

SPELLOUT SEATTLE

living fast and keeping it under \$25

« I'd rather be at a Chinese restaurant in your city "I love you" and "too much" »

Avant rockers Oneida ride into the Sunset



PHOTO BY LISA CORSON

Open your minds, friends, scare up a ten-spot ([\\$8 advance](#)) and head to Ballard's Sunset Tavern on Thursday, August 19 at 9 p.m. for the unique stylings of East Coast quintet [Oneida](#). Kinski and The Lights share a bill with the group with a loyal following in Europe and a vision somewhere in the 24th century. A few of Oneida's efforts are what you'd think of as songs, but much of their work is soundscapes that invite your mind to wander. Their 2005 album, "The Wedding," makes my mind flash variously on "The Wicker Man," "Fitzcarraldo" and the more far-out stretches of my avant-garde film seminar in college; I hear an endlessly repeated hook that reminds me of nothing less than "Don't Rush Me" by Taylor Dane (though the band would probably be appalled to learn as much). But that's just me, drawing from my mental collection. What these guys are doing is so sophisticated on a structural level that to read their map, you need to find your own markers. Last year's triple-CD "Rated O" is by turns chanty, tribal, rocking and the long-lost spawn of David Bowie's "Low." It's unusual in Western music to have absolutely no idea where a song is going—and rarer still to be pulled in by it, and to go gladly. Listening to Oneida is a bit like listening to Zappa: afterwards you're not sure what just happened, but you know you liked it. And you know that not a single note of it was an accident. — *Sheri Quirt*



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