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KNOCKOUT DROPS' Debut Album, ***Killed By The Lights*** **In Stores Now**

June 17, 2003 (NEW YORK, NY) -- Circus Clone Records announces the “official” debut, full-length, release of *Killed By The Lights*, from one of New York’s most spirited rock ‘n roll bands, **Knockout Drops**. **The album is in-stores now. Circus Clone Records is distributed through Mayhem Records/ADA.** Knockout Drops have attracted a loyal following in New York City and beyond with their forceful on-stage performances and skillfully-crafted, narrative rock ‘n roll songs. It is this fan base that helps them sell out venues like Irving Plaza and Bowery Ballroom in New York.

Guitar Magazine wrote, “**The Knockout Drops put on exhilarating live shows with psychedelic-pop songs & theatrically entertaining performances from frontman Chris Champion.**” More than your average rock singer, Champion entertains and engages his audiences with animated tales and irreverent commentary in between songs.

Killed By The Lights is a **thirteen song collection** that exemplifies the diverse appeal of the Drops. Their debut represents a significant leap in the band’s writing, crafting their songs with rich sonic textures, without sacrificing any of the gritty, hard-hitting energy that characterizes their live sound.

As **lead singer** for the Drops, **Chris Champion’s** vocals are passionate, powerful and sobering. Champion is a natural story-teller who writes and sings about subject matter that is both riveting and relevant. **Tom Licameli’s original slant on guitar** is hook-filled and melodic, perfectly complimenting Champion’s lyrics of deft human surveillance. The rhythm section propelled by Phil Mastrangelo on bass and Vinny Cimino on drums, lays a rock solid foundation for these compositions.

Focus tracks on the album include “**Hellride,**” “**Wasted,**” “**Always Claire,**” and “**Wrong Side of Love**”; a clever lament exploring the emotional terrain of relationships, loss and regret. “**‘Wrong Side Of Love’ is a classic,**” said **Gordon Gano of the Violent Femmes.**

Sold out performances at NY venues led the Drops to secure coveted **opening slots with Soul Asylum, Semisonic, Pete Yorn, Violent Femmes, The Guinness Fleadh Festival and Jones Beach.** An east coast summer tour is in the works.

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