



PUBLICATION:

TIME OUT

COUNTRY:

UK

DATE:

FEB 17-24 1999

DESCRIPTION:

PIECE ON NO SKOOL NIGHT

**“ ‘ECLECTIC’ DOESN'T REALLY DO THIS
EVENT JUSTICE.”**



No Skool

The Forum, Fri

‘It’s a very Ninja idea because it doesn’t fit neatly into any one particular hole.’ Ninja Tune boss Pete Quicke is explaining how No Skool, the gargantuan performance-music-DJ showcase his label has put together at archetypal rock venue The Forum, slots into the grand scheme of things. ‘On one level it implies hip hop but on another it’s about being eclectic.’

‘Eclectic’ doesn’t really do this event justice, the biggest ever one-off Ninja event after years of running cool, intimate club nights like Stealth and Kungfusion. The line-up reflects the way Ninja are reclaiming the avant-garde high ground after a couple of years in the experimental wilderness, and their artists’ desire to develop the whole ‘playing live’ thing. Label stalwarts like The Herbaliser (the complete eight-piece band), Mr Scruff, Roots Manuva,

Dynamic Syncopation and DJ Food will all be in attendance – and as they all have albums due to drop in 1999, expect a raft of acetate tunes and dubplate pressure. And, of course, Coldcut will be there too, with their overload of cut ‘n’ paste sonic-visual anarchy, aided and abetted by cosmic musicologist Mixmaster Morris.

But in keeping with the ‘Ninja difference’, there’ll also be a lighting soundclash (if that makes any sense) between Hexstatic and The Light Surgeons and label stalwart Funky Porcini will be showreeling some of his bizarre short films and spoof advertisements which are, according to Quicke, ‘perverted, hilarious and a complete mish-mash of his brain’.

Although they aren’t ditching nightclubs – Ninja are set to return in April with a new night at Brixton’s Mass – No Skool represents the shape of things to come for south London’s most progressive imprint. More power to them, we say. *Kieran Wyatt*

