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B-girl like a B-boy : marginalization of women in hip-hop dance

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Abstract:	Many female hip-hop dancers (such as b-girls, poppers, lockers, choreography dancers) have embraced and struggled with hip-hop dance, a dance where many of its sub-styles honor the male body and masculinity. In a male dominated dance culture, how do women negotiate with issues of gender in the dance movement and social practices? This thesis responds to these concerns by documenting the experiences of hip-hop dancers and urban street dancers in New York City. By examining the woman's experience in hip-hop dance, this thesis looks into how the marginalization of female dancers within breaking is connected to how the dance was molded around the male adolescent lifestyle, social practices, and cultural values within Black urban ghetto communities of New York City during the 1970s and 1980s. In addressing how the conditions and issues associated with the dance's reverence for masculine expression affects the lives and careers of women, this research aims to find and reclaim the woman's voice and body in hip-hop dance culture.
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Hip-hop is rappers exploiting women in videos and shooting each other in front of radio stations. Hip-hop is parties on \$20 million yachts and Cam'ron claiming that he would never "snitch" to the police, even if he knew that a serial killer was living next door. It is a multibillion-dollar industry based on debauchery, disrespect, and self-destruction. Yet, when I think of hip-hop, I think of shopping for rare funk records on a Saturday afternoon. I think of a 12-year-old girl defeating two older boys in a dance battle as her mother proudly videotapes her. I think of people from all over the world. Hip Hop Dance is a style of dance with deep historical and social roots in African culture. It's a part of a whole culture of Hip Hop, which started in the 1970's in the Bronx, New York. Documentaries like Planet B-Boy aim to depict the breaking culture in a more authentic way. Featuring Ken Swift of Rock Steady Crew, the film follows b-boys who are training for the Battle of the Year competition. "Although b-boying is very popular and highly regarded in Europe and Asia, the majority of Americans just see it as a simple street dance that street kids do. Obviously, this is not the case and projects such as Planet B-boy continue to spread the word and culture in the proper light." – Johnny Lee, executive producer. What Hip Hop dance means to us.