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In New York City This Week

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The Knockout Drops

Swaggering somewhere between Americana and the Roger McGuinn/early REM "plugged-in folk better rock" ideology, Chris Champion's **Knockout Drops** sound like they're reveling in some kickass rock 'n' roll. With songs like "Wasted" and "Wrong Side of Love" on their debut record *Killed by the Lights*, and Gordon Gano a champion of this band, it sounds like the Drops are dropping the bomb for real at their record release party tonight at **Knitting Factory**. 74 Leonard St. (betw. B'way & Church St.), 212-219-3006, 10:30, \$8.