



by Will Reisman

## **Killed by The Lights**

### **Knockout Drops**

It's fairly clear by the end of the first song on the Knockout Drops full-length debut album *Killed by the Lights* what direction their music is going in. After hearing *Killed by the Lights* one would swear they had just heard an exact rendition of the heavy, brooding, rock that bands such as Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers and the Who perfected in the 70s.

The trio of vocalist Christopher Campion, guitarist Tom Licameli, and bassist Phil Mastrangelo (drummer Vinny Cimino is now on tow, as well) are all well above average in what they do. **The band creates solid, if not spectacular music.** Campion's vocals contort from deep haunting lyrics to high-pitched Tom Petty-like shrills. His songwriting skills are compelling as witnessed by solid lyrical tracks such as "Bill's Gay 90s," a song about the alienation and stigma of being a homosexual, and the painful, mournful love angst song, "Wrong Side of Love." Licameli's guitar playing is above par, ranging from slow and bluesy on "Rage like the Sun," to fast and upbeat as highlighted in "Wasted." Mastrangelo does a solid job keeping the beat and tempo with his bass playing skills.

**The talent is clearly evident in the Knockout Drops, their songs are catchy, well produced and very polished. The door is open for them to easily succeed and standout.**