



Staff photos by Bob King

Mike Rojas "takes it to the floor" during a recent rehearsal of a break dance show at Washington Junior High School in Duluth. To the left are Scott Daugaard and Steve Miller; to the right is

Jeff Jegloski. The show, called "The Icebreakers," will be put on before an audience of more than 900 other Washington students Friday.

## Art of break dancing didn't have to be taught

BY TOM DENNIS  
Staff writer

The young man stares at his shaking hand, watching it vibrate like the sprung end of a diving board. Suddenly he slaps it with his other hand. The vibration stops, turning into a ripple that travels the length of his arm, across his shoulders and down his other arm.

There it bounces and returns up the arm; the wave is transferred down his torso, and soon his whole body is undulating like a belly dancer's gone wild.

The young man is one of the dancers in "The Icebreakers," a break dance show being staged Friday before the students at Washington Junior High.

"When we teach music, we usually bring a musician in to teach kids who know nothing," said Don Soderberg, Washington principal. "Here, the kids know the 'art' (and) we know nothing."

As break dancing became popular among Washington students, Soderberg thought it would be a natural for a show. All that was missing was the discipline to

put it together.

"Then, I saw a brochure for an outfit called 'Film in the Cities,'" he said. The St. Paul group, among other things, tries to foster appreciation of the arts among young people. A telephone call led Soderberg to group member Patrick Scully, who is now directing the show.

Film in the Cities and the junior high school are jointly sponsoring the project.

For many of the students, the show is the first time they've participated with any enthusiasm in a school activity.

Soderberg said.

Movement teacher Rick Watson, who is helping Scully with the production, agreed. "The kids aren't always the easiest to work with," he said.

"Some of the kids couldn't focus; they'd be distracted when the littlest thing went wrong. But now, some of them turn out to be the most focused of all."

"To me, that's more important than even the show."



Choreographer Patrick Scully talks to break dancers after a recent rehearsal. Scully, a staffer with a Twin Cities arts organization called Film in the Cities, is directing Washington Junior High's break dance show.



Willie Kruger concentrates as he rehearses a solo for "The Icebreakers."



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Staff photo by Bob King

Willie Kruger rehearses a solo dance from "The Ice-breakers," Washington Junior High School's break dance show, while Ebony Carter and Kim Ouillette

watch. Kruger is one of about 15 dancers who have been rehearsing since early November for the show, which will premiere before the student body Friday.

## Breakers show how it's done at Washington

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BY TOM DENNIS

Staff writer

*Now get ready to rap, we're gonna blow your mind. You'll be rockin' to the rhythm and feelin' so fine. You see my name is Shrimp, and you've seen me dance. Now I'm gonna let my rappin' put you in a trance.*

Well that's how it starts, and it will be done.

At a junior high called Washington.

About 15 kids will be on stage, you see

They'll be puttin' on a break dance show for free.

It's just for other students, who will see it live.

'Cause the curtain's Friday morning, 8:45.

When you watch 'em dance, you rack your brain.

An' wonder how it's done without a

Major sprain.

They spin, they twist, they take it to the floor

It's enough to make you feel like you're 94.

The man behind the project is Principal Don

Soderberg, that is, the school's Number One.

When he saw kids dancing, he thought, well, let's

see.

If we can find a way to use that energy.

He knew the school had a little extra dough

So he hired Patrick Scully, choreografo'.

Now Pat's from the cities; there, he's with a team.

Who use the arts to teach kids how to make the

scene.

He never learned breakin' back in ballet class,

But he knows enough to keep from falling on his

Head.

Rick Watson from Duluth is helpin' Pat to groove.

He's another one who teaches kids how to move.

So the kids dance with skill that goes beyond their

age

And Pat and Rick got it ready for the stage.

But it doesn't stop there, that's what's really cool

'Cause the show's got the help of the entire school.

With Home Ec students sewin' up the threads

And Art student slides, this show's way ahead.

*So listen, everybody, you've all come 'round*

*Gonna tell you 'bout America's hottest sound.*

*Your ears will hear and your eyes will see*

*A production too hot for MTV.*

*Just mellow out and feel the beat.*

*You're gonna see a show that's a real treat!*

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