

# KNOCKOUT DROPS

## BIOGRAPHY

The origin of gritty alt-pop combo Knockout Drops can be traced to Huntington, NY, where **Chris Champion** (vocals), **Tom Licameli** (guitar), and **Phil Mastrangelo** (bass) first bonded over a shared love of influences, musical and otherwise. Moving their base of operations to New York City, the trio acquired drummer **Vinny Cimino** and began playing out at area clubs, building a large following with their off-kilter stage act. A self-released effort entitled **The Burning Bush Chronicles** caught the attention of producer Joe Blaney (the Clash, Soul Asylum). Blaney agreed to helm the Drops' next recording which turned out to be their 1997 EP **Nowadays**. It seemed like the band was on a roll until assorted music-industry headaches derailed their momentum for a few years.

Undaunted, the Knockout Drops returned with a vengeance in 2002, taking up residence at N.Y.C. dive Siberia, where they hashed out new material and presided over a coterie of night-owl musicians and artists. A year later the Knockout Drops turned this experience into their debut full-length, **Killed by the Lights**. During the years following, the band performed tirelessly throughout the US and Europe.

On the flight back from a UK tour, the Drops conceived their next project and in 2005 unveiled **Escape from Bellevue**. A rock'n'roll theatre show, EFB is a multimedia blitz of the senses comprised of autobiographical monologues, Drops music (a soundtrack was released in parallel), and video vignettes. The pioneering show was critically lauded and enjoyed a run of sold-out houses.

As a result of this success, the show evolved into a second sold-out run at NYC's legendary Village Theatre. This 2007 production was handled by Westbeth Entertainment (Eddie Izzard, Billy Connolly) and Obie Winning Director Alex Timbers. Champion subsequently scored a book deal with Penguin Publishing for "Escape from Bellevue: A Dive Bar Odyssey" which came out in 2009.

Recent years have the Drops working on various solo efforts and collaborations. Champion and Licameli are currently recording a new project under the highly clever moniker "Chris and Tom".

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*"Knockout Drops celebrate the CD release of Killed By The Lights, which shakes with roots rock and power pop finesse."* **NY POST**

*"Knockout Drops are an effusive power-pop band."* **LOS ANGELES TIMES**

*"Knockout Drops put on exhilarating live shows with psychedelic-pop songs and theatrically entertaining performances from frontman Chris Champion."* **GUITAR MAGAZINE**

[www.knockoutdrops.com](http://www.knockoutdrops.com)