

# Strigaskór nr.42

## Armadillo

Armadillo is a new record from the Icelandic band, Strigaskór nr. 42. The band was, along with a few other bands, at the forefront of the vibrant Death Metal scene in Iceland in the early nineties. Armadillo is the bands' first release in nearly twenty years as it went into hibernation in 1995. A year earlier, Strigaskór nr. 42 had released the critically acclaimed album, Blót. That record is today considered one of the greatest albums in Icelandic metal history, or Icelandic music history as a whole, for that matter. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pc8qwLioEbQ>

Armadillo differs quite a lot from Blót, but still the uniqueness that has always been associated with the band, remains. The album was released in late October 2013 and it has gotten favorable reviews and appeared on most shortlists for the best releases of the year in Iceland.

(<http://www.nocleansinging.com/2013/12/12/a-year-end-list-from-solstafirs-gudmundur-oli-palmason/>, <http://kraumur.is/> .)

The band appeared at the Iceland Airwaves Festival in November 2013 and will do so again in 2014. Last summer Strigaskór nr. 42 also did a show at the legendary Metal festival Eistnaflug in Iceland. <http://www.nocleansinging.com/2014/08/25/an-eistnaflug-report-part-1/>

Armadillo was only released in digital format to begin with but recently the band inked a deal with Hellthrasher and a CD version of the album will be coming shortly. <http://www.hellthrasher.com/label/>

## Excerpts from recent reviews:

**David Fricke, Rolling Stone:** "...a metal animal with big-band weight. The brass section air drones across chunky, martial riffing, and the drummer – muscular, shirtless, keeping iron time – made me think of Tommy Ramone's beats, hit with Lars Ulrich emphasis." <http://www.rollingstone.com/music/blogs/alternate-take/searching-for-the-next-big-local-thing-at-iceland-airwaves-20131107#ixzz2nHix3kuP>

**Eirik Sördal, Sky Magazine:** "Before long, it becomes quite clear that it is impossible to pigeonhole the music of this band. The only option is to compare them to ever changing artists like Frank Zappa, John Zorn and Mike Patton." [http://heimur.is/heimur/upload/files/sky/sky\\_5.tbl\\_2013\\_web.pdf](http://heimur.is/heimur/upload/files/sky/sky_5.tbl_2013_web.pdf)

**Reykjavik Grapevine:** "Everything is done in measured steps, with simple vocals giving way to a rich sound from two guitarists, a bass player, two trumpets, a trombone, the occasional keys, and a drummer who played confidently without breaking a sweat."

**No Clean Singing:** "The music bounces, it hammers, it swirls, somersaults, and dances. Armadillo is an exuberant burst of creativity, and it often sounds like the inmates are in charge of the asylum. I don't have much with which to compare it, but I've been fascinated by it."

<http://www.nocleansinging.com/2014/05/10/off-the-beaten-path-planning-for-burial-king-dude-strigaskor-nr-42/>

**Psychozine, Poland:**

<http://www.psychozine.eu/modules.php?name=Reviews&rop=showcontent&id=3232>

## BIO:

The band Strigaskór nr. 42 was formed in a garage in Kópavogur, Iceland nearly 20 years ago, when the members were about fourteen years old, hence the silly name (translated the name would be Sneakers #42). Originally the band played Thrash or Speed Metal but evolved into a fully fledged Death Metal band after a year or so and stuck with that for a while. At that time in Iceland, Death Metal was quite popular and countless bands sporting weird evil sounding latin names lifted from medical textbooks emerged. Despite the silly, "benevolent" name, Strigaskór built a name for themselves and quickly became one of the top acts on that scene. The band appeared on a split CD in 1993 with In Memoriam and Sororicide but shortly afterwards the Death Metal scene began to fizzle out with bands either quitting or evolving their sound.

Strigaskór chose the latter option and in 1994 the bands first full length album, Blót, was released to critical acclaim. Since then the album, unavailable for several years, has become somewhat of a cult thing among music lovers in Iceland. The band however continued to evolve and change and the next project was the musical score in a play in 1995. The play was Baal, written by Berthold Brecht and the music was vastly different to the layered, complex ten minute long epics of Blót. The Baal stuff was short, energetic and raw but nonetheless it's clearly the same band. Mix a couple of the songs from that play with newer material, and you have Armadillo.