself needs annual improvement and repair and comes to represent the struggle to create lasting meaning.



The period quality of the film encouraged aesthetic unity and there is something both touchingly naïve and comical about the musical and fashion trends of 1980s Iceland – a time when Iceland was just beginning to emerge, blinking, into modernity.

As far as the shooting style itself is concerned, it wanted to employ techniques that would support the story without drawing too much attention to themselves. I went for long takes, wide frames and moving shots and tried to avoid the rough hand-held style employed in so many low/micro-budget films. The priority was always to allow the actors' performances to carry the story and to provide an elegant framework in which to allow this to happen as truthfully as possible.

Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurðsson

DIRECTOR'S BIOG

Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurdsson was born in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1978. An avid skateboarder, his film work began with a number of skate videos in Iceland in the early 90s. He's worked with film and video ever since.

After receiving a BA in Comparative Literature from the University of Iceland, Hafsteinn went to New York and studied directing and screenwriting at the prestigious film program at Columbia University's School of the Arts. At Columbia he was the recipient of many scholarships and awards. He completed his MFA in the spring of 2008. His thesis film *Rattlesnakes* won the top three awards at the Columbia University Film Festival that year and was subsequently shown at many festivals where it won several awards. Festivals include: Tribeca, Oberhausen, Aspen, Rencontres Henri Langlois Poitiers, Nordisk Panorama, Palm Springs, Alcine (1st prize), Cinequest, Uppsala.

Hafsteinn teaches screenwriting and directing at the Icelandic Film School and at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik. *Either Way* is his first feature film.



GENERAL INFO

Original title: Á annan veg

English title: Either Way

Genre: Dramatic Comedy

Language: Icelandic

Director: Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurdsson

Scriptwriter: Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurdsson

Main cast: Sveinn Ólafur Gunnarsson, Hilmar Gudjónsson, Thorsteinn Bachmann

Editor: Kristján Lomðfjörð

Cinematographer: Árni Filippusson

Sound design: Huldar Freyr Arnarson

Producer(s): Davíð Óskar Ólafsson, Árni Filippusson, Hreinn Beck, Tobias Munthe, Theo Youngstein, Sindri Kjartansson

Co-producer(s): Thorvardur Björgúlfsson

Production companies: Mystery Island (IS), Flickbook Films (UK)

Co-production company: Kukl

Country: Iceland

Sound: 5.1

Length: 80 mins

Screeningformat: DCP

Production format: RED



FESTIVALS TO DATE (Sept. 2011)

- **San Sebastian International Film Festival 2011** (where the film is competing for the *Kutxa* New Director's Award)
- **Torino Film Festival**
- **Nordic Film Days Lübeck**
- **Leeds International Film Festival**

CONTACT INFO

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