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The Killers: Leaving Las Vegas

reviewed by *Si Wooldridge*

A documentary on the Las Vegas band The Killers, featuring interviews with band and those close to them, performance footage and rare photographs.

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Introduction

The Killers are quite possibly one of the biggest bands in the world at this point in time. Hailing from Las Vegas, the band comprising of Brandon Flowers (vocals, synths), Dave Keuning (guitar), Mark Stoermer (bass) and Ronnie Vannucci (drums, percussion) couldn't initially break through the limited music scene in their native city and so decamped to the UK.

Breaking through in 2004 with singles Somebody Told Me, Mr Brightside and All The Thing's We've Done, The Killers gained widespread critical acclaim with their debut album Hot Fuss. Dubbed 'the best British Band to have come out of America', The Killers mix of new wave music with a modern sensibility has garnered them many fans across the UK and Europe. Influences include U2, The Smiths, The Cure, David Bowie and The Pet [Shop](#) Boys.

The second album Sam's Town cemented their reputation as a quality band despite an initial mixed response to this album's slight change in direction and unabashed love of Americana. Personally it was my favourite album of 2006, but that's just me.

The Killers, and Brandon Flowers in particular, are not averse to a bit of controversy either. As well as Flowers having public spats with The Bravery and Fall Out Boy, a spot at Live 8 was almost denied the band by promoter Harvey Goldsmith who was worried about too many bands playing at the event and that The Killers weren't well known enough to deserve being on the bill. Geldof, for all his faults, was adamant that they should appear and Goldsmith eventually compromised and decided they could appear but only perform one song. Whilst Mr Brightside and Somebody Told Me were probably crowd favourites, the band pulled out all the stops with a storming version of All The Things I've Done.

This documentary looks mainly at their early career and interviews people from their home city, whether musically or academically connected to the band. It's an unauthorised DVD so there is no music by the band appearing here although there is plenty of still and performance clips of the band (which is a little odd).

Video/Visuals

Mix of colour and black & white shots, the colour shots are mostly framed with a blur around the edges which makes it look a bit more interesting.

Audio/Soundtrack

Dolby Digital 2.0 soundtrack, but no subtitles.

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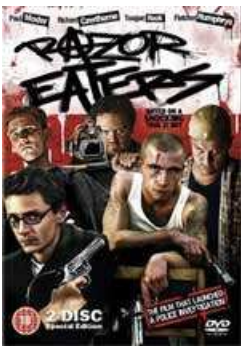


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