

**Liars**  
**art-rock for the**  
**festival crowd.**  
**honest!**  
**By Devin Friesen**

Consistently looking forward, Liars have proven themselves to be one of the most interesting bands of the last decade. Relocating about as often as they release albums (previous outings found band members situated in New York, Berlin, and Los Angeles), Liars have maintained a high standard of artistic experimentation in their music.

Liars began their career as one of the more creative bands in the early 2000's post-punk revival, but quickly eschewed dance rhythms in favour of dense, eerie sound textures and rhythmic experimentation. Their 2004 effort, *They Were Wrong, So We Drowned*, remains one of the most difficult albums of the past decade, with very little along the lines of noticeable influences (aside from *This Heat*) with which to draw reference. Liars' experimentalism was eventually garnered with critical acclaim in 2006, with the percussion-heavy *Drums Not Dead*. Engrossed in electro-acoustic percussion experiments, Liars' use of heavily modified drum sounds (often using pitch shifters and assorted reverb) created an artistic statement that has yet to be matched since. Liars' 2007 self-titled album drew their experimentation back a bit, managing to merge their previous years of uncompromising artistic rock with a pop sensibility — call it "arena art rock," but without the negative connotations that come along with the arena.

Liars' live show can be as varied as their discography. Their set list at this year's Coachella festival contained excursions into their atmospheric *Drums Not Dead* material, blistering rock songs from their self-titled album, and even — for the first time in years — a few cuts from their 2001 dance-punk debut, *They Threw Us All in a Trench and Stuck a Monument on Top*. Throw in a few new songs, and you've got what might be the most exciting (or at least, most interesting) band of this year's Sled Island festival.

Liars will play Olympic Plaza on June 26 and Dickens on June 27.