



**a change of direction...**

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## BATTLE OF THE YEAR 2009

17.10. Volkswagen Halle Braunschweig

**PRESS INFORMATION**

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# BATTLE OF THE YEAR 2009

Attention on media

the international "Battle of the Year" turns 20!

An Anniversary that we will celebrate with a whole week full of Breakdance action.

Everybody who is interested in urban dance should mark the week from October 12th - 17th in his schedule.

## International "Battle of the Year" 2009

The week will start with the opening of the BOTY exhibition.

From October 12th - 17th, the exhibition will document the matter and history of the past 20 years of Battle of the Year. The exposition will prioritize the common history but also special moments, legends and persons from the last 20 years.

Furthermore we will organise another workshop week in cooperation with the city of Braunschweig. The lecturers will be international known and respected dancers such as Storm, Lilou and Salah.

Another highlight is be the Battle of the Year Dance Theatre Night. This event at October 15th should reflect a fundamental part of the BOTY philosophy. Showing young dancers and crews a perspective for their future career. Bringing breakdance and other urban danceforms on theatre stages will bring more acceptance in art and culture.

In addition for the first time in BOTY history, we will integrate a 1 vs 1 battle in the side events. 16 of the world's best dancers are competing against each other in a K.O. system. These dancers are chosen from the world's B Boy elite. All of them already win competitions or participate in big events like the Red Bull BC One, IBE or the UK Championships. The Prize money is 1500 Euro and the judges are Storm (GER), Salah (FR) and Kwikstep (USA). The Host for the evening will be no other than the living swiss B Boy Legend Crazy, from the Crazy Force Crew.

Definitely also to mention are the finals for the WE B Girlz 2 von 2 Battle, the Funkstyle Battles and the lecture from B Boy Legend Alien Ness. All these things will be part of the Warm Up Party which will take place on October 16th in Jolly Joker, Braunschweig.

## "Battle of the Year" - Line Up

At the Anniversary we will have 18 crews from all over the world that will compete against each other.

There are absolutely newbies like "Myztikal" from Suriname against world famous crews like Gamblerz from Korea or All Area from Japan.

But also the showcases from the BOTY Allstars or Big City Brains from Denmark will drive the audience crazy.

As another big surprise we are proud to announce the appearance of Heidelberg Allstars.

Torch and Toni L. who already performed in the beginning of the 90s with Advanced Chemistry, the Stieber Twins and Cora E. will all perform live. A part of German Hip Hop history on the BOTY stage. No other artists influenced the German Hip Hop scene like them.

Event: International "Battle of the Year"  
Venue: Braunschweig, Volkswagen Halle, Europaplatz 1  
Date: October 17th

Presswork:

Battle of the Year Press Office

Asternstr. 49 A

30167 Hannover

Tel. +49 511 3536327

Fax +49 511 3530887

presse@battleoftheyear.de

www.battleoftheyear.de

# Basic Information

## Some important facts:

Event: **Battle of the Year – International –**  
Venue: Braunschweig, Volkswagen Halle, Europaplatz 1  
Date: October, 17th 2009  
Start: admission: 16.30 Uhr start: 18.30 Uhr

Website: [www.battleoftheyear.de](http://www.battleoftheyear.de)

Tickets: € 28,50,- plus advance sale charge  
Advance sale: BOTY-SHOP.de, BOTY Shop Hotline +49 511 3536327  
email: [tickets@boty-shop.de](mailto:tickets@boty-shop.de), CTS Vorverkaufsstellen, Ticket-Online

Audience: 8000 were expected

## Qualified and confirmed crews:

Prodigy	Austria
Balarusian B Boys	Belarus
Team Shmetta	Belgium
Phase T	France
Funk Fellaz	Germany
Breakers without Fear	Greece
Unstopabullz	Israel
De Klan	Italy
All Area	Japan
Gamblerz	Korea
Top 9	Russia
Ubuntu B Boyz	South Africa
Myztikal	Suriname
Octagon	Sweden
Formosa	Taiwan
Soul Mavericks	United Kingdom

and more crews from Switzerland and Brasil

Prize money € 3000,-

Hosts: Spax ( GER ), Trix ( GB )

DJs: Woodoo (CH), Ben aka Billy Brown (FR), Renegade (UK), Nas D (GER), Kid Cut (GER), Cut Nice (NL), DJ Tee (JP), and Kid Skraam (SWE)

Judges: Just Do It (NL), Storm GER), Roxrite (USA), Lilou (FR), Cico (ITA)

International Showcases: Heidelberg Allstars feat. Torch, Toni L. Stieber Twins & Cora E. (GER)  
BOTY Allstars feat. Storm, Kwikstep, Wicket, David Colas, Lamine, Speedy, Vartan & Crazy (GER, USA, FR, CH)  
Big City Brains feat Steen, Phax, Josephine, Nick & Jeppe (DK)

## Side Events - 20th Anniversary -

### 20 Years Battle of the Year Exhibition

From October 12th - 17th, the exhibition will document the matter and history of the past 20 years of Battle of the Year. The exhibition will prioritize the common history but also special moments, legends and persons from the last 20 years.

### October 12th / 07.00 PM - Public Vernissage and Press Conference

Date: October 12th - 17th

Venue: Foyer des Ärztehauses im Friedrich Wilhelm Viertel, Friedrich Wilhelm Strasse 42, Braunschweig

Open: Daily from 08.00 AM to 08.00 PM / Saturday, October 17th 08.00 AM - 04.00 PM

Admission: free

### Battle of the Year Workshops & Masterclasses

Since several years, BOTY Headoffice is organizing the workshops in cooperation with the city of Braunschweig. The workshops mostly take place in local youth and cultural centers to connect the event with its own Hip Hop cultural roots.

### Battle of the Year Dance Theatre Night

The Dance Theatre Night at October 15th should reflect a fundamental part of the BOTY philosophy. Show young dancers and crews a perspective for their future career. Performing breakdance and other urban danceforms on theatre stages will bring more acceptance in art and culture.

### Artists and Ensembles:

Salah Benlemqawansa (Paris): "Glubby..." & Host of the evening

Niels "Storm" Robitzky (Berlin): "Storm....in classical Kontext" / Winner BOTY 1991 and 1992

Vagabonds (Paris): "Aliens" / Winner BOTY 2006

Top 9 (St. Petersburg): "Accents" / Winner BOTY 2008

Date: October 15th

Venue: Brunsviga, Karlstrasse 35, Braunschweig

Admission: 06.00 PM Start: 07.00 PM

Admission fee: 12,- Euro plus tax, Box Office fee: 15,- Euro

Preticketsale: Brunsviga, 0531 23804, [www.brunsviga-kulturzentrum.de](http://www.brunsviga-kulturzentrum.de) and through ticket-online and

CTS Ticket Offices

### International 1 vs 1 Battle

For the first time in BOTY history, we will integrate a 1 vs 1 battle in the side events. 16 of the world's best dancers are competing against each other in a K.O. system. These dancers are chosen from the world's B Boy elite. All of them already win competitions or participate in big events like the Red Bull BC One, IBE or the UK Championships. Prize-money will be 1500 Euro and the judges will be Storm (GER), Salah (FR) and Kwikstep (USA)

Host of the evening will be no other than the living Swiss B Boy Legend Crazy, from the Crazy Force Crew.

Date: October 16th

Venue: Schloss-Arkaden, Platz am Ritterbrunnen 1, Braunschweig

Start: 07.00 PM

Admission: Free

## Side Events - 20th Anniversary -

### Lecture Alien Ness “The Art of Battle”

Alien Ness, B Boy Legend and founder of the Mighty Zulu Kingz Breakdance Crew is reading from his book “The Art of Battle”. After the reading he is up for debate, Everybody who knows Alien Ness can imagine that the lecture will have very high entertainment quality.

Date: October 16th

Place: Jolly Joker / Braunschweig

Start: 08.00 PM

Admission Fee: 8 Euro (combined ticket with Warm Up Party, We B Girlz Final and Funkstyle Battles)

### We B Girlz Battle

This year’s participants are from countries like Japan, South Korea, Brasil, France, Italy, Netherlands, Poland and Germany.

Date: October 16th

Place: Jolly Joker / Braunschweig

Start: 08.00 PM

Admission Fee: 8 Euro (combined ticket with Warm Up Party, We B Girlz Final and Funkstyle Battles)

### Funkstyle Battles

Over the last years the Funkstyle Battles are getting more and more popular. Popping & Locking dancers from all over the world competing against each other. The winner will perform a showcase on the mainstage of the BOTY Finals.

Date: October 16th

Place: Jolly Joker / Braunschweig

Start: 08.00 PM

Admission Fee: 8 Euro (combined ticket with Warm Up Party, We B Girlz Final and Funkstyle Battles)

### Battle of the Year Warm Up Party

The legendary Warm Up Party. All crews and dancers from the participating crews will show off here and hit the cyphers. Over the last years the party became nearly as much important as the main event.

Date: October 16th

Place: Jolly Joker / Braunschweig

Start: 08.00 PM

Admission Fee: 8 Euro (combined ticket with Warm Up Party, We B Girlz Final and Funkstyle Battles)

### Battle of the Year Aftershow Party

Who is still in the mood to dance after the main event or who is just warming up should hit the official BOTY Aftershow Party. International BOTY DJs will spin the breaks until the early morning to set all the dancers on fire in the circles.

Date: October 17th

Place: Jolly Joker / Braunschweig

Start: 11.00 PM

Admission Fee: 5 Euro (Free with a BOTY Ticket)

## History

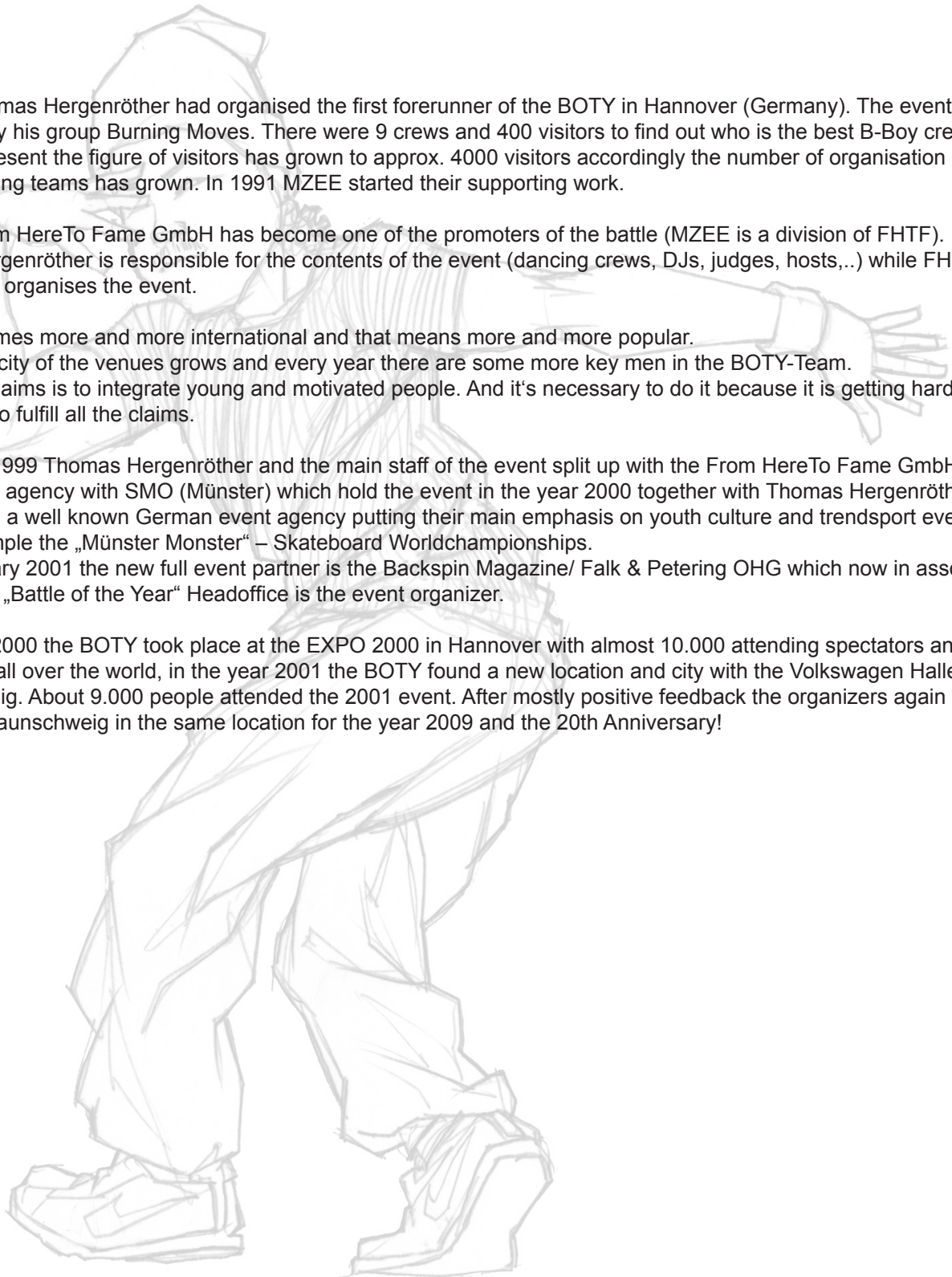
In 1990 Thomas Hergenröther had organised the first forerunner of the BOTY in Hannover (Germany). The event was supported by his group Burning Moves. There were 9 crews and 400 visitors to find out who is the best B-Boy crew. Up to the present the figure of visitors has grown to approx. 4000 visitors accordingly the number of organisation staffs and supporting teams has grown. In 1991 MZEE started their supporting work.

In 1995 From HereTo Fame GmbH has become one of the promoters of the battle (MZEE is a division of FHFTF). Thomas Hergenröther is responsible for the contents of the event (dancing crews, DJs, judges, hosts,...) while FHFTF realises and organises the event.

BOTY becomes more and more international and that means more and more popular. So the capacity of the venues grows and every year there are some more key men in the BOTY-Team. One of their aims is to integrate young and motivated people. And it's necessary to do it because it is getting harder and harder to fulfill all the claims.

In summer 1999 Thomas Hergenröther and the main staff of the event split up with the From HereTo Fame GmbH and found a new agency with SMO (Münster) which hold the event in the year 2000 together with Thomas Hergenröther and which is a well known German event agency putting their main emphasis on youth culture and trendsport events like for example the „Münster Monster“ – Skateboard Worldchampionships. Since janurary 2001 the new full event partner is the Backspin Magazine/ Falk & Petering OHG which now in association with the „Battle of the Year“ Headoffice is the event organizer.

In the year 2000 the BOTY took place at the EXPO 2000 in Hannover with almost 10.000 attending spectators and artists from all over the world, in the year 2001 the BOTY found a new location and city with the Volkswagen Halle in Braunschweig. About 9.000 people attended the 2001 event. After mostly positive feedback the organizers again want to stay in Braunschweig in the same location for the year 2009 and the 20th Anniversary!



## Philosophy

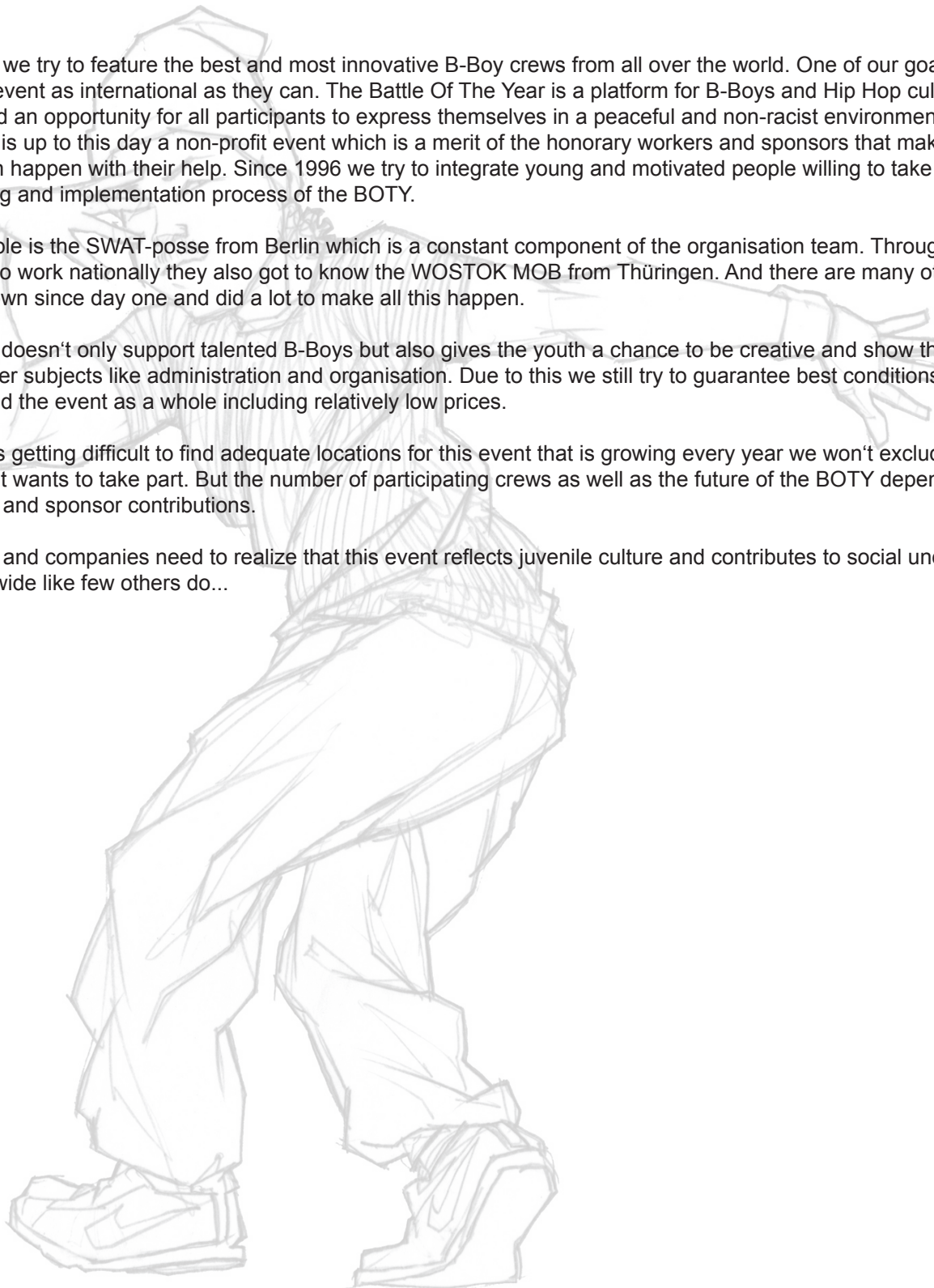
Every year we try to feature the best and most innovative B-Boy crews from all over the world. One of our goals is to make this event as international as they can. The Battle Of The Year is a platform for B-Boys and Hip Hop culture in general and an opportunity for all participants to express themselves in a peaceful and non-racist environment. The BOTY is up to this day a non-profit event which is a merit of the honorary workers and sponsors that make this competition happen with their help. Since 1996 we try to integrate young and motivated people willing to take part in the planning and implementation process of the BOTY.

One example is the SWAT-posse from Berlin which is a constant component of the organisation team. Through their aspiration to work nationally they also got to know the WOSTOK MOB from Thüringen. And there are many others who are down since day one and did a lot to make all this happen.

The BOTY doesn't only support talented B-Boys but also gives the youth a chance to be creative and show their talents in other subjects like administration and organisation. Due to this we still try to guarantee best conditions for the dancers and the event as a whole including relatively low prices.

Though it is getting difficult to find adequate locations for this event that is growing every year we won't exclude nobody that wants to take part. But the number of participating crews as well as the future of the BOTY depends on our budget and sponsor contributions.

Institutions and companies need to realize that this event reflects juvenile culture and contributes to social understanding worldwide like few others do...



# Rules

## Basic rules for all BOTY eliminations & finals

For the year 2009 the following basic rules are fixed for all national german and international „Battle Of The Year“ events.

The reason for fixing the rules is to make the worldwide BOTY series more equal and fair to all participating b-boy crews. It is an absolute task for our worldwide BOTY licence partners to take those rules very serious!

The rules give a strict guideline and support for all local organisers, help to develop the art of b-boying, dancing and performing in general, make the BOTY events more interesting to the participating crowd.

The rules also will avoid discussions with participating b-boy crews complaining about fairness or other topics if the local organizer sticks to them seriously.

The rules were fixed by the demand of some of our national and international BOTY partners and of course by the demand of the international b-boying scene.

## Rules:

After the showround there will be two semi final battles (place 2 vs. 3 and place 1 vs. 4 of the showround ranking). After that there will be one final battle between the two winners of the semi finals. Suggested time for the semi final battle is 10 minutes each, suggested time for the final battle is 15 minutes

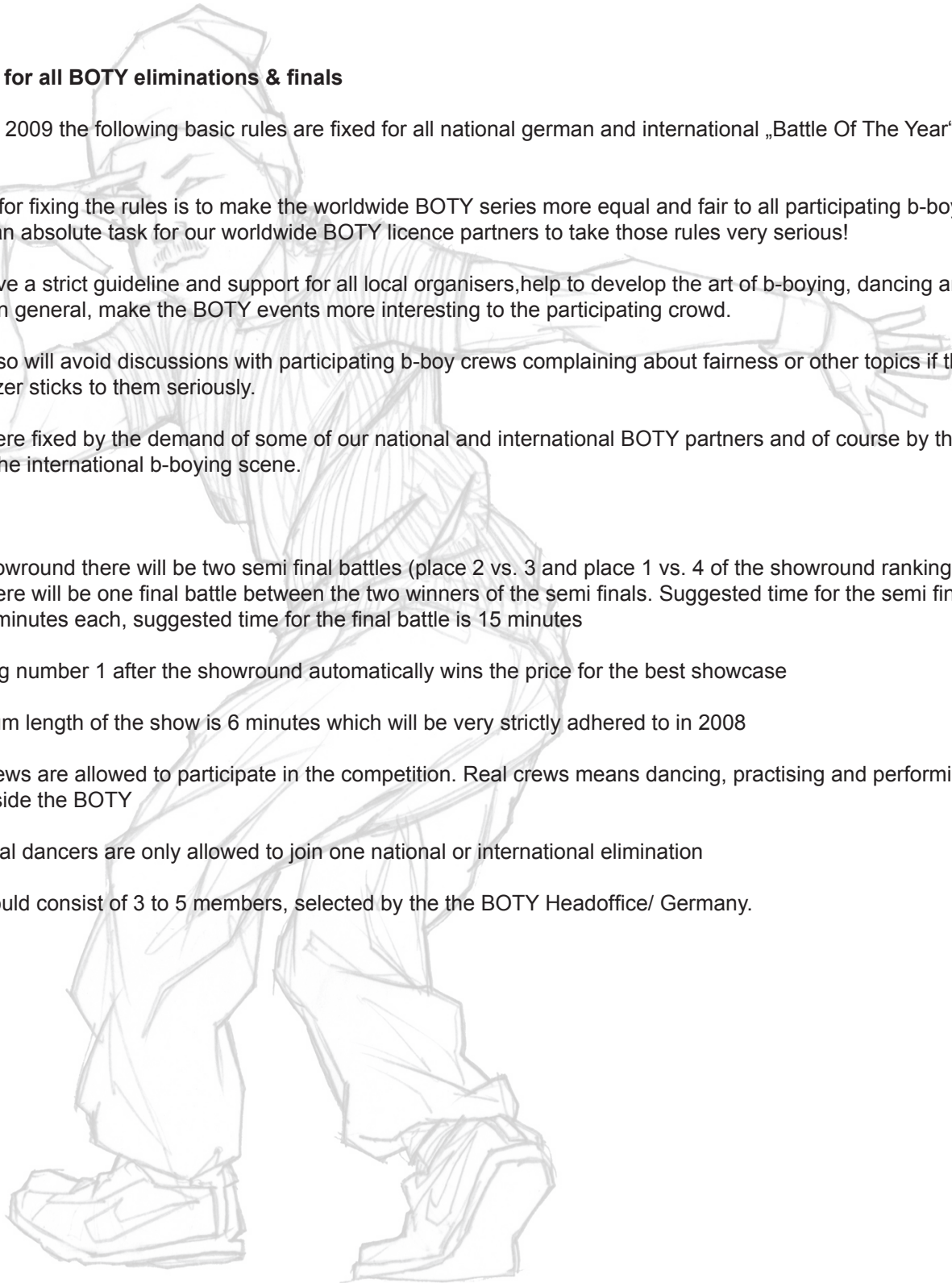
Crew ranking number 1 after the showround automatically wins the price for the best showcase

The maximum length of the show is 6 minutes which will be very strictly adhered to in 2008

Only real crews are allowed to participate in the competition. Real crews means dancing, practising and performing together beside the BOTY

The individual dancers are only allowed to join one national or international elimination

The jury should consist of 3 to 5 members, selected by the the BOTY Headoffice/ Germany.



# GLOSSARY

## Breakdancing:

Breakdancing as we know it today developed in New York City in the late 1970s and early 1980s, although there is some controversy, many argue that it was also developing in Los Angeles at the same time. However, the majority believes it is strictly of New York origin. The original practitioners (Crazy Legs, Spy, the Nigga Twins, etc.) say that other dances that people commonly associate with b-boying such as capoeira may have influenced b-boys (many b-boys are known to gather influence from old Kung Fu films). However, b-boying does not stem from those dances. See the video documentary „The Freshest Kids“ for interviews supporting this claim. Prototypically the pioneers of breakdancing were young and of a lower socioeconomic class. The majority of these were male, and most were Black or Hispanic, and lived in dense urban areas (mostly New York). Many of them were members of street gangs who taught themselves martial arts (particularly capoeira) for self defense. The style was so full of dance-like moves that it translated well to the nightclub, where breakdancers would battle. Breakdancing, both in the nightclub and on the street is competitive in nature, much like the other elements of hip-hop, as well as capoeira.

In its early form, breakdancing was divided into three distinct forms: Breaking, dancing and Popping. Breakdance is commonly associated with, but distinct from, Popping which is one element of the Funk styles that evolved independently in California during the late 20th century. Today, each body movement has been classified into a distinct style, technique or genre of breaking and is similar in principle to others but characteristically different. Other styles of dance associated with breakdancing include Uprock, Locking and Boogaloo. However, these are not the same as breakdancing, although often are incorporated. Breakdance is too new to be considered a folk dance. In particular, street dances are living and evolving dance forms, while folk dances are to a significant degree bound by tradition. Breakdance was in the beginning a social dance but in the later years, mostly because of media and television, its goal has been as a performance dance.

Breakdancers often call any dancing that takes place on the ground ‚downrock‘ as opposed to ‚uprock‘ or ‚toprock‘. The rest of the dance is founded around these basic moves. Dancers usually begin by toprocking, and then continue by going down to the floor and performing a ‚6-step‘ or similar that may be heavily varied. Certain power moves can then be formed with combinations. After performing the techniques, the breakdancer will usually end the dance with a ‚freeze‘ which is when he contorts his body to a strange position and literally freezes, stopping all dance motion.

Much of being a successful breakdancer is about having style. The constant debate between b-boys is a debate of who has the most style. Since anyone can learn to breakdance, the dancers must deviate from the set dances slightly to use their own style. In this way they can show-up other breakdancers during battles, thus winning the battle.

## Moves:

- Toprock is a simple dance done standing up to initiate breakdancing. Its style is obvious to anyone watching, because it is incredibly unorthodox looking. Breakdancers take pride in having unique toprock that still stays within the definition of what toprock actually is.
- Uprock is dancing with someone else, single or as a team, dancing alternatively or simultaneously, sort of like a fight but without contact and very rhythmic. Uprocking is often confused with toprock, but the two are completely different dances. Uprock is a soulful, competitive street dance. The dance consists of foot shuffles, spins, turns, freestyle movements, sudden body movements called „jerks“, and hand gestures called „burns“.
- The Windmill is a move in which the dancer spins from his upper back to his chest while twirling his legs around his body in a V-shape. It is this leg motion that gives the breaker the majority of his power. The leg position and motion is seen in several other power moves, which makes the windmill an essential power move to learn first. The basic windmill that is first learnt can either be „stabbed“ or „unstabbed“. A „stab“ is merely part of the starting position for a single windmill rotation where the breaker has one elbow „stabbed“ into his stomach while the palm of that stabbed arm is flat on the ground. This stabbing position helps to keep the hips up high which aids in execution of the move. Unfortunately, it slows down movement when multiple windmills are performed. The breaker quickly learns to perform the basic unstabbed windmill which simply rolls over the forearms on each windmill rotation, with no stab. Many dancers will spend anywhere from two to six months learning how to do a basic windmill, since the motion is quite unorthodox.
- Headspin The dancer spins on his head, often while wearing a stocking cap, handkerchief, or even helmet. When the dancer uses his hands to aid in speeding up the spin, it is called ‚tapping‘.

# BOTY ACCREDITATION FORM

Please fill in and sent to Faxno. 0049 511 3530887

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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( ) Employed ( ) Freelancer

Reporting of BOTY 2008: ( ) Yes ( ) No

Preview of BOTY 2009: ( ) Yes ( ) No

We are planning a Story in Issue/ Programme: \_\_\_\_\_

Kind of Appearance: ( ) Brief Report/Note ( ) Article ( ) Coverstory

We need the following info - Material: ( ) Photos ( ) Logo/ Print

I ASSURE THAT ALL INFORMATIONS ARE CORRECT AND I WILL SEND A COPY OF MY REPORT/REVIEW TO BOTY PRESS OFFICE

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Place/ Date)

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