



THE KILLERS Leaving Las Vegas

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One of the problems with The Killers DVD, *Leaving Las Vegas*, is that the packaging looks and feels like a new product from the band when the fine print on the cover says "an unauthorized documentary film packed with exclusive interviews". It's a pop music version of the rap/hip-hop world's Urban Spotlight DVD-Zine: *Us West Coast World Premiere* only focused on one band, not many, and playing like a PBS documentary of a modern day group and the music scene that launched them. Laurie Steele from KOMP 92.3 FM is hardly a household name, nor is "Homie" from XTreme Rock radio, but they talk over images of Vegas and discuss the Las Vegas local music scene at length as if they are a modern day Nina Blackwood and Dick Clark. Matt Norcross, former drummer for The Killers, gives his input as does Nicole Slider, owner of Shoestring Promotions, not the marquee type luminaries found on similar projects like the excellent Leonard Cohen: *Under Review 1934-1977* which actually has solid information from key personalities involved in Cohen's career. Enlisting Alex Stope, a student and friend of drummer Ronnie Vannucci is hardly as difficult as asking Celine Dion a few questions about her competitors playing in the local dives off of the strip. Obviously Celine wasn't available to chat so Bronson Mack, vocalist of the group Attaboy Skip and - you guessed it - a friend of Ronnie Vannucci, gives his pearls of wisdom on this expensive disc. To list price this documentary on the Vegas scene and The Killers at 19.95 when the Urban Spotlight DVD zine has more than twice the footage at half the price is quite telling. This one is thin on substance, much like the double disc U2 DVD *Collectors Box Unauthorized*. Now that you've got the "caveat emptor" warning, "let the buyer beware", that a friend and former teacher of Ronnie Vanucci, Tim Jones, is one of the experts you are paying twenty bucks to listen to (as if Vanucci is Ringo Starr or Charlie Watts...), see if you can borrow this from a library if you simply have to have all things remotely related to The Killers. Mark Hornsby, marketing manager of the Rainbow Bar & Grill, is certainly photogenic enough but, inevitably, hearing a bunch of people talk about a band instead of getting a sixty minute interview with the group itself is not very satisfying or informative. If this were given away as a free promotion for the group it would still miss the mark, so putting it out to retail at a high ticket truly makes one wonder. Includes a Killers discography which you might be able to find in any search engine on the web.

- Joe Viglione