



**CLUBBED
to DEATH**

528-1475

The drum 'n' bass genome

Drum 'n' bass emerged as a recognizable form from breaks techno in the 1990s influenced by dancehall reggae and hip-hop. Earlier tracks were made up of four-on-the-floor beats, amen breaks and ragga samples. 2 Bad Mice (aka Goldie of Metalheadz and Rob Playford of Moving Shadow), 4 Hero, LTJ Bukem and Jonny L. all did break-beat stuff in the early '90s and re-emerged later as D&B artists. "Demon's Theme" and "Music" by LTJ Bukem were breakthrough singles. The form started in Britain, Germany and France with the United States contributing by '95. In the states, Philly, San Fran and NYC led the way. The sample pool includes hip-hop, jazz, funk, reggae, horror and sci-fi films. Atmospheric, jump up, tech step, ragga, jazz/funk and neuro were styles that all appeared at the beginning.

Sound technology fetishism, production methods, "acid" style from techno; "hard" sounds, cyber-punk fascinations from industrial and metal; breakbeats from funk, rap and dub; layering, overdubbing and the MC phenomenon from reggae; sophisticated poly-rhythms from jazz, Latin and African music; vinyl allegiance and "4 elements" from hip-hop—all these elements came into play. Stylistic precedents include: '70s-'80s abstract electronica (Tangerine Dream, Vangelis); Brazilian, Latin and African music forms; '70s jazz fusion (Herbie Hancock, Miles Davis); classic dub reggae, specifically the up-tempo "steppers" style; "golden era" hip-hop ('87-'93); punk and new wave (the synths!); and "acid breaks" techno. About half of "On The Corner" by Miles Davis, "Shock the Monkey" by Peter Gabriel, "The Boys Of Summer" by Don Henley and "The Sweetest Taboo" by Sade all have key elements in common with D&B including synth bass lines, polyrhythmic snare drum patterns, use of panning and other studio effects.

1994: Tempos start speeding up. Hip-friendly 135-140 BPMs give way to more pogo-and-mosh-inducing 170-180 BPMs.

1995: Metalheadz' Goldie tour the U.S. supporting Björk, introducing D&B to a large U.S. audience.

Cloned Monkey gave me the local D&B lowdown: In '95-'96: Spex, Mase, 4-est begins spinning D&B exclusively in HI as Trinity Crew. The HNL DJ scene is largely dominated by house at this time. Early '96: Trinity Crew throws the first-all D&B party "Jungle Fever" at Formula 660. 4-est begins HI's first all D&B weekly "Blunted Science." Promoters start flying in talent from Mainland, mostly CA DJs like Curious and R.A.W.

1997: Bassment Addicts start playing out; "Atomik" opens, becomes venue for some of HNL's biggest parties for next two to three years.

1998: Double-O-Spot brings out Noel,

UFO! from S.F. and Heretic from L.A. Promoters start using a warehouse called Clumber's Paradise as venue. DJ Trek starts spinning out, becomes local favorite. Dieselboy makes first stop in Islands, hosted by promoter group Technine. Sage makes appearance later that year, Sifu (Thermal Recordings) follows. Jason Mouse plays Halloween event; Bassment Addicts host R.A.W. by year's end. Cloned Monkey starts playing out.

1999: Double-O-Spot brings out Aphrodite in January. "Alliance" starts throwing parties which result in some of biggest attendance at Atomik. DJs included Dieselboy, Kaos and Slant. Was it peak time for D&B in HI? Double-O-Spot brings out DJs SS and Kenny Ken, Usual Suspects, Loxy and MC Rage. Sage and UFO! play at end of year. Spex and 4-est both move to Mainland. Kause starts spinning out.

2000: Alliance hosts the "Planet of the Drums" tour at E.Y.E. venue. The show is so packed, condensation drips off ceiling. Dieselboy and AK1200 refer to HNL stop as one of tour's most memorable. Alliance brings out Kaos and Mickey Finn; Double-O-Spot hosts Tech Itch, Decoder and Trace at Univibe 2000. Bassment Addicts bring out Teebee and Sifu. SS, Twisted Individual and MC Warren G headline "Children of the Corn," the largest turnout yet for HI D&B events. Bassment Addicts start Rewind; Curious and Polar guest. Trek leaves HI for Seattle.

2001: There is a dry spell. Some promoters are no longer hosting D&B events. Rewind returns after almost yearlong hiatus; brings out Sifu and Trace before closing down again in early '02. Nsomniak Lounge KTUH becomes strictly D&B format. DJ Ame's "Simmer" is signed to Pivotal Records and is slated for release on "21st Century Grooves 2" comp some time in '02. This year LTJ Bukem comes to HI. Kemal, Goldie, Doc Scott are scheduled for appearances. Large events like Summertime Gold and ID:2K2 feature D&B in side rooms. Necron 99 moves to Seattle.

KEVIN CRUZE

Regular drum 'n' bass events: *Sovern-T, Thursdays at the Wave; Toki last Saturday of every month at ISIS at Auntie Pasto's Kapahulu and "Genesis" on Saturdays at Lewers Steak and Seafood.*

Special events: *Goldie, Doc Scott and MC Rage, July 18th at the Wave; Kemal, at Auntie Pasto's Kapahulu on Saturday, June 29, and One Eleven on Wednesday, July 3.*

Radio: *Dtekt and Weapon 9 host Nsomniak Lounge, KTUH 90.3 FM, Tuesdays 9 p.m. - 12 a.m.*