



## **8<sup>th</sup> Annual World Hip Hop Dance Championships and World Battles Attract Record Number of Street Dancers.**

*More than 1,700 dancers from 28 nations competed for World Title With France, New Zealand and the United States Winning the Gold*

As proof of the growing popularity of street dance worldwide, a record 1,726 dancers from 28 nations competed in Hip Hop International's **8<sup>th</sup> World Hip Hop Dance Championship** in Las Vegas. Dance crews ranging in size from five to eight dancers competed in a packed Orleans Arena on August 2, 2009.

France scored a stunning upset as R.A.F. Crew took home the gold by defeating the defending champion Philippine All Stars in the Adult division. Request, an all-female dance crew from New Zealand, rose to the top of the Varsity Division. Lil Phunk Boyz, from Boston, Massachusetts, won the Junior division and the only medal for the United States.

The Lil Phunk Boyz brought added drama to the event when crew member Kyle Brooks underwent an emergency appendectomy following the prelims and competed in the finals four days later. Undoubtedly one of the emotional high points of the event was when German crew member Jiker Jarak surprised fellow crew member Anna Bassov with an on-stage marriage proposal following their routine. She said yes to a huge standing ovation.

Street dancers from across the United States and around the world came to compete. France, Singapore, Uruguay and Poland competed for the first time. Among those nations represented were Australia, Austria, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom and the USA.

The crews were judged by an expert international panel of street dancers and choreographers.

The event was further highlighted with the presentation of the 2009 Living Legend of Hip Hop Award to legendary performer/choreographer Toni Basil, whose recording and music video of "Mickey" remains a classic. She was honored for her work including popularizing locking worldwide. Assisting with the presentation were former recipients of the Living Legend of Hip Hop Award, Don "Campbellock" Campbell and Boogaloo Sam, creators of Locking and Popping.

The 2009 World Battles brought out the icons of street dance styles with old school and new including legends Tony Gobo, Don "Campbellock" Campbell, Boogaloo Sam, Mr. Freeze, Easy Roc, Shockalock, and Toni Basil. The gold medal winners were: World Popping Battle – Marie Poppins (France), Locking Battle – Firelock (USA) and World B.Boy Crew Battle – Underground Flow (USA).

The World Hip Dance Championship is the creation of Howard and Karen Schwartz, producers/creators of America's Best Dance Crew."