

SCHOOL'D BY FUNKMODE

You want to become a Hip Hop expert? Learn the info below and you're on your way, yo!

BOOGALOO AND POPPING

Even the most creative ideas take inspiration from things already in existence. In earlier lessons, we explained that B-boys got some of their moves from watching martial arts movies while DJs created new sounds using samples of music from completely different genres. The success of the Locking style created by Don Campbell inspired the creation of other dances that came to be included under the "Funk Styles" umbrella. Both Boogaloo and Popping are a direct result of watching Don do his unique dance. In this lesson, we will learn about these styles and their creator, Sam Solomon.

Locking reached a national stage because of its inclusion on the hit 1970s dance TV show, "Soul Train". As people saw and were impressed by the style, they also became curious as to its origin. Like all street dance, Locking could be traced back to a few people (The Original Lockers) and then further to a single individual (Don Campbell). This reality was a very big deal to people all over the country because it meant that it was possible for something created at the street level to reach a nationwide, if not a worldwide, audience. For young people in poor areas of the country, the spread of Locking showed them that they needed nothing more than their creativity, passion and hard work to reach greater levels of recognition and success. Sam Solomon was a young person who became impressed by the Locking style he saw on TV. He was from Fresno, California which is just a few hours away from where Don Campbell had put Locking on the map. Sam realized how popular Don had made Locking and desired to create a dance style all his own that would gain such popularity.

In 1975, Sam created a group called the "Electronic Boogaloo Lockers". In its original form, Sam's group did actually include some people who specifically did Locking. However, Sam was also at work on creating something new. He, like many before him, started mixing and matching moves from his favorite dancers. Eventually, he came up with a unique style of movement which stood apart from all of the other dances which inspired him. His style was very fluid, including a lot of waving and rolling of the arms, body and legs. Hip Hop dance today is heavily based on waving movements and isolations and this comes directly from Sam's style. As for the name of his new dance, there is a story that as Sam worked on his moves, his uncle would encourage him saying, "Do that Boogaloo!" Boogaloo was actually an already established style of Latin music and dancing that combined R&B/Soul music with Cuban/Puerto Rican styles. Sam liked the way the word sounded and took it as a nickname for himself and his new dance style.

In 1976, Boogaloo Sam changed the name of the group to the "Electric Boogaloos". At this point, the dance had already started to evolve to include a style of movement we know today as "Popping". Popping is recognized by its quick succession of muscle contractions and releases. Popping is similar to the freezes in Locking but done in a much smaller and faster way. The name comes from the fact that Boogaloo Sam would often actually say "pop" as he hit his muscular contractions. When he mixed Popping with the waving and rolling of Boogaloo, Sam had his signature "Electric Boogaloo" style.

Boogaloo Sam had a little brother named Pete, who later became known as "Popin' Pete". When Sam was creating the Boogaloo style, he didn't think that Pete was old enough or skilled enough to master the difficult waving and rolling isolated body movements. Therefore, Pete started focusing specifically on Popping. This focus led him to develop such a high level of skill with the style that he established it on its own, apart from Boogaloo. While Pete did eventually learn Boogaloo and the complete Electric Boogaloo style, he continued to specialize in Popping and still teaches it all around the world as of the time of this writing. Popping later inspired other derivative styles such as Ticking, Hitting, Animation, Strutting, and Tutting.

Other members of the Electric Boogaloos were Sam's other brother Tickin' Deck, Skeeter Rabbit, Suga Pop and Mr. Wiggles. Some of the most famous moves in the style are the Fresno, Twist-o-flex and the Walk Out. Like most dance styles, however, you have to see it to really understand the movement. You can start with this video @ <http://youtu.be/-EmFzagBVgk> or do an internet search for "Electric Boogaloo", "Popping" or "Boogaloo Sam". Like his brother, Boogaloo Sam still performs and teaches worldwide and is very highly respected in Hip Hop culture.

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HIP HOP WORDS OF THE WEEK

Marinate: To think deeply about or consider something; as when meat sits for a long time in a marinade.

EX: "I really like that idea but I'm still gonna need some time to sit back and marinate on it."

Clock: To hit or be hit very hard.

EX: "That kid was running full speed towards the goalie like he had blinders on and got clocked by the goal post."

The spot: A location, especially a meeting place or a really interesting location.

EX: "Nobody was dancing until we rolled up in there and straight rocked the spot."

BONUS: Create a sentence using all words of the week

EXTRA LEARNING

- 1) Name another one of the Electric Boogaloes not named in this lesson.
- 2) Name another Boogaloo move not mentioned in this lesson.