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AS TALL AS LIONS

HQ: Long Island, NY

CHECK OUT: As Tall As Lions

(TRIPLE CROWN/EAST WEST; triplecrownrecords.com)

ROCKS LIKE: Broken Social Scene, Doves, Muse

THEY MAY CALL LONG ISLAND HOME, but don't lump As Tall As Lions—vocalist/guitarist Daniel Nigro, guitarist Saen Fitzgerald, bassist Julio Tavarez and drummer Cliff Sarcona—in with Taking Back Sunday and Brand New. “Being a band from Long Island in high school and early college, we were playing shows with bands that were similar to those,” explains Nigro, “so we were put into the whole ‘emo-band’ scene. But it was never something we were really interested in.” As Tall As Lions instead craft dreamy, ambient indie-rock built upon layers of subtle grooves and unique instrumentation, seasoned with Fitzgerald’s ruminative lyrics displaying a polarized relationship with love itself, topped with Nigro’s soaring Jeff Buckley-esque vocals. The prevalent, ethereal harmonies are particularly heady, though not nearly as astounding as the ever-growing success of the album itself. “I think that too much too soon for any band is a bad thing, ‘cause you don’t learn to appreciate anything,” Nigro muses. “It’s not like As Tall As Lions is a ‘cool’ band, or the new ‘thing.’ It’s more organic; a natural progression. I’d like to believe that people are listening for the right reasons.” **[JS]**