

# 95bFM Private Function

"The dance area has just opened," announces bFM's Simon Coffey, as Marty Sauce prepares to strike up with the Source. Witness the mass exodus from the house of 'rock.' Across the floor in the other room, Drum Talk, a seven strong percussion outfit, were laying down some spectacular beats. With each member sporting a conga drum strapped around them, the group were free to move around the room, all the while playing in unison at varied speeds. They came together in the centre of the room for a final five minute workout of intricate tribal-sounding rhythms, and it was fantastic. Drum Talk were streets ahead as the musical highlight of the Function.



## DRUM 'N' DRUM 'N' BASS

Drum Talk are Jimmi Dale, Frances Chan, Chris Fung, Adrian Croucher and Andrea Holmes. From diverse musical backgrounds, (Dale's a drum and dance teacher, Chan's a dj and percussionist, Wellington born Fung spent years playing in the US with African American, Haitian and African groups, Croucher is a percussionist with From Scratch and Holmes is a drummer and clarinet player with Alalfameo) the group got together to explore and develop their love of African rhythms. They've played at WOMAD, at gigs around Auckland (most recently at a standing-room-only Luna) and at festivals, parties and private functions. None of the band members are African, and they make it clear they aren't trying to be. "We're not competing with the real Mccoy" says Dale. "We approach the music with respect, and we try to learn about it and have fun with it, and share it with others". The Drum Pit, on every Thursday during May at Papa Jacks is an event put together by Drum Talk to widen the appeal of the music, and to experiment with contemporary sounds. "Drumming has always been a community minded thing" says Dale. "I started teaching in Knox Community Centre, we've done workshops at Grey Lynn Community Centre...the idea of the Drum Pit is that people bring along their own drums, or use ours, and jam with the band..." The group's playing with drum n' bass man dj Blue, and djs Demon and Isolde. The combination should be a winner. "We want people to be blown away" says Chan, "drumming is the first form of music, the heartbeat of music...taking the drums into the city and mixing them with a dj will be something quite different for most people, hopefully something special".

••• *The Drum Pit: every Thursday during May at Papa Jacks, Vulcan Lane. Bring a drum, and a pocketful of rhythm.*

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