



A ÉCOUTER SUR LE COMPLÉMENT SONORE-SEQUENCE CONVERSATION

Notre invitée, la danseuse américaine **Hilary Edesses**, nous parle de l'évolution du breakdance et de ce que cette discipline symbolise.
CD audio ou téléchargement MP3 (sur abonnement)

THE CONVERSATION MIKHAIL BATUEV

How breakdancing became the latest Olympic sport

Comment le breakdancing est devenu une nouvelle discipline olympique

Le breakdance fait une entrée historique aux Jeux olympiques de 2024 à Paris, le seul nouveau sport à intégrer la compétition cette année. Cette discipline, née dans les rues de New York dans les années 1970, sera ainsi propulsée sur la scène sportive mondiale, marquant une volonté du Comité International Olympique (CIO) de séduire une audience plus jeune et diversifiée. Retour sur les modalités de cette nouvelle épreuve.

Breaking" is the only new sport making its debut at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Breaking is probably better known to most of us as breakdancing. So why is the sport officially called breaking, and how is something so freestyle and subjective going to play out as a scored sport in Paris this summer?

1. to make, made, made one's debut faire ses premiers pas / **freestyle** improvisation/style libre / **to play out** se traduire, se manifester / **to score** marquer (des points).



Le suffixe "ing" à la fin d'un verbe indique une activité

*breaking, dancing, singing
surfing, skateboarding
shopping, working,*

"**ing**" exprime la notion d'activité dans la conjugaison des verbes : *I'm doing my homework.*
They have been working all day.
She will be flying to Japan in two weeks time.

2. The origins of breaking are somewhat debatable, although most agree its roots can be traced to 1970s house parties in the Bronx area of New York hosted by DJ Kool Herc, the founder of hip-hop. Breaking was performed on the dance floor by so-called B-boys and B-girls when the music tracks were "breaking" – meaning all that could be heard was the percussion track.

3. Throughout the 1980s the phenomenon garnered international exposure via music videos and movies. This is also when the media started to use the term "breakdancing". However, breakers never add "dance" on the end, as this term came from outsiders rather than the hip-hop community. While the idea of testing each other in format-free "cyphers" (when people gather in a circle and somebody freestyles in the middle) has always been fundamental to breakers, the importance and the number of organised breaking competitions has steadily grown with commercialisation and codification of the activity.

2. somewhat quelque peu / **debatable** contestable, discutable / **roots** racines, origines / **to trace to** (faire) remonter à / **to host** animer / **so-called** connu sous le nom de / **track** morceau, chanson.

3. to garner ici, (s')attirer / **exposure** couverture publicitaire, médiatisation / **outsider** personne extérieure (ici, à la communauté) / **to test** ici, mettre à l'épreuve / **to gather** se rassembler / **to freestyle** improviser / **steadily** régulièrement / **to grow, grew, grown** augmenter.

Some breakers are concerned that the Olympics will strip the soul from the struggle that breaking sprung from and contend that breaking is an art form, not a sport. (Mike Coppola / GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA / Getty Images via AFP)



4. There have always been two main formats: crew competitions and one-on-one solo battles, which have manifested the individualism, creativity and self-expression of breakers. Still, as with many alternative activities evolving into sports, like skateboarding or surfing, the governance and competition frameworks have remained fragmented until recently.

5. It was not until 2018 that breaking became officially governed by the World DanceSport Federation. However, major competitions still exist outside the official governance, such as Red Bull BC One and the Battle of the Year, that arguably carry more credibility within the breaking community.

6. Since the Olympic Agenda 2020 – a road map for the Olympic movement based on the three pillars of credibility, sustainability and youth

4. crew équipe / **one-on-one** en face à face / **self-expression** expression libre / **still** pourtant / **framework** cadre / **to remain** rester, demeurer.

5. to govern régir / **arguably** probablement / **to carry** ici, avoir.

6. road map feuille de route, plan d'action / **pillar** pilier, élément capital / **sustainability** développement durable / **youth** jeunesse /



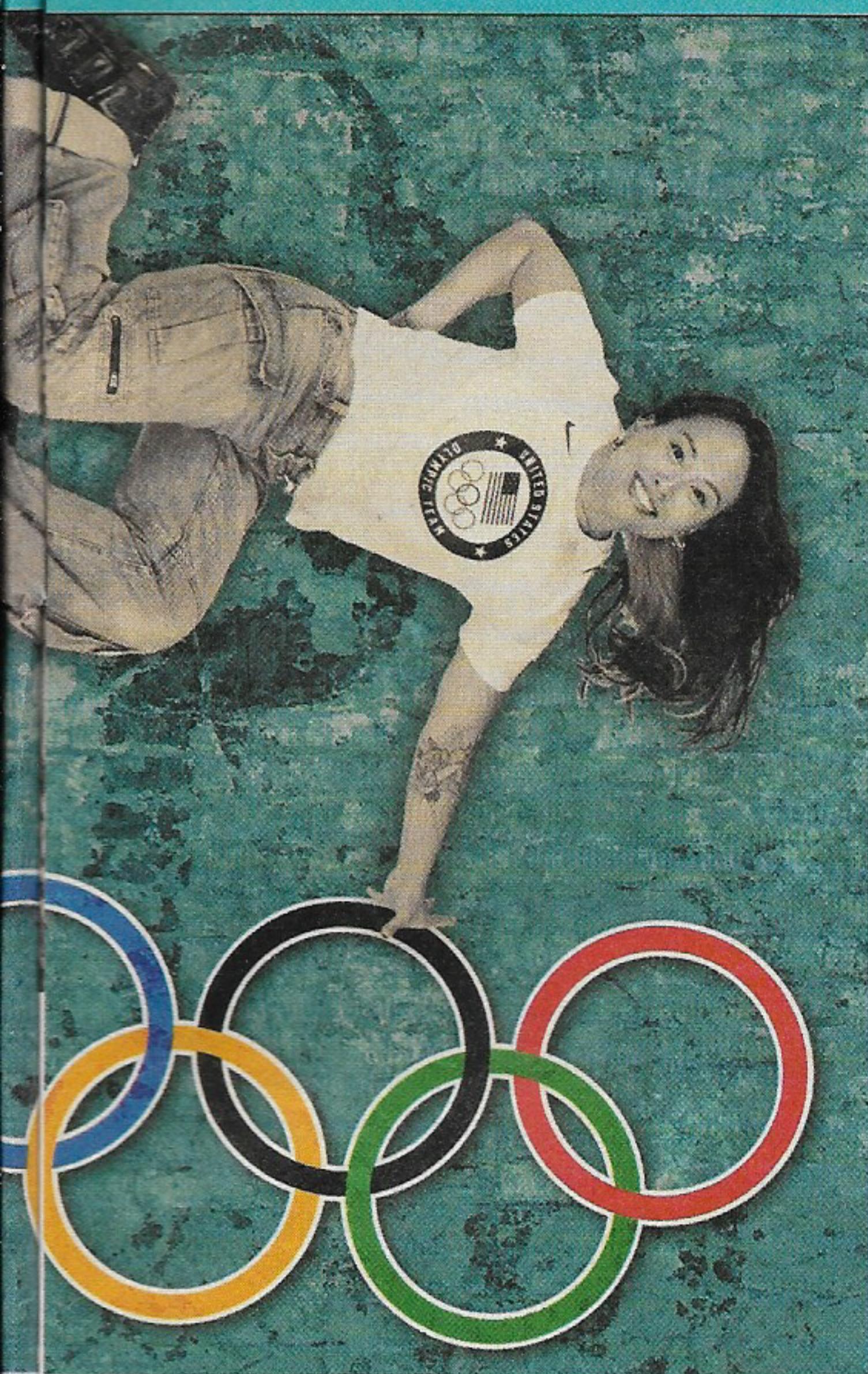
SUPPLÉMENT VIDÉO

Sunny Choi, connue sous le nom de B-girl Sunny, sera l'une des quatre personnalités qui représenteront les Etats-Unis dans la discipline du breaking aux Jeux Olympiques. Apprenez-en plus sur son parcours et ses techniques.

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- the IOC has continued to modernise the Olympic programme to make it more attractive to a wider and younger audience. Undoubtedly, the inclusion of breaking fits well with that overall strategy - there has been nothing similar to breaking on the programme in terms of its creativity, affordability (no tools or equipment needed) and its urban nature. It is also fair to say though that breaking made it to Paris 2024 thanks to the insistence of the host country.

7. Apart from the usual core Olympic programme, the host country of each Olympics has five additional slots that they can fill with the sports of their preference. Los Angeles 2028 will add flag football (a variant of American

IOC = International Olympic Committee / **wide** large / **audience** public / **to fit with** correspondre, s'adapter, s'accorder avec / **overall** global / **affordability** accessibilité, caractère abordable/raisonnable / **equipment** matériel / **fair** juste, honnête / **host** hôte, ici (pays) qui accueille.

7. **core** de base, principal / **slot** créneau, ici place / **to fill** remplir, occuper / **flag football** sport dérivé du football canadien et du football américain où les plaquages sont remplacés par l'arrachage de bandes de tissus (dits flag) accrochées à la ceinture des joueurs /

football), lacrosse, cricket and squash. Bizarrely, Paris 2024 may well be the only time we will see breaking in the Olympics in the foreseeable future, although the World DanceSport Federation (WDSF) is determined to ensure it returns in Brisbane 2032.

8. There are a lot of odd new terms to learn if you have never watched a breaking contest, such as "turtle freeze", "six-steps" and "coin drop". However, the format of Olympic competition is very straightforward: 16 B-boys and 16 B-girls will battle it out head-to-head under the lights of the Place de la Concorde. To make the competition diverse, the IOC has limited each country to a maximum of two B-boys and two B-girls, while introducing two universal places that provide opportunities to smaller and emerging nations.

9. As in any creative sport, there are inevitable questions about scoring in breaking. Indeed, there is always going to be a substantial degree of subjectivity, but not drastically more than in established Olympic sports like gymnastics, synchronised swimming or figure skating. Traditionally, three or five judges have been used in major breaking contests. However, this number has increased to nine in the Olympic framework, presumably to minimise subjectivity and risk of errors.

10. The trivium judging system that will be used in Paris is based on six criteria to decide the winner of each battle: creativity, personality, technique, variety, performativity and

lacrosse jeu d'origine amérindienne qui se joue entre 2 équipes de 12 joueurs munis de raquettes à longs manches dont l'objet est de faire rentrer une balle dans le but adverse / **foreseeable** ici, proche / **to ensure** s'assurer de, garantir.

8. **odd** étrange, curieux / **contest** compétition, concours / **turtle** tortue / **freeze** gel (ici, au sens figuré) / **step** pas, avancée / **coin** pièce (de monnaie) / **drop** chute / **straightforward** simple, clair / **to battle it out** se livrer une bataille acharnée, s'affronter / **head-to-head** en face à face, les uns contre les autres / **to introduce** instaurer, mettre en place.

9. **substantial** important / **established** qui a fait ses preuves / **synchronised swimming** natation synchronisée / **figure skating** patinage artistique / **presumably** vraisemblablement.

10. **Trivium judging system** Système d'évaluation des compétitions de danse improvisée s'appuyant sur 3 critères : physique (technique), artistique (créativité) et interprétatif (réaction à la musique et à l'adversaire) /

musicality – this means connecting to a musical track that is not known in advance.

11. The breaking community has always been very close and informal, and some breakers and judges might find the new formalities of sporting frameworks unusual. However, there is still one unique feature that will hopefully survive the formalisation – it is the only sport where the judges have to perform for the athletes and spectators.

12. This usually happens before the competition starts and is called "the judges' showcase". University lecturer Rachael Gunn, aka B-girl Raygun, sees this unique practice as a symbolic gesture, a demonstration that underscores the unity and shared passion between contestants and those judging them. ●

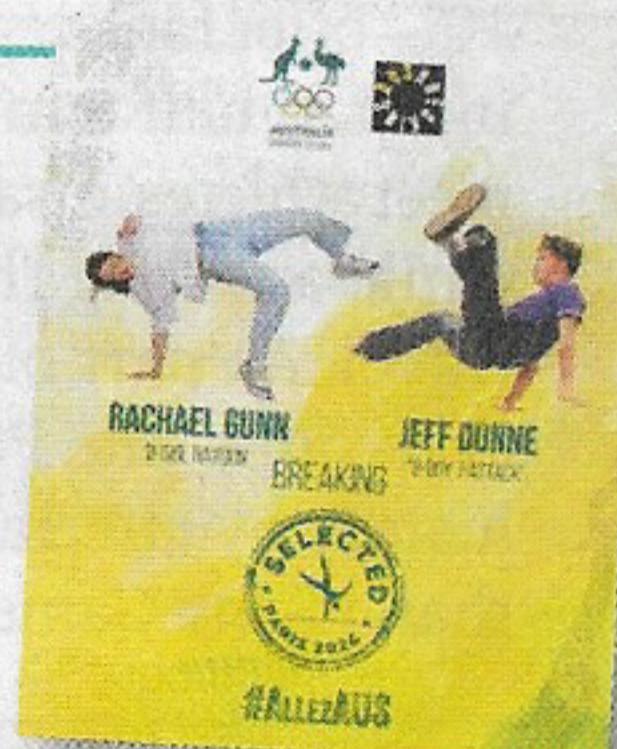
track morceau, titre, chanson.

11. **close** proche / **informal** non-officiel / **feature** caractéristique / **hopefully** espérons-le, si tout va bien.

12. **showcase** vitrine, ici présentation / **lecturer** enseignant (dans le supérieur) / **aka = also known as** alias / **gesture** geste / **demonstration** manifestation / **to underscore** souligner, mettre l'accent sur / **contestant** candidat, participant.

Jeff Dunne

High school student Jeff Dunne, 16, from Northern Rivers, will be among the youngest athletes to represent Australia at the Paris Olympics. Born in the Philippines and adopted by an Australian family as a baby, Dunne, aka J-Attack, discovered breaking at 7. By 12, he was already an elite performer, winning the 2019 Australian Youth Championships, before quickly establishing himself in the open category. In 2022, he was ranked 9th in the world and finished inside the top 16 at the world under-18 championships. Dunne's gruelling training regime, which includes strength training and relentlessly practising dance routines, will ramp up as he builds towards the Paris Olympics.



performer artiste, sportif / **championship** championnat / **to establish oneself** s'imposer / **to rank** se classer / **grueling** éreintant, épaisant, intense / **strength training** musculation, entraînement musculaire / **relentlessly** sans relâche / **routine** programme (habitué, classique) / **to ramp up** augmenter, intensifier / **to build, built, built towards** ici, se préparer pour.