

Street Dance Power Moves: Hip Hop vs The World

Street dance has evolved over the decades into a dynamic, global phenomenon, encompassing numerous styles and influences. But at the heart of this movement is **Hip Hop**—an art form that has shaped not only dance but also music, fashion, and culture. Today, **Hip Hop, Breakdance and Power Moves for Street Dance** are a dominant force in the **street dance** world, but how does it compare to other global dance styles? At **A New DAEI**, we embrace all forms of dance and encourage our students to explore the rich diversity of styles that exist. Let's dive into the battle between **Hip Hop** and the wider world of **street dance**.

What is Street Dance?

Before we delve into the differences between **Hip Hop** and other **street dance** forms, it's important to understand what **street dance** actually encompasses. **Street dance** refers to a collection of dance styles that developed outside of professional dance studios and were initially performed in outdoor or "street" settings. These styles often have their roots in urban, social, or youth cultures and are characterized by their improvisational nature and emphasis on personal expression.

While **Hip Hop** is perhaps the most well-known street dance style, other genres such as **Locking, Popping, Krumping, and Breaking** also fall under the broader street dance umbrella. Each of these styles has a distinct history, culture, and movement language.



Hip Hop Dance: A Global Cultural Force

Hip hop dance, originating in the streets of New York City in the 1970s, is a style that has transcended its roots to become a global cultural force. At its core, **hip hop** dance involves **breaking, locking, popping**, and other styles that emphasize improvisation, rhythm, and personal expression. Its connection to hip hop music and the larger **hip hop** culture is undeniable.

Key Features of Hip Hop Dance:

- **Freestyle:** **Hip hop** emphasizes improvisation, where dancers create routines on the spot in response to the music or the battle environment.
- **Attitude:** The style is often bold, energetic, and full of attitude. Dancers express confidence, individuality, and sometimes even defiance.
- **Battles and Cyphers:** **Hip hop** culture thrives on **battles**, where dancers go head-to-head in an exchange of movement, creativity, and style. **Cyphers** are informal, circular dance sessions where dancers take turns showcasing their skills in front of others.

Today, **Hip Hop** has exploded into a global dance trend, influencing **street dance** competitions, **dance classes**, and even mainstream media. It's the foundation of countless dance challenges on platforms like **TikTok** and has found a home in professional **dance academies** around the world, including **A New DAEI**, where we nurture dancers in the art of **Hip Hop**, it's **Power Moves** and beyond.

The World of Street Dance: A Global Melting Pot

While **Hip Hop** is undoubtedly a cornerstone of **street dance**, there are many other styles from around the world that have contributed to the evolution of the dance form. Each region has its own unique twist on **street dance**, influenced by local culture, music, and movement traditions.



<https://unsplash.com/photos/a-group-of-people-that-are-standing-in-the-street-me2X2pfRhXU>

Key Non-Hip Hop Street Dance Styles:

1. **Breaking (B-Boying and B-Girling):** Originating in the Bronx, **breaking** is one of the most well-known street dance styles that falls under the **Hip Hop** umbrella. It focuses on acrobatic moves, spins, and intricate footwork. Dancers, known as b-boys and b-girls, engage in high-energy battles that showcase their physical prowess and creativity.
2. **Popping:** Known for its distinct "jerking" movements, **Popping** is a style that originated on the West Coast in the 1970s. It focuses on quickly contracting and relaxing muscles to create a popping effect. Dancers incorporate fluid, robotic, or animated movements, making the style dynamic and visually captivating.
3. **Locking:** **Locking** was developed in the late 1960s by Don Campbell and is characterized by quick, sharp movements followed by sudden pauses or "locks." It's often performed to funk and disco music, and it has a playful, energetic quality that stands in contrast to the more intense nature of **Breaking** and **Popping**.
4. **Krumping:** Emerging from the streets of Los Angeles, **Krumping** is an aggressive, highly expressive style known for its powerful, exaggerated movements. It involves rapid, intense movements such as chest pops, stomps, and arm swings. **Krumping** often conveys emotion and is deeply connected to the personal and emotional expression of the dancer.
5. **House Dance:** **House dance** developed in the underground clubs of Chicago and New York in the 1980s, blending elements of **Hip Hop**, **freestyle**, and **soul dance**. It's known for its fluid footwork, intricate body movements, and rhythmic expression.

Dancers often incorporate freestyle elements and adapt their style to the music, which is typically electronic house music.

6. **Amapiano & Afrobeat:** In more recent years, **Amapiano** (a genre of South African music) and **Afrobeat** (a West African genre) have made significant waves in the global **street dance** scene. These genres are characterized by their infectious rhythms, and the dance styles that accompany them are energetic, expressive, and frequently seen in social and battle settings.

Hip Hop vs The World: What Sets Them Apart?

While **Hip Hop** is an essential part of the **street dance** movement, what sets it apart from other styles is its deep connection to **Hip Hop culture**—a culture rooted in social and political commentary, self-expression, and community. **Hip hop dance** is a direct reflection of this culture, with its emphasis on improvisation, battles, and personal identity.

In contrast, other **street dance** styles like **Locking**, **Popping**, or **Krumping** are often more focused on technical skill, precision, and emotional expression. These styles may not share the same cultural roots as **Hip Hop**, but they all contribute to the broader evolution of **street dance** and continue to inspire new generations of dancers around the world.

Conclusion

Hip Hop may have started on the streets of New York, but it has transformed into a global dance language that continues to inspire and influence **street dance** worldwide. However, **street dance** is much more than **Hip Hop**—it's a celebration of creativity, diversity, and individual expression, with countless styles emerging from different cultures around the globe. At **A New DAEI**, we celebrate the uniqueness of **Hip Hop** and other **street dance** styles, encouraging our dancers to explore every form of movement by taking their training further in **Power Moves for Street Dancers**. Whether you're drawn to **Hip Hop**, **Breaking**, or **other street dance styles** from around the world, **Power Moves for Street Dance** is waiting for you to make your mark.