

## **DANCING HEARTBEATS**



## SYNOPSIS.

Who says that women can't break dance? Frieda, Viola and Jilou are three of the most successful women in the male-dominated breaking world. At different points in their sports careers, the three friends are facing new challenges and life-changing decisions. DANCING HEARTBEATS accompanies the dancers during their hard training, international battles and their fight for recognition and equality.

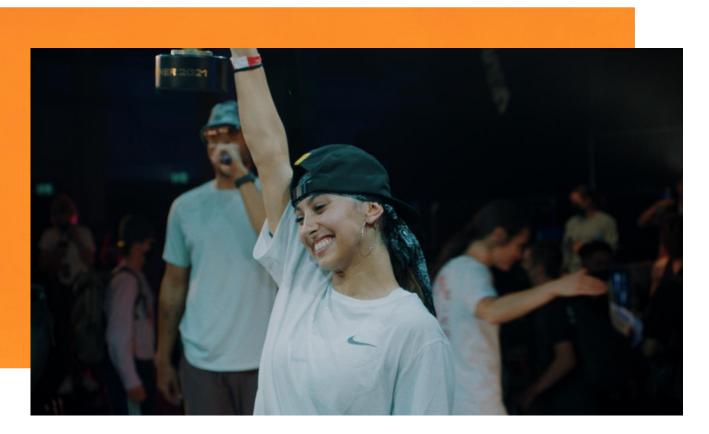
B-girl **Jilou** is at the height of her career and counts as one of the best in the world. With her extraordinary determination, she is currently winning one battle after the other, whereas **Frieda** is still grappling with an injury. As a B-girl ever since the emergence of break dancing, she has to come to terms with the fact that her increasing age means she can no longer rely on her body and has to find a life outside of her professional sports career. B-girl **Viola** is focused on becoming recognized as a dancer and combines breaking with modern dance. For her, every battle is equally a fight for her identity as an artist.

They each come from very different backgrounds and have found a second home in the breaking scene. They first met in their teens when they were training in Cologne, where they first embarked in pursuit of a professional sports career. Dancing has become a permanent feature of their lives and the basis of their friendship, despite – or perhaps because of – the competition between them. Meanwhile their paths cross at battles all over the world. But always living out of a suitcase also takes a toll on their personal relationships and families.



For a long time, breaking was part of a culture where women were more of an accessory and where they were not allowed to be strong and wild. Frieda, Jilou and Viola worked hard to make a name for themselves in the scene, which in turn paved the way for the next B-girls generation. Dancing means freedom, and these three women are pursuing their goals with their own individual perspectives: Frieda is drawn to Morocco, where she hosts breaking workshops, Viola is working on dance and theater performances, Jilou is training as part of the German squad for the Olympics and counts as one of the most potential medal contenders.

**DANCING HEARTBEATS** is an inspiring portrait about courage, endurance, the power of one's passion, and what it means to be a young woman who is fighting for acknowledgement and equal rights. The movie offers insights into an international scene that is rapidly evolving from subculture to a global phenomenon.



## CREW & CAST.

with B-Girls Frieda, Jilou and Viola

Director: Lisa Wagner Music: Antonio de Luca Editor: Mechthild Barth Producer: Lino Rettinger DOP: Julia Lemke Sounddesign: Jan Petzold Grading: Petra Lisson Sound: Alexandra Praet

## SPECS.

92min DCP | Flat | 25fps 5.1

Shot in France, Germany, Mexico, Morocco and Poland

Original Language: German, English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Arabic Subtitles: German, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese and Russian

German Broadcaster: WDR Distribution GSA: jip film & verleih

Premiere: 57<sup>th</sup> hof international film festival International Premiere still open





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