

Miguel Panzardi aka Mighty Mike
Dance Bio
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Mighty Mike was born in Puerto Rico and raised in the Southside of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY. As a teenager, growing up, Mike saw drug dealers, gang violence, and lots of crime. Mike didn't want anything to do with this, so he turned to do something positive with his time...His dancing took off when he first witnessed a few young kids dancing on cardboard outside of his family's apartment building, not knowing what they were doing, Mighty Mike asked one of the kids what this was, the kid said we are Break dancing! This is the first time he was exposed to the dance that changed Mighty Mikes life forever.

Another instance that influenced Mike, in the start of what would eventually become a dance career, was meeting Macho on his block. This was the guy that started to teach Mighty Mike the technical elements of breakdance. They spent a lot of time practicing back spins, head spins, and footwork in Mike's building hallways. Mighty Mike was asked to practice at Macho's house eventually where Mighty Mike met Choco, brother to Macho. Choco was a Rocker for Mastermind Rockers (est.1977) and also part of the Furious Rockers. Choco became one of Mighty Mikes mentor's and played a role in Mike's life, as if he was a big brother.

Choco and Mighty Mike used to train day and night until they both got dope in Breaking and Rocking. The first crew Mighty Mike was a member of was Furious Rockers. However, his time with Furious Rockers was short lived because of the distance he had to travel to practice.

In efforts to keep practicing and learning, Mike connected with the new kid on the block, his name was Kid Tic. Mighty Mike became a Popper even after learning Breaking. With Kid Tic's teaching, as dope as Mighty Mike was, he still continued to advance in his newly developed dance skills.

During a video shoot in Williamsburg, Mighty Mike was introduced to Ringo and Spin. This was the first time Mighty Mike saw routines in Rocking.

Then, Mike and Ringo became good friends and Mike became more interested in learning Rocking. He asked Ringo to show off some Rocking moves and in exchange he would show Ringo Breaking moves. Mike took Ringo to Coney Island where they met Choco and the two introduced Ringo to Joey, aka Mr. Speed, from the Furious Rockers. The Furious Rockers was one of Mike's first Break Dance crews that he was a member of and in which Ringo became a part of. Soon after this introduction, Choco said it's time to move on to bigger things... Upon leaving Furious Rockers, Mike and Choco asked friend Ringo if he wanted to go with and he decided to stay...

The next big thing came when in 1982 Mike saw a crew called Scramblin' Feet at the famous Roxy nightclub. Interested in becoming a member, Mighty Mike approached Stretch, the leader, and asked him if he could audition. Stretch asked his crew, and invited Mike to audition at their practice. They loved what they saw in Mighty and he became a member of the Lower East Side division. Only in 1983, Mike, asked Stretch if he could make his own division in Brooklyn and

Stretch agreed that this would be fine. This was the first time that Mike was a leader of a crew. He recruited members, Choco, Kid Beak, Kid Nice, Tic, Flip, OC, and many more. The group represented forms of classic Hip Hop dance hard until 1987. 1987 was the year Break Dance popularity took a hult in New York City.

From 1987 to 1993 Mike was keeping up with Hip Hop in many different ways. Still supporting, the Old School Hip Hop he had been a part of and dancing socially in clubs.

In 1994 Mighty Mike went to a club called, The Palladium, a famous NYC nightclub where he had a “dance off” with Lil Dave aka Cyclone and Miss Twist. This battle gave way to his new Break Dance life. After dancing it out with Mike, Cyclone saw much potential in Mike and introduced him to Kwikstep who helped Mike develop his dance. Before he knew it, he was a member of Kwikstep’s crew, Full Circle. He was a member from 1995 to 1998. Where he developed and continued to play a role in the classic Break Dance culture in NYC.

As his life went on, Mike’s dancing took another turn. He was dancing with friend Speedy Legs in The Palladium club when they decided to team up and develop together. Mike moved on from Full Circle. Speedy challenged Mighty Mike to audition for the new generation of New York City Breakers. Mike was accepted into the group, which was led by London, who was a Dancer for Kurtis Blow. Speedy, also one of Kurtis Blow’s dancers, introduced Mike to Kurtis Blow and was eventually accepted to become one of his backup dancers in 1999, where he toured extensively around the world.

While still performing with Kurtis Blow, in 2000-2005, Mike left New York City breakers and started his own original crew called, Just Begun Crew. This group had residency at The Palladium nightclub, where the crew played a role in showcasing True-School Break Dance to this new generation of dancers. Mike continued to dance and compete with this group and eventually had a chance to go to the worldwide break dance competition, Pro Am in Florida. At the competition, Speedy Legs and Zulu Grims held a Rock Dance battle and Mike decided to enter. This was in fact, Mikes first Rock Dance Battle!

Upon returning home from the competition, Mike got a call from friend, Break Easy, an established educator to many upcoming Breakers and Rockers, to work on an instructional dance video project. The two spent a lot of time together and in 2007 Mike brought up his want to create his own Rock crew. Break Easy encouraged Mike to do this so Mike started his research on Rock groups in Brooklyn. Then, Mike revisited Mastermind Rockers, and interviewed members, Choco Rubber Band, Popeye, and Dash.

Serendipitously, Mike ran into Ringo, in Manhattan on 56 St. and 5th Ave. Mike asked Ringo to go online to YouTube and check out the world of Rock Dance, today (at that time). Mike interviewed Ringo at Maccarren Park on the Rock Dance culture as he knew it in Brooklyn. The two of them became re-founded friends and soon crewmates, co-instructors, and developers of this new generation of Mastermind Rockers. Ringo shared the past culture of Rock Dance with Mike, and Mike shared with Ringo some of the clubs in the City. The two battled Rock, trained, represented, and developed. And in 2009 Mastermind Rockers became established under his navigation.

