



# TURN IT LOOSE

UK | 2008 | 96m | 12A | sub-titles

**Director:** Alastair Siddons

**Cinematography:** Petra Graf, Neil Harvey

**Editor:** Paul Carlin

**Original Music:** Dan Jones

**Leading Players:** Ronnie Abaldonado, Hong10, Lilou, RoxRite, Ben-J, Taisuke (as themselves)

**Many thanks to University of Bath b-boy crew BREAK for their performance before tonight's screening.**



In a disused power station in the heart of Soweto, South Africa, the 2007 B-Boy championships are contested. From around the globe, sixteen of the world's best breakdancers confront each other – and dance becomes not just competition, but combat.

*Turn It Loose* chronicles these confrontations and follows six B-Boys as their athleticism and creativity are put to the ultimate test.

Rookie Ben-J from Dakar, Senegal is competing in his first competition, but on his shoulders weigh the dreams of every Senegalese B-Boy. Far more experienced is French-Algerian Lilou, who won the competition two years before. Despite that victory, he crashed out in the first round the previous year. A practising Muslim, the contest falls in Ramadan and he must overcome the challenge of fasting as well as his battered self-confidence to prove that his title win was no fluke. The 2006 champion Hong10 from Korea is learning that once at the top, the only way to go is down.

2006 runner-up is Ronnie Abaldonado, a professional B-Boy from Las Vegas who battles for the honour of a dead brother. Japanese B-Boy Taisuke defies his parents' wishes by attending the competition, despite being only 17 – the youngest B-Boy in attendance. Finally, Mexican-American RoxRite dances in defiance of his hard upbringing and like many of the B-Boys, sees breaking as a viable way out of an existence of poverty and limited opportunity.

Previously shown at festivals in Edinburgh, Istanbul and Dublin, *Turn It Loose* is the debut film from documentary filmmaker Alastair Siddons who skilfully defuses any preconceived notions of 80s breakdancing the audience may have (think spotty teenagers headspining badly in shopping precincts wearing shell suits). The narrative switches between reflective glimpses into the lives of the B-Boys and the pure adrenaline-rush of competition. The dancing would be exciting in itself,

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what did you think of the film? please mark or tear your vote ▶ excellent A

please add further comments about the film or the festival here

B

fair C

D

poor E

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as the breakers defy imagination and gravity with self-styled moves, but with the stress added by competition, where a tiny slip can send a dancer home, the duels achieve an almost unbearable tension.

Although structured similarly to *Spellbound* (2002) and the more recent *Sounds Like Teen Spirit* (2008), *Turn It Loose* has far more in common with *Hoop Dreams* (1994) and here as well, success or failure in the arena of competition can have resounding implications for life after the championships. *Turn It Loose* reveals an ever-growing side of urban counter-culture that enlightens as much as it excites and is scored by an inevitably booming soundtrack.

**BFF filmnote by Justin Maelzer**

**Tomorrow at Bath Film Festival 2009**

6:30pm, Little Theatre Cinema | £8 / £6

**The Hide**

Marek Losey | UK | 2008 | 82m | 15 | [youtube.com/thehidemovie](http://youtube.com/thehidemovie)

Alex Macqueen as über-twitcher Roy Tunt is unforgettable in this twisting chamber piece leavened with sly humour. An encounter between two men in a bird hide on the atmospheric Suffolk mudflats appears to be a riff on genre conventions but soon deviates into less predictable waters – what exactly is being hidden by this hide? With slanting light glossing the film with the appearance of a graphic novel, the truth gradually emerges from the shadows! **We are delighted that Producer John Schwab will be with us to take your questions after the screening.** Don't miss 'Roy Tunt's Video Diaries on You Tube - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dezPYjMzeus](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dezPYjMzeus)

9:30pm, Rondo Theatre | £6 / £4

**Blind Loves**

Juraj Lehotsky | Slovakia, Czech Republic | 2008 | 77m | PG | sub-titles | [blindloves.com](http://blindloves.com)

A visually striking combination of non-authored, observational documentary – we witness the quotidian demands of sightless lives – and wildly-realised fantasy – music teacher Peter's visions of an undersea kingdom are vividly recreated in bold animated sequences. A beautiful film which makes for truly compelling viewing

**...and on Tuesday**

7:00pm, Rondo Theatre | £6 / £4

**Delta**

Kornél Mundruczó | Hungary/Germany | 2008 | 92m | 18 | sub-titles | [ica.org.uk/delta](http://ica.org.uk/delta)

A man returns to his birthplace on the Danubian delta. The only person to welcome him is his half-sister, with whom he undertakes to build a house, isolated at the end of a pier in the midstream of the river. This is a film of few words and of simple, determined actions; it is also a work in which the setting is absolutely integral to the narrative, which unfolds with the inevitability of a Greek tragedy. The tranquil beauty and the inexorable flow of the delta's waters are captured magnificently by Mátyás Erdély's cinematography.



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