

3 weeks ago

[Film] Last Shop Standing

# LAST SHOP STANDING

The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of the Independent Record Shop



[\[http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-mdHdkROqpFE/UXa\\_XTwRDQI/AAAAAAAAACnA/0CM8MCBeL94/s1600/Screen-shot-2012-11-15-at-16.16.50.png\]](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-mdHdkROqpFE/UXa_XTwRDQI/AAAAAAAAACnA/0CM8MCBeL94/s1600/Screen-shot-2012-11-15-at-16.16.50.png)

Last Thursday **Bío Paradís** [\[http://bioparadis.is/\]](http://bioparadis.is/) hosted a screening event for the short documentary about record shops in the UK called *Last Shop Standing*. The event was sponsored by Pilsner Urquell and thus, one beer came with a purchase of a ticket. If that didn't get you in the mood to watch some quirky Brits talk about their passion for music and record collecting, then the mellow grooves of the DJ in the lobby surely would. A fair number of people were there (though certainly not a packed crowd) shuffling about in conversation and looking through the couple bins of records brought over by the reputable **Lucky Records** [\[https://www.facebook.com/pages/LUCKY-RECORDS/138841457479\]](https://www.facebook.com/pages/LUCKY-RECORDS/138841457479). It would've been nice to see a few more people and a few more records, so here's hoping **Bío Paradís** can host more events like this and pull an even larger crowd.



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[Last\\_Shop\\_Standing\\_resized.jpg](#)

Three quarters through my beer and it was time to start herding myself towards the main event. A few years ago a record store rep/collecting aficionado, **Graham Jones** asked, “whatever happened to record shops?” in his book “Last Shop Standing.” This film is a follow-up to those shops he visited when writing the book and we get to see a colorful cast of store owners, patrons, and musicians speak about how some shops have managed to stay afloat through hard times, what changes they have seen in the business, and what they see for the future. Folks like **Billy Bragg**, **Nerina Pallot**, and **Paul Weller** of mod group The Jam reflect on their past and how record shops shaped their lives.



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It's all very romantic and makes it hard to understand why people wouldn't want to take time out of their week to visit the record store down the road. But like anything worth doing, it takes effort, time, and in the case of collecting, an indeterminate amount of “disposable” income. I can download 20 albums from bands old and new in one evening from the comfort of my living room. But on my birthday when I'm drinking beers with a bunch of long-haired friends, do I want to huddle in the corner over my iPod or collectively sift through a shelf of records and collaborate on a soundtrack for the evening? Sure, with an mp3 or even a CD, you still get the music you love, but as **Johnny Marr** says in the film, “You can't really love a CD.”



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[C0yKvAgmaC0/UXbAGsJuuVI/AAAAAAAAACnY/mXOkvDjAYRI/s1600/Graham-Jones-640x360.jpg](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-C0yKvAgmaC0/UXbAGsJuuVI/AAAAAAAAACnY/mXOkvDjAYRI/s1600/Graham-Jones-640x360.jpg)]

The film flew by with its chopped up interviews, quick cuts, and cool soundtrack. By the end of the film I felt hopeful for record shops as a whole and optimistic that the ones remaining can weather the storm of technological advancement. Screening a documentary about the life of independent record shops and their struggle to survive was a poignant move by **Bió Paradís**. Many of the stores that have survived have taken to hosting special events and setting up shows inside their shops in order to draw people in- exactly the type of thing **Bió Paradís** is doing. With more collaborative, multi-media events like this I see a bright future for both the theater and the record stores of Reykjavík.

- Tif S





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[\[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-ksOsje7nJ\\_M/UXbR1ZiUb8I/AAAAAAAAACns/2q5uZDf3wng/s1600/last+shap+standing+DJ.jpg\]](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-ksOsje7nJ_M/UXbR1ZiUb8I/AAAAAAAAACns/2q5uZDf3wng/s1600/last+shap+standing+DJ.jpg)

*Last Shop Standing* was screened in Reykjavík's Bíó Paradís. Find their program [here \[http://bioparadis.is/\]](http://bioparadis.is/) and follow the goings on [facebook \[http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bio-Paradis/142961965740393?v=wall\]](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bio-Paradis/142961965740393?v=wall) . Pictures by Tif S.

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