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and the bands played on...

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Edison Woods' Julia Frodahl

EDISON WOODS

Julia Frodahl - director, pianist and lead vocalist of Edison Woods - sips bourbon neat, in between songs at New York's infamous Joe's Pub. She is physically small, thin with a graceful, dancer-like frame, yet she has an enormous presence, evoking feelings of mystery and child-like curiosity in her magnetically melancholic lyrics and deeply spiritual stage performance. It's hard not to be attracted to her, no matter your gender or sexual preference.

The sound of Edison Woods is intricately yet accessibly layered - and very personal. One layer haunts you, one consoles you and one intrigues you. The sound, a *mélange* of eerie tones mixed with upbeat percussion and whimsical strings may sound reminiscent of the somber music of Elysian Fields or the neo-classical feel of Rachel's. However, their music becomes so much more complicated. Imagine being in a room with your father, your lover, and your worst enemy and somehow coexisting peacefully together.

Enhanced by lighting and costume, Edison Woods goes beyond the call of a music performance. In fact, they offer what would be considered performance art. The on-stage interaction between the eight-piece ensemble, which includes drums, violin, bass, cello, guitar, piano and baritone sax, is beautifully choreographed. The band members, all from very diverse musical backgrounds, unite in an attraction to surreal neo-traditional sounds and dramatic on-stage presence. The group has released two albums: *Seven Principles of Leave No Trace* (2003) and their self-titled debut album (2001). They expect to drop their third child, *Nest of Machines*, next month. Visit EdisonWoods.net. - Marina Cashdan