

THE NEW YORKER

BLENDER THEATRE AT GRAMERCY

127 E. 23rd St. (212-307-7171)—Oct. 9-11: The **Residents**, the iconic San Francisco-based art-and-music collective, have a compelling new song cycle and stage piece called “The Bunny Boy.” The core group, whose origins and identities remain shrouded in mystery, dates back to the late sixties or early seventies. They formed in California, where they developed a sui-generis style that mixed minimalist rock and performance-art theatrics (the members are known for wearing giant eyeball masks that preserve their anonymity). Like many of the Residents’ projects, “The Bunny Boy” has an elaborate backstory; in this case, it concerns a long-lost colleague known as Bunny, who mailed the group an S.O.S.-like DVD of primitive videos from the Greek island of Patmos. Unable to reach the missing Bunny, the group pays tribute to their friend by re-creating the videos and writing lonely songs about him. Like so much about the Residents, the degree of truth or fiction in the story is unknowable, but these pieces—their best in several years—are hypnotic, venturing into dreamy pop territory broken up by mesmerizing guitar solos and Krautrock-inspired electronica.