

= Paul Oscar =

Páll Óskar Hjálmtýsson (born 16 March 1970) , known internationally as Páll Óskar and Paul Oscar , is an Icelandic pop singer , songwriter and disc jockey . He had a musical childhood , singing at private functions , with choirs and for media advertisements , but was affected by bullying in school and tension between his parents at home . He came out as gay to his family at the age of 16 years .

Paul Oscar 's musical range spans traditional Icelandic songs , ballads , love songs , disco , house and techno . He released his first album , *Stuð* (Groove) , in 1993 while in New York City , and also sang with Icelandic groups *Milljónamæringarnir* (The Millionaires) and *Casino* while establishing a career as a solo artiste . His album of ballads , *Palli* , was the best @-@ selling Icelandic album of 1995 . Paul Oscar came to international attention when he performed " Minn hinsti dans " (" My Final Dance ") , Iceland 's entry for the Eurovision Song Contest 1997 . His most recent album is *Silfursafnið* (The Silver Collection , 2008) . In Reykjavík , Paul Oscar performs regularly as a disc jockey in clubs and appears on radio and TV shows .

= = Early life = =

The youngest of seven children of Hjálmtýr E. Hjálmtýsson , a bank clerk , and Margrét Matthíasdóttir , a writer , Paul Oscar was born on 16 March 1970 in Reykjavík . As a child he displayed artistic talent in drawing , writing fairy tales and singing ? his mother had him sing for the women in her sewing club and at family birthday parties . He also spent much time singing in choirs and in media commercials , and recorded his first album at the age of seven . His first leading role in a professional theatre production was at 12 years of age in the musical version of *Rubber Tarzan* , a popular Danish children 's novel by Ole Lund Kirkegaard (1940 ? 1979) . His voice broke two weeks after the musical 's last performance , and he did not sing for the next few years .

Although Paul Oscar 's family encouraged his musical talent , his parents did not get along with each other , and he was bullied by his schoolmates . Paul Oscar recalled : " My nickname was Little Palli , and Palli was chubby , nerdy , someone who never got jokes right , who was afraid of other men . " At age 13 , he realized that he found men attractive , and came out to his family at 16 . " For the first day , there was nice talk of acceptance , though my father did raise his voice . On the second day , and the third , and the fourth , there was this terrible silence . They treated me like an alien . " However , his mother was supportive . She said : " If Páll has the talent to fall in love , he should nurture that talent . And he has as much a right to sit down at my table with his partner as anybody else does with their partner . "

Paul Oscar rediscovered his voice at the age of 18 , singing bass with the *Hamrahlíð* college choir for two years . In 1990 he won a talent contest for his college ; later that year at the time of his graduation , he played Frank @-@ N @-@ Furter to great success in the college 's production of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* . Around the same time , he began appearing in drag shows at a notorious Reykjavík nightclub . After the club closed , he became a radio jockey on independent radio station FM 90 @,@ 9 . He also appeared in a film , *Svo á jörðu sem á himni* (As in Heaven , 1992) .

= = Professional career = =

In the summer of 1993 , Paul Oscar left Iceland for New York City , where he met fellow Icelanders Jóhann Jóhannsson and Sigurjón Kjartansson who were then on tour with heavy metal band *HAM* . Paul Oscar became their groupie , and about the same time released his first album , *Stuð* (Groove) . In October 1993 , Paul Oscar started singing with a band called *Milljónamæringarnir* (The Millionaires) , which released the albums *Milljón á mann* (A Million for Each , 1994) , *Allur pakinn* (The Whole Lot , 1999) and *Þetta er nú meiri vitleysan* (This is Completely Foolish , 2001) .

The year 1995 saw Paul Oscar make his début as a solo artiste . In that year he formed his own recording company , Paul Oscar Productions (P.O.P.) and released an album of ballads entitled

Palli which he personally arranged , performed and produced . It was the best @-@ selling Icelandic album of 1995 . This was followed by his album Seif in 1996 .

Paul Oscar was Iceland 's entrant in the annual Eurovision Song Contest in 1997 . He performed the song " Minn hinsti dans " (" My Final Dance ") , which he co @-@ wrote , backed by four women dressed in latex playing suggestively on a sofa behind him . Although the song only reached 20th place in a field of 25 , the daring presentation attracted wide attention , especially amongst gay audiences , and made him known internationally . In 1998 he was invited to appear in A Song for Eurotrash , a one @-@ off special of the British Channel 4 TV series Eurotrash that was based on the Eurovision Song Contest . He also presented a musical feature Popp í Reykjavík (Pop in Reykjavík) .

Paul Oscar worked with easy @-@ listening group Casino on their album Stereo (1998) . He followed this with three albums : the English @-@ language album Deep Inside (1999) ; and two collaborations with harpist Monika Abendroth , Ef ég sofna ekki (If I Won 't Sleep Tonight , 2001) and Ljósinn heima (The Lights at Home , 2003) (his sister Sigrún Hjálmtýsdóttir (Diddú) also appeared on the latter album) . His musical range spans traditional Icelandic songs , ballads , love songs in the style of Burt Bacharach , disco , house and techno .

At home in Reykjavík , Paul Oscar performs regularly as a disc jockey in clubs and appears on radio and TV shows . He was a judge in the third season of Idol stjörnuleit (Idol Starsearch , 2005) , Iceland 's version of the UK reality TV series Pop Idol ; and in The X Factor (2006) , also modelled on the UK 's The X Factor . In 2002 he appeared as Dr. Love in the teenage movie Gemsar (Made in Iceland) .

He has a reputation for being brash , even rude , when it comes to discussing gay concerns , especially gay sex . Matthías Matthíasson , Director of Samtökin ' 78 , Iceland 's gay and lesbian rights group , has commented : " He says things I could never say . But he is an exquisite addition to the gay voice in Iceland . " As a gay activist , Paul Oscar helped to organize a Gay Pride Festival in Reykjavík in 2005 .

Paul Oscar has said he realizes that " as a working place Iceland will be too small for me . Actually , it already is . But I am an Icelander . I will always keep a home here . My roots are so valuable to me . I wouldn 't change them for a sack of gold . "

= = Personal life = =

Regarding his personal life , Paul Oscar has said : " I have a lot of work still to do . I have had three relationships that , from the outside , looked picture perfect , I suppose . But they were actually quite rotten and false , abusive to me . What I am doing now is learning to fall in love with myself . "

Paul Oscar 's father Hjálmtýr E. Hjálmtýsson (5 July 1933 ? 12 September 2002) , with whom he had a difficult relationship , had roles in the Icelandic comedies Með allt á hreinu (On Top , 1982) , Löggulíf (A Policeman 's Life , 1985) , and Karlakórinn Hekla (The Men 's Choir , 1992) . His older sister , Sigrún Hjálmtýsdóttir (Diddú) , is an opera singer .

= = Selected discography = =

= = = Albums = = =

Stuð (Groove , 1993)

Palli (1995)

Seif (1996)

Deep Inside (1999)

Ef ég sofna ekki (If I Won 't Sleep Tonight , 2001) (in collaboration with harpist Monika Abendroth)

Ljósinn heima (The Lights at Home , 2003) (with Monika Abendroth and Sigrún Hjálmtýsdóttir (Diddú))

Allt fyrir ástina (All in the Name of Love , 2007)

Silfursafnið (The Silver Collection , 2008)

Páll Óskar - Box (6 plötur fyrir 1) (compilation , six albums in one , 2014)

= = = Singles = = =

" Minn hinsti dans " (My Final Dance , 1997) (Iceland 's Eurovision Song Contest 1997 entry) [1]

" Allt fyrir ástina " (All in the Name of Love , 2007)

" International " (2007)

" Betra Lif " (2007)

" Er þetta ást ? " (2008)

" Þú komst við hjartað í mér " (2008)

" Sama hvar þú ert " (2008)

" La Dolce Vita " (2011)

" Ég er eins og ég er " (2011)

" Ást sem endist " (2015)