# BROKEN FINGERS

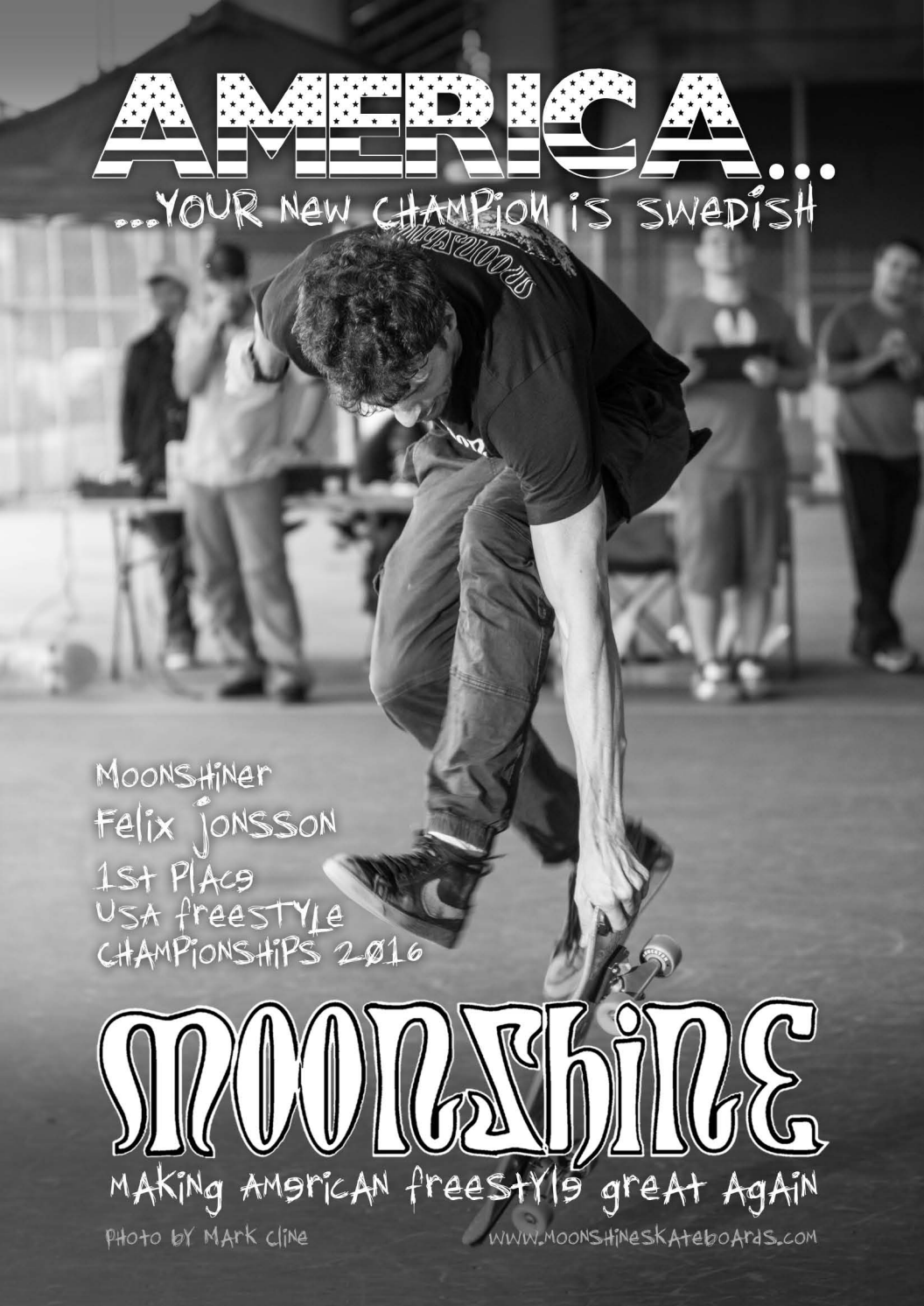
freestyle skateboarding quarterly



## Brazil Issue

Trickstory "The Kickflip"

Stockholm Freestyle


AMERICA....
...YOUR NEW CHAMPION IS SWEDISH
MOONSHINER
FELIX JONSSON
1ST PLACE
USA FREESTYLE
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016
MOONSHINE
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# BROKEN FINGERS

freestyle skateboarding quarterly

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Cover Photo: Kaue Araujo (Broken Fingers) Photo: Matheus Navarro

top: Matheus Navarro (Rail Flip) Photo: Leonardo Laprano




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Isnard Rocha (Impossible) Photo: Matheus Navarro

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Jarrod Sampson (Handstand) Photo: Sam Cornwall



Paulo Folha (TV Stand) Photo: Matheus Navarro



James Fairbro Fairbrother (Heelie) Photo: Andy Turner

# On The Self

By Bob Loftin

Styles influence people's skating. The style of others. The style of heros. The style of friends. But in the end your style is your own.

There's nothing less enjoyable to watch than someone pinching someone else's style. It's always obvious. Always.

And there's no reason to do it. You are you, and your style is your own, and that is good enough. When Mike Vallely first came on the scene, his style was odd. It was really quite strange to see, but it was his. He was sloppy. Talented, but sloppy. Over time the talent remained and the slop disappeared, and the style emerged. You always know it is Mike V, before you even know it.

The futility of trying to skate like someone else -- it's the same as the futility of trying to BE someone else. In Existentialism, to act or try to be anything other than one's self is to live in bad faith -- to be inauthentic. Yes, I've been reading philosophy lately. Keeping the nerd stereotype alive and well.

I write this because even at 52 years of age I have heroes (many of them 25 years younger than me), those skaters I admire, and I am still so envious of their style and abilities. I still have the urge to copy them. Sometimes I do. Usually it ends up looking pretty bad. When it looks OK, it doesn't look like them. It looks like me. Not that I'm all that great, but my own style, performed authentically, is always better than me copying someone else. So is yours.

Now go, and skate as thou wilt .

**BL**



Steve Cathey (Hang Ten Nosewheelie) Photo: Jim Goodrich





Tavinho Rodrigues (No-handed 50-50) Photo: Leonardo Laprano



# The Contest Circuit (and how to survive it)

## By Tony Gale

Since the first "New Era" freestyle competition (a title we can officially bestow on Lillis' Swedish Freestyle Open from March 2000), the freestyle scene has come a long way. Now, competitions are held globally, with at least four events now being regular mainstays of the fledgling competition circuit - the World Round Up, Paderborn BBQ contest, Philly Freestyle, and the All Japan Freestyle contest. Three more - Big Rio, The UK Round Up, and Stockholm Freestyle - are shaping up to become permanent fixtures on the calendar.

As a result of this, a number of freestylers took a leaf out of Guenter's book in 2016 and travelled the world, bouncing from event to event during the summer. By my count (with thanks to Alex Foster at Late Tricks for his indispensable contest archive), five freestylers travelled more than any others in 2016: Isamu Yamamoto, Guenter Mokulys, Felix Jonsson, Kaue Araujo - and myself. We all hit four competitions in that year, with only Isamu entering more than one in his native country.

Needless to say, by the end of summer, I was exhausted, worn down, and literally broken, but with some insights into competitions that might prove interesting or useful to freestylers who are just getting started with competitive freestyle.

1) You will never understand the judging.

Every country has its own preference for freestyle and every country has its own bias. This isn't a reflection on the integrity of the judges, just know that what goes down well in Germany won't in Canada and vice-versa. Sometimes this will work in your favour, sometimes it won't, and sometimes you'll find yourself angry on someone else's behalf.

Just don't go on the internet and cry about it. No one likes people who do that.

2) Skate different surfaces and spaces.

The World Round Up might as well be held on a sheet of plate glass, the UK Round Up could loosely be considered a downhill event, and Paderborn is probably two more rainy seasons away from actually being gravel. Every single event I've been

to this year has been radically different from my favoured practice spaces. Competition areas aren't standardised, and surfaces and spaces can vary wildly. If you find yourself always skating the same surface all year round, these events can be a real shock to the system.

It helps if you can find an analogue for the event in question - which, of course, becomes easier once you've been to it once or twice. For instance, Paderborn isn't too dissimilar to the average UK surface, the World Round Up is very similar to skating in a shopping mall (but actually slightly slipper), and the All Japan Pro contest, being held on a temporary plywood surface, is very similar to skating on the flat bottom of a vert ramp.

3) Prepare your routines - especially for oddball formats.

When I was a kid, there was a lot of general mockery from young upstart freestylers about the way 80s pros would have a pre-planned routine and then repeat it at every event. In the mid-2000s, when I was only doing one event a year, I would make everything up on the fly mid-run, and didn't see why people needed to plan or repeat a run.

At the end of 2016, I now understand exactly why planning is key. When you're doing event after event after event - competitions followed by demos followed by competitions - you want to be able to perform consistently, and knowing what comes next will help greatly. Trying to "wing it" - which I did once in 2016, at the UK Round Up - results in bad timing, poor trick selection, and lower consistency compared to a well thought-out, well-structured and heavily-practiced run. It's also especially important when run lengths are changed from the standard two minute format; a one minute run (a la Vancouver) is over before you know it. Comparing my practice notes from my favourite runs at Vancouver and Stockholm, I was planning on eleven tricks for the Vancouver run (one of which I don't think I had time for in the end), and twenty-one tricks in Stockholm (one or two of which were changed after the broken elbow incident); if I'd gone into Canada planning on a similar pacing to every other event, I would barely have got started before AJ called time.

I'd also planned on doing a new run for every single run in every single competition in 2016. The reality of it is that once you're doing more than two competitions a year, this gets very, very difficult - especially when you then factor in the World Round Up's insane format of two preliminary runs, three semi-final runs and two (slightly longer) final runs. That's a lot to try to prepare just for the first event of the year! It's no surprise that a lot of the 80s runs were identical from one event to the next; they didn't even have YouTube making it more obvious/egregious back then.

4) Take downtime where you can get it.

Honestly, until I started writing this, I had no idea how Guenter does it. I just turned 29 and this year about killed me. By the time winter set in I was exhausted - but Guenter is almost twice my age and just keeps on going.

As much fun as it is spending almost every weekend for six months on the road, eventually, all that time spent performing and religiously practicing will grind you down. Lillis opts for Yoga to keep him in shape and keep him sane; for me, it's a good pair of headphones and a Spotify account. Denham's tool of choice was copious amounts of alcohol (I don't know what he's going to do in 2017 now he's dry and sober), and Marius' method of getting through the days seems to just be finding new ways to drive me up the wall.



Felix Jonsson (Handstand Railflip) Photo: Martin Willners

However you choose to relax, remember to walk away from the skating occasionally and take some personal time. Some of these events are basically marathons, and by the time you're waiting to take your final run, you'll be barely able to think straight or stand if you don't step out of the party and unwind. I suspect this is why you rarely see Guenter at competitions when he's not skating - he knows the balance that works for him.

5) Don't take the results too seriously.

Competitions have as much or as little importance as you put on them in your mind. It's all too easy to step out into that space, let your mind go out of control, and lose all focus.

In reality, in the modern age, about 50% of every event is simply about meeting other freestylers. While the internet brings us all together digitally, it doesn't come close to the camaraderie experienced at a competition or jam. If you can only make one event a year, this can be the thing that keeps the fire alive within you, that rejuvenates your passion for freestyle (especially if you live in the sticks, miles from another freestyler). If you end up touring the whole circuit, this regular meet-up with familiar faces creates familial bonds and friendships that are far richer than anything Facebook can shape. It's also a great way of sharing ideas, picking up new tricks, and helping develop and inspire newcomers, young and old, giving them the sort of support my generation was sorely lacking. These gatherings not only help us develop ourselves as skaters, but ensure freestyle is left in safe and capable hands when our knees give up on us and our backs will no longer bend.

Which brings me round to the next 30% - showcasing who you are and what you can bring to the table. Freestyle is a collaborative art form; it involves taking the work of great skaters who came before, adding your own ingredients to the mix, then churning it back out into something new. No one remembers the emulators, those who merely repeat the work of others without modification, but at the same time, no one we acknowledge as an innovator (I'm looking at you, Mr Mullen) lives in a vacuum; ideas are borrowed, reworked, and cross-pollinated, rather than picked from the æther. And while in the modern age, these can be showcased in highly-edited videos, there is no greater truth and nothing more honest than the beauty inherent in a two-minute performance; there is no digital trickery to rely on, no selecting the best take out of a thousand tries - those two minutes are all you have, and they will show more of your personality and ability than any editor will be able to create.

Out of the remaining 20%, roughly 19% of that, in my eyes, is about entertaining the crowd. That's all a competition really is - it's a show. I've seen guys who were fairly mediocre freestylers put on an amazing show and get the crowd behind them, and guys who I'd consider the best in the world put down a technically brilliant run but fail to inspire anyone in the room. Moreover, as I mentioned at the start of this piece, the judging doesn't always make a lot of sense, and it's very easy to lose your mind if you get too serious about the competition.

One of the best runs I saw this year was from Marcio Torres in Vancouver; his run was choreographed brilliantly, packed full of insanely good tricks, and always on the very edge of control. It was remarkable. For one of the best runs of the year, he took 4th in the Amateur division.

I've seen freestylers have very public meltdowns for less, but Marcio just smiled. He put on a great show and had a great time, and instantly went up in my estimation.

That leaves 1%. That 1% is the result. In my eyes, that's all the podium at the end




represents. Holding a trophy aloft is a huge endorphin kick, but sadly, more often represents who the judges like rather than who put on the best performance. Moreover, it's rapidly replaced; a first place at the first competition of the year can be overshadowed by a tenth place in the last, and completely overwritten by a third place at next year's event. At best, a trophy becomes leverage - a title that can be used for good (increased recognition of freestyle or skateboarding in general in your country or local area) or bad (whoring yourself out to potential sponsors, picking up sexual partners who have weird criteria for finding someone desirable).

I don't mean to diminish anyone's pride regarding a well-earned first place trophy. A great competition run, whether it earned you first, second, or twenty-eighth place, is a brilliant thing. But it's important to keep some perspective: as long as you've gone out there, done the best run you possibly could have done and skated in a way that was honest to yourself, you're a winner.

With that in mind, maybe it's time to start looking at plane tickets for 2017?

Here's the competitions with already confirmed dates for this year at the time of writing:

January 13th - 15th:  Big Rio Freestyle, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
May 19th - 22nd: World Round Up, Vancouver, Canada
July 8th - 9th: Paderborn BBQ Contest, Paderborn, Germany
August 18th - 20th: Stockholm Freestyle, Stockholm, Sweden

If you've never been to a freestyle event before, any of these will be a fantastic way to experience competitive freestyle for the first time, with divisions for amateurs, professionals and masters alike. If you're an old hand looking to return, you're bound to see familiar faces at all of these to make you feel welcome. And if you're a seasoned pro - just get on the plane!

TG



Kaue Araujo (Finger Flip Impossible) Photo: Matheus Navarro



Kauê Araujo (Carousel) Photo: Matheus Navarro

# Kauê Araujo

## By Matheus Navarro

**Hey Kauê, how is it going, man?**

Everything is going great man, such a pleasure to talk with you guys.

**So, tell the readers where you are from.**

I'm from Sao Paulo, Brazil.

**Well, I'm a man who is very curious about how skaters get into the skateboard life, and what it meant to them at the very beginning. So, how did this happened to you?**

Well, I got into all this when I was 10. I used to be addicted to video games, and my favorite game was Tony Hawk Pro Skater 2. I used to play it all the time, then one day suddenly I realized that I wanted to try it for real. Then my dad gave me a skateboard for Christmas; a very simple one, I remember that he paid around 30 Reais (like 8 bucks), and from the moment I stepped on that board my life changed completely. The feeling, since the very beginning until now, has been always the same, FUN!

**I remember your first contest here in Brazil. I have seen that you've improved a lot; at an incredible rate and also that you kept competing; helping freestyle grow more and more. I just wanted to know how you see freestyle itself in Brazil? About Contests, media and skaters themselves.**

Brazil is surely one of the best countries when it comes to skateboarders, it doesn't matter what the modality; we always do great. In freestyle it's not different, even being a style of skateboarding not as well-known as Street for example.



Kaue Araujo (Coconut Wheelie) Photo: Matheus Navarro

Unfortunately we don't have any support from media, famous brands and etc. I mean, we have to make things happen by ourselves. So, the contests are done by ourselves, especially by two legends of freestyle that always do their best the keep freestyle alive here; they are known as Tai Tai and Alexandre Brownzinho,because if it wasn't for them we'd never have events here.

Brazil is just a freestyle skater factory,it seems that all the time a new talent is showing up, and this cycle never stops, it's insane.

**What is your skateboard configuration ? (Deck size, truck, wheels, bearings)**

I have always used the conventional model; I mean the street model, I never liked to use the freestyle model, I've tried many times but it seems so small that it is kind of strange for me. The problem is that you've got to be accurate using it to make the tricks, because one simple kick on the skateboard may flip ten times more that you want, you just don't have the control of it! Ha-ha; this may be good for some freestyle skaters, but definitely not for me. So I use a Moonshine standard popsicle deck (8.0); Venture trucks (129 mm), Momentum, Kevin Harris Model Wheels (58 mm), and finally some Bones Swiss Bearings (Fast as F**k).

**As I see you've got a very aggressive style of skating; who are the skaters that inspire you?**

Well, I've a plenty of skaters that inspires me, but I'd say that those who inspire me most are my friends Gustavo Teixeira, Arnaldo Menom, Isnard Rocha, Alexandre Brownzinho, Tavinho Rodrigues, Tai Tai and some others. From outside of Brazil of course I've got Tony Gale, Denham Hill, Christian Heise, Lyle Chippeway and many others. Actually some of them aren't able to really skate anymore, but they are legends and for me good actions inspires more than good tricks.

**Tell me a little more about your travels to compete in other countries; what were you expecting to find there, and how did you manage to travel so much?**

In 2012 I got an invitation to compete on the World freestyle Round-Up in Vancouver, Canada, but the problem was that I had no money and no sponsor to pay for even the tickets for the trip, so I decided to save some money to compete the following year. Finally in 2013 I went to compete there; me and my good friend Thomas Nascimento. The funniest part is that back then we didn't speak any English at all, but somehow we managed to get there alive. When I first stepped in Canada it seemed that my mind got into a twister and my way of seeing things changed completely. I realized that I just got out of the Brazilian cage. Suddenly I saw myself skating among my idols; those whom I had just watched on Internet, and that was definitely rad!

Since then, I've competed more three times in the same contest in Vancouver, and also last year I got a sponsor from the Brazilian government, which made me able travel to Europe and compete in Germany, where I won the amateur division, and then in Sweden, where I got second place.

**Now that you became professional, what do you hope for your career, what are your plans for the future ?**

Well it's definitely a new era in my life, since I started skating I always wondered how it would be, if one day I could ever reach this point, to become a professional, and now, here I am. But actually, my plans as a skater didn't change at all, I just want to keep skating, competing, making new videos and etc. Also I've already competed in most of the important freestyle contests in the world, but my next goal now, is to compete in japan, which may be a wonderful country, where I have some good friends, and I really want to go there to compete. **MN**




Isnard Rocha (Ollie Melon) Photo: Matheus Navarro

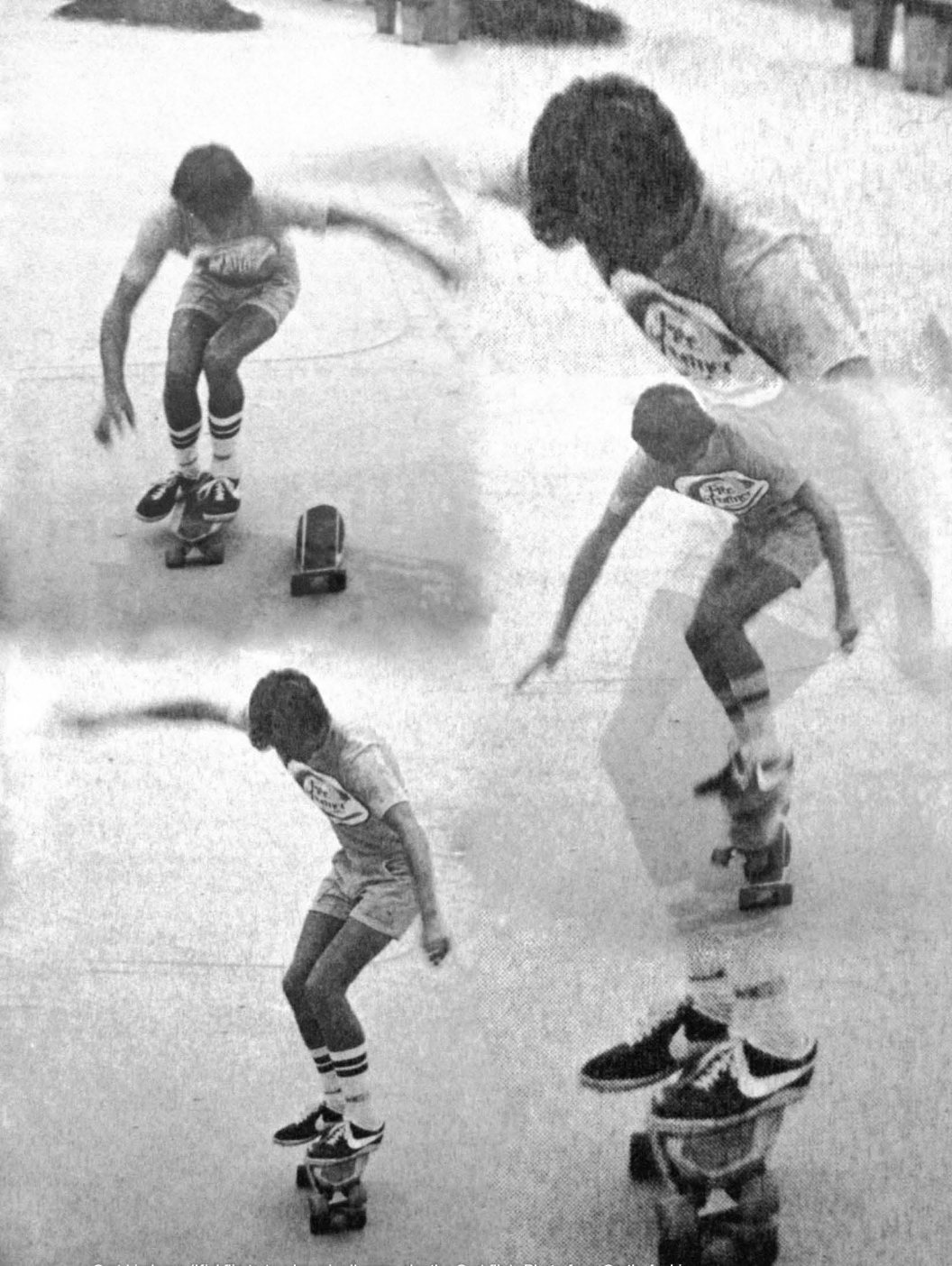


Diego Pires (360 Fingerflip) Photo: Matheus Navarro

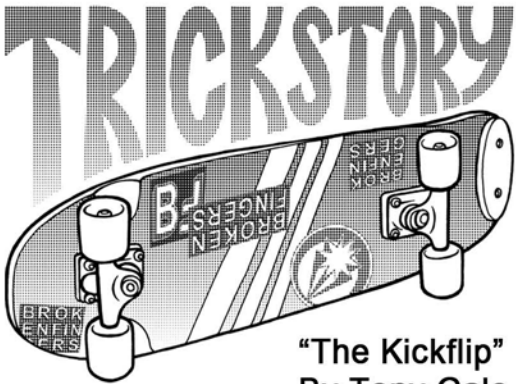


Matheus Navarro (No-handed 50-50) Photo: Leonardo Laprano

Tavinho Rodrigues (One Handed rail Handstand) Photo: Leonardo Laprano



Curt Lindgren (Kickflip to two board rollaway, aka the Curt flip)- Photo from Curt's Archive




## "The Kickflip"
## By Tony Gale

You'd think that in these modern times, with a wealth of information at our fingertips via the internet, there'd be no confusion regarding what a trick is or where it came from. However, with such a wide array of tricks in our vocabulary, there's a lot of trick-related arcana that has fallen through the cracks - especially due to the loss of connection to our past caused by the dark ages that were the 1990s and the total lack of freestyle coverage in the skateboard media since the late 80s.

As such, this section will hopefully be a regular feature in Broken Fingers moving forward, wherein I either bring an oft-forgotten trick back into the public eye, or attempt to tell the story behind where a staple trick came from, giving credit where credit is due (but often neglected).

This week, we're talking about the origin of all (non-hand-related) rolling flip tricks, the kickflip.

Alias(es): old-school kickflip, classic flip

Invented: 1975

Originator: Curt Lindgren

The Story: Curt watched his friend Steve Hargrave attempt a surf-orientated move called a cutback while holding his board. Steve accidentally flicked the board into what we'd now call a monkey flip, flipping the board a full rotation, and this inspired Curt to try to replicate and land the trick. He couldn't make it work, and figured it'd be better to do it with just his feet from a full upright position. It took a while, but eventually he landed it. Of course, Curt went on to not only perfect it, but give the skateboarding world one of its most iconic trick names - which would later be co-opted by Rodney Mullen for the Ollie Kickflip. In Curt's own words, "the name was a blend of the movement or action of the board. First you had to 'Kick' it .....then it had to 'Flip' - hence 'KickFlip'."


Curt Lindgren (Kickflip)- Photo: Curt's Mom

Variations: The kickflip is incredibly versatile for such an early trick. In freestyle, it can be landed into different positions (casper, rail, cross foot, wheelies, etc.), and doubled, tripled, or spun in a multitude of directions and combinations. Outside of freestyle, it (and its variations) have been done on banks, transition, and onto and off of obstacles.

Relevance today: The kickflip was largely neglected after the death of freestyle at the start of the 1990s - which led to the ollie kickflip no longer needing its unique identifier and supplanting its predecessor in the vocabulary of skateboarding. The original kickflip was kept alive by a few dedicated freestylers and experienced somewhat of a revival with the resurgence of freestyle in the early 2000s, but really exploded in popularity with the rise of longboarding at the end of the 2000s due to the ease with which it can be adopted to non-popsicle board shapes. New variations and combinations continue to appear, and old ones are being rediscovered and resurrected. It's unlikely to ever be as popular as the ollie kickflip again, but its place in skateboarding in general seems assured.

TG



Diego Pires (Ollie Airwalk) Photo: Matheus Navarro



Matheus Navarro (360 Fingerflip) Photo: Leonardo Laprano

Joachim Yo Yo Schulz (Yo Yo Plant) Photo: Martin Willners

# Stockholm Freestyle
## by Denis Šopović

For years, I was involved in getting a unique skatepark built in Stockholm. The idea behind the park was to include all skateboard disciplines we could in one park - including, of course, a freestyle area. From the start I had the vision to arrange a good freestyle contest, but when the skatepark first opened in 2012 the surface was slippery and I almost gave up on my idea. However, the following year I could feel that the harsh Swedish winter had made the slipperiness go away a little bit, so the idea of arranging a contest started to come back to me.

In 2015, our local skateboard association arranged a contest called Bowlstock. In that first year, it was a dedicated bowl competition. I was involved in organizing the event and after the contest was over I knew I wanted to arrange a freestyle contest as part of next year's event. We also planned to have a banked slalom contest, as the park has one big ditch that Tony Gale got a good taste of (more of that later).

So I threw out the info via F-Forum that I would arrange the contest and got a great response. I figured that even if I didn't have anyone coming to the event from overseas, Sweden has some old freestyle legends that would show up, since the Eurocana reunion was planned for the same weekend.

During the next few months I got people wanting to come from all over the world. I had travelled around quite a lot over the years to different freestyle contests, and one thing I learned from that is that if you help out people with a place to stay for free, they are more likely to come, as the cost for the trip would be mostly about buying the flight ticket. Offering the first few people free sleeping possibilities at my apartment got some people committed to come from places like the UK, Germany and as far as Brazil in the form of Kauê Araujo - a really nice guy (as most freestylers are) who came to stay at my apartment for a whole week beforehand. The fact I have a house in Brazil probably made him feel really welcome to my home, as I have a few things from Brazil there such as a hammock (although the hammock got most used by Tony Gale).

I spoke a little bit with McGill and asked him as a joke if he wanted to enter the contest in the Eurocana masters division that we had included in the freestyle contest. He surprised me by saying that he will seriously think about it, and when Yoyo showed up on Wednesday and joined the Eurocana, he too asked McGill and got a yes. McGill even told us what song he wanted to skate to. Cool! The first international contest I arrange and people I never expected showed up.

Rumors also said that Per Welinder would come to Sweden. I asked him on Skype if that was the case, and while he would not compete himself for some unknown reason, he said yes to my request to help out with being announcer at the contest - a job he seemed to both enjoy to do and did really well.

On Thursday most of the competitors arrived in Stockholm. Porno-Mario and his manager (Sorry, I forgot your name), Tony Gale, Robert Wagner, Felix Jonsson and Guenter Mokulys. Most of them arrived late in the evening so there was no time for them to practice on the freestyle area before the contest. I was of course worried if everybody would like the surface or not, but I don't think anybody complained - rather the opposite.




Eric Schaeder (Rail Flip) Photo: Martin Willners

While I did have some people to help me out, I did most of the work with the contest myself. I don't know if it was a good or bad thing, but it was a lot work to do. I had to get up early in the mornings, set up the tents, speakers, mixing desk and everything else we needed. And above all that, I had to take care of all the contest results.

I was really happy with the setup of judges I had. Each one was an experienced freestyler and a legend, and they were Stefan Johansson, Martin Willners, Mathias Dewoon and Johannes Okner.

Friday finally came, and it was time for the qualifications. We got eight riders in the Pro/Am-division and seven riders in the Eurocana masters. To be honest I had too much to think about to enjoy the contest. I even competed myself too! Don't ask me why as I could barely skate after the surgeries I had eight months prior to that. So watch the qualifications and finals on Latetricks' YouTube channel to see a more fair contest report than I can give.

What I do remember mostly from this contest is how Tony Gale broke his elbow in the big ditch. I still can't understand what Tony was thinking when he took a run in it with his tiny freestyle board(!). But a slam he took and I asked him if he needed to go to the hospital. "Nah, I think I want to compete first", was his answer. And then he did not just enter the contest with a broken elbow, but he actually won the Pro-AM division too. Pretty bloody damn impressive I must say. In the masters division Yoyo was unbeatable, even if he had his knee-injury that troubled him. But I think he even managed to make his legendary Yoyo-plant. And while we talk about injuries; McGill was supposed to compete, but one hour before the contest he had to drive his son to the hospital to check out if he had broken his arm. The Masters division also included two girls in their 50's, Sussie and Cecilia, skating their first freestyle contest in a long time, if not their first one ever.

After the contest was over the champagne was pouring all over my kitchen and we celebrated the victory of Tony and Yoyo. Tony especially had to get drunk so he could have a good sleep with his elbow before I took him to the Hospital next day. Going to the hospital was pretty funny too. After Tony was finished with his X-ray, we came back to the doctor only to find him watching some videos of Tony on YouTube. The doctor was an skateboarder himself, so there was no "Well, you should not skateboard anymore.."

To sum it up, this contest was so fun that everybody requested another one the next year. And that will of course happen! I hope I see more of you guys at Stockholm Freestyle 2017.

DS

**Results (Pro/Am Final)**

1. Tony Gale
2. Kauê Araujo
3. Gunter Mokulys
4. Stefan "Lillis" Åkesson
5. Felix Jonsson
6. Robert Wagner
7. Andre Julio Hansson

**Results (Masters Final)**

1. Joachim "Yoyo" Schulz
2. Eric Schäder
3. Hans Puttis Jacobsson
4. Denis Sopovic
5. Sussi Eriksson
6. Niclas Folkesson

**Results (Pro/Am Qualifiers)**

1. Gunter Mokulys
2. Tony Gale
3. Felix Jonsson
4. Stefan "Lillis" Åkesson
5. Kauê Araujo
6. Andre Julio Hansson
7. Mario Steinemann
8. Robert Wagner

Stefan Lillis Åkesson (One Wheel Wheelie) Photo: Martin Willners





| Jester Retro | Primo Desiderio | Diane Desiderio | Keith Butterfield | Crown Freestyle | Richy Carrasco 360 King | Gary Holl Midtown | Kilian Martin Collector | Tagger Street |
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| 27.5 x 7.25 | 28.75 x 7.25 | 26.75 x 7 | 27.5 x 7.25 | 28.25 x 7.25 | 28.75 x 7.75 | 30 x 7.625 | 31 x 7.9 | 31 x 7.5 |

## Crown Jewel Wheels

55mm
98a

## 360 Wheels

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SYNOPSIS
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