

Gaflaraleikhusid Theatre

The Gaflaraleikhusid theatre was started in 2010 by a group of professional theatre makers with the ambition of creating the best theatre in Iceland for young audiences. That ambition is well under way and the theatre has produced incredibly popular and critically acclaimed original plays for young audiences in the past 10 years. The theatre is now known by both the arts and culture authorities and the public as **The Youth Theatre** in Iceland.

The theatre repertoire is impressive. In 2011 it produced a new play for the whole family based on the tall tales of Baron Munchausen called The Adventures of Baron Munchausen. This perfect family venture got great reviews and the audience flocked to the theatre. In 2013 the theatre produced a blockbuster when two of the most promising young playwrights in the country, Arnor Bjornsson and Oli Gunnar Gunnarsson (who were then 14 and 15 year old) and director Bjork Jakobsdottir collaborated on a play called the Teenager. This funny and satirical play about teenagers was an instant hit and ran in the theatre for two years and travelled to Norway, Poland and China.

Bjork, Arnor and Oli Gunnar continued their collaboration with two other plays, The Rise of Stefan in 2016 and in one of our most successful productions My First.. that opened in 2018 to fantastic reviews and full house performances. Bjork also directed Womenchildren and Brain, Heart and Dick, written by young adults, in 2017.

The theatre continued to please the whole family with the popular Baking Oven in 2015 and the Shadow of Sven in 2018 and the youngest ones were delighted with the beautiful Scottish children play White in 2017.

The latest production of the theatre is My Bonkers Mum, based on a book by one of Iceland's most popular children authors Gunnar Helgason, who is also an actor and director and one of the Gaflaraleikhusid theatre founders. The play directed by Bjork Jakobsdottir opened in October 2019 with excellent reviews and sold out shows. Even though the show had to close down in March 2020 because of Covid, appearing briefly in September 2020 and in January 2021, the theatre managed to have 75 performances over the Covid period when most of the theatre world was closed down.

The Gaflaraleikhusid Theatre productions have received numerous awards and nominations from the Icelandic Theatre awards and the Icelandic Children Awards most notably The shadow of Sven as best Children Play in the Icelandic Theatre awards in 2018 and My First.. and My Bonkers Mum as best plays in the Icelandic Children Awards in 2019 and 2020.

The Gaflaraleikhusid theatre has a small black box venue in small scenic Hafnarfjordur in the outskirts of Reykjavik. It is supported by the local city council and the Ministry of Culture. The theatre has over the years participated in several European partnership programs, most recently in Poland and Finland.

For the first time the Gaflaraleikhusid Theatre team is venturing into new adventures by producing one of its most successful productions in Iceland My First.. into English and venturing into new territory like our Viking Ancestors. But we will not bring havoc and violence to London and Edinburgh but My First.. with laughter and joy .

