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Foundation: B-boys, B-girls and Hip-Hop Culture in New York

By Joseph G. Schloss



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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.



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Editorial Review

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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 urban acrobatics set to music. In reality, b-boying is a traditional and profoundly expressive art form. Some b-boys display their skill at "popping"--rapid movements followed by short freezes. In *Foundation*, Joseph G. Schloss walks you through the history of b-boying and his personal relationship to the music and the artists who bring hip hop to life.

Meet the B-boys and B-girls of New York's Hip Hop Scene



B-boy and Popper, Geomatrix relaxing in the South Bronx



Tiny Love popping in Union Square, NY with boomboxes from his collection



Dancer and teacher, SeoulSonyk, a.k.a. MiRi Park

Review

"The best work ever produced on b-boying. Schloss maps the dance's nuances brilliantly; but it is when he turns his attention to the history and theory of the form that "Foundation" is at its best. Schloss's insights are wide-ranging and consistently illuminating. A major contribution."--*Boston Globe*

"I highly recommend this book for anyone who claims to be a hip hop historian or hip hop head. Schloss asks some very important questions and applies theories that can be used to discuss the other elements of hip hop culture. Schloss interviews some great b-boys."--*Liberator Magazine*

"Joe Schloss doesn't just talk the talk, he rocks the rock. In the rapidly expanding field of hip-hop studies, he

is without peer--a careful observer, a committed floor-rocker, a brilliant historian, a scholar's scholar, and a true b-boy. *Foundation* is his first masterpiece. "--Jeff Chang, author *Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of The Hip-Hop Generation*

"Joseph Schloss documents the path of the B-boy with the precision of a swordsman and the love of shaman. It took a great deal of courage and patience to make a book on Hip-Hop as inspirational as it is accurate. After reading it I made *Foundation* required reading for our organization."--Adisa Banjoko, CEO, Hip-Hop Chess Federation

"There is no richer example of tradition in Hip-Hop culture, than the legacy of B-Boys and B-Girls. *Foundation* gives voice to these often forgotten actors in hip-hop history, giving us all a clue about the genius that literally sits at the Foundation of Hip-Hop. Joe Schloss cannot be dismissed as some disconnected Ivory-Tower critic and with *Foundation* he simply ups the ante on hip-hop scholarship in a major way."--Mark Anthony Neal, Professor of Black Popular Culture at Duke University

About the Author

Joseph Schloss is Visiting Scholar and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music at New York University. He is the author of *Making Beats: The Art of Sample-Based Hip-Hop*, which won the 2005 Book Award from the International Association for the Study of Popular Music. His writing has appeared in *URB*, *Vibe*, *The Seattle Weekly*, *The Flavor*, and the anthologies *Classic Material* and *Total Chaos*.

Users Review

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As people who live in the modest era should be change about what going on or data even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is certainly always change and move forward. Some of you maybe can update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what type you should start with. This *Foundation: B-boys, B-girls and Hip-Hop Culture in New York* is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

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