

# McKeesport Daily News

## **“THE KILLERS: LEAVING LAS VEGAS” (Pride/ MVD Visual) ...**

— The Killers weren't really an overnight sensation when they burst onto the popular music scene in 2004, but it sure seemed that way. On the strength of undeniably catchy singles as “Somebody Told Me” and “Mr. Brightside,” the Las Vegas quartet went from struggling to make ends meet to playing soldout shows in front of tens of thousands of people. Along the way, frontman Brandon Flowers, guitarist David Kuening, bassist Mark Stoermer and drummer Ronnie Vannucci helped usher in the neo-new wave revival that has flourished in recent years. Despite no input from the Killers themselves — and the cardinal sin of not securing the rights to use any of the band's music — “The Killers: Leaving Las Vegas” is surprisingly thorough and enjoyable as it traces the history of Sin City's most famous musical export. Featuring extended interviews with friends, industry professionals and fellow musicians (plus a handful of interview clips with the Killers gleaned from other sources), we learn how Flowers and Kuening set about breaking free from the middling Las Vegas music scene with a sound that flew in the face of the nu-metal and pop-punk flavors of the week. While waiting for their big break, the Killers built a solid local following and attracted the interest of Island Records. In what proved to be a brilliant strategical move, the Killers were sent to England to record their debut album and hone their playing chops. The result, the outstanding “Hot Fuss,” wound up becoming one of the best-selling albums of 2004. In a humorous twist, many thought (and more than a few probably still think) that the Killers hail from Great Britain. The documentary touches on the “Hot Fuss” phenomenon and continues through last year's recording and release of their woefully underrated “Sam's Town.” Extras include an interactive Killers quiz and a digital discography. ( JS )