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Foundation: B-boys, B-girls And Hip-Hop Culture In New York



Synopsis

B-boying is a form of Afro-diasporic competitive dance that developed in the Bronx, NY in the early 1970s. Widely - though incorrectly - known as "breakdancing," it is often dismissed as a form of urban acrobatics set to music. In reality, however, b-boying is a deeply traditional and profoundly expressive art form that has been passed down from teacher to student for almost four decades. Foundation: B-boys, B-girls and Hip-Hop Culture in New York offers the first serious study of b-boying as both unique dance form and a manifestation of the most fundamental principles of hip-hop culture. Drawing on anthropological and historical research, interviews and personal experience as a student of the dance, Joseph Schloss presents a nuanced picture of b-boying and its social context. From the dance's distinctive musical repertoire and traditional educational approaches to its complex stylistic principles and secret battle strategies, Foundation illuminates a previously unexamined thread in the complex tapestry that is contemporary hip-hop.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (March 5, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 019533406X

ISBN-13: 978-0195334067

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.6 x 6.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (9 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Schloss has written another great book about hip-hop culture. This time, he tackles b-boying by participating in and interviewing key members of New York's b-boy scene. The real strength of the book are the many interviews he quotes from and summarizes. This is a must-read for anyone interested in b-boying. Because he is countering a number of academic books that adopts a more abstract or philosophical tone, Schloss really emphasizes the importance of listening to the voices of the builders of b-boying and its participants. The downside of this approach is that he sometimes does not really analyze their comments, leaving the reader with what seems like overly-heroic

images of the b-boys he quotes. Nonetheless, I would recommend this book to anyone. It is in my top 10 books about hip-hop.

This book really goes into great detail about bboying and everything bboying related. A must have for bboys/bgirls who are serious about this thing of ours aka hip hop culture. The author really done his "homework" on the bboying culture and doesn't sugar coat anything. Thank you Joseph Schloss for producing this well documented subject in the form of a well written piece. From a Bboy.

I really liked the book. It was really interesting to read about hip hop culture and reading about what we see in the media of what hip hop is and reading about what hip hop looks like in urban cities like New York.

Foundational in the study of hip hop. Early hip hop is one of the most fascinating aspects of American popular culture. Unfortunately, until this book, a proper account of the seminal importance of dance didn't exist.

If you're curious AT ALL about the state and history of B-boying in the Bronx, buy this book. It pairs well with Yes Yes Y'all, by the way.

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