

press release

Dance

(Note change from program as announced in September calendar)

Street Dance NY To LA

GRAFFITI ROCK

New York's B-Boys Breaking Past and Present
October 2-3 8:30pm

TONI BASIL PRESENTS A DECADE OF LOS ANGELES STREET DANCE

October 22 & 23 8:30pm

October 24 8:30 & 11pm

\$5.00/\$3.00 members/TDF

The Kitchen, 484 Broome St.

Reservations: 925-3615

The Kitchen's 1981-82 Dance Season opens with STREET DANCE N.Y. TO L.A., two presentations of dance with performances by some of street dancing's originators and most accomplished artists. Both performances will be accompanied by a narrative overview describing the stylistic and structural developments in this vital urban art form.

Graffiti Rock

On October 2-3, New York street dancers will present Graffiti Rock, a "breaking" contest/concert between the Rock Steady and Swift Kids crews. The evening will be augmented by a multi-media event created by rapper Fab 5 Freddy and D.J. Spy and an exhibition of recent works by some of the city's leading graffiti artists. Breaking, or "B-Boy", is "a combative war-like dance, making the opponent 'look bad'...", according to a poster by the Rock Steady crew. As much sport as art, a breaking contest involves two "crews" of dancers facing off against each other one-by-one and through an elaborate, virtuosic and spontaneous burst of mugging, fancy footwork, body twitching, shoulder rolls and head spins, attempting to insult and out-dance the opponent. The event is danced to an improvised "score" provided by a D.J. working a pair of turntables (often simultaneously) and a "rapper", who talk-sings play-by-play commentary. Because of its setting, The Kitchen performances will be a slightly tamer, more controlled version of a street presentation.

FAB 5 FREDDY, who introduced Blondie to rap music and who is currently producing a film on the rapping, breaking and graffiti phenomenon, will be host. Freddy appeared this past June at The Kitchen's Tenth Anniversary Celebration at Bond International Casino with Patty Astor, fellow rapper Rodney C (of The Funky Four Plus One) and D.J. and drummer Lenny Ferrari. He will open the program with a special multi-media presentation created for these evenings.

Breakers participating in the events include, from the Rock Steady crew, Crazy Legs, Frosty Freeze, Jimmy "D", Lenny Lenn and Mr. Freeze; representing the Swift Kids will be Take One, Ken Rok, Lil' Crazy Legs, Lil' Lep and Kippy Dee. Canvases will be exhibited by graffiti artists Lee, Duro, Daze, Crash, Zephyr, Dondi, T-Kid and Lady Pink.

Toni Basil

PRESENTS A DECADE OF LOS ANGELES STREET DANCE

On October 22-24, Toni Basil will present a live review of a decade of Los Angeles street dance, featuring original members of The Lockers, Vogues, and Electric Bugaloos.

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484 Broome Street between West Broadway and Wooster, New York City

Locking emerged in Los Angeles in the late sixties as the first social dance to develop into a competitive performance-oriented artform. The choreography invented by The Lockers was concentrated primarily in the upper body with a special emphasis on the wrists and elbows. The footwork, when done, was highly athletic, consisting of leaps, splits, knee-drops and fast turns. The Vogues, also known as Posing, because of the freezes that punctuated the choreography, came into existence in the mid-70's as the gay man's answer to Locking. The most recent addition to Los Angeles' street dance vocabulary was developed in 1979 by a group called The Electric Bugaloos. Their dance style evolved out of locking, incorporating the robot, knee-pop, and isolated mimetic gestures.

Toni Basil first brought street dancing to the attention of wider audiences by organizing the Lockers and presenting them on stage in a performance setting. During the past ten years she has continued to work with street dance groups, incorporating their movement into her own dance and video work. Her interests in this direction led her to create a series of film and video recordings documenting a substantial amount of the materials generated by the dancers. Selections from this documentation will be made available to the public for the first time in this October concert.

TONI BASIL, the well-known rock & roll choreographer, has done the choreography for Bette Midler's films and last four tours and co-directed David Bowie's "Diamond Dogs" tour. She was commissioned to direct and choreograph the Talking Head's videotape, "Cross-Eyed and Painless", and also co-directed with David Byrne the tape, "Once in a Lifetime". Filming for her BBC special takes place in late September. "A pioneer of the video album" (Video Review), Ms. Basil's video album, "Word of Mouth", is presently number one on the video charts in the United Kingdom.