

# BACK TO THE PLANET

The educational body rejoicing in the typographically confusing name of **ThePlanetDrum** held their second birthday party at London's Rosemary Branch recently, with awards handed out by *Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels* star **Nick Moran**. Frank McGirr was voted Best All-Round Student, winning a 17" Zildjian Re-Mix cymbal; Angie Dial was Best percussionist, winning an assortment of Meinl percussion; Best Upcoming Drummer was Julian Saul, who also won a selection of Meinl percussion. Co-winners of ThePlanetDrum Motivation Award were Tatsuya Kasai, Nathalie Jean-Bart, Maurice Bourri and Anne McCaig, all of whom were awarded free places on a one-day workshop at

ThePlanetDrum. After the ceremony, ThePlanetDrum man **Mirko Schmitt** joined bassist **Shaz Raga** playing along to house and R&B tracks spun by deejays **Andy and Randy**. Mirko has been gainfully employed as MD and drummer for US rap queen **MC Lyte**. He also plans to take his own band, **The Groove Squad**, on tour with Lyte and pop-rap megastar **Will Smith**. Mirko's partner in ThePlanetDrum, **Alain Maurel**, has been touring the states with the mega-successful **Lilith Fair** roadshow. The pair have also just made a trip to Cuba in order to further their own rhythmic studies. For further information about ThePlanetDrum, call: 0171 642 5643

