



## DESCRIBE 4-ISH

*"It's STOMP-ish, and skate-ish, it's a little hip hop-ish, it's beatbox-ish. It's an event, a spectacle."*

- Edmonton Journal

*"An energetic whirling movement sculpture that comes to life like a flashing live video clip. A surprisingly new form of theatrical production."*

GPD

*"They glide over the stage, somersault, stand on one hand or turn on their heads like break dancers."*

Leidsch Dagblad

*"Dance and theatre, wrapped in a cocoon of hip-hop, inline skating, humor and general sensory overload."*

Edmonton Sun

Need we say more? CAN we say more?? This is a show that has to be experienced to be believed!! Enter the world of 4-ISH like you enter a 3-D dream. Turntablists (DJ's) overlook a stage inhabited by a gargantuan half pipe and a series of ramps; banners conceal, reveal, and project shadow shows. There are video screens, films, an amazing array of multi-ethnic young artists that are street performers, slapstick clowns, karate masters (Hollywood style), graffiti artists, dancers of ballet and hip hop and acrobatics and tap and skatedance. And there are wheels. There are wheels everywhere... flashing on their feet, turning in their heads, spinning out of their energy centers into the cosmos.

4-ISH got its name because it was impossible to give the show a precise definition in reference to any art form already in existence. It is inline skate-ISH, dance-ISH, rap-ISH, acrobatic-ISH, martial arts-ISH...you get the idea. And the performers are similarly eclectic - masters of a mind-boggling array of skills from karate to beatbox to scratching to video art to ballet.

## QUESTION

What is art? Can it be graffiti? Can it happen on inline skates? Is your head full of visions that can only be realized by creating an entirely new form? Combination of forms?

- How is a new art form "invented?"
- Can you find examples of revolutions in form or content of art in history?
- Are the people who led the change masters or newcomers? For example: Is it more likely that Andy Warhol painted his paradigm-shifting soup can early in his career or in his old age?

**THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS 4-ISH AS PART OF  
THE 2005-2006 SEASON – WWW.CHILDRENTHEATRE.ORG**

# CHECK OUT THE ISH WEBSITE

You can see photos....even a video clip (check under the International button - bottom right), and learn about the people who make up ISH. They are an amazingly global group of young people. This group is a United Nations on wheels. [www.ishevents.com](http://www.ishevents.com)

**MARCO GELLIS** is a case in point. He founded ISH in 1999. At 23 years old he was one of the youngest ever theatrical producers in the Netherlands. His inspiration came from the disciplines of the street, the club circuit, pop concerts, video games and cartoons. Phillipine by origin, raised in Belgium and now living in Amsterdam, he is dynamically and quintessentially ISH.



## **MADERO**

Name: Marco Gerris

Date of birth: April 23, 1975

Place of birth: Cebu City, the Philippines

Skills: freestyle skating, skate dance, acrobatics, street and hiphop dance, martial arts.

Favorite: anything on skates

Achievements: Winner Dutch Freestyle Skate Championship 1999

Motto: 'As long as your hair looks good!'

## **A SAMPLE OF OTHER PERFORMERS...**

### **ZOË**

Name: Lotte Lammers

Date of birth: May 11, 1980

Place of birth: Aalst-Waalre, The Netherlands

Skills: inline skating, rollerskating, street dance, acrobatics

Favorite: rollerskate-dance

Achievements: Winner Open Dutch Duo Skate Dance  
Championship 2003

Motto: 'Follow your Heart.'



### **FLEXY B**

Name: Bryan Druiventak

Date of birth: March 7, 1973

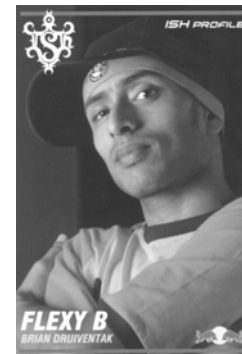
Place of birth: The Hague, The Netherlands

Skills: rollerskate dance, breakdance, street dance

Favorite: breakdance

Achievements: Spin Off 2000

Motto: 'Enjoy life day by day.'



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# RELATED RESEARCH/RESOURCES

- Research the history of inline skating. Rollerblades started right here in the Twin Cities!! See if you can discover the original purpose of these wheeled devices.
- A Google search of Extreme Sports will bring up about 11 million responses. Refine your search to see if you can discover what percentage of those have to do with skates. And while you're at it...why does inline skating qualify as an extreme sport?
- What is break dancing? What is its history? One easy to read article can be found at: [http://arar.essortment.com/wherfindcanh\\_riym.htm](http://arar.essortment.com/wherfindcanh_riym.htm)  
What is the difference between break dancing and hip hop? Research some of the dances that led to break and hip hop dancing. Which of the continents contributed the most movements and rhythms to the mix?
- What is beatboxing? Who created it? Why? Visit the site below to begin to find out.  
A short definition: From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beatboxing>  
Beatboxing is the vocal percussion of hip hop culture and music. Considered by many to be a fifth element of hip-hop, it is primarily concerned with the art of creating beats, rhythms, and melodies using the human mouth. It can also involve singing, vocal scratching (the imitation of turntable skills), the simulation of horns, strings, and other musical instruments, and the replication of a vast array of sound effects.  
Can you rewrite that definition in your own words?
- Name a few of the scientific principles that make it possible to skate on a half pipe. Explain how the principles are demonstrated. For example: centrifugal force and friction.
- Visit the 4-ISH website and use the information there to create demographics about the ISH Institute performers. [www.ishevents.com](http://www.ishevents.com) Answer questions such as:  
Where is ISH headquartered?  
How many continents are represented in the ISH personnel?  
Which country has contributed the most ISH performers?  
(Why might this be the case?)  
How many countries are represented in the performers?  
How many languages can you estimate these young people speak?  
What would you guess would be the most commonly used language used to communicate between them?  
Put pins into a world map to locate the origins of ISH.  
What is the average age of an ISH performer? Who's the youngest/oldest?  
Create a graph of age, gender, continent or country of origin of these performers.  
Write an opinion about this statement: This group is a United Nations on wheels.
- Research and write about your favorite sport or art form.
- What is the difference between a sport and an art? When might a sport become an art? When might an art become a sport? Can you name or imagine an example?