



PHOTO: MEGAN MURPHY

# Aotearoa hip hop stand the f\*\*k up

by Emma Page

The two days were brimming with positivity. People were in their element, milling around and checking out the four aspects of hip hop culture in action - graf art, MCing, turntabling and breakdancing.

This year's Aotearoa Hip-hop Summit pulled together some of the big names in the New Zealand scene. *Te Waha Nui* picked up on what some of them were saying.

**PHAT 1:** "Graffiti is huge at the moment and who knows where it can go from here. I just want to really help people along the way."

**WORDPERFECT:** "Hip hop is about keeping it real for yourself. Sometimes if there are people out there in positions of power that you don't relate to that doesn't mean you shouldn't still keep it real for yourself. I think battles are really good forums for that sort of thing because you can just stand up and say whether you like me or not I got skills and I'm here to take it to you. I love that."

**ERHMEN:** "I do gangster hip hop in Aotearoa and you do a lot of dodgy stuff to help apply your trade. I guess that's where a lot of my story telling comes from. You know I get up to fucking mischief. You get away with things and you learn how to get away with it even better but those are skills I don't necessarily pass down to younger youth. You pick that up as you go and you learn as you go."

**DJ MANCHOO:** "It is hard for DJs to get inspired. New Zealand is so far away from everything that is happening."



RIGHT: Jared Graham flares in the B boy and B girl breakdancing competition.

**B-GIRL TWEAK** who organises Wellington's annual "Bodyrock" breakdancing event was at the summit and took part in the panel discussion.

"In the next few years I hope to see the scene get better. As long as we've got people out there passing on the skill the scene will stay alive," she says.

Additional reporting by Claire McMahon



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**GRAF ARTIST:** Wayne, COD crew NYC. "I travel the world passing my experience on and staying true to the foundation by still going out doing illegal pieces as well as doing legal ones. But I encourage people to do it their own way."



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**CLOWNING:** Asa Ilaoa, Tony Faufua and Isaac Ilaoa. "The makeup is part of clowning, a new hip hop dance style that just arrived in New Zealand."



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**SHOWING SKILLS:** Graf artist Sam Rulz working on a piece in Aotea Square during the summit.