

**New York Folklore Society
2001-02 Documentary Heritage Project
Documenting Hip Hop**

Collection creator:

Jorge Pabon (performer known as PopMaster Fabel)

Title:

Hip Hop Videotapes and Memorabilia

Dates:

1979-1990

Extent:

Approximately 500 videotapes
500 pieces of clothing, accessories and shoes
20 posters
12 promotional flyers

Biographical/historical note:

Jorge “PopMaster’ Fabel” Pabon was born and raised in Spanish Harlem in New York City. He showed an early talent for Hip Hop dance and choreography, and performed at parties and clubs throughout the city. As President of the Heirophysics Crew, Senior Vice President of the legendary group Rock Steady Crew, and as a member of the Magnificent Force and an honorary member of the Electric Boogaloos, Pabon performed internationally beginning in 1982. In addition to being a dancer and choreographer, he is a Hip Hop historian, director, instructor and producer. A witness to the growth of Hip Hop culture since 1976, Fabel believes that true Hip Hop culture is “a blessing from the Creator given to uplift and unify youth globally.”

Scope and content:

As a whole, this collection documents the development of Hip Hop culture from the late 1970s through the 1990s with material in several formats: a large collection of clothing worn by Mr. Pabon and collected by him; videotapes documenting Hip Hop dance from the early 1980s to the present; posters from Hip Hop tours in the United States and Europe beginning in the early 1980s; and flyers, magazine articles and backstage passes dating from the 1980s onwards. The collection contains material integral to the development of Hip Culture and its understanding, and provides a unique and comprehensive look at early break dancing competitions, clothing styles, and the personalities of the people involved.

Finding aid note:

None

Additional physical forms:

None

Location:

This material is in the possession of Jorge Pabon.

Restrictions on Access:

Researchers seeking to use this material must state their interest and planned use of their research, and make arrangements with Mr. Pabon through contact Urban Think Tank; P.O. Box 1476, New York, NY 10185, phone 718-670-3739; fax 718-596-1228; Email: urbanthinktank@usa.net.

Indexing terms:

Personal names:

PopMaster Fabel

Corporate/organizational names:

Rock Steady Crew (break dancers)
Electric Boogaloo's (break dancers)
Hierophysics Crew (break dancers)
Magnificent Force (break dancers)

Subject terms:

African American youth – New York, N.Y.
B-Boys
Break dancing
Clothing and dress – Social aspects – New York, N.Y.
Dance competitions
Fashion – New York, N.Y.
Hip hop
Rap (music)

Geographical coverage:

New York, NY – Social life and customs

Form and genre/Form of material:

Videotapes
Posters
Fliers (printed matter)
Passes (tickets)
Articles
Clothes

Date of interview and survey: May 12, 2002

Interview and survey by: Yvonne Bynoe for Urban Think Tank, Inc.

This summary written by: Nancy Johnson